

The Brontë sisters had known [Monica Kendall's] ancestors! The realisation was the starting point of the quest which seven years later resulted in this amazing book [...] The research trail is fascinating in itself. For anyone interested in family history, the notes alone tell an eloquent tale of riches unearthed in archives from Lambeth Palace to Leuven. But Kendall's pursuit of the Jenkins family was emotional as much as scholarly [...] the rewards of the book far outweigh any feelings of *embarras de richesses* and interest is maintained by the lively writing as well as the erudition. *Lies and the Brontës* is packed with information, anecdotes and above all personalities. A 'spider's web of connections' between apparently disparate lives constantly comes up with surprises, including many famous names [...] Frequently-told stories about Charlotte and Emily's Belgian stay are examined and refuted.

*Lies and the Brontës* casts the net wide and encompasses much more than Evan and Eliza's story, but they are at its heart and the book is a testament that Kendall's quest was worth the years of labour. The Jenkinses [...] and their circle do deserve to be better known. By the time I finished the book I, like Kendall, would have liked to be invited for Sunday lunch at the Jenkinses' house in Ixelles, listening to the gossip about the expat British community of which the Brontë sisters were so briefly a part, hearing the *fiacres* Charlotte describes in *Villette* rattling over the stony streets outside.

### **Helen MacEwan, author, and founder of the Brussels Brontë Group**

The full review can be read here [Brussels Brontë Blog: Book review: 'Lies and the Brontës: The Quest for the Jenkins Family'](http://brusselsbronte.blogspot.com) by [Monica Kendall \(brusselsbronte.blogspot.com\)](http://brusselsbronte.blogspot.com)