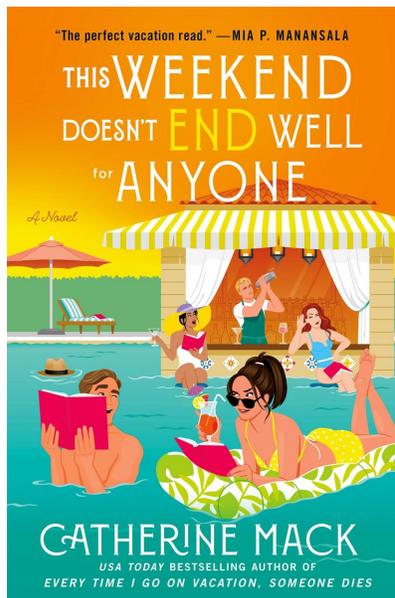




MINOTAUR
BOOKS



Minotaur Books
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 Hardcover with dust jacket

352 Pages
 Fiction / Mystery & Detective
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This Weekend Doesn't End Well for Anyone

A Novel

Catherine Mack

The third in the witty series following Eleanor Dash, who once again has to swap her sun hat for her detective hat, when a body is found at a murder mystery writing conference in the Bahamas.

Summary

Eleanor Dash can never catch a break. Not only has she had to solve two real-life murder plots in the past year, but both times it was when she was meant to be on vacation. Now she's finally got a ticket to a relaxing weekend—an all-inclusive resort at the Bahamas where she's speaking at a conference for murder mystery writers—but she arrives to find a body on the floor of her hotel room. Because of course she does.

With plenty of familiar faces at the resort, any one of them could have been the intended target or the culprit behind it all. Was it Oliver Forrest, Eleanor's dashing boyfriend who's in danger of getting dropped by his publisher because his sales are dwindling? Or Connor Smith, Eleanor's infuriating ex-lover-turned-bestselling-rom-com-author with a sordid past of his own? Or her sister Harper, whose own stilted writing career has been a sore point for years as Eleanor's has soared? Perhaps it's one of the other writers also in attendance, as friends, frenemies and foes from Eleanor's past all seem to be invited to the island.

Surrounded by mystery writers who know all too well the many ways to craft the perfect crime, Eleanor is determined to get to the bottom of the mystery and do whatever it takes to get out of this weekend alive.

Contributor Bio

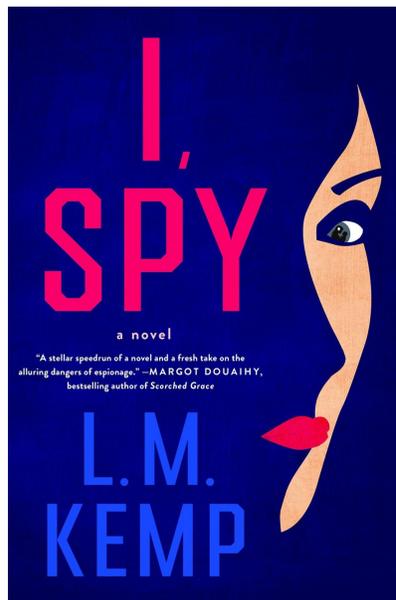
CATHERINE MACK (she/her) is the pseudonym for the *USA Today* and *Globe & Mail* bestselling author Catherine McKenzie. Her books are approaching two million copies sold worldwide and have been translated into multiple languages. Television rights to *Every Time I Go on Vacation, Someone Dies* and its sequels sold in a major auction to Fox TV for development into a series. A dual Canadian and US citizen, she splits her time between Canada and various warmer locations in the US.

Quotes

Praise for *No One Was Supposed to Die at This Wedding*:

"A zany, madcap murder mystery to please fans of Catherine Mack's series debut."—Nita Prose, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Maid*

"Eleanor Dash is at it again, breaking the fourth wall with her signature wit and sarcasm in this entertaining whodunit a la Agatha Christie that'll leave you guessing until the very end."—Jeneva Rose, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Perfect Marriage*



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272 Pages
Fiction / Thrillers
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Wt

I, Spy **A Novel**

L. M. Kemp

Former spy Kendal may have triumphed in situations that would leave others running for the hills, but now she faces her toughest op yet . . . motherhood.

Summary

Kendal Carter has been out in the cold for years, following an op gone wrong. She's had good reason to lay low, as she has Rosie, her four-year-old daughter, to protect. But when their hideout is infiltrated, Kendal and Rosie are whisked back to London by Kendal's former boss, Rico, and offered a safe house they're not in a position to turn down. The place is well-located, beautiful, and more secure than Fort Knox. Plus it's in a great school zone, which any parent knows is harder to find than your child's favorite toy when a meltdown is imminent.

There's a catch to the offer though: Rico wants Kendal to return to the spy game. He lost his best player when she went underground and the appearance of a three-foot mini-me doesn't bother him one bit. If anything, Rosie offers the perfect cover for the job in hand, which is to infiltrate the local mom-group and gain access to one of the fathers and his work at a global tech giant suspected of being up to no good. Sounds like a piece of cake compared to the villains of her past, but the world of PTAs and playdates comes with its own web of allegiances and betrayals, and Kendal soon finds herself in way too deep . . .

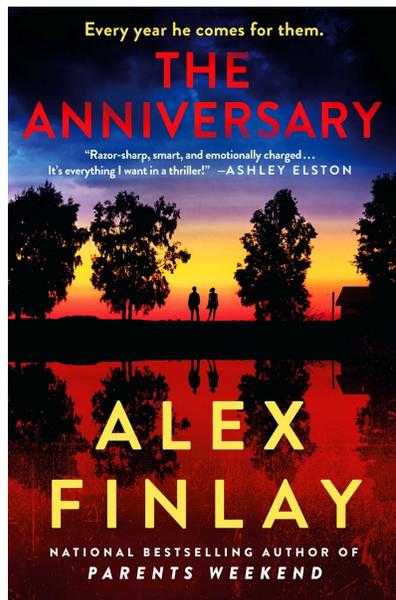
I, Spy is a propulsive debut thriller about the disguise that all parents wear, and the identities that hide our former lives.

Contributor Bio

L. M. KEMP lives and works in upstate London (Essex). She writes for a vast variety of creative, cultural, corporate and clandestine clients: most recently co-authoring personalized books for Wonderbly; reviewing pilot episodes, cheap perfumes and random Instagram accounts for *Ralph*; and editing lengthy and devastating reports for Greenpeace. For the last two years her work has been dominated by the research and development of *I, Spy* and a deep dive into the murky world of modern spycraft.

Quotes

"Kendal Carter's life is about to get hella complicated. A former spy, she's been hiding out ever since her cover was blown and her lover was killed. But now her former colleagues have tracked her down and have asked her to complete one more mission—it's never one, is it? She doesn't feel like she has a choice, but how exactly is she going to do this with a four-year-old in tow? A fun look inside the shadow world of private spies and counter-measures, *I, Spy* a hit!"—Catherine Mack, *USA Today* bestselling author of *Every Time I Go on Vacation, Someone Dies*



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The Anniversary

A Thriller

Alex Finlay

From the bestselling author of *Parents Weekend*, comes one of the most anticipated thrillers of the year.

Summary

Every Year He Comes For Them.

On one fateful night in 1992, the lives of two seventeen-year-olds are changed and intertwined forever. Quinn Riley, a boy from the wrong side of the tracks, is arrested after he innocently tries to break up a fight but ends up nearly killing someone. Jules Delaney, high school royalty, survives an attack by the elusive and terrifying May Day Killer—a serial predator who strikes every May 1st in midwestern small towns.

A year later, Jules is struggling with trauma and guilt, tormented by the question: *Why was I spared?* Quinn is newly released from juvenile detention and returns home to fresh heartbreak: the unsolved murder of his mother.

Over the next decade, their lives are revisited on a single day each year—May 1st. As secrets unravel and the paths of Quinn and Jules collide, two mysteries edge closer to the truth. All the while, the May Day Killer is still out there—and the clock is racing toward another May 1st.

The Anniversary is an utterly compelling story of the hunt for a serial killer. But it's also a heartfelt—and heartrending—novel about fate, innocence lost, and two souls who find that sometimes being broken is the only way for the light to get in.

Twisty, high-concept, and emotional, the novel reaffirms Finlay as one of the leading thriller writers today.

Contributor Bio

ALEX FINLAY is the bestselling author of several critically acclaimed novels, including the 2025 instant national bestseller, *Parents Weekend*. His work regularly appears on best-of-the-year lists and has been translated into twenty-six languages and sold around the world. All of Alex's books have been optioned or are in development for film and television. Alex lives in Washington, D.C.

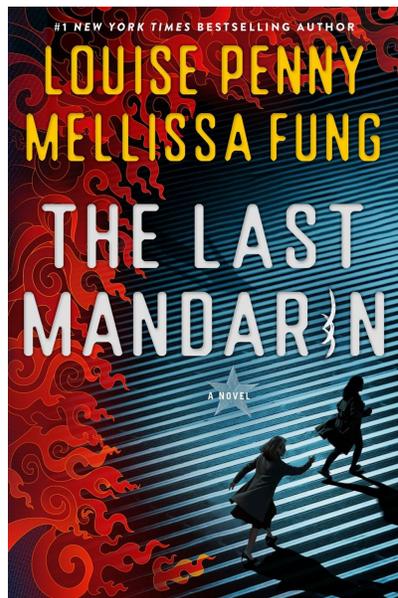
Quotes

Praise for Alex Finlay:

"Finlay proves once again that he is a master of his craft."—Jeneva Rose, *New York Times* bestselling author

"Alex Finlay is a master at creating complex, high-stakes thrillers that are charged with emotion."—Mary Kubica, *New York Times* bestselling author

"Let's call it: there is nothing as addictive as an Alex Finlay novel . . . Finlay is at the very top of his game."—Ashley Winstead, bestselling author



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The Last Mandarin

A Novel

Louise Penny, Mellissa Fung

A standalone thriller co-written by the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the Gamache series and an award-winning journalist.

Summary

In a fast-paced, all-too-real thriller co-written by #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Louise Penny and award-winning journalist Mellissa Fung, global politics become personal for two unlikely heroines. Alice Li, a first-generation Chinese-American, is an erstwhile food blogger who has lived in the shadow of her mother, Vivien Li. A Chinese dissident who escaped China after Tiananmen Square, Vivien is now a globally recognized human rights activist and passionate advocate for a free and democratic China.

When security and fire alarms go off simultaneously all around the world, setting off a panic, the signal is traced back to China. As world leaders scramble to respond, Vivien and Alice are called to the White House in hopes Madame Li can decode the Chinese intentions.

While it makes some sense that the President would turn to Vivien, since she regularly advises world leaders on the actions of today's Chinese government, what isn't clear is why they'd want to talk to Alice.

After looking at the evidence, Vivien says that the only thing worse than the Chinese government being behind it, is if they are not. It would mean, she explains, that some clandestine element within China is calling the shots. That the President of China has lost control. And an unstable China cannot be good for anyone.

Or perhaps that's exactly what the shrewd old politician wants everyone to think.

Caught up in the chaos, Vivien and Alice are uniquely placed to stop the next, cataclysmic attack. But there are forces deep within both the American and Chinese governments intent on stopping mother and daughter. The estranged pair, who excels at misunderstanding each other, must figure out how to work together.

The increasingly frantic search for answers takes the women from the Oval Office to an office building in Akron, Ohio, from the noodle shops of Hong Kong to the necropolis of the first emperor. Along the way they must decode an old legend, and an old language invented by women, for women.

The Last Mandarin is an electrifying study of absolute power and voracious greed, political terror and personal conviction. But it is also, as to be expected from the minds of Louise Penny, beloved author of the Gamache novels, and Mellissa Fung, an acclaimed international journalist, an intimate examination of choice, of sacrifice, of memory and myths, both cultural and personal. It is the story of a mother and daughter, as well as a compelling international thriller about the precarious balance of power across the world, and within a family. And what happens when both break down.

Contributor Bio

Louise Penny is the multi-award winning author of the Chief Inspector Gamache novels, set in her home province of Québec, Canada. Her books, including *State of Terror* written with Hillary Rodham Clinton, have sold more than 18 million copies worldwide, topped international bestseller lists, including the *New York Times*, and been translated into 32 languages. The recipient of both the Order of Canada and l'Ordre national du Québec, her country's highest civilian honours, her Three Pines Foundation reaches out to those in crisis and offers financial and emotional support, with a special focus on literacy as well as dementia care. Her husband, Michael, died of dementia in 2016. She

lives with her Golden Retrievers Muggins and Hunny in a village south of Montréal.

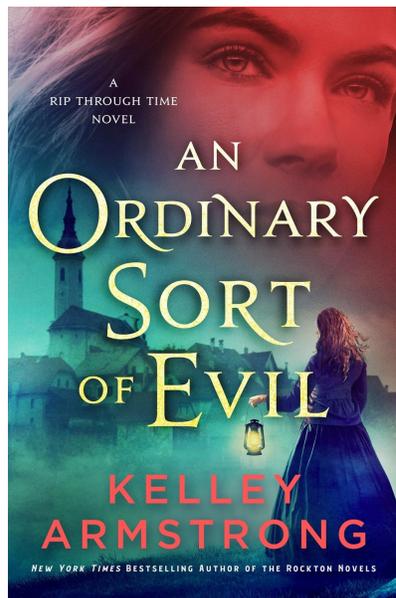
Quotes

Praise for Louise Penny:

"Penny is a daring author. Rather than settling into a comfortable routine, she gives us her most ambitious novel yet... the last hundred pages move like lightning and the implication is there are more books to come. Clearly, Penny isn't about to rest on her considerable laurels.—*The Globe and Mail* on *The Grey Wolf*

Praise for Mellissa Fung:

"Fung invites us into her worst nightmare, providing honest reflections on her own strengths and limitations." — *Quill & Quire* on *Under an Afghan Sky*



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Wt

An Ordinary Sort of Evil

A Rip Through Time Novel

Kelley Armstrong

New York Times bestselling author Kelley Armstrong returns to Victorian Scotland in the latest in the genre-blending Rip Through Time series.

Summary

Modern-day homicide detective Mallory Mitchell has grown accustomed to life in Victorian Scotland after travelling 150 years into the past into the body of a housemaid. She's built a new life for herself. Even though she works as an assistant to forensic-science pioneer Dr. Duncan Gray and Detective Hugh McCreadie, she considers them true friends. And with Gray in particular, perhaps, someday, something more.

Late one night, Gray and Mallory are summoned urgently to the home of Lady Adler, a patron of Gray's undertaking business, and they assume there's been a death in the household. But instead, they arrive in the midst of a seance with a ghost demanding Gray's presence. The ghost is Lady Adler's former maid, who had gone missing but now requests that Gray investigate her murder. Although Gray and Mallory are skeptical, they agree to look into the matter, whether she's dead or alive. But unsure if there's been a murder or not, unable to call out the medium as a fraud, and concerned for the fate of the young maid, Gray and Mallory are once again drawn into a mystery much more puzzling--and more dangerous--than it first seems

Contributor Bio

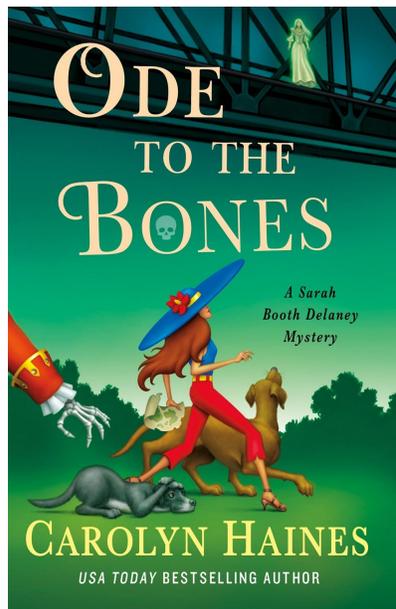
KELLEY ARMSTRONG is the author of over 50 novels in mystery, fantasy and horror. She believes experience is the best teacher, though she's been told this shouldn't apply to writing her murder scenes. To craft her books, she has studied aikido, archery and fencing. She sucks at all of them. She has also crawled through very shallow cave systems and climbed half a mountain before chickening out. She is however an expert coffee drinker and a true connoisseur of chocolate-chip cookies.

Quotes

Praise for *Death at a Highland Wedding*:

"An irresistible series... The success of the book lies in the details: the vividly realized historical environment, the period-appropriate characters, and the thrill of watching a cop trying to adapt modern-day forensic techniques to an era in which they were utterly unknown. Series fans will be lining up for this one."--*Booklist*

"Time travel provides the framework for a captivating mystery and intriguing insights into life in 1870s Scotland."--*Kirkus Reviews*



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Wt

Ode to the Bones

A Sarah Booth Delaney Mystery

Carolyn Haines

The latest novel in the series that *Kirkus Reviews* characterizes as “Stephanie Plum meets the Ya-Ya Sisterhood” featuring sassy Southern private investigator Sarah Booth Delaney.

Summary

Private investigator Sarah Booth Delaney returns to her Mississippi Delta roots, hoping that long drives through cotton fields and the companionship of her dogs will ease her restless spirit. Instead, she’s confronted by a ghostly vision of a woman in white on the Tallahatchie Bridge, who disappears before Sarah Booth can investigate further.

When the local bank president hires her to find a missing farmer, Danny Anderson, Sarah Booth is forced to shift her focus back to the land of the—hopefully—still living. Danny is about to lose his family’s generational farm to foreclosure and is rumored to be entangled in a secret affair with a preacher’s wife. As Sarah Booth and her feisty partner Tinkie dig deeper, they uncover a web of gossip, ghost sightings, and a shadowy land buyer snapping up vulnerable farms.

With the help of her resident ghost-turned-spiritual-guide, Jitty, and her own unrelenting instincts, Sarah Booth must unravel the mystery of Danny’s disappearance, confront a town full of half-truths, and decipher the cryptic clues left behind—including those wrapped in lyrics and riverwater. But someone is watching her every move, and if she isn’t careful, she may be the next body swept away by the Tallahatchie’s current.

Contributor Bio

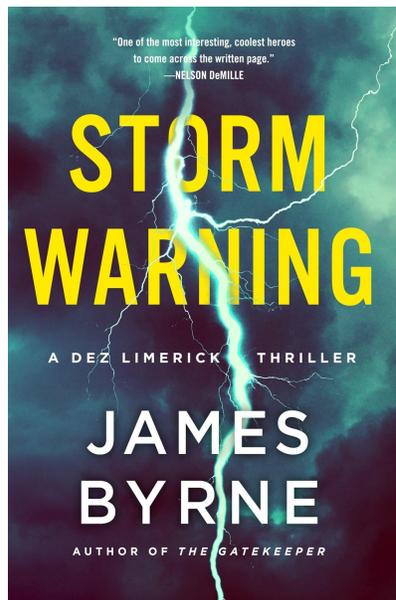
CAROLYN HAINES is the author of the Sarah Booth Delaney Mysteries. She is the recipient of both the Harper Lee Distinguished Writing Award and the Richard Wright Award for Literary Excellence. Born and raised in Mississippi, she now lives in Semmes, Alabama on a farm with more dogs, cats, and horses than she can possibly keep track of.

Quotes

"Charm-drenched....Fans will love catching up with their favorite detectives, who never forget that they are Southern ladies at heart." —*Publishers Weekly* on *Bones of Holly*

"If you enjoy mysteries with rich Southern settings, fascinating history, and quirky characters, you'll devour this one quicker than a plate full of buttermilk biscuits." —*Mystery Scene* on *Smarty Bones*

"The tough-as-nails Mississippi belles reveal more than just a killer in their exciting quest for the truth." —*Kirkus Reviews* on *Lights, Camera, Bones*



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Storm Warning

A Dez Limerick Thriller

James Byrne

Dez Limerick has his considerable skills pushed to the limit when, to rescue a friend, he has to get into a state of the art facility on lockdown, with considerable forces determined to stop him.

Summary

Desmond Aloysius Limerick—'Dez' to all who know him—is a man with a shadowy past, certain hard-to-replicate skills, and a reputation as a good man to have when the going gets tough. Dez is doing his best to enjoy his retirement, wandering the country, doing what interests him, and occasionally helping friends when they find themselves needing any of his particular skills—mundane or extraordinary. For Dez was trained as a 'gatekeeper' - someone who can open any door, keep it open, and control who does and does not go through.

It's those skills that are now in demand when the State Department comes calling looking for his help. A multinational scientific research facility on the coast of Newfoundland has gone dark, the facility on full lockdown, and no one can get in or out. No one knows what is going on, but it can't be good. And a close friend of Dez is presumed locked inside the facility along with everyone else.

Even getting to the facility is an insurmountable challenge. The weather has flights grounded, some shadowy group is doing everything they can to impede the rescue team's progress, and hidden enemies are embedded in the rescue team. But anyone who thinks this is more than one man can face has never met Dez Limerick.

Contributor Bio

JAMES BYRNE, in addition to being the author of more than a dozen novels, has worked for more than twenty years as a journalist and in politics. He's the author of the three previous Dez Limerick thrillers, most recently *Chain Reaction*. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

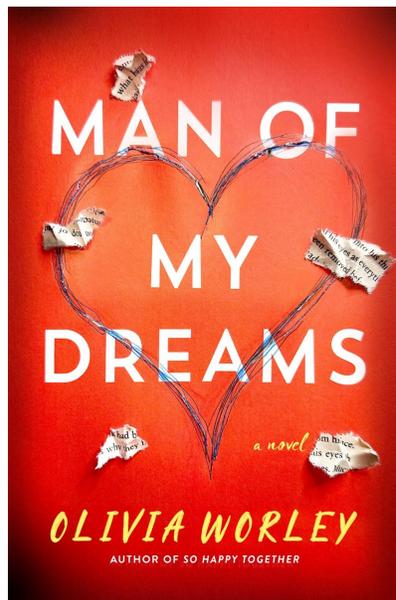
Quotes

Praise for *Chain Reaction*

"[*Chain Reaction*] starts with a bang and never lets up for a second...Dez is an unconventional hero with unorthodox methods and a darn fun attitude. The series gets better and better." —*firstCLUE*

"One of the most riveting and enjoyable thriller series out there today and you don't want to miss it. Trust me, you need Dez in your life." —*Best Thriller Books*

"A fast-paced, explosive thriller with a charming hero, Russian terrorists on U.S. soil, high-stakes money schemes, and a worthy opponent." —*Library Journal*



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Man of My Dreams

A Novel

Olivia Worley

A romance author is shocked when one of her characters-in-progress seemingly comes to life...but is he too good to be true, in this thrilling and surprising suspense novel from Olivia Worley.

Summary

Ivy Harcourt's been as unlucky in love as she's been successful in writing. A bestselling romance author with a sad relationship track, it's pretty clear there are no good men left in New York. Until she rescues a dog escaped from his owner in the park, and runs into Liam. Good-looking, charming, British, hot-architect Liam.

The same exact person as the love interest in her next book.

When an instant connection leads to a whirlwind relationship, Ivy is convinced she's found the dream man. Except he might be too perfect. He might be hiding something.

And Ivy may not be telling everything she knows.

A dramatic and twisty thriller perfect for fans of Ashley Winstead and Kate Alice Marshall, *Man of My Dreams* is a compelling and compulsive read where the truth really is stranger than fiction.

Contributor Bio

OLIVIA WORLEY is an author born and raised in New Orleans. A graduate of Northwestern University, she now lives in New York City, where she spends her time writing thrillers, overanalyzing episodes of *The Bachelor*, and hoping someone will romanticize her for reading on the subway. She is also the author of *So Happy Together*, *Final Cut*, *The Debutantes*, and *People to Follow*.

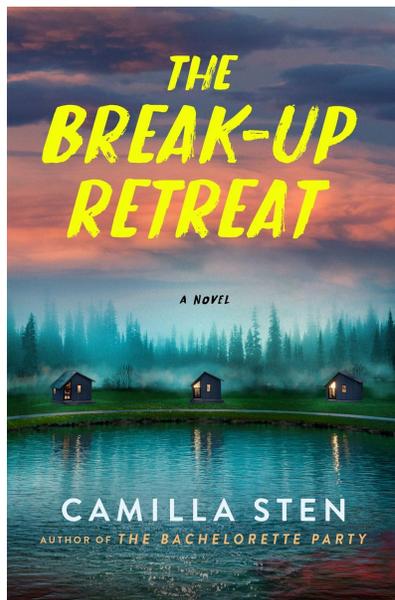
Quotes

Praise for *So Happy Together*:

"Propulsive and extremely tense...for fans of Ruth Ware, Riley Sager, and Freida McFadden." —*Booklist* (starred review)

"Obsessive love and self-delusion laced with humor and sharp wit make every page a juicy delight... as addictive as it is entertaining with an ending that will leave you breathless." —Liv Constantine, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Last Mrs. Parrish*

"You won't know who to trust in this spine-tingling psychological thriller. Obsession and betrayal collide so spectacularly on the pages it's impossible to stop turning them." —Sarah Pekkanen, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author



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 Wt

The Break-Up Retreat

A Novel

Camilla Sten

An undercover journalist goes to expose an exclusive clinic where women go to recover from heartbreak, with dire consequences, in this creepy thriller from Camilla Sten.

Summary

Welcome to Himlafall Clinic, where we use revolutionary therapy techniques to heal you from heartbreak. Whether you are going through a devastating breakup, or can't seem to stop picking the wrong partners, we are here to help you change your life, once and for all...

Isobel Anderssen has heard rumors. Nestled deep in the Swedish woods, there is a clinic. Primarily aimed at helping women who have gone through devastating break-ups, the Himlafall Clinic is meant to heal your mind and help you move on.

Sometimes people are never heard from again.

Armed with a fake story and a contraband phone to record interviews, Isobel is ready to expose Himlafall's founder and get closure for the families of missing loved ones. But when she gets there, nothing goes to plan. Her contact is missing. The founder, Dr. Martina Hastings, knows how to get under Isobel's skin in ways she didn't anticipate. And all the while, the ghosts of the missing haunt her at every turn. It is clear something is going wrong and Himlafall, and Isobel must uncover the truth, before she disappears once and for all.

Contributor Bio

Camilla Sten has been writing stories since she was a young girl. In 2019, Camilla published the now internationally acclaimed, hair-raising novel, *The Lost Village*. Rights for *The Lost Village* have been sold to nineteen territories around the world including film and TV. Her third novel for adults, *The Resting Place*, was one of Goodreads Most Popular Horror Books of 2022 and the same year Camilla was longlisted for the prestigious Viktor Crime Award in Germany.

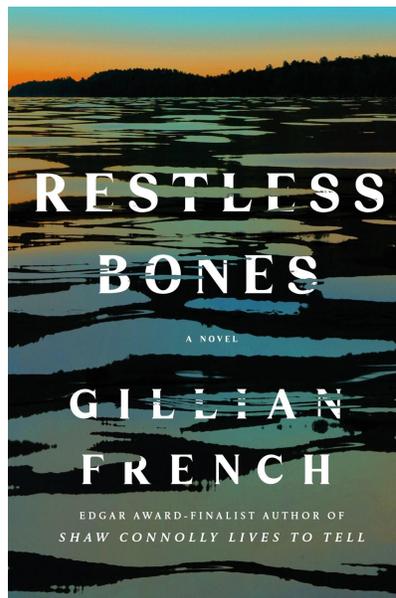
Quotes

Praise for *The Bachelorette Party*:

"Harrowing." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"A tension-filled nightmare...recommended for fans of Ruth Ware and Lucy Foley."
 —*Library Journal*

"A tense, creepy thriller that manages to be at once deeply unsettling and tremendously fun to read." —Chris Pavone, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Two Nights in Lisbon*



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Restless Bones

A Novel

Gillian French

Fingerprint analyst Shaw Connolly grapples with both a new case and the lingering presence of her sister's killer in Gillian French's second compelling Maine thriller.

Summary

When a missing woman's body is discovered in a submerged car one year after her disappearance, Shaw Connolly is called to process the scene. She finds a single print belonging to a long-dead female ex-con; could it be the key to identifying the murderer? As usual, Shaw won't stop looking until she's dredged up more than a few hidden crimes.

All the while, Shaw's past won't let her go. Just as the Connolly family begins to find some peace after the arrest of Shaw's sister's killer, Anders Jansen, Shaw receives a request from her state police contact. Anders, in prison awaiting trial, has claimed responsibility for the murders of two other young women whose cases have grown cold over the past decade. But he refuses to help the police unless Shaw agrees to act as a special consultant in the search.

Despite her misgivings—Anders's love of malicious mind games is as toxic as ever—Shaw could never prolong another family's suffering. Her agreement to assist jeopardizes not only the fragile healing of her own family's wounds, but the rebuilding of her marriage and her relationship with her youngest son, who's colliding with some hard truths of how cruel people can be. It seems, for Shaw, closure is a long way off . . . but danger may be closer than she thinks.

Contributor Bio

GILLIAN FRENCH is an Edgar Award, Bram Stoker Award, and two-time International Thriller Award nominated author of mystery and suspense. Her previous novels include GRIT, THE LIES THEY TELL, THE MISSING SEASON, and SUGARING OFF, all published for a young adult audience. She lives in rural Maine with her husband and four sons.

Quotes

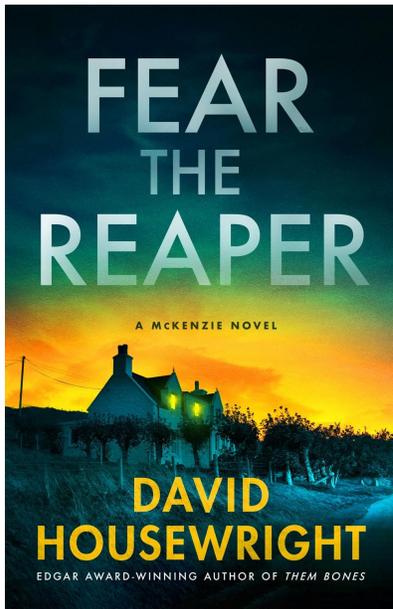
Praise for *Shaw Connolly Lives to Tell*:

"French, an Edgar-nominated YA author, writes Shaw's character with undeniable depth by way of witty and often humorous dialogue throughout absolute tragedy, showing the extent of human endurance...A swift plot and constant pressure on Shaw create an enthralling mystery thriller that highlights the grip grief can have on a person."

—*Booklist*

"French lays the foundation so expertly...What lingers most in the memory is a chilling atmosphere equally shivery with cold and despair."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Fast-paced and witty..."—*Library Journal*



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Fear the Reaper

A McKenzie Novel

David Housewright

After taking down a man wielding an AR-15 a small town winery, Rushmore McKenzie has to find out who, if anyone, was the shooter's target before he, or someone else, tries again.

Summary

Once a police detective in St. Paul, Minnesota, Rushmore McKenzie, after becoming an unexpected millionaire, now is an unlicensed private investigator, doing the occasional investigative favor. Off on a weekend getaway to northwestern Wisconsin, McKenzie, with a group of five, including his childhood friend and current police detective Bobby Dunston, stop off at a local winery. When a man walks up carrying an AR-15, which he raises, props the butt against his shoulder, and sights down the barrel - but before he can do anything, Bobby Dunston yells 'gun' and he and McKenzie take the man down.

The would-be shooter was arrested, and normally, that would be the end of it. But Wisconsin is an open carry state and the police can't prove that the gunman was intended to do anything. But it does appear that he might have been looking for one specific target. And, if so, that person is not out of danger. Now, before the gunman is released, McKenzie decides to find out who was the real target and why, before it is too late.

Contributor Bio

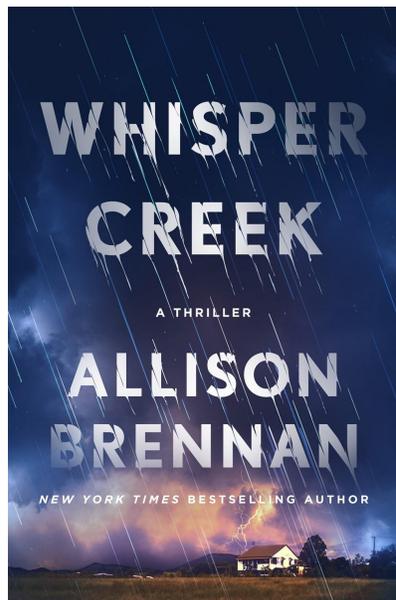
DAVID HOUSEWRIGHT has won the Edgar Award and is the three-time winner of the Minnesota Book Award for his crime fiction. He is a past president of the Private Eye Writers of America (PWA). He lives in St. Paul, M

Quotes

Praise for *Them Bones*

"A sure-fire hit." —*Booklist*

"Housewright never writes the same book twice and this one is just as fresh as all of his earlier novels." —*Deadly Pleasures Magazine*



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Whisper Creek

A Thriller

Allison Brennan

***New York Times* bestseller Allison Brennan delivers a pulse-pounding thriller about one family fighting for their land against both human enemies and Mother Nature.**

Summary

After the sudden death of her husband, Ellen McKenna is doing everything she can to keep her Texas farm afloat. She and her family hope to expand their operation, but times are tough and making ends meet is more expensive than she imagined, much less trying to grow. Many of their neighbors in Cooke County have thrown in the towel and agreed to sell their farms to a local businessman, but despite similar pressure, Ellen refuses to let her dreams die.

On top of the usual hardships, a series of recent storms has left the region partly flooded, and as the heavy rain begins again one morning, all the members of the McKenna family jump into action to protect their land and animals. Ellen's oldest son discovers an injured dog—and the dog leads him to a man barely clinging to life, the apparent victim of a brutal home invasion. Then, Ellen's younger kids go to check on a nearby neighbor and walk into a threat none of them saw coming.

Before anyone can figure out what's really going on in their idyllic rural valley, the storm picks up again in intensity, and the McKenna kids find themselves in over their heads with no way to call for help. To protect her farm--and her family—Ellen must face down all the forces trying to tear them apart.

Allison Brennan's talent for twisty, tense pacing combines with a deeply drawn family drama and the unforgiving power of nature in this compelling standalone thriller.

Contributor Bio

ALLISON BRENNAN is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of over forty novels, including the Lucy Kincaid and Max Revere series. She was nominated for Best Paperback Original Thriller by the International Thriller Writers and is a two-time winner of the Daphne du Maurier Award by *Kiss of Death*. Allison and her husband Dan raised five children, and currently live in Arizona.

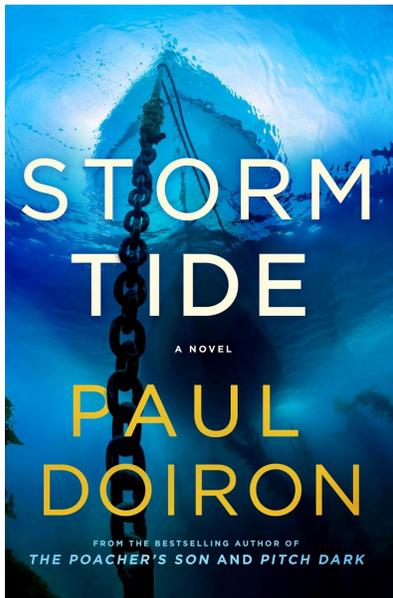
Quotes

Praise for Allison Brennan:

"Brennan throws a lot of story lines into the air and juggles them like a master."
—*Associated Press*

"Brennan ratchets up the suspense on page one and keeps it going until the last page."
—*Fresh Fiction*

"Brennan knows how to deliver."—Lisa Gardner



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Storm Tide

A Novel

Paul Doiron

Game Warden Mike Bowditch investigates a series of brutal killings during a life-changing year in *Storm Tide*, the harrowing new thriller from Edgar Award-nominated author Paul Doiron.

Summary

When the magnificent home of entrepreneur Brian Malloy mysteriously goes up in flames, Maine game warden Mike Bowditch tries to pull Malloy's burning body from the fire but is too late. Malloy was suspected of murdering his young, illegitimate son. Now it looks like someone else has delivered a verdict.

Miles away, on a lonely stretch of icy railroad track, the body of Axl Deming, once accused of a brutal rape, is found literally cut in half. Though the two murders seem unrelated, a cryptic text from an unknown number draws Bowditch to the scene—and hints at a chilling connection. He suspects someone is orchestrating the executions of criminals who escaped justice, and for reasons he can't explain, his own name is on the list, but the state police aren't convinced. His search for the truth takes him through frozen harbors, trackless forests, and remote islands, far from rescue.

Meanwhile, Bowditch is facing a disciplinary hearing that could end his career. His wife Stacey, just weeks from giving birth, is being stalked by a stranger in a white van. And when he realizes someone has also been watching their home, the case turns increasingly personal.

To protect his family, Bowditch must work alone to uncover who's behind the killings—and stop them before he becomes their next victim.

Contributor Bio

A native of Maine, bestselling author PAUL DOIRON attended Yale University, where he graduated with a degree in English. *The Poacher's Son*, the first book in the Mike Bowditch series, won the Barry award, the Strand award for best first novel, and has been nominated for the Edgar, Anthony, and Macavity awards in the same category. He is a Registered Maine Guide specializing in fly fishing and lives on a trout stream in coastal Maine with his wife, Kristen Lindquist.

Quotes

Praise for *Pitch Dark*:

"Tense and adrenalized from the start." —**Sam Sifton, *New York Times***

"As always, Doiron's characters are well-drawn, and his cold, rain-drenched setting is so vividly portrayed that readers may find themselves shivering." —**Bruce DeSilva, *Associated Press***

"Absolutely stunning... Maine native Doiron is an outdoorsman, which adds a rare authenticity to the series." —**Booklist, starred**



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Pretty Dead Things

A Novel

Kelsey Cox

Secrets emerge as a Texas beauty pageant turns deadly in this rich and addictive novel with a jaw-dropping twist from psychological suspense author Kelsey Cox.

Summary

2000: Isabelle Whitmore vanishes at Sherman Ranch in Anhalt, Texas, without a trace.

2025: The annual Lone Star Princess Pageant looms, bringing long-standing grudges to the surface. **Ingrid** fled Anhalt in the wake of her sister Isabelle's disappearance and has now returned, just in time for a construction crew to start digging up Sherman Ranch; the pageant brings up past traumas that **Melanie** can't forget; **Cat**, newly sober, starts to feel threatened in ways that bring back old demons; and **Sarah Lynn**, who comes from a long line of pageant winners, knows that losing is not an option.

When old resentments and new confrontations reach their boiling point, temperatures drop to deadly degrees as a record-setting storm brings down the state's power grid. With everyone trapped under one roof, scores will be settled, and more than one person will end up dead.

Beauty dies. Secrets never do.

Contributor Bio

KELSEY COX received her MFA in fiction from Purdue University and works from home in the Texas Hill Country. You can often find her writing at Mammen Family Public Library, chasing around her two young daughters, or watching British mysteries with her mom and aunts. On nights when bedtime goes as planned, she enjoys curling up on the sofa, glass of wine in hand, and a book with complicated characters and a killer twist in her lap. She is also the author of *Party of Liars*.

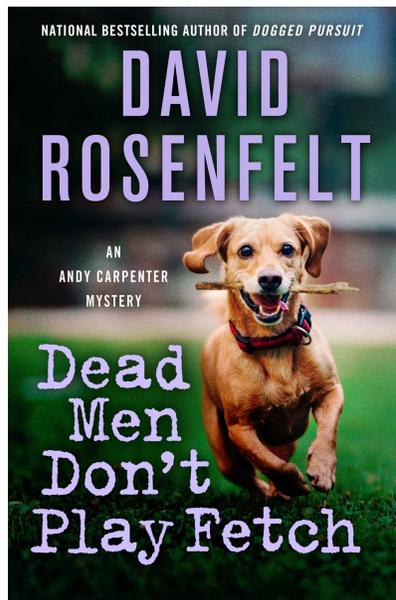
Quotes

Praise for *Party of Liars*:

"My favorite kind of thriller - fun, twisty, fast-paced, and populated by characters who feel so real you'll want to invite them (well, *some* of them) to your next party!" - Rachel Hawkins, *New York Times* bestselling author

"Brings the gothic house mystery to Texas, featuring a killer cast, heart-pumping pace, and well-plotted twists and turns." - Nina Simon, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Mother-Daughter Murder Night*

"Dazzling, terrifying, achingly beautiful... a brilliant exploration of motherhood and female desire." - Amanda Eyre Ward, bestselling author of *Lovers and Liars* and *The Jetsetters*



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Dead Men Don't Play Fetch

An Andy Carpenter Mystery

David Rosenfelt

Bestselling author David Rosenfelt returns with *Dead Men Don't Play Fetch* as Andy Carpenter investigates a wealthy dog lover's unusual death.

Summary

It's defense lawyer Andy Carpenter's dream to retire. That goal is once again thwarted when he gets a call from Lou, an old friend who he simply cannot refuse, asking for a favor. Lou runs a rehab center, and when one of his patients, a homeless vet, is charged with first degree murder, he needs Andy's help. And of course, Andy will also be called on to care for the accused's dog, but that's okay, what's one more dog?

The man that Jason Maddox is accused of stabbing to death is none other than billionaire Paul Vincent, an eccentric businessman and inventor. Bickert dedicated a great portion of his life to philanthropy, with a soft spot for dog-related causes. This led him to befriend Jason, a physicist and war hero, whose life fell apart to the point where he ended up on the streets with his dog, just trying to survive.

But why would Jason possibly have wanted to kill him? Well, for one thing, he was to receive a fortune in Vincent's will. That, coupled with the fact that Jason was at the scene, his fingerprints were on the knife, and Vincent's wallet was in his jacket, made it a slam dunk arrest.

Once again, Andy is enmeshed in a puzzling, twisty case. But in order to reunite a man and his dog, Andy will have to untangle it all.

Contributor Bio

DAVID ROSENFELT is the Edgar-nominated and Shamus Award-winning author of almost 30 Andy Carpenter novels, most recently *Dogged Pursuit*; nine stand-alone thrillers; two nonfiction titles; and four K Team novels, a series featuring some of the characters from the Andy Carpenter series. After years of living in California, he and his wife moved to Maine with twenty-five of the four thousand dogs they have rescued.

Quotes

Praise for *Dogged Pursuit*

"A prequel fans will cherish as the origin story of Paterson, New Jersey's snarkest lawyer."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Andy's welcome at any age. His sly humor and pursuit of justice makes him my favorite sleuth...Hanging out with Andy Carpenter and his team is always a treat."
 —Rothenberg on WBAI/RADIO



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Meet Your Baker

A Bakeshop Mystery

Ellie Alexander

The delicious first installment in Ellie Alexander's beloved Bakeshop Mysteries set in Ashland, OR—now in trade paperback and at a special price!

Summary

In this small town bakeshop, the sweets are to die for. . .

Ten years ago, Jules Capshaw left her quaint hometown of Ashland, Oregon, and set sail on a cruise ship as a pastry chef. After getting her heart broken, she returns home to help her mom, Helen, run the family bakeshop—Torte.

Torte is always buzzing with pastries, chocolatey confections, rich espresso drinks and a side of town gossip. Trouble arrives in the form of one Nancy Hudson, who manages to make the usually merry town boil over with anger. When Nancy ends up dead in the bakeshop, Jules quickly realizes there are some unsavory players in her charming little town. She quickly sets to work on finding the killer, all while crafting world-class pastries and settling into a delicious new life she never knew she was missing.

This edition is part of the Minotaur Signature Edition program, and includes bonus content and an introduction from the author.

Contributor Bio

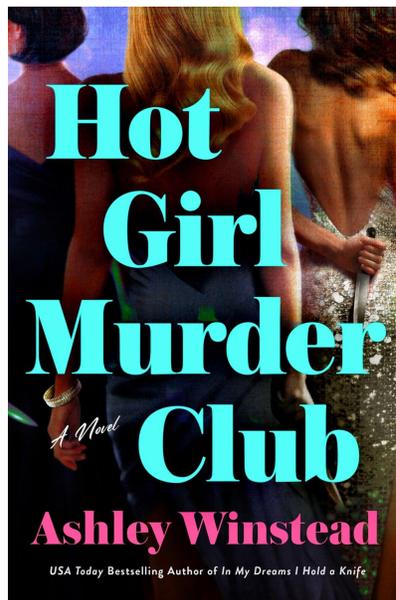
ELLIE ALEXANDER is a Pacific Northwest native who spends ample time testing pastry recipes in her home kitchen or at one of the many famed coffeehouses nearby. When she's not coated in flour, you'll find her outside exploring hiking trails and trying to burn off calories consumed in the name of research.

Ellie also loves hearing from her readers and interacting with them on social media. You can find her at:
www.elliealexander.com

Quotes

"A light soufflé of a book (with recipes) that makes a perfect mix for fans of Jenna McKinley, Leslie Budewitz, or Jessica Beck." —*Library Journal* on *Meet Your Baker*

"This delectable series transports readers to Ashland, Oregon... I highly recommend this series to readers who enjoy clever plots, likable characters, and good food." —*Mystery Scene* on *A Batter of Life and Death*



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Hot Girl Murder Club

A Novel

Ashley Winstead

From national bestselling author Ashley Winstead comes a buzzy, bloody new thriller of about success, sisterhood, and demanding justice...by any means necessary.

Summary

What's a girl got to do for fame, a few million record sales, and justice for murder?

Ten years ago, aspiring singer-actress Scout Sage lost the only thing that mattered: her sister, Georgia. Ever since Georgia's mysterious death at a Hollywood party, Scout's done her best to honor her memory, clawing her way through the industry and collecting a network of climbers along the way, fellow hot girls in stilettos with cutthroat ambition, a new Hollywood order.

But when a slew of targeted murders makes headlines across L.A., all pointing to Scout as the killer, she turns overnight from a mid-tier pop star into the world's most famous (alleged) murderer. Now everything she's worked to build—including the justice she wants for Georgia—will fall apart unless Scout can prove she's not guilty.

Meanwhile, the young and unusual detective assigned to her case, herself no stranger to tragedy, begins to unearth secrets not even Scout knows, let alone her millions of new fans. Particularly about the ways Georgia's death connects to an even older pattern of crimes long hushed over in Hollywood—an old reign of terror that, if brought to light, could be the fuel that ignites a reckoning the world over.

Contributor Bio

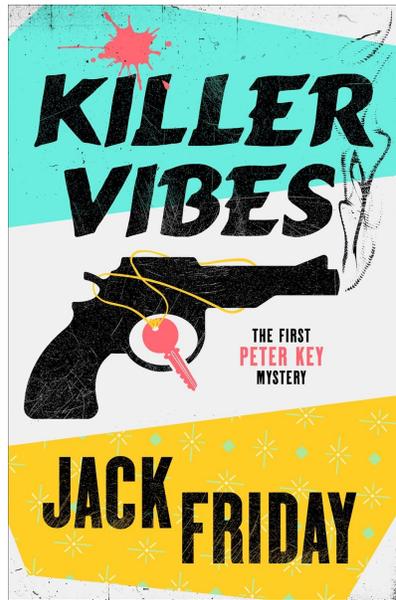
ASHLEY WINSTEAD is the national bestselling author of beloved thrillers *This Book Will Bury Me*, *The Last Housewife*, *In My Dreams I Hold a Knife*, and *Midnight is the Darkest Hour*. In addition to being an acclaimed thriller writer, Ashley is also the author of two romantic comedies, *Fool Me Once* and *The Boyfriend Candidate*. Her novels have been picks for the Best of Amazon, Library Read, Apple Books, and Loan Star, and received attention from major outlets, from *New York Times* to *Washington Post*.

Quotes

"Tense, twisty and packed with shocks ... a terrific read!" —**Riley Sager, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Home Before Dark*, on *In My Dreams I Hold a Knife***

"*Midnight is the Darkest Hour* is as creepy as it gets ... I loved every minute of it." —**Mary Kubica, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Just the Nicest Couple***

"Provocative and downright terrifying ... an edge-of-your-seat, action-packed thriller!" —**Wendy Walker, international bestselling author on *The Last Housewife***



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Killer Vibes

A Peter Key Novel

Jack Friday

A wild and wickedly funny series debut, introducing readers to the irresistible and irrepressible private investigator, Peter Key.

Summary

Meet Peter Key: self-proclaimed “laziest private investigator in Texas” (it’s harder than it looks), full-time bisexual, dedicated stoner, and the surprised recipient of a windfall inheritance from an uncle he barely knew. Peter’s life was a mess before he became the owner of a dilapidated house in one of the most desirable neighborhoods in Austin, but now he has a mountain of debt to deal with—and pushy realtors popping up on every corner to convince him to sell the land while the market is hot.

But Peter doesn’t like to be pushed around. And when he discovers a bag full of cash and a suggestion that his uncle’s death might not have been an accident, he starts asking questions. When they said “Keep Austin Weird,” they weren’t joking. Just about everyone Peter meets seems to have a hidden agenda, and he soon finds himself pulled into a lethal game where not everybody plays by the rules. Fortunately for Peter, he’s never been a rule follower anyway.

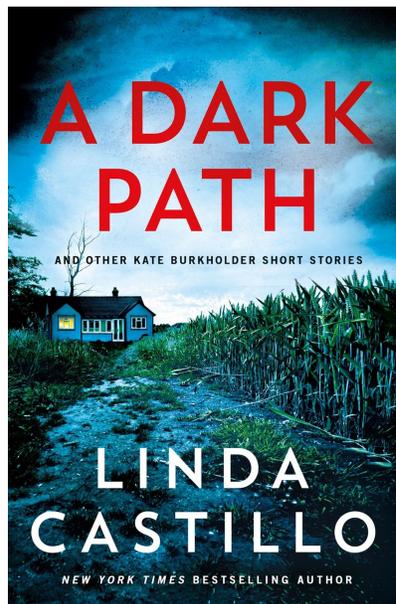
Sexy, suspenseful, and packed with Austin’s quirks, *Killer Vibes* is the start of an iconic new series with a singular, unforgettable cast of characters.

Contributor Bio

JACK FRIDAY is the pen name of the author of several queer supernatural thrillers. He lives in Texas, where he does as little as possible.

Quotes

“Jack Friday delivers an explosive and witty kickoff to a twisty new mystery series with *Killer Vibes*! Hilarious, gutsy and resourceful, Peter Key is my new favorite amateur sleuth.”—Elle Cosimano, *New York Times* bestselling author of the Finlay Donovan series



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Wt

A Dark Path: And Other Kate Burkholder Short Stories

Linda Castillo

For the first time in print comes a collection of five short stories in the *NYT* bestselling and Edgar award-winning Kate Burkholder series, PLUS one new, never-before-published story.

Summary

When two young boys don't return home from an innocent afternoon of fishing, Chief of Police Kate Burkholder must track them down before the first winter storm of the season bears down on Painters Mill in *THE PACT*.

In *DISAPPEARED*, Kate races against the clock to find a two-year-old who has vanished during a violent thunderstorm. Was the little boy swept away in the rising creek waters? Or is his disappearance even more sinister?

In *BLOOD MOON*, a man is brutally attacked by a large beast in the woods. Throughout the night, reports of similar incidents escalate and Kate must confront the creature terrorizing the town before violence tips over into tragedy.

When a family dog brings home a human bone, Kate finds herself on a desperate search for answers—and end the macabre rumors and ghost stories inundating the town in the Edgar award-winning short story *HALLOWED GROUND*.

In *DARK STORM RISING*, Kate must brave a dangerous blizzard to save an elderly Amish woman from a sinister foe. Will Kate reach her in time to save her life?

In *A DARK PATH*, an Amish couple disappears enroute to town. They'd recently been threatened by their granddaughter's troubled boyfriend—and there's heavy weather moving in. Kate rushes toward their remote farm, but a dog causes her to crash into a ravine, where she discovers a shattered buggy. Together, she and her new canine friend must find the couple before it's too late.

Contributor Bio

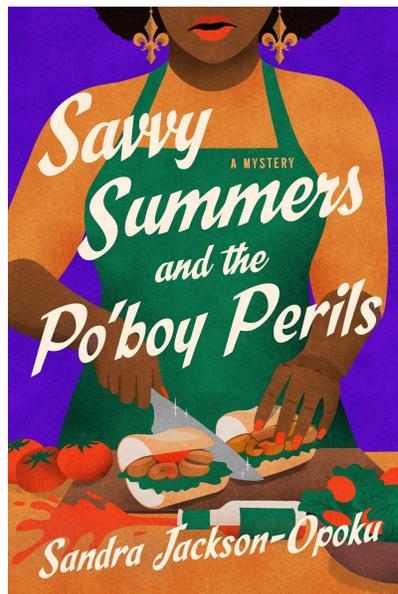
LINDA CASTILLO is the author of the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling Kate Burkholder series, set in the world of the Amish. The first book, *Sworn to Silence*, was adapted into a Lifetime original movie titled *An Amish Murder* starring Neve Campbell as Kate Burkholder. Castillo is the recipient of numerous industry awards. In addition to writing, Castillo's other passion is horses. She lives in Texas with her husband and is currently at work on her next book.

Quotes

Praise for the Kate Burkholder novels:

"Magnetic."—*People Magazine*

"Exquisitely plotted...a stellar series."—*Associated Press*



Savvy Summers and the Po'boy Perils

A Mystery

Sandra Jackson-Opoku

The next delectable mystery featuring quick-witted, unforgettable Savvy Summers, owner of a soul food café in Chicago.

Summary

Savvy has her work cut out when an old friend hires her to cater a company luncheon at a nearby office building on Chicago's South Side. Stepping out of her traditional soul food comfort zone, Savvy whips together a menu of Creole classics, with her own spin, of course—mini po'boys with assorted fillings, sunburst salad, and bread pudding using Great Aunt Essie's famous buttermilk biscuits.

But when someone is found dead in the company's conference room, Savvy's culinary creations are suddenly in the spotlight for all the wrong reasons. While the focus should be on their delicious flavors and inventive techniques, Savvy's beloved café instead becomes the center of a murder investigation once again.

Caught within a messy web of gossip, miscommunication, and fraught coworker relationships, Savvy will have to settle the confusion to clear her name. Somebody's hiding something, and with the help of her trusty assistant manager, Penny Lopés, Savvy sets out to uncover exactly who is to blame. With familiar faces turning up the heat on her investigation and her café still in hot water, will Savvy be able to save her reputation before it's too late?

Contributor Bio

SANDRA JACKSON-OPOKU is the author of *Hot Johnny and the Women Who Loved Him* and the award-winning novel *The River Where Blood is Born*. She also coedited the anthology *Revise the Psalm: Work Celebrating the Writing of Gwendolyn Brooks*. Her fiction, nonfiction, and dramatic works have been published and produced in *Adi Magazine*, *Midnight & Indigo*, *Aunt Chloe*, *Africa Risen: A New Era of Speculative Fiction*, *New Daughters of Africa*, *Obsidian*, *storySouth*, the Chicago Humanities Festival, and others.

Quotes

Praise for *Savvy Summers and the Sweet Potato Crimes*

"A tasty combination of soul food comfort dishes that culinary mystery fans will crave, as well as a vividly evoked setting populated by an engaging community of characters about whom readers will come to care." —*Library Journal* (starred review)

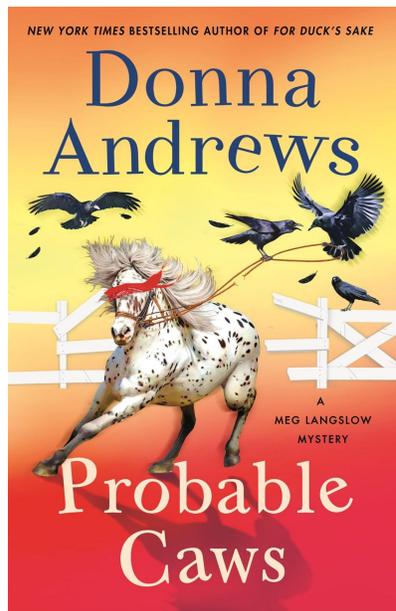
"Entertaining, suspense-filled...unforgettable." —*Shelf Awareness* (starred review)

"A charming mystery filled with quirky characters whose Southern roots influence their daily lives." —*Kirkus Reviews*

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Probable Caws

A Meg Langslow Mystery

Donna Andrews

Readers will flock to *New York Times* bestselling author Donna Andrews's next installment in the award-winning Meg Langslow series.

Summary

Meg is just settling in for some work at her forge when she gets a call from her father to come out to Ragnar's farm and help with some new rescue horses. However, when gets to the farm, tensions are rising between volunteers and the original horse owners from the neighboring farm, and a henchman ends up dead. It's up to Meg to figure out who the killer is and why....but don't worry, no horses were harmed in the making of this book!

Contributor Bio

DONNA ANDREWS has won the Agatha, Anthony, and Barry Awards, an RT Book Reviews Award for best first novel, and four Lefty and two Toby Bromberg Awards for funniest mystery. She is a member of the Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, and Novelists, Inc. Andrews lives in Reston, Virginia. She has written over 30 books in the Meg Langslow mystery series.

Quotes

"Fans will relish this addition to the long-running cozy series with its humor, charming small-town setting, and natural-history frame, populated by Meg's well-drawn community of quirky, but helpful, family and friends." — *Booklist on Birder, She Wrote*

"Enjoyable...*Round Up the Usual Peacocks* moves at a brisk clip as the plot settles in with an enjoyable visit with Meg... Andrews punctuates the story with just the right amount of humor..." — Oline Cogdill in the *South Florida Sun Sentinel*



book design
forthcoming

The Guilt Trip

A Novel

Sandie Jones

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Reese's Book Club pick *The Other Woman*, comes a gripping domestic suspense novel about a group of friends and the secrets they've kept.

Summary

Six friends.

Rachel and Noah have been friends since they met at university. While they once thought that they might be something more, now, twenty years later, they are each happily married to other people, Jack and Paige respectively. Jack's brother Will is getting married, to the dazzling, impulsive Ali, and the group of six travel to Portugal for their destination weekend.

Three couples.

As they arrive at a gorgeous villa perched on a cliff-edge, overlooking towering waves that crash on the famous surfing beaches below at Nazaré, they try to settle into a weekend of fun. While Rachel is looking forward to getting to know her future sister-in-law Ali better, Ali can't help but rub many of the group up the wrong way: Rachel's best friend Paige thinks Ali is attention-seeking and childish, and while Jack is trying to support his brother Will's choice of wife, he is also finding plenty to disagree with Noah about.

One fatal misunderstanding . . .

But when Rachel discovers something about Ali that she can hardly believe, everything changes. As the wedding weekend unfolds, the secrets each of them hold begin to spill, and friendships and marriages threaten to unravel. Soon, jumping to conclusions becomes the difference between life and death.

In the vein of *The Other Woman*, Sandie Jones's explosive new novel will have readers gripped to the very last page.

Contributor Bio

SANDIE JONES has worked as a freelance journalist for more than twenty years and has written for publications including the *Sunday Times*, *Woman's Weekly*, and the *Daily Mail*. She lives in London with her husband and three children. *The Other Woman* was her debut novel and a Reese Witherspoon x Hello Sunshine Book Club pick, followed by *The First Mistake* and *The Half Sister*.

Quotes

Praise for *The Other Woman*:

"One of the most twisted and entertaining plots."—Reese Witherspoon

"A perfect beach read."—Kristin Hannah

"A twisty, deliciously fun read."—Sarah Pekkanen

"Whiplash-inducing."—*The New York Times Book Review*

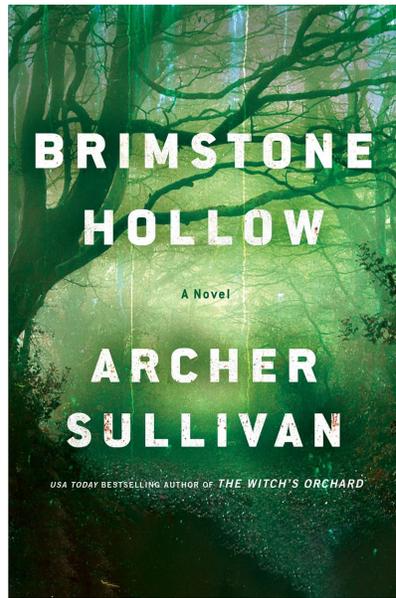
"Such fun. You'll cheer [Emily's] chutzpah."—*People*

"Excellent . . . Jones delivers a tightly coiled story."—Associated Press

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Brimstone Hollow

A Novel

Archer Sullivan

Following her powerful debut in *The Witch's Orchard*, private investigator Annie Gore returns in *Brimstone Hollow*, bringing readers back to the mountains that author Archer Sullivan, a ninth-generation Appalachian, knows so well.

Summary

There isn't much that happens in the Appalachian Mountains that Private Investigator Annie Gore hasn't seen. Before she was an Air Force Special Investigator, she was born and raised in those rolling hills, and lately Annie's cases have called her away from her Louisville office and closer to the small towns of her youth than she ever anticipated. But when her newest client asks if she's ever been to a snake-handling church, Annie knows she's about to enter unknown territory.

Katie May has been estranged from her father—one of Appalachia's last infamous snake handling preachers—for twenty years. But when Katie finds out he's been fatally bitten, and a funeral was held within twenty-four hours, she questions whether someone deliberately rushed the process. Despite Annie's doubts, she takes the case. After all, when she looks at Katie, she sees a version of herself: a girl who needs to understand her father in order to understand herself.

As she navigates the hidden hollers and dangerous secrets of this insular Eastern Kentucky town, Annie works fast, hoping to find the truth in record time for her client—and before too many memories from her own childhood surface. But it soon becomes apparent that someone wants Annie's investigation to stop—by any means necessary.

Contributor Bio

ARCHER SULLIVAN is a ninth-generation Appalachian. She's moved thirty-seven times and has lived everywhere from Monticello, Kentucky, to Manhattan, New York, and from Black Mountain, North Carolina, to Beverly Hills, California. Her work has appeared in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, *Tough*, *Shotgun Honey*, *Reckon Review*, *Rock and a Hard Place* magazine, and *The Best Mystery Stories of the Year 2024*.

Quotes

Praise for *The Witch's Orchard*

A *USA TODAY* BESTSELLER

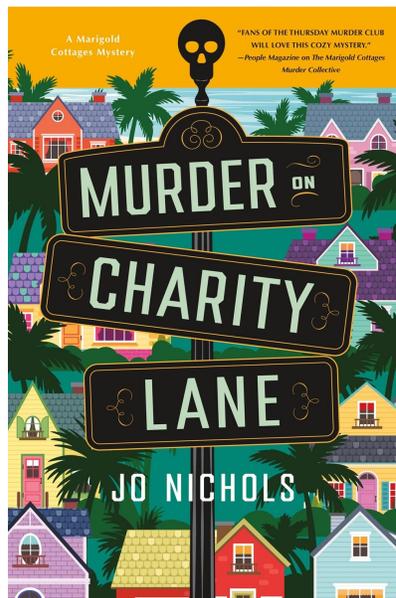
"A formidable heroine." –*South Florida Sun-Sentinel*

"The narrative is linear, relatable and revealing... And the ending, just—wow!"
–*BookPage* (starred review)

"An auspicious debut." –*Dayton Daily News*

"An exceptional triumph of style and structure." –*BookTrib*

"Riveting." –Kate Alice Marshall



Murder on Charity Lane

A Marigold Cottages Mystery

Jo Nichols

The charming and heartfelt follow-up to *The Marigold Cottages Murder Collective*, written in the vein of *The Thursday Murder Club* and "Only Murders in the Building," with a southern California twist.

Summary

After the recent 'hubbub'—as Mrs. B describes the murders on the property—quiet descends upon the Marigold Cottages. Sophie is moving in with Nicholas, Anthony is smitten with Lily-Ann, and life is returning to normal.

But Mrs. B *misses* the hubbub.

That's why she invites her friend Elsa Moore to move into Sophie's now-vacant cottage: Elsa is a suspect in the death of her employer, who tumbled down the stairs of his mansion during a dinner party. His much-younger window claims she saw Elsa push Frank, but Mrs. B knows she's innocent.

Mrs. B rallies the residents to investigate the party-goers: an eccentric couple who owe Frank, a fundraiser who depends on his largesse, and an old friend obsessed with life-extension. But the tenants all come to the same conclusion: Elsa is guilty.

And as they investigate, someone is snooping around the Cottages, leaving windows unlocked and papers misplaced. Then there's a second murder, and they discover that Mrs. B risked the Marigold Court for Elsa. With their tight-knit community on the line, they must prove her innocence.

Contributor Bio

JO NICHOLS is the pen name of a wife-and-husband team who've published thirty-one books in five genres, written an animated series for Netflix, and spent a combined thirty-six years in Santa Barbara, where they've lived in eleven places. Their hobby is reminiscing about restaurants that no longer exist. (They know they've taken a few liberties with local details! They can only apologize.)

Quotes

"Crisp dialogue, well-clued twists, and robustly drawn characters conspire to make this a memorable new entry in the cozy field. Readers will hope a sequel is on the way." — *Publisher's Weekly*

"By turns funny, smart, and cozy, fans of Agatha Christie and Kat Ailes will whip through this one." — Catherine Mack, *USA Today* bestselling author of *Every Time I Go on Vacation Someone Dies*

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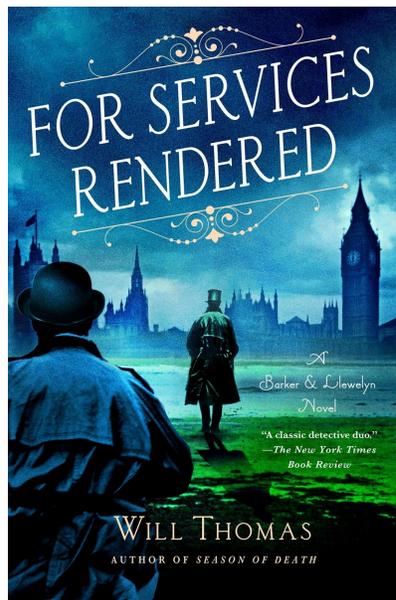
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For Services Rendered

A Barker & Llewelyn Novel

Will Thomas

In London, 1896, private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker's world is upturned when his longtime nemesis, Sebastian Nightwine, previously believed dead, turns up with evil on his mind, launching devastating and secretive attacks against not just Barker, but his network of friends and close associates.

Summary

In 1896, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, would be reformer and revolutionary, turns up in London, running away from China's Imperial Qing Secret Service, who has placed a substantial bounty on his head for his political activities. Captured by those agents, he's imprisoned in the Chinese Embassy until he can be smuggled back to China to face execution.

In the meantime, private enquiry agents Cyrus Barker and Thomas Llewelyn receive the unbelievable news that Sebastian Nightwine is both alive and in London. Not just that, it seems he's taking action against Barker and his close associates. At the same time, they've been hired to find this missing Sun Yat-Sen. With elements of the Chinese secret service, elements of the British government, and Nightwine himself all working against them, Barker & Llewelyn are at risk of being cornered by the deadliest set enemies they've yet faced.

Contributor Bio

WILL THOMAS is the author of the award-winning, critically acclaimed Barker & Llewelyn series of Victorian crime novels, including *Some Danger Involved*, *Heart of the Nile* and, most recently, *Season of Death*. He lives in Oklahoma.

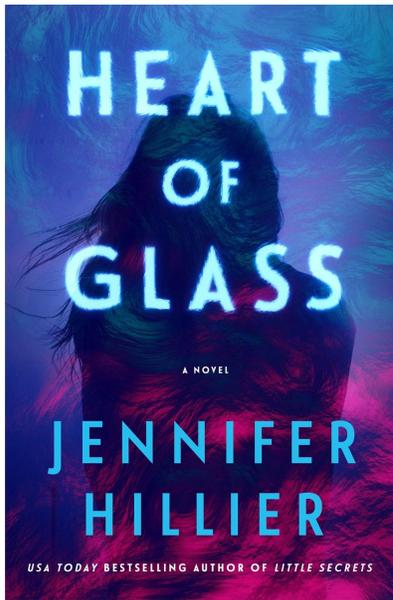
Quotes

Praise for *Season of Death*

"A satisfying period romp told with elegance and panache." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"A moving, well-written, and entertaining novel." —*Mystery & Suspense Magazine*

"Private enquiry agents Cyrus Barker and his partner, Thomas Llewelyn...remain fascinating figures. The author places them in the context of a larger London, rendered here with cinematic clarity—a metropolis of strivers and scoundrels, merchants, mendicants, aristocrats and toffs. The universe of detective fiction would be a poorer place without the recurring presence of these two stalwart souls and the vibrant world they move in." —*The Wall Street Journal*



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Heart of Glass

Jennifer Hillier

A serial killer recounts his long-ago confession regarding a small-town high school girl—and her then-best friends are forced to confront what really happened that night and what's happening now.

Summary

Seaside is a small coastal town, known originally for the local amusement park. But twenty-five years ago, a serial killer dubbed The Carnival Killer confessed to the murder of a local high school girl. Now, he's recanted that confession.

Barb, Nicolette, and Lorelei were best friends - then they met "Sam" at Wonderland, the local amusement park. After hanging out with him there, and accompanying him to the drive-in movie, where the twenty-something handsome drifter made out with Lorelei in the backseat. That night was the last time Lorelei was seen alive, her murdered body surfacing a couple of days later in a local cranberry bog.

Barb's dreams of leaving Seaside and becoming a successful writer never materialized and she is a freelancer for the local newspaper and, secretly, writes anonymously about reality tv stars for a hugely successful gossip web-site called Reality Bitch. Specifically, she writes savagely about a long-running show set in Canada called Trophy Wives.

Nicolette left town shortly after Lorelei's body surfaced, never to return. Ultimately, she married a very rich man, moved to Toronto and rebranded herself as Cole Lennox, one of the stars of Trophy Wives.

With the amusement park about to reopen, revitalizing the dying town of Seaside, the Carnival Killer recounts his confession about killing Lorelei, the dead body of young woman washes ashore, and the truth about what happened that night twenty-five years ago - and what is happening now - threatens not only the carefully constructed lives of Barb and Nicolette, but the very fabric of Seaside itself.

Contributor Bio

JENNIFER HILLIER was born and raised in Toronto, Canada, and lived in the Seattle area for years before returning home to Toronto, where she now lives with her family.

Quotes

"Hillier is a rising star whose work is like no one else's." —Laura Lippman on *Little Secrets*

"An intoxicating thrill ride. Hillier jams her foot on the accelerator and never lets up" —*New York Times Book Review* on *Things We Do in the Dark*

"Propulsive and chilling." —*People* on *Things We Do in the Dark*

"*Things We Do in the Dark* is a superb novel—expertly plotted and written, utterly authentic. Unputdownable." —Shari Lapena, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Couple Next Door* and *Not a Happy Family*