

MONICA KENDALL
LIES
and the
BRONTËS
The Quest for the Jenkins Family

Key selling points

- Radical insights into Charlotte Brontë's vital two years in Brussels (1842–3), published on her 205th birthday.
- Purges fabrications that have benighted biographies of the Brontës, using numerous unpublished letters from Aberystwyth to Cumbria, Lambeth Palace to New South Wales.
- First-ever research on the Welsh/Scottish family who looked after Charlotte and Emily in Brussels, and befriended Patrick Brontë in West Yorkshire.

About the book

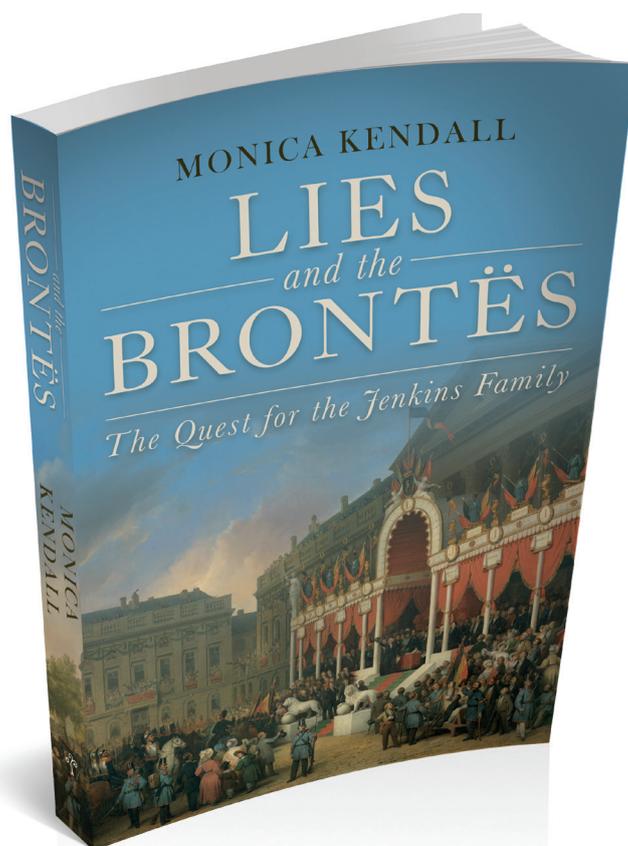
The Jenkins family knew the Brontës in Brussels and West Yorkshire. Eager to learn about them, their descendant read the Brontë biographies, and discovered that no one had researched this family, and, worse, that what was written was fabricated, with one biographer copying another, embroidering, even making up dialogue.

Yet Mrs Gaskell had deliberately sought out Mrs Jenkins when researching her famous *Life of Charlotte Brontë*. If it had not been for Mrs Jenkins, Charlotte would never have gone to Brussels, never met M. Heger. There would be no *Villette*, no *Jane Eyre*.

This book purges the lies and identifies one of Charlotte's characters for the first time. It reveals a thrumming wire that connects Byron to Trollope to Henry James, and gives further evidence of the adultery of William Wordsworth's eldest son. Above all, it gives a radical new perspective on the inspiration for Charlotte's novels and those vital two years she spent in Brussels.

About the author

Monica Kendall was born near London. She has a Master's degree from St Hugh's College, Oxford University, and another from University College London. She has previously edited two books: John Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi* (Pearson/Longman, 2004) and the secret diary of a teenage great-aunt trapped in occupied Brussels during World War I, *Miss Cavell Was Shot: The Diaries of Amy Hodson, 1914–1920* (SilverWood, 2015). She has been a book editor for many years and now lives in North Wales, inspired by her great-great-grandfather's *hiraeth am Gymru* and her son's mountaineering.



‘Do you like the truth?’

It is well for you.’

– Charlotte Brontë, *Shirley*

Book information

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