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Can we interest you in a feature story or an interview with author **Rebecca Rosenberg**? Rebecca lives in **Sonoma, California**, and is available for interview.

She is the author of several historical novels celebrating glorious strong women, whose independence, gumption and determination brought us the freedoms we enjoy today.

Her latest book is ***The SECRET LIFE of MRS. LONDON: The love triangle between Harry Houdini and Charmian and Jack London*** – nominated for Best First Novel by the Center for Fiction.

Houdini celebrations are being held in Maryland, Massachusetts, Oregon, New York City and other locations around the world the ten days before Halloween.

Review copies are available upon request. Interview questions and Q & A's provided below.

Please let us know how we can help you.

Gail Kearns and Paul Krupin, Publicists for Rebecca Rosenberg

## **Sonoma CA Author Talks About Harry Houdini's Fascinating Love Triangle with American Novelist Jack London's Wife**

**Rebecca Rosenberg's latest historical novel *The Secret Life of Mrs. London*, focuses on the torrid romance between Harry Houdini and Charmian London, the wife of acclaimed American author Jack London.**

Questions for Rebecca Rosenberg timed for Halloween about Harry Houdini and his affair with Charmaine London, wife of American novelist Jack London.

- The infamous magician died on Halloween back in 1926 and seances have been taking place every year since...why did this start?

- What did he tell his wife from beyond the grave?
- What secrets did he take to his death? Did his wife, Bess, know of his affair with famous author, Jack London's wife, Charmian?
- Can we learn anything from Houdini's life by looking into his affair with Mrs. London?
- What drove Houdini to death-defying escapes?
- Why are people so fascinated with him, holding seances more than 90 years after he died?
- What might people not know about the most infamous magician in the world?

## **Background**

San Francisco, 1915. As America teeters on the brink of world war, Charmian and her husband, famed novelist Jack London, wrestle with genius and desire, politics and marital competitiveness. Charmian longs to be viewed as an equal partner who put her own career on hold to support her husband, but Jack doesn't see it that way...until Charmian is pulled from the audience during a magic show by escape artist Harry Houdini, a man enmeshed in his own complicated marriage. Suddenly, charmed by the attention Houdini pays her and entranced by his sexual magnetism, Charmian's eyes open to a world of possibilities that could be her escape.

As Charmian grapples with her urge to explore the forbidden, Jack's increasingly reckless behavior threatens her dedication. Now torn between two of history's most mysterious and charismatic figures, she must find the courage to forge her own path, even as she fears the loss of everything she holds dear.



**The Secret Life of Mrs. London**

**Rebecca Rosenberg**

*220 Amazon Reviews – average rating 4.5/5.0.*



A California native, Rebecca Rosenberg lives on a lavender farm with her family in Sonoma, where Jack London wrote from his Beauty Ranch. Rebecca is a long-time student of Jack London's works and an avid fan of his daring wife, Charmian London. *The Secret Life of Mrs. London* is her debut novel, following her non-fiction, *Lavender Fields of America*.

Rebecca and her husband, Gary, own the largest lavender product company in America, selling to 4000 resorts, spas and gift stores. The Rosenbergs believe in giving back to the Sonoma Community, supporting many causes through financial donations and board positions, including Jack London Park, Worth Our Weight, an educational culinary program for at-risk children, YWCA shelter for abused women, Luther Burbank Performing Arts Center to provide performances for children, Sonoma Food Bank, Sonoma Boys and Girls Club, and the Valley of the Moon Children's Home.

### **Interview Questions and Answers for Rebecca Rosenberg about *The Secret Life of Mrs. London***

The love triangle between Houdini, Jack London and his wife, Charmian.

1. How did Houdini meet Jack and Charmian London?

The Houdinis and Londons met in 1915 at the Orpheum Theater in Oakland where Houdini performed his Chinese Water Torture Chamber act. The two couples had dinner after the show and hit it off so well, they spent the next week together, and even spent Thanksgiving together. When the Londons sailed to Hawaii, Charmian wrote in her diary "Charming Houdini, I shall never forget him." Two years later, she boarded a train to New York City and had a torrid affair with Houdini, who was performing his famous Elephant Disappearing act at the Hippodrome Theater in New York City.

2. Why did the two most famous men of the era, Houdini and Jack London, fall in love with Charmian London?

Houdini was a world-famous magician and escape artist. Jack London was the most popular writer in America, books and movies. Yet both fell in love with Charmian London, a remarkable woman ahead of her time. A spirited, free-loving bohemian, Charmian was raised by a triad of her aunt and two "uncles". She was college educated, a champion horsewoman, concert pianist and author in her own right.

3. Since Charmian and Houdini had long-term "happy" marriages, why did they have an affair?

While Jack and Charmian London were dedicated to each other in every way, Jack was extremely difficult to deal with and exhausted Charmian. On the other hand, Bess Houdini had a medical condition, which meant she never matured as a woman, called Primary amenorrhea. (Primary amenorrhea is diagnosed if you turn 16 and haven't menstruated. It's usually caused by a problem of the endocrine system, which regulates your hormones. Sometimes this results from low body weight associated with eating disorders. This medical condition can be caused by a problem with your ovaries or the hypothalamus or genetic abnormalities.)

4. Why is the novel entitled THE SECRET LIFE OF MRS. LONDON?

The Londons and Houdinis lived with many secrets that complicated their lives. Charmian lived as the dedicated wife of a famous author, all the while wanting to write herself. She acted as Jack London's motivator, muse, sounding board, typist, editor, proofreader and manager, besides managing their personal lives as well. Jack London was a genius and extremely difficult to deal with. He exhausted her with his philosophical rantings and demands on her time and intellect. Bess Houdini lived with the heartbreak of no children. Houdini was driven to death defying feats that broke and battered his body, and eventually led to his death.

5. How did Jack London write 50 books in 15 years, and become the most popular, highest paid author between 1900-1916?

There can only be one answer, Charmian London, his wife. Jack would dictate his stories to Charmian, while she typed them up at 150 words a minute. She would spend the afternoons editing and embellishing. Starting with Call of the Wild in 1903, and right through to his last book in On the Makaloa Mat in 1916, Charmian managed Jack's books. Even while she wrote her own books about their sailing trip through Hawaii and the South sea islands to Australia.

***THE SECRET LIFE OF MRS. LONDON***

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