

THE SPAE-WIFE

The story of an unlikely alliance between a witch and a lady-in-waiting to the Queen. To solve one murder, they must commit another.

THE SPAE-WIFE is the first in a historical crime series set in Orkney in 1593 against the backdrop of the Scottish witch trials, the tyranny of the second Earl of Orkney and the efforts of the Orcadian people to oust him from power.

In 1593 Lady Margaret Livingstone journeys to Orkney on a mission from the pregnant Queen Anne. Tradition dictates the royal baby will be taken and raised elsewhere, and desperate to prevent this, the Queen tasks Margaret with finding a notorious witch, the spae-wife, and persuading her to cast a binding spell.

Queen Anne's husband, King James VI's, obsession with witchcraft has already resulted in the execution of many women and the mission is fraught with risk...

Allison Balfour, the spae-wife, has recently found the body of a murdered man. Her subtle investigations into his death are complicated by the arrival of Lady Margaret and soon both women are drawn into the orbit of people who wish them harm.

Deeply atmospheric, Anna Caig evokes the beauty and intensity of life on Orkney during a fascinating period. Allison Balfour and Margaret Livingstone are in their different ways strong, dynamic and compelling characters whose journeys you will want to follow.

Anna Caig writes historical crime set in amazing landscapes and her novel *The Spae-Wife*, set on Stewart Orkney against the backdrop of the witch trials, was shortlisted for the CWA Debut Dagger prize. Anna has worked in communications for 17 years. She tutors on the MA Journalism course at the University of Sheffield and runs a business training creative people in how to do their own marketing. She lives in the Hope Valley in Derbyshire.

ANNA CAIG



Shortlisted for the CWA Debut Dagger Prize, *The Spae-Wife* is a deeply atmospheric account of two strong and dynamic women during a turbulent period of history.

On Submission

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