

PRESS RELEASE

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Norwich-based Author Achieves National Success

Kate Hardy wins RoNA Rose Category

Romantic Novelists' Association Awards 2014

Kate Hardy, who lives in Norwich, was declared the winner of the RoNA Rose category at the Romantic Novelists' Association Awards this evening.

Star-shaped trophy and £1000 cheque

The announcement, made by Darcey Bussell CBE, was for the author's novel *Bound by a Baby*. To mark her success Kate was presented with a star-shaped crystal trophy and a cheque for £1,000 (one thousand pounds) by Ms Bussell during a glittering ceremony held in the Reading and Writing Room of the Gladstone Library, One Whitehall Place in London SW1.

The novels in the RoNA Rose category do not go forward to compete for the Romantic Novel of the Year Award, which was also part of the evening's celebrations. The RoNA Rose category recognises the authors of shorter fiction that focus on developing a love affair between the hero and heroine in category/series and magazine serials. Kate had two books in contention and faced fierce competition from Louise Allen, Caroline Anderson, Liz Fielding and Joanna Fulford.

Published by *Harlequin Mills & Boon*, Kate's book tells of Emma becoming guardian to her orphaned godson, a heartbreaking honour. But the real challenge will be sharing the caring with godfather Dylan Harper. Having got off on the wrong foot with him Emma must now, somehow, get along with the brooding but gorgeous

Dylan.

Dylan had never wanted a family - his own childhood was bad enough so how can he ever be a father? But he promised his best friend he'd be there and he has to be. Emma and Dylan have to put their differences aside and work together - only it's easier said than done. But in the process they find themselves turning from enemies into soul mates.

Readers judging the book said:

"Beautifully written."

"What a lovely story, a true romance."

The RoNA Rose category finalists' novels were

**Forbidden Jewel of India*, Louise Allen
Mills & Boon Historical

**Snowed in with the Billionaire*, Caroline Anderson
Mills & Boon Cherish

**Anything But Vanilla*, Liz Fielding
Mills & Boon Modern Tempted

**His Lady of Castlemora*, Joanna Fulford
Mills & Boon Historical

**Her Real Family Christmas*, Kate Hardy
Mills & Boon Medical

For the past 50 years the RNA has set a benchmark in romantic fiction. Its President, Katie Fforde, commented, "The RNA was set up in 1961 to encourage the good writing of romantic fiction in all its many genres. We congratulate all of our category winners. To get this far and compete against some of the best authors in the land is no mean feat."

Cover images for all the above novels, together with author photographs, can be found at:

http://www.romanticnovelistsassociation.org/activities/photo_galleries

High resolution pictures of the Romantic Novel of the Year Awards can be found in the media section of our website

http://www.romanticnovelistsassociation.org/news/media_centre

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Louise Allen, *Forbidden Jewel of India*, Mills & Boon Historical

1788, Rajasthan. Anusha Laurens, daughter of an Indian princess and an Englishman, is a pawn in her uncle's court. Major Nicholas Herriard rescues her, and under the Indian sun attraction turns into forbidden temptation. Nick's only option to keep Anusha safe is marriage. But fate and honour may separate them...

Caroline Anderson, *Snowed in with the Billionaire*, Mills & Boon Cherish

Nine years after they parted, Georgie, now a widowed mother, is stranded in a blizzard outside the home of her childhood sweetheart. Sebastian is still haunted by shadows, but emotions run deep. Trapped together they must give little Josh a special Christmas, but can they both learn to forgive?

Liz Fielding, *Anything But Vanilla*, Mills & Boon Modern Tempted

Sorrel Amery wonderful champagne sorbet is going to be the talk of the town. But the ice cream parlour's owner runs off leaving Sorrel in the lurch. Then gorgeous Alexander West arrives and helps her pick up the pieces - nothing in Sorrel's life is ever boring old vanilla again.

Joanna Fulford, *His Lady of Castlemora*, Mills & Boon Historical

Lord Ban has to turn his thoughts to producing an heir. Widow Lady Isabelle has no dowry, no hope for the future. Believed to be barren, she is forced into a secret betrothal to the powerful Lord but she must be with child before the wedding vows are spoken.

Kate Hardy, *Her Real Family Christmas*, Mills & Boon Medical

Children's doctor Stephanie has given up on her dreams of ever being part of a family – until she meets surgeon Daniel and his daughter Mia and there's a little bit of Christmas magic in the air...

Note to Editors

About the Romantic Novelists' Association

The RNA was formed in 1960 to promote romantic fiction and encourage good writing and now represents more than 700 writers, agents, editors and other publishing professionals. The Romantic Novel of the Year Award was launched in the same year, and recognises excellence in romantic novels thereby enhancing the standing of the genre.

The RNA has always involved readers in judging the awards. Keen readers are asked to rate

nominated books on a number of criteria including romantic content, readability, characters, plot, dialogue, style and ending. These readers' favourites are then presented to the expert independent judges, who decide the overall winners.

The 2013 Romantic Novel of the Year Award winner was Jenny Colgan, for *Welcome to Rosie Hopkins' Sweetshop of Dreams*, published by Sphere. Other recent winners include Jane Lovering, Julia Gregson, Freya North, Rosie Thomas, Jojo Moyes and Philippa Gregory.

A list of past winners of RNA awards can be found at www.romanticnovelistsassociation.org