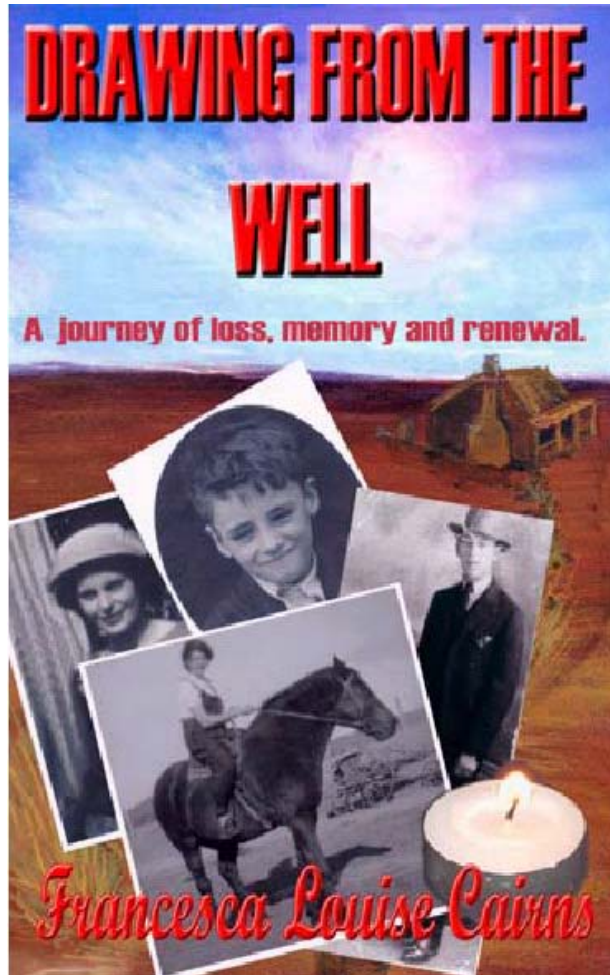


Press Release – May 2005

Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds, tastes and textures of the arid red centre.
Drawing from the Well is a genuine Australian novel; thoughtful, evocative and heartening.
This contemporary story illustrates that sometimes you have to go back to find the best way forward.



“Choices, chances, changes’ she said softly, smiling to herself as she lifted her case, her eyes and her spirit.”

Drawing from the Well is set in the desert of South Australia where the timeless immensity of the landscape is a powerful backdrop for Dru Morgan’s searching journey. Stepping down from ‘The Ghan’, the train to Alice Springs, Dru retraces the track to her grandparents’ home, a road littered with loss and regret. Hers is a family blighted by secrets long hidden, yet resilient with belonging. In choosing to return to these vast open spaces peopled mostly with ghosts, she seeks to heal the present by disentangling the past.

Dru embarks on a solitary quest, finding solace and companionship in the relentless presence of the desert. Insistent on her involvement, the landscape itself becomes a catalyst for change. With growing sensitivity Dru rediscovers a deeply sensual relationship with a raw elemental world.

Drawing from the Well is a contemplative and uplifting journey. A life story inextricably dusted with the red sands of central Australia.

The Author: Francesca Cairns’ passion for the desert is clear in the authenticity of this novel. Moving from Melbourne to Alice Springs at 16 she was captivated by the arid interior. She spent much of her time out bush beyond town limits, working in indigenous child care, as a grader driver and a professional photographer. Fran’s writing has included short stories and performance scripts for youth and disabilities theatre. She currently resides in the Otway Ranges of Victoria.

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