

ROSAMUNDE PILCHER'S CORNWALL

Bret Hawthorne

The late Rosamunde Pilcher is one of the best-loved writers of modern fiction. In her work she captured the moods and colour of the English landscape, especially that of Cornwall. Although her British devotees are legion, she is especially popular in Europe and many of her stories have been filmed for television – in Germany Rosamunde Pilcher is a household name.

She was born, and spent the early part of her childhood, in Lelant, near St Ives. She then attended boarding school in Penzance before going on to join the WRENS during the Second World War.

At the age of twenty-two, she met, in St Ives, Graham Pilcher, a decorated soldier and heir to his family's jute business. They married in 1946 and moved to live near Dundee in Scotland. At the same time as running a household and bringing up four children, she managed to find time for her new hobby, writing, into which she channelled all her love for the Cornwall she had left behind.

In a show of truly Cornish determination and tenacity, many years would pass, however, before she achieved the world-wide success that came with best-sellers such as *The Shell Seekers* and *Coming Home*.

Through her descriptions of Porthkerris (St Ives) and the surrounding countryside of Penwith in West Cornwall – sometimes wild and rugged, sometimes sub-tropical and luxuriant – she has fired the enthusiasm of countless readers to come and explore this very special part of the country.

This book will guide you to, and around, the locations that add so much colour, beauty and atmosphere to her work.

Welcome to the delight that is Cornwall, as interpreted by one of our most admired writers.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

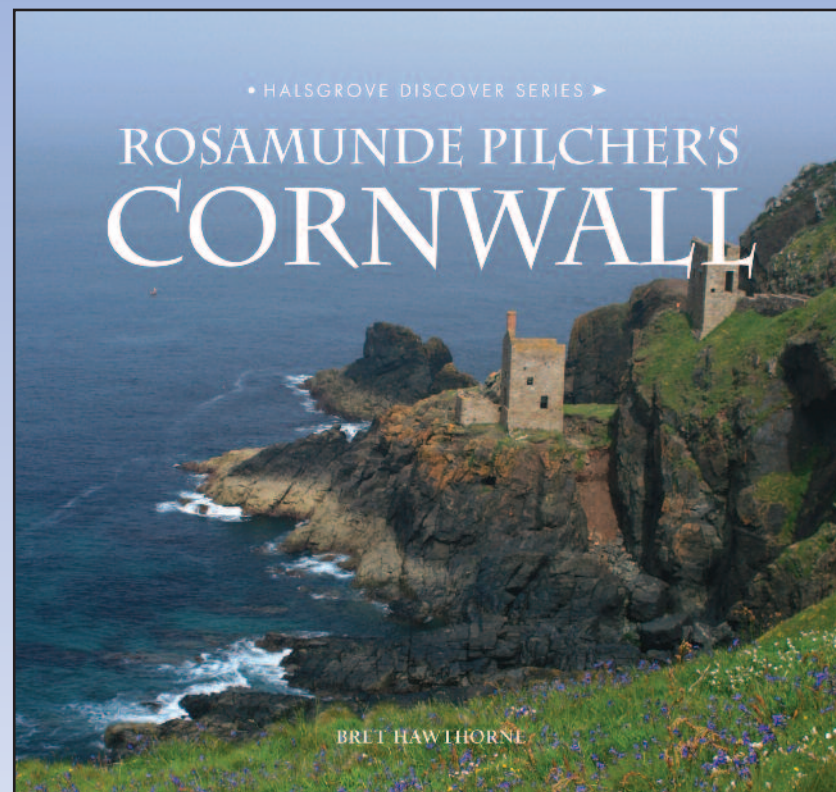
After completing a Masters in French and Spanish at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, **Bret Hawthorne** spent many years living in the North-East of Italy, near Venice, before returning to the South-West of England in 2000. This European background gives him, perhaps, a wider perspective on the region he now calls home. He travels widely, and Cornwall is a firm family favourite.

That family consists of his wife, Rachel, and their four children: Nick, Liberty, Bella and Betsy. Apart from spending time with his family, his interests include art and photography, history and antiques, reading, writing, music and travelling, especially to Spain.

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ROSAMUNDE PILCHER'S CORNWALL

Carn Galver engine house



Rosamunde Pilcher's birth certificate



Above: The village on the Mount



Below: St Ives harbour with pilchard fishing boats on the left beyond the children



The Shell Seekers was painted from one of these studio windows on Porthmeor beach



Example of a double-page spread.