

Book Proposal

Jessica Kennedy
Unit 4, 6 Boongall Road
Camp Hill, QLD
4152

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HarperCollins Australia
Level 13, 202 Elizabeth Street
Sydney, NSW
2000

Dear Editor,

This proposal aims to present the idea for a book and the main goals and objectives behind it.

Sharehouses: Everything your mum forgot to tell you is a self-help and lifestyle book about the positive and negative aspects of living in shared accommodation. It also discusses coping mechanisms for difficult situations and strategies to make living with such little privacy and control easier

HarperCollins is dedicated to creativity and quality, two qualities which this book contains. *Sharehouses: Everything your mum forgot to tell you* aligns with HarperCollins' objectives, especially given the Australian focus of the book.

There are currently very few books addressing this topic in the market, so it may create an opportunity to provide readers with a unique perspective of shared accommodation. The book will appeal to many young adults and university students who find themselves needing to share accommodation but unable to find a resource that provides clear advice on the topic. This book will meet the needs of this audience in an informative and entertaining manner.

Please let me know if you require additional information. I will appreciate your consideration for this proposal, and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours faithfully,



Jessica Kennedy

Enc. Book Proposal

Rationale

The rationale for this book is to provide young adults, high school students and university students with a realistic and practical guide to living in share houses. In high school, teachers and family focus on university or career selection, but often fail to prepare students for the difficulties involved with living independently. *Share Houses: Everything your mum forgot to tell you* is written for those who may be contemplating living in a share house or who want to improve their experience. There are many young adults who find that financial and social circumstances require they share a house with others. It would be of interest to a publisher because it provides useful information for youth living in shared housing in a humorous style.

An important aspect of this book is the informal and conversational style. Aimed primarily at a younger audience, the informal style will be more appealing than formal writing. It is written from the perspective of a university student currently living in shared accommodation, so provides an account from a peer rather than someone looking back or recounting past experiences. As a result, consideration of the target audience's reading preferences are an integral part of justifying and planning the book.

Share Houses: Everything your mum forgot to tell you will be published as an eBook to ensure it is accessible and affordable for the intended audience. Young students are more likely to study full-time and work part-time or not work at all. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 15% of students receive their main source of income through government allowances, and around 5% receive no income at all. An eBook will be more affordable but also more practical as it does not take up bookshelf space in a share house.

It is also a suitable format for HarperCollins since they were one of the first Australian publisher to release many older books in digital form to expand the life-span of the books. HarperCollins often produce print and eBooks simultaneously, proving they are well adapted to the new digital age. Since these publishers are dedicated to quality and creativity, they are well suited to this style of book, which aims to incorporate creative techniques with non-fiction content.

In addition, it is necessary to consider the context of the publisher. HarperCollins is a well-known Australian publishing company, with a reputation for publishing a broad

range of contemporary Australian authors and a commitment to quality and creativity. Their published works include a wide variety of genres and sub-genres, including non-fiction, self-improvement, romance, business and history.

Genre

The book is non-fiction, but aligns with a number of sub-genres, such as architecture and comedy, improving marketing and publishing opportunities. The content fits well within the category of self-help and also lifestyle, since helpful information is provided to individuals in addition to general lifestyle tips and experiences.

This book will also utilise creative fiction techniques to appeal to a wider audience. In the retelling of certain stories or experiences, a story format will be used in order to explain it more effectively and create a more relatable style of writing. Primarily, this book will include informative content, but in an informal and colloquial style.

Content List of Chapter

Chapter 1 – *The Search Begins*

The first step of leaving home is usually trying to find somewhere else to live first. It is generally beneficial to have accommodation before abandoning a current home. This chapter covers the searching process, how to find a share house, knowing what to avoid, following legal requirements, and arranging meetings with potential house mates or landlords

Chapter 2 – *Moving Out*

Moving out of home can be an emotional and stressful time, which is why it is helpful to know certain techniques for making the process smoother. Here, discussion will revolve around the difficulties associated with moving out, including tips for packing and removing possessions, saying goodbye to loved ones, the awkward first day in a house full of strangers, and personal stories about moving house.

Chapter 3 – *A Sudden Lack of Privacy*

It can be a dramatic change of lifestyle, moving from a family home to a room in a household shared with strangers. One major difference is the lack of privacy that occurs in a household shared by many people. This includes problems such as sharing bathrooms, kitchen etiquette, dress standards in a share house, single or

mixed gender options, securing personal items, and adapting to living with complete strangers.

Chapter 4 – *Friends or Enemies?*

Every shared house will be different, but it can often be hard to establish what kind of relationship you share with your other housemates. Are housemate's friends, acquaintances, or merely tenants together? In this chapter, these topics will be discussed in detail, outlining issues associated with house mates, such as how much socialising is appropriate, adding each other on social media, sharing phone numbers and raising issues when someone forgets to clean or leaves mess around too often. Issues of parties, partners and suggested approaches to drug or alcohol issues in the share house are discussed.

Chapter 5 – *How to Survive*

It may be extremely difficult moving into an environment such as a shared household after living only with close family members for a long time. The dynamic is completely different to that of a family home or even residential living at universities. This chapter outlines the benefits of this style of living as well as different ways to cope and manage difficult situations that may arise.

Target Readership

The primary audience this book is intended for is students or young adults aged between 15 and 24. In 2011, 59% of higher education students were between the ages of 15 and 24, so a large percentage of university students fit into this bracket. More than 10% of higher education students live in group or shared housing, which suggests a large proportion of this target audience would find the content of this book relatable or useful. There is also evidence to suggest that around 11% of university students live in overcrowded dwellings, which may relate to shared accommodation, and those living in this situation will be more likely to experience stress due to their situation. Therefore, it is highly likely that students or young adults in this age group will find this book useful and interesting.

Market Competition

There is currently a lack of books on this topic in the market, and it would provide a perspective that many people would not have read before. While there are many books on architecture, building design, interior design and renovating, not a lot of information is available on share house living. While books such as *Tiny House Living* look closely at living comfortably within small spaces, there is no discussion of living

in a small space and sharing it with other people. This book will be told from the perspective of someone who currently lives in a shared household, providing guidance as well as funny stories.

It is also written about Australia and the lifestyle in this country, which isn't very common. Although it will still be relatable to readers from other countries, it will fit into a niche that has not yet been filled with strong Australian content.

Looking at books like *Live For Almost Free in Your Own Home* proves why there is still a need for this book in the market. This book provides advice about those looking to share their homes with others in an attempt to make money. *Share Houses: Everything your mum forgot to tell you* will give a much more realistic view rather than just highlighting the benefits of being able to make new friends through sharing a house.

Statement of total word length

Share Houses: Everything your mum forgot to tell you will be around 100 pages long with five succinct chapters. The intention is to provide a short and succinct guide in order to keep it simple and easy to read, creating a fast-paced and engaging read that is appropriate for the intended audience. Overall, the total word length is aimed at around 22,000 words.

Information on proposed diagrams and graphics

Some content within this book would be most effectively presented in the form of flow charts and tables. These may allow for certain data about share housing options and checklists or processes to work through to be conveyed in a more easily understandable format.

Biographical Note on the Author

Jessica Kennedy is a 21-year-old university student currently in the last year of her Bachelor of Arts degree program. She is majoring in Writing, with a particular interest in creative non-fiction. Jessica is currently living in Brisbane where she shares a house with five other young adults and studies online, gaining inspiration for her writing from personal experiences and those of friends and family.

Works Cited

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