

Title	The Sea of Chance
Author	Brett Hilder
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Description

I have a wife in Africa, far from her home in Hill End ... My wife's name is Sibella Mehari. She is a courageous woman and belongs to nobody but herself.

In 2003, in Asmara, Eritrea, Australian photographer and inveterate traveller Brett Hilder met and fell in love with Sibella Mehari. Born in Ethiopia, she and her family had been deported because of their Eritrean heritage and now lived as refugees in an alien 'homeland'.

Following their marriage in Asmara a year later, Brett returned alone to Australia to organise the visa that would allow his wife to join him, unaware of the years of separation and struggle that lay before them. As Brett continued to fight bureaucracy and prejudice to obtain a visa to a place – any place – where they could be together, Sibella, effectively stateless, fled from Eritrea to Sudan and then to Egypt.

In this poetic work, as much travel memoir as autobiography, Brett captures the resonance of the distance in time, geography and personal freedom that separates them; his life as part of the First World so different from Sibella's life 'between the world of lost dreams, and the world of a refugee'.

Sales Points

- Brett Hilder is a well-connected and charismatic photographer and film maker
- This is a true and ongoing love story, with Sibella's visa to join Brett in Australia still not obtained
- Brett and Sibella's story is told in poetic, expressionistic prose, as observed through the painterly eye of a visual artist, whose photographs are integrated with the text

Author Profile

Brett Hilder is an Australian photographer, film maker and inveterate traveller whose work encompasses fashion, portraiture and landscape. In the 1960s and 70s, his distinctive fashion photography, portraying a sense of mystery and romance, appeared in magazines including *Vogue* and *POL*. In the mid 1970s he lived and worked in London and Paris.

On his return to Australia he extended his work into theatre and film and he has produced a film of the life of Mexican/Italian photographer Tina Modotti. Brett is based at Hill End in New South Wales and continues to travel frequently and far afield. A book based on his travel journals comprising both words and images, with the working title *Another Time Past Created*, will be published by Murdoch Books in November 2008.