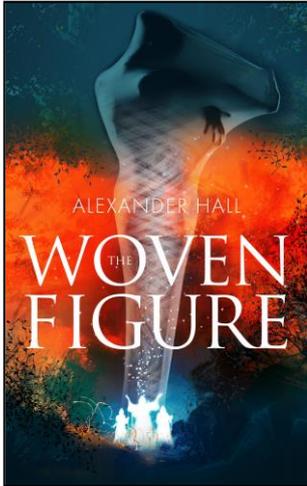


MEREO NEW BOOK: PRESS RELEASE

Set during the financial crisis of 2008, this powerful novel about marriage and family life explores dark themes (including blackmail, rape, suicide and bereavement) while raising thought-provoking questions about the nature of love, fidelity and parenthood

PUBLICATION DATE: 29 OCTOBER 2018



THE WOVEN FIGURE

by Alexander Hall

But I cannot deny my past to which my self is wed

The woven figure cannot undo its thread.

Louis MacNeice, *Valediction*



ISBN: 978 1 86151 897 2 Paperback 340 pages RRP: £12.99 29 October 2018

Mereo Books is an imprint of Memoirs Publishing www.mereobooks.com

Mereo books are available through: all good bookshops and internet booksellers.

What was the point of being a parent if you ended up behaving like a teenager yourself?

Laurence and Rosie Stewart appear to have it all – material wealth, rewarding jobs, two lovely kids and each other. But Laurence is increasingly frustrated by the challenges he faces, being thwarted in his plans by a domineering mother and haunted by the ghost of a father he lost when he was small. His preoccupation with the pursuit of money and property is driving Rosie away from him.

When their son is plunged into a scandal at school, and Rosie meets an attractive charismatic stranger who reawakens passionate feelings within her, the crisis that follows drives a wedge between husband and wife and threatens the happiness of the whole family.

Realising just how much they have to lose, Rosie and Laurence make tentative moves towards reconciliation – both of them hoping for a deeper understanding of themselves and each other. However, just when they start to see a way to save their marriage, the death of Laurence's mother leads to the discovery of a tragic and threatening secret – a secret which has terrible parallels in Rosie's life too

She wept for her mother-in-law, she wept for the husband and the marriage that had lasted for almost eighteen years, and she wept not least for herself, releasing the shame and guilt that had wrapped itself around her. Neither of them would ever be able to escape the consequences ...

With a cast of characters spanning three generations and set against the backdrop of a society in flux, this novel will appeal to men and women who enjoy well-crafted dramatic plots with unexpected twists

Feature suggestions inspired by themes in this novel: Ten years on: what has been the emotional impact of the 2008 financial crisis on families and relationships? • The 'in-the-middle' generation: caught between teenage offspring and ageing parents • Coping with the menopause • Sexual entrapment and the dangers that young people face on social media • The long-lasting consequences of rape and sexual abuse – for victims and their families • The risk of suicide among young people, especially young men • Is boredom the most common reason for infidelity?

Local UK interest: The author lives in **London** (East Finchley) • The novel is set mainly in an unnamed town in **Hampshire**; part of the action takes place in **Huddersfield** (Yorkshire) • The author attended grammar school in **Sutton Coldfield** (near **Birmingham**) and university in Germany and in **Cambridge**.

About the author: **Alexander Hall** grew up in a military family and has lived in several European countries. After earning a PhD at Cambridge, he spent much of his working life in Germany as a teacher and exam centre manager. He currently divides his time between London and Hamburg. *The Woven Figure* is Dr Hall's second novel. (His first novel, *Beyond the Edge*, was published by Strategic in 2013.) As well as fiction, Alexander Hall is the author of numerous academic research articles and study materials as well as *Scandal, Sensation and Social Democracy* (Cambridge University Press, 1977). **Alexander Hall is available for interviews.**



To request a review copy or to be put in touch with the author, please contact

Elly Donovan PR elly@ellydonovan.co.uk tel: 0790 508 7779 / 01273 205 246 www.ellydonovan.co.uk

twitter: @EllyDonovanPR facebook.com/EllyDonovan Linked-In: Elly Donovan PR