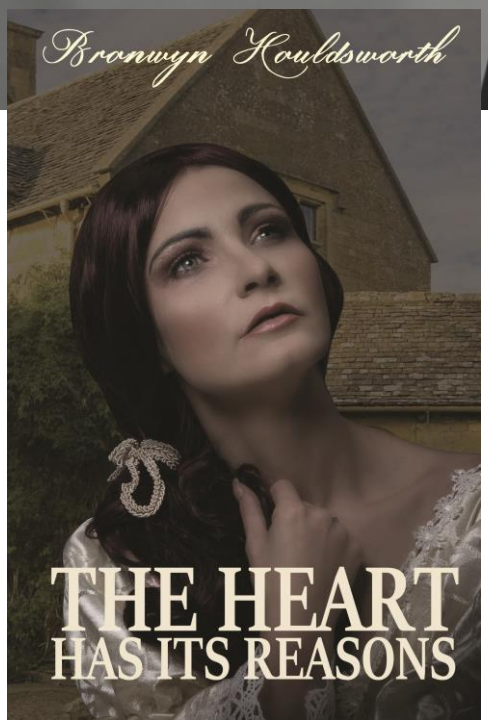

Author: Bronwyn Houldsworth
Category: Romance, Historical Romance
Print ISBN: 978-1-925680-28-7
eBook ISBN: 978-1-925680-29-4
RRP: $24.99AUD

Media Kit

Author Bio

Book Bio

Testimonials

Book Excerpt

Interview Questions

Media Release

Contact Author

Author Bio

Bronwyn's early years were spent in the Hawkesbury district, north-west of Sydney, surrounded by history. In more recent years she's worked on documenting historic buildings and in a museum. A degree in Sociology and Politics gave her an understanding of the human condition, as did varied life experiences—clerical and administrative work, several years in the Australian Navy, a partnership in a press photography business, and as a farmer—rearing beef cattle, growing bush tucker, and breeding and successfully racing thoroughbred horses.

Her short stories, articles and book reviews have been nationally published.

All the above, combined with uncovering secrets long hidden in a branch of her family tree, have culminated in the writing and release of the book of her heart.

The Heart Has Its Reasons is a historic romance, based on a family scandal that rocked 1790s England. It involved tracking down, in a San Francisco law bookshop, an account of a salacious court trial. Bronwyn has unearthed copies of portraits of some of the event's real-life characters painted by a famous artist. She encountered a self-portrait of that artist in a Chicago gallery that was so character-revealing that a fictional counterpart just begged to be included in the story. She's wandered the streets of Bloomsbury looking at townhouses her relatives inhabited, imagining their lives in late 18th century London.

The result of her exhaustive research is a book bursting with interesting characters, and involving passion, tragedy, adventure and, above all, romance. The Heart Has Its Reasons is available as an eBook and in print.

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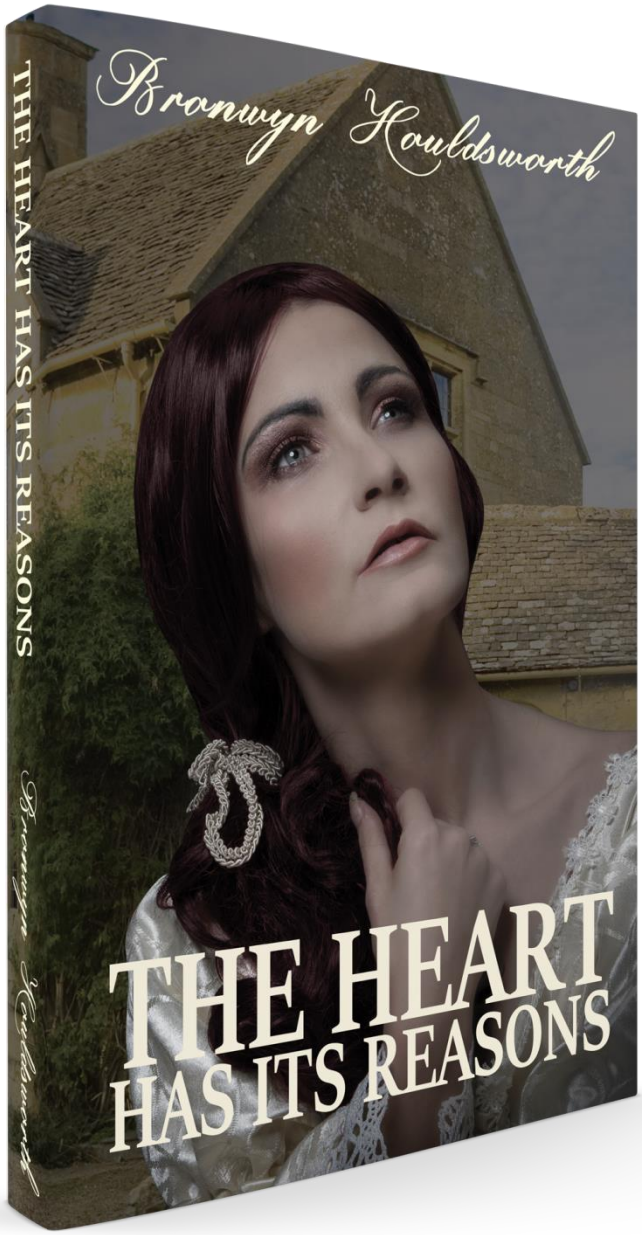
ROMANCE WRITERS of Australia



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Book Bio

The heart has its reasons which the mind knows nothing of.

Blaise Pascal's words, written in the 17th century, still resonate. The very nature of love implies that it's ruled by the heart, and not by the head.

And so it is with Rachel, the heroine of *The Heart Has Its Reasons.* Her love for Nathaniel, even after he deserts her and makes a disastrous marriage with Susanna, is a constant in her life. But then…

When the hero and heroine independently venture out from the security of 18th century England in search of adventure and salvation, they encounter lust, scandal, heartbreak, love, and, ultimately, self-discovery.

I invite you to immerse yourself in a world where women are considered chattels, where propriety is all-important—despite society's barely concealed vices—and divorce available to only the few. A world where the moneyed classes' latest obsession is the Grand Tour of Europe, archaeology is in its infancy, and the French Revolution in its dying stages.

Rachel and Nathaniel's story is inspired by true events. I hope you enjoy reading about their world.

TESTIMONIALS

"Immerse yourself in a bygone world and soak in the stunning atmosphere of this book. *The Heart Has Its Reasons* is a gorgeous story, set in the eighteenth century. Rachel is a heroine with grit. She deserves her poor hero who faces his own challenges. You will laugh and cry, but never regret the journey."
Lisa Barry, MA Creative Writing, and author of published short stories

"Beautifully written and with a gentle sensitivity which engages and delights. *The Heart Has Its Reasons* is all about love lost and won again. This debut novel by Bronwyn Houldsworth if filled with wonderful characters you can empathise with—including a colourful cast of secondary characters. With an interesting premise based on a true story, this book really should be on your Christmas reading list this year."
Lorena Chiappara, Licensed Real Estate Agent and author of *How to Sell Your Home for Top Dollar!*

"*The Heart Has Its Reasons* is an enthralling story of love lost, love found, and personal growth. Set in the eighteenth century, it is based on a true story involving the author's ancestors. Rachel has loved Nat since childhood, but he is tricked into marriage with a scheming adventuress. I particularly liked the way Nat appears as a gullible fool, then matures into a hero worthy of Rachel's love."
Josephine Allen, husband and wife team, authors of 2 published novels and indie published x 6, plus five published short stories.

"Skilful writing and exceptional characters. This compelling read is rich with detail and historical atmosphere. Houldsworth understands the human heart. She delivers an exquisite tenderness in the bond between two people whose lives will touch your soul."
Vanda Vadas, bestselling author of historical fiction and award-winning short stories.

"Reminiscent of the works of the Bronte sisters, *The Heart Has Its Reasons* deals with lost love and the changes life brings, taking the reader on an exciting journey with star-crossed lovers. An enduring book to keep close and to revisit."
Winifred Cross, ex journalist and published award-winning short story writer.

Book Excerpt

Chapter Thirteen

Rachel was startled by a light tap on her shoulder. Why should such a gentle touch have her feeling she was on fire? Nat! Who else could it be?

He edged round, to stand mere inches in front of her, his grey eyes gravely contemplating her face, her hair, her throat… She quivered. Her entire body throbbed its awareness of him.

Neither spoke.

A servant passed by with a silver salver laden with glasses of champagne. Nat reached for two of the coupes and passed one to her. She noticed his hands shook. Regrettably, so did hers. Carefully, she raised her glass to her lips and sipped.

The liquid moistened a throat that had dried when she'd felt his touch. She chanced a remark. "You look well, Nat."

"You do, too." He inspected the sleeves of his dark grey coat and brushed at an imaginary speck.

Such stilted conversation. Talk to me, Nat, the easy way you used to. And look at me, won't you!

But she, too, was tongue-tied. She examined her hand, the one gripping the glass, noticing the small burn at the base of her thumb. Jam-making last week. It had spattered. Just a little. Such a tiny mark—

"Susanna's not with you?" Why mention her? Concentrate, Rachel.

A nod. Unsmiling still. "She's expecting a baby."

Her heart plummeted. That's that, then. I need to sit down. No, I should leave. Just go. Far away from Nat before I say something that might mortify both of us.

Valiantly she raised her glass. "Congratulations." Numb, she pressed on. "Very soon?"

He looked down at his own glass, running a finger round its rim. "The end of October, we believe."

Another automatic response. "She's well?"

"She is."

Show some feeling, Nat! Show you care for me, even though it's far too late now for us to do anything about it!

Her eyes filled with tears. I will not cry. I will not cry!

She pushed her half-empty glass at him. His hand brushed hers, and she felt another jolt of awareness. Blindly she turned and walked out of the hall, across the vast lobby and through the great front doors. It was on this doorstep we, we…

She fled down the stairs and into the garden.

****

Interview Questions

1. **What is the book about?**

2. **What was the inspiration for *"The Heart Has Its Reasons"*?**

3. **How closely does your novel reflect your ancestors' story?**

4. **How did you uncover details?**

5. **Where did you travel to, to find information for your novel?**

6. **Do you have a background in historical research?**

7. **What else have you written?**

8. **For anyone wanting to write fiction, what's your advice?**

9. **Why did you decide to produce this novel via assisted publishing?**

10. **Would you recommend the process?**

11. **Describe where you write and how. Do you write many drafts?**

12. **Do you plot your stories in detail, or make it up as you go along?**

13. **Are you interested in writing only historical romance?**

14. **Will you be writing further books based on your family?**

15. **Where can people buy the book?**

MEDIA RELEASE:

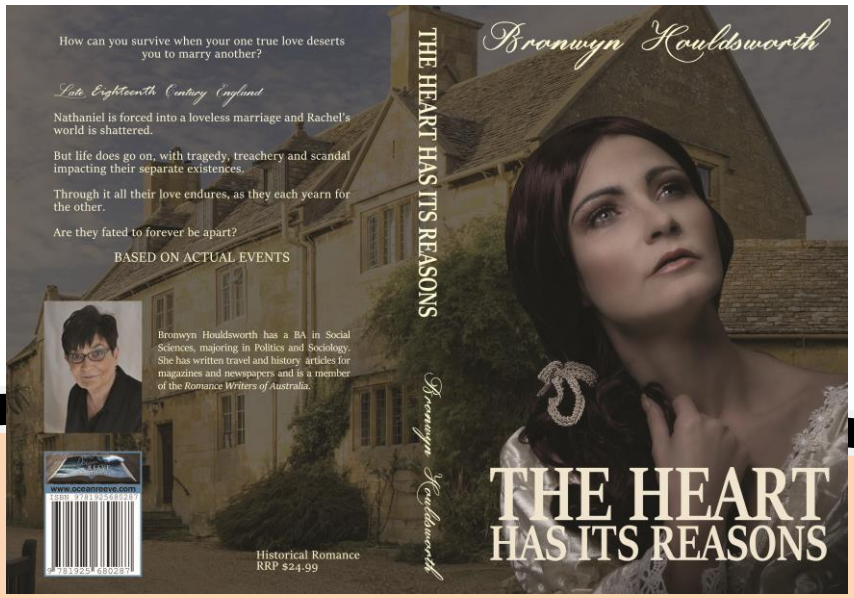
The Heart Has Its Reasons is a historical romance, released in print and as an ebook.

Based on actual events, including a scandalous court case, the story came to light when its author unlocked the secrets of a previously impenetrable branch of her family. The story concerning her late 18th century ancestors was too good to pass up, and formed the basis for a story of deceit, lust, scandal, tragedy, adventure, and enduring love.

In a search for details and documents, over several years the author visited a law bookshop in San Francisco, corresponded with an antiquarian on the Isle of Wight, in Chicago gazed at a self-portrait of the famous artist who'd painted portraits of real-life equivalents of some of her book's characters, and explored the streets and squares around Bloomsbury, London, where they'd lived.

It's been a wonderful adventure and a labour of love. The author trusts you enjoy reading about these characters as much as she's enjoyed the journey in bringing them to life.

Bronwyn Houldsworth has worked in many spheres. Her working life includes secretarial, research, and administrative work, along with documenting historical buildings, working in a museum, serving in the Royal Australian Navy and running a small farm. She has a diploma in Secretarial Studies and a Bachelor of Arts degree.



Connect with Bronwyn

Email: bronnjohn@bigpond.com
Phone: **0428 298 295**
Website: www.bronwynhouldsworth.com
Facebook: **'Bronwyn Houldsworth – Author'**

Cover and author images are free for download for use in relevant articles. Emailed advice when this has been carried out would be greatly appreciated.