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Burnaby fiction author Winona Kent has a new publisher which is re-releasing all four of her novels, and plans to publish her future works as well. Photo Contributed

Winona Kent has been writing stories since even before she could write.

That is, even at age five, the budding storyteller was crafting tales through pictures drawn on the wall of her bedroom, Kent recalled sheepishly.

Born in England, she moved to Regina, Sask. as a toddler. In Grade 8 she wrote her first novel, handing out chapters at recess.

And in 1982, she moved out west to study in the University of British Columbia's creative writing program.

That talent and determination eventually led to the west Burnaby resident having a short story published in *Flare* magazine in her early 20s as the winner of a fiction contest. And as a finalist in the Seal Books First Novel Competition, she had her first book published, *Skywatcher*, in 1989. She self-published both the sequel, *The Cilla Rose Affair*, in 2001, and *Cold Play*, in 2013.

Her fourth novel, *Persistence of Memory*, the start of a new series, was published by Fable Press in 2013 but when that company folded, she was taken on by Diversion Books of New York which has since published all her works as e-books.

Now at age 60, Kent is having all her novels reprinted in paperback next month.

"I am totally over the moon. I was so thrilled just because it meant something like *Skywatcher*, which has been out of print for 25 years, was coming back in print."

Diversion has also agreed to take on her future novels, Kent said, noting she plans to write 10 in the latest series featuring a pair of time travellers.

Skywatcher and *The Cilla Rose Affair* are spy novels, inspired by the *Man from U.N.C.L.E.* TV show of the 1960s, while *Cold Play* takes place aboard a cruise ship to Alaska. For that book she drew both from her own experience as a cruise ship passenger and her sister's as a cruise ship employee.

The latest book and series came about while Kent was researching her family history. She had a great-grandfather who she couldn't find a shred of information about.

He "turned out to be a total mystery ... I thought, what if I could go back in time and track down this person and meet him?"

The next book in the series, *In Loving Memory*, will be published July 2016.

Kent does much of her research and writing in the middle of the night, in between her day job as a program assistant at UBC. She said she loves her job, but is looking forward to retirement in less than five years.

"It would be so nice to write full time for the first time in my life."

For more information on her books and where to buy them, visit winonakent.com.

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