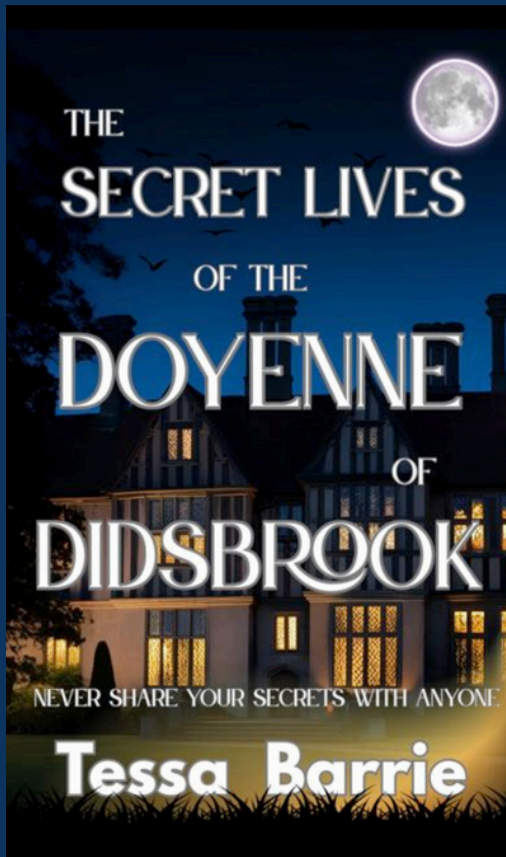


PRESS RELEASE



This character-driven cosy murder mystery is set in the remote village of Didsbrook in England. Its inhabitants are an eclectic mix of retirees and creatives. The village serves as a vibrant hub for actors, writers, and artists. Every morning, alongside the dawn chorus and the gentle lowing of cattle, the sounds of vocal warm ups and the click-clacking of keyboards can be heard drifting on the breeze.

Apart from rave reviews for literature, drama, film, or other creative work emerging from the talented individuals living in this picturesque village, Didsbrook last appeared in the national newspaper headlines in the 1920s after a hoard of socketed Bronze Age axe heads was unearthed in Wayland Wood. Since then, life in the village has remained largely out of the public eye, but all that is about to change when the village's most famous resident, the former actress turned best-selling novelist, Jocelyn Robertshaw, is found dead under mysterious circumstances.

The road to publication for her second novel, *The Secret Lives of the Doyenne of Didsbrook* has been a rocky one for local author Tessa Barrie.

On a high at the end of 2024, after being offered two publishing deals for this quirky murder mystery, Tessa opted to sign with SpellBound Books UK for a September 2025 publication date. Unfortunately, due to internal issues, SpellBound decided to push back its 2025 publication list by twelve months.

Tessa, not wanting to wait that long for *The Doyenne* to reveal her secrets, made the difficult decision to ask SpellBound for the reversion of her rights and to self-publish *The Secret Lives of the Doyenne of Didsbrook*.

The book launches at The Harbour Gallery Jersey on 27th July.

Tessa Barrie was born in Harrogate, Yorkshire, and despite her parents moving down south when she was three years old, she is proud of her Yorkshire heritage.

Tessa has lived in Jersey since 1981. After several years working for what was then The Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, she spent a couple of decades in the finance sector before self-publishing her first novel, *Just Say It*, in 2021.

Tessa believes that starting to write novels later in life has made her more determined and focused. Her third novel, *The Rebuilding of Freya Michaels*, a psychological drama, is scheduled for release in 2026.

The eBook is available to pre-order from Amazon now at the pre-launch price of .99p until the paperback is released on 1st July 2025, and from 14th July onwards the paperback will be on sale at The Harbour Gallery, Jersey.

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