

BEDLAM

The Case of Lord Simon

BOOK ONE OF THE BEDLAM SERIES

London, 1554. A duke's heir wakes behind the bars of Bedlam—and discovers that rank cannot save him from the wreckage of his own life.

ANNE MARIE CANNON

Available September 10, 2026 • Official Launch October 10, 2026

amcannon.com

Book at a Glance

FIELD	DETAIL
Book	Bedlam: The Case of Lord Simon — The Bedlam Series, Book 1, by Anne Marie Cannon
Genre	Tudor historical fiction / historical drama
Setting	London, 1554, including Bethlem Hospital—known as Bedlam
Release	Available September 10, 2026; official launch Saturday, October 10, 2026
Launch venue	Hotel de Paris Museum, Georgetown, Colorado
Publisher	Belgian Rabbit Publishing
Length / formats	Approximately 81,780 words
ISBNs	Paperback: ISBN 979-8-9937098-3-3 eBook: ISBN 979-8-9937098-2-6
Availability	eBook available on Amazon for pre-order August 21, 2026 Paperback Available October 10, 2026
Website	amcannon.com

One-Sentence Hook

After a drunken brawl lands a duke’s heir inside Bedlam, he must survive withdrawal, cruelty, and the collapse of his identity while the people who still love him risk their lives to keep an innocent man from the gallows.

Press Hooks

- A debut historical novel set in Tudor London beyond the royal court—inside Bedlam, taverns, merchant houses, docks, and Newgate.
- A story of addiction and redemption in which privilege cannot shield the central character from consequence.
- A multi-perspective cast shaped by loyalty, neurodivergence, race, gender, religious conflict, and the unequal reach of Tudor law.
- A Colorado author and history podcaster bringing research-driven storytelling to the first full-length novel in The Bedlam Series.
- An official launch reading held at the historic Hotel de Paris Museum in Georgetown, Colorado.

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Colorado Author Anne Marie Cannon to Release Tudor Historical Novel Set Inside Bedlam

Bedlam: The Case of Lord Simon explores addiction, loyalty, conscience, and redemption in London, 1554.

TRINIDAD, Colo. — Anne Marie Cannon will release her debut novel, *Bedlam: The Case of Lord Simon*, on September 10, 2026. The first full-length installment in The Bedlam Series transports readers to London in 1554, where a nobleman stripped of rank and dignity must confront both the brutality around him and the ruin he has made of his own life.

Simon Stanley, heir to the Duke of Hampshire, wakes behind the bars of Bedlam after a drunken brawl. As he endures withdrawal, violence, and the loss of his identity, his loyal steward Tobias Good arrives in London determined to protect him. When a Bedlam keeper is killed and Tobias is accused of murder, Simon's struggle for recovery becomes inseparable from a desperate effort to save innocent lives.

Told through several intertwined perspectives—including Simon; Tobias; Winnie Wryght, a mapmaker's daughter; and Rebecca, Simon's wife—the novel follows characters forced to choose between law and conscience in a society where power determines whose testimony matters.

"Bedlam became a word for chaos, but I wanted to look beyond the legend and imagine the people inside it as individuals—with loyalties, desires, failures, and the possibility of redemption," Cannon said. "Simon enters believing his title defines him. Only when it is taken away can he begin to understand the man he has become."

Anne Marie Cannon

Cannon is the host and producer of the Armchair Historians podcast, which explores history through personal stories and conversations with historians, authors, and researchers. She studied multimedia storytelling at Western Connecticut State University and lives in Trinidad, Colorado.

The official book-launch celebration will take place Saturday, October 10, 2026, during the Hotel de Paris Museum October Food and Drink Experience in Georgetown, Colorado. The event begins at 4 p.m.; Cannon will read from the novel at 5 p.m., and books will be available for purchase. The event is ticketed.

Bedlam: The Case of Lord Simon will be published by Belgian Rabbit Publishing. Review copies, interviews, excerpts, and high-resolution images are available upon request.

MEDIA CONTACT

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About the Book

Short Description

London, 1554. Simon Stanley—heir to the Duke of Hampshire—awakens inside Bedlam after drink, grief, and violence finally overtake him. Stripped of his title and forced to survive among people society has discarded, Simon begins a painful reckoning with addiction and privilege. Beyond the walls, his loyal steward Tobias Good fights to preserve Simon’s life and reputation while carrying dangerous secrets of his own. When a keeper’s death sends Tobias toward the gallows, Simon must decide whether redemption is merely something he desires—or something he is willing to risk everything to earn.

Expanded Synopsis

Simon Stanley has spent years using wine, rank, and charm to outrun grief. After a brawl in Cheapside, he wakes chained inside Bethlem Hospital—Bedlam—where his noble name is treated as another delusion. Withdrawal leaves him fevered and hallucinating; the keepers reduce him to a nameless inmate; and the vulnerable people around him reveal a world his privilege has allowed him not to see.

Tobias Good, Simon’s steward and lifelong companion, travels to London to arrange his care. Tobias is also bound to Simon’s household by a secret love for Rebecca, Simon’s wife, and by the child she carries. Winnie Wryght, the daughter of a cartographer and ship merchant, enters Bedlam to care for her brilliant but socially vulnerable brother, Astrolabe. Her encounter with Simon pulls her into a widening conflict involving a threatened girl, a brutal keeper, a murder accusation, and a legal system eager to silence those considered mad.

As Tobias and another Bedlam inmate face execution, Simon’s recovery becomes a moral test. To save them, he must surrender the assumptions of birth and power that shaped him—and act for people whose voices the law refuses to hear. *Bedlam: The Case of Lord Simon* is a story of damaged loyalties, forbidden love, religious and political danger, and the difficult difference between wanting forgiveness and becoming worthy of it.

Themes

- Addiction, accountability, and the slow work of recovery
- Conscience versus law
- Privilege, identity, and social power
- Friendship, chosen family, and divided loyalties
- Historical attitudes toward mental difference
- Faith, doubt, and religious conflict in Tudor England
- The vulnerability—and agency—of women within patriarchal systems

About Anne Marie Cannon

Standard Bio

Anne Marie Cannon is a historical fiction author, multimedia storyteller, and host and producer of the Armchair Historians podcast. Her work explores the human stories inside history, with particular interest in people whose lives are obscured by institutions, legends, and official records. Cannon studied multimedia storytelling at Western Connecticut State University and lives in Trinidad, Colorado. *Bedlam: The Case of Lord Simon* is her debut novel and the first full-length book in The Bedlam Series. She publishes through Belgian Rabbit Publishing.

Short Bio

Anne Marie Cannon is a Colorado historical fiction author and the host and producer of the Armchair Historians podcast. *Bedlam: The Case of Lord Simon* is her debut novel and the first full-length installment in The Bedlam Series.

Suggested Interview Topics

- Why Bedlam became the setting for a Tudor historical novel
- Writing addiction and recovery without turning redemption into a single dramatic act
- How the novel moves beyond queens and courtiers to explore Tudor institutions, merchants, servants, and inmates
- Balancing documented history with fictional characters and plot
- The origins of Simon Stanley, Tobias Good, Winnie Wryght, and Astrolabe
- Writing neurodivergent historical characters when modern diagnostic language did not exist
- How podcasting and interviewing historians influenced the author's fiction
- Independent publishing and building The Bedlam Series across a prequel and three novels

Suggested Interview Questions

1. What first drew you to Bedlam as a setting?
2. Why did you choose 1554 as the year for the novel?
3. Simon begins the story with enormous privilege. What must he lose before he can change?
4. How did you approach writing addiction and withdrawal in a Tudor setting?
5. Which parts of the novel are grounded in historical research, and where did fiction take over?
6. What does Winnie's perspective add to Simon and Tobias's story?
7. How did Astrolabe evolve from the prequel *Sum of Broken Rooms* into the larger series?
8. What do you hope readers reconsider about the word "Bedlam" after reading the book?
9. How has hosting Armchair Historians shaped the way you tell stories?
10. What can readers expect from the next book in The Bedlam Series?

Official Book Launch

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026

Hotel de Paris Museum • Georgetown, Colorado

Event begins at 4 p.m. • Author reading at 5 p.m.

Event Description

Please join Anne Marie Cannon for the official launch of her debut novel, *Bedlam: The Case of Lord Simon*, during the Hotel de Paris Museum October Food and Drink Experience. Cannon will read from the novel at 5 p.m., and books will be available for purchase. The event begins at 4 p.m. and is ticketed.

Coverage Opportunities

- Advance author interview about the novel and its Tudor setting
- Book review or excerpt placement
- Event-calendar listing
- On-site photography or event coverage
- Podcast, radio, television, or livestream interview
- Local-interest feature connecting a Trinidad author with a launch at a historic Colorado venue

Event Details to Complete

[Facebook Event Page](#)

Hotel de Paris Museum

409 6th Street, Georgetown, CO, United States, Colorado 80444

Phone: [303 569 2311](tel:3035692311)

PLEASE NOTE: This book launch and author signing takes place during Hotel de Paris Museum's Food & Drink Experience, but you do not need to purchase a Food & Drink Experience ticket to attend the reading and signing. If you would like to attend the Food & Drink Experience, purchase tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/.../food-drink-experience...>

BOOK LAUNCH: Anne Marie Cannon will celebrate the release of her debut Tudor historical novel, *Bedlam: The Case of Lord Simon*, on Saturday, October 10, 2026, during the Hotel de Paris Museum October Food and Drink Experience in Georgetown, Colorado. The event begins at 4 p.m.; Cannon will read at 5 p.m., and books will be available for purchase. Ticketed event. [Insert event link].

Sample Excerpt

FROM CHAPTER ONE • SIMON • LONDON, 1554

I woke to the sound of dripping.

No voices, no fire—only that steady tap of water striking stone. For a moment, I believed that someone had buried me alive and the echo was soil falling on a coffin lid. I reached upward and struck cold mortar. The ceiling was low and arched, slick with damp. Not a roof, not sky—a vault.

My hand slid down to iron. Bars ran floor to ceiling, their chill slick with night air. Beyond them stretched a small courtyard walled in stone. Other cells ringed it, each a hollow cut into the masonry like a mouth—but every one stood empty save mine.

I pushed myself upright. Straw rustled beneath me, rank with urine and mildew. My head throbbed. Dried blood crusted my hairline where some blow had found me. My clothes reeked of ale, mud, and vomit. The doublet that once marked me heir to Hampshire was stiff as a beggar's rag.

Memory stabbed back: a tavern near Cheapside, dice rattling on the board. A jug of claret clutched tight in my hand. A laugh—shrill, mocking—as I staggered into a table. My fist swinging, wild. A crowd jeering. Then lanterns bobbing, voices barking, the clatter of pikes. The night watch.

I remembered their hands on me, rough and unrelenting, while I shouted my name until my throat tore: I am Simon Stanley, son of the Duke of Hampshire! They laughed, calling me “my lord” as they dragged me through the mud.

And then—nothing. Darkness.

A shape shifted in the courtyard beyond the bars. The moon drew its outline, wide and heavy.

“Who's there?”

The echo of boots broke the silence. Deliberate steps, steady as a drum. A torch flared in the courtyard, a faceless man silhouetted by the flames. His bulk filled the cell door. Keys clinked at his belt like ornaments of triumph.

“What's it to you, Bedlamite?” the shadow growled.

The word struck harder than the watchman's fists.

Excerpted from the supplied draft manuscript. Final published text may differ.

Supporting Material and Contacts

Series Entry Point: Sum of Broken Rooms

Sum of Broken Rooms is the prequel to The Bedlam Series and introduces Astrolabe Wryght. Readers may purchase it through Amazon or receive a free digital copy by joining Anne Marie Cannon's email list.

Amazon: <https://a.co/d/0clmcA2f>

Free subscriber copy: amcannon.com

Media Assets

- High-resolution front cover (JPG and PNG)
- Author headshot with photographer credit
- Book-launch event flyer
- Author and publisher logos
- Full press release in editable format
- Review copy or advance digital copy
- Additional approved excerpts
- Author biography in short and standard lengths

Reader and Coverage Notes

The novel contains depictions of addiction and withdrawal, institutional abuse, physical violence, threatened sexual violence, religious persecution, historical prejudice, and period attitudes toward mental illness and neurodivergence. The book is intended for adult readers.

Press Contact

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