

VERA BELL

MEDIA KIT



Vera Bell is a Georgia Author of the Year nominee and the award-winning author of the trilogy *Always & Forever*, set in sixteenth-century Ireland and present-day United States. Book One, *Through the Veneer of Time*, is her debut novel. She wrote it after trying past life regression and finding herself immersed in a world so captivating, she couldn't let it go. A former commercial artist, she lives in Atlanta with her husband, two teenagers, and one fur baby. Her favorite place to write is on her porch, overlooking a pond lined with river birches and magnolias. The topics she never tires of are bygone eras, our universal human condition, and love that transcends time and space. Visit her at VeraBellAuthor.com.

Vera Bell has written two novels — the Amazon bestseller, *Through the Veneer of Time*, and its sequel, *Into the Lure of Time*, releasing April 2024. Her next novel, *Beneath the Shadow of Time*, is scheduled for release in 2025 by Timebound Publishing.



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LITERARY AWARDS



2023 Time Travel/Dual Timeline Category Bronze Winner from The Historical Fiction Company, December 2023

"Through the Veneer of Time" by Vera Bell

Category Winners for the 2023 HFC Book of the Year Contest



2023 Highly Recommended Award of Excellence from The Historical Fiction Company, November, 2023

"Through the Veneer of Time" by Vera Bell

Bell has brought the past and present together with a masterful stroke of her quill. "Through the Veneer of Time" is a captivating story that will leave a lasting impression on the reader. It is a book that once read, is impossible to forget.



2023 American Writing Awards Category Winners and Finalists, November, 2023

Fiction — Romance Finalist | "Through the Veneer of Time" by Vera Bell

AmericanWritingAwards.com announces the winners in the 2023 American Writing Awards.





The 20th Annual "Best Book" Awards, Sponsored by American Book Fest™, November, 2023
Fiction: Romance Finalist | "Through the Veneer of Time" by Vera Bell

American Book Fest announces the winners and finalists of THE 20th ANNUAL BEST BOOK AWARDS (BBA), one of the world's largest international book award programs for mainstream, indie, and self-published titles.



Reader Views Book Review Blog, September 15, 2023

"Through the Veneer of Time" by Vera Bell ☆☆☆☆☆

"I will be very anxiously awaiting book 2 in the Always and Forever series. My guess is that anyone who picks up this book will feel the same way when they are finished. 5 Stars!!"



Top Pick for 2024 from Author Shout Reader Ready Awards, December, 2023

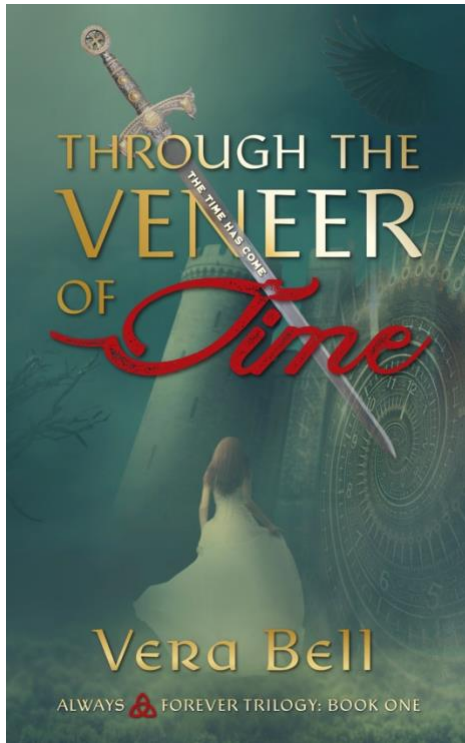
"Through the Veneer of Time" by Vera Bell

Author Shout is proud to announce the winners in the Reader Ready Awards.



THROUGH THE VENEER OF TIME

Always and Forever Trilogy: Book One



Author: Vera Bell
Genre: Romance | Thriller | Historical
Age recommendation: +18

eBook

Publication Date: April 3, 2023 | ISBN: 9798989612406 |
AISN: B0CNS4CB1B | Pages: 388 | \$4.99

Paperback

Publication Date: June 16, 2023 | ISBN: 9798989612413 |
AISN: B0CNQ8162V | Pages: 386 | \$15.99

Hardback

Publication Date: November 20, 2023 | ISBN:
9798989612420 | AISN: B0CNQ6TGVS | Pages: 386 | \$23.99

Audiobook

Publication Date: September 28, 2023 | ISBN:
9798368983578 | AISN: B0CJX4Q6HG | 14 Hours 49 Minutes
| \$21.74

WHERE TO BUY:

<https://books2read.com/throughtheveneeroftime/>

For fans of Diana Gabaldon and Susanna Kearsley comes a riveting new tale of time travel and romantic suspense: A haunted painter's past life visions are not the creative inspiration they seemed. They're a harbinger of her ancient revenge vow, and her FBI husband won't find the serial killer until she fulfills it. But it may already be too late.

1559, ULSTER, IRELAND. When a young noblewoman Neave McConway weds the newly elected King of Tyrone, Aedan O'Neal, the couple's rare union of love and passion becomes the talk of the region. But Aedan's bold rule and fierce defiance of the English crown threatens his powerful enemies, and they'll stop at nothing to crush his growing influence. After Aedan rides off to fight against the English occupiers, Neave suffers a shocking attack that will forever alter both their lives — as well as the lives they have not yet lived.

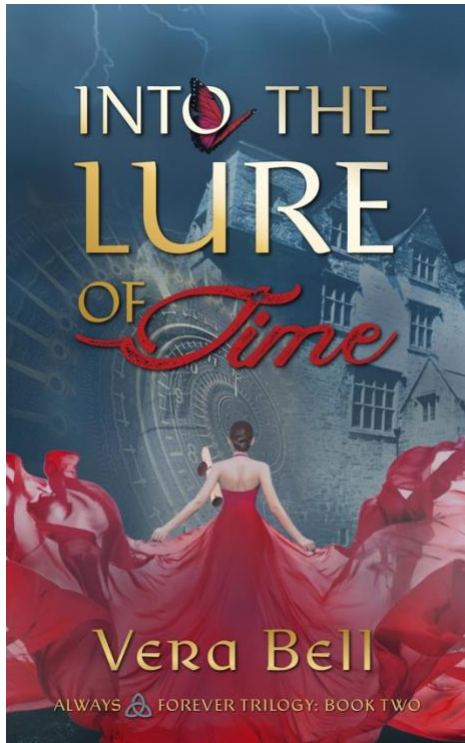
2009, WASHINGTON, D.C. While mural artist Siena Forte battles a creative block, her FBI husband Ryan Casey struggles with a serial killer case. When research leads Siena to the practice of Past Life Regression, she stumbles upon irresistible inspiration. But after her art exposes her to a vicious ancient adversary, she discovers the true reason for her past life visions. They're a harbinger of her centuries-old revenge vow, and the serial killer can't be stopped until she fulfills it. But there is another person from the past with unfinished business—her husband.

Will Siena and Ryan settle their long-overdue score, or will the past repeat itself in a chilling parallel?



INTO THE LURE OF TIME

Always and Forever Trilogy: Book Two



Author: Vera Bell
Genre: Romance | Domestic Suspense | Historical
Age recommendation: +18

eBook

Publication Date: April 19, 2024 | ISBN: 9798989612437 |
AISN: B0CW1BQ7JC | Pages: 388 | \$5.99

Paperback

Publication Date: April 19, 2024 | ISBN: 9798989612444 |
AISN: B0CZT76BST | Pages: 378 | \$16.99

Hardback

Publication Date: April 19, 2024 | ISBN: 9798989612451 |
AISN: B0CZT1BX9P | Pages: 378 | \$24.99

Audiobook

WHERE TO BUY:

<https://books2read.com/intothelureoftime>

In this gripping sequel to the award-winning novel, *Through the Veneer of Time*, echoes of Siena's past life lure her into a shocking indiscretion that threatens to destroy her marriage. She alone can undo the damage, but this chilling revelation is only the beginning of her battle.

1564, ULSTER, IRELAND. After Aedan's diplomatic visit to Queen Elizabeth's court results in his compulsory divorce and arranged marriage, Neave's violent unraveling drives her into another man's arms. But in seeking revenge, Neave falls into a perfect trap set by Aedan's enemy. By the time she learns the truth, it's too late to undo the damage to Aedan, herself, and the hard-won peace in Ulster. When despair makes her reckless, the price will be a lifetime of infamy, confinement, and isolation from what Neave treasures most—Aedan and her son.

2011, WASHINGTON D.C./DALLAS, TX. It seems like a reasonable plan—Siena finishing her final mural in D.C. while Ryan starts his new job in Dallas. But when Siena meets Ryan's new FBI partner, an inexplicable fit of jealousy sends her on a downward spiral. To make matters worse, the present mirrors the past when her visions take a startling turn. Consumed by insecurities, Siena takes a drastic step, which proves a catastrophic lapse in judgment. When her self-fulfilling prophecy unfolds in a devastating inversion of the past, Siena's actions could cost her the two people she most fears to lose—Ryan and their baby.

Will Siena and Ryan beat their disastrous odds, or is their marriage foredoomed?



THROUGH THE VENEER OF TIME

SELECTED EDITORIAL REVIEWS

"Past and present lives collide in Vera Bell's hauntingly beautiful debut. A sexy, sensuous tale, where connections are never truly lost and love is the most powerful force of all."

— JULIE MCELWAIN, national award-winning journalist and author of *A Murder in Time*

"Bell has brought the past and present together with a masterful stroke of her quill. A true masterpiece. It is a book that once read is impossible to forget."

— THE HISTORICAL FICTION COMPANY

"Vera Bell's novel successfully combines historical fiction, romance, and a contemporary thriller. The flashbacks to Ireland are particularly engaging, with detailed and vivid descriptions."

— HISTORICAL NOVEL SOCIETY

"I will be very anxiously awaiting book 2 in the Always and Forever series. My guess is that anyone who picks up this book will feel the same way when they are finished. 5 Stars!!"

— READER VIEWS

"I can't put into words how much I loved this book. Think of Outlander but better (yes, I said better). This book has everything!"

—A COURT OF SPINES N PAGES REVIEWS

"This book has become my new obsession. I loved every second of it from page one straight to the end. This is Vera's debut novel and WHAT a novel! I completely fell in love with the world she has created."

— IRISH BOOKLOVER BOOK REVIEWS

"This is at its core a love story that is beautiful and crosses lines of time and place."

— MISS W BOOK REVIEWS

"This was creative and unusual and really had me engaged. Excellent debut."

— NOVELS N LATTE REVIEWS

"A tantalizing medieval time travel novel. I give it 5 stars and hope to read more by Vera Bell!"

— CELTIC LADY'S REVIEWS

"From the bustling streets of Washington D.C. to the rolling Irish hills, Through the Veneer of Time is one story you won't want to miss."

— THE BOOKISH HISTORIAN REVIEWS

"Bell mixes romance, mystery, and history to take the reader on an adventure across centuries."

— BOOKLIFE PRIZE BY PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

"Against the backdrop of love, hate, and a killer's threat lies the attraction of a thriller's fast pace and heated twists."

— MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW



THROUGH THE VENEER OF TIME

SELECTED READER REVIEWS



"Wow! This was incredible! I can't even tell you how many times this one literally brought me to tears... but it did... over and over again. And then, just as often... brought me the overwhelming feeling of love and peace too! Amazingly! What a beautiful masterpiece this gem is!"

— GOODREADS REVIEWER



"OMG! What a read! I couldn't shut this one off. I had to read it. It was hot, sexy, passionate and had an element I love... love that death cannot end. The plot is fascinating, complex, and imaginative. MORE PLEASE! "

— GOODREADS REVIEWER



"I had to remind myself, this is fiction, when my heart started racing because I FELT what the character was feeling! This author is that good! I find it hard to believe this is her first book. I'm anxiously awaiting her next!"

— AMAZON REVIEWER



"Bell's ability to allow readers to feel the fear, the pain, and heartache of her characters is unreal."

— AMAZON REVIEWER



"This book was such an extraordinary read. The right amount of thriller, suspense and romance. The connections between the characters are magnificent!"

— AMAZON REVIEWER



"This thriller was absolutely on fire!!! This is such an amazing book! I could not put this page turner down. Absolutely perfect!!"

— NETGALLEY REVIEWER



"I absolutely loved this book! The story drew me in from the first page and kept me spellbound till the end."

— GOODREADS REVIEWER



"The story is full of suspense, romance, and mystery. I couldn't put the book down!"

— **AMAZON REVIEWER**



"A fascinating revenge story in the fight for justice, this was a historical time travelling adventure that had me hooked from start to finish."

— **GOODREADS REVIEWER**



"Once I got into this book I couldn't put it down! I'm so happy it's part of a trilogy because that means there will be more to read!"

— **GOODREADS REVIEWER**



"Wildly imaginative! Great, multi-faceted characters. Very unique plot. Vivid descriptions. A solid, interesting read!"

— **GOODREADS REVIEWER**

A CONVERSATION WITH VERA

CHAMPAGNE BOOK GROUP | APRIL 2023



Q. When and why did you begin writing?

A. After learning to read at about five, I began to devour everything from fairy tales and Greek mythology to poetry, kids' nonfiction, and later, teen fantasy, action, and adventure. So as a child, my mind was constantly processing and constructing alternative scenarios, as well as my own plotlines. Starting at seven, I wrote little poems and tiny stories in notebooks I hand-made by stitching through several folded sheets of paper. But my first stab at novel writing took place after I read a beautifully illustrated Brothers Grimm's Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at the ripe age of ten. It wasn't the sanitized Disney version, but a mostly unchanged folk tale with its deadly corset, lethal comb, poisonous apple, and the red-hot iron shoes for the murderous queen. Awed and terrified, I wrote a kind of Snow White fanfiction, which I also illustrated and presented to my mother on her birthday. I haven't stopped writing since.

Q. Tell us your latest news.

A. Through the Veneer of Time is the first book in a trilogy. I recently finished the first draft of the second book, and I'm quite smitten with it and find myself in a very comfortable place with this trilogy at the moment. Since my characters have several past lives, I'm also working on three standalone prequels. One is a historical enemies-to-lovers romance of a Viking raider and an Irish clanswoman. The other two are retellings of beautiful Celtic myths.

Q. When did you first consider yourself a writer?

A. There is a huge psychological element to writing. I've experienced several writing stages but never considered myself good enough. When I was a child, I wrote for my mother. As an adult, I wrote for myself, and due to lack of time, mostly in my head. In college, after choosing three semesters of American literature as my elective, I wondered about pursuing literary arts. But I wasn't ready then, and at any rate, life had intervened. So, it wasn't until four years ago, after a career in commercial art and a stint in entrepreneurship, that I finally allowed myself to simply do what I love at full throttle. I've never been happier.

Q. Do you have a specific writing style?

A. When I write, I'm constantly immersed in my characters' lives, almost to the exclusion of everything else. They turn into real people to me, and so, my mind becomes one with my work as I continually churn their trials in my head, trying to dig deeper into their underlying emotions and motivations. But inspiration is a funny thing. It's a high that can strike in the oddest of circumstances and at the most inconvenient times: in the car, in the shower, at a party, during a conversation, while falling asleep. I've learned to write down important ideas as soon as possible because they do sometimes slip away. As a result, I end up with a multitude of short stories, which all live together within the greater plot. I work on these one by one to turn them into cohesive scenes, then tie it all together with historical details from my research or specifics I glean from interviews.

Q. What is your writing process like?

A. It's similar to stone carving. I start with a rough draft, which is mostly me telling the story to myself, then carve away at imperfections until each sentence is as authentic and honest as can be and flows effortlessly into the next. I work slowly through each scene, returning to it over and over again until it's as multi-dimensional, nuanced, and complex as can be. In my writing, I strive to reflect life as it really is—messy, illogical, unfair, beautiful. When I work on sensual or emotional scenes, I listen to very angsty, charged music. The right combination of melody and lyrics helps me connect with my characters on a very intimate basis. Some of those songs have become so important, they're woven into my plot.

Q. How did you come up with the title?

A. I wrote thirty draft titles, then worked through them until finding one that, to my mind, is a perfect embodiment of my story. It was *The Veneer of Time*, then my editor added the word "Through," and I loved the play on Lewis Carroll's famous work, as well as the connotations of the familiar, yet unfamiliar.

Q. Is there a message in your novel you want readers to grasp?

A. There are a few. I've always wondered about our connection to each other through the lens of a potential past life, the immediate—sometimes quite intense—affinity or animosity for someone we've just met. The message is that we're all connected beyond the superficial whether we realize it or not. In the same vein, I explore our fears, phobias, and limitations through the lens of past trauma. How far would a woman go to put her past to rest, so she can move on? The overriding message is that it's possible to overcome your past (whether distant or recent) and build yourself up from scratch. Also, I dive deep into the concept of true love, which fascinates me. When tragedy strikes, how far would a man go to save the woman he loves? What is his word of honor, his wedding vow, truly worth when put to the ultimate test—to love in sickness and not just in health? Flowing out of this, I explore the relationship between a man and a woman, how they complement each other in working together to overcome obstacles, both physical and psychological. This message is not new, but it's one I adore—love conquers all.

Q. Is there anything you find particularly challenging in your writing?

A. I'm a pantsier, not a plotter, so my story is a fluid, living thing, frequently informed and shaped by my characters. It's through this process they become real, complex people, not just book characters. This usually works for me, but at times, it presents a challenge—especially when I have a certain direction in mind, and my character is adamant about doing things her way. This brings to mind a particular scene in my book, for which I had done a ton of research only to have my main character defy me in every possible way. It was almost funny, in truth, but after wrestling with her through a dozen of failed rewrites, I simply gave in and let her do what she wanted. Predictably, she knew best. They always do.

Q. What was the hardest part of writing your book?

A. My story deals with several dark themes, so there were a few difficult parts. I had to disconnect my brain when researching the underpinnings of a serial killer, the workings of his mind, his urge to annihilate, his psychopathy. It was also very difficult to write about sexual assault and depression and of something beautiful destroyed to almost the point of no return. The wrecking of my own creation went against my every instinct, and the only thing that helped was knowing



there was light at the end of the tunnel. Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung were my best friends during that period. The unconventional—possibly controversial—scene in which my hero must turn into the villain to save the woman he loves took months. It was extremely tricky to get right. I hope I did.

Q. Do you recall how your interest in writing originated?

A. My childhood home was a two-room flat, and my bedroom doubled as the family library. Every wall, except one with my bed and desk, was outfitted with an extra deep floor-to-ceiling bookcase. Each shelf contained two tightly packed rows of stunning hardcover books, painstakingly curated by my father. So every day, I went to sleep and awakened in the company of thousands of brilliant stories. They endlessly fascinated me—the authors’ voices, their magical ability to create entire worlds, their ingenuity at beguiling the reader to either root for a character or long for their demise, the unexpected twists, the happy endings. I wanted to do that, too.

Q. Did you learn anything from writing your book and what was it?

A. My biggest takeaway is that, apparently, I enjoy writing dark, broody stories fraught with all sorts of peril. But it’s precisely the peril, and consequently, the tough choices, that reveal a character’s true personality and result in their growth. Having said this, a happy ending is a must for me, or it’s all for naught.

Q. Do you have any advice for other writers?

A. The common advice is to write what you know, but I disagree because we don’t always enjoy what we know or want to write about it. Instead, turn off the noise and write what you love or truly yearn to know. You’ll never want to stop.

Q. Do you have anything specific you want to say to your readers?

A. Thomas C. Foster, who wrote a wonderful book on symbolism, patterns, and memory in literature, compared reading to a full-contact sport. A writer invents a story and a cast of characters, and readers flesh it all out through the lens of their life experience and intrinsic knowledge. I hope reading my novel results in this level of engagement and captures the readers’ imaginations, stirs their emotions, and maybe even results in learning something new. To me, those are the biggest payoffs of interacting with fiction.

Q. What inspired you to write your debut?

A. It was my first experience with Past Life Regression (PLR). I’ve always had this inexplicable (slightly weird) fascination with Ireland. As long as I remember, I’ve longed for Ireland, even before I knew what that misty emerald place in my dreams was called or why Celtic art and music touched something deep within my soul. Still, as an adult, I approached PLR with an entirely open mind and a sincere intent to meet and experience whatever it would bring. The outcome was startling—a vivid encounter with colors, sounds, smells, textures, even temperature, and my visceral knowledge and feelings that went beyond the immediate. It was a highly charged situation, happening to someone who didn’t look like me, yet was undeniably me, with my entire family present and everything at stake. I tried several times to go back but, sadly, never could. So for several years, I wrote the continuation in my head, until one day, it became so vast and



detailed, I could no longer contain it and had to put it on paper. Chapter Four of my book is an almost precise account of my PLR experience.

Q. Can you share a little of your current work with us?

A. The main conflict of *Through the Veneer of Time*, the first book in the trilogy, is the heroine against the villain. I recently finished the first draft of the second book, which explores a very different yet relatable conflict—the heroine against herself. It’s about her deep-seated emotions, knee-jerk reactions, and innate mistakes carried over from her past life. In the present timeline, the story deals with a single encounter that sends her on a downward spiral. Like in the past, the unravelling that follows almost destroys her, her husband, and their love. But remember, I’m all about happy endings—even if they’re a bit twisty.

Q. Are experiences based on someone you know, or events in your own life?

A. They’re a combination of my own life, people I’ve met or read about, and my imagination that taps into universal human condition. It’s important to note that while some of my own life events have not been as dramatic as they’re depicted in the book, I have lived through similar underlying emotions and challenges as my heroine. Without getting too deep, there is an emotional threshold that gets crossed following any form of abuse, and it leads to intensely damaging repercussions. While everyone responds in a different way, I believe feelings of depression, powerlessness, blame, anger, need to act and/or undo the damage are similar. On an entirely unrelated note, for the male point of view, I ran the manuscript by my husband for some invaluable pointers. Men and women truly do think very differently, which makes writing from a male point of view for a wonderful challenge. There is quite a bit more of it in the second book.

