



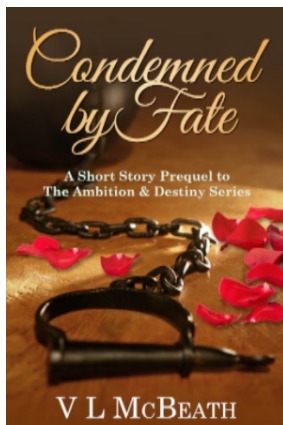
## The *Ambition & Destiny* Newsletter

The *Ambition & Destiny* Series of books was inspired by Family History research.

It is a family saga of love, loss and betrayal set against the backdrop of Victorian England.

### Happy New Year!

I hope you all had an enjoyable end to 2016 and are looking forward to the year ahead. For me, I'm expecting 2017 to be a busy year with, hopefully, three books to publish. As soon as I have any firm plans in place, you will be the first to hear.



### ***Condemned by Fate***

A sincere thanks to those of you who have read *Condemned by Fate* and left a review on Amazon. It really is appreciated.

Reviews can make the difference between success and failure for new books but can be like gold dust to collect. For those of you who enjoyed the book, but haven't yet posted a review, the link to the appropriate [Amazon page](#) is attached should you get chance. For a further chance to download the pdf, click [here](#).

### ***Ambition & Destiny: Hooks & Eyes***

As mentioned last month, Part 1 of The *Ambition & Destiny* Series is called *Hooks & Eyes*. I am delighted to say that I have finally sent the latest version to a professional editor who is going to work on it throughout January. As soon as I see how many comments are still to be addressed, I will be able to let you know when I plan to publish. I am still hoping for February / early March, so wish me luck!

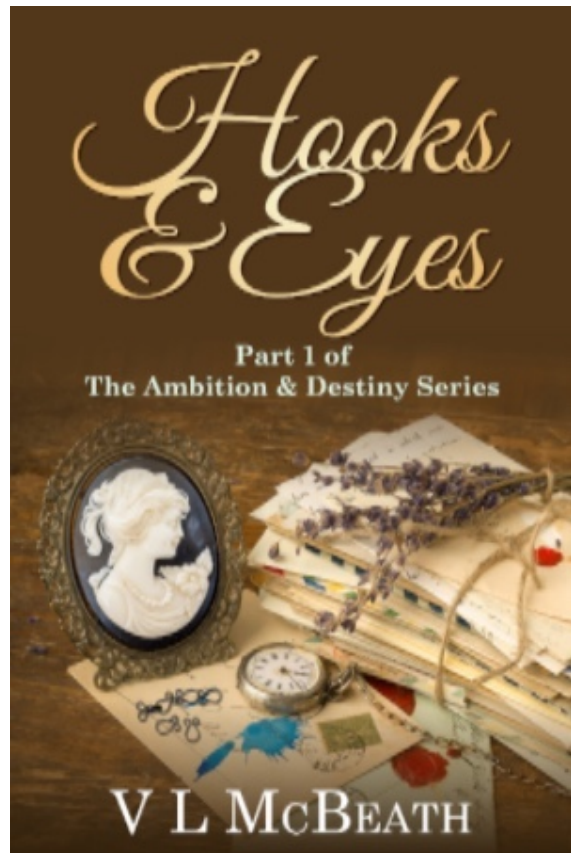
*Hooks & Eyes* follows the life of Mary as she moves to Birmingham. As much as I would

like to post the synopsis here, I am conscious that it contains spoilers relating to *Condemned by Fate*. For those of you who have read the prequel, or who don't mind spoilers, click [Hooks & Eyes](#) for a short introduction to the story.

## Cover Reveal: *Hooks & Eyes*

So, this is the cover that caused me no end of grief! Initially, I had no idea how to depict the story, but after weeks of searching, this is the photograph I came up with (although even this has been modified).

As you can see, the font is consistent with *Condemned by Fate*, but the theme has changed to incorporate the woman's cameo and a pocket watch. The cameo is meant to depict Mary, while the pocket watch is symbolic of Mr Wetherby. Over the next few months, as I reveal the covers for Parts 2 and 3, you will see the pocket watch becomes more prominent as time goes on.



## Volunteers Wanted

As mentioned above, reviews are the life blood of generating interest in new books. With that in mind, I would be delighted to hear from anyone who would be interested in receiving a free electronic copy of *Hooks & Eyes*, ahead of publication, with a view to leaving a review once the book goes live on Amazon. If you would like to be involved, please reply to this email, and I will be in touch separately to confirm timelines.

## Introducing the Characters

Over the last few months, I have been giving a short introduction to each of the characters. However, because a) this newsletter is probably long enough already, b) we have new readers, and c) I have covered all the main characters in *Hooks & Eyes*, this month I have compiled the existing information into one pdf for people to download. Included in the document are: Mary (lead female character), Mr Weatherby (main male lead), Sarah-Ann

(an interesting side character) and William (Mary's son). I have tweaked the information slightly from that published in the newsletters and as a piece of bonus content have included a short background on Charles, the main character in *Condemned by Fate*. To download your copy, [click here](#).

If you know of anyone else who would be interested in the books, please ask them to visit [valmcbeath.com](http://valmcbeath.com) and sign up for the newsletter.

See you again next month

Best wishes

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