



22 August - 5 September, 2024

Dear Reader,

Detective Gemma Woodstock first muscled her way into my mind in 2016, and *The Dark Lake*, my debut novel featuring her as the main protagonist, was published a year later. Since then, we have spent a lot of time together, and now, in *Body of Lies*, Gemma has reached her final chapter. It's been such a privilege to develop a character like Gemma; she's such a feisty, vibrant person to bring to life on the page.

Gemma has come full circle in this novel, finding herself back in her hometown of Smithson and navigating a new family member, parenting, her complicated feelings about being a detective, her tumultuous relationship with her dad and some surprise revelations about her former boss – all while trying to solve one of the most baffling cases of her career.

This book explores mental illness, sexual harassment, family secrets and ethics in the health and wellbeing industries. It was tough to write and challenging to edit but I enjoyed researching these issues and having Gemma take them on.

I'm thrilled my book has been chosen to be a part of Together We Read. I get such a kick out of people discovering my books and nothing makes me happier than talking to people about what they liked or didn't like about my characters and plots.

Thank you so much for reading *Body of Lies*. I can't wait to hear what you think of Gemma's final adventures. Please track me down on Instagram or via my author website and share your thoughts!

Happy reading,

Sarah Bailey