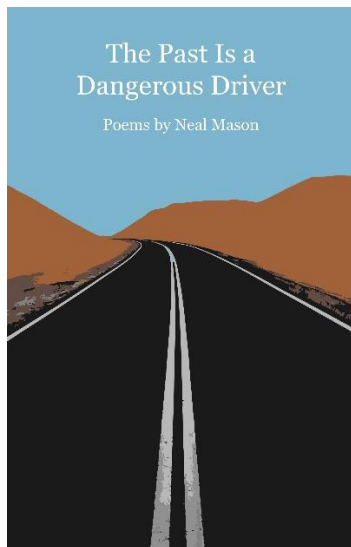


## New Books from Holland Park Press



### The Past Is a Dangerous Driver

Poems by Neal Mason

### The Past Is a Dangerous Driver

By Neal Mason

£10.00

08/09/2022

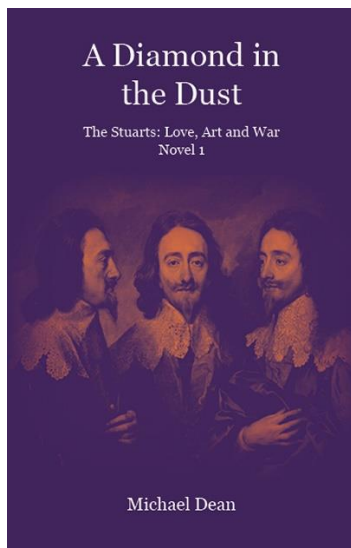
978-1-907320-95-8

78 pages

Poetry

*'Here is poetry as history book, almanac and calendar, suffused with humanity and glowing with empathy.'* – Ian McMillan

[more](#)



### A Diamond in the Dust

The Stuarts: Love, Art and War  
Novel 1

Michael Dean

### A Diamond in the Dust

The Stuarts Trilogy: Love, Art and War –  
Novel 1 by Michael Dean

£12.00

10/11/2022

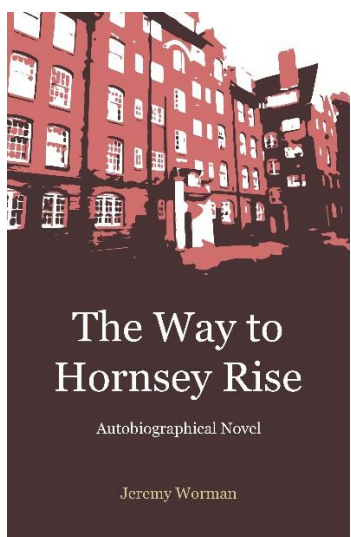
978-1-907320-96-5

225 pages

Literary Fiction/ Historical Fiction

*'Sumptuous detail and a rare ability to inhabit character are skilfully combined by Dean to bring an original and compelling portrait of Charles I as patron of the Arts.'* – Hana Cole

[more](#)



### The Way to Hornsey Rise

Autobiographical Novel

Jeremy Worman

### The Way to Hornsey Rise

By Jeremy Worman

£12.00 ebook

26/01/2023

978-1-907320-98-9

264 pages

Literary Fiction/ Autobiographical Novel

*The memoir really grips you from the start with Worman's description of his horrifying relationship with his abusive alcoholic mother. The memoir rips away the veneer of the British upper-middle classes.'* – Francis Gilbert

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## **The Past Is a Dangerous Driver**

### **Summary**

*The Past Is a Dangerous Driver* is inspired by Neal Mason's fascination with the past, not only in the way it exists as general history but also as it is formed by one's own personal recollection.

Through his poems, Neil links the past to the present, in a way that puts events in a new light and exposes discovery of hidden complexities.

History is no longer seen as being made up of facts and artefacts but instead it is presented as the manifestation of the human spirit.

The poems also conjure up an eclectic view of Britain, its values, history and even future. The title of collection is a hint that the past does affect the present, not always for the best, but its influence needs to be acknowledged.

*'Here is poetry as history book, almanac and calendar, suffused with humanity and glowing with empathy.'* – Ian McMillan

*Mason writes beautifully and evocatively about places, but never with sentiment. There is no cloying nostalgia when he writes about the past, and where he does compare unfavourably the present to what has been he doesn't lose sight of the follies of both. All the poems are complex and all merit or demand deeper reading.'* – Ian Tattum in *Pilgrim House*

### **Author's Biography**

Neal Mason was born in Middlesex and educated in Norfolk. Many of his stories, monologues and poems have been published, and he has been successful in numerous play, story, and poetry competitions.

Neal's work was also published in *Peterloo Preview 2*, *Peterloo Poets*, 1990. His first poetry collection, *Excavations*, was published by *Peterloo Poets* in 1991. His second collection, *Leading the Guidebook Astray*, was published by *University of Salzburg Press* in 1995.

For six months, Neal was a *Writer in Residence* for the *Arts Council in Welsh Valley*. He tutored many courses for the *University of Wales*, *WEA*, *Fairfield Arts Centre*, and was awarded a *bursary* by the *Arts Council*.

Neal was selected for a five-day masterclass at *Hay-on-Wye Festival* and advised the *Arts Council's Grants to Publishers Panel*. He visited many schools, writers' groups etc. under *Writers on Tour* scheme.

For the last five years, he has been running [soundwork-uk.co.uk](http://soundwork-uk.co.uk), a non-profit website that records and produces free audio plays, stories, poems, and monologues for online listeners.

## **A Diamond in the Dust**

### **Summary**

A Diamond in the Dust is a fictionalised account of the life of Charles I from his birth to the age of twenty-eight.

It shows England's most maligned monarch, Charles I, as he really was. Dominated by his debauched father, James I, he grew up a diffident, stuttering, dreamy figure, wracked by a crippling disease – rickets.

But he was lifted and defined by his passion for all the arts, especially theatre and painting. Brutal real-life caught up with him, however, spinning him at the centre of a whirlwind of love, art, war and even murder, as he struggled unsuccessfully to keep control of his life and his kingdom.

This first novel in the trilogy *The Stuarts: Love, Art, War*, shows Charles I growing up and finding love. It puts the vilified king in a different light. Under the wing of his precocious sister Elizabeth, he blossoms and his interest in culture and the arts grows into a passion, or some would say an obsession.

*'Sumptuous detail and a rare ability to inhabit character are skilfully combined by Dean to bring an original and compelling portrait of Charles I as patron of the Arts, in the first of his trilogy about the Stuarts.'* – Hana Cole

*'With historically rich prose Dean's A Diamond in the Dust, book one of a trilogy, brings to life the intimate and artistic world of The Stuarts of 17th century England. An intriguing and fascinating read.'* – Stephanie Renee dos Santos

### **Author's Biography**

Michael Dean has a history degree from Worcester College, Oxford, an MSc in Applied Linguistics from Edinburgh University and a translator's qualification (AIL) in German.

He has published several novels. *The Darkness into Light* omnibus (Sharpe Books, 2017): *The Rise and Fall of the Nazis* comprises five titles: *Before the Darkness* – about the German Jewish Foreign Minister Walther Rathenau, assassinated in 1922; *The Crooked Cross* – about Hitler and art; *The Enemy Within* – about Dutch resistance during the Nazi occupation; *Hour Zero* – about Germany in 1946; *Magic City* – a novel of Jewish identity set in Germany in the early 1970s.

He also published some stand-alone novels: *Thorn*, (Bluemoose Books, 2011) about Spinoza and Rembrandt; *I, Hogarth* (Duckworth-Overlook, 2012), which sets out to unify Hogarth's life with his art.

His novels, *The White Crucifixion*, about Marc Chagall, and *True Freedom*, or how America came to fight Britain for its independence, were published by Holland Park Press in 2018 and 2019.

## **The Way to Hornsey Rise**

### **Summary**

This memoir explores how Jeremy, a privately educated schoolboy, comes to reject his comfortable rural Surrey background to end up in the squats, drugs and hippy scene of 1970s Hornsey Rise.

The central theme of the book is Jeremy's need to escape from the intense relationship with his alcoholic, charismatic and mentally unstable mother, her lovers, his ageing, ailing father, and about his romantic relationships.

Of particular interest is the way this memoir explores how a 1968-style vision of the world collapsed in the 1970s, and its implications for Jeremy and many of his generation. Their visionary countercultural world is not going to happen.

A journey about discovering what really matters in life. *The Way to Hornsey Rise* is a moving and very personal story, laced with intriguing observations about society, which all adds to its universal appeal.

*'Jeremy Worman's memoir is a compulsive read. The memoir really grips you from the start with Worman's description of his horrifying relationship with his abusive alcoholic mother. The memoir rips away the veneer of the British upper-middle classes, showing them to be venal, despairing, corrupt.'* – Francis Gilbert

*'Surprising, even shocking, above all beautifully written. Do read it. You won't be disappointed.'* – Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson

### **Author's Biography**

Jeremy is a writer and critic who taught English Literature to American BA students for twenty-five years at Birkbeck, University of London, Cambridge University and Hackney Adult Education Institute.

He was awarded a First in English from Birkbeck, and has an MA (Distinction) in Creative and Life Writing from Goldsmiths, University of London, an M. Litt from Cambridge University and a PhD in Creative Writing from Goldsmiths (2021) where Blake Morrison was the supervisor for this memoir; the examiners were Francis Spufford and Sir Jonathan Bate.

Jeremy's short-story collections, *Fragmented* (2011) and *Swimming with Diana Dors and Other Stories* (2014), were published by Cinnamon Press. His short stories and poems have been published widely in, amongst other places, *The London Magazine*, *Ambit*, *The Frogmore Papers*, the *Cork Literary Review*.

He has reviewed for *The Observer*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *New Statesman* and many other publications.

**Holland Park Press**, founded in 2009, is a privately-owned independent company publishing literary fiction: novels, novellas, short stories; and poetry. The company is run by brother and sister team Arnold and Bernadette Jansen op de Haar, who publish an author not just a book. Holland Park Press specialises in finding new literary talent by accepting unsolicited manuscripts from authors all year round and by running competitions. It has been successful in giving older authors a chance to make their debut and in raising the profile of Dutch authors in translation.

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