



Dear Readers

I feel honoured and excited the *A Dangerous of Kindness* has been chosen as Overdrive's Big Library Read. I grew up in Hereford, a city on the borders of Wales where an extremely famous library is housed in the Cathedral. It is the Jacobean chained library containing books dating back to the 8th-century but as a child I preferred an equally spectacular building on the other side of the road, the Victorian museum that housed the public library. My family were voracious readers and each Saturday, I would go with my mother to choose a book. I remember finding it hard to believe that I could take home any book I wanted for free. Even now, when I walk into a library, I'm struck with the same thought.

This story of a young widow who finds an injured German pilot on her remote farm in England at the height of the Second World War started to form in my mind when I was a teenager in Hereford. I found a book in the library called *The One That Got Away* about a charismatic German pilot who escaped from British captivity. For days he was on the run in the remote countryside of the Lake District and I imagined finding him, injured and needy, and helping him.

Years later, I discovered a German plane had crashed on the Downs above the Oxfordshire village where I now live. Immediately I felt that nascent story from my teenage years flood my imagination again.

I have carried this story with me for decades. Finally I can share it with the world. I do hope you enjoy being transported to a different place in time, a remote farm on the top of the chalk Downs where life seems simple but where underneath the characters struggle with impossible decisions. It was triggered by a book from a library. Who knows? Perhaps this story will inspire someone else to let their imagination fly.

Happy reading.

LP Fergusson

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