1. Record Nr. UNINA9910814455903321

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Titolo One minute crying time / / Barbara Ewing

Pubbl/distr/stampa Auckland, New Zealand:,: Massey University Press,, [2020]

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ISBN 0-9951095-0-8

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (157 pages)

Disciplina 920.093

Soggetti Actresses - New Zealand

Maori (New Zealand people)

New Zealand Social life and customs 20th century

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Sommario/riassunto This vivid memoir by well-known New Zealand actor and novelist

Barbara Ewing covers her tumultuous childhood, adolescence and young-adulthood in Wellington and Auckland in the 1950s and early 1960s - a very different time - and ends in 1962, when she boards a ship for London, to study at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. It draws heavily on the diaries she kept from the age of twelve, which lead her to some surprising conclusions about memory and truth.

Ewing struggled with what would now be diagnosed as anxiety; she had a difficult relationship with her brilliant but frustrated and angry

mother; and her decision to somehow learn te reo Maori drew her into a world to which few Pakeha had access. A love affair with a young Maori man destined for greatness was complicated by society's unease about such relationships, and changed them both. Evocative, candid, brave, bright and darting, this entrancing book takes us to a long-ago

New Zealand and to enduring truths about love.--