



# **Finding my Own Way to Happy and Gay: The often hilarious sometimes heart-breaking memoir of a young lesbian coming out in 60s South Africa**

*Barbara Castle*

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'Finding my Own Way to Happy and Gay' is an often amusing, often heart-breaking account of the coming out process for a lesbian in 60s South Africa. The author locates her life in the context of so much oppression. And the contrast of the fear behind the apartheid laws, and how completely unthreatening her voice is, works powerfully.

As South Africa grew into democracy so the author too grew into wholeness and authenticity. But it wasn't all sliding along on buttered feet. There was angst and anguish along the way, battles won, hopes lost and many dodgy landings. The challenges she met then, are still those faced by gay people the world over today... how to tell their folks, when to confess to their friends, how much to tell their employers, and more.

Although the book is set in South Africa, the coming out process poses the same hurdles, obstacles and crises no matter where you live... it's simply a case of same circus, different tent. And it's good to know you're not alone.

Should you be lucky enough to have a friend, a child, a sister, an aunt or a colleague who is gay the book answers many questions you might never dare ask. For those on their way out of the closet it will keep you company all the way to being both happy and gay!

And if you are already out and perfectly happy, then you may find that this is 'your' story. In which case you are sure to have a good laugh remembering all the pitfalls and pratfalls you experienced along the way.



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