

ONE YEAR ONE NIGHT

REVISED
EDITION

FALL 2024

by S. L. Roman
with illustrations by Kevin Hopgood

Annie returns to her home village after a long absence and rediscovers the diary she kept the year she turned 16, the year that changed her life. Based on a true event in England during World War II, readers witness through her eyes her blossoming love story with a handsome soldier and her growing affection for an evacuee child. **A tender and amusing story of love, resilience, family, and loss.**

“Organized as diary entries, *One Year, One Night* is a beautiful story that covers events in an English village during WWII. ...A touching story laced with humor including many heart-warming scenes. Highly recommended.”

—Readers’ Favorite

“A heart-wrenching and beautiful story that inspires curiosity and empathy.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“An uplifting story of self-discovery, young romance, and fortitude in the face of adversity.”

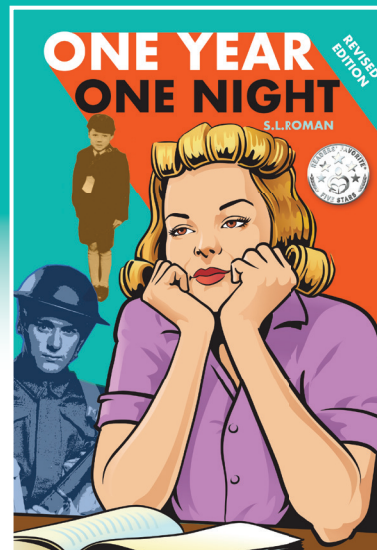
—Independent Book Review



ABOUT THE AUTHORS:

S. L. Roman is the pseudonym of Sarah Onions and Laura Meloni. Both have been teachers at the high school level. The idea for this story came from a true

event which surfaced at a former school in Surrey, England when Sarah taught there. Friends for many years, both women live in the Greater London area.



YOUNG ADULT HISTORICAL FICTION

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terrier forever yapping and with a nasty nipping habit. The worse of it is that it was decided that Auntie Betty and naturally Doug should share my bedroom. Anyway, in a moment of inspiration (or rather desperation) I nobly offered to let her have my room and said I would move in to the spare room in the basement. It is a bit dark and smells weird but not half as bad as Doug.



As I read that, the scene came alive in my mind. I could see Auntie Betty standing there in frozen surprise at my generous offer and yet still managing to look disapproving. The problem with her was that she disapproved of nearly everything and everybody, a sour-looking spinster with an even worse temper. She was my mother's sister, about 10 years older than Mum and, according to her, she had sacrificed herself for the good of the family. She had never married, Betty claimed, to help look after her younger siblings, discounting the obvious fact that it would have been VERY difficult to find somebody foolish enough to marry her. Whatever the truth of the matter, she had a definite hold over my mother, sometimes much to my father's annoyance.

Age hadn't improved either her nature or her looks. Auntie Betty talked constantly in a high-pitched voice and gave her view on everything and anything. She wore a sickly violet perfume which, she announced, was very refined. She favored pastel-colored blouses that stretched across her ample bosom and thick black skirts covered in hair from the dog, together with wrinkly stockings and clumpy shoes. Her mousy hair was nightly tortured by rollers but unfortunately to little effect and the color she applied

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as first choice and considered desirable guests.

Thurs 25 Jan

This morning Billy brought a letter from Dad! He's alright and has started his training as a driver—after that some words and sentences were heavily blacked out. He says he misses us all even Auntie Betty (but not as much as I miss him, I'm sure). He said next time he would send us a photo. I can't wait to see him in his uniform.

Later Mrs. Harrigan popped into the shop to buy some paint brushes. I think her husband isn't happy with Dad not being here to serve him.

Anyway, she had the little blond boy by her side. He was pale and had an anxious look about him. I greeted him with a friendly hello but he didn't answer.

'Where's yer manners' Mrs. Harrigan barked at him.

The boy jumped and whispered

'Hello Miss'.

'Not miss, my name is Annie, what's your name?'

'Ben'.

I got closer and reached out to muss his hair and he flinched as if afraid. Then Mrs. Harrigan dragged him out of the shop. Poor kid. Why isn't he at school?



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“One Year, One Night is a touching story set in a rural English village in WWII. It is laced with humor and many heart-warming scenes. Highly recommended.”

—Readers' Favorite

