



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
(July 27, 2023/Halifax, Nova Scotia)**

Latest novel from author Karen Kelloway, middle-grade novel *Keepers of the Pact*, is to be launched in Brigus, NL on Saturday, August 12, 2023, during their Blueberry Festival. Karen will be onsite at the Brigus Mercantile to do a reading and sign books. *Relic, the NL dog*, will be available for fan photos.

Book Launch Details:

When: 11 am, Saturday, August 12th
Where: Brigus Mercantile, 87-91 Station Road, Brigus, NL
What: Author Reading. Book Signing.
Special Guest: ***Relic, the NL dog*, will be at the launch for fan photos!**
Note: Video footage will be available of the launch.
Book Trailer: <https://youtube.com/shorts/17zV-Hmj-S0?feature=share>

***Keepers of the Pact* is about friendship, adventure, and the deepest mysteries of the sea – rumoured to be merpeople!**

Set in Brigus, Newfoundland, middle-grade novel *Keepers of the Pact* follows Alistair and his two friends, Ben and Sadie, who find themselves caught up in a centuries-old secret. For generations, the Pact of Protection has held, and now everything the townspeople have dedicated their lives to guarding could crumble to pieces.

Author Karen Kelloway, says the idea for *Keepers of the Pact* came out of a visit to the historic town of Brigus, NL. “I was immediately taken by its beauty, its rolling landscape, and of course, the historic tunnel! While in Brigus I read about tales of giant squid and sea creatures. What I found most interesting, however, was the tale of a mermaid sighting in the St. John’s harbour in 1610 - two hundred years before the tunnel’s blasting. It fit my story’s timeline perfectly.”

Dorothy Lee, former Executive Director of *LitWorld* and co-creator of *World Read Aloud Day*, wrote: “Karen Kelloway beautifully weaves together strands of adventure tales, mythology and lore, and the relatable lives and wonderings of young people, creating a fun and rollicking page-turner. Readers of all ages will learn from this culturally and historically rich book, and feel like they have taken a plunge into the waters of Brigus Bay with Alistair and his friends.”

Through the editing process, the author had the privilege to consult with Elder Gloria Johnson, an English and Native Studies teacher at Sydney Academy, Nova Scotia. Kelloway said: “Elder

Gloria captivated me with her knowledge and stories of the sawaelnu (merpeople). It was a gift to learn from such an esteemed teacher and Elder.”

Along with writing fiction, Karen Kelloway is the Founder/CEO of the Career Story Project Inc. She works with organizations, executives, and entrepreneurs to create a rewarding career path and believes in the power of storytelling to learn life lessons. Karen lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia, with her husband, two teenagers, and their fluffy black-and-white Havanese, Chewie. Find her at karenkelloway.com

Keepers of the Pact is available through booksellers everywhere now.

Book Synopsis

Every town has a secret. And Brigus, Newfoundland, is no different. For hundreds of years the Pact of Protection has held, and the seaside fishing town has guarded an ancient and dangerous knowledge. But when business tycoon Mr. Grey begins blasting rock for a tunnel, it's more than rock that is blown apart: the pact itself is weakened and bits of the secret begins to slip out.

In their search for hidden pirate treasure, Alistair and his friends Ben and Sadie, stumble into the middle of this mystery. The more they learn about the pact, the more the shrieking song, the unexplained leaks in the fishing vessels, and the mystery ship in the harbour begin to make sense. Partnering with the pact keepers, Alistair, Ben, and Sadie must reinstate the agreement for the benefit of all. If they don't, a lot more than a few ships will be harmed. Everything the good people of Brigus understand about the sea could be in danger.

A magical middle-grade novel full of intrigue and adventure, *Keepers of the Pact* will inspire bravery in intrepid explorers and mystery seekers everywhere.

Author's Note

Keepers of the Pact was inspired by a visit to the picturesque and historical community of Brigus, NL. While there I read about tales of giant squid and sea creatures. What I found most interesting, however, was the tale of a mermaid sighting in the St. John's harbour two hundred years before the tunnel's blasting. It fit my timeline perfectly.

While *Keepers of the Pact* blends fact with fiction and adds in a supernatural twist, there are three anchors that influenced my story:

- First, the tunnel, a 30-meter pathway blasted through solid rock in 1860 so that vessels could more easily unload their cargo.
- Second, a mermaid sighting in the St. John's harbour (1610).
- Third, the fabled stories of Peter Easton's pirating activities along the NL coast (1612).

The timelines are, of course, blurred, to bring you this modern-day tale of three friends looking for treasure but finding something else altogether.

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