

THE KATIE FLYNN

ISSUE 5

N E W S L E T T E R

Hi Everyone,

Well, my latest book, *A Long and Lonely Road*, is about to be published and it has turned out to be one of my favourites. It deals, amongst other things, with evacuees – and I was one – though since I was only three when war broke out, my mother came with my little brother and me.

Those of you who are *My Weekly* readers might be interested to know that I've got a short story – *Flowers for the Queen* – coming out in that magazine on 27th November. It is set in July 1934, when King George V came to Liverpool to open the Mersey tunnel, and I talked to a great many people who still remember that momentous occasion, and were very willing to tell me about it. I just hope the story does it justice!

On the home front, we have had four additions to the family. My son in Australia is now a Dad (Amelie Joy, weighing in four weeks premature at 8 lbs 4 oz) and my eldest daughter, Vicky, has acquired a skinny, highly intelligent border collie pup, Tilly, and two enormous Percheron horses, Gemma and Magnum. The horses (thank goodness) inhabit a glorious meadow up in the Welsh mountains (not much room in a semi for such giant beasts). We go and admire them but only over the gate; Vicky and Chris – her husband – look after them. We take care of Tilly from time to time, who is too young (and evil) to be left alone, but horses are a different kettle of fish.

A week ago, I finished my June 2005 offering, *The Cuckoo Child*, and tomorrow, I shall start on the next ... it's all go, I promise you!

Though it's a bit early, have a good Christmas everyone and a happy and healthy New Year.

Katie Flynn



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Here's an extract of Katie's new book, *A Long and Lonely Road*, which will be published by Arrow on 18th November:

Daisy lay curled up, with her old rag doll clasped firmly against her chest, and listened to Mam and Petal talking. She did not wish to admit that she was awake because she knew it should have been she who accompanied her mother downstairs; she who understood very well how dangerous it could be for Mam to venture anywhere near Dad when he was drunk.

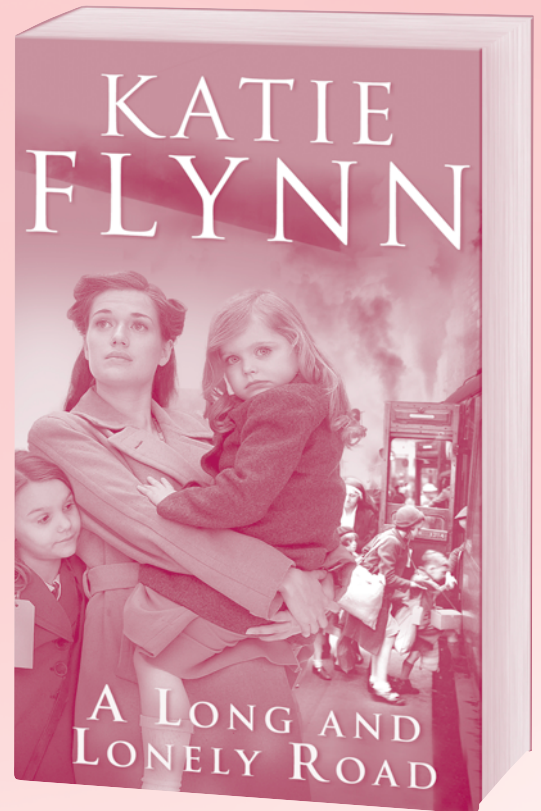
The trouble was, she had been so upset at the loss of her brand new doll that she had sobbed herself into quite a state and it had simply not occurred to her that she should go and wake her mother when her father had fallen down the stairs. Indeed she had felt downright relieved at the crash because it meant that he was unlikely to come up and start trouble when he reached his bedroom.

But Petal had not hesitated. Daisy had heard her get up and trot through to Mam's room, had even heard the slight creaks as they descended the stairs. She had sat up in bed, thinking guiltily that she should really go down and lend her support, but before she had even poked a toe out from beneath her blankets she had heard her sister and mother returning. Quick as a flash, she had cuddled down again and was glad she had done so. She gathered that her father had been asleep and had given them no trouble, and when Petal had explained about their loss of the dolls she had been delighted to hear Mam say that she would get them back as soon as Dad had left for sea once more. Until Petal had talked of Uncle, it had not occurred to her that the dolls might have been pawned. She had imagined that Dad would have taken them to the pub and sold them to someone there, but if they'd really been pawned, and Mam seemed to think it likely, then they could be redeemed as Mam suggested.

Now, Daisy turned over and put her warm arms round her sister's solid little back. Petal was so brave, but then she had never known what it was like to be in Dad's bad books, to be growled and cursed at, and, if Mam was in the other room, to receive a stinging slap round the legs, merely for the crime of walking past his chair and getting between him and the warmth of the fire for half a second.

Still, I'm brave in some ways, Daisy told herself defiantly. I never let anyone bully Petal and I help Mam all I can. And tomorrow morning, I'll go down early and help her with the breakfast, even if Dad's awake and shouting. And as soon as he's gone, we'll get our beautiful dolls back from Mr Parr's shop.

On that happy thought, Daisy slept.



Competition:

To win a signed hardback of *A Long and Lonely Road* simply answer this question:
Which King's visit to Liverpool is Katie's short story, 'Flowers for the Queen' about?

And send your answers on a postcard to: *A Long and Lonely Road* competition,
Arrow Marketing Department, Random House, 20 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, SW1V 2SA.

We'll be drawing 10 winners on 31st January 2005.

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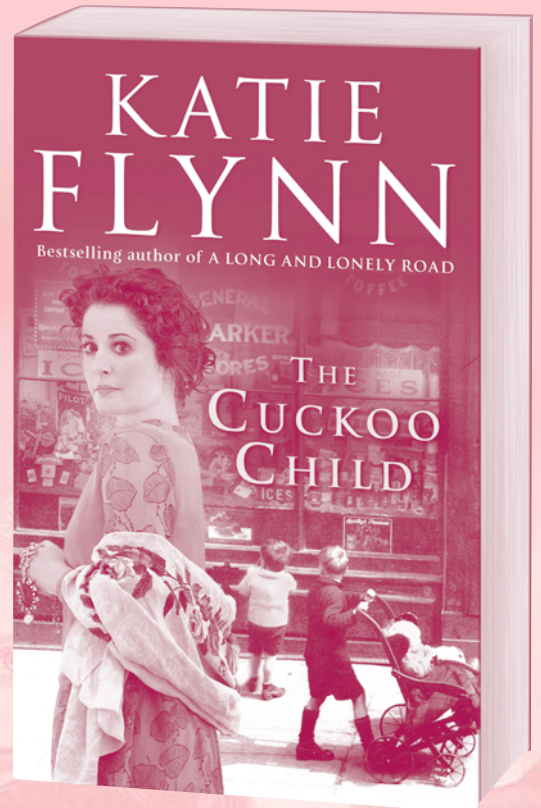
If you're keen to read more of Katie Flynn's books here's a sneak preview of what her next book, *The Cuckoo Child*, will be about.

Arrow will be publishing in June 2005:

When Dot McCann, playing relievio with her pals, decides to hide in Butcher Rathbone's almost empty dustbin, she overhears a conversation that could send one man to prison and the other to the gallows - and suddenly finds herself in possession of stolen goods.

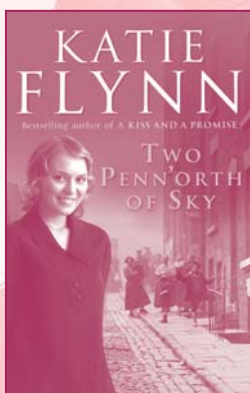
Dot lives with her aunt and uncle, the cuckoo in the nest, abandoned to these relatives when her parents die. She feels very alone ... until she meets up with Corky who has run away from a London orphanage. They join forces with Emma, whose jeweller's shop has been burgled and with Nick, a handsome young newspaper reporter who is investigating the crime. The four of them begin to plot to catch the thieves.

But Dot and Emma have been recognised, and soon both are in very real danger ...

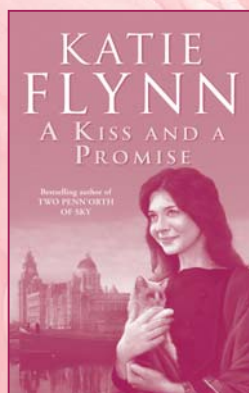


Set in Liverpool in the 1920s *The Cuckoo Child* is vintage Katie Flynn.

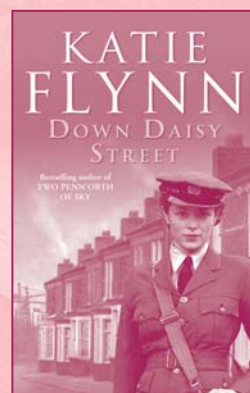
Make sure you haven't missed any of Katie Flynn's latest books:



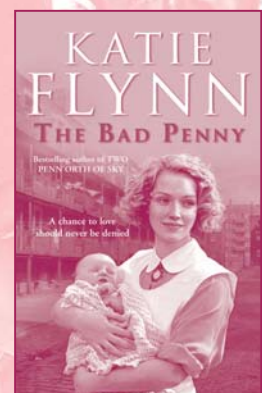
Two Penn'orth of Sky
009946814X



A Kiss and a Promise
0099453428



Down Daisy Street
0099453398



The Bad Penny
0099436531

And in the 27th November issue of *My Weekly*, there will also be Katie's short story 'Flowers for the Queen'. Make sure you don't miss it!

In our last issue we asked you to write in and tell us about your favourite book of Katie's – here are the winning replies:

'Mine is *The Girl from Seaforth Sands*. It brought back so many happy memories for me; my childhood was spent in Liverpool, my home city, and my grandfather owned a chemist's dispensary in Seaforth. Imagine my delight when Katie mentioned Grandfather's shop. Her recreation of it was so vivid and accurate, even down to the detail of my Grandmother sitting in the shop, knitting for the local children. It was like travelling back in time.'

Valerie Fleeman, Hampshire

'My favourite book, without a doubt, is *Poor Little Rich Girl*. The reason being I used to live in Elmore Street in the thirties. I also well remember the Bailey family who lived a few houses away...I remember playing marbles with my friend Alwyn. Tommy Bailey and friends were playing cricket in the street, when suddenly I was hit in the face by a cricket ball and when I say cricket ball, I mean cricket ball!'

Joan Mooney, Merseyside

They each win a signed hardback of *A Long and Lonely Road*.

If you've got a favourite book of Katie Flynn's why not write in and tell us about it. There's a signed hardback of Katie's next novel *The Cuckoo Child* for every reader whose letter we print in the next newsletter.

If you have not seen this newsletter before and would like to be on our mailing list please write with your name and address to: Arrow Marketing Department, The Random House Group Ltd, 20 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, SW1V 2SA. Please state whether or not you would like to receive information about other Arrow authors.

If you no longer wish to be part of the Katie Flynn Fan Club please write to us at the above address and we will remove your name from our mailing list.



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