



## The Gentleman Poet

A Novel of Love, Danger, and Shakespeare's *The Tempest*

Kathryn Johnson

Avon A Paperback Original

A young servant girl tells the tale of how William Shakespeare may have come to his inspiration for *The Tempest*—in a novel that engages the reader in a story of love, betrayal, and danger

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Elizabeth Persons' blinding headache while on board the *Sea Venture* is an ominous sign, one she knows well as a warning of danger. The young servant girl is one of 150 passengers on the ill-fated ship, her worst fears are soon realized as they are tossed mercilessly in a hurricane on the final leg of their journey to the Americas. As the storm calms, the passengers can hardly believe they have survived, and that the Bermudas, rumored home to evil spirits and dangerous natives, may be their only chance of salvation.

Despairing of rescue, Elizabeth and the others struggle to make the uninhabited island their home for nine long months while they build a new ship to complete their voyage to Jamestown, Virginia. As the months pass, friendships form, crew members revolt and love blossoms between Elizabeth and the ship's young cook. Elizabeth forms a fast bond with the ship's historian, a man she comes to know as William Strachey. But Will is not the man he portrays—he is in fact William Shakespeare—and they share a dangerous secret, a secret that could cost them their lives if they ever return to Protestant England....

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### Author Bio

Kathryn has authored more than 40 published novels, is an Agatha Award finalist and honoree of the American Library Association. She serves on the Board for the Mystery Writers of America/Mid-Atlantic Region. Founder in 2006 of *Write by You* ([www.writebyyou.com](http://www.writebyyou.com)), an author's mentoring service, she also teaches at the renowned Writer's Center in Washington, D.C. and speaks at regional and national writers' conferences. Her professional memberships include the Author's Guild, Historical Novel Society, Ninc, Mystery Writers of America, and Romance Writers of America. Having lived in Italy and traveled throughout Europe, and most recently to Egypt, she enjoys weaving rich historical detail into her novels. She is currently hard at work on her next work of historical fiction.