



In the court of King Henry VIII, they are dressing in velvets and drinking French wine. In the land, commoners are lucky to be drinking weak ale as they ponder how to keep safe in a world turned upside down. The Pope gone, and the king in his stead. Queens losing their titles and their heads. Monastery and convent lands seized by the king. The deadly sweating sickness all about.

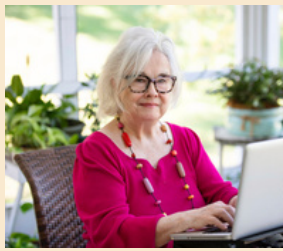
And, among the most egregious of blows, the precious illustrated manuscripts that had been wrought and preserved in holy houses, scattered, lost, stolen, torn apart.

Young Squire Henry Truelove, his ladylove Morwenna, and a ragtag band of friends set out to find and preserve these holy books — before villains can make them disappear for all time. It is a dangerous crusade.

*The Lost Books — Romance and Adventure in Tudor Times* is a Tudor story that has been largely overlooked. It appeals to readers who love words and language, who cherish books, and for those who like to poke into the nooks and crannies of history.

The tone is often playful, yet thoughtful, as characters wrestle with the dangers of life in Tudor times. Chiefly, how to save the precious books and their own skins.

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*Photo by Colleen Kelley*

Mo Conlan began her career as a writer when she became a gobbler of stories, reading through the entire children’s section of the local library.

She worked for more than 30 years as a journalist, mostly wearing various hats on her hometown daily newspaper.

One of the highlights she recalls, during her stint as books editor, was riding in the back seat of a car with author Tom Wolfe. “He wore his crumpled white linen suit. When he got over being shy, the wit just poured out of his mouth.”

Since leaving newspaper work, Mo has been writing poetry and fiction and editing books. She also is an artist and was recently featured artist in the *Poetry East* magazine. For fun, Mo writes haiku and plays with her two cats. She makes art and hangs the colorful pieces in her home – a kind of pop-up museum.

Mo says of her novel: “This book evolved from my love of words, language and story. And my experiences of growing up a woman, with all its obstacles and opportunities. I began to think about what women in history – apart from queens and princesses – had to overcome. My heroine Morwenna is a kind of Everywoman – oppressed by laws and yet managing by ingenuity to survive and thrive. Plus, attracting a devoted suitor -- every story deserves a little romance.”

