

Donna Jones Alward

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Donna Jones Alward Announces the Release of her Debut Historical Fiction, *WHEN THE WORLD FELL SILENT*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Halifax, NS – HarperCollins Publishers and Donna Jones Alward are pleased to offer *WHEN THE WORLD FELL SILENT, A Story of the 1917 Halifax Explosion*, releasing on July 20, 2024.

WHEN THE WORLD FELL SILENT is a story of loss, hope, and redemption, focused on two survivors of the Halifax Explosion and how their lives intersect in a devastating way.

Alward, a resident of Halifax, has long been drawn to the story of the tragedy that killed nearly 2000 and leveled the north end of the city when a munitions ship exploded in the harbour. Readers will meet Nora, a young Bluebird nurse working at the new Camp Hill Hospital, who struggles to find her way amidst so much personal loss, and Charlotte, a war widow with a young child who wakes to find her daughter is missing. “I was keen to explore how these characters—and indeed the entire city—dealt with trauma in a time when mental health resources didn’t really exist,” Alward said. “Family was everything, but how did someone cope when their support system was ripped away? This was particularly difficult for women in 1917. Showing their strength, resourcefulness, and resiliency was such a privilege.”

The ebook is released on July 20, 2024 in Canada, with the paperback following on August 6, 2024. All media enquiries can be directed to the author at donna@donnaalward.com.

Donna Jones Alward is a *New York Times* bestselling author of over 60 romance novels and a member of the Writer’s Union of Canada and the Writer’s Federation of Nova Scotia. This is her first historical fiction.

International Release Dates:

Canada: Ebook July 20, 2024; Paperback August 6, 2024

UK: Ebook July 20, 2024; Paperback August 1, 2024

US: Ebook July 20, 2024; Paperback August 1, 2024

Australia: Ebook July 20, 2024, Paperback TBA

PRAISE FOR *WHEN THE WORLD FELL SILENT*

“Donna Jones Alward has created a winning and memorable tale that boasts a perfectly-judged grasp of historical detail, wonderfully nuanced characters, and a narrative arc that never falters on its path to a satisfying and heartfelt conclusion. This is an impressive and assured historical fiction debut from a respected and beloved author of contemporary fiction. – Jennifer Robson, author of *The Gown*

“A beautiful, meticulously researched story that will keep you on the edge of your seat until the very last page...” - Genevieve Graham, *USA Today* and *Globe & Mail* bestselling author of *The Forgotten Home Child*

“Alward handles the aftermath of a Canadian tragedy with sensitivity, skill, brilliant writing and a truly fascinating, true-to-life cast of characters.” Lecia Cornwall, Canadian author of *That Summer in Berlin*

“Set in Canada during WWI, *WHEN THE WORLD WENT SILENT* is a triumphant, unforgettable tale of sacrifice, hope, and second chances. With the horrific backdrop of the Halifax explosion, and a twist that will have readers holding their breath to the very end, Alward has penned a depiction of life on the home front that resonates long after the last page. *WHEN THE WORLD WENT SILENT* is a perfect story for fans of Genevieve Graham.” – Renee Ryan, author of *The Secret Society of Salzburg*

“Meticulously researched and full of atmospheric period details that will take your breath away, *WHEN THE WORLD FELL SILENT* is an intimate portrait of two women whose fates are entwined in a most unexpected way. It’s the story of their resilience and survival in the face of unthinkable tragedy, and ultimately the power of love in all its forms. A captivating, wonderful read.” — Julianne MacLean, bestselling author of *These Tangled Vines*

“*WHEN THE WORLD WENT SILENT* is a richly detailed look into the lives of women on the home front during WWI, and how their lives were irrevocably changed following a tragic ship collision that resulted in an explosion in the Halifax Harbour Narrows. Donna Alward has penned a stunning historical fiction debut you don’t want to miss.” ~Eliza Knight, *USA Today* and international bestselling author of *Starring Adele Astaire*

“A rare novel that is both heartbreaking and heartwarming at the same time. Highly recommend!” - Soraya M. Lane, best-selling author of *The London Girls* and *The Secret Midwife*.

“In the span of a few short minutes, everything changes for Nora Crowell and Charlotte Campbell, the brilliant protagonists of Donna Alward’s latest historical novel. Set against the tragic backdrop of the Halifax Explosion, *WHEN THE WORLD FELL SILENT* is an enchanting story of love in all its forms, lost and found in the shattered remains of the city.” -Bryn Turnbull, author of *The Paris Deception*