

Complete the text using the past simple form of the verbs in brackets.

Hilary Mantel is an author. Her name (0) was (be) Hilary Thompson when she was born in 1952, but she (1) _____ (change) it to Hilary Mantel, her stepfather's surname. Her real father left home when she was eleven she (2) _____ (not see) him again.

She (3) _____ (write) her first two books in 1985 and 1986, but they (4) _____ (not be) very popular. She (5) _____ (not have) the same problem with her next book, *A Place of Greater Safety*. It's about three men who (6) _____ (be) important during the French Revolution. Nowadays, Mantel usually writes about lives from the past. Her book *Wolf Hall* is very good, and it (7) _____ (win) prizes when it came out. How long (8) _____ (she/spend) writing it? She says she (9) _____ (spend) five years and she (10) _____ (be) scared of forgetting all the names. She used cards to remember all the characters.