



Spoonfuls of irony season Lynch's wicked wit

Screw You Dolores. A wicked approach to happiness. By Sarah-Kate Lynch. Published by Random House. 384 pages. RRP \$29.99. Reviewed by Lewis Martin.

Screw You Dolores is a good example of what a free-spirited writer and an adventurous publisher can achieve together.

From the title onwards everything about it is quirky fun. It doesn't always work – why do people persist with multiple, head-hurting pages of sans serif fonts? – but when it does, which is most of the time, it is very entertaining.

Ms Lynch wanted to celebrate reaching her half century, so she threw a year-long party for her-

self, beginning with a month in Paris.

This is the story of that year plus, as the subtitle implies, a significant quantity of self-help, much of it delivered with a tablespoon of irony.

The self-help often comes in the form of lists: five things to do if you need cheering up; five things I

learned from being fired, etc.

There are also sidebars about such subjects as dogs, Hugh Jackman, and the advantages of not having kids.

It is a tribute to the author's talent as a wordsmith that a book with such slender subject matter can run to nearly 400 pages without being boring.