



OH SUGAR

Jane Labous

A literary spy thriller with themes of motherhood, identity and belonging.

Endorsements

Anne Hamilton, author of 'The Almost Truth': **A rollicking adventure story with a glorious, Bondesque glamour... Gloria Fontaine is the thinking woman's James Bond... Left me totally wanting to be a spy!**

Laura Joyce, author of 'The Luminol Reels': **'Oh, Sugar is at once a glamorous spy thriller and a complex exploration of maternal love, grief, and radical acceptance.'**

Keiran Devaney, literary editor: **'This taut, stylish, political thriller is a compelling meditation on grief, family, and belonging.'**

Keynote

- The author's third novel.
- Two women in a dual narrative documenting two timelines and two vividly cinematic settings: a fictional country, Lusenka, and Cornwall, UK.
- Contemporary fiction.
- Tagline: One mission. A lifetime of secrets.
- The novel has been described as 'the thinking woman's James Bond'
- For fans of *The Last King of Scotland* by Giles Foden; *The Night Manager* and *Constant Gardener* by John Le Carré; *Restless* by William Boyd; Lil Simz' music video, *Woman*; Chibundu Onuzo's *Sankofa*; Ian Fleming's *James Bond* series of books and films
- Longlisted for the Sante Fé Writer's Project Literary Award

Description

When disgraced journalist Dolly Fontaine discovers that her film star mother, Gloria, was a British spy recruited to ensnare a ruthless Lusenkan dictator, past and present collide with dangerous consequences. OH, SUGAR spans two generations, taking the reader from 21st-century Cornwall to a fictional dictatorship at the height of the 1970s oil crisis, both a high-stakes thriller of sassy spies and international espionage, and an emotionally powerful tale of a mother and daughter losing, then finding each other—because everyone has secrets, even the people we love the most.

Synopsis

In the wake of a political scandal that shatters her high-flying career, journalist Dolly Fontaine seeks refuge at her childhood home, Genévrier, where her mysterious mother, celebrated seventies film star, Gloria Fontaine, lived for decades. When Dolly discovers a dusty box of cassette tapes in the attic revealing Gloria's most compelling, real-life role—a daring undercover mission as a British spy to her birth country of Lusenka—so begins a perilous journey involving diamonds, Cold War intrigue, and a merciless dictator. Can Gloria's voice recordings, and an enigmatic, retired spook once known as Sunstar, help Dolly uncover the truth before a deadly adversary silences her forever?

Author Biography

Jane Labous is an award-winning journalist and author of two novels, *Past Participle* (Afsana Press, 2023) and *The Chameleon Girl* (Farafina Books, 2022), known for her frontline coverage of human rights and gender issues, always telling the powerful human stories behind the social, humanitarian and political headlines. She has worked for worldwide news outlets including the BBC—with regular slots on BBC Radio 4's *From Our Own Correspondent*—and humanitarian agencies including the UN, the World Health Organisation and Amnesty International. She has won many awards over the years, including from BBC Radio 4, the Royal Geographical Society, and the European Journalism Centre. Her fiction has been longlisted for the Bath Novel Prize and the Santa Fé Writers' Project Literary Award. Jane lives in Dorset with her daughter, who is British-Senegalese. www.janelabous.com

Publication dates

Release: 25 September 2024

Pre-order possible

Binding Paperback

Format 198 x 129 mm

Extent 352 pages

Price £13.99

ISBN 9781738555215

ISBN-10 1738555216

BIC 2.0 Modern & Contemporary Fiction (FA)

Distributor:

Release: March 2024

Format e-Book

Price £7.99

ISBN 9781738555208

Afsana Press Ltd.

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