



CATHERINE COOKSON

The Blind Years

A NOVEL

The Blind Years

A N O V E L

Catherine Cookson



CORGI BOOKS

THE BLIND YEARS
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JUSTICE IS A WOMAN

by Catherine Cookson

The day Joe Remington brought his new bride to Fell Rise, he had already sensed she might not settle easily into the big house just outside the Tyneside town of Fellburn. For Joe this had always been his home, but for Elaine it was virtually another country whose manners and customs she was by no means eager to accept.

Making plain her disapproval of Joe's familiarity with the servants, demanding to see accounts Joe had always trusted to their care, questioning the donation of food to striking miners' families – all these objections and more soon rubbed Joe and the local people up the wrong way, a problem he could easily have done without, for this was 1926, the year of the General Strike, the effects of which would nowhere be felt more acutely than in this heartland of the North-East.

Then when Elaine became pregnant, she saw it as a disaster and only the willingness of her unmarried sister Betty to come and see her through her confinement made it bearable. But in the long run, would Betty's presence only serve to widen the rift between husband and wife, or would she help to bring about a reconciliation?

THE MALTESE ANGEL

by Catherine Cookson

Ward Gibson knew exactly what was expected of him by the village folk, and especially by the Mason family, whose daughter Daisy he had known all his life. But then, in a single week, his whole world had been turned upside down by a dancer, Stephanie McQueen, who seemed to float across the stage of the Empire Music Hall where she was appearing as The Maltese Angel. To his amazement, the attraction was mutual, and after a whirlwind courtship she agreed to marry him.

But a scorpion had already begun to emerge from beneath the stone of the local community, who considered that Ward had betrayed their expectations, and had led on and cruelly deserted Daisy. There followed a series of reprisals on his family, one of them serious enough to cause him to exact a terrible revenge; and these events would twist and turn the course of many lives through Ward's own and succeeding generations.

0 552 13684 0

PURE AS THE LILY

by Catherine Cookson

Mary Walton was the apple of her da's eye. For long now he had been out of work, and Mary was his only comfort during those dark years of the Depression, when unemployment and a nagging, ambitious wife gnawed away at his self-respect. Once he was a man who had held his head high with Geordie pride; now his only hope was that Mary would escape from the grinding poverty of the Tyneside slums that had held him a prisoner for so many years.

But then something happened to Mary that shattered all his dreams of her future – an event that was to split a family and influence its members for generations to follow...

0 552 14073 2

THE YEAR OF THE VIRGINS

by Catherine Cookson

It had never been the best of marriages and over recent years it had become effectively a marriage in name and outward appearance only. Yet, in the autumn of 1960, Winifred and Daniel Coulson presented an acceptable façade to the outside world, for Daniel had prospered sufficiently to allow them to live at Wearcill House, a mansion situated in the most favoured outskirt of the Tyneside town of Fellburn.

Of their children, it was Donald on whom Winifred doted to the point of obsession, and now he was to be married, Winifred's prime concern was whether Donald was entering wedlock with an unbesmirched purity of body and spirit, for amidst the strange workings of her mind much earlier conceptions of morality and the teachings of the church held sway.

There was something potentially explosive just below the surface of life at Wearcill House, but when that explosion came it was in a totally unforeseeable and devastating form, plunging the Coulsons into an excoriating series of crises out of which would come both good and evil, as well as the true significance of the year of the virgins.

'The power and mastery are astonishing'
Elizabeth Buchan, *Sunday Times*

THE GOLDEN STRAW

by Catherine Cookson

The Golden Straw, as it would be named, was a large, broad-brimmed hat presented to Emily Pearson by her long-time friend and employer Mabel Arkwright, milliner and modiste. And before long it was to her employer that Emily owed the gift of the business itself, for Mabel was in poor health and had come to rely more and more on Emily before her untimely death in 1880.

While on holiday in France, Emily and the Golden Straw attracted the eye of Paul Steerman, a guest at the hotel, and throughout his stay he paid her unceasing attention. But Paul Steerman was not all he seemed to be and he was to bring nothing but disgrace and tragedy to Emily, precipitating a series of events that would influence the destiny of not only her children but her grandchildren too.

The Golden Straw, conceived on a panoramic scale, brilliantly portrays a rich vein of English life from the heyday of the Victorian era to the stormy middle years of the present century. It represents a fresh triumph for this great storyteller whose work is deservedly loved and enjoyed throughout the world.

A DINNER OF HERBS

by Catherine Cookson

A legacy of hatred can be a terrible force in life, over which not even an enduring love and all the fruits of material success may prevail. Catherine Cookson explores this theme in a major novel that will absorb and enthrall her readers as irresistibly as any she has written.

Roddy Greenbank was brought by his father to the remote Northumberland community of Langley in the autumn of 1807. Within hours of their arrival, however, the father had met a violent death, and the boy left with all memory gone of his past life.

Adopted and raised by old Kate Makepeace, Roddy found his closest companions in Hal Royston and Mary Ellen Lee. These three stand at the heart of a richly eventful narrative that spans the first half of the nineteenth century, their lives lastingly intertwined by the inexorable demands of a strange and somewhat cruel destiny.

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The Blind Years

Catherine Cookson was born in Tyne Dock, the illegitimate daughter of a poverty-stricken woman, Kate, whom she believed to be her older sister. She began work in service but eventually moved south to Hastings, where she met and married Tom Cookson, a local grammar-school master. At the age of forty she began writing about the lives of the working-class people with whom she had grown up, using the place of her birth as the background to many of her novels.

Although originally acclaimed as a regional writer – her novel *The Round Tower* won the Winifred Holtby award for the best regional novel of 1968 – her readership soon began to spread throughout the world. Her novels have been translated into more than a dozen languages and more than 50,000,000 copies of her books have been sold in Corgi alone. Fifteen of her novels have been made into successful television dramas, and more are planned.

Catherine Cookson's many bestselling novels established her as one of the most popular of contemporary women novelists. After receiving an OBE in 1985, Catherine Cookson was created a Dame of the British Empire in 1993. She was appointed an Honorary Fellow of St Hilda's College, Oxford in 1997. For many

years she lived near Newcastle-upon-Tyne. She died shortly before her ninety-second birthday in June 1998.

‘Catherine Cookson’s novels are about hardship, the intractability of life and of individuals, the struggle first to survive and next to make sense of one’s survival. Humour, toughness, resolution and generosity are Cookson virtues, in a world which she often depicts as cold and violent. Her novels are weighted and driven by her own early experiences of illegitimacy and poverty. This is what gives them power. In the specialised world of women’s popular fiction, Cookson has created her own territory’

Helen Dunmore, *The Times*

BOOKS BY CATHERINE COOKSON

NOVELS

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Kate Hannigan | Tilly Trotter Widowed |
| The Fifteen Streets | The Whip |
| Colour Blind | Hamilton |
| Maggie Rowan | The Black Velvet Gown |
| Rooney | Goodbye Hamilton |
| The Menagerie | A Dinner of Herbs |
| Slinky Jane | Harold |
| Fanny McBride | The Moth |
| Fenwick Houses | Bill Bailey |
| Heritage of Folly | The Parson's Daughter |
| The Garment | Bill Bailey's Lot |
| The Fen Tiger | The Cultured Handmaiden |
| The Blind Miller | Bill Bailey's Daughter |
| House of Men | The Harrogate Secret |
| Hannah Massey | The Black Candle |
| The Long Corridor | The Wingless Bird |
| The Unbaited Trap | The Gillyvors |
| Katie Mulholland | My Beloved Son |
| The Round Tower | The Rag Nymph |
| The Nice Bloke | The House of Women |
| The Glass Virgin | The Maltese Angel |
| The Invitation | The Year of the Virgins |
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| Pure as the Lily | The Tinker's Girl |
| The Mallen Streak | A Ruthless Need |
| The Mallen Girl | The Obsession |
| The Mallen Litter | The Upstart |
| The Invisible Cord | The Branded Man |
| The Gambling Man | The Bonny Dawn |
| The Tide of Life | The Bondage of Love |
| The Slow Awakening | The Desert Crop |
| The Iron Façade | The Lady on My Left |
| The Girl | The Solace of Sin |
| The Cinder Path | Riley |
| Miss Martha Mary | The Blind Years |
| Crawford | The Thursday Friend |
| The Man Who Cried | A House Divided |
| Tilly Trotter | Kate Hannigan's Girl |
| Tilly Trotter Wed | |

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The Lord and Mary
Ann

The Devil and Mary
Ann

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Mary Ann's Angels

Mary Ann and Bill

FOR CHILDREN

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Joe and the Gladiator

The Nipper

Rory's Fortune

Our John Willie

Mrs Flannagan's
Trumpet

Go Tell It To Mrs Golightly

Lanky Jones

Nancy Nutall and the
Mongrel

Bill and the Mary Ann
Shaughnessy

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Our Kate

Catherine Cookson
Country

Let Me Make Myself Plain
Plainer Still

原书缺页