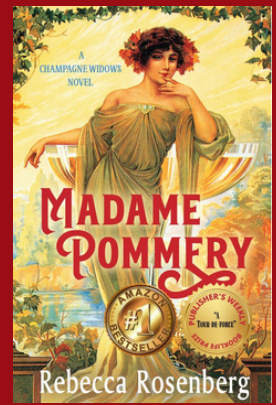
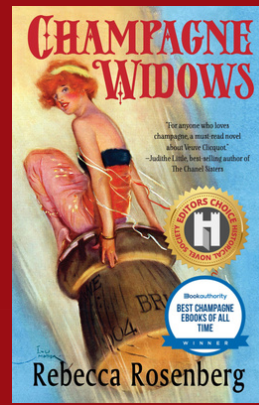


LICENSE TO THRILL LILY BOLLINGER

A CHAMPAGNE WIDOWS NOVEL



ADVANCE PRAISE ...

“A gripping and immersive historical novel...meticulous research and lush detail.”

~Kirkus Reviews

“What emerges is ... the portrait of a woman whose life became inseparable from the fate of the vines she guarded. ... Celebration, we realize, rests upon vigilance. ... License to Thrill: Lily Bollinger transcends the boundaries of corporate biography.”

~The Historical Novel Company

“Far more than a novel about champagne, it is a story of survival, resilience, and the thrilling pursuit of preserving a legacy. Lily Bollinger led the company through war and under the influence of the Reich, proving that not all battles were fought with weapons — but with concealed vintages and relabelled bottles. With beautifully crafted prose, this book leaves you with an irresistible urge to raise a glass and celebrate.”

~Ellie Yarde, *The Coffee Pot Book Club*

LICENSE TO THRILL LILY BOLLINGER

A CHAMPAGNE WIDOWS BOOK

A Historical Novel Based on the True Story of the Grand Dame of Champagne

The Nazis wanted her wine. The critics wanted her downfall. She gave them the world's most iconic Champagne.

To save Champagne Bollinger from ruin during the 1940s Nazi Occupation, newly widowed Lily Bollinger was forced to become a formidable, steel-spined matriarch. She used her wit to outfox the Nazi *Wein Führer* occupying her cellars and spent twenty years rebuilding the empire, conquering America one party at a time. Through it all, a quiet, decades-long romance with the Commodore anchored her.

But at sixty-eight, Lily stakes her entire legacy on a radical new vintage: Bollinger R.D. (Recently Disgorged). Her innovation is instantly attacked by the charming, poisonous critic Cyril Ray, who dismisses her as an “aging widow.” When her nephew foolishly hires Ray to write the company history, Lily is plunged into a furious two-year war of wills. She must deploy every tool she has—from sealing the iconic James Bond partnership to confronting the darkest secrets of the Occupation—to crush her rival and validate her vision.

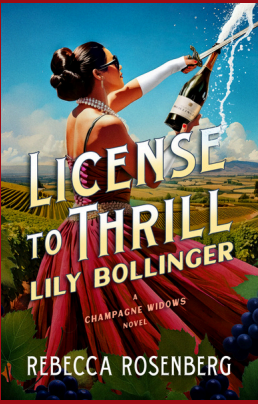
The past that forged her steel now collides with a present where she risks everything.

On her seventy-fifth birthday, the “Grand Dame of Champagne” believes she has settled her final account. But when a secret key arrives from her own “James,” a twist unlocks the past and promises an unexpected future that will redefine her legacy.

Based on a true story. A gripping account of the woman who risked everything to make Bollinger Champagne a legend.

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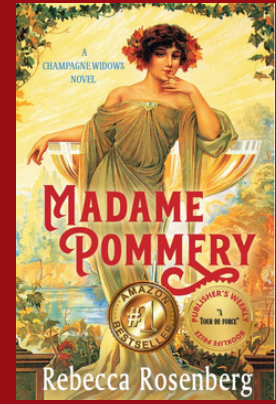
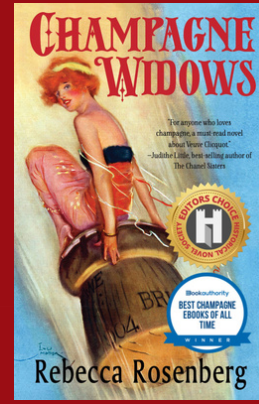


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Available through Amazon and to libraries and retailers through the Ingram Content Group.

ISBNs:

- 978-1-7329699-8-8 (print)
- 978-1-7329699-9-5 (ebook)
- 979-8-9942299-0-3 (audiobook)

Subject Codes:

- FIC014080 FICTION / Historical / 20th Century / General
- FIC044000 FICTION / Women
- FIC041000 FICTION / Biographical & Autofiction



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Rebecca writes novels about history’s real-life women of substance who made an indelible mark on the world. Her novels have garnered many awards, including IBPA, IPPY, and starred Publisher Weekly reviews for her novels, *CHAMPAGNE WIDOWS* (2022), *THE SECRET LIFE OF MRS. LONDON* (Lake Union 2018), and *GOLD DIGGER, The Remarkable Baby Doe Tabor* (Lion Heart 2019).

PUBLICITY:

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LICENSE TO THRILL LILY BOLLINGER

A CHAMPAGNE WIDOWS BOOK

The Untold Story of Lily Bollinger
The Nazis wanted her wine. The critics wanted her downfall. To save a dynasty, Lily Bollinger needed a secret weapon.

1940: THE RESISTANCE In an occupied France, where a wrong word means death, newly widowed Lily Bollinger faces the Nazi *Wein Führer* across her dining table while Resistance fighters hide in the chalk tunnels of her cellars. To save her heritage, she becomes a master of deception—protecting her vines by day and defying the Reich by night. In the shadows of war, she forges a resolve of steel and a clandestine bond with a man known only as the Commodore.

1967: THE COUNTER-ATTACK Lily is crowned the Dame of Champagne, but her empire is a house divided. While she fights to train her three quarrelsome nephews to take the helm, their infighting threatens to achieve what the Nazis couldn’t: the ruin of Bollinger. The danger peaks when the poisonous critic Cyril Ray dismisses Lily as an “aging widow,” and one of her own nephews unwittingly invites the enemy into her inner sanctum. To silence the critics and outmaneuver her own kin, Lily launches a daring partnership with a cinematic icon: James Bond. By making Bollinger the choice of 007, she bets her entire legacy on a move that turns a family business into a global legend.

1975: THE FINAL RECKONING On her seventy-fifth birthday, Lily must execute one last, daring maneuver to secure the succession and protect her name. But as the first bottle of her masterpiece, Vieilles Vignes Françaises, is uncorked, a secret key arrives from her own “James”—the keeper of her hidden truth. In a heart-rending twist, Lily proves that her greatest vintage wasn’t her Champagne—it was the secret she kept from everyone to protect her empire, and the man she loved.

A gripping saga of the woman who survived the Nazis, conquered the critics, and proved that a legend is the most dangerous thing of all.

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