

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Book launch, January 30, 2018 | Sonoma, California

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2018 MARKS 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HOUDINI – LONDON AFFAIR

New historical novel reveals details of the love triangle.

Houdini “stirred me to the deep” – Charmian London’s diary

2018 kicks off with a provocative novel, *THE SECRET LIFE OF MRS. LONDON*, by Rebecca Rosenberg, about Jack and Charmian London’s fateful meeting with Harry and Bess Houdini.

*“One of Houdini’s best kept secrets was his affair with Charmian London in 1918. Now Rebecca Rosenberg tells the story using an elegant blend of fact and fiction, creating a Houdini book like no other. *THE SECRET LIFE OF MRS. LONDON* is a true peek behind the curtain and a page-turner.” –John Cox, wildabouthoudini.com*

November, 1915. The Londons attended the Great Houdini Magic Show at the Orpheum Theatre in Oakland, California, where Houdini performed his Chinese Water Torture Chamber Act. The couples dined afterwards and became fast friends, spending Thanksgiving together, and keeping up a lively friendship which lasted until Houdini’s death.

January, 1918. Charmian London traveled to New York to see Houdini in the patriotic World War I extravaganza, "Cheer Up" at the Hippodrome Theater, where he famously made a five-ton elephant disappear on stage. Most of the evidence of their affair comes from Charmian London's diaries at the Huntington Library in Pasadena, California. Charmian wrote that after they saw each other a few times, Houdini made a "declaration" that "rather shakes me up." They became intimate a short time later. She wrote that Houdini’s visits "stirred me to the deep," and that he felt the same, declaring, "I'm mad about you," and "I give all of myself to you." Throughout, she refers to him alternately as "Magic," her "Magic Man," or "Magic Lover."

“The Secret Life of Mrs. London is a heart-wrenching portrait of a marriage between two people who utterly depend on one another, but ultimately aren't enough for each other. With skillful precision of language, Rosenberg weaves a narrative that defines the complexities of love, passion and art. This is a perceptive, deeply moving novel by a great new talent about a couple who has gone unnoticed in historical fiction until now. Anyone who has ever loved another person will want to read this book.”

-----Victoria Kelly, author of *Mrs. Houdini, a novel*

Launch Parties: The public is invited to two launch parties in Sonoma County, where Rosenberg will unveil a fast-paced AV show of these remarkable people, and the twist of fate that changed their lives. Master Magician Frank Balzerak will start the party, while guests sample Jack London's nibbles and libations. Trivia, prizes, and fun. Free tickets required, available on brownpapertickets.com as there is limited attendance.

March 8, 6:30 pm Copperfields Books, Montgomery Village

March 15, 6:30 pm Readers Books, Sonoma

More launch parties: www.rebecca-rosenberg.com. Jan. 27- Houston, Feb. 21- Passage to the Past online, Feb 25.- Warwick's, La Jolla, March 23- Avid Books, Davis, May- Jack London Park

California native, Rebecca Rosenberg lives on a lavender farm with her family in Sonoma Valley, the Valley of the Moon, 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. Following Rosenberg's non-fiction, LAVENDER FIELDS OF AMERICA, *The Secret Life of Mrs. London* is her debut novel. ISBN 9781542048736, \$14.95 Published by Lake Union, 1/30/18 Available locally through Reader's Books, Copperfield's Books. Online Amazon, Barnes & Noble. Wholesale: Ingram, Baker and Taylor or Brilliance Publishing.

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