

Holly West – Official Bio

Don't let the smile fool you; Holly West has a dark side.

Originally from a small town in Northern California, Holly moved to the big city to attend Loyola Marymount University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Screenwriting. After shoving a few unproduced scripts in the proverbial desk drawer, she succumbed to her baser instincts and turned to writing crime fiction.

She's the author of the *Mistress of Fortune* series, set in late 17th century London and featuring amateur sleuth Isabel Wilde, a mistress to King Charles II who secretly makes her living as a fortuneteller. The first in the series, *Mistress of Fortune*, was published by Harlequin's Carina Press in February 2014 and was nominated for the Left Coast Crime Rosebud Award for Best First Novel in 2015.

Holly's short stories also appear in *Feeding Kate: A Crime Fiction Anthology*, *Needle: A Magazine of Noir* and *Shotgun Honey Presents: Both Barrels*. Upcoming anthologies include *Unloaded* and *Forty-Four Caliber Funk*. Her short story, "Don't Fear the Ripper," originally published in *Protectors 2: Heroes*, will appear in *The Big Book of Jack the Ripper* (Vintage Books), edited by Otto Penzler, in Fall 2016.

Before devoting herself to writing fiction full-time, Holly was an accomplished jewelry designer. She also served as a contributor to About.com for four years, writing about a variety of topics. Prior to that, she worked as a foreign credentials analyst, specializing in Latin America, and published monographs on the educational systems of Sudan, Zambia, and Afghanistan.

Holly lives in Northern California with her husband, Mick, and dog, Stella. She's a member of the Mystery Writers of America, for which she edits the Southern California chapter's newsletter, *Sisters in Crime* and the International Thriller Writers. She's also the Wednesday contributor to the *Do Some Damage* blog.

Holly is represented by Elizabeth K. Kracht of Kimberley Cameron & Associates.

Find more info at hollywest.com.