

THE WITTMANN AGENCY



Love Letters To Bookworms | Liebesbriefe an Bücherwürmer

Global Marketing For Modern Publishing Entrepreneurs

Reading time 11 min 14 sec

Real talk, my gorgeous Bookworm!

When I noticed my phone registered a client's call very early in the morning, I almost had a heart attack.

I was like, "OMG...what is happening."

But then, I opened my inbox and started clapping and howling out loud.

Please read the following post *very carefully* to see what I mean.

My client wrote: " Thank you for your reminder...I was on holiday. Just returned to the office and now I'm checking all my E-Mails nicely be stored in my inbox waiting to be read. Unfortunately, some of yours were going straight into our junk folder, including your invoice. Please accept our sincere apology for the late payment. "

Ninja Tip: Coronavirus confusion is proving to be rich pickings for scammers. Remember to keep your E-Mail program healthy, too and check your SPAM or JUNK folders as COVID-19 related spam it's currently on the rise. And once your client's inbox doesn't have enough storage or it's under an enormous pressure to filter spammer, that's the time regular E-Mails and invoices will go to the SPAM or JUNK mail folder.

Then she wrote: "**I always look forward to your optimistic E-Mails. Stay so confident and positive.**"

First of all, there are so many lessons in this I can't even take it.

Three quick takeaways:

#1 It proves how important communication is, even outside of a conventional sales and marketing context and especially in troubled times.

#2 It's also a brilliant example of great follow through even if life throws you a curveball. It's unexpected and emotional. To finish what I started has been invaluable to me as a creative, as a business owner and, yes, as a human.

#3 This *old* client returned during this global health crisis and now pays on time and with pleasure.

If you tell yourself negative stories like, "I suck as a writer/publisher/agent" or, "I just can't do this."

Stop that.

No one was born a powerful entrepreneur, but anyone can become one.

You just need the right training, tools and techniques. [CLICK HERE TO GET STARTED](#)

With so much love ❤️
XOXO Claudia

P.S. I'm on [Twitter](#) and [Pinterest](#). Come and join me today.

P.P. S. Bonus points if you share this LOVE LETTER TO BOOKWORMS with key influencers I can help with their businesses!

And here's my today's book pick to help you take the mid-day break you deserve.

Cosying up with a cuppa, put your phone on silent mode and enjoy a good book, my lovely Bookworm!

CREEPY ALERT: " Personally, I had trouble editing this work when in the office alone.", wrote the publisher.

WHAT LIES IN THE DARK

"A stylish debut crime novel written with supreme confidence as the tension rises with each new horrific murder.", said Sam Hawksmoor, Girl With Cat

This book has 4-star and 5-star reviews at amazon DOT co DOT uk and Goodreads DOT co DOT uk **and readers were saying things like *delightfully different, enjoyably grisly and intriguing and suspenseful*.**

If you get addicted to all things crime, you probably would buy this novel right away!

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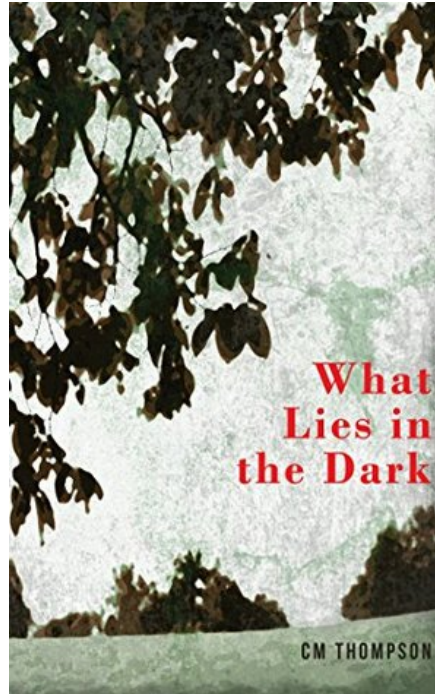
THANK YOU!

Hit reply if you got Qs - I'd love to hear from you, always.

With endless 💕
XOXO Claudia

WHAT LIES IN THE DARK

- by CM Thompson and which is being published by Hookline Books, UK, exclusively and worldwide represented by #TheWittmannAgency (WORLD RIGHTS, excluding ENGLISH British / UK Rights, these are with the Proprietors)



What's about

WHAT LIES IN THE DARK is an intense crime novel written by a young woman with a talent for capturing the voices - be they victims, police or unreliable passers-by.

Synopsis

One murder can make a town nervous.

Two brings fear.

Add three, four and even more, and watch neighbour turn on suspicious neighbour.

Victoria Bullrush – or Bullface, as she is called by fellow police officers behind her back – is a stickler for rules.

As she tries to maintain a faultless investigation, she can't ignore the public's growing anger.

The first body they have discovered is marked with the number "22", so does that mean there 21 bodies out there waiting to be discovered?

Unique elements of the book to stand out (USP)

WHAT LIES IN THE DARK is a crime novel with carefully captured voices of victims, murderer, suspected murderer and police and witnesses.

Voices of the dead, their relatives, police and witnesses all find a place in *What Lies in the Dark*.

A story of a small town that cares for each other until bodies are uncovered - in alleys, woods, graveyards and tunnels.

Slowly neighbour begins to suspect neighbour.

Recommended for (Target Audience)

Young people under the age of 26, plus crime readers who like short snippets of action in frequent sequences.

Fans of *The Serial Killers Daughter* by Lesley Welsh and *The Whisper Man* by Alex North will enjoy this read.

Available Options

Full English manuscript available.

What readers say

Keeps you on the edge of seat trying to guess where the danger lies!

"Nerve tingling novel full of dark characters and an intriguing plot. Keeps you on the edge of seat trying to guess where the danger lies.

Expertly plotted drama with clear yet complex characterizations. Loved it from start to finish!

Well worth it and still shivering from the spine chills it gave! Well done!

We need another novel, C. M. Thompson!

Side note: reading it again as it's that good!."

– L. M. Bryski, *Amazon, Canada Reviewer (5 stars)*

Fantastic storytelling by an extremely talented author

"Once again, fantastic storytelling by an extremely talented author. And much like "Who Killed Anne-Marie", for me the identify of the killer was immaterial.

What kept me engrossed, flying through the pages, was the writing style.

Conversational and accessibly without being Dick & Jane* (*the stereotypes of a middle-class Caucasian).

It is what I refer to as a "vibe" story; it was about mood and atmosphere and the quirks and voices of the myriad characters; even the bit players.

It had a frenetic energy, aided by the excellent pacing. There was very effective use of misdirection.

This book was the whole package - excellent writing, storytelling and plot to boot. The reveal of the killer was a bit of a letdown but I still loved the journey.

Loved it."

– Wendy Del Toro, *Goodreads Reviewer (5 stars)*

A Delightfully Different Detective Story!

„From the outset this is different to any other detective story I've read, the victims are the ones that take the spotlight here, not the Police.

Most stories of this genre focus on the police investigation and the psyche of the killer, but in this instance I was intrigued that the author had chosen to write from the perspective of the victims as well as the killer, but cleverly gave nothing away about the perpetrator until necessary.

There is narrative by the detectives investigating the murders, Victoria Bullrush (Bullface behind her back) and Aaron Fletcher, showing their despair and exasperation as bodies start to pile up.

The numbers carved into the corpses indicating that the killings have been going on for an extended period, possibly years, they are determined to catch this killer.

The first body they have discovered is marked with the number "22", so does that mean there 21 bodies out there waiting to be discovered?

The style of writing made for a thrilling read, because the narration was from the third perspective it allowed the plot to develop quickly and seamlessly.

Despite the wealth of characters and sub plot in this book I felt fully immersed in what was happening and could easily recall details when I had to put this down (a toddler and housework really gets in the way of reading sometimes!), and I can honestly say this book is even better on a second read, knowing who the killer is makes you feel superior when you can see the little clues that are there in plain sight that you might have at first glance overlooked.

The abrupt sentences that other reviewers have commented on build the intensity in this book, I feel they are key to building the atmosphere and keeping you hooked.

The complexities of the character dynamics make this hard to believe this is a début novel.

A lot of time and thought has gone into creating characters with a highly detailed back story that whilst hinted upon in this book to give an insight into each relevant character is not fully explained - this would allow excellent scope to take one or more characters and expand upon into a stand alone book.

Relationships between characters is interesting to watch play out, that of Bullface and Fletcher is particularly enjoyable to read. Bullface being so rigid in her adherence to rules and procedure feels that anyone below her is inept at their duties, and does not hide her displeasure at their failings to meet her high standards.

Fletcher, worrying about what this case is doing to him mentally, physically as well as the damage it seems to be doing to the relationship with his wife, feels that the whole Force is blaming them for not catching the killer yet.

The killer is a particularly well written character, enough detail is given to keep the reader guessing, but nothing concrete enough to give away who he is. I especially liked that narration came from this character, hearing his twisted thoughts, his departure from reality at times made his killings more gruesome and the daring approach he took towards the end was thrilling to read, you could almost feel the carefree attitude he had.

The author takes care when writing the more gritty moments in this story, the gruesome scenes are handled well, they have enough detail to make them relevant but not so much that you would need to stop reading.

The ending was a surprise, but fitting, I really can't imagine any other way to have concluded this, hats off to the author for wrapping things up for one character, but a high five for linking it back to the little girl at the beginning and making me question what could have happened...

I would have no hesitation to recommend this to fans of crime fiction or detective stories, but be prepared for a departure from the standard textbook model."

– Kate, *Amazon, UK Reviewer (5 stars)*

What Lies in the Dark is constructed much like a jigsaw and written in a slightly breathless style

"*What Lies in the Dark* put me in mind of a 2000 piece jigsaw I completed over winter. It was challenging, but rewarding.

I started by sorting out the pieces, and put together the outside edges, with a few pieces in the wrong places which I rectified as I went along, much like the investigation into these deaths.

There was a small pile of pieces that I was sure did not belong to the puzzle at all, that I pushed to one side, just like some of the evidence in these cases.

Then there was a point when I was almost finished (I had by this time found homes those pieces that I hadn't believed belonged) when I believed I had pieces missing....just like the detectives bent on solving these grisly murders.

But in the end, they were all there, I finished and had a magnificent picture of a bucketful of colourful wildflowers.

What Lies in the Dark is constructed much like a jigsaw - instead of little piles of pieces we have brief vignettes that, when you first read them, you are not sure where they fit.

But by then end of the book (and WHAT an end!) everything has fallen into place, and you are left with the magnificent feeling of having just read a really well constructed and thrilling book.

The bodies of young women are being discovered, some left out in the open, some hidden, but all with one common feature - the numbers on their hands, sometimes carve, sometimes written.

As time passes, and more bodies are discovered, the police are helpless, baffled by the lack of clues.

The public become angry and frightened and people begin to turn on one another, and some take things into their own hands.

This book is written in a slightly breathless style that is well suited to the heightened level of suspense artfully created by the author.

CM Thompson has perfectly captured human nature - our pettiness and rivalries; our emotions of apathy and anger, our righteousness and suspicions."
- *Sandy, Goodreads Reviewer (5 stars)*

I didn't want to put it down at all, I read it morning and night every day until I finished it.
"This is not the sort of genre I normally read, but decided to try something different and I'm glad I did.

From the opening chapter I knew I was going to enjoy this. The characters were believable and I empathized with the two main detectives.

Normally when I read a book I read a chapter or two, put it down for days (sometimes weeks) then pick it up again and read another chapter; with this book I didn't want to put it down at all, I read it morning and night every day until I finished it.

I shall soon be ordering this author's next book to see if they have replicated the suspense I felt whilst reading this one."
- *Average White Male, Amazon UK Reviewer (5 stars)*

The frequently terse writing style brings an immediacy to the story, which quickly becomes compulsive reading. (Format : Audiobook)
"A city somewhere in the United Kindom, surrounded by woodland and open spaces as well as containing parks and other secluded spots within it. A dog walked finds the body of a woman, had throat cut, thrown over a fence.

Police conclude she'd been attacked from behind. One oddity though: the number 22 had been cut into her hand. Was this some sort of code? Or did it reference the fact that the woman was 22 years and 22 days old when she died? Or, worst scenario, that she was the 22nd victim, and there was a serial killer at large?

Fears of the latter are believed confirmed when other victims are uncovered, one marked as 2 dating back several years. In charge of the investigation are Defective Sergeants Aaron Fletcher and Victoria 'Don't call me Bullface' Bullrush, both with long service records.

As time passes and bodies like up, desperation and guilt dog the police team and fear suffocates the city.

This police procedural serial killer thriller is unlike others of it's genre in that it concentrates on people: victims, law officers and the killer, their personalities, lives and aspirations, rather than the father gruesome deaths and on the effect the deaths have on other people.

The victims have nothing in common other than being female and within the late teen to forty age range.

The frequently terse writing style brings an immediacy to the story, which quickly becomes compulsive reading.

The identity of the killer, though teasingly flashed before the reader, remains hidden until close to the end.

Pippa Rathborne narrates, her attractive sounding voice converting text to speech expertly, conveying emotion where required.

Starting slowly, her pace increases after the first intro chapter, and moves through the novel with a confidence which increases the compulsion of the story. A fine performance.

Characterisation of all of the protagonists, with the possible exception of the killer himself, was good and this made for an even darker than usual peak inside an area being held hostage by fear.

Definitely recommended to those enjoying the serial killer genre."
- *Norma, Goodreads Reviewer (4 stars)*

About the author

CM Thompson is a 24-year-old women and an extremely talented author. *What lies in the Dark* is her debut.



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I really look forward to hearing from you very soon.

With enormous excitement and so much love,
Claudia

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