

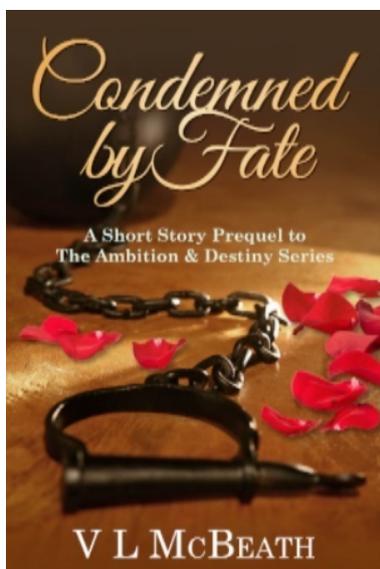


The *Ambition & Destiny* Newsletter

The *Ambition & Destiny* series was inspired by research into Family History. It is a story of love, loss and betrayal set against the backdrop of Victorian England.

Welcome!

I am delighted to say we have a number of new subscribers this month. Thank you for joining us. If you would like to look at any back issues of the newsletter (there are only 3) they can be found on my website at: valmcbeath.com/newsletters/



Condemned by Fate

I hope you all received your free copy of *Condemned by Fate*, the short story prequel to *The Ambition & Destiny* series. If not, you may need to check your spam box (or for those who have recently subscribed, check your inbox for the email to confirm your subscription).

For those of you who received, and have read, the book I hope you liked it. If you did, it would be great if you could consider leaving a review on Amazon. It doesn't have to be anything fancy, although you will need to precede your comments by saying you received an advanced copy for review (Amazon will know you didn't buy it). Thanks in advanced to anyone who is able to do this. Click here to go to the [Amazon page](#).

Ambition & Destiny

As I mentioned last month, because I've been distracted with *Condemned by Fate*, there

has been a slight delay to the release of Part 1 of the series. I'm now back on the case and hope to send the updated version to another editor within the next couple of weeks. Once I see how many more comments I get, I'll have a better idea of when I might be able to publish it. I'm still hoping for January / February 2017.

Title Reveals!

As disclosed last month, the title for Part 1 of the series will be *Hooks & Eyes*. I can now confirm that the titles for Parts 2 and 3 will be *When time Runs Out* and *Only One Winner*. I wanted to wait until the cover designs were finalised before the titles were revealed, and I am delighted to say that I have now got them sorted out. I'm still waiting for the final images from the designer, but I will be able to share them with you next month 😊

Recent Posts

As a background document to *Condemned by Fate*, I have put an article on the website describing the impact of consumption (tuberculosis) in the 19th century: [Consumption: The Most Feared of Diseases](#).

I also posted an announcement on my blog about the release of [Condemned by Fate](#). Please feel free to share with anyone who might be interested.

Introducing the Characters - William

Before I have excerpts of the books to share, I thought I'd take the opportunity to introduce some of the characters. I promise there'll be no spoilers! Already covered in previous newsletters are Mary (lead female character), Mr Weatherby (main male lead) and Sarah-Ann (an interesting side character).

Mary's son William is mentioned briefly in *Condemned by Fate*. At the time, he was a two year old who took his mother's attention away from her sick husband. By the start of *Hooks & Eyes* he has grown into a responsible five year old who is instructed to look after his mother as they set off on their journey to Birmingham.

William's story is based on research into the life of my great grandfather. He died long before even my grandfather was born, and so I have no knowledge of his personality. From what I've learned, however, I've portrayed him as a quiet, unassuming character, who is often dominated by those around him. His role in Part 1 starts off slowly but as the book goes on, and he grows into an adult, we see more of him.

In the early years, much of his story is about his relationship with Mr Weatherby. By Part 2, he takes over from Mr Weatherby as the main male lead character, and by Part 3, it becomes his story. For those of you who have read Lord of the Rings, I like to think William is a little like the character Sam Gamgee - just a side character at the start of the book but

by the end, he is the one you are rooting for. When my husband read an early draft, however, he didn't see it like that and so it will be interesting to see what others think.

Finally, as the festive season approaches, can I wish you all a Merry Christmas 🌲 and
Happy New Year. 🎉

Next months newsletter will probably be sent out in early January (not the 1st!), so until
then, enjoy the next month 😊

If you know of anyone else who would be interested in the books, please ask them to
visit valmcbeath.com and sign up for the newsletter
