

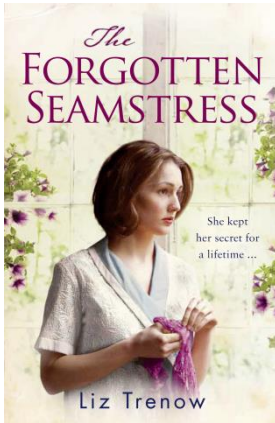


Warner
Textile
Archive

PRESS RELEASE

3rd January 2014

The Forgotten Seamstress by Liz Trenow



The Warner Textile Archive in Braintree, Essex, is opening its 10th anniversary events programme with a celebration of a new interpretation of its nationally-significant collection, hosting the launch of local author Liz Trenow's highly anticipated second novel, *The Forgotten Seamstress*.

The successor to the critically-acclaimed debut, *The Last Telegram*, Liz's second novel cleverly weaves a story of love, intrigue and heartbreak, drawing inspiration from the beautiful collection of 'May Silks' held by the Warner Textile Archive. Liz visited the Archive while researching her silk-weaving ancestral heritage, and chanced upon the beautiful, luxurious cream and white damasks and brocades woven by Warner & Sons for the wedding trousseau of Princess May (later Queen Mary) in 1893. She says:

'Sadly, the Duke of Clarence died just six weeks before the wedding and, with typical royal pragmatism, it was decided that she should instead marry his younger brother George, who later became King George V and the May Silks were used for this occasion instead. The silks were so entrancing and the story so intriguing that I knew they would have to feature in my next novel.'

What follows is a touching story of Maria, a poor East End orphan and talented seamstress who, after spending much of her life in the mental asylum of Severalls Hospital, near Colchester, chances upon a piece of incredibly rare and valuable royal silk. Her story and secrets are uncovered decades later by contemporary character Caroline, who learns of her own connection to Maria after discovering a beautiful patchwork quilt, passed through her family for years.



Kate Wigley, Archivist at the Warner Textile Archive, says: "It was a pleasure to introduce Liz to a valuable and luxurious part of the Archive's Collection, and I am delighted that she has chosen to interpret the May Silks in such a unique and charming way as part of *The Forgotten Seamstress*."

Join the **Warner Textile Archive** on **Thursday 30th January** between **6pm and 8pm** for a rare opportunity to meet Liz alongside the source of her inspiration. Liz will also give a short introduction to her work, and will be signing copies of her books.

RSVP: info@warnertextilearchive.co.uk by Thursday 23rd January.

The Forgotten Seamstress is published by HarperCollins Avon, and will be published on 16th January 2014 (e-book available now).

All events support the continued work of the Warner Textile Archive

For further information, high-res images and photograph opportunities please contact:

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