

**Media Release**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**STARFest Online presents author Ellen Keith on June 25**

St. ALBERT—STARFest is pleased to announce the return of historical fiction author Ellen Keith in an online event Sunday, June 25 at 1 p.m. MDT. Keith charmed STARFest audiences in 2018 with her novel, *The Dutch Wife*; now she returns virtually with *The Dutch Orphan*, an intricate and moving story in which two sisters' loyalties to spouse, country, and each other are tested when the Nazis invade Amsterdam in 1941.

"Ellen Keith is a festival favourite and a home-town favourite, as she's originally from St. Albert," says STARFest Director Michelle Steinhuisen. "She will be joining us virtually from her home in Amsterdam to offer us excerpts from her enthralling new novel, ably hosted by another STARFest alumna, the bestselling historical fiction author Elinor Florence."

*The Dutch Orphan* is a riveting novel set during World War II about two sisters, one of whom secretly adopts a Jewish baby and the other who is married to a Nazi sympathizer. Set against the Nazi invasion of Amsterdam, amidst an underground network of musicians, secrets continue to grow between the sisters as the war unfolds, severing their once-unbreakable bond. Eventually, both women are forced to make a choice that will alter their lives forever: the choice between family and freedom.

Genevieve Graham, bestselling author of *Bluebird* and fellow STARFest alumna, describes *The Dutch Orphan* as "vivid and deeply personal ... a heartbreaking, compelling story I couldn't put down until the very last page."

Ellen Keith's first book was the bestselling novel *The Dutch Wife*, which won the 2016 HarperCollins Publishers Ltd/UBC Prize for Best New Fiction. She has an undergraduate degree in history with a focus on WWII/Holocaust Studies from the University of Alberta, as well as an MFA in creative writing from the University of British Columbia.

Register at [www.STARFest.ca](http://www.STARFest.ca) for this free online event.

STARFest Readers Festival offers a range of author events through the year as well as a star-studded ticketed fall festival that takes place over three weeks each October. Be the first to know about STARFest events and the 2023 festival by subscribing to our newsletter at [www.starfest.ca](http://www.starfest.ca).

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