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## Revelson Editions Unveils *The Story of Emilian Bent*: British Author Sheds Light on Foster Child Abuse in France

*The psychological thriller is inspired by real events witnessed by the author in a French village*



October 14, 2024 – Revelson Editions is pleased to announce the release of *The Story of Emilian Bent*, a new novel by British author Hannah Dickson. Drawing from personal experiences and memories of her own childhood in a small French village, and specifically the abuse of local foster children, Dickson weaves together a layered narrative about identity, trauma, and the echoes of past experiences that continue to shape the present.

The release of *The Story of Emilian Bent* comes at a time when a major criminal trial in Châteauroux, France, is set to begin, as nineteen individuals from the Creuse, Haute-Vienne, and Indre regions are to face accusations of illegally fostering children, allegedly subjecting them to violence, forced labor, and humiliation between 2010 and 2017.

Although *The Story of Emilian Bent* does not directly address any specific legal cases, the themes it explores - particularly those involving the exploitation of foster children - resonate with current societal concerns.



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In reflecting on her inspiration for the novel, Dickson notes, “Growing up, I saw how certain things were never talked about, especially when it came to the most vulnerable members of society. The novel allowed me to explore these dynamics in a way that I hope will prompt readers to think about the systems of power and control that are often hidden in plain sight.”

### **A tale of passion, survival and dark secrets**

In *The Story of Emilia Bent*, the protagonist, Emilia, begins her tale with what seems like a career-ending mistake. As a PR executive in London, she lets her frustration with a difficult client get the better of her, writing a sarcastic limerick about the product she’s promoting - a seemingly harmless joke that ends up going viral. This unexpected event sets off a chain reaction, and Emilia’s career takes an unexpected turn, bringing her into the orbit of Ben Goodall, a charismatic CEO who ultimately changes the course of her life.

What begins as a fast-paced and lighthearted opening soon shifts into darker territory, as Emilia’s romantic entanglement with Ben takes on a troubling dimension. As she navigates the complexities of their relationship, old memories from her childhood resurface.

Dickson’s portrayal of rural life in France is drawn from her own experiences of growing up in such a community. While the novel is largely fictionalized, the atmosphere of the village, the secrets it harbored, and the complex dynamics between power and vulnerability are shaped by what she experienced during her childhood.

Hannah Dickson’s writing is marked by its ability to navigate complex emotional territory while maintaining a compelling, and often humorous, narrative thread. The novel’s pacing allows the reader to feel the gradual build-up of tension as Emilia’s story unfolds. It is not just a novel about a woman’s personal struggles, but also about the hidden systems of power and control that often go unquestioned in both small villages and larger cities.

### **Dedicated to Christophe**

The novel is dedicated to Christophe Blin, a foster child in Hannah’s class in France, who tragically died of cancer at the age of thirty-seven. In his memory, Dickson is donating her author royalties from *The Story of Emilia Bent* to *La Voix de l’Enfant*, an organization devoted to protecting vulnerable children, including those in foster care.

### **About the Contributors**

In writing *The Story of Emilia Bent*, Hannah Dickson drew on the support and insight of her brother, Dominic Dickson, and Christophe’s sister, Claire Blin. Both contributors brought their own lived experiences and perspective to the story, particularly regarding the emotional complexities tied to childhood trauma and healing, offering insight that deepened the novel’s portrayal of resilience and recovery.

### **Available Now**

*The Story of Emilia Bent* is available in paperback and eBook formats, in major bookstores and online.