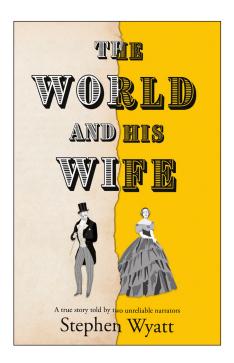


PRESS RELEASE

THE WORLD AND HIS WIFE

What started as a love match lit the fire of a thirty year war...



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In 1828, the beautiful Rosina Wheeler married one of Victorian England's most successful and prolific writers, Edward Bulwer-Lytton. What followed shocked and entertained the public for over thirty years.

After their marriage broke down, Rosina refused to be silenced. She pursued her husband with a single-minded and very public crusade to prove she was in the right. She even interrupted her husband's election campaign to denounce him to the assembled voters. Edward responded by threatening to have her committed to a lunatic asylum.

But that was only the beginning...

This novel draws freely on Edward and Rosina's own words. Both have a convincing story fo tell – except they disagree about everything.

"A masterpiece of a mismatched Victorian marriage – read it! And laugh and weep at the same time." – Christie Dickason, whose many historical novels include *The Dragon Riders, The Firemaster's Mistress* and *The Noble Assassin*.

Stephen Wyatt is an award-winning writer for radio, theatre and television. Highlights include: creating two Classic Dr. Who stories, *Paradise Towers* and *The Greatest Show in the Galaxy*; co-writing Cameron Mackintosh's first independent musical production; winning the Tinniswood Award for best original radio script twice; working with Patrick Stewart on two plays about Raymond Chandler in Hollywood; providing the libretto to an unfinished opera by Debussy; and dramatising Dante's *The Divine Comedy* for radio.

He says, "I remember reading that three major writers, Thackeray, Dickens and Bulwer-Lytton, all planned at one time to put their wives into mental institutions. Thackeray's mentally unstable wife was eventually put in the care of a private keeper. Dickens' eminently sane wife was threatened with an asylum if she didn't play along with Dickens' divorce plans. But what caught my attention was the less well-known case of Bulwer-Lytton and his wife, because she was the only one who fought back. I immediately wanted to know more."

FOR AUTHOR INTERVIEWS, REVIEW OR COMPETITION COPIES, ARTICLES, PHOTOS OR EXTRACTS CONTACT: PHILIPPA ILIFFE

TEL: 0800 999 2982 EMAIL: marketing@bookguild.co.uk