

NEW LITERARY SOCIETY

A black and white portrait of a woman with long, dark, wavy hair, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a light-colored top with a dark floral pattern. The background is dark and out of focus.

JANUARY
2025

AUTHOR
SPOTLIGHT

RITA H ROWE

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NEW LITERARY SOCIETY

THE CON TENT

RITA H ROWE SPECIAL EDITION

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Rita H Rowe Special Edition



Rita H. Rowe is a prolific Australian author whose works delve into the complex nuances of human relationships.

With her background in literature and teaching, she brings a unique depth to her writing, blending emotion, psychological insight, and artistry.

No matter how tough the subject matter, Rowe has a knack for elevating her readers, offering insights without ever being preachy. It's this talent that truly sets her apart in the world of contemporary fiction.

Rita H Rowe is a teacher and author with a Bachelor of Arts, a Diploma of Education, and a Masters in Writing.

Her journey into writing began as a lifelong dream that she was finally able to pursue at the age of forty-seven, resulting in her first novel, *Never the Moon*.

Rita pours her heart and soul into her writing, incorporating her personal experiences with love, romance, hurt, and abuse.

To Rita, writing is both a form of therapy and a way to connect with like-minded readers on a deeper level.

As an author, Rita hopes to be remembered as someone who created worlds that readers could lose themselves in, even just for a little while.

When she isn't writing, Rita enjoys playing pool, painting, going on motorbike rides, and spending time with her children and mother.

[Source: <https://www.ritahrowe.com/about>]

Interview

1. That Special Moment

One fine day, you started writing poems/stories. How did it happen exactly?

RHR: The stories were always in my head from as far back as I can remember.

I think back to when I was in boarding school, walking with one of my friends and telling her stories that just came into my head.

Then I remember making up stories for my children when we were away on holiday, and they didn't want me to stop so I kept creating different tales for them.

I never could put pen to paper, so to speak and each time I tried, I would scratch it all out thinking how awful I was.

Then one fine day, I decided to do a Masters in Writing.

This forced me to write and while I was in my first semester, I began my first novel.

So, a long process really, some forty-seven years in the making.

2. Art Is Work

What does your work as a writer consist of? What are the biggest challenges of the present?

RHR: If it was just writing and editing, and perhaps even the publishing process, I could do this all the time.

It's the marketing.

Even after four years, I'm still trying to get the hang of it and have not gotten very far.

I almost gave up writing because the process of 'selling myself' was too daunting and unsuccessful.

Interview

3. Without Projects, There Is No Future

What are your representative projects? What projects are you working on?

RHR: I would probably go back to the first novel I wrote, *Never The Moon*—that was my test, it was my baby and I put everything I had into it, not knowing if there was going to be another.

My editor gets quite a kick out of reading my books because she says she never knows what to find when she opens the file—all of them are quite different from each other. I don't know if that's a good thing.

Nevertheless, most are love stories, not necessarily romance, but love, gritty love.

I have a new book coming out, it is quite a grim little number, *Gin and Toxic*.

It is about the relationship between a couple that is fuelled by alcohol and violence.

4. Ink and Intimacy

If your writing style were a tactile experience, what texture would it be? How does the act of putting pen to paper or fingers to keyboard make you feel on a deeply personal level?

RHR: This question made me laugh.

My writing has been described as 'a bolt'.

One reviewer said he was reading the story, enjoying it and all of a sudden, he felt like he was hit on the head with a hammer.

So perhaps the texture would be more like the line on a heart monitor, more of a visual than texture.

Did that make sense? It did in my weird little writer brain.

Interview

The second question is also funny to me.

Because I use the computer for my day job (as a teacher) as well as for household uses, I find it difficult to disconnect the two.

5. The Harmony of Silence

Think about a moment when silence spoke louder than words in your creative journey. What were the circumstances, and how did it shape your understanding of your craft?

RHR: I'm interpreting this as from a reader's point of view?

I find it hard to gauge readers' perception of my work.

Sometimes I feel that perhaps I'm not getting a lot of reviews because people don't like my book, or maybe they're not finishing my book?

One book, quite a good seller, I have eight reviews on Amazon—EIGHT!

Then I think I realized why—it was when my husband listened to the audiobook.

At the end, he exclaimed "But why? Why did that have to happen?"

He had thoroughly enjoyed the whole book but had not been happy with the ending!

So back to silence, maybe that's why.

6. The Palette of Dreams

Imagine your creative mind as a painter's palette. What colors dominate your artistic spectrum, and how do they represent the different facets of your imagination?

RHR: As much as I dislike the color red, it does tend to dominate

Interview

my writing—there has to be a lot of conflict to move the story forward and quickly too—that’s how I enjoy my reading too.

7. The Quill of Vulnerability

If your creative expression were a handwritten letter to your inner self, what truths and vulnerabilities would it unveil? How does the act of exposing your innermost thoughts contribute to your artistic identity?

RHR: Wow, now that’s deep!

I think a lot of my writing comes from my traumas, my vulnerabilities, my self-doubt...

I just try to work it out in different ways, different scenarios—it is cathartic and has manifested itself in my work, sometimes bringing me to tears, having to face what I didn’t know I was hiding from.

9. Symphony of Shadows

Consider a character or theme in your work that embodies the shadows of your own psyche. What does this shadow teach you about your fears, desires, or unexplored dimensions of your creativity?

Is that the case?

RHR: Ultimately I could put it down to one word—acceptance. And yes, perhaps I am avoiding answering the question.

10. Echoes of Childhood Whispers

Recall a childhood memory that resonates with you as a writer. How do the echoes of your early experiences manifest in your work today?

Interview

RHR: My childhood memories are all over the pages of my books. I think I work out some of my issues through my writing! Again, maybe I am side-stepping the question.

11. Melodies of Memory

If your memories were composed as a musical score, what instrument would represent your most cherished creative recollections? How does the melody of your past influence the composition of your present work?

RHR: My past (particularly childhood and adolescence) would be accompanied by a sorrowful violin.

A cheerful guitar (probably played by my husband John) has replaced it.

12. The Dance of Words

If your writing style were a dance, what would be the rhythm and tempo? How does the cadence of your sentences mirror the beating of your creative heart?

RHR: Oh, Flamenco, for sure! Just listen to it!

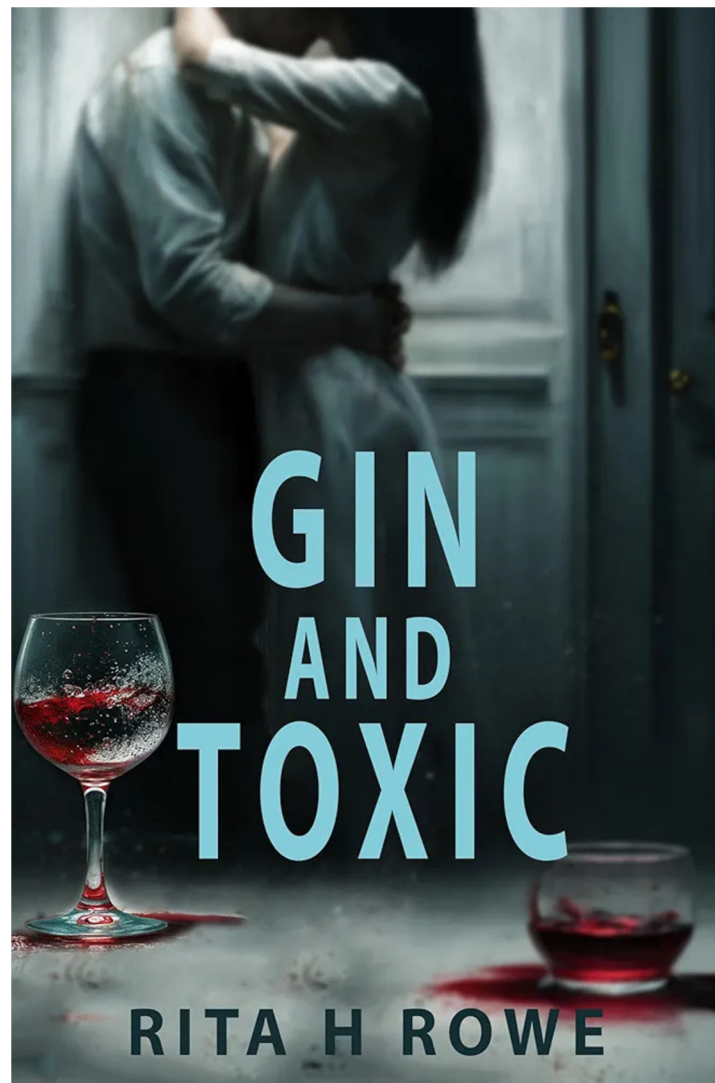
15. Where can we find your books, and how can we support you as an author?

RHR: Check out my books on Amazon!

Grab a copy, dive in, and if you enjoy it, leave a review.

I'd love to hear your thoughts and hope you'll come back for more!

Book Photography



RITA H ROWE SPECIAL EDITION

Review: Gin and Toxic

About *Gin and Toxic*

Gin and Toxic grabbed me from the start with its unsettling yet exciting story.

This book isn't just words on pages; it's a wild journey that holds on tight and doesn't let go.

Rowe creates a world where personal struggles and social pressures crash together spinning a tale full of intense emotions, fights, and self-understanding.

The prologue left me thinking, "I wish I'd written this"—you know that feeling I'm talking about.

As I kept reading, I felt like I was hunting for something ineffable, with each chapter hiding a little secret.

When I got it, it hit me like a bolt of lightning.

The gin in the story packs a punch—rough, unforgiving, and too much to handle.

I soaked up so much of it through the book that I might never want real gin again.

It's a strong and heady mix, but as the plot moves along, that gin turns into something healing offering a release that's both cathartic and a bit unsettling.

Rowe's writing mixes the edge-of-your-seat feeling of a thriller with the deep thinking of serious literature.

She brings Elizabeth's world to life in a detailed, moving, touching, sometimes sensory, and even synesthetic way, creating a story that feels both personal and universal.

Contextualizing *Gin and Toxic*

Gin and Toxic shows us a changing India after colonial rule.

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Review: *Gin and Toxic*

The book reveals a country stuck between old ways and new trends, showing how big changes affect the characters' lives..

This setting does more than just set the scene—it pushes the story forward and shapes Elizabeth's choices and problems.

Rowe mixes old-school storytelling with innovations.

This gives us a new look at love, freedom, and what society expects.

By showing these ideas through Elizabeth's personal struggles, the book comments on the limits women face in a fast-changing world.

The novel showcases the creative freedom of fiction, offering a deeply captivating experience that stays with you long after the last page.

Perhaps that's why reading it brings to mind the emotional reflection often found in memoirs.

Themes: Unpacking the Essence of *Gin and Toxic*

In *Gin and Toxic*, the writer looks at personal, social, and global themes, including post-colonial expansion or emigration, with some recent history thrown in.

At its heart, the book looks at the fight between what people want and what society expects, which we see in Elizabeth's journey.

The book digs deep into love, freedom, and finding yourself.

Character Sketch: Unveiling the Figures

Elizabeth is the soul of this book, a protagonist whose journey is riddled with intense internal and external conflicts.

Everything seems to drive her toward a unique path, including her own parents.

rita h rowe special edition

Review: Gin and Toxic

What will tip the balance?

Will it be her talent, energy, beauty, rebellious nature, feminine intuition, or motherly instinct?

Or perhaps the customs she was raised with?

Maybe something—or someone—else?

Continue reading to uncover the decisions and experiences that have shaped her life.

The novel places great emphasis on her struggle to balance desires with reality as it highlights a shift from careless youthfulness into troubled maturity.

While there are numerous male characters in the book, Elizabeth's choices very well mirror her inner tensions—they could be seen as projections of the self.

Therefore, despite a wide circle of admirers, a passionate and exciting life, and all the contradictions, harshness, departures, rebellions, denials, and separations, I would say that Elizabeth remains a woman devoted to just one man.

What can I say about the male characters?

I believe that the three dominant male characters are essentially variations of a single archetype: the societal ideal of stability and tradition.

Their differences primarily lie in their individual personalities.

Elizabeth's children, Genny and Robert, play significant roles in the narrative, inspiring us to change our lives and pay closer attention to the younger ones among us—their emotions, thoughts, and words.

We are disarmed by Genny's innocence and vulnerability, as well as by Robert's protective instincts.

Review: *Gin and Toxic*

Ultimately, the book is called *Gin and Toxic*, and the only solace for trauma is either forgetting or, perhaps... the reflective gaze of understanding—the gaze of someone who loves, of a woman who reinvents the past and herself.

The Art of Style in *Gin and Toxic*

Comparing Rowe's style with that of other authors, you can see echoes of Virginia Woolf's stream-of-consciousness technique.

Like Woolf, the author delves deeply into Elizabeth's psyche, exploring her inner landscape with similar depth and sensitivity. Woolf's influence is evident in the fluidity of Elizabeth's thoughts and emotions.

In conclusion, the author's style is marked by a careful blend of introspection, vivid description, and natural dialogue, creating a narrative that is deeply engaging and emotionally resonant.

Personal Reflections: Insights on *Gin and Toxic*

Reading *Gin and Toxic* was a profoundly moving experience, both touching and illuminating.

Rowe's masterful storytelling and the depth of her characters make this novel a captivating and thought-provoking read.

I invite you to immerse yourself in this world and reflect on social norms and broader themes in your own life—such as personal independence, the many forms of love, pleasure and vice, dreams, and purpose, finding the right path, and the quest for liberation and fulfillment.

Although this work is written by a female author and features a

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Review: Gin and Toxic

female protagonist, it should not be automatically categorized as “feminine literature.”

Approach it with an open heart and mind.

Let the story embrace you like the wonder it is and inspire a deeper understanding of the complexities of human experience.

— **Julia Kalman**

Book Photography

THE THING WE DON'T TALK ABOUT



Rita H Rowe

RITA H ROWE SPECIAL EDITION

Review: The Thing We Don't Talk About

In *The Thing We Don't Talk About*, Rita H. Rowe quietly addresses the hidden parts of our lives, thus unveiling contemporary society's various emotional, psychological, and philosophical attitudes and how they influence relationships, identities, and decisions. This effervescent book offers the reader an easy and passionate journey.

Psychological Complications: Charli's Struggle

Charli is the protagonist of the novel, who is at the point of breaking away from the past and beginning a new life with her fiancé, Glenn. However, this beautiful, young woman is struggling with the dark secrets of her past.

The Power of What's Unsaid

Even the title refers to the very focus of the book: whatever is buried, repressed, or unsaid has a huge effect on our lives.

Unhealed Wounds and Relationship Damage

The novel becomes more psychologically complicated when Rowe goes into the intricacies of the "unsaid truths" and their damaging effect on relationships, gradually revealing the unhealed past wounds.

The Silent Struggles Beneath the Surface

Rita H. Rowe's novel shows relationships that are broken in several

RITA H ROWE SPECIAL EDITION

Review: The Thing We Don't Talk About

ways, silent accusations that are sown, unspoken fears that are very real, and the struggles of dealing with untold truths.

Concealing Emotional Realities

The “secrets” at the heart of Charli’s story are not merely the facts she kept from others but also her own deeply hidden emotional truths; reflecting how we often conceal profound emotional realities even from ourselves.

Caught Between Two Loves

Charli is confused about her own desires, caught between the safe and predictable affection of Glenn and the irresistible charm of Pete, her former partner. She keeps these feelings hidden, her heart remains deaf even to her, whether the idea of marrying Glenn comes from the genuine love she feels or only out of mere mindset.

The Internal Conflict: Desires and Fear

The internal conflict that stems from her “unacknowledged desires” and “the fear of confronting the past” is vital for her journey to individual acceptance.

Secrets’ Impact on Relationships

Secrets play a crucial role in her interactions with the other characters. Throughout all the characters she portrays the layers of

Review: The Thing We Don't Talk About

anger, secrets, and unresolved issues that come with love relationships.

Hidden Emotions and Projected Facades

A parallel cutting from the development of the narrative is Charlie's realization of the gap between her projected and the hidden sides of her emotional disposition.

Nevertheless, the story directly contrasts the tangible relationships that exist with the reasons lying below that are not given away easily.

Charli's "secrets" are difficult to confront.

The Cocoon of Denial

Rita H. Rowe's ingenious encapsulation of the drama reminds us how the "secrets" we hide from others can trap butterflies of sadness in us and prevent us from getting out of the cocoon.

One must work through layers of denial to uncover the truth.

Struggling with Self-Esteem and Emotional Health

Charli's problem is not only the lack of awareness of her links with others, but besides this, she also struggles with the "burden of secrets" which causes her to lose self-esteem and emotional health.

Breaking Free from Dark Truths

Is it possible for Charli to break free?

Review: The Thing We Don't Talk About

Do we ever get out of our own dark truths?

A Journey Into the Deepest Emotions

Rita H. Rowe writes with power and emotion in her personal and passionate manner, she guides readers on a journey into the deepest thoughts and feelings of all her characters. Her writing is both dynamic and psychological in nature, alternating between past and present to explore the various emotions that are inherent to the character's behavior.

The Truth vs. The Lie

Rowe's specific approach comprises the mind through her careful attention to detail, which in turn allows her to show the complexity of self-doubt, unspoken desires, and subtle tensions in all relationships. She slowly and carefully creates an intense situation where every word and action is important, helping the reader experience the main theme of the relationship between the truth and the lie.

— **Julia Kalman**

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Book Photography



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Book Links and Purchase

Explore Rita H. Rowe's works and dive into the worlds she's so beautifully crafted.

- [Rita H. Rowe Official Website](#)
- [Gin and Toxic - Amazon](#)
- [The Thing We Don't Talk About- Amazon](#)

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