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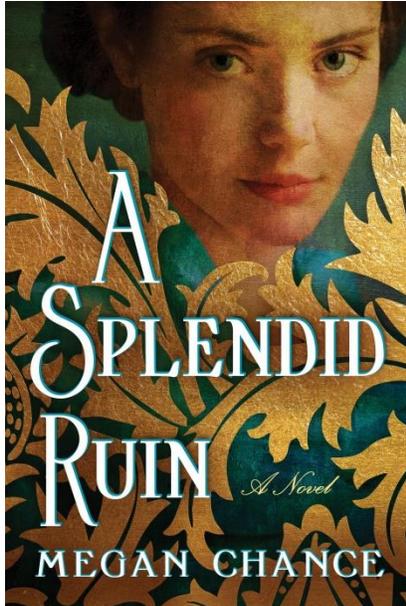
“This is a spellbinding page-turner of a book, full of unexpected twists and turns, told in beautiful prose, and set against the devastating backdrop of the Great San Francisco earthquake. In it, Megan Chance gives us a profoundly intimate look at a city—and a woman—in ruins.” —**Kristin Hannah**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Nightingale*

An absorbing, tragic, heart-wrenching historical novel that [is] at once thought-provoking and ultimately so very satisfying. Brava!” —**M.J. Rose**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Cartier’s Hope*

A SPLENDID RUIN

By Megan Chance

Publication date January 1, 2021



A Splendid Ruin (Lake Union Publishing, January 1, 2021), the newest release from award winning, bestselling historical novelist Megan Chance, is a spellbinding novel of dark family secrets and a young woman’s rise and revenge set against the backdrop of the devastating 1906 San Francisco earthquake, with sly nods to both Edith Wharton and *Gaslight*.

After her mother’s death, penniless May Kimble lives a lonely life until an aunt she didn’t know existed summons her to San Francisco. There she’s welcomed into the wealthy

Sullivan family and their social circle.

Initially overwhelmed by the opulence of her new life, May soon senses that dark mysteries lurk in the shadows of the Sullivan mansion. Her glamorous cousin often disappears in

the night. Her aunt wanders about in a laudanum fog. And a maid keeps hinting that May is in danger. Trapped by betrayal, madness, and murder, May stands to lose everything, including her freedom, at the hands of those she trusts most.

Then, on an early April morning, San Francisco comes tumbling down. Out of the smoldering ruins, May embarks on a harrowing road to reclaim what is hers. This tragic twist of fate, along with the help of an intrepid and charismatic journalist, puts vengeance within May's reach. The question is: will she take it?

With *A Splendid Ruin*, Megan Chance crafts a haunting and intense story about the bonds of family and the nature of morality, ambition and vengeance in an impossible-to-put-down work of historical fiction.

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**Megan Chance** is the critically acclaimed, award-winning author of twenty novels, including *Bone River*, *Inamorata*, *The Spiritualist*, and *An Inconvenient Wife*. She holds a BA from Western Washington University, and graduated from Capital High School in Olympia. She and her husband live on the Kitsap Peninsula in the Pacific Northwest, with their two grown daughters nearby. For more information, visit [www.meganchance.com](http://www.meganchance.com).

**A SPLENDID RUIN** by Megan Chance  
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## Praise for *A Splendid Ruin*

“With a fascinating look at 1900s San Francisco, this historical gothic features a feisty woman-in-peril and a fast-paced story that will keep the reader turning pages.”

—*Booklist*

“Megan Chance has done it again! *A Splendid Ruin* is an astonishing beautiful, richly imagined historical novel about class, betrayal, revenge, and the terrible choices a woman must sometimes make to survive in dangerous times. This is a spellbinding page-turner of a book, full of unexpected twists and turns, told in beautiful prose, and set against the devastating backdrop of the Great San Francisco earthquake. In it, Megan Chance gives us a profoundly intimate look at a city—and a woman—in ruins.”

—Kristin Hannah, New York Times bestselling author of *The Nightingale*

“An impeccably researched, brilliantly plotted novel set in Gilded Age San Francisco, a city dripping with wealth yet rife with corruption. Enter May Kimble, a poor relation to the flashy Sullivan clan, who is at first overwhelmed by the generosity of her long-lost family, but must ultimately draw on her deepest strengths to solve the devious mystery at the heart of the book. *A Splendid Ruin* is twisty in the best of ways, with a story that you will devour.”

—Fiona Davis, New York Times bestselling author of *The Lions of Fifth Avenue*

“Somehow Megan Chance has stepped back in time and delivered a mesmerizing tale that will compel you to turn just one more page, to finish one more chapter as, along with the novel’s fascinating heroine, May Kimble, you try to learn the mystery at the heart of this powerful novel. San Francisco during the Gilded age has never been painted more lovingly or—during its devastating fire—more compassionately. An absorbing, tragic, heart-wrenching historical novel that [is] at once thought-provoking and ultimately so very satisfying. Brava!”

—M.J. Rose, New York Times bestselling author of *Cartier’s Hope*

“A thoroughly engrossing historical thriller, full of secrets and surprises. May Kimble is the kind of heroine you can’t help but root for, and the San Francisco setting—from socialite balls to opium dens—is brought vividly to life, thanks to Chance’s impeccable research. If you want to know what it was like to live through the disastrous 1906 earthquake and its aftermath, read this book!”

—Elizabeth Blackwell, author of *Red Mistress* and *On a Cold Dark Sea*

**Praise for *A Drop of Ink***  
*Lake Union Publishing | 2017*

“Some turns in the story will take your breath away. This is an outstanding novel; one of the best I’ve read all year.”

—*Historical Novel Society*

"Inspired by the Gothic writing session that produced “Frankenstein,” [Chance] imagines different participants in the same spooky location... Historically minded readers will particularly enjoy this bumpy ride, and the parallels between Chance’s re-imagined literary quintet and the actual participants in that long-ago gothic writing session.”

—*The Seattle Times*

Megan Chance writes gorgeous historical novels about women and the lives they were forced to lead because of the role society cast them in. This is a mesmerizing tale of greed, lust and betrayal."

—*For the Love of Books*

**Praise for *The Visitant: A Venetian Ghost Story***  
*Lake Union Publishing | 2015*

“Haunting, atmospheric... chilling mystery... Chance's command of hinting nuances sets the stage for the reader's unease...”

—*The Seattle Times*

“Suspenseful, surprising and beautifully done... With a luminous Venetian setting and a fascinating triad of characters at its heart, THE VISITANT utilizes traditional Gothic and ghost-tale motifs in a strikingly fresh and inventive way.”

—*Society Nineteen*

“A wonderfully drawn Gothic tale... *The Visitant* will keep readers turning pages well into the night...”

—*Historical Novel Society Reviews*

**Praise for *Inamorata: A Novel***  
*Lake Union Publishing | 2014*

“Chance’s eighth novel (after *Bone River*) is a thrilling depiction of the world of Venetian artists in the late 19th century, as well as an exploration of the myth of the muse. Chance gets better with each book, and this look at the dynamic between inspiration, desperation, and creation makes for a breathtaking tale.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“Chance’s Venice is glittering, mysterious, sophisticated...”  
–*The Seattle Times*

“The plot will keep readers wondering and guessing until the very end, when this conundrum of love, death, art, and obsession finally comes to its bittersweet resolution. Recommended.”  
–*Historical Novels Review*

**Praise for *Bone River***  
*Lake Union Publishing | 2012*

**Amazon Best Book of the Month in Literature & Fiction, December 2012**

“... the characters are richly ambiguous. Nobody's perfect; all their shortcomings are interesting, and nobody emerges unscathed or unchanged by the journey through this story.”  
–*The Seattle Times*

“... lyrical and atmospheric... I loved this book.  
The author's writing is magical and so evocative of the Pacific Northwest.”  
–*The Kitsap Sun*

“... provocative and haunting. Chance’s quietly powerful tale will appeal to fans of well-detailed, mysterious, and romantic historical fiction.”  
–*Booklist*

**Praise for *City of Ash: A Novel***  
*Broadway Books | 2011*

“Leave it to Chance (*Prima Donna*) to pen a fine historical that’s both a gripping novel and a study of the constraints placed on 19th-century women. Stellar characterization, terrific dialogue, and a twisty plot make this story of old-time Seattle pop.”  
–*Publishers Weekly (starred review)*

“... sharp writing, believable and detailed historical setting, and strong female characters...”  
–*Library Journal*

“[Chance’s] powerfully written feminist novels have strong appeal for both long-time fans and newcomers. Her characters leap from the pages as her dialogue grips readers. The dark and wicked twists plot turns are stellar.”  
–*RT Book Reviews*

“... a winning combination of girl power and circumstance... an edgy historical novel that proves impossible to put down.”  
–*Minneapolis Star Tribune*