

A Petrol Scented Spring

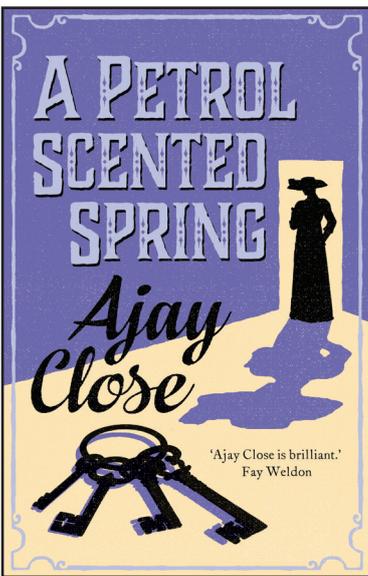
Ajay Close

'An astonishingly aware writer..' -TLS

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'Ajay Close is brilliant.'
- Fay Weldon

Praise for *Forspoken*
'Dense vigorous prose, alive with observation and shrewd intelligence.'
-Literary Review

Praise for *Trust*
'Intelligent and uncompromising, this is a novel that rewards careful reading.'
-The Herald

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ABOUT THIS BOOK

'I still don't know whether he was done for before we met, whether his heart was already claimed, or smashed. Whether the love story pieced together in these pages is mine, or hers.'

The day after her wedding, Donella Ferguson Watson wakes up shackled to a man haunted by the past. The lonely days become weeks, months. Her husband Hugh, a prison doctor, will offer no explanation for their sexless marriage. She comes to suspect the answer lies with a hunger-striking suffragette who was force fed and held in solitary confinement. But what really happened between Hugh and his prisoner patient? *A Petrol Scented Spring* is a riveting novel of repression, jealousy and love, and the struggle for women's emancipation.

SALES & MARKETING HIGHLIGHTS

- *A Petrol Scented Spring* will be supported with a UK campaign by Ruth Killick Publicity
- Ajay Close is the author of 'Official and Doubtful', which was long-listed for the Orange Prize
- Her second play, 'The Sma Room Séance', was performed at the 2014 Edinburgh Fringe

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in Sheffield, Ajay Close took an English degree at Cambridge. She worked as a newspaper journalist, winning several awards, before becoming a full time author and playwright. Her first play, *The Keekin Gless*, was staged at Perth Theatre in July 2009. Her second, *The Sma Room Séance*, was performed at the 2014 Edinburgh Fringe. She is the author of *Forspoken* (Secker & Warburg, 1998) and *Trust* (Blackfriars), which was published in February 2014. All three books collected rave reviews.



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