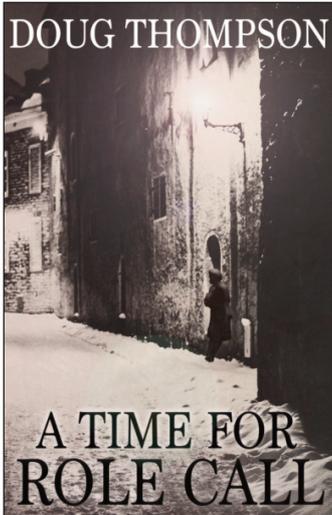




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PRESS RELEASE

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A TIME FOR ROLE CALL

It is 1946, and former debutante Sally Jardine-Fell is in prison awaiting trial for a murder she didn't commit...

In this book, readers follow the strange, eventful path of Sally Jardine-Fell's life from blitzed London via Yorkshire, where Sally first meets the enigmatic Adam, to Fascist Rome and the bed of Count Galeazzo Ciano, Mussolini's Foreign Minister and the focus of Sally's Special Operations Executive (SOE) mission.

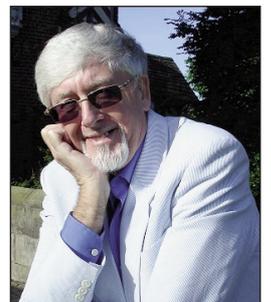
"In *A Time for Role Call* I became interested in the mechanics of mass control – the acquiescence of millions in once again reinforcing the age-old status quo of masters and servants, commanders and commanded, all driven by the usual propaganda in the conditions of total war," says Doug Thompson of his latest novel, which tells a story of love, espionage and murder set in wartime Italy.

Following Ciano's sudden fall from grace early in 1943, Sally's mission is aborted. The subsequent Allied invasions, Mussolini's overthrow, and the German occupation lead her to quit Rome. With increasing difficulty and some hair-raising experiences, she makes her tortuous way north towards Switzerland. En route she encounters deserting German soldiers, an escaped Australian PoW, Italian brothers avoiding military service, mountain shepherds, a French nun, Italian partisans – as well as, all too briefly, the long-lost Adam.

Shortly after the war, back in London, Sally again meets with Silvio, an Italian restaurateur, whom she had known there previously, subsequently her SOE superior in Italy, but whose loyalties she has long suspected. Aware of her suspicions, Silvio now tries to kill her. But it is he who dies, though not by her hand...

"This novel, in essence, is anti-war, anti-nationalistic and a plea for universal tolerance," concludes Doug. "It epitomises a central theme: the irrelevance of 'nationality' and the need for 'humanity' in all our dealings with our fellow men."

Former Professor of Modern Italian language, history and literature, **DOUG THOMPSON** draws on his intimate knowledge of Italy to write a lively novel with its feisty protagonist and a colourful cast of supporting characters. The book will appeal to readers of historically based fiction, those with an interest in Italy – especially the war years – or any who have enjoyed Doug's previous works, *To the Great Sea* (Matador, 2011) and *Checkmate* (Matador, 2013).



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PRESS PACK

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