

MEDIA COVERAGE

**THE GOVERNESS** is a novel about the childhood of the Queen and the unknown woman whose unique influence helped make her the world's most successful monarch. It takes us right to the heart of the Royal Family through a crucial period in history, through the 1936 Abdication, the 1937 Coronation and the whole of World War II. Ending in 1947 with Princess Elizabeth's wedding, **THE GOVERNESS** is the prequel to *The Crown*. Published by Welbeck in **AUGUST 2020**, it went straight into the Sunday Times bestseller list, earned rave reviews and intense media interest..



## SUNDAY TIMES TOP TEN

FICTION HARBACKS		Last week	Weeks top 10
1	 <b>The Midnight Library</b> Matt Haig (Corgi £9.99) A magical library allows a young woman to live life's endless possibilities (6,200)	1	2
2	<b>The Dirty South</b> /John Conroy (Hodder £20) Charlie Parker is asked to help to capture a killer of young women (5,475)	—	1
3	<b>Moonflower Murders</b> /Anthony Horowitz (Century £20) The clues to a murder and a woman's disappearance may lie in the pages of a novel (4,160)	—	1
4	<b>Still Life</b> /Julie McDevitt (Little, Brown £20) A body linked to an old case is found in the Firth of Forth. Karen Pine thriller (3,205)	—	1
5	<b>Blunt Force</b> /Lynda La Plante (Zaffre £16.99) Detective Jane Tennison probes the brutal murder of a bio-time showbiz agent (3,175)	—	1
6	<b>The Governess</b> /Wendy Holden (Wealbeck £12.99) The story of Marion Crawford, royal governess to Elizabeth and Margaret (2,775)	—	1
7	<b>Invisible Girl</b> /Lisa Jewell (Century £14.99) A suspended teacher becomes the prime suspect when a girl disappears (2,635)	2	3
8	<b>The Killings at Kingsfisher Hill</b> /Sophie Hannah (HarperCollins £20) Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot is tasked with proving a fiancée's innocence (2,085)	—	1
9	<b>Love in Colour</b> /Sola Badale (Headline £16.99) Love stories and myths from Ancient Greece to folktales in West Africa, reimagined (2,000)	—	1
10	<b>Knife Edge</b> /Simon Mayo (Headline £16.99) A gripping psychological thriller	—	1

# Amazon B

Our most popular products ba

## Best Sellers in Biographical Fiction

#1

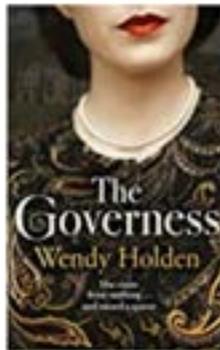
#2

Action

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mystery

-in



The Governess: Inspired by the true story  
> Wendy Holden

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Han  
> Ma

# FEATURE COVERAGE



# The Daily Mail



[Feature Link](#)

# The Mail on Sunday



70 years ago, Crawfie's name was a byword for betrayal. But now a novelist who's studied her life believes there's been a tantalising twist...

## Has the Queen finally forgiven her governess who wrote the original Royal tell-all book?

With some notable exceptions, the monarchy is a family affair. The Queen and Prince Philip are the only couple to have remained together for over 70 years. The Queen's late husband, Prince Philip, died in 2021. The Queen's late husband, Prince Philip, died in 2021. The Queen's late husband, Prince Philip, died in 2021.

After 70 years, the Queen's name was a byword for betrayal. But now a novelist who's studied her life believes there's been a tantalising twist...

**After Majesty has realised the importance of food in shaping her life?**

The Queen's late husband, Prince Philip, died in 2021. The Queen's late husband, Prince Philip, died in 2021. The Queen's late husband, Prince Philip, died in 2021.



[Feature Link](#)

# Tatler



# Tatler



[Feature Link](#)

# Harpers Bazaar



HALL  
ANNA  
PROPIST  
WOMAN

Governesses are a great British literary tradition. Jane Eyre, the eponymous heroine of Charlotte Brontë's novel, is the most famous, followed by her sister Anne's Agnes Grey. There are some fine ones in children's literature too: Miss Heloise in Elizabeth Goodge's *The Little White Horse* and Miss Minton in Eva Ribston's *Journey to the Four Seas*. And we'll stretch the point for P. T. Young's *Mary Poppins*, who, while not quite a governess, was not quite a nanny either. Casting our entertainment net more widely, we scoop up Maria from *The Sound of Music* and Anna from *The King and I*.

## FICTION

# NANNY KNOWS BEST

Wendy Holden's new book about a real-life royal teacher takes inspiration from a long line of literary governesses

Why are writers so fascinated by governesses? Poor spinsters on the whole, albeit educated ones, they didn't eat glamorous figures. As resident teachers in wealthy families, they had little power over the circumstances: if the family were civilised, life was tolerable; if they weren't, it wasn't. The heroine of Agnes Grey, based on the life of a real governess, has a rotten time of it. She has a rotten time of it with her children, her parents, her employers, and her society. Similar to Jane Eyre, she's a woman of spirit.

Lowood Institution at the altar. Yet even though her beliefs

# Sunday Express Magazine



16 August 2020

SUNDAY EXPRESS

**Family values**  
The woman who taught  
Queen Elizabeth – and her  
lasting legacy on the Royals

**Page  
turners**  
This summer's  
best thrillers

**Souk it up**  
Delicious  
Moroccan  
dishes

**Wini Wini  
Wini**  
£1,000 with  
our prize  
crossword

**Making  
waves**

Statement swimsuits  
to impress

**Family values**  
The woman who taught  
Queen Elizabeth – and her  
lasting legacy on the Royals



# Saga Magazine







# Woman and Home



# Woman and Home





# Daily Telegraph



[Feature Link](#)



# BBC Radio 4 Woman's Hour

[Interview](#)



[Feature Link](#)

# Sky News

## Interview



# BBC Culture

Piece by Hephzibah Anderson on royalty in fiction,  
leading with *The Governess*



[Feature Link](#)

# REVIEW COVERAGE



# Good Housekeeping

## Bookshelf Top 10 Choice

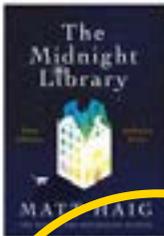


## Bookshelf

RESIDENT BOOKWORM JOANNE FINNEY PICKS HER FAVOURITE FICTION AND NON-FICTION, FROM LITERARY GEMS TO GRIPPING FAMILY DRAMAS

### This month's 10 books to read right now!

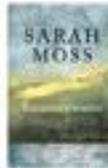
#### Book of the month



#### THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY

by Matt Haig

On the day Nora decides to end her life, she discovers a magical library that offers her endless choices to rewrite the choices she's made and try out different lives. Would the love have happened if she'd married her long-term boyfriend rather than ditching him at the altar? Or might the life of an Olympic swimmer have been more fulfilling? This thought-provoking, which reminded me of *It's a Wonderful Life*, is full of heart and optimism.



#### Summerwater

by Sarah Moss

Over the course of a single rainy day in a Scottish holiday park, 12 holidaymakers sit huddled in their cabins observing one another in short chapters. Their inner lives and desires are revealed. This gorgeously written novel is atmospheric, with a sense of unease building to a shocking climax.

#### Historical fiction at its best

A ROOM MADE OF LEAVES

by Kate Grenville

Inspired by the real letters of Elizabeth Macarthur, who was married to an Australian explorer, this fictional memoir is breathtaking. Leaving Devon to emigrate to New South Wales in 1790, Elizabeth struggles to settle and soon realises she's married the wrong man. I loved this plucky, sharp-minded woman.



#### Pure escapism

THE GOVERNESS

by Wendy Holden

If you loved *The Crown*, you'll love this fascinating read about young, idealistic nanny Marion "Gracie" Greenford, who tutored the young Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret for 17 years. I thoroughly enjoyed this richly detailed look behind the scenes of royal life and the relationship between Gracie and her young charges is poignantly written.



#### Moonflower Murders

by Anthony Horowitz

#### Intriguing murder mystery

MOONFLOWER MURDERS

by Anthony Horowitz

I absolutely love this series of readability over literary mystery, which started with *The Wind in the Willows* and I wanted this new one done. The clues to a near-the-kill murder in a fancy hotel are within the pages of a crime novel and it's worth most work out the links to solve it.

#### Clayton thriller

INVISIBLE GIRL

by Lisa Jewell

Once again, Jewell delivers a story with characters you care about and enough twists to keep you hooked. When teen girlfriend goes missing, a teacher who's been dismissed for sexual misconduct is the main suspect. But there are other in Jewell's life who have much to hide.



#### Family drama

BURNT SUGAR

by Avni Dutt

Through her own childhood, we discover what she dreamt of another, putting her own needs first. Now her mother is losing her memory and Arlene tries caring for the woman she feels never loved her. A raw, sticky dissection exploration of the toxic relationship between two women who are forever bound together.

Avni Dutt

For more book news and reviews, visit [goodhousekeeping.com/uk/books](http://goodhousekeeping.com/uk/books)

# Woman & Home

## Book Club Choice

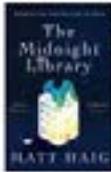


# September's BOOK CLUB



Our books editors Zoe West and Emma Shacklock share their favourite picks for the month, plus novelist Harriet Tyce reveals her writing secrets

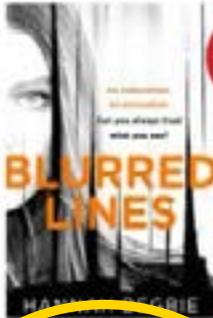
### LIFE LESSONS



MATT HAIG

#### THE MIDNIGHT LIBRARY by Matt Haig £16.99, PB, Compendium

What if you had the chance to open a book and try another life you might have lived? In this life-affirming read, Nobby Long discovers that, with every regret, she gets to see what could have been if she'd taken that job, moved her boyfriend out or stayed with that man, by selecting one of the many books from the Midnight Library - a chance to start again. The book's after-lesson for the bookclub!



HARRIET TYCE

BOOK OF THE MONTH

#### THINKING THE THRU TH BLURRED LINES

by Harriet Tyce OCT 09, PB, HarperCollins

The journey of Harriet Tyce's debut novel is not only timely, but compelling. When Becky catches her boss, Matthew, with a woman who isn't his wife, she walks out and says nothing. She sees her so much, but when the woman accuses Matthew of rape, she questions what she saw. Making sense of her own past, and the need to protect her teenage daughter, the lines become very blurred and no-one is quite who they seem. Perfectly paced, the scenes and turns are executed with precision.

### A RICE TO THE END



WATSON

#### FINAL CUT by Watson £12.99, PB, Transworld

The most gripping story of all! Watson - author of *Go to the Sun* - is back with another clear and gripping historical novel. Visting the struggling movie town of Hollywood Bay, we track the rise and fall of the famous leading destination in a novel that's a ghost from Hollywood's dark past. As events get revealed, there's one other reason for being in the Bay.

### NOVEL INFLUENCE



WENDY HOLDEN

#### THE GOVERNESS by Wendy Holden £12.99, PB, Wildwood

Holden's first foray into historical fiction sees feminist educator and grammar, Marion Crawford, enter the lives of the young governess, Elizabeth and Margaret, and the young nanny takes them under her wing. What was Marion doing there when she had intended to teach in the slums, and why was she shunned from the Royal family? This gripping fictionalisation of real life events offers a fascinating insight into the Queen's childhood.

### HEARTS ARE WIND AND CHARM



EMMA LUKE

#### DEAR ENNIE BLUE by Emma Luke £6.99, PB, Transworld

On the eve of her 30th birthday, Emma Blue believes Luca is finally ready to tell her about her feelings. But since they've entered each other's lives, when Luca discovered the real father, Ennie set off into the city carrying her own message, hoping to come before them. ENNIE Luca promises her a surprise - to surprise when he speaks, Emma must raise questions of the. A beautifully executed read!

# Harsh lesson for Royal teacher

**HISTORICAL  
KITHING PARODY**

**THE CONSERVATIVES**  
by Wendy Holden  
SHEENA'S CUT AN EYE FOR AT St. Michael's (Dorset) was a progressive, left-leaning teacher whose feminist violation was to educate children in the ways of thorough sex, instead, she tried to teach us government by Mrs. Thatcher, privatised



Her name resounded and retained itself into the subsequent figure of 'Cinderella' in the novel, which a spiritual all-time vibrant, principled woman who attempted to bring femininity and feminism to the children's world of the Queen and her class.

All while giving a high school to her personal life — to trying to find those who were their prison, the best kept secret of her life.

She is a highly entertaining, emotionally satisfying story of love and loyalty.

**A ROOM MADE OF LEAVES**  
by Wendy Holden

population as a whole, which is a very difficult person to marry. It is very difficult to find a partner who is willing to be a partner, and it is very difficult to find a partner who is willing to be a partner.

And what a beautiful story. It is a story of a woman who is a woman, and it is a story of a woman who is a woman.

It is a story of a woman who is a woman, and it is a story of a woman who is a woman.

and he would be an excellent marriage. But with a woman who is a woman, it is very difficult to find a partner who is willing to be a partner.

**THE LEGACY OF THE  
END OF THE DAY**  
by Wendy Holden

It is a story of a woman who is a woman, and it is a story of a woman who is a woman.

It is a story of a woman who is a woman, and it is a story of a woman who is a woman.

wealth will have been. The woman who is a woman, and it is a story of a woman who is a woman.

It is a story of a woman who is a woman, and it is a story of a woman who is a woman.

‘A hugely entertaining, emotionally satisfying story of love and loyalty.’

# My Weekly



WITH ADING! *How To Sleep Well* Your First Covid Relief £1.99

**My Weekly**

Starts Today!  
**Family Ties**

QUICK 'N' TASTY

**Asked...**

...ation of D. aerophilus as we're fed up with our steaming hot when needed. My told us to e-hold one on our face to soothe the top edge... pores are to stop the... in heat. They also... Euphrasia and-fog your... ecient, but... to use washing up... liquid... glass... lenses... it can ruin them. Keeping your glasses warm helps too - they will fog up more if they are cold.

**We're Reading...**

Do you wonder what really goes on in the royal household? Wendy Holden's latest book is based on the Queen's governess Marion Crawford's account of life as a royal member of staff. "When I found her extraordinary story, I knew it was the novel I had to write," says Wendy. Don't miss the My Weekly Special on sale now, which has an exclusive short story by Wendy about Marion's experiences in the first few days of her service in the Royal Family.

*The GOVERNESS*  
Wendy Holden

...best continues to rise. Despite all the publicity over the past few years, it's estimated only 7,000 Sumatran orangutans are left in the wild and

OUR

## Mail on Sunday



‘A poignant, fictional reimagining of a woman condemned by history, with plenty of modern-day echoes.’

# Platinum Magazine



‘Brilliantly researched...  
I was completely absorbed  
and transported.’ \*\*\*\*

ADELE PARKS

# Woman & Home

Book Club Choice



‘A vivid, irresistible tale of royal rule-breaker Crawfie.’

WOMAN AND HOME

‘BEST OF HISTORICAL FICTION’

[Feature Link](#)

# Womans Weekly Book Club

Visit the British **WONDERS OF THE WORLD!**

**BOOST YOUR COMPLEXION**  
8 best buys

Be inspired every day!

# Woman's Weekly

9 March 2018

## Book club

Joe West picks the best reads for you

Love You

**The Governess**  
by Wendy Holden (£12.99, MR, Welbeck)

Holden's first foray into historical fiction sees educator and governess Marion Crawford enter the lives of young princesses Elizabeth and Margaret. Known affectionately as 'Crawfie', the nanny takes the princesses under her wing, attempting to give them a glimpse of normal life. But what is Marion doing in the palace when she intended to teach in the slums, and why was she shunned by the royal family? This fictionalisation of real-life events offers a fascinating insight into the Queen's childhood, and a woman whose history seems to have been forgotten.

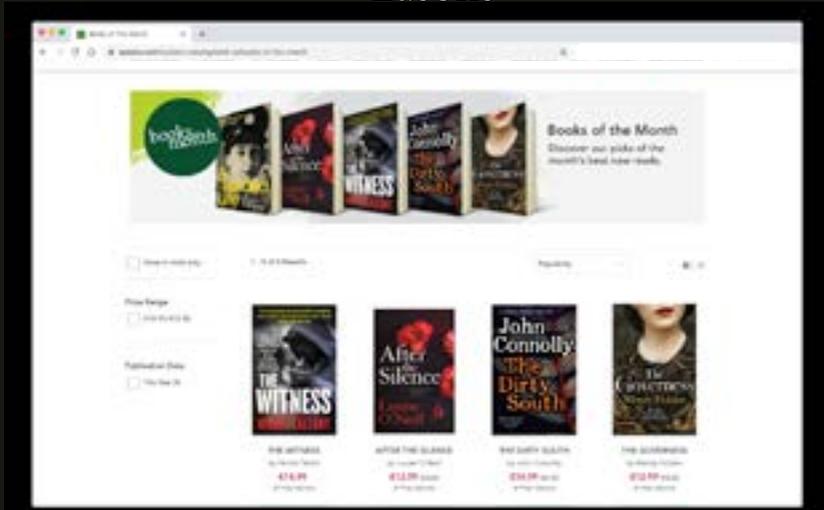
**Womans Weekly LOVES**

**The Governess**  
Wendy Holden

The crown from making and colour

# Book Trade 'Books of the Month'

## Easons

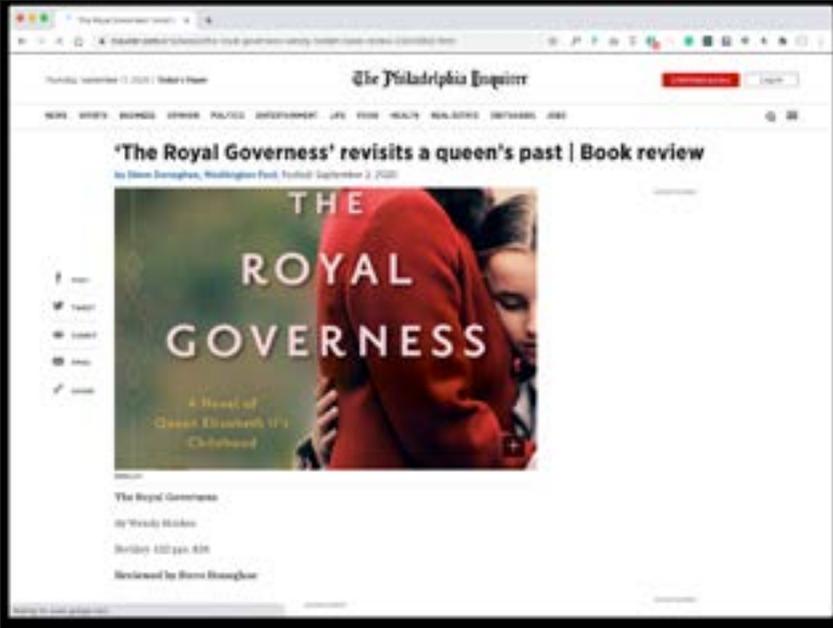


## The Hive



THE GOVERNESS is published as  
THE ROYAL GOVERNESS by  
Berkley Press, a division of PRH, in the  
USA. It attracted the attention of  
major newspapers:

The Philadelphia Inquirer



‘Terrific.’

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2020 • THE WASHINGTON POST

BOOK WORLD

## The nanny who became a royal pain

BY STEVE DONOGHUE

Although perhaps the bulk of Wendy Holden's readers in 2020 won't recognize the name Marlon Crawford, the main character of her new book, "The Royal Governess," once upon a time, Crawford was a best-selling author and the center of a controversy that fascinated readers on both sides of the Atlantic.

Crawford was governess to Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret, the daughters of the Duke and Duchess of York. The girls, who referred to her as "Crawfie," cherished her energy and honesty, and she retained her position even when the duke and duchess became King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in 1952 and their older daughter, "Lilibet," was suddenly heir to the throne.

These years are the playground of Holden's novel, which begins with Marlon studying at a teacher training college in her native Scotland and falling in love with a handsome young communist named Valentine, whose impetuous anti-imperialist sloganeering is the author's first gesture at foreshadowing but certainly not her last. Marlon gets a job in the household of Lady Rose Lovess-Gower and quickly comes to the attention of Lady Rose's sister, the Duchess of York, and finds herself installed as governess to the two little princesses.

Once "The Royal Governess" gets to the Windsors, it takes off like a grand parade. Holden obviously relishes bringing to life her famous cast of characters, from the nervous, stuttering Duke of York to the tall, imperious Queen Mary, to strong-willed daughter Elizabeth (who would go on to reign longer than any monarch in English history), to her saucy, free-spirited sister, Margaret, to the Duke's brother David (who would make history as King Ed-



**THE ROYAL GOVERNESS**  
A Novel, by Wendy Holden  
Holt, 432  
pages, \$26

ward VIII for abdicating to marry Wallis Simpson).

Standing out gloriously even from this colorful cast is Queen Elizabeth, by far Holden's most winning fictional creation. In these pages, Marlon has no sooner met her than she's making the obvious comparison: "She was like something out of P. G. Wodehouse." The queen burbles, she merrily slings lingo such as "Tinkety-tonk, old fruit," she slurps gin at untoward hours and underneath it all, as one character observes, she's as tough as an old boot. Whether she's charming a war-weary Ambassador Joe Kennedy or backing up the spirits of her timid husband, this Queen Elizabeth thoroughly steals the show, both from Marlon Crawford and from the future Queen Elizabeth, the teenage waiting in the wings throughout the book. Here, as in all other books, that other Elizabeth remains stubbornly opaque.

Of course, a part of the charm of this performance is hindsight: Holden knows that Queen Elizabeth would go on to become the nationally beloved Queen Mother, clad in creamy frocks and feathered hats, smiling and waving to innumerable onlookers until her death in 2002 at age 101. Such knowledge gives license to project that quippy, luminous figure back into the past.

This can be as much a weakness as a strength when it's overdone. Holden hardly ever passes up an opportunity to lean on her

reader's shoulder and whisper: *Irony, huh? How about that irony!* When we meet the future King George VI, he's intently, desperately smoking (the king will develop lung cancer and die at age 56). Before she's even met the little princesses, Crawford makes a comment about how "James II and Bonnie Prince Charlie lost their kingdoms." (She will live through the abdication crisis, while King Edward VIII will lose his kingdom.) When precocious Margaret flirts with Ambassador Kennedy's son John, a character sniffs, "A young man like that will never amount to anything."

It's an overindulgence, but it's this author's only one. In all other respects, "The Royal Governess" is spirited, virtually clockwork enjoyment, humanizing the Windsor world through the death of two kings, the onset of an abdication and the very real dangers of a world war. Through it all, Marlon Crawford is convincingly passionate, respected by everybody in her glittering new world.

In the real world, it didn't last. The aforementioned controversy happened in 1950 when Crawford committed the ultimate act of lese-majeste by writing about her experiences as royal governess in a book, "The Little Princesses." The book sold briskly, but the royal family felt betrayed. They never spoke to Crawford again, and when she died in 1988 at age 78, neither the Queen Mother, Queen Elizabeth II nor Princess Margaret so much as mentioned that fact in public.

"The Royal Governess" shades that tension very neatly into the final pages of a very satisfying reading experience. It's doubtful the queen would enjoy it, but pretty much everybody else will.

booksreview@washpost.com  
Steve Donoghue is a book reviewer living in Boston.

## Crazy attention and the mood of

TV REVIEW FROM CR

then puzzlingly dull for stretches, only to become interesting all over again. The show is a fine and flawed example of who Murphy is and what he makes. You can't help but be hooked in by it.

Behind her steady-eyed menace, the story of Nurse Mildred Ratched (yes, the very one from Ken Kesey's novel "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest") and the classic film adaptation, played here with calm and collected determination by Sarah Paulson, is presented as a kind of feminist dawning.

Nurse Ratched is someone trying to overcome her own damage and demons and, in her denoted way, she wants to make the world kinder and more just, through the most painful and manipulative sort of caring.

It can take a while for the series to find its way — and often it's the viewer who will feel as if they are missing something profound. As a prequel set in 1947, it's not required that the viewer know much about "Cuckoo's Nest" or even Louise Fletcher's Oscar-winning performance as a more powerful Ratched in the 1975 movie version, other than the fact that Murphy (working here with Ian Brennan and creator Ryan Murphy) is among our shrewdest and most knowing samplers of popular culture.

Of course a lot of us will come here wanting to know what made Ratched into the sublimely vindictive control freak of the mental ward. Audiences have been wondering that for decades. "That f---ing nurse, man," Jack Nicholson's character said about Nurse Ratched. "She ain't honest."

The answers provided in "Ratched" may or may not satisfy that curiosity, but fans of Murphy's previous and provocative

works is a combining school. "F---ed. By powerful mutual he's less grip. Horror common conditions of tical. Mail featuring warped. Six in. slays. ways die at a sp. Northern. Lucia. S. alleged. (Witro. the asyl. Hasover her he nurses. onto the Nurse. Judy Dav. This much yo. "Ratched" didly. as much he sion fro. example and cap. the Nurs. in the se. ship. shid. has a li. disgrant. mother. former p. The st. (Vince) see Toll. during "Ratched." Nurse R. place. be interest

‘A very satisfying reading experience that anybody the Queen would enjoy, and pretty much everybody else will.’

## PRAISE FOR THE GOVERNESS

‘A beautifully woven and exquisitely detailed story of strong upstairs/downstairs women whose lives entwine during some of the most significant periods of modern British history... I am in awe of Wendy Holden.’

HEATHER MORRIS, author of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*



‘I adored this wonderful book. What a great story Wendy Holden has told.’

JILLY COOPER



‘A brilliantly imagined and poignant novel... a story of sacrifice, deep affection, strained loyalties and divided English society in the post-Downton Abbey era. Having set herself a huge challenge, Wendy Holden has triumphed.’

ELIZABETH BUCHAN, author of *The New Mrs Clifton*



‘A great book for escaping into...I loved this!’  
KATIE FFORDE, author of *A Summer At Sea*



‘Wendy Holden absolutely delivers in this perfect blend of story and history. THE ROYAL GOVERNESS is a fabulous read for not only for devotees of period fiction and the British Royals, but anyone with a hunger for a well-crafted tale. Lovers of The Crown series on Netflix will adore this!’

SUSAN MEISSNER, Bestselling author of *The Last Year of the War*

‘An intimate view of the royal family at a time of great uncertainty and change, *The Royal Governess* is a beautifully written and richly detailed piece of historical fiction. Marion Crawford’s dedication to her charges, as well as her passion for education and reform, shines through the pages. Through her eyes, the reader is transported back in time and thoroughly immersed in the lives of the British royal family. A delightful read!’

CHANEL CLEETON, *New York Times* bestselling author of  
*When we Left Cuba*



‘Beautifully researched and captivating... Wendy’s Holden’s tender and intimate portrait of ‘Lilibet’, the future Queen Elizabeth II, is masterly.’

RACHEL HORE, author of *Last Letter Home*



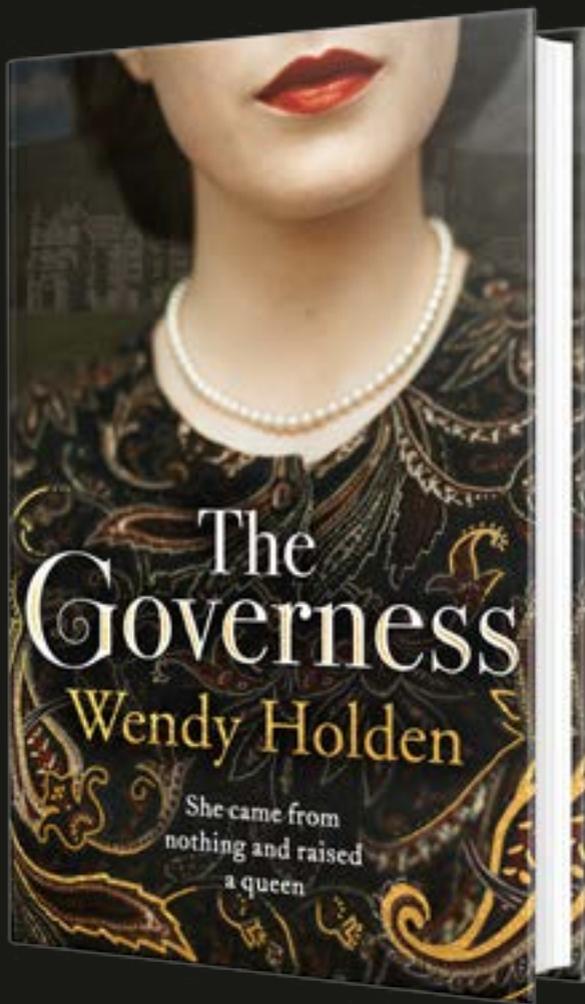
‘This is a wonderful book. Masterfully weaving seismic historical events with one woman’s personal story, *The Governess* is cinematic in its scope, and yet always intimate, a moving, gorgeously written page-turner. We peek behind the Windsor’s swagged silk curtains - the insider details are a total delight - but the story’s beating heart belongs to the devoted royal governess, Crawfie. Holden takes the reader on a glittering, unforgettable journey. I absolutely loved it.’

EVE CHASE, author of *Black Rabbit Hall*, *The Glass House*



‘Sensitive, funny and fascinating - this masterful novel gives the reader fly-on-the-wall privileges into the early life of the Queen.’

FREYA NORTH author of *The Turning Point*



TOP TEN BESTSELLER