

House Of Secrets Choc Lit A Truly Gripping Suspense Novel

A fake date that left her fighting for her life! Perfect for fans of L J Ross, Joy Ellis & Faith Martin. Nine hours and eleven minutes ... That's how long it's been since Ella Hope was beaten to within an inch of life and left for dead. She lies, unable to move and praying for somebody to find her, as she counts down the minutes and wonders who could have hated her so much to have hurt her so badly. Was it the man she went on a date with the previous evening, the man linked to the deaths of two other women? Or somebody else, somebody who wants her out of the picture so much they're willing to kill? Whoever it is, they will pay. All Ella has to do first is survive ...

From the author of *The Fake Date* and *House of Secrets*, a romantic suspense novel for fans of Nora Roberts and Karen Rose. For as long as Cassie Hunt can remember her aunt Aggie has spoken about the forgotten world that exists in the tunnels and catacombs of the Sand House. The story is what inspired Cassie to become an archaeologist. But Aggie has a secret that she's buried as deep as the tunnels, and when excavation work begins on the site, Cassie is the only one who can help her keep it. With the assistance of her old university friend, Noah Flanagan, she puts into action a plan to honor Aggie's wishes. Yet it seems the deeper Noah and Cassie dig, the more shocking the secrets they uncover.

What if you had nowhere to call home for Christmas? When Fee Winter books a winter break at the remote Black Cherry Retreat in the small town of Pine Ridge, Tennessee, it's with the idea that the peace and quiet will help her recuperate from her hectic life as a photographer. But what she didn't bank on was meeting Tom Chambers and his huge, interfering yet lovable family. With them, could Fee finally experience the warmth and support that's been missing from her own life – and maybe even find a place to call home in time for Christmas?

Once upon a Cornish Christmas ... It's almost Christmas at the Pencradoc estate in Cornwall which means that, as usual, tea room owner Sorcha Davies is baking up a festive storm. And this year Sorcha is hoping her mince pies will be going down a treat at 'The Spirit of Christmas Past' exhibition being organised at the house by new local antiques dealer, Locryn Dyer. But as Locryn and Sorcha spend more time together, they begin to uncover a very special story of Christmas past that played out at Pencradoc more than a century before, involving a certain 'Lady' Holly Sawyer, a festive dinner party and a magical secret encounter with a handsome author ...

A desperate young woman stumbles into a household of secrets, lies, and murder . . . in a thriller that will keep readers guessing until the end. After her boyfriend breaks her heart with a careless tryst, Ruby Fawcett has no option but to move out of their home. With nowhere else to go and no means of support, a job house-sitting in Cambridge, England, seems like the perfect solution. But her solution is far from perfect, as she learns that the absent homeowner is well known for his strict and callous demeanor. And when her curiosity overrides her good sense, Ruby decides to do a little snooping about the house—and into its sinister owner. But Ruby's boss, rugged former PI Nate Bastable, has his own concerns. As the two investigate, Ruby begins to suspect that his worry for her safety is more than just professional—and that someone else will do anything to stop them from uncovering the truth . . .

Includes a chocolate chip cookie recipe.

This year we're just going to have a nice, normal Christmas ... Last year's Christmas at Wrea Head Hall didn't quite go to plan which is why Jess Croft is determined this festive season will be the one to remember, for the right reasons. And she has plenty of reasons to be hopeful – she's going to marry the man of her dreams, Jack Stone, seven days after New Year's Eve. However, as family secrets are revealed in hidden letters and two unexpected guests turn up

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on the doorstep, Jess is left wondering whether her life will ever be the same again. Can Jess and Jack still experience a peaceful festive season that they had imagined or are there some problems that even Christmas can't fix?

A Cornish Christmas wish sent across the ocean ... Christmas, Cornwall 1919 A promise to a fellow soldier leads Nicholas to Cornwall for Christmas, and to the teashop managed by Rose; the youngest daughter of a family whose festive spirit has been blighted by their wartime experiences. But as Nicholas strives to give Rose the best Christmas she could wish for, he begins to question whether his efforts are to honour his friend, or whether there is another reason ...

"As the velvet cloak of moonlight settled over the ruined towers of Raglan Castle, the shadows beneath them stirred ..." When newly widowed Tess visits Raglan Castle, she experiences an extraordinary vision that transports her to seventeenth-century Wales and a castle on the brink of a siege. Even when Tess leaves Raglan to return to Merrick Court, her late husband's home, the strange dreams continue as her life becomes increasingly intertwined with the past. And when the new owner of the estate arrives - New Zealander Josh Owens - the parallels become even more obvious. But perhaps the visions aren't just trying to tell their own story, maybe they're also giving a warning ...

Betrayed by his brother and his childhood love, Brice Kinross needs a fresh start. So he welcomes the opportunity to leave Sweden for the Scottish Highlands to take over the family estate. But there's trouble afoot at Rosyth in 1754 and Brice finds himself unwelcome. The estate's in ruin and money is disappearing. He discovers an ally in Marsaili Buchanan, the beautiful redheaded housekeeper, but can he trust her? Marsaili is determined to build a good life. She works hard at being a housekeeper and harder still at avoiding men who want to take advantage of her. But she's irresistibly drawn to the new clan chief, even though he's made it plain he doesn't want to be shackled to anyone. And the young laird has more than romance on his mind. His investigations are stirring up an enemy. Someone who will stop at nothing to get what he wants, including Marsaili, even if that means destroying Brice's life forever.

From old secrets come new beginnings ... When Angel Tempest finds out that her best friend Zac has inherited a Scottish mansion, Taigh Fallon, from his great aunt, she immediately offers to go and visit it with him. It will mean closing up her jet jewellery shop in Whitby for a few days but the prospect of a spring trip to the Scottish Highlands is too tempting. Then Kyle, Zac's estranged and slightly grumpy Canadian cousin, unexpectedly turns up at Taigh Fallon, and events take a strange turn as the long-kept secrets of the old house begin to reveal themselves ... Part of a series Tempest Sisters which can be read in any order.

When you open up your home and your heart ... Rowan Forrester has it all – the happy marriage, the adorable dog, the good friends, the promising business and even the dream home after she and her husband Tom win a stunning but slightly dilapidated Georgian townhouse in London at auction. But in the blink of an eye, Rowan's picture-perfect life comes crashing down around her and she is faced with the prospect of having to start again. To make ends meet she begins a

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search for housemates, and in doing so opens the door to new friends and new beginnings. But could she be opening the door to new heartbreak too? “The stars are aligning and it’s time again ...” Working at the Folk Museum in Hartsford village means that Kate Howard is surrounded by all sorts of unusual vintage items. Of course she has her favourites; particularly the Victorian ice skates with a name – ‘CAT’ – mysteriously painted on the sides. But what Kate doesn’t realise is how much she has in common with Catriona Aphrodite Tredegar, the original owner of the skates, or how their lives will become strangely entwined. All Kate knows is that as soon as she bumps into farrier Theo Kent, things start getting weird: there’s the vivid, disconcerting visions and then of course the overwhelming sense that she’s met Theo before ...

1931 is the year that changes everything for Daisy Denham. Her family has not long swapped life in India for Dorset, England when she uncovers an old secret. At the same time, she meets Ewan Fraser - a handsome dreamer who wants nothing more than to entertain the world and for Daisy to play his leading lady. Ewan offers love and a chance to escape with a touring theatre company. As they grow closer, he gives her a golden chain and Daisy gives him a promise that she will always keep him in her heart. But life on tour is not as they'd hoped, Ewan is tempted away by his career and Daisy is dazzled by the older, charismatic figure of Jesse Trent. She breaks Ewan's heart and sets off for a life in London with Jesse. Only time will tell whether some promises are easier to make than keep.

Like forbidden fruit, forbidden love is more sweet ... It’s 1803 and widowed aristocrat Sophy De Browarec must flee France after being exposed as an undercover British agent. Fearing for her life, she returns to Cornwall to seek help from the only living link to her past, Fitzwilliam ‘Fitz’ Ravensbourne. Lord Ravensbourne has suffered his own share of misfortune and it’s left its mark in more ways than one. He has become a near recluse at the Ravensbourne Estate, but still reluctantly accepts Sophy into his home. Sophy and Fitz’s relationship is strained and her return could bring danger to Ravensbourne – but there is something that prevents Fitz from casting her out, something almost forbidden ...

Must forbidden love end in heartbreak? Kayla Sinclair knows she’s in big trouble when she almost bankrupts herself to buy a life-size portrait of a mysterious eighteenth century man at an auction. Jago Kerswell, innkeeper and smuggler, knows there is danger in those stolen moments with Lady Eliza Marcombe, but he’ll take any risk to be with her. Over two centuries separate Kayla and Jago, but, when Kayla’s jealous fiancé presents her with an ultimatum, and Jago and Eliza’s affair is tragically discovered, their lives become inextricably linked thanks to a gypsy’s spell. Kayla finds herself on a quest that could heal the past, but what she cannot foresee is the danger in her own future. Will Kayla find heartache or happiness? Christina Courtenay won the 2012 Historical Romantic Novel Award for her book *Highland Storms*.

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Could one summer change your life? When high-flying American lawyer Samantha Muir finds out she's lost her partnership whilst on an assignment in London, she has a dramatic reaction. Rather than returning home, she resigns, leaves her business suits behind and jumps on the first train to Cornwall at the encouragement of a friendly stranger. The village of Little Penhaven, where Samantha eventually ends up, is a world away from her life in Knoxville, Tennessee – and local farmer Cadan Day is certainly a world away from any man she has met before. But could the Cornish village and Cadan play a part in Samantha's summer of self-discovery?

Marriage of convenience – or a love for life? It's 1732 in Gothenburg, Sweden, and strong-willed Jess van Sandt knows only too well that it's a man's world. She believes she's being swindled out of her inheritance by her stepfather – and she's determined to stop it.

Captivating tale. Perfect for fans of Poldark, Tracy Rees, Fiona Valpy & Dilly Court. The daughter of the house is often overlooked ... Evelyn Pendragon is spirited but lonely, and largely ignored by her parents whose attentions are taken up with her brother, Nicholas: the expected heir to the family's Cornish estate and the one who will carry on the Pendragon name. Stifled by her aristocratic existence, Evelyn finds companionship in an unlikely place when she befriends Drake Vennor, an apprentice gardener on the estate. But when Evelyn's life is thrown into turmoil by a tragedy, she realises just how much she has come to rely on Drake. Will family expectations and the burden of the Pendragon name mean she must turn her back on him when she needs him the most?

A woman struggles to escape her past in a thriller boasting a “fabulous setting, gripping suspense and a masterful hero” (Milly Johnson). Madeleine Frost is finally free. After enduring her boyfriend's increasingly controlling and bullying behavior, she has finally had enough. For her safety—and that of her young daughter—she is leaving. But where to? With little choice, Maddie ends up at her estranged father's hotel, where she meets the rough-edged Christopher “Bandit” Lawless—an ex-marine and gamekeeper of the grounds—who hides his own painful past behind a hard exterior. After discovering the diary of a previous landowner, Maddie and Bandit find themselves immersed in the history of the old house, uncovering its secrets, scandals, and tragedies—and the truth about each other. But when Madeleine's ex shows up, determined to reclaim what he believes is his, Maddie and Bandit will have to stand together and fight for the love they have only just found . . .

Two children in a police waiting room, two distressed mothers, a memory only half remembered ... When Jenny Simpson returns to the seaside town of Borteen, her childhood home, it's for a less than happy reason. But it's also a chance for her to start again. A new job leads to her working for Carver Rodgers, a man who lives alone in a house that looks like it comes from the pages of a fairy tale – until you see the disaster zone inside ... As Jenny gets to know Carver she begins to unravel the sadness that has led to his chaotic existence. Gradually they realise they have something in common that is impossible to ignore – and it all links back to a meeting in at a police station many years before. Could the truth lie just beneath their feet? The past is never really the past at Hartsford Hall ... Aidan Edwards has always been fascinated by the life of his great-great uncle Robert. A trip to Hartsford Hall and an encounter with Cassie Aldrich leads him closer to the truth about Robert Edwards, as he unravels the scandalous story of a bright young poet and a beautiful spirited aristocrat in the carefree twilight of the 1930s before the Second World War. But can Aidan find out what happened to Robert after the war – or will he have to accept that certain parts of his uncle's life will remain forever shrouded in mystery?

A fabulous new story of secrets and romance from Kirsty Ferry. Set in Cornwall. ‘There's nothing logical about Pencredoc!’ Aspiring actress Cordelia Beaumont is fed up of spending summer in the city. So, when the opportunity presents itself, she jumps straight on a train to pay a visit to Pencredoc – the beautiful Cornish estate where her friend Merryn works. But far

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from the relaxing break Cordy imagined, she soon finds herself immersed in the glamorous yet mysterious world of Victorian theatre sensation, Lily Valentine. Lily was once a guest at Pencradoc and, with the help of visiting artist Matt Harker, Cordy comes to discover that the actress left far more than memories at the old house. She also left a scandalous secret ... England, 1611, and young Hannah Marston envies her brother's adventurous life. But when she stows away on his merchant ship, her powers of endurance are stretched to their limit. Then they reach Japan and all her suffering seems worthwhile until she is abducted by Taro Kumashiro's warriors. In the far north of the country, warlord Kumashiro is waiting to see the girl who he has been warned about by a seer. When at last they meet, it's a clash of cultures and wills, but they're also fighting an instant attraction to each other. With her brother desperate to find her and the jealous Lady Reiko equally desperate to kill her, Hannah faces the greatest adventure of her life. And Kumashiro has to choose between love and honour.

Jessica Grant knows vampires only too well. She runs the York Council tracker programme making sure that Otherworlders are all where they should be, keeps the filing in order and drinks far too much coffee. To Jess, vampires are annoying and arrogant and far too sexy for their own good, particularly her ex-colleague Sil, who's now in charge of Otherworld York. But when a demon turns up and threatens not just Jess but the whole world order, she and Sil are forced to work together, and when Jess turns out to be the key to saving the world it puts a very different slant on their relationship. The stakes are high. They are also very, very pointy and Jess isn't afraid to use them, even on the vampire that she's rather afraid she's falling in love with...

Another wonderful new story from Kirsty Ferry. Part of Kirsty's Tempest Sisters series but they can all be read on their own. This is Jessie's story. Take a trip to the little bookshop by the sea ... Jessie Tempest has two main interests: reading books and selling books. Her little bookshop in the seaside town of Staithes is a cosy hideaway from the chilly Yorkshire wind, but it's also Jessie's sanctuary from the outside world. When writer Miles Fareham and his son Elijah arrive to stay in the holiday apartment above the shop, it's a test for Jessie who has always felt clueless when it comes to kids. But as she learns the story of the single father and the inquisitive eight-year-old, Jessie realises that first impressions aren't always the right ones – and, of course, you can never judge a book by its cover!

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A lost diary connects two women, a century apart, in a beguiling romance of lost love and forbidden secrets. Lexi O'Connor is at a crossroad with her exhausting career and her splintering marriage when she becomes enthralled with Hollingsworth House. To the concern of her husband, Dylan, the crumbling old Georgian mansion in the historic parish town of Wakefield has turned into an obsession for Lexi. Never more so than when Lexi discovers an old diary hidden on the grounds—its beckoning first words an irresistible invitation: So, you found it. I knew you would. Read with your heart . . . Within the pages of the intimate journal, Lexi meets Allie. The Australian nurse was working in France during the First World War, embroiled in the horrors of the frontlines, and the passion of a

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forbidden love. In the lonely nights that follow, Allie's diary becomes Lexi's companion, comforting her in moments of darkness and pain. As Lexi reads, Allie's scandalous connection to Hollingsworth is revealed, drawing Lexi deeper into the illuminating secrets of the past. "An emotional, satisfying read with plenty of fascinating turns and twists . . . An engrossing tale of the ability of the human spirit to persevere!" —GreatHistoricals

Can a secret be worse than a lie? Every time Kate Duggan looks in a mirror she is confronted by her guilt; a long, red scar reminding her that she was 'the one to walk away' from the car accident. Not everyone was so lucky ... On the surface her fiancé Rob is supportive – but the reality is different. He's controlling, manipulative and, if the phone call Kate overhears is anything to go by, he has a secret. But just how dangerous is that secret? When Kate begins work at a firm of private investigators, she meets Ben Parker. His strong and silent persona is intriguing but it's also a cover – because something devastating happened to Ben, something he can't get over. As Kate and Ben begin their first assignment, they become close. But, what they don't realise is how close to home the investigation will bring them, or who will be hurt in the process ...

In this British romantic comedy, an aspiring party planner's first charity ball is an occasion for love . . . Leaving her dead-end job to pursue a career in event management, Stevie Winfield is determined to prove that she can make it on her own. Life is going to be a ball—and Stevie's going to organize it. On her first assignment, a charity soiree at a manor in Oxford, she has plenty to think about without Tom Blackwood showing up. The client's son also happens to be Stevie's old teenage crush. These days, Tom is pushing himself to become the success his mother wants. When he learns that a friend's sister, "poor needy little Stevie," is in charge of his mother's event, he dashes home to ward off disaster. But Stevie isn't so needy anymore. She's grown into a sexy, self-assured young woman. And while she isn't about to let anyone get in the way of her dream, she just might have time to plan a party for two . . . Shortlisted for the 2017 Romantic Comedy Award from the Romantic Novelists' Association, *Girl Having a Ball* is the second in Rhoda Baxter's *Smart Girls* series.

Nagasaki, 1648 Temperance Marston longs to escape war-torn England and explore the exotic empire of Japan. When offered the chance to accompany her cousin and Captain Noordholt on a trading expedition to Nagasaki, she jumps at the opportunity. However, she soon finds the country's strict laws for foreigners curtail her freedom. On a dangerous and foolhardy venture she meets Kazuo, a ronin. Kazuo is fascinated by her blonde hair and blue eyes, but he has a mission to complete and he cannot be distracted. Long ago, his father was accused of a crime he didn't commit – stealing a valuable ornament from the Shogun – and Kazuo must restore his family's honour. But when Temperance is kidnapped and sold as a concubine, he has to make a decision – can he save her and keep the promise he made to his father?

A woman's love of impressionist art draws her into a ghostly mystery along the

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North Yorkshire coastline. Staying alone in a sprawling, long-abandoned estate in Yorkshire would be madness to some. On the other hand, art enthusiast Lissy de Luca is looking forward to the isolation—and to beginning her research into the Staithes Group. It was here, more than a century ago, that the roiling seas and towering cliffs inspired the artistic passions of the famed commune. For Lissy, one of the most inspiring sights is the imposing Sea Scarr Hall itself—but the longer she stays, the stranger things get. There is the lonely figure who strolls the cove at night, and a hidden painting that is both seductive and unnerving. And then there's the photograph Lissy finds of a young girl—one so unnaturally beautiful and so eerily familiar. Each discovery is leading Lissy to a chilling conclusion. She's not alone at all. Those who once occupied the shadows of the manor house have a message for her. And they're going to make sure she gets it. It's a matter of life and death.

Historical romance trilogy spanning the two World Wars. Starts in 1914 and ends in 1948. A compelling and intensely romantic tale of the lives of a Dorset family throughout the wars. Set in the UK, France, Belgium, Egypt and Italy.

What will it take to put the past to rest? Professional genealogist Melissa Grantham receives an invitation to visit her family's ancestral home, Ashleigh Manor. From the moment she arrives, life-like dreams and visions haunt her. The spiritual connection to a medieval young woman and her forbidden lover have her questioning her sanity, but Melissa is determined to solve the mystery. Jake Precy, owner of a nearby cottage, has disturbing dreams too, but it's not until he meets Melissa that they begin to make sense. He hires her to research his family's history, unaware their lives are already entwined. Is the mutual attraction real or the result of ghostly interference? A haunting love story set partly in the present and partly in fifteenth century Kent.

In the war against Hitler every secret counts...

A fun new romance in the Schubert series from Kirsty Ferry. Coffee, cake and cats ... These are a few of Lexie Farrington's favourite things, and when she walks into the Thistledean Café in Edinburgh, she's delighted to find all three: coffee, cake, a big black cat on a purple lead being held by a very grumpy-looking pirate. Okay, maybe she wasn't quite expecting that one ... Of course, Billy McCreadie isn't really a pirate; he just knows a lot about them and is on his way to give a historical talk to school kids, hence the get-up. He's also in desperate need of a cat sitter. When Lexie steps in, little does she realise that Billy will be the key to a hidden Edinburgh she would have never discovered herself, and he might also be the man to help solve a certain piratical puzzle of her own ...

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