

New York Times bestselling author Karen White's most personal novel yet

A story decades in the making,  
inspired by the author's childhood in one of London's most famous residences

# THE LAST NIGHT IN LONDON

by *New York Times* bestselling author KAREN WHITE

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"Atmospheric and rich, White's writing is an indulgent pleasure to read. She is certainly no stranger to crafting fast-paced, emotionally charged women's fiction...she has mastered the compulsively readable rhythm that makes for compelling storytelling.... Her keen emotional insights and warm authorial voice invite the reader into her stories the way one might welcome home a long-lost daughter."

—Shelf Awareness

"Karen White devotees old and new will flock to *The Last Night in London*... Mystery, peril and romance combine in a heady cocktail that will keep readers bubbling with curiosity until the last page and thirsty for more when they're done. Bravo!"

—Pam Jenoff, *New York Times* Bestselling Author of *The Lost Girls of Paris*

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Dear colleague,

The author of more than 20 novels, 12 of them *New York Times* bestsellers, Karen White is a star in the world of upmarket commercial fiction. But there's one story in her decades-long career that she's always wanted to write. This Spring, it's finally here. Berkley is proud to publish **THE LAST NIGHT IN LONDON** (Hardcover; April 20, 2021), Karen's first novel set largely outside the American South, and her most personal story yet.

Set during the Blitz, and inspired by Karen's childhood growing up in one of London's most famous residences, Harley House, this spectacular new story blends class, fashion, ambition, romance, and, of course, historic real estate.

Says Karen of her inspiration for the book: "*When [at age twelve] I asked the Harley House doorman why some windows in our flat were plain glass instead of leaded glass, he explained that they had been shattered during the Blitz. It was my first experience with living history, of being in tangible proximity to something so monumental. It was like holding history in my hands. When I became a writer, I knew it was inevitable that I would return to that flat and tell its story as I imagined it.*"

Originally built in 1904 London to house servants, Harley House became a landing ground for famous musicians and movie stars (including Mick Jagger and Keith Richards) by the time Karen moved in at age twelve. Standing quietly through multiple wars and decades of upheaval, the elegant residence has borne witness to countless human dramas. And now Harley House serves as the backdrop for the fictional stories of Maddie Warner (a beloved character from *Falling Home* and *After the Rain*), Precious Dubose (featured in *All the Ways We Said Goodbye* and based on a real fashion model from Memphis), and the newly introduced Eva Harlow.

Alternating between the London Blitz—a harrowing 9 months of air raids and 57 consecutive nights of bombings during World War II—and present day, **THE LAST NIGHT IN LONDON** begins with the story of Maddie Warner. Freelance journalist Maddie’s assignment is to interview Precious Dubose about her life in London as a fashion model during the Blitz. Recognizing a shared grief, Maddie finds herself drawn to both Precious and to Colin, Precious’s enigmatic surrogate nephew. As Maddie gets closer to her, she begins to unravel Precious’s haunting past—a story of friendship, betrayal, and unremembered acts of kindness and of love. As 100-year-old Precious Dubose tells Maddie Warner, “...some grand gestures and heroic moments never make it into the history books. But that doesn’t mean they didn’t happen.”

Offering a return of favorite characters, a revisit to Karen’s glamorous British childhood home, and the marriage of her trademark Southern fiction with historical fiction, **THE LAST NIGHT IN LONDON** is an exciting new direction in an already much-lauded career.

Warmly,

Lauren Burnstein  
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