



Cave of Secrets

"I have counted the days until you would return to my waiting arms, my insistent kisses. But now I know you never will..."

On a rainy hike by Loch Lomond, Eve Waldman stumbles upon a perfectly preserved journal in a hidden cave. The time-worn lettering details the illicit affair of two Jewish lovers that sent a shiver of shame through a Scottish family — and echoes down the bloodlines.

Born of Highland aristocracy, Mac Monteith prefers to spend his days behind the bar of the family pub, rather than live the life his parents desired for him. Then Eve walks through the door, stirring more than Mac's long-dormant heart.

When Eve traces the cave documents to the Monteith line, scandals and secrets spill out from all sides. Eve remains committed to the truth, but when being truthful means hurting the man she loves, she is forced to make a bigger choice: righting the wrongs of the past, or building the future she's yearned for.

*A contemporary romance with hints of magical realism, **Cave of Secrets** is about family heritage, intergenerational trauma, and finding the courage to be honest with ourselves — and those who love us.*

ISBN (paperback) 979-8-9876501-4-1
ISBN (epub) 979-8-9876501-3-4

Library of Congress Control Number: 2024905858
Publication Date: August 27, 2024

Advance praise for **Cave of Secrets**

"Cave of Secrets transports readers on a timeless journey to Scotland while weaving a captivating tale of love, identity, and legacy. Lynne Golodner highlights family history and expectations that eventually force her characters to make difficult choices. Sprinkled with secrets and a touch of magical realism, this novel is a must-read."

Merle R. Saferstein, author of *Living and Leaving My Legacy, Vols. I and II*

"What begins as a journey to unravel the history of a romance story reveals deep secrets that a family has tried to hide for decades. **Cave of Secrets** not only addresses forbidden love of the past but also brings to light the struggles of love and relationships today along with the search for acceptance by one's family and the outside world. Lynne Golodner's writing encompasses the feelings and emotions of each character in a way that allows you to empathize with each of them."

Michelle Glogovac, award-winning author of *How To Get On Podcasts*

"Tackling the topics of antisemitism and homophobia, **Cave of Secrets** is an engaging, thought-provoking read, illustrating the power of courage to unveil past secrets, make tough choices and live an authentic life against all odds. Lynne Golodner exquisitely crafts a layered story full of heart, wisdom and hard truths, while exploring the journey of self-discovery and the deep need for human connection. A touching tale of love, loss, and the fortitude to pave a new path forward."

Annie Cathryn, multi-award winning author of *The Friendship Breakup*

"A masterful blend of suspense, romance, and self-discovery, **Cave of Secrets** is the tale of an intrepid young archivist's pursuit of history, unveiling a secret love affair and a powerful family's hidden Jewish roots. Lynne Golodner's gorgeous prose and skillful narration will bring you to the edge of your seat, yearning for the next revelation. A must-read for anyone craving a story that explores the layers of identity and the enduring power of love."

Lisa Williamson Rosenberg, author of *Embers on the Wind*



About the Author

Lynne Golodner is an award-winning author who writes emotional novels with compelling Jewish characters who are determined to fill their lives with passion, purpose and food. Her first novel, **Woman of Valor**, which debuted in 2023, joined a body of work that includes two poetry collections and six nonfiction books, including **Hide and Seek: Jewish Women and Hair Covering** and **The Flavors of Faith: Holy Breads**. Upon its 2024 debut, **Cave of Secrets** adds to Golodner's library of titles and is on track to fulfill her goal of writing a novel a year. She is currently at work on her next novel, which will be a second book in the *Woman of Valor* series. *Woman of Valor* earned an Honorable Mention in the Spiritual Fiction category of the 2024 Eric Hoffer Book Awards.

Lynne is a writing coach, marketing entrepreneur and host of the Make Meaning Podcast, and her creative nonfiction continues to be published around the world. With a BA from University of Michigan, an MFA from Goddard College and a Certificate in Entrepreneurship from the Goldman Sachs 10K Small Businesses Program through Wayne State University, Lynne is the mother of four and lives in Huntington Woods, Michigan, with her husband, Dan.

Contact Lynne:

lynne@yourppl.com

(248) 376-0406



lynnegolodner.com



[instagram.com/lynnegolodner/](https://www.instagram.com/lynnegolodner/)



[facebook.com/LynneGolo](https://www.facebook.com/LynneGolo)



[linkedin.com/in/lynnegolodner/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lynnegolodner/)



twitter.com/YourPeople



Listen:

Make Meaning Podcast

makemeaning.org

podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-make-meaning-podcast/id1448252358

open.spotify.com/show/2s5KTZD6pK3WlzuRaffoB?si=df8220aeb2824099



Invite Lynne Golodner to Speak!

Lynne's Talks & Workshops

Behind the Story:

What inspired the writing of *Cave of Secrets*, *Woman of Valor* and other creative projects. In this talk, Lynne shares about the inspiration behind her books, her writing process, and hard truths that all authors know — namely, that novels aren't really about the writers, until they are.

Building Your Author Brand:

How to establish a niche and a focus for your writing that teaches readers who you are and what you offer. Lynne Golodner will share the essentials of building an author career and branding oneself and explain how and why she built a brand as an author devoted to creating compelling Jewish characters full of passion and purpose.

Career Pivots & Passion Projects:

Lynne Golodner went from New York journalist to freelance single mom to marketing entrepreneur to full-time author and writing coach. Now, she helps people who never believed they could truthfully call themselves "writers" get published, produce books and believe in their voices. This talk will show how you can have the creative life of your dreams, despite all the prevailing myths and fears.

The Art of the Novel:

This workshop takes would-be novelists through the process of writing a riveting story and staying the course on a long-term book project — with added information about how to find the proper support to get a book from first draft to published.

Creating Compelling Characters:

This workshop teaches writers the keys to building believable characters that grab readers' attention and keep them turning pages. (It's easier than you think!) This is a hands-on writers workshop.

Mining Your Life for Story:

Everyone has compelling stories to tell — but it can be hard to figure out what, exactly, to write about from real life! In this writers workshop, Lynne Golodner takes writers through easy paths to unearth interesting details, questions and experiences from their lives to inspire and inform their writing.

Fact & Fiction:

The Stories that Need to be Told: This talk looks at the stories that brave writers share about identity, experience, opposition and trauma, and examines why it is increasingly important to bring a variety of characters, settings and identities to the page.



Key Ideas from Cave of Secrets

Love is made, not found.

In Margaret's relationship with Alex, Sam's relationship with Simon, and especially between Eve and Mac, enduring love becomes a choice. It's not a fairy tale romance but a lifelong project — and one that keeps each person intrigued and on their toes. It's a decision to abandon a relationship when life throws a curve ball — and an even more courageous decision to stay.



We are all connected.

You can run from the truth, but in the end the truth will find you. And most people won't care as much as you feared they would. This story celebrates the power of opening yourself to community and connection.



Legacy is about more than earthly assets.

It's in the character of your being, the fiber of your soul. The way you look at those you love. The way you listen with full awareness. Sam and Eve, Mac and Margaret, even Shira and Benjamin, come to see the beauty in being human — and the value in a legacy of meaning.



Human connection is more important than status.

So many truths were kept secret to protect the pristine legacy of the Monteiths' Highland aristocratic family. Was it worth it? Ultimately, Margaret, Mac and many others see the beauty in living in honesty, no matter the consequence.



It takes courage to live honestly — especially when that means leaving toxic family relationships.

For too long, Sam hid his homosexuality for fear of being banished from his family and community. Margaret turned her back on her impoverished past only to imprison herself in propriety. Both of them learn the true power in living openly and honestly.



A love of place is an essential part of love of self.

Full of culture and story, the Scottish Highlands seeps into the bones of every person who lives there. So, too, Eve finds that the landscape of her childhood in Ann Arbor, Michigan, is imprinted on her soul. Knowing who you are includes knowing the place you call home.

