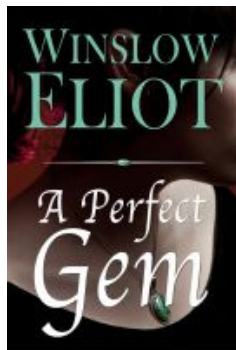


In the tradition of Sydney Sheldon, Nora Roberts, and Daphne Du Maurier, Winslow Eliot's novels weave suspense with romantic tenderness.



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Award-winning Romantic Suspense Author Winslow Eliot is back with a new novel: *A PERFECT GEM*. Available in Softcover, Hardback, and E-book.



“Bad things happen to other people. Not to us.” This is Crista’s husband’s mantra – something he says often, right up to the day his car goes off the cliff, killing him. Crista doesn’t think her life can get any worse. But it can. She finds out he was married to someone else – leaving her not only heartbroken, but destitute. She’s fired from her job and evicted from her apartment. She and her two children make the hard move to Tahton, a small New England town she fled twenty-five years earlier, vowing never to return. There she encounters the man she thought she would never see again: her childhood love, Gareth. Old feelings begin to resurface. But just as Crista believes she is finally recovering from the shock of her dead husband’s betrayal, his ‘real’ wife contacts her... looking for something very valuable, that Crista doesn’t even know she has.

“I really loved *A Perfect Gem*. There is the perfect amount of suspense, romance, and mystery and just when you think you have it all figured out, you don't, right to the very end. I was very pleased with how this story ended as well. You'll love most of the characters, especially Gareth, who is every woman's dream, and Joon, who'd make an awesome BFF. Before each chapter there is also a fun fact about a gem (From *Loving Stones* by Joon Ting) and what it can do for your mind and body. This was a fun and very easy book to get into from start to finish.”

Reviewed by Angie on
<http://preciselymine.blogspot.com/>

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**Winner of the 2010
Reader Views Award
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“You CAN buy love,” says the brochure for the most elite health resort in the world:

HEAVEN FALLS. “Don’t let anyone say that you can’t!”

“Wonderfully imaginative and filled with a series of rather unexpected twists, *Heaven Falls* was a truly engaging book ... I’ve enjoyed the author’s style, the plot and the highly complex characters. The romance between Tess and Jason was believable, the twists and turns exciting and suspenseful, and I found the descriptions of different essential oils at the beginning of each chapter to be some of my favorite parts of the book. It’s one of those stories that you will not want to start unless you have a long, lazy weekend ahead of you ... It won’t let you get much sleep until you finish it.”

Reviewed by Olivera Baumgartner-Jackson for Reader Views

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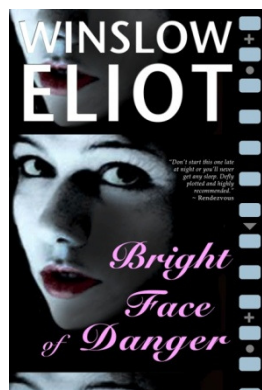
E-Book ISBN: 978-0-9841083-9-8

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One fateful night a shot rings out, and a pretty farm girl disappears with a scandalous secret that could destroy a political empire. A

year later, she resurfaces with a stunning new face that dazzles Hollywood and ignites the passion of movie executive Dom Whitfield. Dom is tormented by the feeling that he already knows her, but what he doesn’t know is she is hiding from a man who wants her dead.

“I couldn’t put it down! Eliot’s writing style is fluid and flowing; it reads so well. Her characters are real; the suspense keeps building as the plot thickens... and the romantic side touches the heart to tears at times. *Joanne Chase, Cut To The Chase Reviews*

“Don't begin this one late at night or you'll never get any sleep...” *Rendezvous - review for The Bright Face of Danger*

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About Winslow Eliot



Winslow Eliot's novels have been translated into eleven languages and published in twenty countries. She is the author of *The Bright Face of Danger* (originally published by St. Martin's Press 1993, and recently reissued by Telemachus Press). It is published in France as *Fatale Vengeance* (Harlequin) and, most recently, as *L'Innocence du Mal* (Mira Books and Harlequin Bestsellers 2009). *Heaven Falls* was published in March 2010, and *A Perfect Gem* in March 2011. *The Wine-Dark Sea*, *Painted Secrets*, *Red Sky At Night*, *A Distant Light*, and *Roman Candles* were published under Ellie Winslow by Signet/NAL. *The Wine-Dark Sea* was bought by ITC in Hollywood, and made into a screenplay.

The author of numerous articles, she was a contributing author to *Area*, *the Oriental Rug Magazine* for many years, and a reader for the Independent Film Project, NYC. Also a poet, she cofounded the celebrated Saturn Series Weekly Poetry Readings in New York City, now in its 14th year. Her **WriteSpa - Oasis for Writers** welcomes visitors from all over the world.

After graduating from Scripps College in California and the Publishing Procedures Course at Radcliffe, Eliot moved to New York City, where she worked at several publishing houses, including Simon & Schuster and Doubleday, and at Time Inc.

She later moved to Massachusetts with her husband and two children. In addition to writing, she works as a consultant and editor, and has held adult seminars and workshops for aspiring and published writers on various aspects of being a writer. In between writing and editing, she teaches high school students at the Great Barrington Waldorf High School. Courses she has taught include History through Language, The Novel, The Odyssey, Parzival, Romance Literature, Shakespeare, World Religions, and a wide variety of creative writing courses.

An Interview with Winslow Eliot

Q: When did you decide you wanted to become a writer? Or did you always write?

WE: I always wrote – even before I knew how to string letters together to create words. I used to fill up tons of notebooks with scribbly symbols. Sometimes I look at these notebooks now and wonder what the heck I was writing! Or I imagine anthropologists and linguists hundreds of years from now trying to decipher what I wrote when I was five.

Q: It's not surprising that you always wrote, considering practically everyone in your family is a writer?

WE: Probably that's true. I took it for granted. I never wanted to do or be anything else. My father, Alexander Eliot, was the former Art Editor of Time Magazine. He resigned in his early forties so he could devote himself to traveling and writing about art and mythology. My mother was also a writer – she was deeply interested in education, especially Rudolf Steiner's ideas about it, and she wrote some wonderful books and articles.



My great-great grandmother, Ada Davenport Kendall, was a journalist who spent several months in prison for protesting in support of women's suffrage. Another ancestor, John Eliot, translated the Bible into

Algonquin in the seventeenth century. My great-great-grandfather, Charles W. Eliot, was president of Harvard for fifty years and revamped the American college Liberal Arts curriculum. So writing and education was always a major theme in my family.

Q: You also teach high school students?

WE: Yes, I teach writing, although officially it's called "English." I love teaching just about anyone, but especially teenagers. They love to write, and it's so good for them, on so many levels. I teach them that writing requires skill, as does painting, or playing an instrument. You practice and practice, and eventually phrases, sentences, words, paragraphs, and eventually chapters and books take on a life of their own, because you don't have to figure out how to finger a chord or shade a cloud; you KNOW it. Skill in any art form frees the artist inside so you can truly create a work of art. That's why I love teaching so much, apart from the joy of being with the students. My goal is to guide students to becoming confident and free in their writing. To become themselves.

Q: You teach other courses, too, right?

WE: Yes, we use the Waldorf method of teaching in three or four-week blocks for each academic subject. My favorite is probably History through Language, since it ties together my love for history, language, and literature all in one amazing four-week seminar. I learn so much teaching that course! I also love teaching The Odyssey, since I lived in Greece, and can bring to the students a tangible experience of what it must have been like for Odysseus to roam the Aegean islands.

Q: I see you offer a free WriteSpa Newsletter on your website. What is that about?

WE: WriteSpa - An Oasis for Writers is a place where I offer exercises, experiences, and encouragement that hopefully nourish and revitalize a relationship with Writing. Through sharing my daily and weekly practices, I hope to inspire a commitment to Writing, so that even when times are hard, or schedules don't mesh, that relationship stays strong. Most of us write either because we're under deadline or because we've been struck by a thunderbolt of inspiration. I've always felt that this creates a stormy relationship with Writing. I believe the decision to write is a commitment as



important as marriage. Writing needs nurturing, sustenance, and, I've discovered, daily practice. Deadlines or inspiration just don't cut it, just as they don't in a relationship. A pianist practices every day. A painter sketches every day. A lover pays tender attention to the beloved every day. Writers have to do this too.

Q: You're a world traveler - where are some of the places you've been?

WE: My parents were more world travelers than I am - I just happened to tag along when I was growing up. We lived in Greece, Italy, Spain, and England. One of the highlights was a year we lived on a freighter traveling from Greece to Japan. My mother wrote about that wonderful adventure in her book called "Around the World by Mistake." Since then, I lived mostly in New York City, which feels like an entire world in a small place. I got married there, and both my children were born there.



First kiss.

About fourteen years ago we moved to the Berkshires and we actually bought a house! It was the first house I'd ever owned - we'd always rented when I was growing up. My mother's favorite adage was: "Don't let your possessions possess you," and a house was a definitely a possession. So I finally rebelled and bought a house! I love it.

Q: One of your interests is in 'sacred places.' What does that mean, exactly?

WE: I think that you can make a sacred just about any place, including your own home. But I also love the history and ritual and spirituality that surround sacred sites all over the world, from Delphi in Greece, to the carvings of the dancing Hindu gods and goddesses in the caves of Ajanta, to Stonehenge and Avebury and other sacred stone circles in the West Country of England. When I moved to Hawai'i a few years ago, one of the first things I did was to explore the sacred places on the islands. I met an amazing woman who showed me how to access the energy at these places through a sort of reverent chanting. I've never experienced anything so powerful and transforming. While I was on the islands, I'd go back to the heiaus as often as I could.

Q: Do you have a mentor?

I'm very lucky in that regard. My cousin, Nancy Crompton, who's also my copy-editor, is my most valuable reader/critiquer, because she really understands what I'm trying to do in my novels. I also have extraordinary family support - most read what I write and critique it. My mother is still one of the most eagle-eyed proofreaders I know, and so is my daughter. John P. Locke, who writes terrific thrillers, has mentored me on a business level. He helped me to see that publishing *Heaven Falls* as an independent business venture was the surest way to the kind of success I'm seeking. He also

mentors me in my consulting and editing business. He's one of the most generous people I know. Another mentor has been Claudia Jackson of Telemachus Press: Since *Heaven Falls* is my first venture as an independent, I relied on her to help me through every step of the process. Nowadays in the publishing world you can't just count on a mentor who will help you shape your novel. You have to have mentors who will help you shape your life as a writer.

Q: *You're also a belly-dancer?*

I used to be! I became more interested in the sufi aspect of the dance since leaving the city. I met a sufi dance teacher here and my dancing became more like a meditation - that's how I dance now. I haven't performed in several years. But it was fun when I did it. One of the most memorable performances I gave was for a baby shower. Someone had rented a B&B for a weekend and I not only danced for the families who came, but also did Tarot readings. I also danced at a thirteen-year-old's bar mitzvah. I loved dancing for so many young people, and I hope I inspired the girls, especially, to see how lovely older women stay when they dance.



Q: *Who's your favorite author?*



WE: I have so many! But probably the author who has had the most influence is my grandmother, Ethel Cook Eliot. She wrote the most wonderful children's books (*The House Above the Trees*, *The Wind Boy*). She also wrote teenage mysteries, way before the term Young Adult was coined. My favorites are her adult novels (*Ariel Dances*, *Green Doors*). She's mystical, romantic, wise, and, best of all, a good story-teller. That's my ideal writer.

