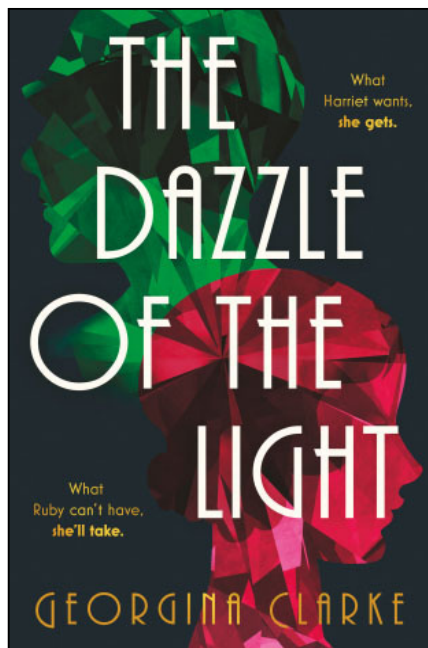


THE DAZZLE OF THE LIGHT

GEORGINA CLARKE



MARKETING & SALES POINTS

A sparkling new historical novel set in the 1920s, inspired by the notorious all-female crime syndicate known as the Forty Thieves who operated out of the slums of south London

VERVE Books published *The Dazzle of the Light* in autumn 2022, and it was reviewed in the *Times*, *Daily Mail*, *Independent*, *Daily Express*, *RED* magazine, and 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 Books will be continuing Clarke's Lizzie Hardwicke series in 2025

This women-led narrative follows the enormous success of the award-winning BBC drama *Peaky Blinders*, the final series of which aired earlier this year, which has popularised 1920s British gang narratives

A compelling, cinematic story and deeply layered feminist analysis of class, freedom and morality through the lens of two women living parallel lives

For fans of Camilla Bruce's *Triflers Need Not Apply*, as well as award-winning authors Sarah Waters and Laura Purcell

Features and interviews expected across national press and radio with the fascinating true life story behind the novel

THE BOOK

Ruby Mills is ruthlessly ambitious, strikingly beautiful - and one of the Forty Thieves' most talented members.

Harriet Littlemore is an aspiring journalist from a 'good' family, engaged to a rising star of the Tory party - but she wants a successful career of her own.

After witnessing Ruby fleeing the scene of a robbery, Harriet develops a fascination with the young thief that extends beyond journalistic interest, one which Ruby can use to her advantage.

But both the Forties and London society have strict rules - and the fallout from Ruby and Harriet's unlikely acquaintance may be more than either woman is prepared for.

***The Dazzle of the Light* tells a compulsive, cinematic story, fraught with envy and desire, about class, morality and the cost of being an independent woman in 1920.**

PRAISE FOR THE DAZZLE OF THE LIGHT

'Fans of Sarah Waters and Kate Atkinson will adore this compelling, evocative and utterly gripping tale... It deserves to be huge' - *RED* magazine

'This was a marvellous read... Two fabulous protagonists, you will be rooting for them both' - *PRIMA* (Book of the Month)

'Gaining lots of love from book reviewers, Clarke's standalone thriller is inspired by the real-life all-female gang 'The Forty Thieves' who reigned supreme over London in the early 20th century. With a touch of *Killing Eve*, dutiful journalist Harriet becomes obsessed by one of the thieves, Ruby Mill, and what it really means to be an independent woman' - *Evening Standard* (Autumn reads — the best new books for 2022)

'Cinematic' - *Daily Mail*

'Set in 1920s London, this is a tremendously enjoyable read with two spirited heroines' - *Good Housekeeping*

'A vibrant story of survival, feminism, misogyny and living life on the edge' - *Sunday Express S Magazine*

'Riveting... we follow Ruby from the thieves' den to louche nightclubs, rooting for her all the way' - *Times*

'Jewellery thefts, cocktails at the Savoy and trips to the finest department stores provide excellent escapism, interspersed with the brutal reality of how class and gender shaped lives in post-war Britain' - *Independent*

'1920s mystery inspired by a notorious, all-female London crime syndicate' - *Irish Times* (Crime Book of the Year)

'Adroitly capturing class distinctions, moving with ease from the highest echelons to the lowest, Clarke immerses the reader in a society trying to regain its equilibrium after the devastation of war and a world-wide pandemic. Best of all, the writing is terrific' - Historical Novel Society

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.

In 2021, Georgina began working as a tutor at The Queen's Foundation in Birmingham, training clergy. 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.



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