



“I WAS FIVE WHEN I DISCOVERED I COULD FLY, SIXTEEN WHEN I KILLED A MAN. BOTH EVENTS WERE UNSETTLING IN THEIR OWN WAY.”

“It took five years to stumble across my gravity defying attributes, less than five minutes to gather it wasn’t at all the sort of thing people expected. My other abilities revealed themselves gradually, often disconcertingly, over a period of years although by then I was slightly more savvy and anxious not to, if I could help it, traumatise any more family and friends than I had already.”

It’s hard to know what’s normal, if you’re not, and it takes Stella a while to realise she’s in the definitely ‘not’ drawer. But we are who we are and we make adjustments to fit in – most of the time. It’s only when she finds she’s not quite as unique as she thought, that things begin to acquire a whole new dimension. Forced to call on resources she didn’t know she possessed and thrust headlong into the violence of a situation for which nothing could have prepared her, Stella is suddenly face to face with the stark reality of medical experimentation and its horrifying consequences.

But in a world of uncertainties, one thing’s beyond doubt – this hero stuff really isn’t her. Normal, or as near as damn it, is what she wants and if that means smothering her instincts and adjusting her expectations well, so be it. At least she’ll then know should she slip off the wagon occasionally, it’ll be through choice, not chance and to suit herself..

“I’ve written all my life - fact, fiction and commercial material, for my own businesses as well as for clients. Inspiration’s a funny thing though; sometimes it’s there, other times it’s completely AWOL, but when it came to this book none of that applied; I simply started it off and then it took over and went exactly the way it wanted.” says Marilyn, on writing *Relatively Strange*.

A feature and fiction writer for national magazines, **MARILYN MESSIK**’s first business was a children’s party shop. She then moved into travel, researching and rating country hotels and inns and publishing an annual guide, subsequently bought out by Thomas Cook Publishing. She currently runs a copywriting consultancy, helping businesses shape their message to optimum effect.



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