

# Jean Rafferty

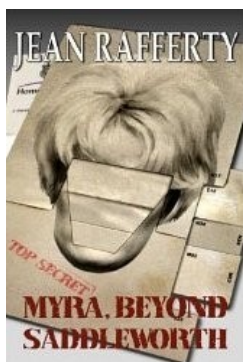
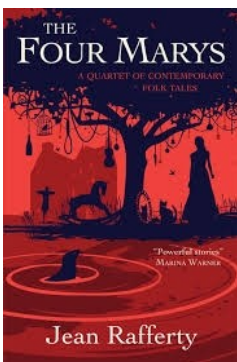
"I'm a writer who started off doing light-hearted articles for colour magazines but who has progressed to dark fiction featuring notorious serial killers, infanticides, baby-snatching and a hanging.

I'm passionately committed to freedom of expression and am chair of Scottish PEN's Writers in Prison Committee, who campaign for imprisoned and persecuted writers."

Jean Rafferty's first two works of fiction were nominated for literary prizes. **The Four Marys**, published by Saraband Books in 2014, was longlisted for the 2015 Jerwood Fiction Uncovered prize. It didn't win, but Matthew Bates, one of the judges, is travel buyer at WH Smith and liked it so much he subsequently gave it a promotion at their train station and airport shops. **Myra, Beyond Saddleworth** was shortlisted for the inaugural Gordon Burn Prize.

The book is a collection of four novellas responding to Scottish myth, history and music and dealing with themes of motherhood and love. Are the two things always compatible? Through shape-shifting, baby-snatching, infanticide and a hanging, **The Four Marys** explores the passions and sometimes disappointments of being a mother.

*"Fairy tales, ballads, riddles and folk songs tell stories of sufferings and crimes, love and death, as Ophelia knew when she sang snatches of them in her madness. Jean Rafferty's Four Marys takes up with strong feeling and uncompromising frankness the true histories concealed in these voices from the past; she unfolds their contemporary urgency. These are powerful stories about the lives and deaths of women – and of their children"*  
**Marina Warner**



The idea for **Myra, Beyond Saddleworth** came to Jean when she was driving home from a creative writing course in West Yorkshire. It was shortly after Myra Hindley had died in 2002, and rumours were circulating that she hadn't in fact died, but been released from prison under a new identity. Jean Rafferty was captivated by this idea, and decided to turn it into a book. Due to the nature of the tale and its background, Jean struggled to find a publisher willing to take the book on, but was eventually published by Wild Wolf.

During the writing of the book Jean started writing to Ian Brady in prison, someone who had lived and worked close to where Jean grew up. This experience, and that of writing the book has had a big impact on Jean's life, and continues to do so. **THREE LOCHS BOOK and ARTS FESTIVAL** is pleased to welcome Jean to the Festival.

**Jean Rafferty, author event - "The Four Marys" 10.45 - 12.15**

**"Writers at Risk" workshop - 15.30 - 16.30**

[www.jeanrafferty.com](http://www.jeanrafferty.com)