

# I Stopped Time

Jane Davis

ISBN	978-0-9932776-0-3
Cover Price	£8.99
Format	B/Paperback
Extent	384pp
Order	Gardners Books Ltd

**What if the villain of your childhood turned out to be someone really rather extraordinary?**

‘Jane Davis is truly a writer’s writer. She has taken an entire century – a feat worthy of Ken Follett or Gabriel Garcia Marquez – and covered it with the richness of her characterisation, presenting a family that is beautifully flawed, brimming with affection, and inimitably human.’ J Metcalf, York University Press

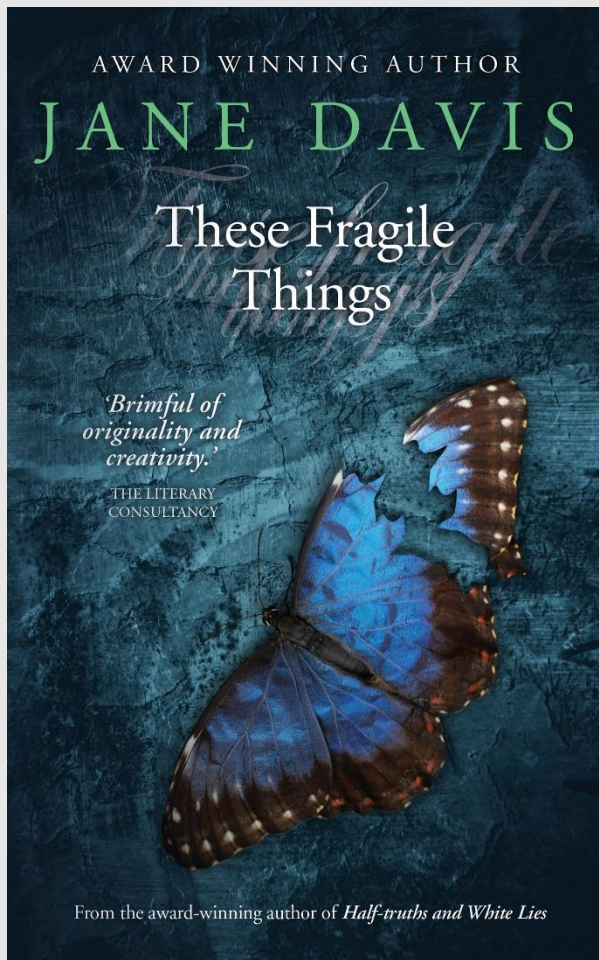
**“Three. I have three stories,” Lottie Parker tells her solicitor while putting her affairs in order. “But it was Oscar Wilde who said that a story is almost certainly a lie.”**

Edwardian Brighton. A wide-eyed girl enters Mr Parker’s photographic studio and receives her first lesson about the new medium that will shape her life: “Can you think of a really good memory? Perhaps you can see it when you close your eyes. Now think how much better it would be if you could take it out and look at whenever you wanted to!”

2009: Disgraced politician Sir James Hastings is resigned to living out his retirement in a secluded Surrey village. He is unmoved when he learns his mother has died at the age of 108. In his mind, he buried her long ago after she abandoned him as a child. Brought up by his father, a charismatic war-hero turned racing-driver, the young James, torn between self-blame and longing, eventually dismissed her as the ‘villain’ of his childhood.

His inheritance is her life’s work – a photography collection spanning six decades. Young student Jenny Jones is curious, and together they explore the pictures, seeing the world through his mother’s lens. The camera reveals an extraordinary tale of courage and sacrifice, and James confronts the realisation that his version of the past is not even half the story.

A beautifully written journey across a century of change as one man reassembles his own family history.



# These Fragile Things

Jane Davis

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**Life can change in a split second.  
And nothing you can do will stop it.**

‘Davis is a phenomenal writer whose ability to create well-rounded characters that are easy to relate to felt effortless.’ Compulsion Reads

‘A brilliantly imaginative and quirkily fresh take on the world.’ Debi Alper

**This emotionally charged portrait of a family deep in crisis will have you reflecting on belief, faith and the enduring power of love.**

As Streatham, South London, still reels from the 1980s’ riots in neighbouring Brixton, Graham Jones finds fatherhood a frightening place. How can he protect his family in a world where the pace of change is accelerating? He has more fear than faith in the future.

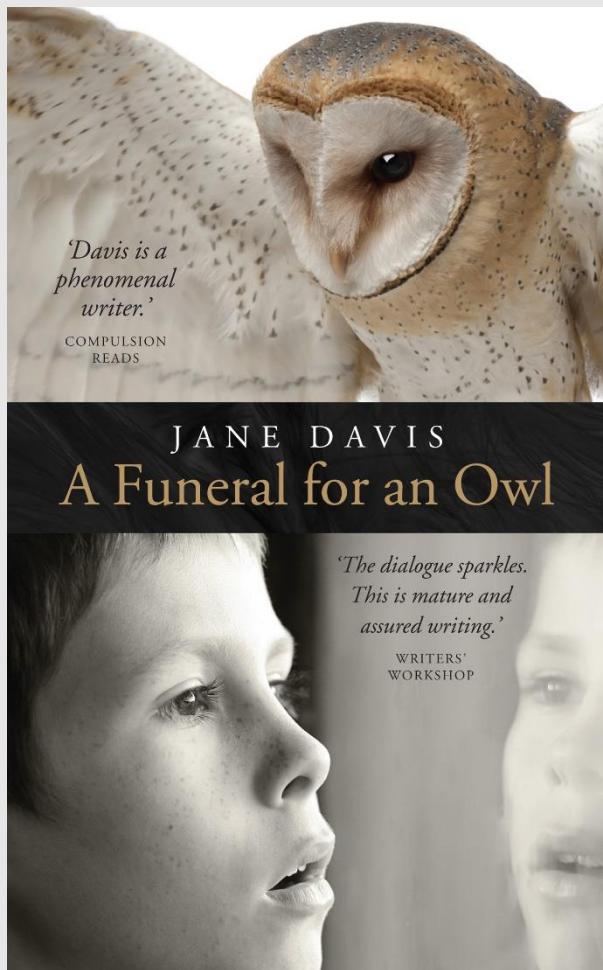
One afternoon, his fears are realised, but not in a way he could have anticipated. A wall collapses, burying his thirteen-year-old daughter, Judy. When rescuers dig out the crushed body in school uniform, her mother, Elaine, believes her daughter is dead.

However, Judy is a survivor. Against all medical predictions, she pulls through and even learns to walk again. The accident leaves scars, both physical and psychological, but the repercussions on her family have only just begun.

Elaine’s gratitude lies with the medical profession. Graham believes the power of prayer saved his daughter’s life, leading the headline-hungry press to label her The Miracle Girl. Divergent beliefs add tension to their marriage on top of the strain of caring for their only child. And things are about to get worse.

Judy claims to be seeing visions. Are these apparitions delusion, deception or divine? As their story is exposed to public speculation, Elaine’s claim on her daughter seems to be diminishing. She demands a medical explanation for the inexplicable and seeks solace in the physical.

Refusing to be drawn into her parents’ emotional tug-of-war, Judy is adamant. She must tread her own path, wherever it takes her.



# A Funeral for an Owl

Jane Davis

<b>ISBN</b>	978-0-9932776-2-7
<b>Cover Price</b>	£8.99
<b>Format</b>	B/Paperback
<b>Extent</b>	384pp
<b>Order</b>	Gardners Books Ltd

**Twenty years of change.  
One person who cares.**

‘Jane Davis is an extraordinary writer, whose deft blend of polished prose and imaginative intelligence makes you feel in the safest of hands.’

J J Marsh, Triskele Books

**A powerful exploration of the ache of loss, set in a landscape where broken people can find each other.**

A photograph of a barn owl in flight.

*“The wings, all spread out and that? They’re kind of like an angel’s.”  
He’s right. It’s Aimee’s owl, Aimee’s angel.*

Times have changed. Jim Stevens teaches history. Haunted by his own, he still believes everyone can learn from the past.

14-year-old Shamayal Thomas trusts no one. Not the family, not the gang. And at school, trusting people is forbidden.

*“If you decide you gotta pick up that phone, you tell me first so that I can disappear myself. Because I ain’t havin’ none of that.”*

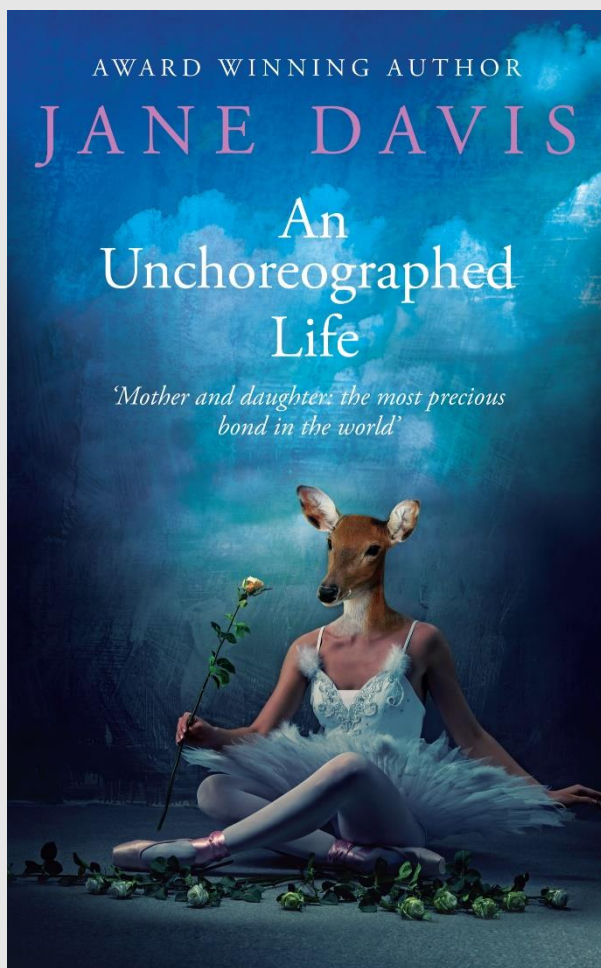
The best way to avoid trouble, thinks Ayisha Emmanuelle, is to avoid confrontation. As an inner-city schoolteacher, she does a whole lot of avoidance.

One shocking event – a playground stabbing – leaves a life hanging in the balance. Two teachers risk their careers to help a boy who has nothing.

Three worlds intersect and connect, regardless of the rules.

History doesn’t always repeat itself.





# An Unchoreographed Life

Jane Davis

<b>ISBN</b>	978-0-9932776-3-4
<b>Cover Price</b>	£8.99
<b>Format</b>	B/Paperback
<b>Extent</b>	336pp
<b>Order</b>	Gardners Books Ltd

## A single mother's life pirouettes out of control

'Beautifully written and so thought provoking, Alison and Belinda will stay with you long after you reach the final page.' Louise Voss

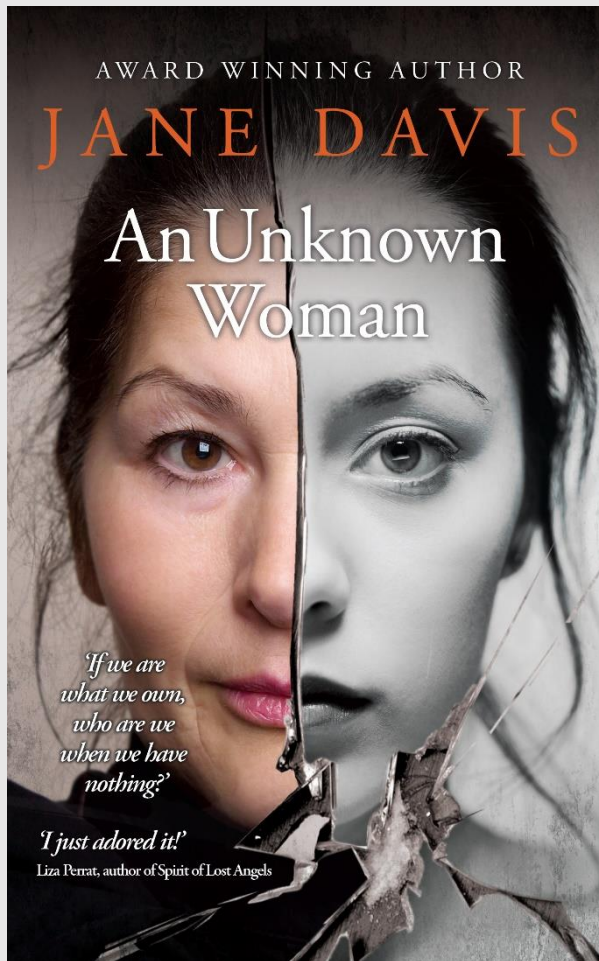
'Davis is a writer at the pinnacle of her craft. A damn good read – and, dare I say, important.' Carol Cooper

**Taking its lead from *What Maisie Knew*, Davis's unflinching new novel of a mother who turns to prostitution is populated with a deeply flawed and inimitably human cast, whose tumultuous lives are shored up by carefully-guarded secrets.**

Little pigs have big ears. And even bigger imaginations. At six years old, Belinda Brabbage has amassed a wealth of wisdom and secret worries. She knows where to hide in Worlds End, how to zap monsters with her pig-shaped torch and why never to accept a lift from a stranger – even if he does offer Fizzy Fish. She works things out for herself as Mummy doesn't like to be plagued with questions. But when Mummy isn't concentrating, she drops nuggets of information. Belinda collects every single one, sure that a pattern will emerge to tell her how she fits in. It's only a matter of time.

Time is Alison's enemy. A struggling single mother trying to change her life, she watches her self-imposed ultimatums slip by. Day to day, hand to mouth, they survive. But there is one clock she cannot re-set. Belinda is growing up. Soon she'll recognise the prima ballerina in the scrapbook. She'll understand who her mother could have been, what she does now and why she has so many 'uncles'.

With options running out, Alison consults a blind clairvoyant, whose visions of pelicans and bookshelves appear to herald change. A chance meeting with an affluent couple affords a glimpse of the life Alison desperately wants for her daughter. But can their offer of friendship be trusted?



# An Unknown Woman

Jane Davis

<b>ISBN</b>	978-0-9932776-4-1
<b>Cover Price</b>	£8.99
<b>Format</b>	B/Paperback
<b>Extent</b>	304pp
<b>Order</b>	Gardners Books Ltd

**If we are what we own, who are we when we own nothing?**

‘An outstanding publication in every way.’ Writing Magazine.

‘An intensely human story that feels ripped from the pages of someone’s diary.’ The Chocolate Lady’s Book Reviews

‘Simple, elegant and stunning’. Peter Snell, bookseller

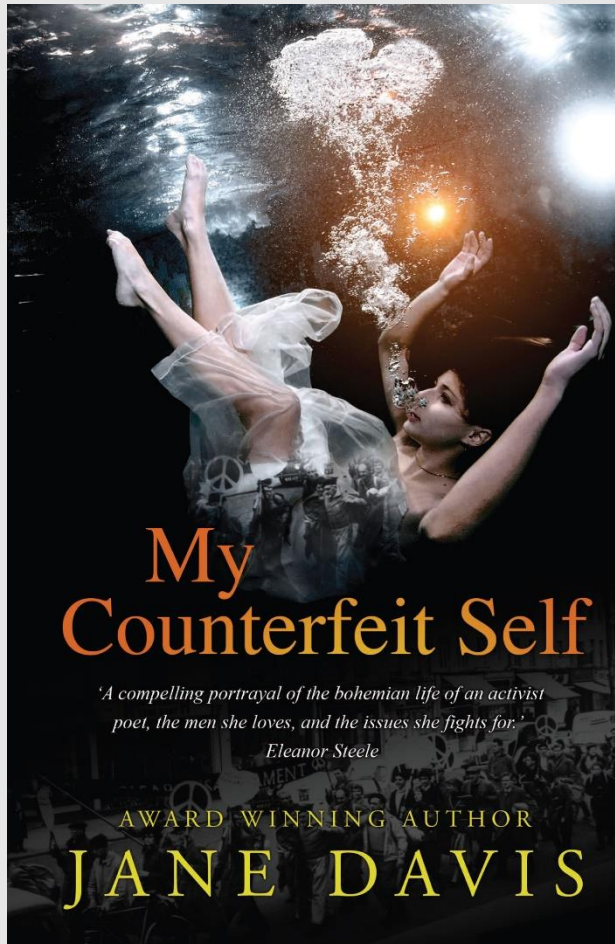
**Authentic and heart-breaking, this intoxicating novel is an exploration of identity, not as a fixed point, but as something fragile, shape-shifting and transient.**

Look in the mirror and ask yourself a question: Who are you?  
Do you know the answer?

At the age of forty-six, Anita Hall knows exactly who she is. She has lived with partner Ed for fifteen years and is proud of the life they’ve built. They go out into the world separately: Ed with one eye on the future in the world of finance; Anita with one foot in the past, a curator at Hampton Court Palace. This is the life she has chosen – choices unavailable to her mother’s generation – her dream job, equal partnership, free of children, living in a quirky old house she adores. She is happy. Their foundations are solid and their future seems secure. That was before the fire.

Anita stands in the middle of the road watching her home and everything inside it burn to the ground. She and Ed have nothing more than the clothes on their backs. Fifteen years of memories gone up in smoke.

Before she can come to terms with the magnitude of her loss, hairline cracks begin to appear in her perfect relationship. And returning to her childhood home in search of comfort, she stumbles upon the secret her mother has kept hidden, a taboo so unspeakable it can only be written down. The reflection in the mirror may look the same. But everything has changed. She thought she knew who she was. But not any more.



# My Counterfeit Self

Jane Davis

<b>ISBN</b>	978-0-9932776-5-8
<b>Cover Price</b>	£8.99
<b>Format</b>	B/Paperback
<b>Extent</b>	384pp
<b>Order</b>	Gardners Books Ltd

From the award-winning author of *Half-truths* and *White Lies*, comes an emotional story of hidden identities, complicated passions and tangled truths.

‘Completely gripping, excellently written and skilfully put together, I can’t recommend *My Counterfeit Self* highly enough.’ ~ Isabel Wolff, author of *Ghostwritten*

‘Lucy Forrester is a terrific protagonist, whose poetry is both art and a vehicle for powerful protest.’ ~ Ruth Jennings-Jones

A compelling portrayal of the bohemian life of an activist poet, the men she loves and the issues she fights for.

**A rose garden. A woman with white hair. An embossed envelope from the palace.**

*Lucy Forrester, for services to literature, you are nominated for a New Year’s Honour.*

Her hands shake. But it’s not excitement. It’s rage. For five decades, she’s performed angry poems, attacked government policy on everything from Suez to Trident, chained herself to embassy railings, marched, chanted and held placards high.

Lucy knows who she is. Rebel, activist, word-wielder, thorn in the side of the establishment. Not a national bloody treasure.

Whatever this is – a parting gesture, a final act of revenge, or the cruellest of jokes – it can only be the work of one man. Dominic Marchmont, outspoken literary critic and her on/off lover of fifty years, whose funeral begins in under an hour.

Perhaps, suggests husband Ralph, the invitation isn’t the insult it seems? What if Dominic – the man they both loved – has left her an opportunity?



## About the author:

Jane Davis is the author of seven novels. Her debut, *Half-truths and White Lies*, won the [Daily Mail First Novel Award](#) and was described by Joanne Harris as ‘A story of secrets, lies, grief and, ultimately, redemption, charmingly handled by this very promising new writer.’ The Bookseller featured her in their ‘One to Watch’ section. Writing Magazine describe her writing as ‘exemplary.’ Six

further novels have earned her a loyal fan base and widespread praise. Her favourite description of fiction is ‘made-up truth’.

Jane lives in Carshalton, Surrey with her Formula 1 obsessed, star-gazing, beer-brewing partner, surrounded by growing piles of paperbacks, CDs and general chaos. For further information, or to sign up for pre-launch specials and notifications about future projects, visit the author’s website at [www.jane-davis.co.uk](http://www.jane-davis.co.uk)