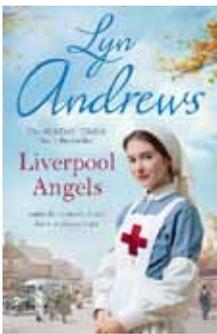


Hello Everyone,

I just can't believe that Christmas is approaching so quickly – where did that year go? I've had a busy year with both family and writing, and Christmas is shaping up to be hectic, as usual. In fact I have to have it twice as my daughter and her family come up the weekend before Christmas and my sons and their families are with us for Christmas itself. The kitchen works overtime! But the extra celebrations add to the excitement and I love to see all my grandchildren and children together. I'm looking forward to 2014 too which will also be busy, with the publication of a new saga and the delivery of my next historical novel.

Liverpool Angels



On 5 December the e-book and a hardback published specially for libraries will be published, then the bookshop hardback will be out in time for Mother's Day.

Liverpool Angels, set in World War I, also coincides with the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Great War.

I think the cover is very eye-catching and evocative of that period, and I'm hoping it will do very well and serve to remind us all of the horror, waste and tragedy of that war. I shed quite a few tears while writing it I admit, so have the tissues ready.

The paperback edition will be published later in the year, in September.

From Liverpool with Love

To date I've written about two thirds of the novel and am hoping to complete it in the New Year. It's set in a different era - 1920s/early 30s.

My main character is Jane Shaw who at the age of ten is forced to go into the Brownlow Hill Workhouse with her mother and brother. It's the story of Jane's life and loves, the ups and downs, and the close association with the Ellis family who were neighbours. It's the story also of her younger brother Alfie who is always in trouble and who in the end very nearly ruins Jane's life – but not quite and I can promise a happy ending for Jane.

The title was suggested by one of my fans, Nicola Morgan, when on my Facebook page I mentioned I was at a bit of a loss for a title, and was delighted to receive some great suggestions from creative readers! Nicola's seemed just perfect, so thank you Nicola and also many thanks to everyone who suggested future titles. I've plenty to choose from now!

The book won't be published until December of 2014 as even after I've submitted it I'm sure my editor will want some work doing to it.

As usual I've learned quite a few things about Liverpool that I didn't previously know. One thing I found interesting was that the Brownlow Hill Workhouse in its heyday was one of the largest in the UK (it closed in 1931). It was the first in the country to employ the Nightingale Nurses in the infirmary, and apparently a Workhouse Christmas wasn't too grim at all. Also that the Philharmonic Hall burned down in 1933 and was replaced by the beautiful Art Deco building we have today. And I discovered that the Canadian Pacific Steamship Company whose ships (the White Empresses) sailed from Liverpool to Canada pioneered

‘Sunshine Cruises’ in 1930, sailing out of New York to the Caribbean when the St Lawrence River froze solid in winter. Picking up these nuggets of information about my home town is one of the reasons I enjoy my research so much!

The Danish Queen

I have also started my second historical novel, about the first Stuart King, James I, and his wife, Anne. I’m starting out with James as a little boy of four in Stirling Castle and the birth of the Princess Anne in Denmark, so I’ve a long way to go with them until they become King James and Queen Anne of Scotland, Ireland, England and Wales in 1601. It was clearly quite a turbulent period and a difficult relationship so plenty of scope for drama.

The manuscript is due to be delivered this time next year, which means it’s a bit early to have a publication date fixed, but I’ll let you know when it’s been finalised.

So, have a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. I’ll be back again with all my news in Spring!

Sincerely,

Lyn.