



Kathy Ran was born and raised in Brisbane, Australia and she still lives there, although she has travelled the world and would love to do more travelling.

She is a divorced mother of two children, Ingrid and Ian. She was married in 1998, but separated in May 2006 and was divorced a year later.

She blames incompatible money styles as the main reason for her marriage break up, which it would appear, is a common story and is often a major contributing factor to marriage breakdowns.

She came into the marriage owning her own house (free and clear), her car, had savings and a share portfolio. She left the marriage with a five figure debt (over AU\$110,000) secured against her now remortgaged house and no savings. Luckily she managed to keep the shares.

She realises now that she was the one with money sense. She came into the marriage with assets whereas her now ex-husband pretty much only had a car.

About a month after her separation, she stumbled across a book called Rich Dad Poor Dad by Robert Kiyosaki.

She already had an interest in finance, and had a basic knowledge and understanding of money and finance, having read a few money related books, including The Richest Man in Babylon and Think and Grow Rich.

But Rich Dad Poor Dad really resonated with her; it probably came into her life at exactly the right time. Reading that book made her realise there was still so much for her to learn about finance, money and investing. From that moment on she pretty much devoted her life to learning as much as she could about investing, finance and money and how it all worked.

She bought and read literally hundreds of books, attended seminars about wealth creation and business opportunities and continues to do so to this day. She is always reading books, still attends seminars and her phone is full of audios that she listen to on her daily walks. It contains audios by Robert Kiyosaki, Tony Robbins, Dr John DeMartini, Pat Mesiti, Steven Covey, Bob Proctor, Roger James Hamilton, has others on business, real estate and share trading, and many mindset changing and inspirational audios.

She finds she takes something away from each book she reads, each seminar she attends and each audio she listens to. She says she learns something new every day and considers all the people she reads, sees and listens to, her mentors.

One of the regular seminars she started attending shortly after her divorce was through a group called GLAM – Girls Learning About Money, a Brisbane based group which provided financial information for women in a safe and non-judgmental environment. They put on monthly seminars with expert guest

speakers, and covered everything from budgeting and setting goals to investing in real estate, shares, wine and art.

She liked the group so much she became a committee member and treasurer (she was a bookkeeper in my daily life). The group put on these monthly events for a number of years, even when the CEO moved to England due to her husband being transferred over there for his work.

Unfortunately, committee members, who were all volunteers, left because of other commitments. When it dropped to just two committee members, herself and one other person, it became too difficult to put on events, so it went into hiatus.

She had loved being a member of this group, speaking with the women who attended the events, hearing their stories, being able to help them and offer advice. She really missed that whole atmosphere, of seeing women at the end of these events who had learnt something new, speaking with them and hearing them speak with each other with new knowledge, seeing new possibilities and broadening their skills.

She wanted to continue on with educating women, and thought a book could have a wider influence and reach more people. She feels it is her purpose to help spread the word and educate everyone.

When she initially started writing, she wrote the book more like a textbook. And it was boring! It was just like so many other books already out there on finance and money. Then someone asked her if it contained any stories, as she related better to books that had stories and examples. That was Kathy's other light bulb moment.

She not just put stories in it, she wrote the whole thing as a story! It's about two friends, one with financial knowledge mentoring, helping and educating her non-financial friend.

She also decided to split the book into five separate smaller books to make it easier to read, more digestible and not overwhelm the reader and bombard them with heaps of information in one sitting.

Everyone is so busy, we live in a soundbite world, and people have much shorter attention spans these days. We also now have a constant barrage of information. In fact, apparently the amount of information available these days doubles every 18 months. Not that long ago, it took 25 or more years for information to double! That's an incredible statistic. Also, seemingly the average attention span is now just eight seconds, which is even less than a goldfish.

Just as we learn better by learning in increments, so too is it better to make changes in our life in increments rather than in one big change. She thought it would be easier for someone to select the area of finance that interests them most and read that particular book first. Then, when they've mastered that, they can read another book, and so on. The books do share common chapters, so each book can be read by itself without losing any important background information. Or they can of course, all be read at once.

So the single book turned into a series of smaller, bite sized books, which consist of:

- Save Me! The Financially Wise Girl's Quick Guide to Saving (now published)
- Before You Buy That! The Financially Wise Girl's Quick Guide to Budgeting.

- Oops, Overdrawn! The Financially Wise Girl's Quick Guide to Eliminating Debt.
- Turn Those Taps On! The Financially Wise Girl's Quick Guide to Creating Multiple Streams of Income.
- Finally Free! The Financially Wise Girl's Quick Guide to Calculating Retirement Income.

The books are aimed at women, because that was her target market, given her background with GLAM. As stated in her books, women are generally worse off than men financially because women typically earn less than men, they usually take time off to look after children and are generally much worse off after a divorce, especially if they have children, which impacts on how much they have in savings and retirement funds. But they live longer than men therefore requiring more in their savings and retirement funds.

She felt the need for this basic financial information was greater for women than men. However, the information contained in the books is equally applicable to both men and women, so men are encouraged to read them too.

She has always realised that money was important, but for some reason nobody seems willing to talk about it. It's a taboo topic. She wants to bring the discussion into the open.

As she also state in her book, the best things in life might be free, but you can't pay your power or phone bill or buy groceries with anything other than money. Whether we are aware of it or not, or even whether we like it or not, money impacts on almost every facet of our life.

For something this important, shouldn't we be well educated on the subject? Shouldn't we know as much as possible about it, so we can make informed choices and decisions?

She is currently working on the Kindle or e-book version and hopes to publish the audio version shortly. She would also like to translate the books into multiple languages and see the books available all over the world. This lack of financial education is a universal problem.

Because it's something she thinks we should all learn from an early age, she would also like to write or co-write a children's version of the book, or at least use the concept for a children's version.

The good news is that she managed to repay all her debts and is an active investor, although she's currently taken some time out to write these books.

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