

Meet Elsie Mabel Fitzpatrick: eighty-one years old, gloriously grumpy, fiercely independent, and never without a hot cup of tea—or a cutting remark. She minds her own business in her quiet Melbourne suburb, until a neighbor turns up dead and the whispers start flying.

Because Elsie hasn't always been Elsie. Once upon a headline, she was Mad Mabel Waller—Australia's youngest convicted murderer. But was she really mad, or just misunderstood? Either way, she's kept her secret buried for decades.

Enter seven-year-old Persephone, a relentless little chatterbox who has just moved in across the road (armed with stickers, questions, and no sense of personal boundaries); Joan, who appears to have it in for Elsie; and a healthy dose of public interest—the cops are sniffing around, and the media is circling like seagulls at a picnic.

So Mabel does what she's always done best—she takes matters into her own hands.

Is she a cantankerous old lady with a shady past? A cold-blooded killer with arthritis? Or just someone who's finally ready to tell her side of the story?

Sharp, surprising, and wickedly funny, this is the unforgettable story of a woman who's spent a lifetime being underestimated—and is about to prove everyone wrong. Again.

SALLY HEPWORTH has lived around the world, spending extended periods in Singapore, the United Kingdom, and Canada. She is the author of *The Secrets of Midwives*, *The Things We Keep*, *The Mother's Promise*, *The Family Next Door*, *The Mother-in-Law*, *The Good Sister*, *The Younger Wife*, *The Soulmate*, and *Darling Girls*. Her books have been translated into twenty-five languages.

READ BY HANNAH FREDERICKSEN AND JENNY SEEDSMAN



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