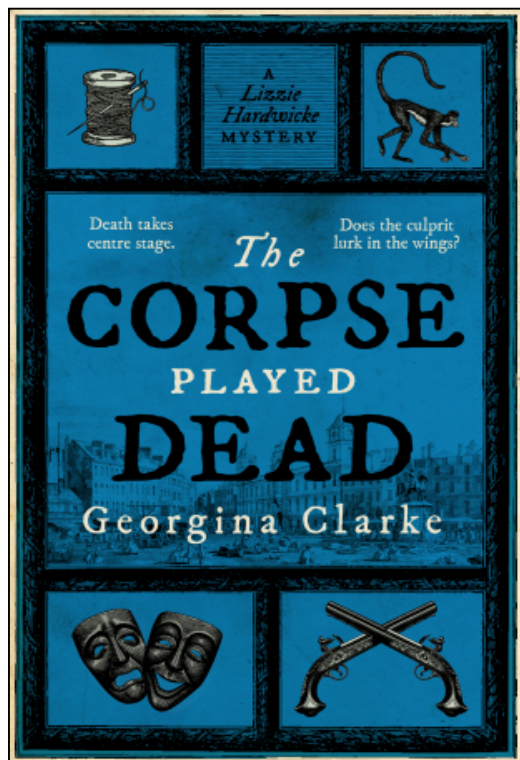




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THE CORPSE PLAYED DEAD

A Lizzie Hardwicke Novel - #2

by GEORGINA CLARKE

THE BOOK

Death takes centre stage. Does the killer lie in the wings?

An undercover assignment for the Bow Street magistrate sees Lizzie Hardwicke trade Mrs Farley's Bawdy House in Soho for life as a seamstress at a theatre on Drury Lane. Once there, she quickly realises that what goes on in the wings is much more intriguing than the theatrics being played out onstage...

When a high-profile investor is brutally hanged at centre stage, Lizzie discovers the body and is once again thrown together with William Davenport, the magistrate's assistant with whom she is growing ever closer. The suspect list rivals any casting call, and Lizzie must use every trick hidden up her sleeve to see through all the performance and bring the culprit into the spotlight.

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 (published by Canelo) is set in the mid-eighteenth century, and her latest 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

The second instalment of the 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

VERVE will re-issue the first two novels, *Death and the Harlot* & *The Corpse Played Dead* (previously published by Canelo), in a striking new series design, ahead of the publication of a brand new mystery, *Viper in the Nest*, in April 2025. A fourth Lizzie Hardwicke mystery will follow in December 2025

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

PRAISE FOR GEORGINA CLARKE

'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*

'This novel is a refreshing add to the historical mystery genre. Atmospheric and full of authentic details... Brava to this new, engaging voice and her strong woman protagonist!' - **KAREN ODDEN**, *A Lady in the Smoke*
'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*

'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 MAGAZINE** on *The Dazzle of the Light*

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



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