

The Corfe Castle Murders by Rachel McLean Crowned Winner of the 2021 Kindle Storyteller Award

October 21, 2021

Earlier this evening, Rachel McLean, a thriller writer from Birmingham was awarded the £20,000 cash prize, a dedicated marketing campaign on Amazon.co.uk and the highly coveted Golden Kindle for her murder mystery novel set in Dorset

Celebrity judge, author, and broadcaster, Clare Balding presented Rachel McLean with the award during a ceremony that took place at a London studio streamed to guests



London, October 21st, 2021 – Thriller author, Rachel McLean, has been selected as the winner of the 2021 Kindle Storyteller Award with her novel, [The Corfe Castle Murders](#).

Following a record number of submissions, Rachel was crowned winner by celebrity judge and host Clare Balding at a virtual ceremony that took place in London.

Published during the height of the pandemic, the first book in Rachel's *Dorset Crime* series is a compelling, character-driven mystery that shares the story of DCI Lesley Clarke, a straight-talking city copper who has been transferred to the supposedly calmer location of Dorset after being injured in a bomb attack. However, things don't stay calm for long as Lesley is dragged into investigating a murder at one of England's most iconic landmarks, Corfe Castle, and must hit the ground running to solve the murder before the killer strikes again.

In addition to the £20,000 prize money, Rachel will receive a marketing campaign to support the book on Amazon.co.uk alongside the highly coveted Golden Kindle.

Rachel McLean said: *"I'm over the moon to have won! I was encouraged by friends to independently publish with KDP, and it was one of the best decisions I have ever made."*

"The whole experience has been brilliant, and I want to thank Birmingham Writers Group, my editor, Joel Hames, and my wonderful readers for supporting me. It's such an unexpected surprise!"

The 2021 judging panel comprised of broadcaster and author Clare Balding, best-selling author Nicola May, 2020 Kindle Storyteller winner Anna McNuff, Sacha Black from the Alliance of Independent Authors, Former Minister of State for Digital and Culture and MP for Gosport Caroline Dinenage, Darren Hardy, Author and Editorial Programmes Manager at Amazon UK and Michaela Parkes from the Amazon Books Editorial Team.

Readers play a pivotal role in deciding which titles make it through to the final round of the competition, with customer purchases, reviews and pages read in Kindle Unlimited helping to determine the shortlist.

Praise for the winning title:

- *“It transported us to the heart of the story by painting vivid images in our minds. Every word jumped off the pages.”* – Clare Balding
- *“Wow. What a story – I was gripped from the first page. Loved DCI Lesley Clarke’s character and thoroughly enjoyed seeing her develop through the storyline!”* – Anna McNuff

The Kindle Storyteller Award is in its fifth year in the UK and was established to recognise newly published work in the English language across any genre. The Award was open to any work in the English language published on Kindle Direct Publishing between May 1st and August 31st, 2021.

Darren Hardy, Author and Editorial Programmes Manager at Amazon UK, who chaired the judging panel, said: “It is always a tough decision to choose a winner, as they’ve all done well to get to this stage. Rachel McLean’s story hooked us the most from first page to last - capturing our imaginations. It left us wanting to stay in the story and follow DCI Lesley Clarke on her next adventure. Rachel is a worthy winner and congratulations to all our shortlisted authors. It will be exciting to see how all their careers develop in the coming years.”

For more information visit: www.amazon.co.uk/storyteller

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Notes to editors

For more information please contact the Kindle Storyteller Award press office at The Academy on 020 7100 7100 or amazonbooks@theacademypr.com.

About Kindle Storyteller Award

The Kindle Storyteller Award accepts submissions of new books in the English language, published using Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP). Titles must be previously unpublished, with a minimum of 24 pages in paperback, and they must be enrolled in KDP Select while they are in the competition. Readers can access all titles entered into the prize in print or on the Kindle eReader or on the free Kindle app for iOS, Android and Fire devices. Print copies will also be available to buy on the Amazon.co.uk store.

About Kindle Direct Publishing

KDP is a fast, free and easy way for authors to publish their books in print and digital to a global audience and receive up to 70 per cent royalties on their work.

Hundreds of thousands of authors use KDP to sell their books around the world and thousands of them earn more than \$50,000, with more than a thousand passing \$100,000 in royalties. Authors who made their books available through Kindle Unlimited earned their share of a fund worth more than \$400 million over the last 12 months.

About Amazon

Amazon is guided by four principles: customer obsession rather than competitor focus, passion for invention, commitment to operational excellence, and long-term thinking. Amazon strives to be Earth’s Most Customer-Centric Company, Earth’s Best Employer, and Earth’s Safest Place to Work. Customer reviews, 1-Click shopping, personalised recommendations, Prime, Fulfilment by Amazon, AWS, Kindle Direct Publishing, Kindle, Career Choice, Fire tablets, Fire TV, Amazon Echo, Alexa, Just Walk Out technology, Amazon Studios, and The Climate Pledge are some of the things pioneered by Amazon. For more information, visit amazon.co.uk/about and follow @AmazonNewsUK.