



Ginger Gold Mysteries

MYSTERY WRITER LEE STRAUSS STEPS BACK IN CRIME

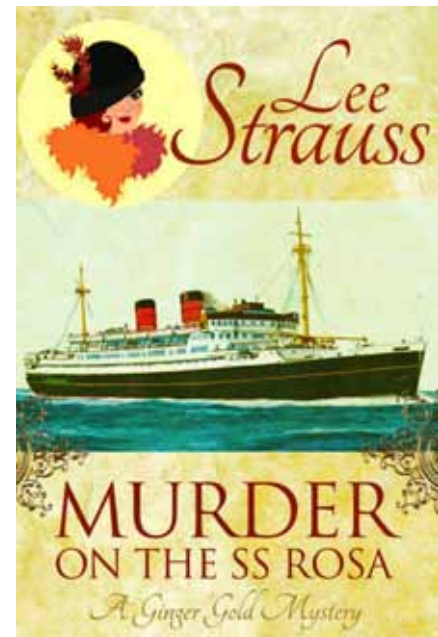
Brown Books Author Introduces Ginger Gold Mysteries, a New Cozy Historical Mystery Series

DALLAS, TX—Brown Books Publishing Group is proud to announce the publication of Lee Strauss' cozy historical mystery series, *Ginger Gold Mysteries*. Books one through four will release in March 2018, followed by book five in April and book six in June. Strauss' first venture into the cozy historical mystery genre delivers a charming array of murders, suspects, and potential suitors.

Strauss transports readers to an almost magical decade bookmarked between two major wars. Post-WWI was a time of letting go of pre-war social restraints, and for the youth it was a time to seize the day. The war made everyone aware of how short life could be. By living large and embracing the outrageous, this generation of youth meant to forget the horrors of when the bombs fell.

The *Ginger Gold Mysteries* series paints a beautiful yet thought-provoking image of the Roaring Twenties, with its lavish descriptions of the fashion along with discussions of the social norms of the time. During the 1920s there was more money and more social freedom, especially for women, than ever before. It was the age of revolution, from electronics to social constructs.

Main characters Ginger Gold and Haley Higgins push these boundaries, as their feisty spirits and sense of adventure help them to rise above some of the limitations bestowed upon women of their time. By combining history and fashion, Strauss creates a fun and lively series that entertains both historians and fashionistas alike.



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Ginger Gold Mysteries

MEET THE AUTHOR

Lee Strauss' writing career was sparked when she became inspired by the bedtime stories she read to her children when they were young. She began reading everything she could on writing and publishing, including every single *Writer's Digest* magazine. Then she started writing.

She found her groove as an author with *Clockwise*, a humorous YA time travel romance. After writing *Clockwise*, she went on to publish seven titles as Elle Strauss (a lower YA/tween brand name), five Hope Franke Strauss sweet inspirational romances, and twelve Lee Strauss books.

Strauss is now the bestselling author of the Ginger Gold Mysteries series; A Nursery Rhyme Suspense series, The Perception Trilogy, and young adult historical fiction, with over a million books sold. She has titles published in German, Spanish, and Korean, and she has a growing audio library.



The Ginger Gold Mysteries series marks a transition in Strauss' career. Set in 1920s England, the series was born out of Lee's experiences living in Europe and her desire to better understand history. The series stars amateur sleuth Ginger Gold and her faithful sidekick, prospective doctor Hailey Higgins. Handsome Chief Inspector Basil Reed is often on hand, and, of course, there's Ginger's Boston Terrier.

When she's not writing or reading, Strauss likes to cycle, hike, and kayak. She loves to travel, drink caffè lattes and red wines in exotic places, and eat dark chocolate anywhere. Strauss has four children and two cats. She spends her time between Canada and East Germany with her musician husband.



Ginger Gold Mysteries

Q & A ^{with} Lee STRAUSS

You've written mainly YA and sci-fi/mystery thrillers in the past. What was your impetus to begin writing cozy historical mysteries?

Writing cozy mysteries was like returning to my roots. My go-to genre has always been mystery. I loved Rex Stout's *Nero Wolf*, Sue Grafton's alphabet series, and Dick Francis's jockey series. All genres have an element of mystery, but I wasn't confident in the beginning that I could pull it off. With true mysteries you have to tell a compelling story and create a puzzle.

What inspired you to set the Ginger Gold Mysteries series in England? Have you ever been to Europe?

I love Europe and spend a good portion of each year in Germany. With the popular fascination with *Downton Abbey* and *Grantchester*, not to mention Agatha Christie, setting the Ginger Gold Mysteries series in England seemed like the natural thing to do.

What sets the Ginger Gold Mysteries series apart from other cozy mystery series?

The series has a historical rather than contemporary setting. I think the focus on fashion along with pathology is unique. I try to sprinkle each book with some historical feature that was on the minds and hearts of the people during those times.

What was the inspiration behind Haley Higgins's controversial decision to become a doctor?

The pre-war years were the beginning of feminism as we know it. WWI brought middle-class women out of their homes and from underneath their husbands in ways that had never been seen before. Corsets were tossed, along with a lot of the Victorian age sentiments, and women were no longer satisfied with nursing and teaching as their only vocational options. The field of medicine, like many others, was largely a man's world, and women were indeed pursuing it. Plus, I needed a best-friend character who could contribute intelligently to the solving of the crimes.



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Q & A ^{with} *Lee*STRAUSS

How do you hope the Ginger Gold Mysteries series will impact readers?

I hope readers will grow to love the characters, especially Ginger. Ginger Gold is a strong, intelligent, passionate woman who has suffered great loss. She's compassionate and kind, yet there's a frailness and insecurity to her. I think most readers will find something that they relate to that pulls at the heartstrings as well as tickles their intellect as they try to figure out whodunit.

What was the inspiration behind Ginger Gold's love of fashion? Do you consider yourself to be a fashionista like Ginger?

Who doesn't love 1920s fashion?! I'm obsessed with everything to do with the 1920s, including the fashion. Strangely enough, I'm not what you'd call a fashionista, unless working in your pajamas has become a recent trend.

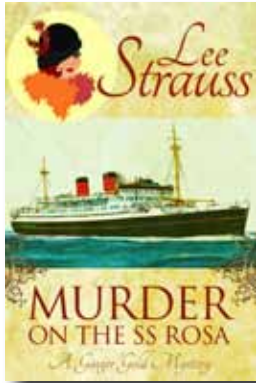
“Clever and entertaining, you’ll love this charming Golden Age mystery series. And the fashion is to die for!”

– Molly C. Quinn, actress, *Castle*



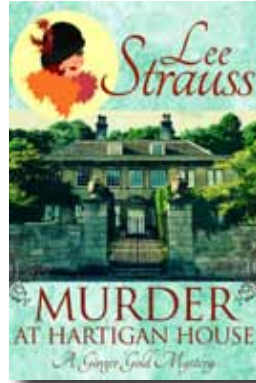
Ginger Gold Mysteries

ABOUT THE BOOKS



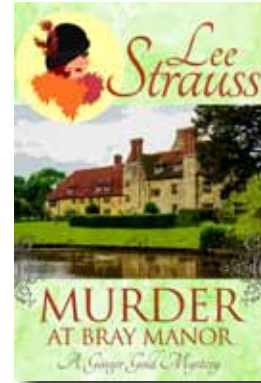
BOOK 1

Murder on the SS Rosa
Releases March 2018



BOOK 2

Murder at Hartigan House
Releases March 2018



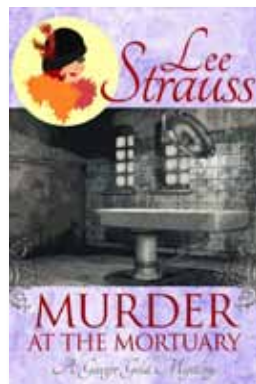
BOOK 3

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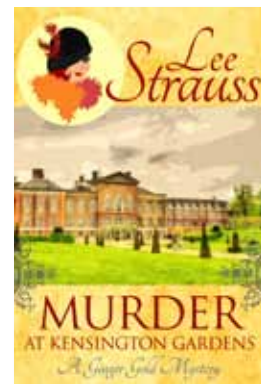
BOOK 4

Murder at Feathers & Flair
Releases March 2018



BOOK 5

Murder at the Mortuary
Releases April 2018



BOOK 6

Murder at Kensington Gardens
Releases June 2018

SYNOPSIS: *Murder on the SS Rosa* - Book 1, a prequel novella

It's 1923 and young war widow and fashionista Ginger Gold makes a cross-Atlantic journey with her companion, Haley Higgins, to London, England to settle her father's estate. When the ship's captain is found dead, Ginger is only too happy to lend her assistance to the handsome Chief Inspector, Basil Reed.

The *SS Rosa* delivers a convincing array of suspects—the wife, the mistress, a jealous crewmate. To Ginger's dismay, her name has been added to the list! With a little help from Ginger's dog, Boss, Ginger and Haley navigate the clues (those war-time operative skills come in handy). They must solve the case and clear Ginger's name before they dock—and oh, whatever shall she wear?!



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Excerpt from *MURDER ON THE SS ROSA*

CHAPTER ONE

In the dismal autumn of 1918 Ginger Gold had vowed she'd never go back to Europe. Yet here she was, five years later in 1923, aboard the SS Rosa as it traversed the Atlantic from Boston to Liverpool.

"Isn't a dinner invitation from the captain reserved for very important persons?" Haley Higgins asked.

Ginger propped a hand on her tiny waist and feigned insult. "Are you suggesting that I'm not a very important person?"

"I'd never suggest such a thing," Haley said lightly. "Only that I'm not aware of your connection to him."

"Oh, yes. Father used to travel to England once or twice a year for business, and they had made an acquaintance. Of course, this was some years ago, before Father fell ill. Captain Walsh recognized my name on the passenger list. It was nice of him to extend an invitation, was it not?"

Haley nodded. "I expect it to be quite entertaining."

Ginger chose a billowy, violet dropped-waist dress with a hem that ended near her ankles, nude stockings with seams that ran up the back of her slender legs, and black designer T-strap heels. She clipped on dangling earrings and patted the ends of her bobbed red hair with the palms of her gloved hands. She made a show of presenting herself.

"How do I look?"

"Gorgeous, as always," Haley said. Long since ready, she waited patiently in a rose-coloured upholstered chair. She was the sensible type, having only packed a few tweed and linen suits. She wasn't much for "presentation." It made getting ready quick and painless.

Curled up on the silky pink quilted cover on Ginger's bed was a small, short-haired black and white dog. Ginger scrubbed him behind his pointed ears and kissed his forehead.

"You're such a good boy, Boss." The small Boston terrier's stub of a tail wagged in agreement.



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Ginger finished her ensemble by draping a creamy silk shawl over her shoulders. “Shall we?” Ginger said, motioning to the door.

Boss stood and stretched his hind legs.

“Oh, sorry, Bossy. Not you this time.”

The dog let out a snort of disappointment, then circled his pillow before settling and swiftly fell back to sleep.

“I love the sea! Don’t you?” Ginger said as she and Haley walked along an exterior corridor of the ship. She extended her youthful arms and inhaled exuberantly. “It’s one of the reasons I love Boston. So invigorating. Makes one feel alive!”

“Oh, honey, listen to you!” Haley said with amusement.

“Your latent Britishness is becoming more pronounced the closer we get to England.”

“Makes one feel alive,” she added, mimicking Ginger’s sudden use of an English accent.

Though Ginger considered herself a Bostonian through and through, she embraced her English heritage. After all, Massachusetts was part of New England.

“You’re jolly well right, old thing,” Ginger admitted with an exaggerated English accent. She laughed heartily, bringing a smile to Haley’s normally stoic expression.

“You sounded like your father just now,” Haley said.

Ginger placed a hand on her heart. “Oh, I do miss him.”

“Me, too.”

“In his honour I shall be thoroughly British for the duration of my time abroad.”

“And you’ll do it charmingly,” Haley said.

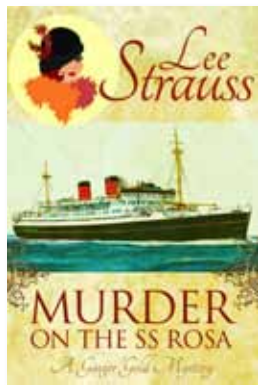
Ginger threaded her arm through her friend’s. “Soon-to-be Doctor Higgins,” she said. “We mustn’t keep the captain waiting.”

“If you insist, Mrs. Gold,” Haley returned, then added,

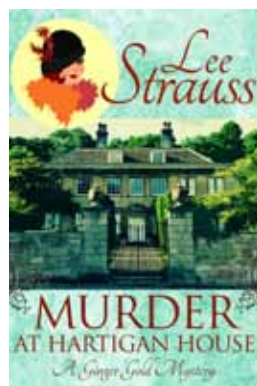
“You know, I think he has eyes for you.”

“Pfft. How can you say that? We only met him for a second.” Ginger flicked her gloved hand. “Besides, he’s got a wife.”

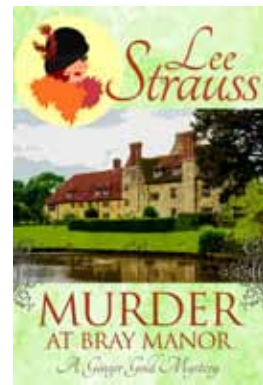
“With men like the captain,” Haley said stiffly, “I hardly think that matters.”



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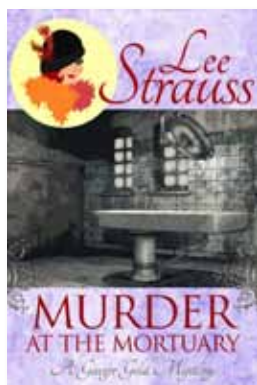
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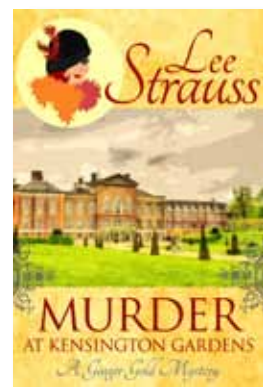
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