

Kate Atkinson

Novelist

Kate Atkinson was born in York and studied English Literature at Dundee University. Her first novel, *Behind the Scenes at the Museum* [1995], won the 1995 Whitbread [now Costa] Book of the Year award. The book is set in Yorkshire, narrated by Ruby Lennox, who takes the reader through the complex history of her family, covering the events of the twentieth century and reaching back into the past to uncover the lives of distant ancestors.

She has written two plays for the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh: a short play, *Nice* [1996], and *Abandonment*, which premiered as part of the Edinburgh Festival in August 2000. She lives in Edinburgh and is an occasional contributor to newspapers and magazines. Her third novel, *Emotionally Weird*, was published in 2000. In 2002 her collection of short stories, *Not the End of the World* [2002], was published, and *Case Histories in* [2004]. *One Good Turn* was published in late 2006, and *When Will There Be Good News?* in 2008. Her next Jackson novel *Started Early, Took My Dog* was published in August 2010. Kate was appointed MBE in the 2011 Queen's Birthday Honours List. Her 2013 novel *Life After Life* won the South Bank Sky Arts Literature Prize, was shortlisted for the Women's Prize, and voted Book of the Year for the independent booksellers associations on both sides of the Atlantic. It also won the Costa Novel Award, as did her subsequent novel *A God in Ruins* [2015].

Case Histories and Kate's novels featuring the character Jackson Brodie, starring Jason Isaacs, were adapted for television for Ruby Film and Television/ BBC1. *Life After Life* was produced as a 4-part prestige mini series for BBC1 starring Thomasin McKenzie.

Bibliography

Shrines of Gaiety – Doubleday, 2022

Big Sky – Doubleday, 2019

Transcription – Transworld, 2018

A God In Ruins – Doubleday, 2015

Life After Life – Doubleday, 2013

Started Early, Took My Dog – Doubleday, 2010

When Will There Be Good News? – Doubleday, 2008

One Good Turn – A Jolly Murder Mystery Doubleday, 2006

Case Histories Doubleday, 2004
Not the End of the World Doubleday, 2002
Emotionally Weird Doubleday, 2000
Abandonment Nick Hern Books, 2000
Human Croquet Doubleday, 1997
Behind the Scenes at the Museum Doubleday, 1995

Prizes and awards

2015 *Costa Book Awards Winner [Novel of the Year] A God In Ruins*
2014 *South Bank Sky Arts Literature Prize Life After Life*
Independent Booksellers Book of the Year Life After Life
2013 *Costa Book Awards Winner [Novel of the Year]*
Specsavers National Book Awards Winner
Waterstone's Author of The Year
2011 *Awarded MBE for Services to Literature*
2009 *Richard and Judy Best Read – The British Book Awards When Will There Be Good News?*
2004 *Whitbread Novel Award [shortlist] Case Histories*
1997 *E. M. Forster Award [American Academy of Arts and Letters]*
1996 *Yorkshire Post Book Award [Best First Work] Behind the Scenes at the Museum*
1996 *Lire Book of the Year [France] Behind the Scenes at the Museum*
1995 *Whitbread Book of the Year [AKA Costa] Behind the Scenes at the Museum*
1993 *Ian St James Award [short story competition] Karmic Mothers*
1990 *Bridport Short Story Prize [runner-up]*
1986 *Woman's Own Short Story Competition*

