Praise for The Mysterious Case of the Alperton Angels

'Hallett is the queen of the narrative twist. She takes the conventions of the modern mystery novel and upends them as Christie did' S. J. Bennett, author of *The Windsor Knot*

'It's not enough to say that this book is fascinating, gripping and clever. It's an astonishing piece of work. Janice Hallett is playing a different ball game to the rest of us'

Ian Moore, author of Death and Croissants

'Hooked me in completely . . . It's travelled with me to work, to the dentist's and even up a couple of mountains! A real treasure trove of a read'

J. M. Hall, author of A Spoonful of Murder

'I loved *The Mysterious Case of the Alperton Angels*. It's fresh, whip-smart, dark and intriguing with a brilliant, compelling heroine. Janice Hallett is surely the queen of the brain-twisting, just-one-more-page mystery novel'

Gilly MacMillan, author of The Nanny

'Janice Hallett has done it again. Engrossing from the very first page, it's deviously clever and as charming as it is chilling'

Tom Hindle, author of A Fatal Crossing

'Constantly surprising, witty and fresh. I really enjoyed it!'

Emma Curtis, author of One Little Mistake

'Fantastic. Keeps the "found footage" narrative structure that Hallett does so well and injects some real darkness into it' Tariq Ashkanani, author of *Welcome to Cooper*

'Compulsive, dark, twisty and unputdownable. A work of true genius, masterfully plotted, funny and unique'

Sarah J. Harris, author of The Colour of Bee Larkham's Murder

'Hallett continues to evolve the modern detective novel. Absolutely gripping'

Greg Buchanan, author of Sixteen Horses

'Hallett has done it again! Brilliant, clever, and will have you hooked and guessing throughout'

Charlotte Levin, author of If I Can't Have You

'Sinister and utterly compelling'

Andrew Wilson, author of A Talent for Murder

'Smart, witty and menacing – everything you want from a mystery.

Utterly brilliant!'

Marion Todd, author of Old Bones Lie

'Extremely clever, compelling and very chilling'

Jane Shemilt, author of *The Patient*

'A unique and completely immersive novel about manipulation, and seeking the truth at all costs. An absolute triumph in storytelling'

L. V. Matthews, author of The Twins

'It knocked me sideways. Just as brilliant as you would expect from Janice Hallett. Twisty as a labyrinth and so gripping I cancelled plans to finish it'

Sophie Irwin, author of A Lady's Guide to Fortune-Hunting

'Janice Hallett is a murder mystery mastermind. A new Agatha Christie for the modern age. This book is sure to grow her already considerable cult following'

A. J. West, author of The Spirit Engineer

'I absolutely loved it. A brilliantly crafted proper mystery, I couldn't put it down'

Lisa Hall, author of *The Party*

'Is anyone telling stories quite like Janice Hallett? It feels interactive, with readers invited to solve the mystery alongside the brilliantly tenacious protagonist. Intricate, funny and a total page-turner'

Amanda Block, author of *The Lost Storyteller*

'Hallett is a wording wizard. Her storytelling ability is enviable. Characters whom I loved very quickly and intrigue are the beating heart of this book'

J. M. Hewitt, author of The Other Son

'Agatha Christie has found her heir. A genius premise. A perfect puzzle.

Crime fiction fans will not want to miss this one!'

Victoria Selman, author of *Truly*, *Darkly*, *Deeply*

'What a switchback ride it is! The big twist made me drop my book but there are *so many* smaller shocks along the way. I enjoyed it hugely!' **Hope Adams, author of** *Dangerous Women*

'Janice Hallett dials her brilliance up yet another notch, exploiting the compulsive readability and inherent slipperiness of her chosen form to dazzling effect'

Leonora Nattrass, author of Black Drop

'I absolutely loved it. It is the funniest, cleverest and most innovative novel I've read for years'

Sarah Stovell, author of The Home

'Very clever, twisty, shocking, and yet another reinvention of the crime novel by Janice Hallett. Brilliant, unique and compelling!' **Guy Morpuss, author of** *Five Minds*

'Wickedly clever and immersive. I just can't get enough of Janice Hallett's writing'

Sophie Flynn, author of Keep Them Close

'I genuinely don't know how Janice Hallett does it. The detail, the plot twists, the humour, even in dark places. She creates a brilliant puzzle for the reader to solve. I loved it'

Victoria Scott, author of Patience

'A masterclass. It's exactly what you've come to expect: compelling written and utterly addictive. It's funny, dark, and the puzzle comes together brilliantly at the end'

Chris McDonald, author of A Wash of Black

'Brilliantly clever, ingenious in structure and thoroughly compelling.

Full of wonderful characters and extremely funny!'

Sarah Bonner, author of *Her Perfect Twin*

'I slowed down because I didn't want it to end. Heavenly and creepy combined with twisted genius. Outstanding' **Joy Kluver, author of** *Broken Girls*

'What an absolute treat. Twisty and dark, packed full of angels and demons and monsters, with a thrilling mystery that keeps you guessing till the end'

Lynsey James, author of The Single Dad's Handbook

'It's so good. Gripping but my favourite thing is the humour – actual laugh out loud moments despite the shocking tale. Genius'

Heather Darwent, author of *The Things We Do to Our Friends*

'Another absolutely brilliant mystery by one of my favourite crime writers. Take the role of investigator and let yourself be immersed in this fantastic novel. Five stars!'

Louise Mullins, author of One Night Only

The Mysterious Case of the ALPERTON ANGELS

Also from Janice Hallett and Viper

The Appeal
The Twyford Code
The Examiner (2024)



Janice Hallett



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For Jill, Michelle and Lyra

YOU HAVE A KEY THAT OPENS A SAFE DEPOSIT BOX.

INSIDE IS A BUNDLE OF DOCUMENTS, ARCHIVED RESEARCH MATERIAL FOR A BOOK THAT HAS JUST BEEN PUBLISHED.

YOU MUST READ IT ALL AND MAKE A DECISION.

EITHER:

REPLACE THE DOCUMENTS AND THE BOX, THEN THROW THE KEY WHERE IT WILL NEVER BE FOUND...

OR:

TAKE EVERYTHING TO THE POLICE.

Correspondence, Background Reading and General Prep

WhatsApp messages between me and my agent Nita Cawley, 26 May 2021:

Amanda Bailey

The murder cases I've covered so far are all the same. Dead blonde, media frenzy, police fumblings, lucky psychopath.

Nita Cawley

It's our bread and butter.

Amanda Bailey

Already chewed over and spat out by every newspaper and crime reporter in the land. Same old, same mould.

Nita Cawley

I hear you. What do you have in mind?

Amanda Bailey

Something else. Different. New. Oh, I don't know ... a novel?

Nita Cawley

Shit! Didn't realise things were *that* bad 😂 Look, on my way to lunch with Pippa at Kronos. If certain rumours are true, I might have something interesting for you later today.

Email from my agent Nita Cawley, 26 May 2021:

TO: Amanda Bailey DATE: 26 May 2021 SUBJECT: Your next book FROM: Nita Cawley

OK. Why novels? Flowery language describing every wrinkle in the carpet ... What you do is miles better. You're a master of real life, Amanda. You connect with the common reader. People want mainstream, accessible books that explore violent crime in a safe space, and that's what you give them. Which leads me smoothly to Pippa at Kronos.

She's planning a new series of true crime books called Eclipse. Each will put a fresh, dark spin on a well-known crime (like when the moon passes across the sun during an eclipse). Could be a new angle, a new theory, a new link to popular culture; anything that breathes life into an old story.

Nothing too fancy. She wants a holiday page-turner for connoisseurs of the genre. Core reader is likely familiar with the cases already, and happy to revisit 'old friends' if they think something new will get them intrigued all over again.

She rattled off a few classics. Basically, cases you think have no mystery left and nothing to uncover. The usual suspects: Jack the Ripper (yes, really), Fred and Rose West, Harold Shipman, Moors Murders ... So nothing to get us excited until she mentioned the Alperton Angels.

Remember it? Early noughties. A chilling story ripe with possibility. Inspired so many tacky horror things it's stayed in the public eye – so still has legs. But that's not why she mentioned it.

A *lot* couldn't be reported at the time (several of the bods were underage) and that brings me to why they've flagged it: the baby is due to turn eighteen this year. She said they want to look at the case from the grown-up kid's POV. Never been done before. Now, Amanda, this is exactly what you're looking for. A story you can *own*, am I right?

Also, *you* are exactly what Pippa is looking for. She has no budget for a private investigator to find the baby. She needs your lovely contacts in social services, and your endless creativity when convincing reluctant bods to talk. If you can find the baby, I can negotiate something else, listen to this ...

Pippa's gf has a TV production company and went to school with Naga Munchetty. Once you've found the baby, she wants to nail them to an exclusive deal, so they talk only to *you* – and eventually Naga – with TV timed for when the title is on the shelf. I've already suggested they interview you prominently in that documentary. Not that I've confirmed you'll do it, of course.

Don't want to hurry you on the decision, but like she said we're not the only ones with the baby's birthday in our diaries, so the sooner we can start to mine those connections the better ...

There are no tragic blondes. Just a wacky cult, four dead, mutilated men and a mystery no one's had the chance to uncover properly yet. You'll be the first. Imagine that. N x

WhatsApp messages from me to Keiron, 9 June 2021:

Amanda Bailey

Sorry to do this by WhatsApp, but you're away and I've got a new job about to start so here goes ... You're the best, most thoughtful guy I've ever known, yet still I'm happier single Looks like I'm not cut out for this, or any, relationship. You've taught me that, so thanks.

Amanda Bailey

And sorry 😘

Email from my editor Pippa Deacon, 10 June 2021:

TO: Amanda Bailey DATE: 10 June 2021 SUBJECT: Welcome! FROM: Pippa Deacon

Dear Amanda.

First of all, may I say how delighted we are that you're on board for the Eclipse series. It's an important launch for us with so many exciting people involved. Craig Turner, who I think you know, is presenting Dennis Nilsen's killing spree as a harbinger of the AIDS crisis during the 1980s. He's spoken to all the gay celebrities and has brought the whole case into the twenty-first century. Lovely Minnie Davis has identified the most shocking coincidences in the lives of Myra Hindley and Rose West – she's pulled it out of the bag with this one. Even taken photographs that show visual similarities in their childhood homes and schools, really chilling stuff! The Alperton Angels is such a dark, emotive tale, and with the youngest child about to turn eighteen, the case is totally ready for a reboot.

I hear you have an 'in' with social services in the area and can trace where the baby was sent. You'll understand we have a teeny tiny budget that doesn't stretch to private detectives, so any short cuts you can make ... We know how doggedly determined you are when there's a story to be had and trust you implicitly to seize the heart of this case, rip it out and throw it at the page.

You only have to google to see how much is in the public domain already so it won't take you long to get up to speed. Call as soon as you locate the baby. I'll get wheels turning with the TV people. Thanks, Amanda; I look forward to working with you. Pippa

INTERVIEW WISH LIST

The Angels

The Baby Holly* Jonah*

Gabriel Angelis, currently residing at Tynefield Prison
*not their real names

Contacts (amended over the weeks)

Police and legal

Don Makepeace, retired detective chief superintendent
Jonathan Childs, police officer who found Singh's body
Grace Childs, his wife
Aileen Forsyth, police officer
Mike Dean, police officer
Neil Rose, police officer
Fareed Khan, police officer
Nikki Sayle, retired police sergeant
Farrah Parekh, police sergeant

Health and social care

Sonia Brown, senior social worker
Julian Nowak, social worker
Ruth Charalambos, former social worker
Sabrina Emanuel, retired social worker
Maggie Keenan, former duty manager at Willesden Children's Centre
Penny Latke, A&E nurse
Caroline Brooks, criminal psychologist
Jideofor Sani, retired paramedic

Media, etc.

Phil Priest, TV producer Debbie Condon, TV producer Louisa Sinclair, former reporter for Wembley Informer (now editor of WembleyOnline)

Corin Dallah, former press officer at the Ministry of Justice Gray Graham, retired reporter

Clive Badham, writer of unproduced screenplay Divine Jess Adesina, author of the My Angel Diary series

Mark Dunning, author of White Wings

Judy Teller-Dunning, writer, wife of Mark Dunning

Duncan Seyfried, Neville, Reed & Partners, Mark Dunning's agent

Amateur contributors

David Polneath, amateur detective

Cathy-June Lloyd, chair of the Cold & Unsolved Murder Club

Rob Jolley, member of the above

Dave 'Itchy' Kilmore, host of the *Fresh Ghost* podcast

Galen Fletcher, school counsellor whose brother knew

Harpinder Singh

Miscellaneous

Reverend Edmund Barden-Hythe, parish rector, St Barnabas Church,
Sudbury

Jayden Hoyle, London Fire Service, public relations Ross Tate, former prison associate of Gabriel Angelis Miscellaneous items printed from online news sites or torn from newspapers and held together with a paperclip. All date from a three-week period in December 2003:

THE STARS ALIGN

Tonight, five planets in our solar system align in a rare astral occurrence that should be visible from dawn tomorrow, 10 December. Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn align in the sky every 20 years, but on this occasion, they will be at their closest distance apart since 16 July 1623, a phenomenon known as a Great Conjunction.

BREAKING NEWS

Police have cordoned off a derelict warehouse in Alperton, northwest London, amid unconfirmed reports multiple bodies have been discovered inside.

BREAKING NEWS

A police source suggests the incident in Alperton is a 'mass suicide'. Four bodies remain at the scene.

BODY LINKED TO 'BLOODBATH'

Police believe a body discovered in an empty flat on Tuesday (9 December) may be linked to the three men who died in an apparent suicide pact at a nearby warehouse the following day. Police were called to a flat in Middlesex House on Ealing Road, Alperton, when residents reported suspicious noises. Police constable Jonathan Childs, who was first on the scene, described the body as male and 'in a state of decomposition'. He urged members of the public to come forward with any information.

'ANGELS' LINK TO LOCAL CHURCH

Members of the so-called 'Alperton Angels' cult were familiar figures at St Barnabas Church in Sudbury. Three men and two teenagers, who believed they were angels in human

form, occasionally attended Sunday service, raising questions over whether the church failed to exercise safeguarding responsibilities.

BODY IN FLAT NAMED

Police have named the man found dead in Middlesex House last week as Harpinder Singh, 22, a waiter at the Punjab Junction restaurant in Southall. He was temporarily housed at Middlesex House but was not found in the flat he had been allocated, police say. They have linked his death to the Alperton Angels but cannot be more specific for fear of jeopardising that ongoing case. They urge anyone with information to contact Crimestoppers.

1. Formal email template, sent out from 10 June 2021 onwards:

Dear X.

Let me introduce myself. I am Amanda Bailey, the best-selling true crime author of *The Doorstep*, *Common Ground* and *Kipper Tied*. I am currently working on a book about the Alperton Angels for Kronos Books. I understand you were XX at the time. In order to avoid misrepresenting your organisation/role/department, I would like to set up an interview either in person or over the phone, at your earliest convenience.

I have a long track record in crime reporting and human-interest journalism. I understand the case is still sensitive, even after eighteen years, so if you are happier chatting off the record, that's fine too. Your participation in this project will help ensure such a shocking failure of safeguarding measures never happens again.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

2. Informal email template sent out from 10 June 2021 onwards:

Hi there!

How are you? It's been so long since X. How is/was baby/wedding/retirement/new job, etc.? Honestly, time flies.

Do you remember the case of the Alperton Angels? I'm writing something about it. It was soooo long ago and I must get up to speed really fast. Do you have records going back to 2003? Can I use you for ambient info about that time period in social services/police/media? I'll be eternally grateful!

Happy to meet for twilight drinks or daylight coffee. Best,

WhatsApp messages between true crime author Minnie Davis and me, 11 June 2021:

Minnie Davis

Hello, gorgeous girl! Haven't seen or heard from you for AGES. Then Pippa said you're working on something for her. Snap! How are you?

Amanda Bailey

The Alperton Angels. So much redacted at the time due to underage victims and no one has come forward to tell their stories since. Not the teenagers (now in their 30s) and not the baby (nearly 18). It's still a mystery. What's your memory of the case?

Minnie Davis

I mean how are YOU, not work. Angels and devils, wasn't it?

Amanda Bailey

They were a small cult of men, who all died, plus a teenage couple and their baby, who survived. A grisly mass suicide – with no true crime coverage. Found a few novels

Minnie Davis

There were at least two TV dramas.

Amanda Bailey

Must be strange for the real people.

Minnie Davis

Does the baby know they were the baby in the Alperton Angels case?

Amanda Bailey

Soon will.

Minnie Davis

They could've watched and read stuff oblivious it's about them.

Amanda Bailey

You've given me an idea. The bods who fictionalised the case early on might be useful. Mark Dunning wrote a novel called White Wings. He thanks 'everyone involved in the Alperton Angels case' who 'helped' him – the book came out eighteen months later. He must've been chasing the hearse.

Amanda Bailey

Hearses.

Minnie Davis

I've struck gold with my commission. Most people connected to the Moors Murders are dead and relatives of the Wests stopped speaking to media years ago. No interviews, thank God.

Amanda Bailey

Lucky you 😂

Minnie Davis

And that's not the best thing. Met a girl who wrote a feminist thesis on female murderers. Sent me her piece on Rose and Myra – drop dead brilliant – photographs that will chill the flesh from your bones, Mand. She said use whatever you want, just credit me in the acknowledgements. I've based the entire premise on it.

Amanda Bailey

She's OK with that?

Minnie Davis

Absolutely. She's really into women helping women.

Amanda Bailey

I dunno. Wary of using amateurs.

Minnie Davis

Me too. Till I met this girl.

Amanda Bailev

They get clingy, demanding, resentful, then vengeful 😱



Minnie Davis

BUT they throw themselves into it and work their butts off for a mention in a book about their favourite murder. Also, they get through to people naturally suspicious of journalists. This girl is smart and so easy-going. Anyway, you, me and Craig should get together for drinks.

Amanda Bailey

So much to do on this. Been reading all night, sending the first phase of emails. Now have to send targeted messages, arrange interviews, reach out to the fiction people. Argh! Need, need, need to find the baby!

Waterstones order, 11 June 2021, books for research (receipt filed for self-assessment):

Cultish by Amanda Montell [pre-order as released 22 July] My Angel Diary, Books 1-4 by Jess Adesina Cults That Kill by Wendy Joan Biddlecombe Agsar *Cults Uncovered* Emily G. Thompson White Wings by Mark Dunning Terror, Love and Brainwashing by Alexandra Stein

Email to social worker Sonia Brown, 11 June 2021:

TO: Sonia Brown **DATE: 11 June 2021** SUBJECT: Favour FROM: Amanda Bailey

Hey Sonia,

I'm writing about the Alperton Angels case. Need to contact the teenagers

Holly and Jonah, but in particular the baby they rescued. Where did it go? And where is it now? If it was born in 2003 then it's eighteen this year so you should be able to find out where its last care placement was, especially if it was adopted.

I'm reading news reports from the time and they give nothing away about the young people. Names, images, birthplaces – all obscured 'for legal reasons'. If Holly was capable of looking after her baby, I assume they would have been supported in a unit? Or it could have been placed separately. Either way, I'm looking to trace the baby first and foremost, then the teenagers.

Amanda

Text messages between Sonia Brown and me, 11 June 2021:

Sonia Brown

They've shut down access to archives.

Amanda Bailey

There must be weak spots in the system.

Sonia Brown

We have to apply for permission, wait for approval, then write a report on how what we found is relevant to an active case. I can't link it to my current workload. Sorry but it's just not possible this time.

Amanda Bailey

Is there another way I can get that information? Any people who might remember, or have access to records? Any external agencies? Anything?

Text messages between me and retired social worker Sabrina Emanuel, 11 June 2021:

Amanda Bailey

Hi Sabrina 😘 miss you!

Sabrina Emanuel

Hello darling how you?

Amanda Bailey

Quick question. Were you around for the Alperton Angels case? Remember it?

Sabrina Emanuel

Oh yes. Yes I remember.

Amanda Bailey

It's been so long since we spoke. Let's arrange a catch-up asap! When are you around?

Sabrina Emanuel

October.

Amanda Bailey

I was thinking next week.

Sabrina Emanuel

(a) I've just landed at Faro. The Algarve, baby! I'll call when I'm settled in the villa.

Reply to my initial email from Louisa Sinclair, a local journalist I started out with at the Wembley Informer years ago. Currently editor of Wembley Online:

TO: Amanda Bailey
DATE: 12 June 2021

SUBJECT: Re: The Alperton Angels

FROM: Louisa Sinclair

Hi Mandy,

I remember this case well. Just googled and a couple of our headlines popped up. Those were different times, we'd never get away with that now. We certainly milked the more salacious aspects for all they were worth. Well, if I recall, there weren't that many facts we could report, so what do they expect?

In the cold light of day it was a shitshow of safeguarding failures. If you want a 'lessons learned' approach, then we should've seen through the smokescreen and asked questions of the system. Don't quote me on that.

Give me a while, I'll dig out my old files. Might have something that helps. Yeah, we'll meet up soon.

Best,

Louisa Sinclair

Editor, WembleyOnline

Email from the Reverend Edmund Barden-Hythe, Rector of St Barnabas Church, Sudbury, 12 June 2021:

TO: Amanda Bailey DATE: 12 June 2021

SUBJECT: Re: The Alperton Angels FROM: Edmund Barden-Hythe

Dear Ms Bailey,

Thank you for your email. I've been vicar of St Barnabas in Sudbury for twenty-two years, so yes I was here when the Alperton Angels were in the news. The teenagers mentioned us in their statements, there was a flurry of media interest and as a result we are eternally associated with the case.

I can meet if you think I'll be of help. Tuesdays and Wednesdays are my best days.

Yours sincerely,

Revd Edmund Barden-Hythe

WhatsApp messages between my editor Pippa Deacon and me, 12 June 2021:

Pippa Deacon

Hi Mand 😘 Quick question: have you found the baby yet?

Amanda Bailey

Hi Pips. It's only been two days.

Pippa Deacon

Are you close?

Amanda Bailey

I've put feelers out with my two main contacts in social services, so 🎳

Pippa Deacon

How long will it take? Rough estimate?

Amanda Bailey

The case is 18 years old, so 🖴



Pippa Deacon

It's just the OH is giving me grief about timings. You know TV people. Very competitive. Please try everything. The faster we bag that baby, the better.

Amanda Bailey

Well, there are a few writers who covered the story pretty much as it happened. They may remember names etc.

Pippa Deacon

Good idea! Keep me updated.

Twitter messages between me and YA author Jess Adesina, 12 June 2021:

Amanda Bailey

Hey Jess, hope you don't mind me DMing you on Twitter. I've read My Angel Diary and OMG what a FABULOUS book. It absolutely deserves every award it won. I understand the story is inspired by the Alperton Angels. I'm researching a true crime book on the case and plan to write a foreword looking at the fictional works that draw from elements of it. Of course. yours will be mentioned very positively therein. Can I ask, did you speak to anyone involved in the case while you were writing it?

Jess Adesina

No.

Amanda Bailey

Only you gave an interview to Grazia back in 2011 and in it you strongly imply you spoke to a key participant. Presumably it was Holly? She's obviously who you base the character of Tilly on.

Jess Adesina

[THIS ACCOUNT BLOCKED YOU]

Email exchange between me and Neville, Reed & Partners, US agents of the author Mark Dunning, 12 June 2021:

TO: info@nevillereed.com DATE: 12 June 2021 SUBJECT: Mark Dunning FROM: Amanda Bailey

Dear Neville, Reed & Partners,

I understand you represent the author Mark Dunning who wrote the novel *White Wings* and wonder if you'd be so kind as to pass this message on to him.

Dear Mark Dunning,

I've just read *White Wings* and was gripped from start to finish. What a compelling story and one I understand is inspired by events that happened here in the UK – now known as the Alperton Angels. I'm at the preparation stage of a true crime book about the case and wonder if we could chat over Zoom or FaceTime? I'm interested in hearing about your research – you touch upon it in the acknowledgements. Considering when the book was published you must have spoken to key players within weeks of the events known as 'The Assembly'. You'll understand that so long has passed since then, it's much harder to find reliable sources now. I would love to hear about conversations you had at the time with anyone who could boast first-hand contact with the people involved.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. Amanda Bailey TO: Amanda Bailey
DATE: 13 June 2021
SUBJECT: Re: Mark Dunning
FROM: Duncan Seyfried

Dear Ms Bailey,

I'm sorry, but our author Mark Dunning died last night. We are reeling right now and can't provide any more details.

Duncan Seyfried Neville, Reed & Partners

TO: Duncan Seyfried
DATE: 13 June 2021
SUBJECT: Re: Mark Dunning
FROM: Amanda Bailey

Dear Duncan,

I've just heard the news. It seems he had the accident at almost exactly the same time I sent my email. How tragic. You have my deepest condolences.

I notice from the obits he was married to Judy Teller. Out of interest, I wonder if, once the initial shock is over, you could pass my message on to her? She's also a writer and I'm sure will understand.

Best, Amanda

Emails from me to two producers who each worked on separate TV series inspired by the Alperton Angels, ten years ago, 13 June 2021:

TO: Phil Priest
DATE: 13 June 2021
SUBJECT: The Assembly
FROM: Amanda Bailey

Hi Phil, hope you can help me. I'm writing a book about the Alperton Angels and have just binge-watched *Assembly*, your brilliant 2011 TV series inspired by the case. I remember there were two series based on the same incidents, screened just a few weeks apart, but in my opinion, yours was by far the superior of the two. A coven of evil, twisted men were responsible for what happened, so it's a no-brainer to focus on that side of the story.

Can I ask if you, or anyone else involved in the production, spoke to the victims as part of your research?

Best,

Amanda Bailey

TO: Debbie Condon DATE: 13 June 2021 SUBJECT: Dereliction FROM: Amanda Bailey

Hi Debbie, I hope you can help me. I'm writing a book about the Alperton Angels and have just binge-watched *Dereliction*, your brilliant 2011 TV series inspired by the case. I remember there were two series based on the same incidents, screened just a few weeks apart, but in my opinion, yours was by far the superior of the two. The under-funding of social services by an uncaring government and the failings of key professionals were responsible for what happened, so it's a no-brainer to focus on that side of the story.

Can I ask if you, or anyone else involved in the production, spoke to the victims as part of your research?

Best,

Amanda Bailey

Email exchange between me and Clive Badham, aspiring screenwriter, 13 June 2021:

TO: Clive Badham

DATE: 13 June 2021

SUBJECT: The Alperton Angels

FROM: Amanda Bailey

Dear Clive,

I'm an author researching my next book and wonder if you could help. I see online you won an award in 2005 for a film based on the Alperton Angels. I'd like to watch it as part of my broader research into the enduring legacy of this case, only I can't find it anywhere. Is it available on a particular streaming platform or DVD? Also, did you speak to anyone connected to the case as part of your research?

Cheers,

Amanda Bailey

TO: Amanda Bailey DATE: 13 June 2021

SUBJECT: Re: The Alperton Angels

FROM: Clive Badham

Hi Amanda,

Your name was really familiar, then I realised: I've read *Common Ground*, your book on Rachel Nickell. And now you're writing to me! I really want to help with your research.

Yep, my supernatural action-adventure script, *Divine*, was inspired by the Alperton Angels. It won Best Unproduced Screenplay in the London Film Academy Awards 2005. Didn't speak to anyone as I'd read everything at the time. Also, the occult is my hobby, so I had a bedrock of knowledge to draw from. In any case, I wasn't so interested in what *actually* happened as much as the idea that demons walk the earth in human form. That's pretty cool, right? That's what inspired me.

You can't watch *Divine* anywhere – yet. Funding wasn't available so it was never actually made. But I sent the script to every producer whose email I could get my hands on and *loads* said how great it is. One got back to me just last month to say she's on a big project for the next two years, but once that's in the can she'll read it! Fingers crossed. Perhaps your book will renew interest in the case.

Are you looking for a screenwriter to adapt your books? I'm only working part-time in a call centre and teaching a writers' class at community college. I can easily fit in a script around that. I don't have an agent, so let me know direct if you're interested.

Clive Badham

Text messages between me and Clive Badham, 13 June 2021:

Amanda Bailey

Thanks, Clive, could I read your DIVINE script anyway? It fascinates me how much fictional material this case inspired. Even though your film was never made, it's still an example of contemporary fiction based on it. I can name-check you if I mention it in the book ©

Clive Badham

Tricky. See, I'm not comfortable with that. As a writer yourself, you'll understand. Literally anyone could change the name on the title page and claim it as theirs. But if you want a script written, let me know.

An email sent to the contact page of my website, amandabailey.co.uk, 13 June 2021:

TO: Amanda Bailey DATE: 13 June 2021 SUBJECT: A small favour FROM: Cathy-June Lloyd

Dear Amanda Bailey,

I am chair of a small murder club here in Guildford called Cold & Unsolved. It's a monthly meet-up where we discuss cold cases and unsolved killings – just for fun, but I'm sure we hit on some interesting theories at least once in a while!

We've been investigating the case of Jill Dando and a few of us read your book *The Doorstep*. It's a real page-turner and we all feel it gets the reader right to the core of that case. I wonder, do you know if the police ever fully discounted all the neighbours? They were on the scene very quickly and the fact any one of them could keep watch over the street, fire the gun and nip back into their house made them our key suspects. We even have their motive: they wanted to buy her house at an 'atrocity discount'. This theory would explain why there are no reliable sightings of the killer running away. A couple of us wondered if, by calling your book *The Doorstep*, you were subtly hinting at a theory you couldn't expound for legal reasons.

Do you ever give talks at small clubs like ours? We're an enthusiastic bunch of amateur sleuths and we'd be delighted and honoured to welcome you. We don't have a huge budget, but if you could make it here, I will personally ensure you walk away with £40 in Amazon vouchers and a bunch of flowers.

Even if you are too busy to come and see us, we can't wait for your next book!

Cathy-June Lloyd