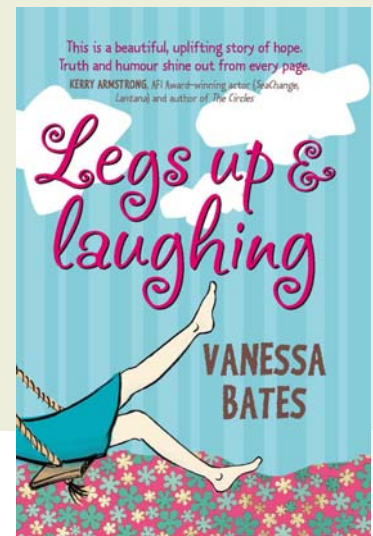


<b>Title</b>	Legs Up & Laughing
<b>Author</b>	Vanessa Bates
<b>ISBN</b>	9781921208935
<b>Imprint</b>	Pier 9
<b>Binding</b>	Paperback with flaps
<b>Extent</b>	256 pages
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*'For every woman who has been told 'just relax and you'll get pregnant' and wanted to slap the person who said it, this book is a tonic. A funny, honest account that you won't want to put down. I didn't want it to end.'* -

Mia Freedman, author of *The New Black*

### Description

Where do babies come from? Well, when a man loves a woman, they kiss and then ... But things aren't always so straightforward, as Vanessa Bates and her husband Christopher found out. With nature refusing to come to the party, despite the deafening tick of her biological clock, Vanessa had plenty of time to think about motherhood and precisely what it means.

In this memoir, by turns laugh-out-loud funny and beautifully moving, Vanessa reflects on family relationships and takes us on the rollercoaster ride of trying to become a mother herself. Along the way there are rampant costumed sheep, a pagan wedding party and the rice-pudding smell of a loved one's head. There are tears of sadness and of joy, and always there is love.

### Sales Points

- A compelling, engaging, funny, wise, sharply observant and sometimes heart-breaking story
- Carries an endorsement quote on the front cover from Kerry Armstrong, AFI Award-winning actor - *'This is a beautiful, uplifting story of hope. Truth and humour shine out from every page.'*
- Advanced reading copies available

### Author Profile

Vanessa Bates is a professional, well-respected writer of theatre, radio and film. She is a graduate of NIDA Playwrights' Studio and has been an Affiliate Playwright with the Sydney Theatre Company and a member of their Blueprints Literary Program.

In 1999/2000 Vanessa received a Keesing Studio Residency to live in Paris for 6 months and her plays have been produced throughout Australia. She has also written several radio plays produced by ABC Radio. Her play *Checklist for an Armed Robber* was short listed for the 2006 Victorian Premier's Literary Award Louis Esson prize for drama and the radio adaptation won a 2005 AWGIE (Australian Writers' Guild Award).