



Down & Dirty with Mimi Matthews, author of 'The Matrimonial Advertisement'

SHARE THIS

15
SHARESBy: **Joyce Lamb** | September 4, 2018 12:01 am

Mimi Matthews, whose historical romance *The Matrimonial Advertisement* (Parish Orphans of Devon #1) is new today, joins us to answer some rapid-fire questions.

First, please tell us about your new release.

Mimi: *The Matrimonial Advertisement* is a Victorian Gothic romance set primarily on the North Devon Coast of England, circa 1859. Based on two real-life events from the late 1850s, it's the story of a battle-scarred ex-army captain who places an advertisement for a wife in the London papers. The mysterious lady who answers isn't quite what he was expecting.

This is the first book in my new Parish Orphans of Devon series, about four very different men who grew up together in a Dickensian orphanage. They share a history of secrets, violence and vengeance and now must each come to terms with their place in the world – with a little help from their lady loves, of course.

Let's get Down & Dirty ...

Guilty pleasure? Expensive beauty products. I love lotions, potions and pretty packaging.

First car? A used Volvo 240. It was built like a tank.

Favorite class in school? English. Specifically, a fiction class I took in college. The professor promised to make us all narratologists.

Dog or cat? Both and in multiples of two (or more!).

Favorite thing a reader has said/done? A reader told me she read my non-fiction animal history stories (from my book *The Pug Who Bit Napoleon*) aloud to her son. I was really touched.

Biggest fear? Running out of time.

If you could have a superpower, what would it be? Probably healing people and animals. I'm not sure if that's technically a superpower, but I could really use it lately.

Least favorite food? Meat of any kind.

Favorite ice cream? Bubble gum. The blue kind. It's really hard to find anymore.

What's in your coffee/tea? I don't drink coffee, but my iced tea is plain, no sugar, and my hot tea has a dash of non-fat milk.

Favorite cookie? Carrs Ginger Lemon Cremes.

Favorite dessert? Anything with marzipan.

Go-to cocktail? Either an Amaretto Sour or a Lemon-Drop Martini.

Best dish you make? Homemade strawberry shortcake, completely from scratch. It could probably win a baking competition, I kid you not.

Biggest pet peeve? Unkindness in any form.

Worst habit? I ask a lot of questions. And each answer I'm given leads to 10 more questions. Contact with me has been known to sap a person's will to live.

Nickname as a kid? The Mim-inator. It's still my nickname.

First author hero? In romance, it was Jayne Ann Krentz. Her Amanda Quick romances probably had the single biggest influence on my penchant for writing strong, intelligent heroines.

Favorite romance trope(s)? I love second-chance romances, marriages of convenience and slow-burn friends-to-lovers stories.

Last book you read? *Sweet Briar Rose*, a gorgeous little mail-order-bride novel by Lena Goldfinch.

Last audiobook you listened to? My own book, *The Viscount and the Vicar's Daughter*. I listened to it when it was first released from Tantor. Very surreal!

Favorite '80s song or artist? *Panic* by The Smiths. Or anything by The Smiths, really.

Last Google search? “What time is it in England?”

Last thing you bought online? Cat and dog Greenies.

What did you want to be when you grew up? Originally a veterinarian, then a lawyer. Then an animal lawyer.

Hidden talent? I trained as a belly dancer from the age of 18-25. I even had a costume custom-made to my measurements in Cairo. It weighs a ton!

Last TV show you binge-watched? The second season of *The Handmaid's Tale*. I still haven't recovered.

Favorite TV show(s) when you were a kid? I used to watch the *Super Friends* cartoon religiously. I wanted to be Wonder Woman soooo bad.

What movie made you cry the most? The 1994 version of *Black Beauty*.

What's the handiest thing in your purse/bag (other than your phone)? A miniature hair brush. I'm a compulsive hair brusher. I'm constantly re-fluffing.

I'm addicted to ... sweets.

I'm really good at ... putting off unpleasant tasks.

I fear I'd act like a total idiot if I ever met ... Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

For the heroes in my books, I often picture ... some hunky variation of Richard Armitage, Clive Owen, Aidan Turner or Daniel Day-Lewis.

About *The Matrimonial Advertisement*:

She Wanted Sanctuary...

Helena Reynolds will do anything to escape her life in London, even if that means traveling to a remote cliffside estate on the North Devon coast and marrying a complete stranger. But Greyfriar's Abbey isn't the sort of refuge she imagined. And ex-army captain Justin Thornhill—though he may be tall, dark, and devastatingly handsome—is anything but a romantic hero.

He Needed Redemption...

Justin has spent the last two decades making his fortune, settling scores, and suffering a prolonged period of torture in an Indian prison. Now, he needs someone to smooth the way for him with the villagers. Someone to manage his household—and warm his bed on occasion. What he needs, in short, is a wife and a matrimonial advertisement seems the perfect way to acquire one.

Their marriage was meant to be a business arrangement and nothing more. A dispassionate union free from the entanglements of love and affection. But when Helena's past threatens, will Justin's burgeoning feelings for his new bride compel him to come to her rescue? Or will dark secrets of his own force him to let her go?

About Mimi

Mimi Matthews (*A Victorian Lady's Guide to Fashion and Beauty*, *The Lost Letter*) writes both historical non-fiction and traditional historical romances set in Victorian England. Her articles on 19th century history have been published on various academic and history sites, including the Victorian Web and the Journal of Victorian Culture, and are also syndicated weekly at Bust Magazine. In her other life, Mimi is an attorney. She resides in California with her family, which includes an Andalusian dressage horse, two Shelties and two Siamese cats.



Mimi Matthews

Find out more at www.mimimatthews.com.

◆ Gothic romance, historical romance, Mimi Matthews, Author interviews, Down & Dirty

SHARE THIS

15
SHARES



RELATED

➔ **242 shares** | 3w ago