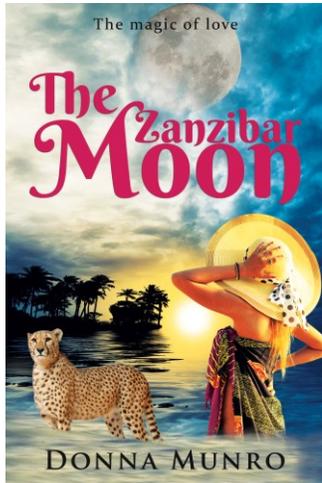


“Over 50 and there’s plenty of romance”

Gold Coast Author Donna Munro has released *The Zanzibar Moon*, her debut novel and ‘one and only’ tick on the bucket list. Munro is already a successful freelance writer but the dream of publishing a novel was pushed aside. At 53 she formed Warm Witty Publishing to self-publish. It’s a lot to take on as a full-time administrator and part-time writer. Prior to this; other commitments and raising three sons waylaid the dream.

“It may seem selfish to be doing this now, but if I don’t I never will,” she says. “I did think I’d be doing this in my twenties. I’ve waited long enough. I don’t feel old at all. There’s no age limit to following your heart and your dreams. I haven’t taken self-publishing lightly. I’ve worked in the industry and I know how professional the product needs to be to succeed in an industry where hundreds of thousands of books are produced each year (in the US alone).” Most authors are lucky to sell 250, particularly emerging authors.



The Zanzibar Moon is a mix of chick lit, adventure, romance and a tear jerker. Alkina’s Jarvis thinks the best way to deal with the end of her marriage is to give her life a jungle twist.

Ali travels from Australia to Africa to volunteer, and is then sent to exotic Zanzibar. She helps abandoned mothers set up a self-sustainable refuge at a ramshackle beach resort. There’s the unexpected; a brawny exotic man walking a cheetah, a wizened woman with an ancient lamp, an old journal with secret pages, giant tortoises in caves and the wonderful eccentric characters of The Peace Resort.

Kendwa Ely is a wild and sexy adventurer. Sparks fly between him and Ali, and though he may be the Tarzan of her dreams, he comes with complications; a three-year-old son and a mysterious job. **Don Cloutier** the island’s doctor struggles with his own demons; drink, women and temptation. Will he ever take his medical calling seriously and stop comparing himself to Kendwa, and perhaps win Ali’s heart?

Shaun Flannery is Ali’s handsome neighbour and friend. Can he make her see sense, or is he just wasting his time?

And Ali’s husband can’t make up his mind.

It’s impossible for Ali to resist Kendwa, but will his past come back to haunt them both?

When a medical emergency sends her racing home she renews her family bond, uncovers a new betrayal and finds an inner strength from her time with Kendwa in exotic Zanzibar and the wilds of Africa.

But on her return to the island will the grief of what she finds overwhelm her?

Testimonials:

“You actually have a lot of content in the book and the story line is an interesting “Chick Lit” and reminded me of Janet Evanovich series a lot. The mix of dialogue and locations made the book move and the way that the character travelled allowed you to explore lots of options for material. I could tell you had written it - it really came from your soul and your experiences/loves. There is a real mix of chick lit, travel, suspense and tear jerking.” – Angela Spzjoda (owner of 360 Degree Wellness)

“I loved it. I really felt like I was walking the narrow lanes of Zanzibar and that I was taken on an African safari. It was a unique and beautifully written story. I haven’t read anything like it.” – Valerie Ibbotson (retired)

“I finished reading *The Zanzibar Moon* and absolutely loved it, Donna. I didn’t predict the ending either. It’s exotic, funny and full of adventure. It’s also inspired me to go to Zanzibar one day.” – Leesa Bennett (volunteer teacher abroad)

“I am really impressed by the book, you have really done your homework and if I did not know any better I would have sworn that you have lived in Africa for a period of time. You have captured life here so well with the chaos, the beauty, the nature, even down to the sometimes not so pleasant aromas (haha). The story line is great and the characters are interesting. I also like how you have put the relevant chapters in the first tense for Alkina and Dr Don. It lets you get closer to the character I think. I showed some of the Swahili to my colleague and as far as she could tell you were spot on.” - Kerry Zillner (UN worker in Africa)

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Donna Munro is also the founder of Umoja Writing Competition which raises funds for the Umoja Orphanage Project Kenya and promotes literacy. She has been a regular volunteer with local sport and is keen on fitness. She lives on the Gold Coast with her husband, youngest son and the weirdo dog Mahli. You’ll often find her on a beach with a book in her hand and her toes in the sand.

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