For Immediate Release

22nd August 2021

Hummingbird House Holds Many Secrets

Jersey, Channel Islands

The Landlord of Hummingbird House is the gripping new novel by local author, 'Jane Harvey'.

When April moves into Hummingbird House, she is intrigued by her mysterious landlord, Dai. But Hummingbird House holds many secrets, and the relationships of the tenants are not as straightforward as they seem...

"An honest and heartfelt novel of personal connection, layer by layer. Jane Harvey's The Landlord of Hummingbird House is a story of the quiet yet biting sense of imposter syndrome. This contemporary novel is cosy and warm while addressing real discomforts, regrets, and traumas." ***Independent Book Review***

The Landlord of Hummingbird House explores unlikely friendships, unexpected love interests, and family relationships. Here, everyone is in need of a second chance – and appearances can be deceptive.

Jane Harvey is the pen name of local writer Dreena Collins. Under Jane Harvey, she crafts fun fiction for the thinking woman, where she enjoys exploring unexpected friendships and writing happy endings. This is fortunate, because in 'real life' her short fiction is a little bleaker. She was born and raised on the island of Jersey, and lives with two males and a dog.

Dreena Collins has been listed and placed in numerous international writing competitions. Her writing has been published online and in anthologies, as well as her own collections. Her flash fiction collection, Bird Wing, was an SPR International Book Awards finalist in 2020. She spoke to a sell-out audience at the Jersey Festival of Words, in 2019. Dreena is available for interviews.

The Landlord of Hummingbird House

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Jane Harvey - Q & A

Dreena Collins answers reader questions about The Landlord of Hummingbird House.

Where did you find the inspiration for The Landlord of Hummingbird House?

I was keen to write a contemporary story about 'real' people, but with touches that would give it more of a 'feel good' atmosphere than my usual fiction, which can be gritty, or dark.

In previous short story collections I had written some tales about luck, and chance. One followed the path of a coin throughout a journey that connected all the characters. Another, Elevated, told a story of two people who lived in the same block of flats but kept missing each other. There were references to the other's lives throughout, such as the scent of cooking in the stairwell. I had often pondered about how this could be developed - how so many relationships and everyday events are dependent on chance meetings - and it struck me that this might be the perfect fodder for my novel.

The novel has multiple points of view, from characters who are different ages, genders, etc. How difficult was it to juggle these various back stories and 'voices'?

In truth, there was a degree of selfishness in the structure. I am always fascinated by character, and this meant I could absorb myself in this diverse group of people. It was great fun to write in this way.

While the book has many of the features of the type of popular light fiction that's been on the market for the past few decades, it was important to me that it had a modern feel, so, while there is - apparently - a classic brooding, male figure, etc., there is a whole range of characters in interests, gender and sexuality, age etc. Writing them and developing them was a joy.

One of the main characters in the book is Paul, an ex-chef, and I noticed a number of references to food in the book. Was this intentional?

You're absolutely right - food appears in the form of dinner parties, home-cooked gifts and 'wonky' organic veg. It was an intentional device because it meant there would be something universal and simple to connect this motley crew - most people love food cooked for them by someone else, and cooking is an act of giving, and love. My mouth was drooling, just writing it!

I felt like I was watching a television series at times. I wonder, will there be a sequel?

Well, there are a couple of major reveals in the last quarter of the book so the story is definitely resolved. However, a lot of people have commented that they would like to learn more about the secondary characters in the book. They all still occupy my thoughts a lot. I almost miss them. So... maybe?

http://dreenawriting.co.uk