

20 years ago, this year

by chance the future...

LONDON. 2001. It's the new millennium, with a minute more of pre-mobile phone, pre-terrorism hysteria, pre-social media life to live. Jackie Chance escapes Sydney suburbia. She's an outsider with a bad haircut. Wild mood swings. She knows everything. She knows nothing.

Why was Sef kicked out of the hostel?

Immigration detention, drum and bass, Berlusconi's boys' club. Spearmint Rhinos, capital cash flows, Stephen Lawrence's murder ... **By Chance the Future** is a story that shows how reflecting on where we were 20 years ago can tell us where we are today—at a distance, with hindsight—if only we look.

Amy Rudder's debut book follows a long relationship with, and love of writing: mainly diary entries (later blogs), long letters (later emails) and bad poems (still bad poems).

Set in 2001, the first, crushing year of this new millennium—which, while still in its infancy, has already propelled us into crises climate, viral, existential—**By Chance the Future** asks: *what have we learnt?* Well, as Jackie learns, like the existentialists, the absurdists before her, the first criteria is clear: live.

In **By Chance the Future**, **Amy Rudder** tells a story of stepping out into the world and trusting you'll know what to do when you get there. Inspired by the character, Sarah, in cult movie, *The Crow*, and Roberto Bolaño's anti-hero, Auxilio Lacoutre (*Amulet*), our protagonist Jackie thrives *despite*.

And now, despite the challenges of writing and publishing, and of 'pitching oneself into the drift' of criticism, it's time for a celebration of the best bits, among which the opportunity to work with other loved and admired creative minds has been hugely important to the author.

Berlin-based, Lebanese artist and free jazz musician, **Mazen Kerbaj**, created the striking cover artwork after Amy reached out to the comic illustrator during the Covid-19 lockdown. Producing his **Corona Diaries** at the time, and dealing with the aftermath of the explosion that shook Beirut, he kindly took a chance on the manuscript, with which, as a fellow gen X-er, he felt a keen resonance.

Long term collaborator, curator and DJ, **Louise Klerks**, will host the Melbourne book launch at her multi-arts gallery, **Missing Persons**, and in Sydney, new independent book and object space, **BTWNLNS**, will graciously host. Both venues share an ethos of community connection through creativity; supporting artists and contributing to the cultural energy of their respective cities.

Zenobia Ahmed has ushered the project through its final stages of text design and typesetting with professionalism and the aesthete's eye. And **Maddison Kitching**, who Louise invited years earlier to exhibit at **Chapter House Lane** (the Melbourne-city art space she and Amy co-founded in 2011), designed **The Disputandum** imprint for the new independent press.



Available to pre-order now at bychancethefuture.com, copies will be shipped from late April onward.

By Chance the Future blends travel writing, philosophical treatise, self-deprecating comedy and political criticism; the author highlighting both our very human hypocrisy and genuine attempts to connect, and the singularity and the sameness of our youthful adventures as we attempt to individuate from our families and countries of origin.

The book will be launched at parties in **Melbourne** and **Sydney**, at Covid-safe events.

MELBOURNE BOOK LAUNCH

Date: Friday, 23 April

Time: 6–8pm

Location: MISSING PERSONS

Fourth floor, Nicholas Building, 37 Swanston St

SYDNEY BOOK LAUNCH

Date: Sunday, 25 April

Time: 3–5pm

Location: BTWNLNS

105 Wilson St, Newtown



CONTACT

Amy Rudder

contact@thedisputandum.com

BACKGROUND

Amy Rudder

Web: thedisputandum.com

BTWNLNS

Web: btwnlns.com

Maddison Kitching

Web: maddisonkitching.com

Mazen Kerbaj

Web: kerbajdiaries.com

Missing Persons

Web: missingpersons.me

Zenobia Ahmed

Web: zenobiaahmed.com

Insta: [@btwn.lns](https://www.instagram.com/btwn.lns)

Insta: [@maddisonkitching](https://www.instagram.com/maddisonkitching)

Insta: [@mazenkerbaj](https://www.instagram.com/mazenkerbaj)

Insta: [@missingpersons__](https://www.instagram.com/missingpersons__)

Insta: [@zenobiaahmed](https://www.instagram.com/zenobiaahmed)

“As I stepped inside that iconic red box I tried to divert my eyes from the usual smattering of soft porn that lined its interior. Then I took pause to look around at the flesh, the breasts, the bottoms, the barely-there Lycra and thought ladies, I’m with you, solicit we must. I picked up the phone, bolstered by their brazenness.”

