

Bio of Elizabeth Braithwaite/Jane Christmas

Elizabeth Braithwaite is the pseudonym of Jane Christmas, a bestselling Canadian author of five journey memoirs. Jane chose the alias to help shape the style of writing she wanted to use for her historical fiction, and to free her from the possible expectations of her readership who only knew her from her nonfiction writing.

Born in Toronto, Jane worked in journalism and public relations. Following the success of her first three books, she switched full time to writing. Her five journey memoirs—*The Pelee Project*, *What the Psychic Told the Pilgrim*, *Incontinent on the Continent*, *And Then There Were Nuns*, and *Open House: A Life in 32 Moves*—gained her a reputation as a writer of humour, perception and introspection. Two of them have been previously shortlisted for the Leacock Medal for Humour.

In 2012, Jane moved to England where she has lived since. During the pandemic, she began to focus on writing historical fiction, her interest ironically stoked by the research she undertook while writing her journey memoirs. A few courses and workshops over Zoom, she was accepted in 2021 into an intensive six-month fiction-writing course with the Faber Academy in London, England. It was there she workshopped *A Flight of Saints*, a fictional memoir set in northern Italy and Germany in the late 12th century. When the manuscript earned her a literary agent but failed to land a traditional publisher, Jane was undaunted: She released *A Flight of Saints* in March, 2025, as a self-published paperback and e-book. The book received bronze in the Independent Publishers Awards (IPPYs) in the religious fiction category, and continues to garner generous feedback on Amazon.

August, 2025