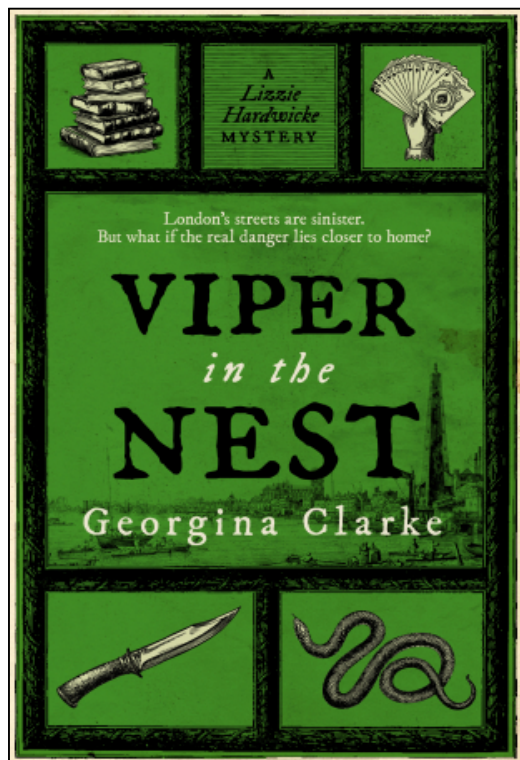




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VIPER IN THE NEST

A Lizzie Hardwicke Novel - #3

by GEORGINA CLARKE

THE BOOK

London, June 1759. When a charmless civil servant takes his own life, few are interested in his death. But Lizzie Hardwicke, who plies her trade in the brothels of London whilst also working as an undercover sleuth for the magistrate, can see no reason why a man who had everything to look forward to would wish to end his life.

Lizzie's search for answers takes her from the smoke-filled rooms of fashionable gambling houses, where politicians mix ambition with pleasure, to the violent streets of Soho, ready to erupt with riots in the sultry summer heat. All the while, she is navigating her complicated feelings for the magistrate's trusted assistant, Will Davenport, and a disturbing situation at home.

Then a gambling house owner is brutally murdered, and Lizzie finds herself tangled in a chaos that she cannot control. The darkest of secrets threatens to turn Davenport against her forever; its exposure will send her to the gallows.

GEORGINA CLARKE (Location: Worcester, UK)

GEORGINA CLARKE has a degree in theology and completed a PhD in history part-time, while working as a parish priest. Her love of the past is at the heart of her fiction: her Lizzie Hardwicke crime series is set in the mid-eighteenth century, and her standalone novel - *The Dazzle of the Light* - unfolds in 1920s London and is inspired by the real-life activities of the women-led Forty Thieves crime syndicate. Georgina is currently a tutor at the Queen's Foundation in Birmingham. When she's not working, she enjoys dressmaking, running and mooching around old houses. She lives in Worcester with her husband, son and two lively cats.



MARKETING & SALES POINTS

A gripping and vividly imagined historical mystery set in 18th century London, from the author of acclaimed historical novel *The Dazzle of the Light*

Perfect for fans of *The Household* by Stacey Halls (6K HB sold), *Daughters of the Night* (28K sold) and *The Square of Sevens* (12K sold) by Laura Shepherd-Robinson, as well as readers of Laura Purcell, Sarah Waters and Diana Gabaldon

The latest instalment of the fan-favourite series sees brothel worker and sometime sleuth Lizzie Hardwicke drawn into a dangerous investigation following a suspected suicide and a supposedly unconnected brutal murder, all the while navigating her complicated feelings for the magistrate's assistant, Will Davenport

VERVE Books published *The Dazzle of the Light* in autumn 2022 to widespread acclaim including reviews in the *Times*, *Daily Mail*, *Independent*, *Sunday Express* and *RED* magazine. It was selected as an *Irish Times* Crime Book of the Year, the *Prima* Book of the Month, a *Good Housekeeping* Book of the Year, an *Evening Standard* Best New Books for 2022, and as the Historical Novel Society's Editors' Choice

VERVE will also re-issue the first two novels in the series, *Death and the Harlot* & *The Corpse Played Dead* (previously published by Canelo), in March 2025 in a striking new series design. A fourth Lizzie Hardwicke mystery will follow in 2026

PRAISE FOR GEORGINA CLARKE

'A gripping page-turner with a sassy and fabulously original heroine in the form of Lizzie Hardwicke – I loved it!' - **ANNIE LYONS**, author of *Eudora Honeysett is Quite Well, Thank You*

'From sumptuous depravity to brutal murder, *Death and the Harlot* is a wild ride through the seedy side of 1750s London, while its heroine, Lizzie Hardwicke, is razor sharp and brilliantly original. I couldn't put it down' - **JOE HEAP**, author of *When the Music Stops*

'Fans of Sarah Waters and Kate Atkinson will adore this compelling, evocative and utterly gripping tale... It deserves to be huge' - **RED MAGAZINE** on *The Dazzle of the Light*

'A marvellous read... Two fabulous protagonists, you will be rooting for them both' - **PRIMA** on *The Dazzle of the Light*

'A vibrant story of survival, feminism, misogyny and living life on the edge' -

SUNDAY EXPRESS S MAGAZINE on *The Dazzle of the Light*

'Cinematic' - **DAILY MAIL** on *The Dazzle of the Light*



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