

A New Decade  
March 2020

Here we are, fresh into a new decade and one I approach with a little bit of relief and a lot of trepidation. The Tens held many happy times for me and a huge change in my life but it also made me painfully aware of the fragility of that life and how all we hold dear can and will be taken away from us. I should have known it before, we all should, I mean, we're aware the good times can't go on forever and as those around us we love age we see the inevitability of the future without them and we try to prepare for the day we walk ahead without them. And then it happens and you realise you know shit about preparing for grief. My days are full again now but you don't stop missing those who once consumed such a large space in your daily life and your heart. You almost wish they didn't, or at least I do some days and then you remember why you loved them in the first place and you feel guilty for wishing them out of your memory. It's vicious and it's a circle.

The Tens weren't all about the bad stuff. They were about Hugo too. This incredibly weird, gangly creation who came out of nowhere and, frankly, took over my life. I can't believe I'm just about to start work on his tenth investigation but these books, his stories, just keep coming to me as if they've just been sitting dormant, locked away in a secret room in my brain waiting for me to find the key. I'm sad he didn't come earlier, but that was my problem not his. I still doubt whatever ability I have but I'm wise enough now and those around me have broad enough shoulders for me to lean upon, to enable me to write and not worry about the noise around me. When I began, a harsh word, a cruel review broke my heart, now I see them for what they are and as the saying goes, you can't please all of the people all of the time, and now I'm just pleased if I please anyone!

So on we go. A new book finished and a new one started, and I'm recharged enough to begin a new series. I love Charlotte 'Coco' Brunhild and I'm excited to see where she takes me. She's everything like Hugo and nothing like Hugo which is ideal and as we begin her journey I hope you'll come with us. Don't worry, Hugo isn't going anywhere, rather instead of two Hugo books a year, you'll likely get one Hugo and one Coco book (that is, if anyone actually likes the first Coco story!). Her stories will be different but the same premise. A murder is committed and solved but her character allows me to explore quite different avenues. Each one of her stories will be stand alone and designed to be read in any order and at the moment I'm thinking of five stories, I'll do more if the inspiration is there, or less if it isn't!

As for the rest, the Spanish translation of 'un homme qui attend' is now out, in glorious print and ebook, both with a gorgeous new cover by my long-time collaborator Marie and the Audiobook is in it's final stages of prep and will be available soon. I'm very excited and hope you are too. More translations are in the works I'm thrilled to say, but the timescales are the translators not mine so all I can do is pass on any info as and when I get it myself.

Thanks again for sticking with me!

Much love, and wishes of good health and peace of mind.  
Gary