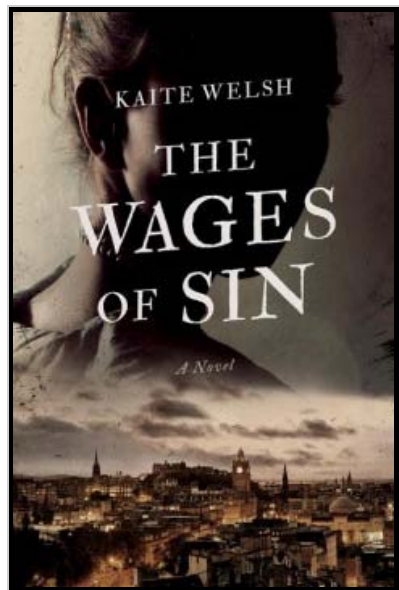


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The Wages of Sin

A Novel

by Kaite Welsh

Price: \$25.95 (Hardcover)

Published: March 07, 2017

★★★★★

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From the Publisher: Sarah Gilchrist has fled London and a troubled past to join the University of Edinburgh's medical school in 1892, the first year it admits women. She is determined to become a doctor despite the misgivings of her family and society, but Sarah quickly finds plenty of barriers at school itself: professors who refuse to teach their new pupils, male students determined to force out their female counterparts, and—perhaps worst of all—her female peers who will do anything to avoid being associated with a fallen woman. Desperate for a proper education, Sarah turns to one of the city's ramshackle charitable hospitals for additional training. The St Giles' Infirmary for Women ministers to the downtrodden and drunk, the thieves and whores with nowhere else to go. In this environment, alongside a group of smart and tough teachers, Sarah gets quite an education. But when Lucy,...

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About The Author

Kaite Welsh

Kaite Welsh is an Edinburgh-based journalist and critic and the Literature Officer at Creative Scotland. She writes a weekly column for the Daily Telegraph and makes frequent appearances on BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour. She was included on the Independent on Sunday's 2015 Rainbow List, which recognizes...

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What We Say

This debut mystery has an engrossing setting and an engaging heroine. Sarah is an upper class woman in the late 1800s whose reputation is destroyed when a man she cares for rapes her -- society of course treats Sarah like a fallen woman while the man goes unpunished. Even worse, she wants to study medicine and be a doctor. Yes, in 1892 a woman who wants an education and a career is in many ways even more disreputable than a mere trollop. Sarah is banished to Scotland, out of sight of her family but happily one of the few places women are tentatively allowed to pursue their passion. Sarah must fight the shunning of her fellow female students, the constant heckling (and worse) they all get from the male

students, a prim aunt who wants to marry her off to a bore of a young man who is dimwitted and tiresome AND fight off her growing feelings for a stern professor. Oh, and fight the urge to indulge in a taste for laudanum. Oh, and solve the murder of a prostitute that no one cares about. It's good fun and the characters are vivid. But the setting and non-mystery elements are much stronger than the mystery itself. Our heroine does very little detecting as such -- she merely stumbles across various suspects and then impulsively follows them, for the most part. And she is rescued after stumbling onto the truth, which is unsatisfying in every. While it fails as a mystery, Welsh does keep the pages turning and perhaps she'll make her heroine more active in both solving the crime and protecting herself come the inevitable sequel. -- Michael Giltz

What Others Say

Sarah is a spunky but historically accurate heroine, bucking the most restrictive traditions in order to comment on them. The first book in what will, one hopes, be a long-running series, featuring a new kind of historical leading lady, Welsh's debut is an inspiring feminist tale perfect for the modern age. - **Library Journal** (starred; **Debut of the Month**)

Welsh makes clever use of the conventions of the genre while throwing in a twist informed by modern sensibilities. Damp, sooty, moralistic, and sinning Edinburgh is convincingly evoked. A gritty detective story as unflinching as its heroine, rich in well-researched period detail. - **Kirkus Reviews**

A moving, nuanced first novel. Superior characterizations and convincing period detail. - **Publishers Weekly**

It's rare to find a truly fresh new voice in fiction. Welsh's writing is intense, passionate, and dramatic. She turns phrases until they're exquisitely wrought, and fashions from the raw material of language something beautiful and unique. - **Emma Rees, author of 'The Vagina: A Literary and Cultural History'**

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