

## **FAMOUS LAST WORDS by Gillian McAllister**

**Published by Penguin**

My latest book recommendation is '*Famous Last Words*' by Gillian McAllister. It is fast paced crime mystery about corruption, betrayal and revenge.

### **THE PLOTLINE**

It is Camilla Deschamps's first day back at work after the birth of her baby daughter, Polly. As it is also Polly's first day at nursery, she had hoped her husband Luke, a ghostwriter for celebrities, would be there to help her juggle the two events. However, Luke has disappeared ... except for the cryptic note he has left her on the hall table.

Concerned at receiving no reply to her text messages, Cam effortlessly slides back into her old work routine. Unfortunately, after walking into the reception area, her concerns turn to alarm when she catches a news flash on the wall-mounted TV. A hostage situation is taking place at a warehouse in Bermondsey. Knowing Luke's workspace is in Bermondsey, when two police officers suddenly arrive and ask if she knows Luke Deschamps, she immediately assumes he is one of the hostages. However, her world is instantly shattered when they inform her that Luke is the gunman.

Hostage negotiator, DCI Niall Thompson, is called in to facilitate the release of the hostages.

However, things go drastically wrong when shots are heard from the warehouse. With two of the hostages now dead and the suspect having escaped out the back, a manhunt is instigated to find Luke Descamps.

Seven years later, Luke is still on the run and Camilla is trying to move on. Now suffering from PTSD and determined to redeem his failure to prevent the death of the two hostages, DCI Thompson sets about tracking Luke down himself. However, things are more complicated than he originally thought, and his investigation soon leads him down a dangerous path, threatening not only his career but also his life.

### **MY REVIEW**

'*Famous Last Words*' is a gripping rollercoaster of both suspense and intrigue. Spanning seven years, the story follows Camilla Deschamps's attempt to rebuild her life after discovering her husband is

possibly a murderer, while at the same time refusing to believe he is guilty. Told from the viewpoint of both Camilla Deschamps and DCI Niall Thompson, the story is an intricate web of corruption, murder and bad luck ... a case of simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time. It is also an exercise in determination and refusal to accept defeat.

Right to the very end, it is difficult to know whether Luke is a victim or a murderer. As the tension builds so does the desire to keep reading. The resolution when it comes is both satisfying and well worth the wait. With the weather getting colder, it is a brilliant novel to curl up in front of the fire with and lose yourself in.

## **THE AUTHOR**

Gillian McAllister is the *Sunday Times* and *New York Times* bestselling author of nine standalone novels. Her books have been selected for the Radio 2 Book Club, Reese's Book Club and The Richard & Judy Book Club. Her previous novel, '*Wrong Place Wrong Time*', was a Waterstones Thriller of the Month. It was also shortlisted for The British Book Awards 2023 Crime & Thriller Book of the Year and the Theakston Old Peculiar Crime Novel of the Year. Gillian's books are published in 38 languages.

'*Famous Last Words*' is published by Penguin and is available in eBook, paperback, hardback and audio formats from Amazon, as well as paperback from Waterstones and paperback and hardback from Foyles.