



# **BLACK ART**

**by V. T. Davy**

Liberation  Publishing

## BLACK ART

"I would have married her before I went away to war too, just to make sure that someone else didn't. She was beautiful. It started in her eyes and spread to the set of her mouth and the tilt of her chin. In both pictures there was a confidence, a courage, a spirit of defiance... Not the "smile though your house is rubble and you're sleeping in a tube station" spirit of the Blitz, but real steel. The kind of backbone that would make you do extraordinary things. Things that the rest of us wouldn't do."

Arty Shaw, a genealogist working on a peculiarly British island in the English Channel, is asked by a television company to research Helen Valentine's family tree. The award-winning British actress wants to know the truth about her grandmother's wartime exploits and Arty is her choice to do the digging; which is just fine by Arty. When a beautiful blonde like Helen Valentine asks, you don't say no.

Arty's investigation reveals that Helen's grandmother, Kay Marett, was half-Jewish and running resistance ops against the German forces occupying her Island. When Kay disappears in 1942, a concentration camp seems to be her likely destination, until Arty uncovers a trail stretching from the Island, across Europe, to Cold War Dresden. As Arty learns more about Kay's extraordinary wartime adventures, obstacles to the truth begin to appear in the form of a star of the Island's amateur theatre, and two menacing East Europeans in suits. Arty must challenge his deepest beliefs to discover what happened to Kay.

Written in the hard-boiled, noir style of detective fiction from the 1940's, Arty Shaw is the kind of investigator you want on your side. Transsexual and proud of it, with a moral code that means breaking the rules now and again, and a world-weary cynicism that takes nothing at face value, Arty won't stop until the truth is out. And that can make you unpopular with the wrong sort of people.

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**Availability of Black Art.**

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### **About the author.**

Vic Tanner Davy is a writer of historical fiction. Born in London, Vic now lives in the Channel Islands. Vic has been a writer and amateur historian for decades, with a special interest in British history between the wars, and the German occupation of the Channel Islands (1940-1945). Vic's writing also examines issues of gender, an area in which Vic is interested, being transgendered. Vic has an M.B.A. from the University of Durham and is a member of the Institute of Fundraising.

### **About the publisher.**

Liberation Publishing is the imprint responsible for publishing the work of Vic Tanner Davy.

The business name and logo hark back to the years between 1940 and 1945 when the island of Jersey, where Vic lives, was occupied by Germany. In defiance of the occupying forces islanders painted V signs in anticipation of a British victory. The island was finally liberated on 9 May 1945, one day after V.E. day. Liberation Day is still celebrated in the island with a public holiday.

Military occupation is not the only way to repress a group of people. Much of the author's work explores themes of deviation from accepted norms, in particular those associated with sex and gender, by characters on the edges of a society. The mental imprisonment and personal anguish created by a conservative and bigoted patriarchy can be just as brutal for those who don't fit the mould as a physical occupation, and liberation from it just as important.

Those who believe that being gay or transgender is a choice are wrong. There is

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no choice. You have to be who you are. Whatever that is, and whatever label society decides to slap on you. Vic is fortunate to have an intelligent, supportive and caring family, who have always accepted who and what (s)he is without worrying too much about labels. For those people who do not have that kind of support around them, life is tough and, for some, physically dangerous.

The answer to ignorance is education and, in its own way, Liberation Publishing tries to do that, introducing a reading public to sympathetic characters who deal with gender and its fluidity. In Vic Tanner Davy's first novel, Arty Shaw is a female-to-male transsexual. This is not key to anything, any more than the fact that Arty drives an old Dodge. The story isn't about Arty's sex change. It is just part of who he is. By treating Arty's transition in this way, Vic seeks to overturn the prevailing tendency by the media, in particular reality T.V., to treat transsexuals as exhibits in the modern equivalent of the Victorian freak show.

Diversity and creativity are inextricably linked, and humanity would be poorer without them. Vic Tanner Davy's work embraces that diversity. We hope you enjoy it.

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