



I was completely absorbed in the extraordinary travelogue and the emotional vistas at which you hinted by your colourful exploits and at times the things you left unsaid. I was moved to tears several times, especially the part about the fish leaping when you cast your brother's beloved ashes upon the waters. I admire your spirit and as I read about your stay in Hampstead, I vividly recalled your wonderful harlequin cap that became like your signature for me. Would it be a suitable image for the

cover of your book? It has elements of the Jester, of the south American trickster Kokopelli, of the magician, of Jacob's coat of many colours, the Cirque du Soleil characters whose mission in life is to warm people's hearts and to break down barriers of language and cultural rigidity and bring wonder into their lives.... and it also covered your clinical blue helmet so well while you were working with such determination to recover.

Monica, congratulations on a remarkable narrative. It must be wonderful for your friends and family to have access to this vivid manuscript, so much more than the photographs of isolated moments in time, but more like the river of life that is still tumbling through your veins, it is clear to see. It must also be a great release for you to find that you have travelled so far as an intrepid explorer of your own capacities, and have achieved the pinnacle. Please go ahead and look to publish....it could be so encouraging for other people who might go through a challenge like yours—but also very readable and pleasing in its own right as a story about a real and very interesting person, and your discovery of the quintessence of your life and valued qualities in yourself and others.

I am reminded a little of "Portrait in Sepia" by Isabel Allende where the heroine captures her life in elusive photographs—but you have gone beyond that to return to the real world of the emotions and the senses.

(extracts from an email I received from the doctor at the rehab centre after I emailed her my book to read).



A CHALLENGED LIFE

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Trafford

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