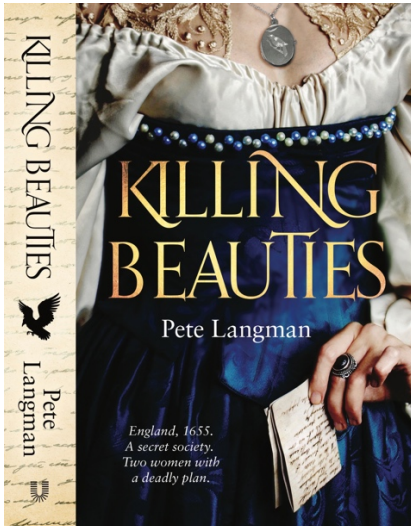


PRESS RELEASE



KILLING BEAUTIES: the chronicle of Susan Hyde by Pete Langman

**23 January 2020 | Unbound | Paperback | £9.99 | #KillingBeauties
ISBN: 978-1-78965-065-5**

'A pacy, visceral and thrillingly dark tale of a daring she-intelligencer who risks everything for her loyalty to her king. You can smell the stench of mid-seventeenth-century London, feel the tension of political intrigue, and the bitter taste of betrayal.' – **Andrea Zuvich**, author and historian

'Killing Beauties takes us into the alternate reality of Oliver Cromwell's London where she-spies work to overturn an English dictatorship. A thrilling story inspired by a true and lost history.' – **Leanda de Lisle**, author of *The White King*

England, 1655. Following the brutal civil wars the country swelters under a cloud of paranoia, suspicion and the burgeoning threat of rebellion. With the fragile peace being won by Cromwell's ever-efficient Secretary of State John Thurloe, the exiled king Charles Stuart sends two spies on a dangerous mission to wrest back the initiative. These spies are different, however: they are women. Their task? To turn Parliament's spymaster into their unwitting accomplice. *Killing Beauties* is a dark tale of subterfuge, jealousy and betrayal.

It is sometimes said that women are written out of history, but often they are not yet written in. *Killing Beauties* is based on the true stories of two female spies from the 1650s and gives them the voice that only fiction can. **Pete Langman.**

Pete Langman is also the author of *The Country House Cricketer*, *Slender Threads: a Young Person's Guide to Parkinson's Disease*, and *Black Box*:

"Langman is a fine writer. Dark yet witty, both light and profound. I found myself frequently both amused and disturbed. It's a rare gift." – **Anthony McGowan**

"Pete Langman's stories invite you into a cold, unsettling world in which ugly things happen. His writing however is clean and perceptive; you are transported into strange minds and settings and you leave feeling like you know a bit more about the human condition." – **Araminta Hall**

"A fabulous read." – **Charles Dagnall, Test Match Special**

"By a significant margin the best book on Parkinson's I have ever read." – **Dr. Jon Stamford, Neuroscientist**

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Pete Langman

Pete Langman is a writer, academic, cricketer and sometime rock and roll guitarist who holds a PhD on Francis Bacon (the other one) and was diagnosed with Young Onset Parkinson's Disease at 40. His non-fiction encompasses Cricket, Parkinson's Disease, Music, History of Science, literature and culture, and has appeared in publications ranging from *The Guardian* to *Guitar and Bass Magazine*. He lives between Leiden and Brighton with his partner Dr. Nadine Akkerman, award-winning author of *Invisible Agents*, who supplies him with historical expertise and keeps asking if they can have a cat now, please.