



HOST WITH THE MOST

I want guests to feel right at home

Juls Rollnik,
Melbourne, Vic.

Hanging up another load of laundry, I sighed.

I was a stay-at-home mum to two kids, Alec, 12, and Paris, 10, while my husband, Adam, 44, worked as a barrister.

I couldn't help feeling resentful.

I was 25 and working in recruitment when I met Adam and had dreams of climbing the career ladder, but Adam, then a policeman, wanted to study law. So I'd supported us while he studied full-time.

Then, after we got married and had kids, he began working as a lawyer. So once again, I held down the fort,

this time raising the kids.

I felt isolated and didn't know if our relationship would last. Then, in June 2013, Adam came home looking stricken.

"Juls, I've got bowel cancer," he choked.

I was stunned.

Quiet and stoic, Adam hadn't even told me he was feeling unwell.

Soon after, a CAT scan showed Adam's cancer had also spread to his liver. He'd need two surgeries – one to remove the tumours in the bowel, another to remove an entire section of the liver.

"Adam only has a slim chance of surviving this," the doctor told us gravely.

In the car on the way

home, we both sobbed.

Over the coming days, it became clear: I was facing the very real prospect of losing my husband.

Even after two successful surgeries, Adam needed six months of chemo. We weren't out of the woods yet. And so I made a plan.

Adam had a colleague who was a successful

Airbnb host – it's the online site where people rent their homes to holiday-makers.

"You'd be great at that," Adam told me.

I did hours of research and attended countless property seminars. Eventually, I re-mortgaged our house so I could buy a small one-bed flat.

Then I did the place up and advertised it on the Airbnb website. I'd learned that to be a top host, good reviews were golden.

I needed to make my guests' stays as special as possible.

The bed must always be comfortable, luxury towels provided, and decent aircon and heating need to be available at all times.

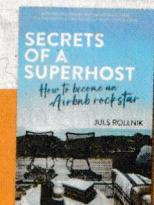
By doing this, almost every review I received was outstanding. And that got me more bookings.

Eventually, I decided to impart some of my wisdom, writing a book called *Secrets of a Superhost* – and the reviews of that have been pretty awesome, too.

I now have three properties and a very stable income of my own.

Luckily, Adam is three years cancer-free now, so here's hoping I never have to rely on it.

Secrets of a Superhost by Juls Rollnik is out now.



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