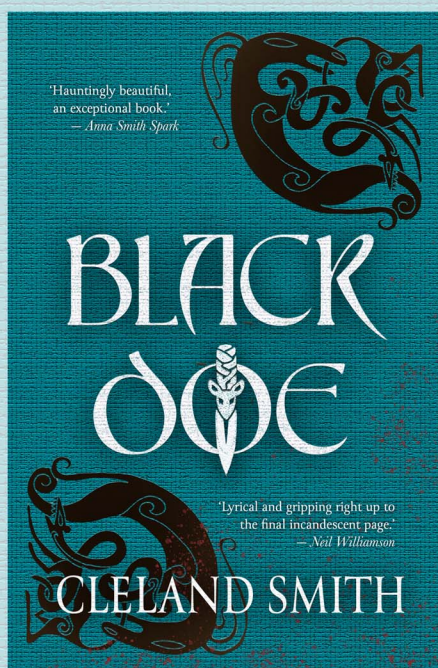




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Historical fantasy

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Black Doe by Cleland Smith

A killer who dreams another's dreams. A mother whose secret will sire a nightmare.

The Black Doe assassins are legends, shadows who never leave a target alive. Bridei, one such Black Doe sent to end the threat of a rising warlord, is stabbed with her own knife, crucified, and left to die. If she is to fulfil her mission, retrieve her stolen memories, and earn her fee, she must live, and she must kill by the Bealltainn.

Tisiphone's sons are raised on tales of the Black Does and tales of Rome. They carry great potential: the blood of Cruithne, which grants them the chance to become chieftain, married with that of the mighty Roman general, Agricola. Yet as the invaders encroach ever further north, what was once a blessing may soon become a curse. Can Tisiphone's love and loyalty protect her boys from suspicion, invasion, and the darkness of thwarted ambition?

Two women who'll do anything to protect what's theirs.
Come Bealltainn, there'll be blood on the bracken.

"A harsh, evocative vision of Celtic lands where memory, violence, and myth shape every destiny." — *Kirkus Reviews*

"Readers will be blown away by the bombshell conclusion of this blood-soaked, folkloric fantasy masterwork." — *BlueInk Reviews* (starred review)

Perfect for fans of historical fantasies like *Sister Song*, and *Song of the Huntress* by Lucy Holland, and *Circe* by Madeleine Miller, *Black Doe* will also appeal to lovers of Celtic-inspired fantasy.

"Hauntingly beautiful, an exceptional book." — *Anna Smith Spark*

"This haunting historical epic will linger long after you finish reading." — *Lucy Holland*

"Bloody and brilliant. Black Doe packs a hefty emotional punch among the fighting, plotting, magic and mythology of a time we know so little about." — *Cameron Johnston*

"Beautifully written ... a deft historical fantasy tale that manages to be both thrilling and heart-rending at once." — *Shona Kinsella*

"Lyrical and gripping right up to the final incandescent page." — *Neil Williamson*

Cleland Smith is the author of the science fiction novel *Sequela* and the Scottish historical fantasy *Black Doe*. Smith was born in the Highlands of Scotland in 1977 and grew up in Dingwall by the Cromarty Firth. Her debut novel, *Sequela*, was awarded a Kirkus star and was named to the Kirkus Best Books of 2013. She has published four books of poetry under her maiden name, Angela Cleland. She lives in Surrey with her husband, two children and two rescue cats, where she continues to write science fiction, fantasy and poetry, and narrate the occasional audiobook.