



Australian Bookseller & Publisher
February, 2008
Page: 41
Section: General News
Region: National Circulation: 6,500
Type: Magazines Lifestyle
Size: 102.30 sq.cms.
Published: Monthly

Brief: UNIQ-PRESS

The Young Widow's Book of Home Improvement: A True Story of Love and Renovation

(Virginia Lloyd, UQP \$32.95 hb, ISBN 9780702236815, April) ★ ★ ★ ★

The Young Widow's Book of Home Improvement: A True Story of Love and Renovation is a beautiful memoir by Virginia Lloyd about beginning a relationship with, and her marriage to, John, and her life after he dies. Lloyd is only in her mid-30s when she is widowed, and the book chronicles her attempt to return to the life she led before her marriage. It also follows her home improvement project—getting rid of rising damp. I found this book absolutely lovely and very moving. Neither Lloyd nor husband John seem to dwell on the unfairness of John's approaching death, and both take the mantra 'as normal as possible, for as long as possible' as they live their lives with the disease. During their marriage Lloyd wins the lottery

for a green card and needs to go to the US. John is insistent that she go, and that she makes other preparations for life without him. Reading Lloyd's reconstructions of their conversations, and her later thoughts on life without her soul mate could be maudlin and soppy, but they actually shine with love and leave you feeling happy that there could be such love in the world. (See interview, page 43.)

Jessica Broadbent is a former bookseller

