

The Croce Agency
- 2012 -

THE CROCE AGENCY

A U T H O R R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S

2012

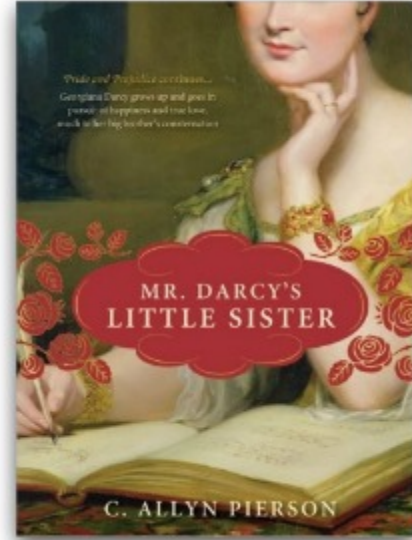
Mr. Darcy's Little Sister

C. Allyn Pierson

Rights Sold: WorldXTurkey (Sourcebooks)

Pride and Prejudice continues.... Georgiana Darcy grows up and goes in pursuit of happiness and true love, much to her big brother's consternation.

A whole new side of Mr. Darcy.... He's the best big brother, generous to a fault. Protective, never teases. But over his dead body is any rogue or fortune hunter going to get near his little sister! (Unfortunately, any gentleman who wants to court Georgiana is going to have the same problem...). So how's a girl ever going to meet the gentleman of her dreams?



Praise

"Pierson's novel is a loving homage to Austen and a smart story about what it's like to grow up in the shadow of someone larger than life." - *Booklist*

"Will charm Austen purists and leave them craving more." - *Austenprose*

"A beautifully written journey to womanhood and love." Mary Simonsen, bestselling author of *Searching for Pemberley*

About the Author

Iowa physician Carey A. Bligard writes fiction under her pen name, C. Allyn Pierson. She is a contributor to the *Austen Authors* blog (www.austenauthors.com) She is a life member of the Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA) and The Republic of Pemberley (www.pemberley.com). She is also a proud member and contributor to the Society for the Promotion of Good Grammar (www.spogg.org)

The Stolen Crown

Susan Higginbotham

Rights Sold: World (Sourcebooks), Brazilian Portuguese (Editora Novo Seculo), Turkish (Artemis)

It was a secret marriage, one that changed the fate of England forever. Trapped in the Wars of the Roses, one woman finds herself sister to the queen...and traitor to the crown.

Praise

"The Wars of the Roses come spectacularly to life in Susan Higginbotham's compelling new novel.... A sweeping tale of danger, treachery, and love, *The Stolen Crown* is impossible to put down!" - Michelle Moran, bestselling author of *Cleopatra's Daughter*

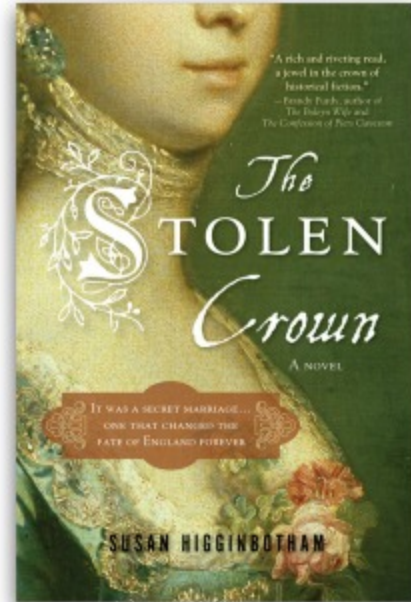
"A fascinating and compelling look at a tumultuous era. Susan Higginbotham writes the perfect blend of historical fact and fiction." - Elizabeth Kerri Mahon, creator of the *Scandalous Women* blog

"With a single stroke, Susan Higginbotham transports her readers into a vividly portrayed past, where the turbulent lives of her characters become very real. Probably her best novel yet!" - Helen Hollick, author of the *Pendragon's Banner* trilogy

"A tale of love, palace intrigue, and betrayal.... Susan Higginbotham draws the reader under her spell, her characters vivid and real: their voices, their loves, their losses. She brings the dead to life." - Christy English, author of *The Queen's Pawn*

About the Author

Susan Higginbotham is the author of *The Traitor's Wife*, *Hugh and Bess*, *The Stolen Crown*, *The Queen of Last Hopes* and two forthcoming historical novels. She was a Gold Medalist in the 2008 Independent Publisher Book Awards and a Silver Award recipient for historical fiction in *ForeWord Magazine's* 2005 Book of the Year Awards. She lives in North Carolina with her family.

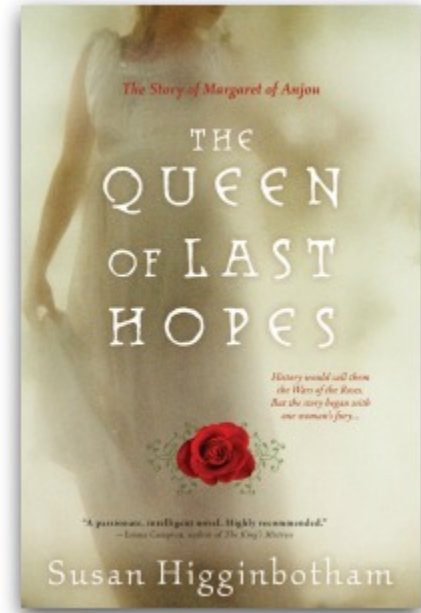


The Queen of Last Hopes

Susan Higginbotham

Rights Sold: World English (Sourcebooks), Turkish (Kirpi Ye

It would be called the Wars of the Roses, but it all began with Margaret of Anjou, Queen of England, cannot give up on her husband- as mother to the House of Lancaster's last hope, she cannot gi England turns against him. This gripping tale of a queen is at passionate, for her husband, and motherly, for her only son.



Praise

"A beautiful blending of turbulent history and deeply felt fiction...a gift to treasure." - Karen Harper, New York Times bestselling author of *The Irish Princess*

"Destined to both entertain and educate anyone interested in the spirited and fascinating Margaret of Anjou for generations to come!" - D. L. Bogdan, author of *Secrets of the Tudor Court*

"Susan Higginbotham brings Margaret of Anjou to life and tells the story of the Frenchwoman who was one of the strongest queens England has ever known." - Christy English, author of *The Queen's Pawn*

About the Author

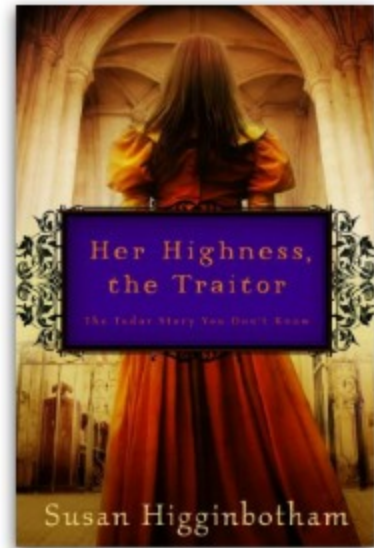
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Her Highness, the Traitor

Susan Higginbotham

Rights Sold: World English (Sourcebooks)

When Henry VIII dies, leaving behind his nine-year-old son as his heir, a deadly series of power struggles begins, transforming the lives of two women. Jane Dudley's husband, the Duke of Northumberland, becomes the most powerful man in England, while Frances Grey perches with her daughter Jane dangerously close to the throne. But when Mary Tudor asserts her own right to the crown, Frances and Jane Dudley find that the lives of their husbands and children are in mortal danger. The never-before-told story of the women behind the crowning of Jane Grey, this novel is an illuminating tale of ambition gone awry.



Praise

"Higginbotham makes history come alive" –BookPleasures

"Beautifully researched and incredibly captivating." Michelle Moran, bestselling author of *The Heretic Queen*

About the Author

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The Boleyn Wife

Brandy Purdy

Rights Sold: WorldXTurkey (Kensington), UK & Commonwealth (HarperCollins/Avon), Czech (Levne Knihy), Turkish (Alfa)

- A London *Times* bestseller

Encompassing the reigns of four of Henry's wives, from the doomed Anne to the reckless Katherine Howard, *The Boleyn Wife* is an unforgettable story of ambition, lust, and jealousy, of the power of love to change the course of history, and of the terrible price of revenge.

Praise

"Recommended for readers who can't get enough of the Tudors and have devoured all of Philippa Gregory's books." - *Library Journal*

About the Author

Brandy Purdy is the author of *The Boleyn Wife* and *The Tudor Throne*.



The Tudor Throne

Brandy Purdy

Rights Sold: World (Kensington), UK & Commonwealth
(HarperCollins/Avon)

In the wake of King Henry VIII's death, England's throne is left in a precarious state - as is the peculiar relationship between his two daughters. Mary, the elder, once treasured, had been declared a bastard in favour of her flame-haired half-sister, Elizabeth, born of the doomed Anne Boleyn. Yet the bond between the sisters was palpable from the start. Now reinstated, Mary eventually assumes her place as queen. But as Mary's religious zeal evolves into a reign of terror, young Elizabeth gains the people's favour. Gripped by a tormenting paranoia, Mary is soon convinced that her beloved Elizabeth is in fact her worst enemy. And the virginal Elizabeth, whose true love is her country, must defy her tyrannical sister to make way for a new era.



Praise for *The Boleyn Wife*

"Recommended for readers who can't get enough of the Tudors and have devoured all of Philippa Gregory's books." - *Library Journal*

About the Author

Brandy Purdy is the author of *The Boleyn Wife* and *The Tudor Throne*.

On Submission

The Secret Player

Jinny Webber

Rights Sold: Turkish (Alfa)

Alexander Cooke, an actor with William Shakespeare's King's Men, is said by scholars to have inspired the Bard's greatest female roles. In the historical novel *The Secret Player* author Jinny Webber with her inimitable voice recasts Cooke as a girl named Kate Collins who masquerades as the veteran actor in Shakespeare's male-only company to escape a life assigned to a sixteenth-century woman.

It is England, 1591. On the eve of her loveless wedding arranged by her demanding father, quick-witted Kate dresses in her brother's clothes, adopts the name Alexander Cooke and escapes the provincial village of Saffron Walden on the caravan of a traveling troupe of actors passing through town. Eventually making her way to London she plays some of Shakespeare's greatest female roles as only a woman can and as only a boy would be allowed. Her talents quickly capture the attention of the venerable actor Richard Burbage, Queen Elizabeth and the poet John Donne, for whom she falls. This is her true test. She must decide whether to reveal sex for love or stay true to her role in the ruthless and often deadly world of the Elizabethan theater.

About the Author

Jinny Webber, Ph.D., a retired professor of literature and Shakespearean studies at Santa Barbara City College, is the author of *Woman as Writer* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). An avid theatre fan in Britain as well as the US, she is the artistic director of New Bard Productions, an amateur theatre company in Santa Barbara, and has performed in and directed amateur productions, Shakespearean and otherwise.

Eadric the Grasper

Jayden Woods

In 11th-century England, Ealdorman of the English Mercians Eadric Streona ("the Grasper") will do anything for his true love—even betray his country and put a Viking on the English throne. But what if the greatest opponent to his plan is the same person he wishes to save?

Bringing a welcome spectrum of morality to the historical fiction market, *Eadric the Grasper* follows the warrior on his Machiavellian path toward power and corruption. Using his skills of statesmanship, he rises from swineherd to ealdorman, from assassin to court adviser, from lover to husband, from loyal to treacherous. Yet, the masked vigilante called the Golden Cross who intercepts him is none other than the person he most wishes to protect.

Praise

"A gripping saga that reimagines a storied villain as a complex, sympathetic anti-hero." - *Kirkus Discoveries* (Starred Review)

"*Eadric the Grasper* brings homicidal Vikings, ferocious lovers, and frequent murder most foul to brilliant life in literary 3D. Turn away from thy Twitter and grab it." - Ron Friedman, Screenwriter (*Happy Days*, *The Odd Couple*, *Charlie's Angels*, et. al.)

"A good man, forced by situations far beyond his control, makes the best decisions possible, but they lead him down the dark rabbit hole." - Sean Crouch, Screenwriter (*Numb3rs*)

About the Author

Jayden Woods is the author of nine novels and five feature-length screenplays. Individual stories from her collection, *The Lost Tales of Mercia*, have been downloaded from various sources nearly 150,000 times since its publication in October, 2010.

The Cold Beneath

Tonia Brown

The race to an arctic Utopia in a steam-powered airship soon after the Civil War tests the limits of technology, medicine and that which makes us human.

The thoughtful Philip Syntax, once one of the world's leading biomechanics, helps crew the *Northern Fancy* to a place called True North alongside his counterpart, the ambitious former Civil War soldier Gideon Lightbridge. Yet, the expedition soon turns from daring to disastrous. The dirigible crashes in the Arctic Circle, killing half the crew. Soon, the deceased rise to seek warmth in the flesh of the living, a side-effect of an ambitious medical experiment to fortify the adventurers during the trip against the deadly Arctic cold. The story is recounted from Syntax's journal, later discovered among the wreckage, which he hastily finishes as the revenants claw at his door, to warn others of, hubris and ambition gone wrong.

About the Author

Tonia Brown's writing has appeared in *Steampunk Tales* and *Hungry for Your Love: An Anthology of Zombie Romance* (St Martin's Press). She is the author of *Clockworks and Corsets* (Lyrical Press) and *Lucky Stiff: Memoirs of an Undead Lover* (Library of The Living Dead Press). She also writes romance and erotica under the pen name Regina Riley.

The Jihad's Messiah

Nick Daniels

Rights Sold: World English (Risen)

In 2024, world power has shifted to the Middle East, and the Arab nations have signed a seven-year peace treaty with Israel. A radical Iraqi leader known as Al-Mahdi, "The Awaited One," rises to power promising to convert the world to Islam.

Major General Farid Zadeh is Al-Mahdi's most loyal follower and the next in line to become the Full Army General of Iraq until he is falsely accused of being an Israeli spy. Determined to vindicate himself, Farid travels to Jerusalem to spy on the Israeli military. However, when war breaks out between the Arabs and Israel, he must run for his life, as both armies consider him their enemy. Help, and perhaps redemption, comes from unlikely sources: a stunning Jewish woman and a Christian prisoner. When Farid's faith and loyalties are tested, he must decide which side to take, and his decision could alter the course of man's final war.

Praise

"No other apocalyptic novel brings the current events in the Middle East so close to the biblical prophecies about the last days." - Joel Richardson, New York Times best-selling author of *The Islamic Messiah*

About the Author

Nick Daniels is a freelance writer with a master's degree in science journalism from Texas A&M University. He has published more than a hundred articles and the novel *The Gentlemen's Conspiracy* (Risen Books). Nick is a graduate of the Christian Writers Guild's Craftsman program.

