**Short Author Biography**

Shelley Harris was born in Cape Town to a South African mother and British father. The family emigrated to Britain when she was six because of her parents’ objection to Apartheid. Romantically, she wrote her first novel in Paris. Less romantically, she was too nervous to send the manuscript to agents so she stuffed it in a drawer, returned to Britain and did other jobs instead. She has been a local journalist, a secondary English teacher, a filler of envelopes, an assistant in a wine shop, and a bouncer at teenage discos.

When she returned to writing she drew on fragments of her past to produce *Jubilee*, which was ‘discovered’ by agents when she read an excerpt at the 2010 York Writing Festival. It was published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson in 2012. The novel is about an iconic photograph taken at a Silver Jubilee street party in a traditional English village – and about the British Asian boy at the centre of that photograph.

In January 2015, her second novel, *Vigilante* (W&N) will be published. It tells the story of Jenny Pepper, an ordinary woman who deals with her midlife crisis by taking on the persona of a superhero.

Shelley lives in Buckinghamshire with her husband and two sons.

***Jubilee***

Shortlisted for the Commonwealth Book Prize 2012

Radio 4 Book at Bedtime in May / June 2012

Selected for the Richard and Judy Summer Book Club 2012

**Reviews of *Jubilee***

**The Independent**: ‘Remarkably assured…shrewdly-observed… pitch-perfect …an exciting debut that suggests this author will offer many more insightful and compelling stories in the years ahead.’

**The Guardian**: ‘a welcome discovery – a new novelist whose next book you are already impatient to read.’

**i-newspaper**: ‘This deft and moving debut offers more than Seventies nostalgia.’

**The Daily Mail**: ‘Boldly plotted and confidently executed, its momentum maintained to the end.’

**Clare Morrall**: ‘So compelling that I couldn’t put it down. This is an exceptional, arresting novel.’

**Marcel Theroux**: ‘Jubilee is an assured debut by a writer of great promise. It’s a sharply-written account of the birth pangs of multicultural Britain.’

**We Love This Book**: ‘The genius of this novel is the gentle way that the mysteries of the narrative unfold, fully immersing you in the story… it has a heart and soul.’

**Woman and Home**: ‘Nostalgic and moving.’

**Essentials**: ‘The suspense simply builds and builds.’

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