

## POWER LOVING

Carol O'Donnell

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80581 words

### SYNOPSIS

#### **Power Loving**

Parents, siblings, lovers and children naturally appear in this Australian self-portrait of a woman's progress in interesting times to illuminate the rest more sharply in the region. Like US psychologist Stanley Milgram, Carol believes psychology is telling stories about the self and life is understood backwards but must be lived forwards. This is the story of a woman for policy purposes which question the normal party, professional and industrial approaches in the democratic interest of the population. Others in the region may feel different, but this is Carol's story. She was born in 1947 and left Southend on Sea in England in 1953 for a rural life in Queensland. She discusses her family and schooling, followed by her work as a shorthand typist, a secondary school English teacher in Nigeria and Australia, and a university student and teacher of teachers. During this

personal and political progression, Carol identifies herself as a Marxist student of women and children's lot, before and after the Whitlam Labor government of the seventies. As a state public servant, she helped to establish services for women and children and then worked in the corporate planning and delivery of health, insurance, rehabilitation and fund management services for the NSW workforce. She then became a university teacher of health professionals, retiring in 2007. Finally, she points out why our generation should face our inevitable death for better state policy and why she became a travelling grandma making a revisionist political return to her father's small business views. She observes that English is the most spoken language in the world and old men can't type. Better communication is women's most natural advantage. Cut off old rich heads and let us all work freely if we want. We only do what we want or can contract. The quality of work is best judged openly. God alone knows how you cost it.

312 words

## **POWER LOVING**

### **A comparatively entertaining thesis on vocational learning**

In 2020 in a time of global pandemic, Jill of all trades, Carol O'Donnell looks back on a life in a lot of them, once more with more meaning. The author was born in 1947 in a British family in Southend on Sea which travelled to live in Queensland in 1953. Feminist historian, Sheila Rowbotham, pointed out that women and commoners have been relatively hidden from history. Carol believes, like US psychologist Stanley Milgram, that psychology is telling stories about the self and life is understood backwards but must be lived forwards. Hers is just one of many stories from this broader realm, that she occupied from the age of fifteen as a shorthand typist, a high school English teacher, a New South Wales public servant, and a Marxist teacher in the teaching and health care professions. She retired from the Faculty of Health Sciences at

Sydney University in 2007 to face the global financial crisis in 2008 and became a travelling grandma at home and abroad, with or without IT. This is also the story of a life spent in interesting times, as they may be today for more of us ordinary folk. In later years Carol returned more to the small business identifications of early family life. She developed a seriously revisionist approach to the new left and trade union views and the anti-discrimination and related legislative solutions she had helped to introduce in comparative youth. But, as they often say in the HBO series, The Sopranos, with variously inflected tones, 'what can you do'? Have some more Chinese and take a more meaningful look at

[www.Carolodonnell.com.au](http://www.Carolodonnell.com.au)

278 words