



From the *Sunday Times* bestselling author

'The new Hilary Mantel' **Cosmopolitan**
Please consider for 'Books of 2020'

The Foundling

by Stacey Halls

Published by Manilla Press, 6th February,

Hardback, eBook and Audio, £12.99

From the bestselling author of *The Familiars*, and set against the vibrant backdrop of Georgian London, *The Foundling* explores families, secrets, class, equality, power and the meaning of motherhood

A mother's love knows no bounds . . .

London, 1754. Six years after leaving her illegitimate daughter Clara at London's Foundling Hospital, Bess Bright returns to reclaim the child she has never known. Dreading the worst - that Clara has died in care - the last thing she expects to hear is that her daughter has already been reclaimed - by her. Her life is turned upside down as she tries to find out who has taken her little girl - and why.

Less than a mile from Bess' lodgings in the city, in a quiet, gloomy townhouse on the edge of London, a young widow has not left the house in a decade. When her close friend - an ambitious young doctor at the Foundling Hospital - persuades her to hire a nursemaid for her daughter, she is hesitant to welcome someone new into her home and her life. But her past is threatening to catch up with her and tear her carefully constructed world apart.



Stacey Halls grew up in Rossendale, Lancashire, as the daughter of market traders. She studied journalism at the University of Central Lancashire and moved to London aged 21. She was media editor at *The Bookseller* and books editor at *Stylist.co.uk*, and has also worked as a journalist for *Psychologies*, the *Independent* and *Fabulous* magazine. TV rights of *The Familiars* have been sold to The Bureau production company.

Bought in a nine-way auction, *The Familiars* was received with much praise and is nominated for an HWA award. Say hello @Stacey_Halls on Twitter and @StaceyHallsAuthor on Instagram.

Stacey Halls is available for interview, to write features and speak at events

About Bonnier Books UK

Bonnier Books UK is a major publisher with group sales of £80m. Home to 15 adult and children's imprints, we publish across a wide variety of genres, for different ages. From crime to reading group fiction; memoir to self-help; activity to reference – we believe every book matters. Bonnier Books UK is owned by Bonnier Books, a family-owned company headquartered in Sweden. Bonnier Books is a top-15 world publisher with global sales of £728m. Manilla Press is a new imprint from Bonnier Books UK publishing exceptional stories for our times.



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Early praise for *The Foundling*:

“If you loved *The Familiars*, then you won't be disappointed by *The Foundling*. A gripping and moving read.” **Libby Page, author of *The Lido***

“Pacey, highly atmospheric and tantalisingly gripping from the very first page. With rich storytelling and a compelling narrative, *The Foundling* is subtle, satisfying and intensely moving; a fabulous example of great historical fiction.” **Laura Carlin, author of *The Wicked Cometh***

“It was a privilege to read *The Foundling*. I really couldn't stop turning the pages as Stacey's beautiful writing drew a compelling tale of love and hope from the vivid streets of Georgian London.” **Sonia Velton, author of *Blackberry & Wild Rose***

“I was completely swept up in this novel. It's crammed with vivid and engaging characters, there's a beautiful sense of place, revealing hidden aspects of Georgian life.” **Amanda Mason, author of *The Wayward Girls***

Praise for Stacey Halls and *The Familiars*:

'Assured and alluring, this beautiful tale of women and witchcraft and the fight against power was a delight from start to finish' **Jessie Burton, bestselling author of *THE MINIATURIST***

“The Familiars is an intricate and sensitive portrayal of a brave, tenacious young girl carving her place in the world. A must-read novel”
Heather Morris, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*

'Fast-paced, twisty and immense fun' **Anna Mazzola**

'Captivating' **Sunday Express**

'Gripping' **Observer**

'A brilliant debut' **Daily Telegraph**

'This is spellbinding historical fiction' **Psychologies**

'Compelling storytelling' **PRIMA**

'A truly spellbinding debut' **Good Housekeeping**

'a beguiling and beautiful debut novel' **Sun on Sunday Fabulous Magazine**

'Fresh, deliberately uncluttered writing' **The Daily Mail**

'A beautiful story... 5 stars' **The Sun**

'an arresting piece of fiction' **The Times**

'Dramatic, moving and richly atmospheric' **My Weekly**

'An enchanting and promising debut' **HEAT Magazine**

'A feminist tour-de-force' **Lancashire Post**

'historical fiction of the highest order. . . well worthy of the hype' **Sunday Telegraph Magazine**

'Historical fiction at its feminist best' **RED Magazine**

The Foundling Museum explores the history of the Foundling Hospital, the UK's first children's charity and first public art gallery, and through a dynamic programme of exhibitions and events celebrates the ways in which artists of all disciplines have helped improve children's lives for over 275 years. The Foundling Hospital, which continues today as the children's charity Coram, was established in 1739 by the philanthropist Captain Thomas Coram, as 'a hospital for the maintenance and education of exposed and deserted young children'. Instrumental in helping Coram realise his vision were the artist William Hogarth, who encouraged leading artists of the day to donate work, and the composer George Frideric Handel, who gave annual benefit concerts of his *Messiah*. In doing so, they created London's first public art gallery and set the template for the way in which the arts can support philanthropy.