

Caitlin Davies

Author

Caitlin Davies was born in London in 1964. She is the author of six novels and eight non-fiction books, as well as a teacher, journalist and mentor.



Her early books are set in Botswana, where she started her writing career as a human rights reporter. She worked for the country's first tabloid newspaper, the *Voice*, covering issues such as the death penalty, homophobic laws, and violence against women. She also successfully tracked down a talking hippo.

She then became editor of the *Okavango Observer*, during which she was arrested twice, for 'causing fear and alarm' and for contempt of court during a domestic violence case. She was acquitted and received a journalism award from the Media Institute of Southern Africa. Her earlier books are set in the Okavango Delta, including a critically acclaimed memoir *Place of Reeds*.

After returning to London, Caitlin wrote education and careers features for the *Independent*, and her work has appeared in most national newspapers.

Some of her books have a watery theme, including ***Taking the Waters, Downstream, a history of Thames swimming***, and ***Daisy Belle: Swimming Champion of the World***, inspired by Victorian superstar Agnes Beckwith.

Other books have a criminal theme, whether the lives of prisoners, professional crooks or detectives. They include ***The Ghost of Lily Painter***, based on the true story of two Edwardian baby farmers, ***Bad Girls: The Rebels and Renegades of Holloway Prison***, nominated for the Orwell Prize for Political Writing 2019, and ***Queens of the Underworld***, a history of female criminals from the 17th century to today.

Her latest non-fiction book is ***Private Inquiries: The Secret History of Female Sleuths*** (2023), which traces the lives and careers of British private detectives, combined with Caitlin's own training as a PI.

She has worked as a Royal Literary Fund Fellow at the University of Westminster, the V&A, and the Science Museum, and has been an RLF Writing Fellow at Kent & Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust since 2022.

She lives in Kent and is currently writing an historical detective novel set in Charles Dickens' household in Broadstairs.

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Publications

Non-Fiction

Publication Details	Notes
Private Enquiries 2023 The History Press	<p>The female private detective has been a staple of popular culture for over 150 years, from Victorian lady sleuths to 'busy-body spinsters' and gun-toting modern PIs. But what about the real-life women behind these fictional tales? Dismissed as 'Mrs Sherlock Holmes' or amateurish Miss Marples, mocked as private dicks or honey trappers, they have been investigating crime since the mid-nineteenth century – everything from theft and fraud to romance scams and murder.</p> <p>In <i>Private Inquiries</i>, Caitlin Davies traces the history of the UK's female investigators, uncovering the truth about their lives and careers from the 1850s to the present day. Women like Victorian private inquiry agent Antonia Moser, the first woman to open her own agency; Annette Kerner, who ran the Mayfair Detective Agency on Baker Street in the 1940s; and Liverpool sleuth Zena Scott-Archer, who became the first woman president of the World Association of Detectives. Caitlin also follows in the footsteps of her subjects, undertaking a professional qualification to become a Private Investigator, and meeting modern PIs to find out the reality behind the fictional image.</p> <p>Female investigators are on the rise in the UK – and despite the industry's sleazy reputation, nearly a third of new trainees are women. After a century of undercover work, it's time to reveal the secrets of their trailblazing forebears.</p>

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Queens of the Underworld 2021 The History Press	<p>Robin Hood, Dick Turpin, Ronnie Biggs, the Krays ... All have become folk heroes, glamorised and romanticised, even when they killed. But where are their female equivalents? Where are the street robbers, gang leaders, diamond thieves, gold smugglers and bank robbers?</p> <p>Queens of the Underworld reveals the incredible story of female crooks from the seventeenth century to the present. From Moll Cutpurse to the Black Boy Alley Ladies, from jewel thief Emily Lawrence to bandit leader Elsie Carey and burglar Zoe Progl, these were charismatic women at the top of their game. But female criminals have long been dismissed as either not 'real women' or not 'real criminals', and in the process their stories have been lost.</p> <p>Caitlin Davies unravels the myths, confronts the lies and tracks down modern-day descendants in order to tell the truth about their lives for the first time.</p>
BAD GIRLS 2018 John Murray	<p>Society has never known what to do with its rebellious women. Those who defied expectations about feminine behaviour have long been considered dangerous and unnatural, and ever since the Victorian era they have been removed from public view, locked up and often forgotten about. Many of these women ended up at HM Prison Holloway, the self-proclaimed 'terror to evildoers' which, until its closure in 2016, was western Europe's largest women's prison.</p> <p>First built in 1852 as a House of Correction, Holloway's women have come from all corners of the UK - whether a patriot from Scotland, a suffragette from Huddersfield, or a spy from the Isle of Wight - and from all walks of life - socialites and prostitutes, sporting stars and nightclub queens, refugees and freedom fighters. They were imprisoned for treason and murder, for begging, performing abortions and stealing clothing coupons, for masquerading as men, running brothels and attempting suicide. In Bad Girls, Caitlin Davies tells their stories and shows how women have been treated in our justice system over more than a century, what crimes - real or imagined - they committed, who found them guilty and why. It is a story of victimization and resistance; of oppression and bravery. From the women who escaped the hangman's noose - and those who didn't - to those who escaped Holloway altogether, Bad Girls is a fascinating look at how disobedient and defiant women changed not only the prison service, but the course of history.</p>