

Behind the 'Masks'

Robbie Daniels
An autobiography



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Writing Behind the 'Masks' was a six-year project, and an incredibly emotional journey for me. There were numerous times my emotions got the better of me, reliving periods of my past. I spent countless hours researching data as well as trying to express myself clearly enough, enabling my readers to understand my feelings, my thinking, and perhaps even some of my actions, and understand as close as possible, the feeling and drama surrounding my story as it unfolds.

If I was a writer, which I am not, I would've still insisted it be written as I have done, even though my editor disagreed in many areas. By this I mean I wanted it to be written exactly as it was told to me and lived by me, using as close as possible the words and phrases as they were written, spoken, or heard by me.

My reason for doing this was simply because I wanted the reader to grasp and understand as close as possible, the drama surrounding my story as it unfolds.

Ours is a meandering, contorted family tree; the reader will be told things relative to our tree discovered by me along the way, as well as many things I discovered after I began writing this book.

This book tells the story of my family, my life in relationship to them, and later my own life, beginning thirty years before my birth, ending seventy-one years after. But it's hardly a standard life story; my particular path in life simply doesn't lend itself to the customary outlay of facts, dates and events.

Common - and not so common – details pertinent to my life and to my sense of who I was, were hidden from me, then revealed only eventually, in haphazard and thoughtless ways years after I'd settled into the falsehoods.

Had I been aware of many things during my youth, and perhaps not subjected to so many terrible events, aspects of my life would certainly have had a far different outcome.

None of the stories I have written in Behind the 'Masks' were obtained from anyone outside of my family; it was a frustrating task getting hold of many of these stories, and more so the details.

Memories age, fade and are sometimes disputed with surprising vigour; however, all the events are factual to the best of my knowledge.

I hope you enjoy reading about the journey of my life as much as I have disliked living most of it, and definitely writing about it.

I further hope my ultimate discovery about myself is as dramatic for you as it was for me.

The final outcome is I'm now at peace with the past and myself.

: Robbie Daniels