


HarperCollinsPublishers  
Pty Limited  
ABN 36 009 913 517

25 Ryde Road (P.O. Box 321)  
Pymble NSW 2073  
Australia

Telephone 02 9952 5000  
Facsimile 02 9952 5666  
samantha.rich@harpercollins.com.au

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**Contact: Samantha Rich**

Tel: 02 9952 5473

E: [samantha.rich@harpercollins.com.au](mailto:samantha.rich@harpercollins.com.au)

**MEDIA RELEASE**

# *That's Why I Wrote This Song*

## **Susanne Gervay**

**Susanne wrote the story, her musician daughter wrote the lyrics!**

Download the book's unique soundtrack and film clip at:  
[www.harpercollins.com.au](http://www.harpercollins.com.au) from August 1!

the Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ess-R0dHtX8>  
my space: [www.myspace.com/thatswhyiwrotethissong](http://www.myspace.com/thatswhyiwrotethissong)

From bestselling author, Susanne Gervay, comes a coming-of-age story about an all-girl rock band in search of love, life and independence.



*That's Why I Wrote This Song* is more than a creative collaboration between a mother and a daughter, it explores the lives of four very different teenage girls and their relationships with their fathers, boys and each other. All this is set around the music scene and the girls' passion for and involvement with it, from rock concerts, weekend music festivals and the girls' own band.

### **From the Author:**

When Tory asked me to write a book inspired by her, rather than her 'in-your-face' brother, it was half a joke. 'You wrote *The Cave* for Jamie,' she teased. However I took it seriously. Afterwards I kept thinking about Tory and who she is, the insight came to me gradually. Tory is MUSIC. She writes lyrics and music to work out her emotions and inner life. She's played

instruments since she's been five, sings beautifully. Her music would drive my book. No, our book.

Tory was half excited and half nervous, about working with me on *That's Why I Wrote This Song*. We talked about her songs and what they meant to her, what she wanted to say. Father-daughter relationships, identity, boyfriends, music, friends, family, relationships. Tory introduced me to the rock music scene. My Jamie had to put in his viewpoint too. Actually Jamie thought an all-girl book was unbalanced, until I added a boy into the book. So now it's the story of four girls and one boy. Tory thought that was funny.

There were lots of funny incidents and sad ones too and the talking continued through the two years it took to write *That's Why I Wrote This Song* and to record Tory's songs that are the soul of the book.

The process of intertwining music and text was difficult, but special with my daughter who slowly, very slowly grew in confidence. As a mother, it has been a remarkable experience, one where I feel I know Tory even better and love her even more.

### **From Tory, the musical consultant for the book**

My passion is music. For as long as I can remember music has always been a huge part of my life – playing it, listening to it, watching it. I have always been a band 'nerd' but I'm proud of it. I wrote the music for *That's Why I Wrote This Song* and loved working with my Mum on it.

### **The film clip...**

Susanne had never been an executive film producer before. She became one with the video clip of Tory's song 'Psycho Dad'. Young film producer, Rachel Guerry, fell in love with the book and music, and wrote a script that gave it a visual dimension. Susanne and Tory are integral to the film, produced by Rachel with a cast of actors including Peter Carmody, camera people, make-up artists and friends, in what became a collaborative journey of music, film and text.

**Susanne Gervay** is the best-selling author of the critically acclaimed 'Jack' books on bullying, as well as the popular young adult novels *The Cave* and *Butterflies*. She is also a specialist in child growth and development, a teacher and lecturer, manages the marketing and media for a heritage hotel in Sydney, and is deeply involved in writing organisations like SCBWI and the Sydney Children's Writers & Illustrators Network.

**Tory Gervay** has recently graduated from the University of New England and now works for Rough Cut, one of Australia's biggest independent music labels. While she was studying, Tory worked in security for music gigs and other celeb events, hanging out backstage with the likes of Wolfmother, Green Day, 50 Cent, Pearl Jam, The Veronicas, Jennifer Hawkins, Nicole Kidman ... the list goes on! Tory spends her spare time writing music, lyrics and singing. Music is her life!

### **Susanne and Tory are both available for interview in August!**

*That's Why I Wrote This Song* with Tory's songs produced by young producer Tony Buchen, and the music clip of 'Psycho Dad' that are part of the creative soul of the book, will be launched at Bondi Beach in the Pavilion on 31 July by Byron Williams of the hip hop band, THE HERD and WAYS Youth Services. WAYS run Bondi Blitz youth band festival at Bondi Pavilion that has headlined high profile bands such as Grinspoon, Coolism, Nitocris and Unpaid Debt and support new bands.

For more information on the launch or to request an interview or review copy, please contact:

Samantha Rich Publicist

Tel: 02 9952 5473

Fax: 02 9952 5666

E: [Samantha.rich@harpercollins.com.au](mailto:Samantha.rich@harpercollins.com.au)

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