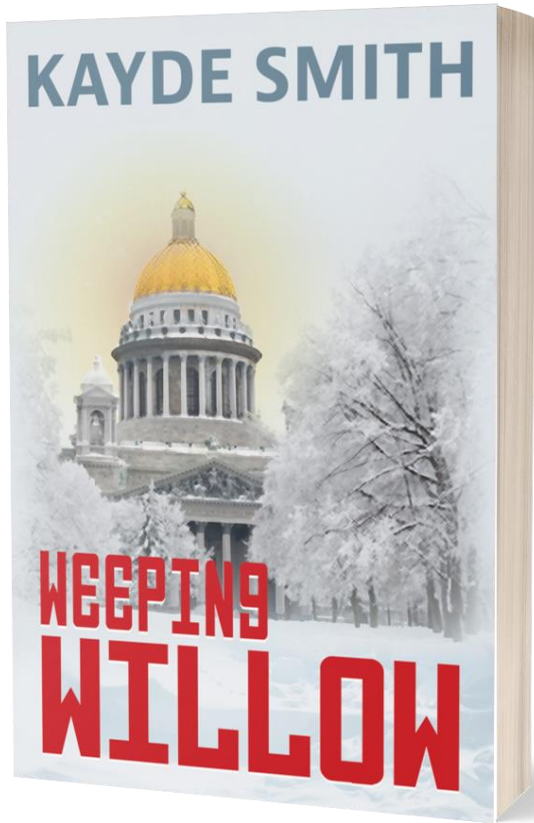


Weeping Willow

Written by Kayde Smith



IN THE COLD, AUTOCRATIC CAPITAL OF IMPERIALIST RUSSIA, TWO YOUNG ROYALS GROW UP IN A CITY OF ARISTOCRATS, REACTIONARIES, AND INDUSTRIALISTS...

The elder, destined to be emperor, embraces the situation, while the younger, destined to be sidelined, sees change or death as the country's concerning options.

Growing up in the shadow of his elder brother Nicholas, preparing for the horrifying reality of holding the throne in a world that may never allow him to, George Romanov spends his time cultivating ideas, forging connections, and idolising the preeminent thinkers of his era.

Weeping Willow follows the young idealist as he navigates the changing times of history when the nineteenth century comes to an end with a great upheaval...

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Kayde Smith has lived in Western Australia his whole life, and has had a keen interest in reading and writing for nearly as long as he has been able to speak. He enjoys a good, thought-provoking story, and believes in slowing down life for a moment to experience it in its truest, most emotional form.

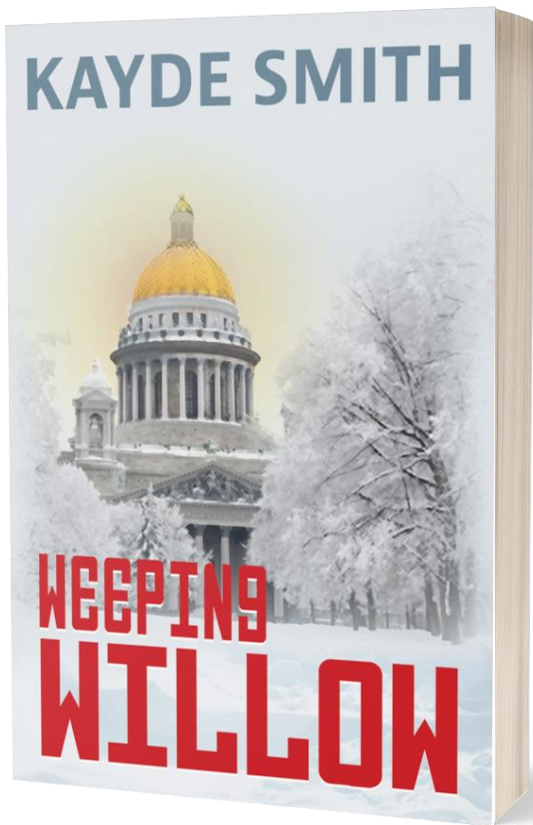
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Genre	Historical
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Audience	General
Author Location	Perth, WA

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A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

WHY DID YOU WRITE *WEEPING WILLOW*?

I wrote this book out of an interest in the Victorian Era and the Russian Empire, which was, at that time, considered a somewhat lesser country in terms of progress and development, but still a well-respected one. I was interested in how a country finds itself in that situation, particularly seeing as the Russian Empire was actually overthrown owing to its situation.

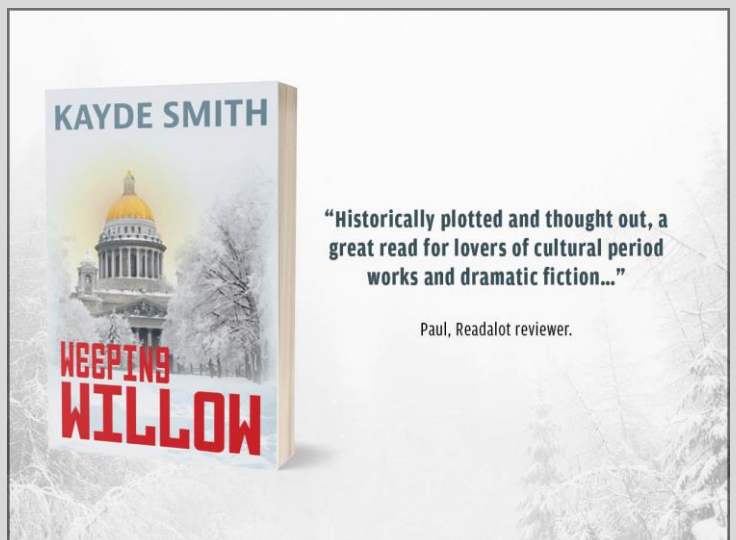
My main inspiration was *I, Claudius*, a fictional autobiography of a historically prominent person. I liked the style, and opted to write a fictional autobiography myself, choosing an interesting point in history that does not seem particularly important, but in reality was perhaps a missed opportunity for many forces to make things different.

HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THE TITLE?

The title is actually a term used historically to refer to the main character by those who were close to him. They called him the weeping willow for his distinctiveness and his sad nature; for, like the weeping willow tree, George Romanov was tall, handsome, and yet marred with a certain sense of sadness owing to his circumstances. I cannot think of what else I would've named the book, and so I thank the people of the past for this apt, sad name.

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