**Helen — Crime Fiction Author and Storyteller**
**Byfleet, Surrey**



I'm a crime fiction author of the *DI Matthew Goodwin Detective Series* with a companion series called *The Story Behind My Stories*, where I share the real adventures that inspired each book. My talks are friendly, engaging and full of behind-the-scenes stories about how life becomes fiction.

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**Talk Options**
Choose one — or invite me back for another.

**1. Author Overview Talk**
**How My Life Experiences Shaped the Crime Fiction World of DI Matthew Goodwin**
A lively, engaging session exploring:

- How my travels, adventures, and everyday life feed into my crime fiction
- The creation of DI Matthew Goodwin and the world he inhabits
- What it's really like to write crime fiction
- How real people, places, and moments become characters and plotlines
- My writing process, inspiration and what's coming next

This is the perfect introductory talk. Warm, fun and ideal for groups who want a broad, entertaining overview of my writing life.

**2. Book-Specific Talks**
Each of my crime novels has a full real-life story behind it. I offer individual talks on each title or a combined session covering several.

**The Story Behind Thai Die**
Inspired by living in Thailand for a year — the culture, the contrasts, the daily life and the experiences that shaped the book.

**The Story Behind Connecting Trains**
Rooted in commuting the Guildford–London line through Woking and Weybridge — the use of that line and the characters I have met and worked with across a 30 year career in IT and how they created the Major Investigation Team of the Goodwin series.

**The Story Behind Aloha Goodbye**
Inspired by my cruising experiences to Hawaii, from LA to Florida along the Panama Canal, the Caribbean, the Canaries. This also talks about visiting military and first-responder memorials around the world, including New York, the Killing Fields in Cambodia, Pearl Harbour and the war cemetery in Kanchanaburi, Thailand.

**The Story Behind Lethal Leith Hill**
Inspired by cycling the Surrey Hills and completing RideLondon — endurance, community and how the 2012 Olympics sparked the story.

**The Story Behind Don't Die for Me, Argentina**
Inspired by riding a cattle drive across Patagonia — grit, humour, unexpected moments and being off grid in this day and age.

**The Story Behind Die Trying**
Inspired by rugby culture and club dynamics — how rugby differs from other sports, the camaraderie, the intensity and the unique environment that shaped the book.

**The Story Behind Slaying in Lapland**
Inspired by a family trip to Lapland as a single parent and the magic of Christmas as a child and then a parent. Snowmobiling in the Upper Peninsular of Michigan and Lapland. The city of Toronto and New York at Christmas.

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**What Audiences Can Expect**

- A warm, friendly speaker
- A mix of travel, adventure, creativity and crime fiction
- Plenty of humour and real-life anecdotes
- A relaxed Q&A
- Optional book sales and signing afterwards

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**Practical Details**

- **Length:** 45–60 minutes + Q&A
- **Requirements:** Just a chair and a table
- **Books:** I will bring copies for anyone who would like to purchase, and I can take card or cash

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**Availability**

From January 2027

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**Contact**

Helen

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