



LOUISE  
WALTERS  
BOOKS

2022/2023

# WELCOME

to the 2022/2023 Louise Walters Books catalogue.

I'm a tiny one-woman press working from my home in Northamptonshire. I want to offer something you might not find with mainstream publishers and my first priority when picking projects to publish is the quality of the writing.

I pride myself on publishing good books by talented writers. I don't believe in hype, but I do publish work that I believe deserves to be published. I try to seek out the best writing I can find. However, there is nothing obscure about my books - they veer towards the literary, but they are all wonderfully readable.

I would love my titles to be discovered by more readers - it's a must if I am to survive as a press - so if you are a bookseller, please do consider stocking my books. I don't have the budget to pay for a great deal of marketing, so I rely on word-of-mouth recommendations, and readers being able to discover my titles while browsing. My authors deserve to find their readers and I work hard to make that happen.

Please get in touch if you would like to order any titles from me, either as a bookseller or a direct customer. And if you have ordered from me and have received this catalogue with your delivery, thank you. Every purchase helps me to keep publishing.

Happy browsing!

**Louise**

September 2022



## Wilde Investigations series

### *Laura Laakso*

In an alternate London where magic and mundane blend, Yannia Wilde is the PI to turn to when no one else can help.

Within New London sits Old London, as magical folk refer to what's otherwise known as the City of London borough. New London seems much like the city we know, but cross the border into Old London and everything changes: Animal Shamans mix with elemental Mages, and Paladins bear bejewelled swords and Kevlar armour. We are among the Fair Folk, immortal spirits, and disturbing unnamed menaces. The air contains magic and the crimes defy reason. While each London bleeds into the other, the difference is palpable to Yannia Wilde.

Leaving behind the safety and comfort of her people, the Wild Folk, and her conclave deep in the northern forests, Yannia has set up a private investigation business in the heart of Old London. She takes on cases where not everything is as simple as it might seem. From spell-cloaked infidelity to disappearing corpses, Yannia's cases have one thing in common: magic is at work.



Though she must make regular trips to nature to “recharge”, Yannia has chosen to live in the outside world because her fierce independence rails against what her father has decided on her behalf, and because her daily life is plagued with the pain of a chronic illness and she needs the relief that only modern medicine can provide. Along with her investigations, she must also navigate her place in the magical hierarchy and class system, uphold the rituals that make her who she is, battle loneliness, and stay true to her nature while she carves out a place for herself where she is one of a kind.

**Laura Laakso** is a Finn who has lived for most of her adult life in England. She is an accountant, dog trainer, and author.

Laura's third novel *Roots of Corruption* was long-listed in the inaugural Barbellion Prize (2020). The Barbellion Prize is dedicated to the furtherance of ill and disabled voices in writing. The prize is awarded annually to an author whose work has best represented the experience of chronic illness and/or disability.

## 1. *Fallible Justice* Laura Laakso

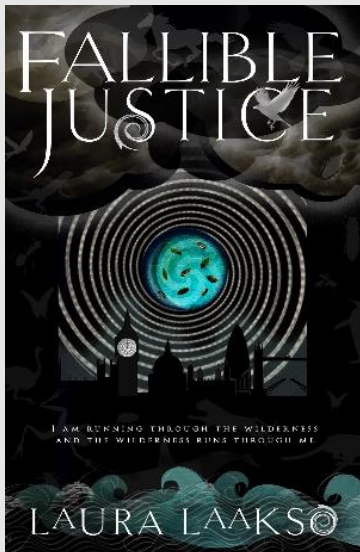
**“I am running through the wilderness and the wilderness runs through me.”**

In Old London, where paranormal races co-exist with ordinary humans, criminal verdicts delivered by the all-seeing Heralds of Justice are infallible. After a man is declared guilty of murder and sentenced to death, his daughter turns to private investigator Yannia Wilde to do the impossible and prove the Heralds wrong.

Yannia has escaped a restrictive life in the Wild Folk conclave where she was raised, but her origins mark her as an outsider in the city. Those origins lend her the sensory abilities of all of nature. Yet Yannia is lonely and struggling to adapt to life in the city. The case could be the break she needs. She enlists the help of her only friend, a Bird Shaman named Karrion, and together they accept the challenge of proving a guilty man innocent.

So begins a breathless race against time and against all conceivable odds. Can Yannia and Karrion save a man who has been judged infallibly guilty?

Published November 2018



£8.99

ISBN 9781999780937

Paperback “B” format

384 pp

Also in e-book and audio

Available from  
Louise Walters Books and Gardners

BIC category: FM - Fantasy

## 2. *Echo Murder* Laura Laakso

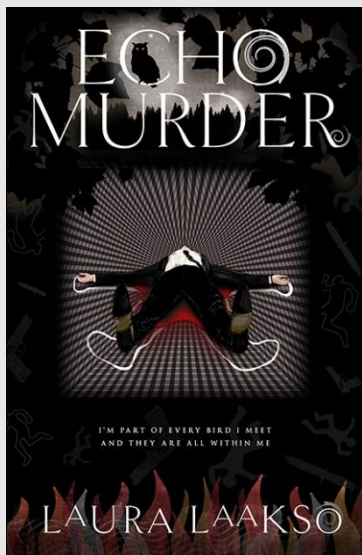
**“I’m part of every bird I meet, and they are all within me.”**

Yannia Wilde returns to the Wild Folk conclave where she grew up, and to the deathbed of her father, the conclave’s Elderman.

Back in London, unassuming office worker Tim Wedgebury is surprised when police appear on his doorstep with a story about how he was stabbed in the West End. Given that Tim is alive and well, the police chalk the first death up to a Mage prank. But when Tim “dies” a second time, Detective Inspector Jamie Manning calls Yannia and, torn between returning to the life she has built in Old London and remaining loyal to the conclave and to Dearon, she strikes a compromise with the Elderman that allows her to return temporarily to the city.

There she sets about solving the mystery of Tim’s many deaths with the help of her apprentice, Karrion. They come to realise that with every death, more of the echo becomes reality, and Yannia and Karrion find themselves in increasing danger as they try to save Tim. Who is the echo murderer? What sinister game are they playing? And what do they truly want?

Published June 2019



£8.99

ISBN 9781999780975

Paperback “B” format

352pp

Also in e-book and audio

Available from  
Louise Walters Books and Gardners

BIC category: FM - Fantasy

### 3. *Roots of Corruption* Laura Laakso

**“What could Lady Bergamon have to fear in a garden of her own making?”**

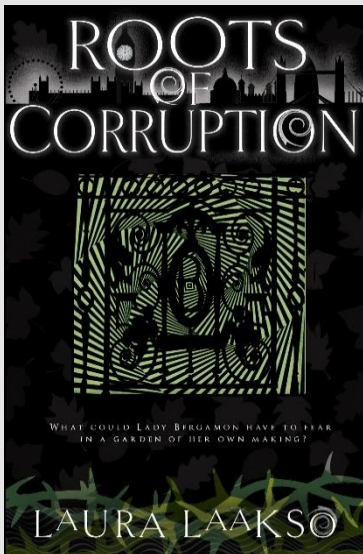
On the night of Samhain, the veil between worlds is at its thinnest, and ancient magic runs wild in Old London.

When Lady Bergamon is attacked in her Ivy Street garden, Wishearth turns to Yannia for help. Who could have the power to harm Lady Bergamon in her own domain? While Yannia searches for the answer, nature herself appears to be killing Mages in Old London. Yannia and Karrion join forces with New Scotland Yard to solve the baffling Mage deaths. But wherever they turn, all the clues point back towards Ivy Street.

Yannia's abilities are put to the test as she races to save Lady Bergamon's life, and prevent further murders. But with the lines between friends and enemies blurring, she must decide who to trust and how much she's willing to sacrifice for Old London and its inhabitants.

Published March 2020

**Longlisted in the inaugural Barbellion Prize 2020**



£8.99

ISBN 9781999630515

Paperback “B” format

384 pp

Also in e-book and audio

Available from  
Louise Walters Books and Gardners

BIC category: FM - Fantasy

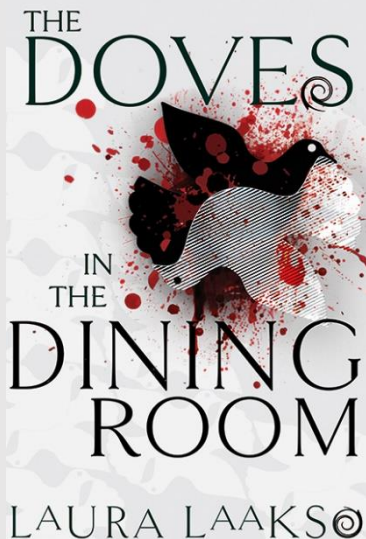
### 3.5. *The Doves in the Dining Room* Laura Laakso

Yannia Wilde arrives in rural Sussex to attend her friend Jessika's aristocratic Mage wedding. When two butchered doves are left in the hotel dining room, Yannia volunteers to take charge of the investigation. More disturbing events follow, leaving Yannia convinced that somebody is trying to sabotage the wedding.

Yannia teams up with the groom, Robbert, a wheelchair-using fan of detective fiction, and Wishearth, her ever-loyal Hearth Spirit, who surprises her by taking an active role in the investigation. But as the clock ticks towards the big day, the sabotage continues and the contradictions mount. The case turns sinister when Yannia herself is targeted, and Wishearth has to act quickly to rescue her. But can they solve the mystery and save the wedding before somebody loses their life?

A "sideways" novella in the Wilde Investigations series, this is Laura's homage to the classic detective fiction of Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle.

Published November 2021 in a limited edition of 100 signed and numbered copies



£7.99

ISBN 9781916112360

Paperback "B" format

176 pp

Also in e-book and audio

Available from  
Louise Walters Books and Gardners

BIC category: FM - Fantasy

#### 4. *Wildest Hunger* Laura Laakso

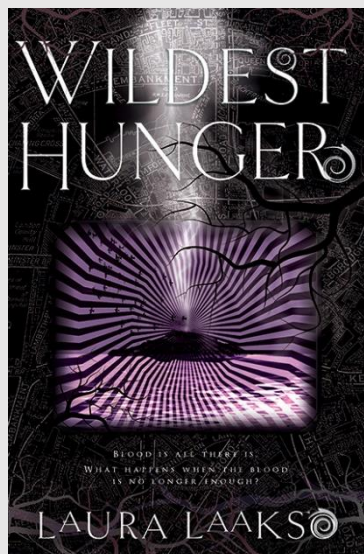
**“Blood is all there is.”  
“What happens when the blood is no longer enough?”**

The oldest and gravest of the Wild Folk laws dictates that human flesh must not be consumed. When half-eaten bodies start turning up between Old London and the North, Yannia Wilde knows the killer can only be one of her kind. When Yannia’s betrothed, Dearon, insists on joining forces with her and Karrion, things get even more complicated.

While Yannia tries to balance tracking down the killer with the tension between her, Dearon, and Karrion, another case in Old London draws her attention. A West Mage Council member, whom Yannia exposed as a Leech only days before, has gone missing, and his girlfriend is found murdered in his flat. Is the Leech, a master of deception, capable of murder, or has someone framed him?

Caught in the web of Old London’s political intrigue, Yannia must learn to play the game and to choose her allegiances with care. But to catch a predator of her kind, she must also embrace her wildness and set aside everything that makes her human.

Published 3 November 2022



£10.00

ISBN 9781916112384

Paperback “B” format

416pp

Also in e-book and audio

Available from  
Louise Walters Books and Gardners

BIC category: FM - Fantasy



## *Don't Think a Single Thought*

Diana Cambridge

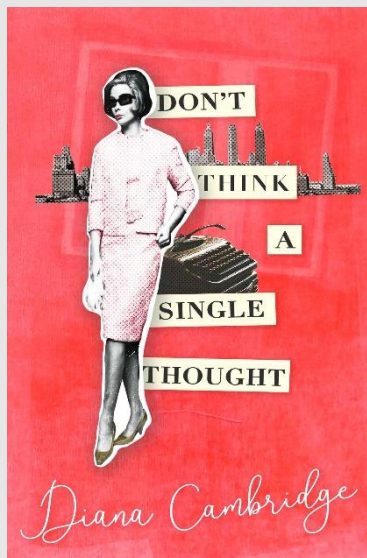
*“Hello? Hello? Emma, is that you? Emma! It’s only me...  
Hello? Are you there, Emma?”*

1960s New York, and Emma Bowden seems to have it all - a glamorous Manhattan apartment, a loving husband, and a successful writing career. But while Emma and her husband Jonathan are on vacation at the Hamptons, a child drowns in the sea, and suspicion falls on Emma.

As her picture-perfect life spirals out of control, and old wounds resurface, a persistent and monotonous voice in Emma’s head threatens to destroy all that she has worked for...

Taut, elegant and mesmerising, *Don't Think a Single Thought* is a captivating exploration of mental health, of women's place in society, and of the inner workings of a picture-perfect marriage.

Published September 2019



£7.99

ISBN 9781999780999

Paperback “B” format

192 pp

Also in e-book and audio

Available from  
Louise Walters Books and Gardners

BIC category:  
FA - Modern and contemporary fiction

## *The Naseby Horses*

Dominic Brownlow

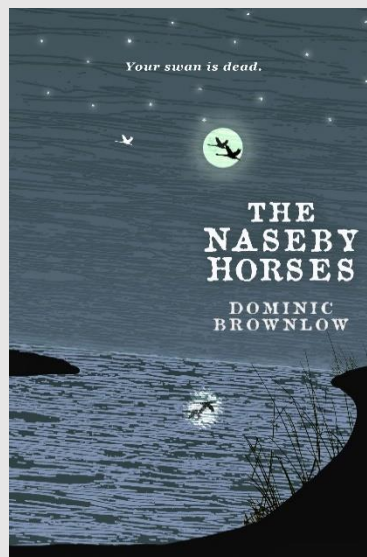
*“I only know Charlotte is not dead. I feel it within me, her heartbeat the echo of my own. She is with me still. She is near. I have to save her, for that is all in life I have ever been required to do.”*

Seventeen-year-old Simon’s sister Charlotte is missing. The lonely Fenland village the family recently moved to from London is odd, silent, and mysterious. Simon is epileptic and his seizures are increasing in severity, but when he is told of the local curse of the Naseby Horses, he is convinced it has something to do with Charlotte’s disappearance. Despite resistance from the villagers, the police, and his own family, Simon is determined to uncover the truth, and save his sister.

Under the oppressive Fenland skies and in the heat of a relentless June, Simon’s bond with Charlotte is fierce, all-consuming, and unbreakable; but can he find her? And does she even want to be found?

Drawing on philosophy, science, and the natural world, *The Naseby Horses* is a moving exploration of the bond between a brother and his sister, of love, and of the meaning of life itself.

Published August 2020



£8.99

ISBN 9781999630539

Paperback “B” format

304 pp

Also in e-book, and audio

Available from  
Louise Walters Books and Gardners

BIC category:  
FA - Modern and contemporary fiction

## *The Last Words of Madeleine Anderson*

Helen Kitson

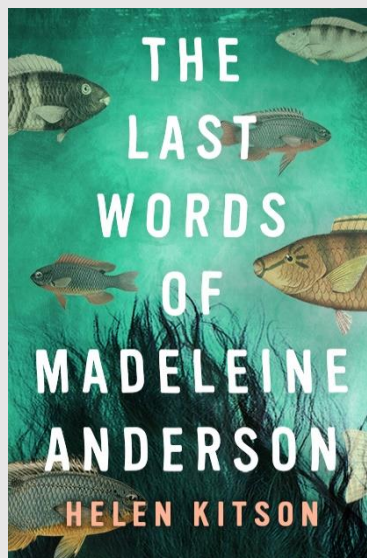
***“Writing is like a love affair, or should be. You get to know your story, it intrigues you, if you’re lucky it enthrals you, and ultimately it ends, leaving you wretched and abandoned.”***

Once upon a time Gabrielle Price wrote and published an extraordinary novel.

But twenty years on her literary star has dimmed, her "work of genius" is all but forgotten, and no further novels have materialized. She lives an unremarkable life: middle-aged, living alone in the sleepy village she grew up in, and working as a housekeeper for the local vicar. Her lonely existence is dominated by memories of her best friend Madeleine, who died young, in tragic and mysterious circumstances.

Gabrielle’s quiet world is turned upside down when she meets and befriends Simon - young, attractive, a would-be writer, and a fan of the astonishing novel that Gabrielle published all those years ago. Charmed and flattered, she recklessly invites him into her home and her heart. But Simon is mysterious and manipulative, and it’s not long before he forces Gabrielle to confront the demons in her past. Gabrielle’s obsession begins to destroy her life, and she comes to feel increasingly threatened by Simon’s presence. Who is he? Why did he seek her out? And what does he really want?

Published March 2019



£8.99

ISBN 9781999780951

Paperback “B” format

320 pp

Also in e-book, audio, and large print

Available from  
Louise Walters Books and Gardners

BIC category:  
FA - Modern and contemporary fiction

*Old Bones*  
Helen Kitson

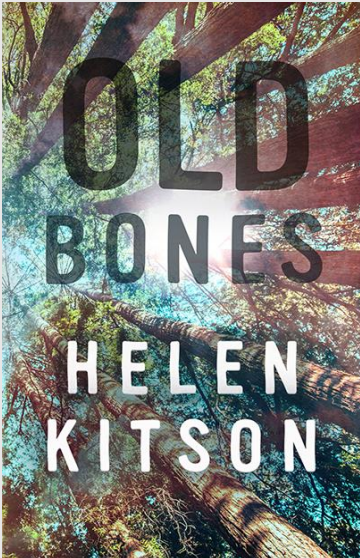
***“So much of life is about pretending to be something other than what one is: prettier, cleverer, less ordinary.”***

Diana and her sister Antonia are house-sharing spinsters who have never got over their respective first loves. Diana owns a gift shop, but rarely works there. Antonia is unemployed, having lost her teaching job at an all girls’ school following a shocking outburst in the classroom after enduring years of torment. Diana is a regular at the local library, Antonia enjoys her “nice” magazines, and they treat themselves to coffee and cake once a week in the village café.

Naomi lives alone, haunted by the failure of her two marriages. She works in the library, doesn’t get on with her younger colleagues, and rarely cooks herself a proper meal. Secretly she longs for a Boden frock.

When a body is discovered in the local quarry, all three women’s lives are turned upside down. And when Diana’s old flame Gill turns up unexpectedly, tensions finally spill over and threaten to destroy the outwardly peaceful lives all three women have carefully constructed around themselves.

Published January 2021



£8.99

ISBN 9781916112339

Paperback “B” format

336 pp

Also in e-book, audio, and large print

Available from  
Louise Walters Books and Gardners

BIC category:  
FA - Modern and contemporary fiction

## *In the Sweep of the Bay*

Cath Barton

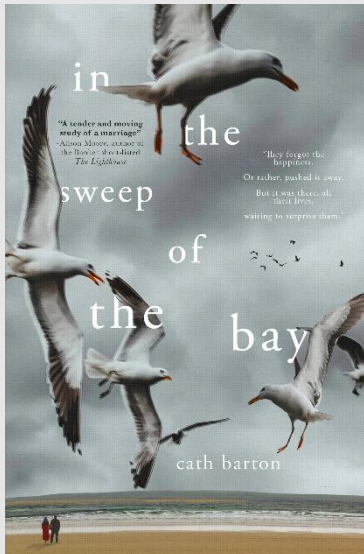
***“They forgot the happiness. Or rather, pushed it away.  
But it was there, all their lives, waiting to surprise them.”***

This warm-hearted tale explores marriage, love, and longing, set against the majestic backdrop of Morecambe Bay, the Lakeland Fells, and the faded splendour of the Midland Hotel.

Ted Marshall meets Rene in the dance halls of Morecambe and they marry during the frail optimism of the 1950s. They adopt the roles expected of man and wife at the time: he the breadwinner at the family ceramics firm, and she the loyal housewife. But as the years go by, they find themselves wishing for more...

After Ted survives a heart attack, both see it as a new beginning... but can a faded love like theirs ever be rekindled?

Published November 2020



£7.99

ISBN 9781999630577

Paperback “B” format

144pp

Also in e-book and audio

Available from  
Louise Walters Books and Gardners

BIC category:  
FA - Modern and contemporary fiction

## *The Dig Street Festival*

Chris Walsh

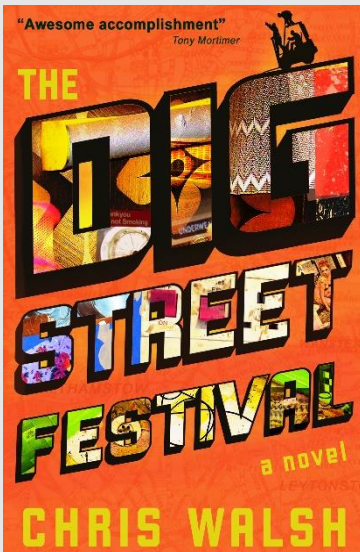
***“Dreams are only beautiful when viewed from a distance - get too close and you’ll see they have troublesome cogs”***

It’s 2006 in the fictional East London borough of Leytonstow. The UK’s pub smoking ban is about to happen, and thirty-eight-and-a-half year old John Torrington, a mopper and trolley collector at his local DIY store, is secretly in love with the stylish, beautiful, and middle-class barmaid Lois. John and his hapless, strange, and down-on-their-luck friends, Gabby Longfeather and Glyn Hopkins, live in Clements Markham House - a semi-derelict Edwardian villa divided into unsanitary bedsits, and (mis)managed by the shrewd, Dickensian business man, Mr Kapoor.

When Mr Kapoor, in a bizarre and criminal fluke, makes him fabulously credit-worthy, John surprises his friends and colleagues alike by announcing he will organise an amazing ‘urban love revolution’, aka the Dig Street Festival. But when he discovers dark secrets at the DIY store, and Mr Kapoor’s ruthless gentrification scheme for Clements Markham House, John’s plans take several unexpected and worrisome turns...

Funny, original, philosophical, and unexpectedly moving, *The Dig Street Festival* takes a long, hard, satirical look at modern British life, and asks of us all, how can we be better people?

Published April 2021



£8.99

ISBN 9781999630591

Paperback “B” format

432 pp

Also in e-book, audio, and large print

Available from  
Louise Walters Books and Gardners

BIC category:  
FA - Modern and contemporary fiction



## *Mrs Narwhal's Diary* S J Norbury

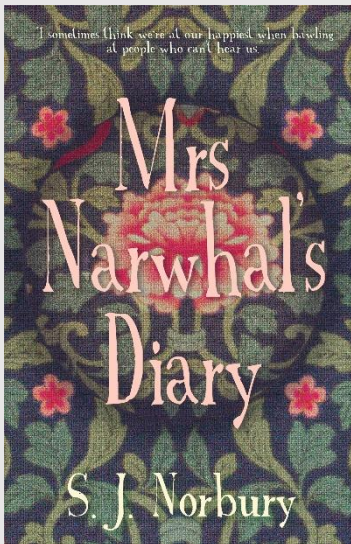
***“It was Woman’s Hour who suggested I keep a diary. They said it was good for mental health, and I must say I did feel much less frazzled after writing everything down yesterday. The frustrations were all still there, but somehow smoothed out - as if by a really good steam iron.”***

Mrs Narwhal is overwhelmed. Her husband, Hugh, is unkind and unhappy - working every hour at a job he hates to save the ancestral home he never wanted. Then there’s Hugh’s sister, Rose, who’s spurned her one true love, and ricochets from drama to drama; not to mention two small boys to bring up safely in a house that could crumble around their ears at any moment...

When Hugh's pride receives a fatal blow, and he walks out, Mrs Narwhal is plunged into a crisis of both heart and home. With help from Rose she sets out to save the house her husband couldn't. But now that Hugh's gone, the question must be faced: does Mrs Narwhal really want him back?

Funny, charming, and moving, *Mrs Narwhal's Diary* is an irresistible story which will enchant and delight its readers.

Published May 2021



£8.99

ISBN 9781916112315

Paperback “B” format

368 pp

Also in e-book, audio, and large print

Available from  
Louise Walters Books and Gardners

BIC category:  
FA - Modern and contemporary fiction

*A Life Between Us*  
Louise Walters

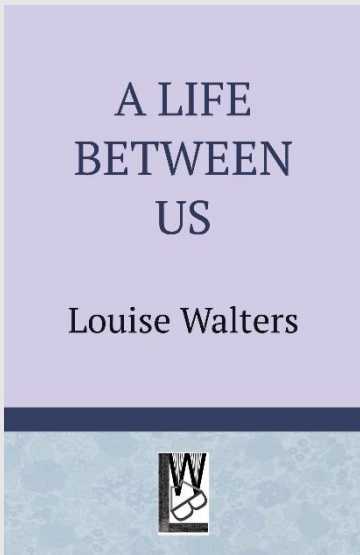
*“The day was set, in her mind, if not in her heart. She knew what happened. For many years she had re-lived it, frequently, slotting things into place, arranging them to her satisfaction. But had she got it wrong?”*

Tina Thornton’s twin sister Meg died in a childhood accident, but for almost forty years Tina has secretly blamed herself for her sister’s death. During a visit to her aging Uncle Edward and his sister Lucia, who both harbour dark secrets of their own, Tina makes a discovery that forces her to finally question her memories of the day her sister died.

Who, if anyone, did kill Meg? As Tina finds the courage to face the past, she unravels the tangled family mysteries of her estranged parents, her beautiful French Aunt Simone, the fading, compassionate Uncle Edward, and her cold and bitter Aunt Lucia, whose spectral presence casts a long shadow over them all.

Published March 2017

New edition published 2022



£10.00

ISBN 9781739109547

Paperback “B” format

296 pp

Also in e-book, audio, and large print

Available from  
Louise Walters Books and Gardners

BIC category:  
FA - Modern and contemporary fiction



## *The Road to California*

Louise Walters

*'She saw the caller ID and her heart didn't know whether to leap into her mouth or sink down into her toes. So it did both, in rapid succession, and she felt sick. There would be no coffee, no homemade cake today. Oh no, no, no, not again. What now?'*

Proud single parent Joanna is accustomed to school phoning to tell her that her fourteen year old son Ryan is in trouble. But when Ryan hits a girl and is excluded from school, Joanna knows she must take drastic action to help him.

Ryan's dad Lex left home when Ryan was two years old. Ryan doesn't remember him - but more than anything he wants a dad in his life. Isolated, a loner, and angry, Ryan finds solace in books and wildlife.

Joanna, against all her instincts, invites Lex to return and help their son. But Lex is a drifter who runs from commitment, and both Joanna and Ryan find their mutual trust and love is put to the test when Lex returns, and vows to be part of the family again.

Published March 2018

New edition published 2022

# THE ROAD TO CALIFORNIA

Louise Walters



£10.00

ISBN 9781739109523

Paperback "B" format

246 pp

Also in e-book, audio, and large print

Available from  
Louise Walters Books and Gardners

BIC category:  
FA - Modern and contemporary fiction

*The Hermit*  
Louise Walters

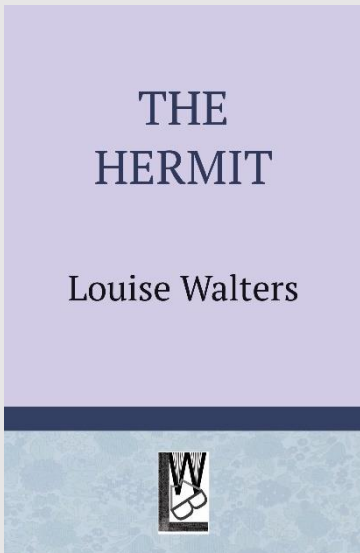
*"I love her more than life and I failed her.  
I won't fail her again."*

Could you rekindle a relationship with the mother you left behind over thirty years ago?

Sylvia, struggling through the aftermath of a doomed love affair, is not getting along with her teenage daughter, Antonia, who has always wanted to meet her never-seen grandmother. After years of resistance, and in her desperation to be close to Antonia again, Sylvia, taking her daughter with her, returns to the forgotten Devon estate where she grew up, and to the mother who once hurt her so badly.

To Sylvia's surprise, the estate's much-fabled hermit Old Theo is still alive. He is mute and mysterious, and Sylvia was discouraged from approaching him as a child. But now she is not a child, and she wants answers. When Sylvia finally approaches Theo, he finally talks, and reveals more than Sylvia ever imagined.

Published September 2022



£9.00

ISBN 9781739109509

Paperback "B" format

146 pp

Also in e-book

Available from  
Louise Walters Books and Gardners

BIC category:  
FA - Modern and contemporary fiction

## Meet the LWB team...

**Louise Walters** lives in Northamptonshire.

She is the author of *Mrs Sinclair's Suitcase* (Hodder 2014) which was translated into fifteen languages. Also *A Life Between Us*, *The Road to California*, and *The Hermit*.

She set up her indie press in 2017.

**Twitter:** @LouiseWalters12

**Laura Laakso** lives in Hertfordshire.

Originally from Finland, she has spent most of her adult life in England. She is an accountant, dog trainer, and author.

**Twitter:** @LlaaksoWriter

**Helen Kitson** lives in Worcester.

She is an acclaimed poet. Her first poetry collection was nominated for the Forward Best First Collection Prize. She has published three other poetry collections, and her short fiction has appeared in magazines including *Ambit*, *Feminist Review*, and *Stand*.

**Twitter:** @Jemima\_Mae\_7

**Diana Cambridge** lives in Bath.

She is an award-winning journalist, and has written for national newspapers and magazines. She gives regular writing workshops, and is a Writer-in-Residence at Sherborne, Dorset. For several years she was the Agony Aunt at *Writing Magazine*.

**Twitter:** @DianaCambridge

**Dominic Brownlow** lives in Lincolnshire.

He lived in London and worked in the music industry as a manager before setting up his own independent label. He now enjoys life back in his native Fens.

*The Naseby Horses* was long listed for the Bath Novel Award 2016.

**Twitter:** @DominicBrownlow

**Cath Barton** lives in Abergavenny.

She won the New Welsh Writing AmeriCymru Prize for the Novella in 2017 for *The Plankton Collector*, which was published in 2018 by New Welsh Review, under their Rarebyte imprint.

She also writes short stories, flash fiction, and reviews for *Lunate* and *Sabotage Reviews*.

**Twitter:** @CathBarton1

**Chris Walsh** lives in Kent.

He grew up in Middlesbrough. Chris writes both fiction and non-fiction.

*The Dig Street Festival* is his first novel.

**Twitter:** @WalshWrites

**S J Norbury** lives in Herefordshire.

*Mrs Narwhal's Diary* is her first novel. She doesn't do social media!

**Twitter:** @LouiseWalters12

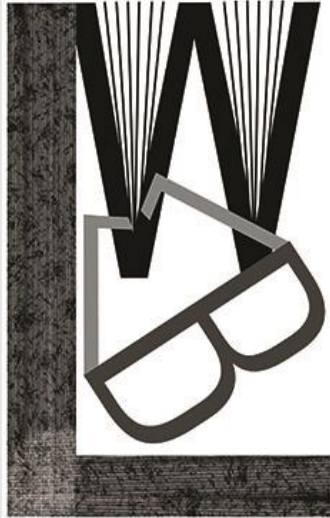
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