



MINOTAUR
BOOKS



Minotaur Books
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352 Pages
Fiction / Thrillers
FIC031080

9.3 in H | 6.1 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb
Wt

Mother Daughter Sister Stranger

A Novel

Hank Phillippi Ryan

What if your own family history turns out to be a terrifying lie? Every family has its story, and this one's deadly. Two sisters. One secret. And a race against time to find the explosive truth in this twisty and captivating thriller by *USA Today* bestselling author Hank Phillippi Ryan.

Summary

The sole survivors of the fiery plane crash that killed their parents, Eliza Ramsey and her sister Bea share an unbreakable bond. But now, on the eleventh anniversary of the tragedy, Bea fails to retrieve her pre-teen daughter from a sleepover at Eliza's.

Eliza knows her sister would never leave her precious Piper behind, and fears the worst. But did Bea *plan* her own disappearance?

The Ramsey's lives have already crashed and burned once. Now, Eliza discovers she's the only one who can protect her niece from the horrifying legacy of her family's sinister history. Together, the two must prevent their lives from going up in flames once again.

A missing mother. Her frightened daughter. And a sister on a desperate search for a happy ending. But someone knows the deadly key to their shared past, and won't stop until they've written a devastating final chapter. Mother, daughter, sister—stranger.

Contributor Bio

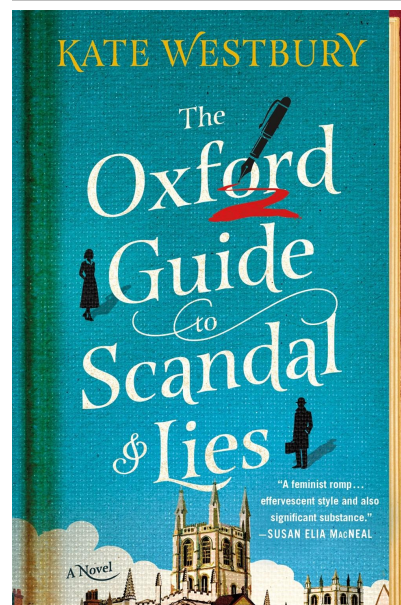
USA Today bestselling author HANK PHILLIPPI RYAN has won five Agatha Awards, five Anthony Awards, the Daphne, the Macavity, and the Mary Higgins Clark Awards. As on-air investigative reporter for Boston's WHDH-TV, she's won thirty-seven Emmy Awards and many more journalism honors. A TedX speaker, she is a past president of national Sisters in Crime, a founder of Mystery Writers of America University, and a board member of International Thriller Writers. Ryan lives in Boston.

Quotes

"Riveting! I'm a huge fan of Hank Phillippi Ryan, and this is her best thriller yet. Ryan is a master of the domestic thriller, mapping the emotional terrain of the family, as well as a brilliant observer of the ties that bind and stretch, sometimes to the breaking point. I couldn't put this novel down until after its final shocking twist." —**Lisa Scottoline, *New York Times* bestselling author**

"Ryan triumphs with her latest, which is as touching as it is thrilling...readers will devour this in one sitting!" —**Mary Kubica, *New York Times* bestselling author of *She's Not Sorry***

"I whipped through *Mother Daughter Sister Stranger* in one sitting, eager to unearth the secrets so cleverly tucked beneath the surface in this tense, twisty domestic thriller." —**Alafair Burke, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Note***



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The Oxford Guide to Scandal and Lies

A Novel

Kate Westbury

An irresistible debut—set against the backdrop of post-WWII Oxford University—that seamlessly layers mystery, romance, and a dash of academia to introduce the Crown’s newest undercover operatives

Summary

He's brooding. She's brilliant. Together they're Oxford's secret weapon.

Oxford, England, 1951: The Honorable Ginevra Bishop likes red lipstick, clever retorts, and earning top marks in her tutorials. She’s following her mother’s footsteps by studying at Oxford, eager to prove she’s more than a debutante.

Sidney Braithwaite likes brooding, Latin, and ignoring his nightmares. He’s determined to forge a new life for himself at Oxford, far from his childhood mining village and free from memories of the war.

Though Gin and Sidney have little in common, the British Security Service is keen to unite her charm with his espionage experience: there’s a Soviet spy at the university, and the agent tracking them down was poisoned. MI5 wants Gin and Sidney to pick up the trail and identify the informant before more sensitive information is compromised. As a team, the pair of undergraduates clash in personality, upbringing, and taste—but have a connection neither can deny. Gin and Sidney must unite their respective talents to follow the clues before they’re caught in the traitor’s crosshairs...if the sparks flying between them don’t blow up the operation first.

Contributor Bio

KATE WESTBURY grew up a voracious reader of detective fiction, and unraveling plot twists became her favorite pastime. She now puts her whodunnit obsession to good use writing historical mysteries. Beyond the page, Kate teaches Latin and dreams of moving to an English village with crimes to solve.

Quotes

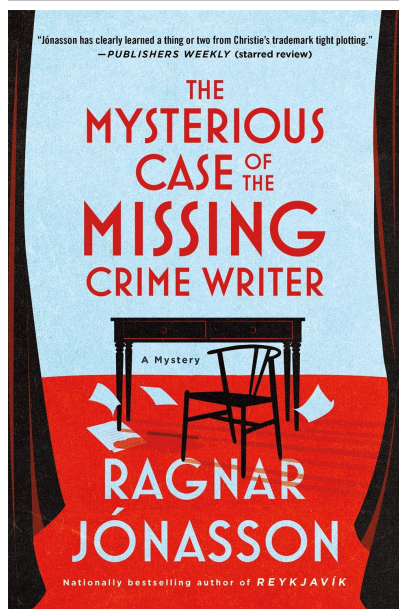
"A delightful take on espionage fiction, laced liberally with wit, mystery, romance, and a bit of Muriel Spark." –*firstCLUE*

"A delightfully fresh take on historical mystery... Gin and Sidney are some of the most likeable characters I’ve met in a long time." –Kristen Perrin

"A feminist romp... effervescent style and also significant substance." –Susan Elia MacNeal

"A wonderfully absorbing read." –India Holton

"A page-turning mystery." –Julia Seales



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9781250408280
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Trade Paperback

336 Pages
Fiction / Mystery & Detective
FIC022080

8.3 in H | 5.4 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb
Wt

The Mysterious Case of the Missing Crime Writer

A Mystery

Ragnar Jónasson

The next thrilling golden-age-style mystery from #1 Icelandic bestseller Ragnar Jónasson, author of *Death at the Sanatorium* and *Reykjavík*.

Summary

One winter evening, bestselling crime author Elín S. Jónsdóttir goes missing.

There are no clues to her disappearance and it is up to young detective Helgi to crack the case before its leaked to the press.

As Helgi interviews the people closest to her—a publisher, an accountant, a retired judge—he realizes Elín's life wasn't what it seemed. In fact, her past is even stranger than the fiction she wrote.

As the case of the missing crime writer becomes more mysterious by the hour, Helgi must uncover the secrets of the writer's very unexpected life.

Contributor Bio

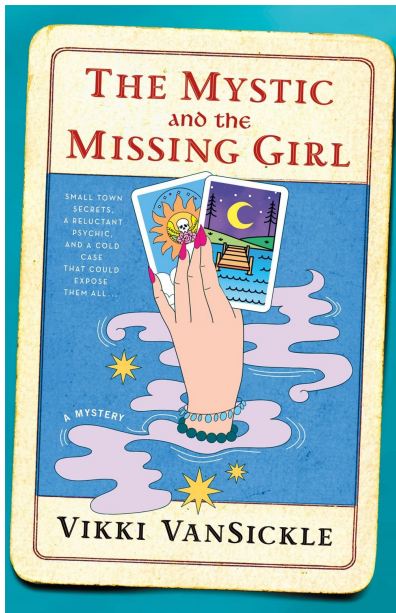
RAGNAR JÓNASSON is the award-winning Icelandic author of the international bestselling Hulda series, the Dark Iceland series, and standalone crime fiction, with five million copies sold across 36 territories. Ragnar was also an executive producer of the CBS Studios TV series *The Darkness*, based on the first novel in his Hulda series, starring Lena Olin and directed by Lasse Hallström. His novel *Outside* is being developed for the screen by Ridley Scott.

Quotes

"Cleverly plotted, slyly humorous, and bursting with love for the golden age of detective fiction, this outperforms even its outstanding predecessor."—*Publishers Weekly* (Starred Review)

"A lightning-fast read for fans willing to keep turning the pages till the crucial clues drop."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Flashbacks are effectively used as a creative way to tell the backstory of the missing novelist. This Golden Age-style mystery is a definite departure from Jónasson's 'Dark Iceland' series, which was set in an atmospheric small town in Iceland."—*Library Journal*



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Wt

The Mystic and the Missing Girl

A Mystery

Vikki VanSickle

Reluctant psychic Drew Benson can read tarot cards and get impressions from objects—she just never expected to use her gifts to investigate an infamous cold case.

Summary

Small town secrets, a reluctant psychic, and a cold case that could expose them all.

Drew Benson has a secret. She gets visions, something she hasn't tapped into since she was a teenager, when her late aunt, a TV psychic known as Hannah Mystic, became the scapegoat in the unsolved disappearance of a local teenager. Twenty years later, Drew is happy to ignore her gift, focusing instead on keeping the metaphysical shop she inherited from Hannah afloat, wrangling her sole, astrology-obsessed employee, and dodging local rake Foster Banks in her picturesque lakeside hometown.

But when Drew's arch-nemesis from high school, now a big city reporter, decides to investigate the cold case from all those years ago, it's Drew's ability that could finally make a break in the decades old mystery. With bills piling up, a disapproving mother laying on the guilt, and a local vandal who wants Drew and her witchy store gone, Drew has a lot to lose. But what she stands to gain—finding out what happened to the missing teen, clearing her aunt's name, and a second chance at belonging—could change everything.

In *The Mystic and the Missing Girl*, Vikki VanSickle seamlessly draws readers into an utterly charming world in this unputdownable, small town mystery.

Contributor Bio

VIKKI VANSICKLE has worked as a bookseller, a menstrual health educator and publishing professional with Penguin Random House Canada. Currently, she lives and writes in Toronto and hosts a book segment on a national morning show.

Quotes

"A gem of a book!" –Ashley Audrain

"Poignant, captivating, and fun to read." –Mark Waddell

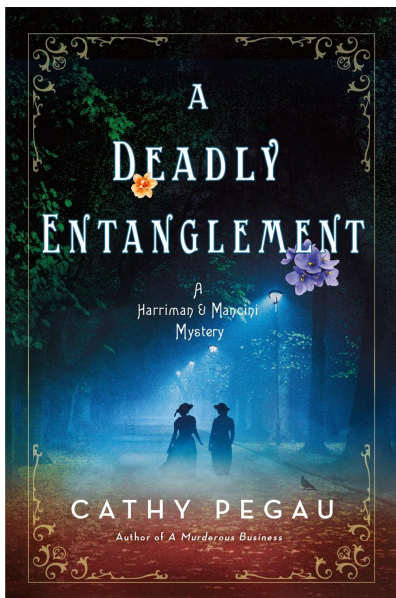
"A witch's cauldron bubbling over with charm, quirk, and enchanting characters, with a mystery that will have you reading into the wee hours." –Maxie Dara

"A tale full of secrets, heart, and suspense. . . as charming as it is suspenseful." –Tom Ryan

"My favorite kind of mystery. . . I can't wait to see what Vikki VanSickle—and Drew Benson!—get up to next." –Kemper Donovan

"VanSickle turns over all the right cards in this magic spell of a novel." –Kathleen West

"Both funny and poignant. . . VanSickle has arrived in this genre with a trumpet flare." –Roz Nay



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384 Pages
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Wt

A Deadly Entanglement

A Harriman & Mancini Mystery

Cathy Pegau

In *A Deadly Entanglement*, two queer women in turn-of-the-century New York must work together to uncover the rotten truth.

Summary

The truth isn't always easy...

Margot Baxter Harriman has just survived her deadliest scandal as President of B&H Foods, and there's nowhere to go but up. Which is why she's organizing a fundraiser for the crowded, overworked city charity hospital, hoping to do good and give back—until a body falls past a third-floor window.

The nurse's death is quickly ruled a suicide, but fellow nurse CeeCee Foxmoor isn't so sure: this isn't the first suspicious death. As Margot's friend and the live-in partner of investigator Rett Mancini, CeeCee's concerns draw both Margot and Rett into an undercover scheme to untangle the threads behind the deaths everyone else is ready to overlook.

But another death catches their attention: Margot's old classmate checked into the Caspian, a luxury clinic catering to the New York elite, and never checked out. And the circumstances surrounding her death feel eerily familiar...

As both the secrets and bodies pile up, Rett and Margot realize that while money can buy anything, behind ward doors, everyone pays a price. This time, their search for the truth might cost the people they love.

Cathy Pegau's *A Deadly Entanglement* is the captivating follow-up to *A Murderous Business*, where two women's determination challenges the cost of greed—and the price of failure.

Contributor Bio

CATHY PEGAU is the author of the Charlotte Brody historical mystery series and LGBTQ romances with Carina Press. She lives in a small fishing town in Alaska with her spouse, pets, and the occasional black bear wandering through the yard.

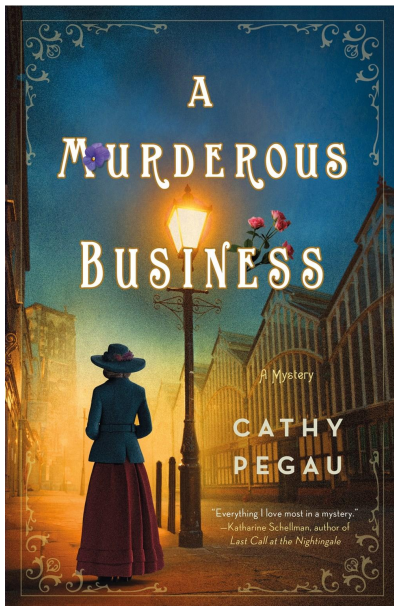
Quotes

Praise for *A Murderous Business*:

"A richly detailed historical mystery starring an engaging pair of investigators." - *Library Journal*

"A new detective duo is born when a business owner needs help saving her legacy...Murder, blackmail, and lesbian love in an era when what you ate could kill you in the name of the almighty dollar." - *Kirkus*

"An enjoyable historical series launch from Pegau [with] convincing period detail and likable leads." - *Publishers Weekly*



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320 Pages
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A Murderous Business

A Harriman & Mancini Mystery

Cathy Pegau

A sharp, captivating historical mystery about two queer women in turn-of-the-century New York, for fans of *Lavender House* and *A Most Agreeable Murder*—now in paperback!

Summary

There can be a blurry line between what is ethical and what is legal.

Margot Baxter Harriman took the reins of B&H Foods after her father passed. It's not easy being a business woman in 1912, but she is determined to continue what her grandparents started decades ago, no matter what it takes.

So when Margot finds Mrs. Gilroy, her father's former assistant, dead in the office with a half-finished note confessing to nebulous misdeeds at B&H, she seeks out help from a very discreet, private investigator to figure out what's going on. Her company, and her good name, are at stake if scandal breaks...and she could lose everything, including her freedom.

Loretta "Rett" Mancini has run her father's investigation operation since he started becoming increasingly forgetful. When Margot offers her the chance to look into the potential scandal with B&H, she jumps at the chance.

But the more the two dig in, the more it becomes clear that Margot's company may be too far lost...and someone is willing to kill them both to keep things quiet.

Charming and witty, Cathy Pegau's *A Murderous Business* is perfect for fans of Lev Ac Rosen, Enola Holmes by Nancy Springer, and the Mr. Darcy and Miss Tilney mysteries by Claudia Gray.

Contributor Bio

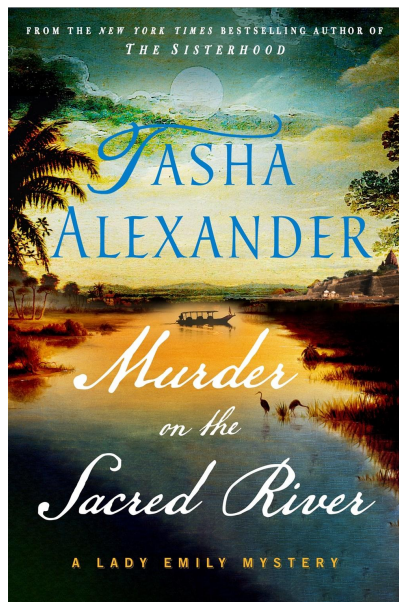
CATHY PEGAU is the author of the Charlotte Brody historical mystery series and LGBTQ romances with Carina Press. She lives in a small fishing town in Alaska with her spouse, pets, and the occasional black bear wandering through the yard. Read more on her website at: <http://cathypegau.com/>

Quotes

"A richly detailed historical mystery starring an engaging pair of investigators." - *Library Journal*

"A new detective duo is born when a business owner needs help saving her legacy...Murder, blackmail, and lesbian love in an era when what you ate could kill you in the name of the almighty dollar." - *Kirkus*

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336 Pages
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9.3 in H | 6.1 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb
 Wt

Murder on the Sacred River

A Lady Emily Mystery

Tasha Alexander

In this next enthralling mystery in Tasha Alexander's bestselling series, Lady Emily chases down a killer in India along the misty banks of the sacred river Narmada.

Summary

1908: Lady Emily and her husband Colin Hargreaves, along with an eccentric group of English tourists, are vacationing in India at Ahilya Fort, the old home to the Maharaja's family, when a man is found shot along the Narmada River. Emily and Colin jump into action, but their suspect list is large, including a wonderful spinster and her not-so-wonderful companion; a local doctor; a widow who lives nearby; an English explorer; and an Englishman who now runs a tea plantation near Darjeeling.

1740: Fifteen-year-old Ahilyabai has been married to the son of Malharrao Holkar, the Lord of the Malwa territory, for seven years. Now the time has finally come to produce an heir. But though Ahilya's in-laws have shown her nothing but kindness, her notoriously-drunken husband remains a mystery to her, having rarely spoken to Ahilya since their wedding as children. Faced with this tortured and distant man, Ahilya's sense of loyalty is tested as she attempts to balance fulfilling her duty with forging her own destiny. Her decisions will have ripple effects across time—including Lady Emily's investigation almost two hundred years later.

Lady Emily's case takes a dramatic turn when a shocking new person arrives at the fort—and when the killer strikes again shortly afterwards, she and Colin must race to uncover the villain's identity before it's too late.

Contributor Bio

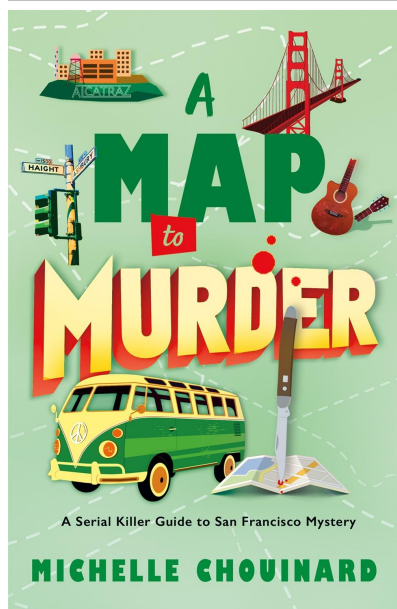
TASHA ALEXANDER is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling Lady Emily mystery series. The daughter of two philosophy professors, she studied English literature and medieval history at the University of Notre Dame. She and her husband, novelist Andrew Grant, live on a ranch in southeastern Wyoming.

Quotes

Praise for Tasha Alexander

"Plenty of motives and a surprise ending... [with] a bit of British Roman history woven into the mystery." —**Kirkus Reviews on *The Sisterhood***

"Delicious... Simply and utterly a joy." —**Robin Agnew, *Aunt Agatha's Favorite Reads of 2024* on *Death by Misadventure***



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Wt

A Map to Murder

A Serial Killer Guide to San Francisco Mystery

Michelle Chouinard

Beloved true crime tour guide Capri Sanzio returns in Michelle Chouinard's *A Map to Murder*, the next book in the *USA Today* bestselling Serial Killer Guide to San Francisco Mysteries.

Summary

True crime tour guide and serial killer aficionado Capri Sanzio knows how central the Summer of Love is to San Francisco's identity—even if she's always had conflicted feelings about it. She's used to weaving feel-good hippie culture and music into her Haight-Ashbury true crime tales, centering her tours around what happens when a revolution looking to lift up the best ideals humanity has to offer clashes with the darkest souls hidden among humanity's shadows. But what she's *not* used to is a guest stepping out from those shadows to drop a murder investigation directly into her lap.

A woman has gone missing in San Francisco after trying to solve her aunt's murder: a cold case from the Summer of Love. Capri sees herself in the missing woman—both were unable to find the answers they desperately wanted as kids—and sees her own daughter in the tour guest begging for her help. Unable to turn the case away, Capri finds herself following a trail of flower-power footprints turned deadly—straight to a killer who has her in their sights.

Contributor Bio

MICHELLE CHOUINARD is the author of the *USA Today* bestselling Serial Killer Guide to San Francisco mysteries, and under another name, the *USA Today* and *Publishers Weekly* bestselling author of nine previous mysteries. Michelle has a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from Stanford University and was one of UC Merced's founding faculty members. She lives in the Bay Area and enjoys caffeine in all forms, amateur genealogy, baking, and anything to do with Halloween or the zombie apocalypse.

Quotes

Praise for the Serial Killer Guide to San Francisco Mysteries

"Engrossing." –Shelf Awareness

"Fans of fun whodunits will love." –*Woman's World*

"For fans of fictional serial killers and murder tours!" –BookRiot

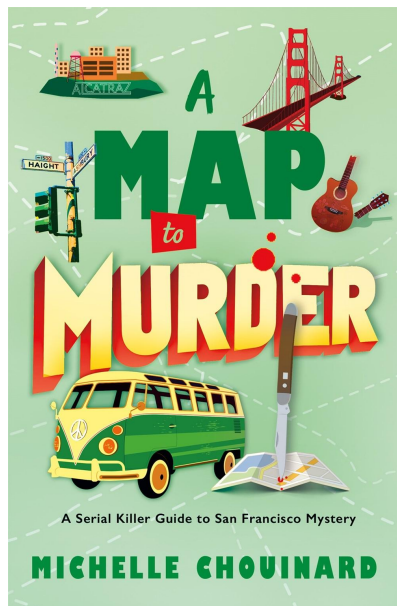
"Intriguing." –*Library Journal*

"Fast-paced." –*Publishers Weekly*

"Just the thing for readers who want to learn about all those other hearts that got left in San Francisco." –*Kirkus Reviews*

"I devoured every quirky sentence." —Jesse Q. Sutanto

"I was glued to the pages!" —Alicia Thompson



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352 Pages
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Wt

No Rest for the Wicked

A Coldren County Novel

Rachel Louise Adams

"An original story with a twist like a knife to the gut." *—People*, One of the Best Books of the Month

Summary

A USA Today Bestseller

In one Halloween-obsessed Midwestern town, everyone's on red alert after a local politician goes missing. Little do they know, it's only the beginning.

It's been close to twenty years since forensic pathologist Dolores Hawthorne left her hometown of Little Horton, Wisconsin. The town is famous for its Halloween celebrations, but also its history of violent deaths linked to the holiday. To Dolores, it's the place she fled--family, bad memories, and all. Until the FBI calls to tell her that her father--the former mayor turned U.S. senator--is missing under mysterious circumstances.

Some people count to ten to wake up from a nightmare. Dolores always counts the bones of her head instead: sphenoid, frontal, lacrimal. But no matter how many times she counts them, it doesn't change the fact that her father is missing, that his final words of warning to her were "Trust no one," and that now, the rest of her family is giving Dolores a chilling welcome. With Halloween fast approaching, Dolores must face the past she left behind before it's too late.

With an expert hand, Rachel Louise Adams's debut, *No Rest for the Wicked*, reads like an edge-of-your-seat, heart-pounding scary movie.

Contributor Bio

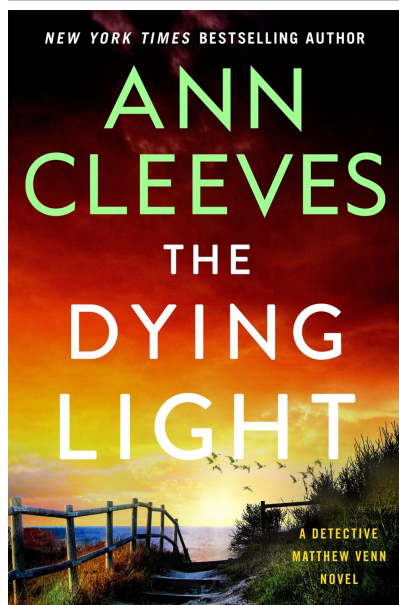
RACHEL LOUISE ADAMS was raised in a small town in Brittany by a French father and a North American mother. After studying literature at university, she wrote her PhD thesis on American fast food and meat eating. When she isn't writing or reading, she can be found advocating for animal rights and spending time with her fiancé, her friends, and her two cats.

Quotes

"The book impresses on every level—suspense, characters, plot, twists, milieu and quality of writing." *—BookPage* (starred review)

"Adams writes an assured debut with well-developed characters and nicely timed twists. The small-town setting might suggest a cozy vibe, but the tone and exploration of grimmer themes make this a better match for readers who enjoy the work of Lisa Jewell and Wanda M. Morris." *—Library Journal*

"This is a good choice for readers who enjoy small-town crime with a touch of gothic." *—Booklist*



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The Dying Light

A Detective Matthew Venn Novel

Ann Cleeves

DI Matthew Venn peels back layer upon layer to discover the dark secrets one family is keeping in this searing new novel, brimming with energy and taut with claustrophobic tension.

Summary

A scorching heatwave marks the start of the summer in Devon. Detective Matthew Venn is called in to investigate a puzzling death, when the body of a young woman, Lottie, is found in the swimming pool of a luxurious holiday home. The girl's best friend, Hannah, whose family owns the house, is missing. The girls had arrived in Devon a few days ahead of the family to celebrate the end of their school exams, and had managed to make waves during their short time there; they disrupted the folk music festival at the neighboring farm, with Lottie posting incendiary videos on social media mocking what she snobbishly considered to be a parochial community.

When further tragedy strikes, Venn and his team begin questioning a community filled with secrets. Hannah's father, Paul Armstrong, is a rising political star, a fact that quickly draws intense media scrutiny to the case, not least because there are many who would want to take him down. With the summer heat come holidaymakers, and it emerges that some of them may have more connections with the Armstrong family than first thought.

Caught between a powerful family's secrets and a powder keg of local tensions, Venn and his team must navigate a treacherous path. He knows all too well that the real answers lie not in what people say, but in the silence that they keep . . .

Contributor Bio

ANN CLEEVES is the multi-million copy bestselling author behind three hit television series—*Shetland*, starring Douglas Henshall, *Vera*, starring Academy Award Nominee Brenda Blethyn, and *The Long Call*, starring Ben Aldridge. The first *Shetland* novel, *Raven Black*, won the Crime Writers' Association Gold Dagger for best crime novel, and Ann was awarded the CWA Diamond Dagger in 2017. She was awarded the OBE in 2022 for services to reading and libraries. Ann lives in the United Kingdom.

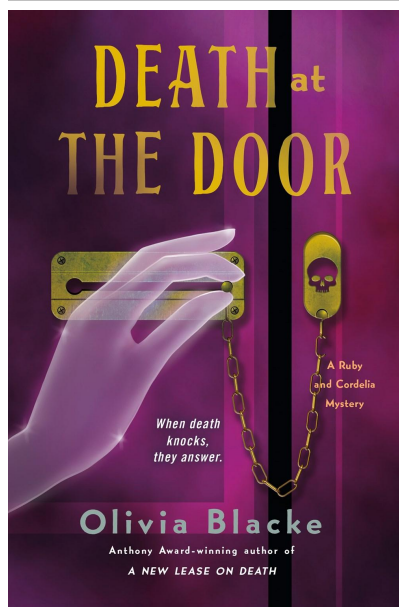
Quotes

Praise for *The Raging Storm*:

"A surprising denouement moves this character-based mystery to the top tier."—*Kirkus Reviews* (Starred Review)

"An atmospheric police procedural that builds on the other books while introducing fascinating suspects."—*Library Journal* (Starred Review)

"Cleeves crafts a devilishly intricate mystery that will surprise even seasoned genre fans, and Venn remains an appealing lead every bit as memorable as the author's Vera Stanhope or Jimmy Perez. Cleeves's fans and newcomers alike will be hungry for the next entry."—*Publishers Weekly* (Starred Review)



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Death at the Door

A Ruby and Cordelia Mystery

Olivia Blacke

"For readers who like their mystery with a solid dose of the otherworldly." –*Kirkus Reviews*

Summary

The odd couple of crime-solving returns in Olivia Blacke's Death at the Door, where a ghost and her living roommate find another mystery on their doorstep.

Ruby Young is slowly adjusting to her new life in Boston. A big part of that is her unexpected roommate—the ghost of the woman who lived there before. For Cordelia Graves, she may no longer be breathing, but it's still her apartment, and Ruby is the somewhat unwanted houseguest. They're both happy they've managed to become friends, which is a miracle, considering they struggle to communicate with each other. Cordelia even set Ruby up with her old job.

When Ruby discovers the body of a delivery guy at work, the new life she's been building hangs in the balance. The last time Cordelia dragged Ruby into a murder investigation, it was almost two ghosts living in the apartment, not one. Determined to protect Ruby, Cordelia tries to shield her from the investigation, but Ruby has other ideas. It will take both of them working together to navigate the fine line between the dead and the living to bring a killer to light.

Contributor Bio

OLIVIA BLACKE (she/her) is the Anthony Award-winning author of the Ruby and Cordelia Mysteries, as well as the cozy Record Shop Mysteries and the Brooklyn Murder Mysteries. She had her first ghost encounter when she was five, but wasn't involved with an active crime scene until much later, when she accidentally stepped into a chalk outline on a Manhattan sidewalk. Armed with a Criminology degree, she channels her love of the supernatural and passion for writing into darkly humorous supernatural mysteries. She wants to be a unicorn when she grows up.

Quotes

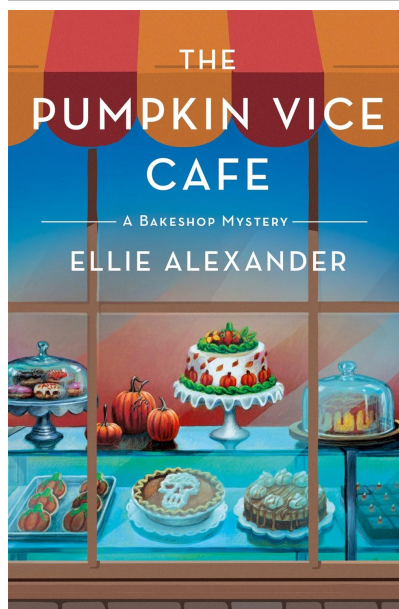
Death at the Door is a fun read that feels fresh, perfect for fans of supernatural mysteries with a cozy mystery mentality." –*Booklist*

Praise for *A New Lease on Death*

THE ANTHONY AWARD WINNER FOR BEST PARANORMAL

"A hauntingly good time!" –Elle Cosimano

"This pair of amateur detectives just works, and readers will root for them and the friendship they're building." –*Booklist*



Minotaur Books
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Trade Paperback

304 Pages
Fiction / Mystery & Detective
FIC022130

8.3 in H | 5.4 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb
Wt

The Pumpkin Vice Cafe

A Bakeshop Mystery

Ellie Alexander

Another delicious installment in the Bakeshop Series set in Ashland, OR!

Summary

As autumn settles over the charming hamlet of Ashland, Oregon, ushering in cool, crisp breezes and a stunning show of color, everyone at Torte is keeping warm by whipping up a bevy of fall treats and spicy lattes. Jules is nearing her due date, and the whole town is abuzz—placing bets on when the twins will make their grand debut. Helen and the team are working on a secret surprise baby shower, complete with cupcakes, cookies, and a feast fit for royalty, or maybe just a mother-to-be.

Meanwhile, Lance and Arlo are busy planning their nuptials in what is sure to be as close to a royal wedding as Ashland has ever seen. But when the high-end wedding planner they hired is found dead in the frigid waters of Ashland Creek, what looks like a tragic accident, a slip on an icy bridge, quickly reveals itself as something much more sinister. Jules knows at once—this was no mishap. A killer is loose in Ashland, and they may be ready to strike again.

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.

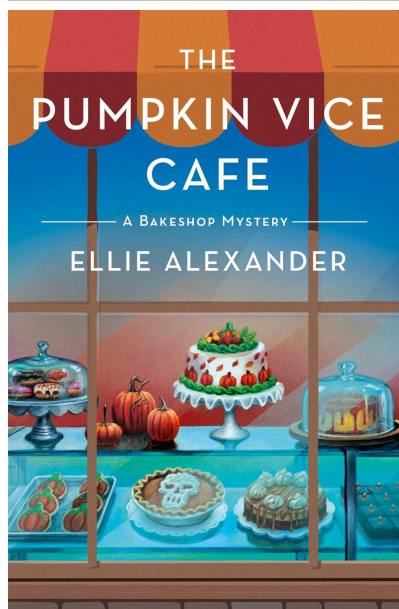
Ellie also loves hearing from her readers and interacting with them on social media. You can find her at:
www.elliealexander.com

Quotes

"A foodie's delight that includes an enticing look at Southern Oregon's beauties and appended recipes." —*Kirkus Reviews* on *Killing Me Soufflé*

"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*

"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*



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304 Pages

Fiction / Mystery & Detective

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8.3 in H | 5.4 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb

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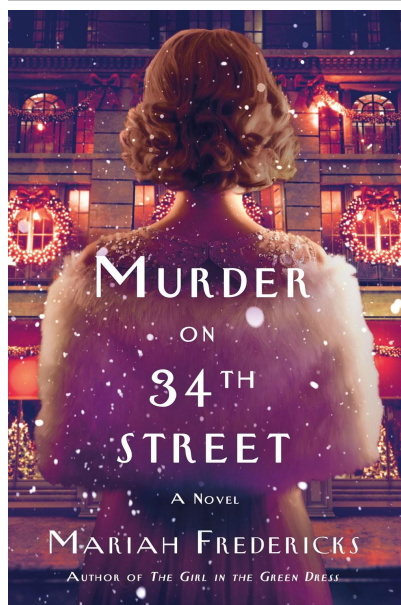
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Minotaur Books
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Hardcover with dust jacket

288 Pages
Fiction / Historical
FIC014080

9.3 in H | 6.1 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb
Wt

Murder on 34th Street

A Novel

Mariah Fredericks

From the author of *The Girl in the Green Dress* comes a delightful and captivating novel about a fictional murder mystery at the iconic Macy's parade leading up to the holidays in historic NYC.

Summary

New York, 1932. Grace Verlander is the secret beating heart of Macy's. She's the "assistant to the assistant to the someone who's in charge", the go-to person for keeping everything running smoothly behind-the-scenes at the famous, bustling store.

It's not every day you get a letter from Santa Claus, but three days before the Macy's annual Thanksgiving Day Parade, Grace arrives at work to find a note from the store Santa Claus in her locker: someone has sent him a death threat. Shocked, Grace promises to look into it and speaks to the store detective about the parade's security, confident that they've found a solution that will keep everyone safe. But on the day of the parade, despite all their precautions, a dead body is found in the holiday section of the store.

Using her wits and deep knowledge of the ways of the place, Grace is determined to find the killer and seek justice—not just for the dead man, but to save the reputation of this iconic store from ruin.

Steeped in glittering glamor and nostalgic wonder, this is a remarkable, unpredictable mystery set in the evocative world of one of New York's most memorable institutions.

Contributor Bio

MARIAH FREDERICKS (she/her) was born, raised, and still lives in New York City. She graduated from Vassar College with a degree in history. She is the author of the Jane Prescott mystery series, which has twice been nominated for the Mary Higgins Clark Award. *The Lindbergh Nanny*, her first standalone novel, was nominated for the Agatha and Anthony Awards.

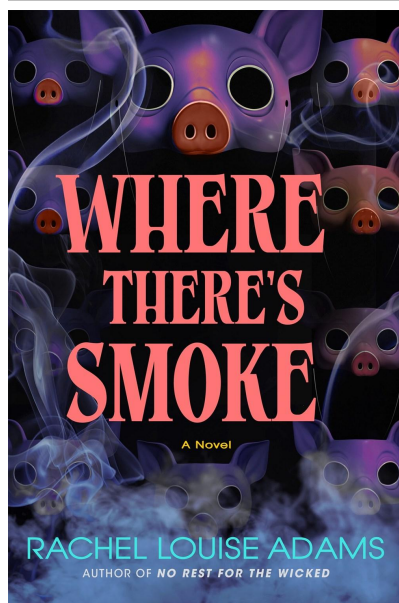
Quotes

Praise for *The Girl in the Green Dress*:

"[A] riveting standalone... Fredericks brings the period to life beautifully, and the often-caricatured Zelda never feels less than three-dimensional. Add in an enthralling investigation and a complex, fame-hungry lead, and it's undeniable: Fredericks has struck gold."—*Publishers Weekly* (Starred Review)

"Fredericks's new historical mystery is a roaring good time."—*Library Journal* (Starred Review)

"Markey's intense but platonic relationship with Zelda is particularly compelling: Fredericks' Zelda all but dances off the page."—*Kirkus Reviews*



Minotaur Books
 9781250362148
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 Hardcover with dust jacket

320 Pages
 Fiction / Mystery & Detective
 FIC022030

9.3 in H | 6.1 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb
 Wt

Where There's Smoke

A Coldren County Novel

Rachel Louise Adams

Following the *USA Today* bestselling series debut, *No Rest for the Wicked*, Rachel Louise Adams returns with *Where There's Smoke*.

Summary

A lot has happened in Dolores Hawthorne's life since the events of last Halloween. She's divorced, traded being a forensic pathologist for a job as a medical examiner, and now lives in small-town Wisconsin, close—but not too close—to her family.

Dolores doesn't have much in the way of work, but that all changes when a body is found at the local slaughterhouse. Benedict Marcy owned Marcy's Meats, and is affectionately called Mr. Mercy across the region. This high-profile case quickly catches the attention of Dolores's friends at the FBI.

From the very beginning, this case is full of contradictions and surprises, and the team quickly learns someone is willing to go to extreme lengths to stop them from finding out the truth behind Benedict Marcy's murder.

Contributor Bio

RACHEL LOUISE ADAMS was raised in a small town in Brittany by a French father and a North American mother. After studying literature at university, she wrote her PhD thesis on American fast food and meat eating. When she isn't writing or reading, she can be found advocating for animal rights and spending time with her fiancé, her friends, and her two cats.

Quotes

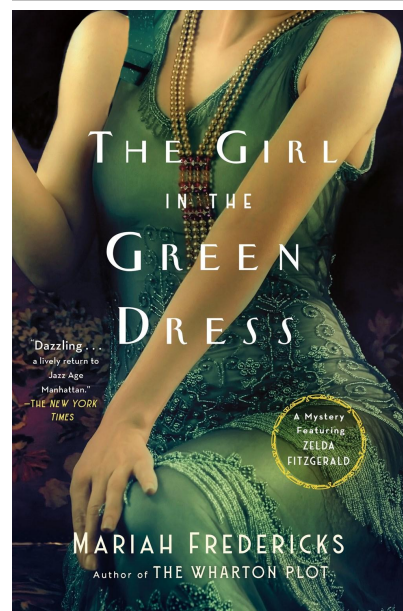
Praise for the *USA Today* Bestseller *No Rest for the Wicked*

"An original story with a twist like a knife to the gut." —*People*, One of the Best Books of the Month

"The book impresses on every level—suspense, characters, plot, twists, milieu and quality of writing." —*BookPage* (starred review)

"Adams writes an assured debut with well-developed characters and nicely timed twists. The small-town setting might suggest a cozy vibe, but the tone and exploration of grimmer themes make this a better match for readers who enjoy the work of Lisa Jewell and Wanda M. Morris." —*Library Journal*

"This is a good choice for readers who enjoy small-town crime with a touch of gothic." —*Booklist*



Minotaur Books
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336 Pages
Fiction / Mystery & Detective
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8.3 in H | 5.4 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb
Wt

The Girl in the Green Dress

A Mystery Featuring Zelda Fitzgerald

Mariah Fredericks

Based on the real story of the unsolved deaths of Joseph Elwell and New Yorker writer Morris Markey, Mariah Fredericks's new novel is a glittering homage to the dawn of the Jazz Age.

Summary

New York, 1920. Zelda Fitzgerald is bored, bored, bored. Although she's newly married to the hottest writer in America, and one half of the literary scene's "it" couple, Zelda is at loose ends while Scott works on his next novel, *The Beautiful and Damned*. Meanwhile, Atlanta journalist Morris Markey has arrived in New York and is lost in every way possible. Recently returned from the war and without connections, he hovers at the edge of the city's revels, unable to hear the secrets that might give him his first big story.

When notorious man-about-town Joseph Elwell is found shot through the head in his swanky townhouse, the two southerners realize they were both among the last to see him alive. Markey has his story. Zelda has her next adventure.

As they investigate which of Elwell's many lovers—or possibly an enraged husband—would have wanted the dapper society man dead, Zelda sweeps Markey into her New York, the heady, gaudy Jazz Age of excess and abandon, as the lost generation takes its first giddy steps into a decade-long spree. Everyone has come to *do something*, the more scandalous the better; Zelda is hungry for love and sensation, Markey desperate for success and recognition. As they each follow these ultimately dangerous desires, the pair close in on what really happened that night—and hunt for the elusive girl in the green dress who may hold the truth.

Contributor Bio

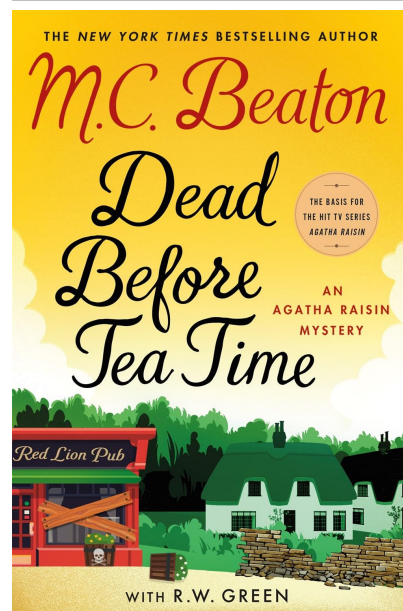
MARIAH FREDERICKS (she/her) was born, raised, and still lives in New York City. She graduated from Vassar College with a degree in history. She is the author of the Jane Prescott mystery series, which has twice been nominated for the Mary Higgins Clark Award. *The Lindbergh Nanny*, her first standalone novel, was nominated for the Agatha and Anthony Awards.

Quotes

"[A] riveting standalone... Fredericks brings the period to life beautifully, and the often-caricatured Zelda never feels less than three-dimensional. Add in an enthralling investigation and a complex, fame-hungry lead, and it's undeniable: Fredericks has struck gold."—*Publishers Weekly* (Starred Review)

"Fredericks's new historical mystery is a roaring good time."—*Library Journal* (Starred Review)

"Markey's intense but platonic relationship with Zelda is particularly compelling: Fredericks' Zelda all but dances off the page."—*Kirkus Reviews*



Minotaur Books
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Hardcover with dust jacket

272 Pages
Fiction / Mystery & Detective
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8.3 in H | 5.4 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb
Wt

Dead Before Tea Time

An Agatha Raisin Mystery

M. C. Beaton, R.W. Green

Beloved *New York Times* bestseller M. C. Beaton's cranky, crafty Agatha Raisin—the star of her own hit T.V. series—is back on the case again.

Summary

Agatha Raisin's Cotswolds village is in an uproar when word spreads that their beloved Red Lion pub is set to close. The brewery that owns the building has raised the rent, ousting the pub's owner so they can redevelop the space into apartments. As the villagers scramble to change the brewery's mind, Agatha and her team at Raisin Investigations begin looking into more direct ways to save the pub.

Meanwhile, Sir Charles Fraith attempts to wheedle his way back into Agatha's affection, crossing swords with James—Agatha's other paramour—who is determined to thwart his efforts. As the two attempt to woo Agatha at a local reenactment of a 17th-century battle, Agatha has her sights set on something else. Amidst the chaos of the battle, a body is discovered in a copse of trees just off the battleground. While many brush off the death as an accident, Agatha digs deeper after discovering the dead man had connections to the same brewery putting the Red Lion out of business.

After an attempt is made on Agatha's life during a visit to the brewery, her investigation becomes all the more urgent. Can she find the murderer before becoming their next victim? And perhaps even more importantly for the village, can she find a way to save the Red Lion at the same time?

Contributor Bio

M. C. BEATON (1936-2019), the "Queen of Crime" (*The Globe and Mail*), was the author of the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling Agatha Raisin novels—the basis for the hit show on Acorn TV and public television—as well as the Hamish Macbeth series and the Edwardian Murder Mysteries.

A long-time friend of M. C. Beaton, R.W. GREEN has written numerous works of fiction and non-fiction.

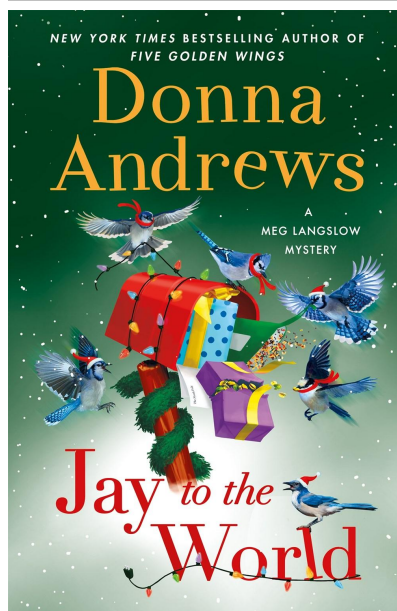
Quotes

"Trademark Beaton." —*Booklist* (starred) on *Down the Hatch*

"Able to continue the adventures of private detective Agatha Raisin, thorn in the side of conservative Cotswold society, in the diverting 32nd installment of this bestselling series...The prose sparkles as usual."

—*Publishers Weekly* on *Down the Hatch*

"Superb." —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review) on *Hot to Trot*



Minotaur Books
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Hardcover with dust jacket

288 Pages
Fiction / Mystery & Detective
FIC022120

8.3 in H | 5.4 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb
Wt

Jay to the World

A Meg Langslow Mystery

Donna Andrews

There's merry mischief aplenty in Donna Andrews' latest avian-themed Christmas mystery!

Summary

The Christmas season is underway in Caerphilly. The members of the Hollingsworth clan, Meg's mother's family, are beginning to arrive in force, and Mother has several special projects underway this year. One is the playhouse she's having built for Brynn, her two-year-old granddaughter. Brynn is a bright, lively child who loves animals, especially a wounded jay that she and Meg are trying to rehabilitate. She's also hoping to play matchmaker and set up her cousin with an old friend of hers who was recently widowed.

But all is not going smoothly in Caerphilly. Someone vandalizes the playhouse and sets a dangerous trap that injures and could have killed Mother. She reveals that she has been getting nasty anonymous letters, and it's obvious that someone is targeting her. Meg realizes she has to do something to figure out who could possibly have it in for her mom.

Meg juggles holiday preparations and celebrations while investigating these potential enemies – not to mention helping repair the damaged playhouse, taking her turn at nursing the wounded jay, and trying to coax Mother's elderly cousin into a reunion with his long-lost love. When one of Meg's suspects is found dead under suspicious circumstances, the family rejoices that Mother is out of danger. But Meg isn't quite sure they're out of the woods just yet.

Contributor Bio

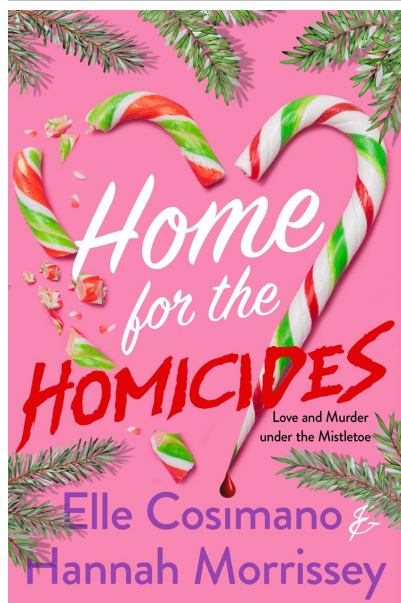
DONNA ANDREWS has won the Agatha, Anthony, and Barry Awards, an RT Book Reviews Award for best first novel, and four Lefty and two Toby Bromberg Awards for funniest mystery. She is a member of the Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, and Novelists, Inc. In 2026, the Mystery Writers of America named her a Grand Master. Andrews lives in Reston, Virginia. She has written over 40 books in the Meg Langslow mystery series.

Quotes

Praise for the Meg Langslow series:

"As always, Andrews knows her stuff. The plot is sufficiently intricate, and the story line involved enough for just about any reader of the genre. Andrews creates marvelous characters and puts them in situations that vary from almost slap-stick to Wodehouse-esque (is that a word?) contrivances to incredibly subtle bon-mots."
—Reviewing the Evidence on *Dashing Through the Snowbirds*

"Andrews lays on the good cheer with a trowel." —Kirkus Reviews on *The Gift of the Magpie*



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336 Pages
Fiction / Mystery & Detective
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9.3 in H | 6.1 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb
Wt

Home for the Homicides

A Holly & Mark Mystery

Elle Cosimano, Hannah Morrissey

When Special Agents Holly Frost and Mark Shepherd report to the idyllic town of Christmas to investigate a very less than idyllic murder, they're in for more than the average whodunnit.

Summary

Welcome to Christmas, a town so quaint and charming it could be the backdrop of a Hallmark movie, where crime is never in season. So when a tourist is violently murdered in the middle of the town square, no one is more shocked or ill-prepared than local law enforcement. With the annual holiday festival fast approaching—pivotal to the town's financial survival—the desperate mayor calls for assistance, and Big City detectives Holly Frost and Mark Shepherd arrive to solve the case.

Holly and Mark are both on thin ice after screwing up on the job. This assignment is their one shot at redemption, if they can put aside their bitter rivalry and the ill-advised fling they shared in a closet more than a year ago. With just twelve days until the festival, the countdown to catch a killer—without killing each other—is on.

Co-authored by *New York Times* bestseller Elle Cosimano (Finlay Donovan series) and critically acclaimed Hannah Morrissey (Black Harbor series), *Home for the Homicides* is a sexy, light-hearted romp, with a dash of merriment and murder.

Contributor Bio

ELLE COSIMANO is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Finlay Donovan series. Her adult debut *Finlay Donovan Is Killing It* was a *People* magazine pick and was named one of New York Public Library's Best Books of 2021. Cosimano lives with her husband and two sons in Virginia.

HANNAH MORRISSEY is the *USA Today* bestselling author of the Black Harbor series. Her first novel, *Hello, Transcriber*, was inspired by her experience as a police transcriber. She lives in Wisconsin with her husband and pugs.

Quotes

Praise for Elle Cosimano and Hannah Morrissey:

"Finlay Donovan is irresistible!"—Janet Evanovich on Finlay Donovan

"Refreshing, funny and bright . . . wonderfully escapist novels."—Charlaine Harris on Finlay Donovan

"This series is magical! I'm in awe of Elle Cosimano."—Christina Lauren on Finlay Donovan

"A tense, twisty thriller with Morrissey's razor-sharp, vivid prose." —David Ellis on *The Unlucky Ones*

"Smoldering with suspense. . . another white-hot Black Harbor novel." —Kimi Cunningham Grant on *The Unlucky Ones*



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320 Pages
 Fiction / Mystery & Detective
 FIC022030

8.3 in H | 5.4 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb
 Wt

Bark Humbug

An Andy Carpenter Mystery

David Rosenfelt

Reluctant lawyer Andy Carpenter helps a desperate sister investigate the widely publicized murder of a gubernatorial candidate in *Bark Humbug*, the latest Christmas mystery in David Rosenfelt's bestselling series.

Summary

This time, Andy is serious about retiring. Besides, he can't hear the sound of his phone ringing over the football game. But when the local newspaper asks him to participate in their Christmas spread of local celebrities and their dogs, he pauses the game and brings Tara along for the ride.

When the photographer comes to take pictures of him and the dogs, he instead opens the door to Sharon Lowery, who devised the newspaper story just to get Andy's attention and beg him for help. Her brother, Jon, is wanted for murder and is on the run. However, if Andy agrees to hear Jon out, he'll turn himself in with the hope that Andy will represent him and reunite him with his dog.

It's a dangerous situation, and between the media circus surrounding the murder and Jon's volatile position, Andy knows that when Jon is found, someone could get hurt. But Andy respects Sharon's dedication to her brother, and in an effort to keep Jon--and the public--safe, Andy agrees to talk to Jon. Andy decides to help Jon and slowly uncovers a web of conspiracies. Determined to keep Jon out of jail, Andy gathers the crew to investigate.

David Rosenfelt returns with Andy Carpenter's classic disdain for Christmas but love for dogs and justice.

Contributor Bio

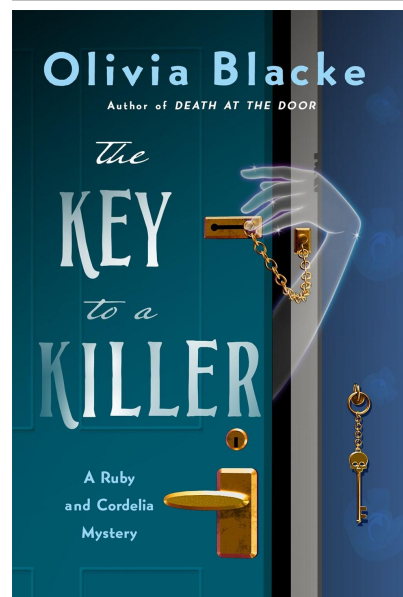
DAVID ROSENFELT is the Edgar-nominated and Shamus Award-winning author of almost 30 Andy Carpenter novels, most recently *Dog Day Afternoon*; nine stand-alone thrillers; two nonfiction titles; and four K Team novels, a series featuring some of the characters from the Andy Carpenter series. After years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

Quotes

"[An] unfailingly entertaining series."—*Kirkus Reviews* on *And to All a Good Bite*

"Andy's humor is intact: the world would be better if people were golden retrievers."
 —*Booklist* on *The More the Terrier*

"They keep getting better and better."—Red Carpet Crash on *The More the Terrier*



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368 Pages
Fiction / Mystery & Detective
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8.3 in H | 5.4 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb
Wt

The Key to a Killer

A Ruby and Cordelia Mystery

Olivia Blacke

A woman and her ghost roommate investigate their most personal case yet in Olivia Blacke's *The Key to a Killer*, the next book in the Anthony Award winning Ruby and Cordelia Mysteries.

Summary

When Ruby Young discovered that her Boston apartment was haunted, she did what any reasonable person would do: befriend the ghost. Their relationship overcame a shaky start—Cordelia Graves never wanted a roommate in life, she certainly didn't want one in death. After working together to solve a few murders, the two are close friends, but there's a lingering question neither of them have been able to answer: what led to Cordelia's death?

Lately things have been adding up that suggest foul play. And when Cordelia's memories of that day start to come back, the roommates can't ignore it anymore: Cordelia was murdered. Ruby and Cordelia are going to have to piece together what Cordelia's final days looked like—otherwise a killer could go free.

Contributor Bio

OLIVIA BLACKE (she/her) is the Anthony Award-winning author of the Ruby and Cordelia Mysteries, as well as the cozy Record Shop Mysteries and the Brooklyn Murder Mysteries. She had her first ghost encounter when she was five, but wasn't involved with an active crime scene until much later, when she accidentally stepped into a chalk outline on a Manhattan sidewalk. Armed with a Criminology degree, she channels her love of the paranormal and passion for writing into darkly humorous supernatural mysteries. She wants to be a unicorn when she grows up.

Quotes

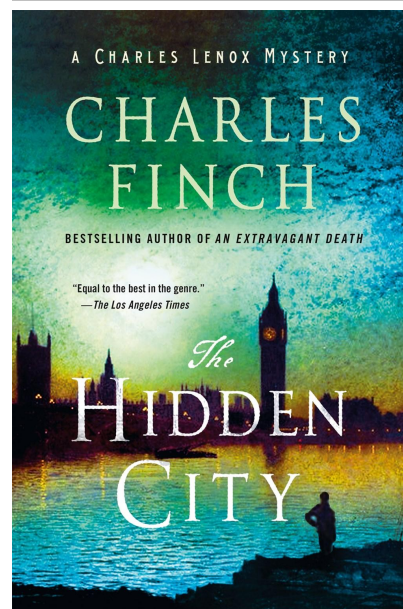
Praise for the Anthony Award Winning Ruby and Cordelia Mysteries

"A hauntingly good time!" –Elle Cosimano

"For readers who like their mystery with a solid dose of the otherworldly." –*Kirkus Reviews*

"This pair of amateur detectives just works." –*Booklist*

"Droll, a touch maudlin, and featuring two outstanding characters." –First Clue



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Trade Paperback

304 Pages
Fiction / Mystery & Detective
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8.3 in H | 5.4 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb
Wt

The Hidden City

A Charles Lenox Mystery

Charles Finch

Against the vivid backdrop of Victorian London, sleuth Charles Lenox must unlock a mystery concealed in the architecture of the city itself in this new novel from acclaimed author Charles Finch.

Summary

It's 1879, and Lenox is convalescing from the violent events of his last investigation. But a desperate letter from an old servant forces him to pick up the trail of a cold case: the murder of an apothecary seven years before, whose only clue is an odd emblem carved into the doorway of the building where the man was killed. When Lenox finds a similar mark at the site of another murder, he begins to piece together a hidden pattern which leads him into the corridors of Parliament, the slums of East London, and ultimately the very heart of the British upper class.

At the same time, Lenox must contend with the complexities of his personal life: a surprising tension with his steadfast wife, Lady Jane, over her public support of the early movement for women's suffrage; the arrival of Angela Lenox, a mysterious young cousin from India, with an unexpected companion; the dizzying ascent of his brother, Sir Edmund Lenox, to one of the highest political posts in the land; the growing family of his young partners in detection, Polly and Dallington; and the return of the problems that have long bedeviled one of his closest friends, the dashing Scottish physician Thomas McConnell.

Featuring a beloved cast of characters, a top-notch puzzle, and Finch's trademark humor and richness of historical detail, *The Hidden City* is a novel by a master at the top of his form.

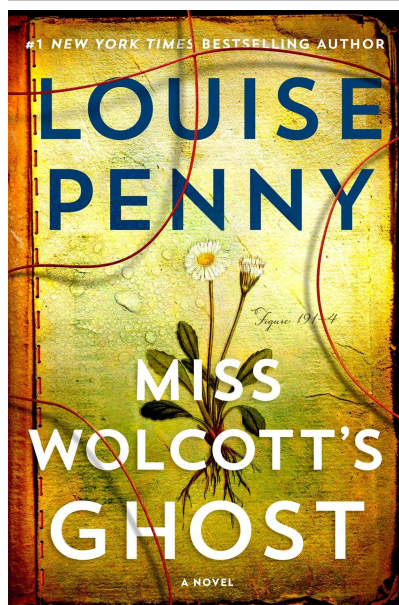
Contributor Bio

CHARLES FINCH is a novelist, literary critic, and author of the *USA Today* bestselling Charles Lenox mysteries. He has written essays, articles, and reviews for *The New York Times*, and *The Chicago Tribune*, among others, and was honored with the 2017 Nona Balakian Citation for Excellence in Reviewing by the National Book Critics Circle. He served on the NBCC's board, and has also been a board member of Ragdale and was a judge for the 2021 Pen-Faulkner Prize. He lives in LA with his family.

Quotes

"[Finch] shows a depth of knowledge that makes the story come alive....Intoxicating. "
—**Charles Todd, *New York Times* bestselling author**

"No one writes Victorian London with both the historical precision and lyrical prose of Charles Finch... Highly recommended!" —**Deborah Crombie, *New York Times* bestselling author**



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 Wt

Miss Wolcott's Ghost

A Novel

Louise Penny

The next new mystery in Louise Penny's #1 New York Times bestselling Three Pines mystery series featuring Chief Inspector Armand Gamache.

Summary

Following up *THE LAST MANDARIN*, Louise's standalone thriller co-written with Mellissa Fung that is coming out in May, is *MISS WALCOTT'S GHOST*, the next Three Pines mystery featuring Chief Inspector Armand Gamache. Fans will be thrilled to have two Louise Penny novels in one year.

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.

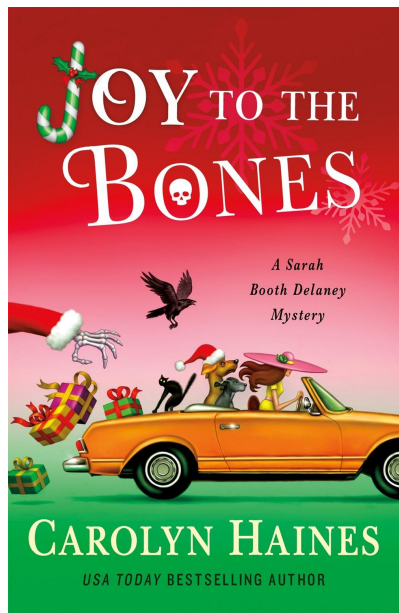
Quotes

Praise for *The Black Wolf*:

"Ms. Penny has no peer in her ability to situate the lives of sympathetic characters within such elaborate and thrilling storylines. Even if *The Black Wolf* were not so intelligent and exciting in its construction, it would be hard not to root for a hero who still believes: 'There's more goodness than cruelty in this world.'"—*Wall Street Journal*

"Penny brings her customary thoughtfulness, storytelling gifts, literary allusions, and humanity to a warning wrapped in a thriller that should resonate on both sides of the border."—*Airmail*

"How does she do it? Twenty books into her Inspector Gamache series, Penny rolls out a sequel to her bestselling *Grey Wolf* that's as up to date as today's headlines. In a world where black is white and truth is mutable, you can fool anyone, even the brilliant detective of Three Pines. While it's not essential to read *The Grey Wolf* before this book, I recommend it...This is a riveting book by one of Canada's best."—*The Globe and Mail*



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 Wt

Joy to the Bones

A Sarah Booth Delaney Mystery

Carolyn Haines

The final 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

Still reeling from the discovery that her parents’ deaths, decades ago, might not have been an accident, Private Investigator Sarah Booth Delaney doesn’t know who to believe anymore. Her best friend and business partner, Tinkie, purposefully kept her in the dark; her lover, Coleman, intentionally lied to her; and her meddlesome ghost-turned-spiritual-guide, Jitty, kept more secrets than she can count. Now, even the people Sarah Booth once trusted more than anything are suspect.

Armed with new knowledge about her parents’ car crash, Sarah Booth sets out to solve her biggest case yet: her parents’ murder. And she’s prepared to do it alone if she has to.

But the Mississippi Delta doesn’t pause for anyone, not even Sarah Booth. While trying to untangle the truth about her parents’ fate, Sarah Booth gets roped into investigating the DeLonge Mansion, a magnificent old house with seemingly no one left alive to claim it. With the return of her nemesis, Gertrude Stromm, looming over her head—and the pieces of her failed relationships still scattered around her—Sarah Booth has her work cut out for her this holiday season.

Contributor Bio

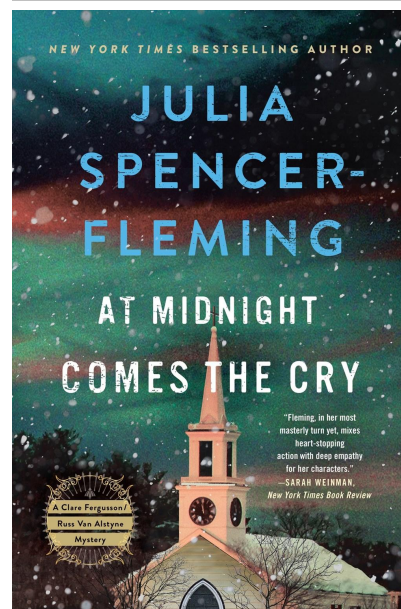
CAROLYN HAINES is the author of the Sarah Booth Delaney Mysteries. She is the recipient of both the Harper Lee Distinguished Writing Award and the Richard Wright Award for Literary Excellence. Born and raised in Mississippi, she now lives in Semmes, Alabama on a farm with more dogs, cats, and horses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

A Clare Fergusson/Russ Van Alstyne Mystery

Julia Spencer-Fleming

New York Times bestseller Julia Spencer-Fleming returns to her beloved Clare Fergusson/Russ Van Alstyne mystery series

Summary

It's Christmas time in Millers Kill, and Reverend Clare Fergusson and her husband Russ van Alstyne - newly resigned from his position as chief of police - plan to enjoy it with their baby boy. On their list: visiting Santa, decorating the tree, and attending the church Christmas pageant. But when a beloved holiday parade is crashed by white supremacists, Clare and Russ find themselves sucked into a parallel world of militias, machinations and murder.

Meanwhile, single mom and officer Hadley Knox has her hands full juggling her kids and her police work. She doesn't want to worry about her former partner - and sometimes lover - Kevin Flynn, but when he takes leave from the Syracuse PD and disappears, she can't help her growing panic that something has gone very wrong. Novice lawyer Joy Zhào is keeping secrets from her superiors at the state Attorney General's Office. She knows they wouldn't condone her off-the-books investigation, but she's convinced a threatening alt-right conspiracy is brewing - and catching the perpetrators could jump start her career.

NYS Forest Ranger Paul Terrance is looking for his uncle, a veteran of the park service gone inexplicably missing. He doesn't think much of an ex-cop and out-of-town officer showing up in his patch of the woods, but he's heard the disturbing rumors of dangerous men in the mountains.

In *New York Times* bestselling Julia Spencer-Fleming's latest novel, as Christmas approaches, these five people will discover their suspicions hang on a single twisting thread, leading to the forbidding High Peaks of the Adirondacks. As the December days shorten and the nights grow long, a disparate group of would-be heroes need to unwind a murderous plot before time runs out.

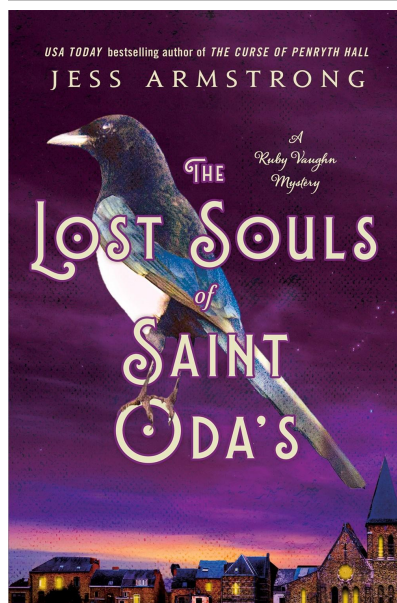
Contributor Bio

JULIA SPENCER-FLEMING is *The New York Times* bestselling author of *One Was A Soldier*, and an Agatha, Anthony, Dilys, Barry, Macavity, and Gumshoe Award winner. She studied acting and history at Ithaca College and received her J.D. at the University of Maine School of Law. Her books have been shortlisted for the Edgar, Nero Wolfe, and Romantic Times RC awards. Julia lives in a 190-year-old farmhouse in southern Maine.

Quotes

"Julia hooked me with the first sentence of her first book - probably the best first sentence ever! Now in her latest, she has gone full circle with this series, in a tale that is both so gripping and oh so timely. Truly a book for our time." —Rhys Bowen

"With great outdoor scenes, tight plotting, and appealing characters, this will hold readers' attention and leave them hungry for more." —FirstClue



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The Lost Souls of Saint Oda's

A Ruby Vaughn Mystery

Jess Armstrong

Armstrong's *USA Today* Bestselling and award winning Ruby Vaughn Mysteries return in *The Lost Souls of Saint Oda's*.

Summary

1923. American heiress Ruby Vaughn hoped the new year would bring less murder and far less of the occult, allowing her to spend her days at the rare book shop she runs alongside her octogenarian employer, and exploring her fledgling romance with Ruan Kivell, the intriguing folk healing Pellar she met in Cornwall. But fate often has other plans. Ruby has long believed her entire family died when the Lusitania sank in 1915, however when her solicitor brings news that her mother inexplicably survived the catastrophe and he believes he's found her in a Belgian hospital just across the channel, Ruby dares not hope it's true. For if there's one thing Ruby Vaughn knows, it is that hope is the surest way to a broken heart.

With trepidation, Ruby and Ruan set off for Belgium with a simple task—to go to the hospital at Saint Oda's priory, find her mother, and bring her home. However, upon her arrival at the priory, Ruby learns the woman they sought had died and been hastily buried days before. Stunned, Ruby refuses to believe that her mother is truly gone. Perhaps it is her jaded heart, or all the time she's spent *lady detecting* as her employer, Mr. Owen, calls it, but the more Ruby inquires into the woman's fate, the more suspicious the death becomes and Ruby and Ruan fear that both the occult and murder are at work in Belgium. As Ruby unfurls the mystery surrounding the woman, she finds more missing souls and a sinister secret that has been simmering at Saint Oda's since the Great War and it's up to Ruby to find the truth.

Contributor Bio

JESS ARMSTRONG is the *USA Today* bestselling author of the Ruby Vaughn Mysteries. Her debut novel, *The Curse of Penryth Hall*, won the Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Award. She has a master's degree in American history but prefers writing about imaginary people to the real thing. Jess lives in New Orleans with her historian husband, two sons, and a growing number of pets and plants. And when she's not working on her next project, she's probably thinking about cheese, baking, on social media, or some combination of the above.

Quotes

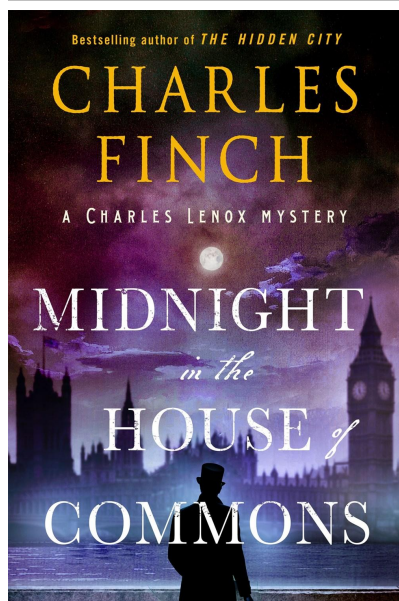
Praise for the Ruby Vaughn Mysteries

"Delightful." –*People*

"Evocative gothic atmosphere, a rich sense of post WWI England and an intriguing, strong heroine." –*South Florida Sun Sentinel*

"Picture an interwar version of Nancy Drew, or perhaps a grown-up version of Enola Holmes, and you will have a pretty decent snapshot of Ruby Vaughn." –*BookPage*

"Sublimely entertaining." –*Library Journal* (starred review)



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Midnight in the House of Commons

A Charles Lenox Mystery

Charles Finch

Amateur sleuth Charles Lenox investigates the murder of a Parliament member, moving through the glamorous high society of Victorian London in the next novel from acclaimed author Charles Finch.

Summary

In the spring of 1881, Lenox is caught up in the whirl of London life when his brother arrives to tell him that there's been a murder in the House of Commons. Robert Baddeley, a charismatic, womanizing Member, has been found poisoned in the hallowed chamber itself. Suspicion immediately falls on the women in his life, including his wife and mistress, but as Lenox digs deeper, he realizes that there were more than a few people who might have wanted Baddeley dead.

Meanwhile, Lenox must balance his investigation with his family life, which has grown increasingly complicated: his ward Sari struggles with heartbreak, the Lenox household receives an odd visitor, and a young woman comes to Lenox to implore him to find her fiancé, who has mysteriously vanished.

And just when Lenox is nearing the truth of Baddeley's murder, someone close to him is arrested for the crime—and Lenox must race to solve the case before losing everything.

Joyfully set in ballrooms, supper parties, palaces, and Parliament, *Midnight in the House of Commons* takes Charles Lenox through his trickiest, most satisfying case yet.

Contributor Bio

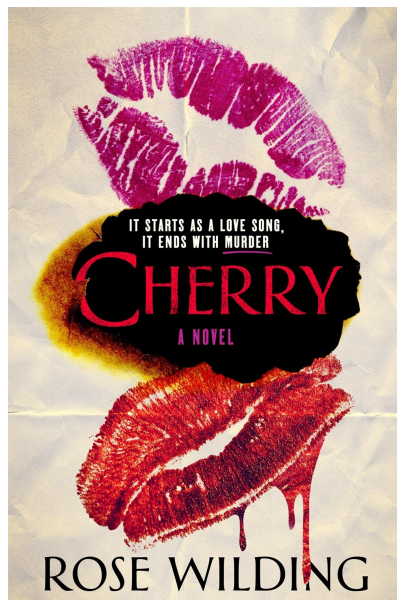
CHARLES FINCH is a novelist, literary critic, and author of the *USA Today* bestselling Charles Lenox mysteries. He has written essays, articles, and reviews for *The New York Times*, and *The Chicago Tribune*, among others, and was honored with the 2017 Nona Balakian Citation for Excellence in Reviewing by the National Book Critics Circle. He served on the NBCC's board, and has also been a board member of Ragdale and was a judge for the 2021 Pen-Faulkner Prize. He lives in LA with his family.

Quotes

Praise for *The Hidden City*:

"[Finch] shows a depth of knowledge that makes the story come alive....Intoxicating."
—**Charles Todd, *New York Times* bestselling author**

"No one writes Victorian London with both the historical precision and lyrical prose of Charles Finch... Highly recommended!" —**Deborah Crombie, *New York Times* bestselling author**



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Wt

Cherry

A Novel

Rose Wilding

It starts as a love song. It ends with murder.

Summary

1999

Gifty is a woman adrift in the wake of her wife's death. She's living in stasis, unable to bring herself to enter the bedroom where Helen died after a long illness. Her therapist tells her to confront her grief, but instead she wanders the streets looking for someone from her past.

Fallen nineties pop star Isobel has done everything she can to reinvent herself. Gone is the girlish make-up and provocative manner. When she lands a job working for a middle-class family, she decides to embody the perfect nanny.

Ally has always prided herself on running a successful business and being a good parent to her two children. But when her husband announces that he is leaving them to work in Indonesia for six months, and hires Isobel without consulting her, she is left angry and struggling with her chronic illness.

The women soon become tangled in a dangerous web of obsession and infatuation. Someone is going to die, the question is: who?

Contributor Bio

ROSE WILDING is a crime writer from the north of England. She studied at the University of Manchester, University of Sunderland, and Towson University. When not murdering fictional people, she can usually be found drinking coffee, reading feminist sci-fi, or posting more pictures than anyone needs of her two chihuahuas on Instagram. She is the author of *Speak of the Devil*, her debut novel.

Quotes

Praise for *Speak of the Devil*

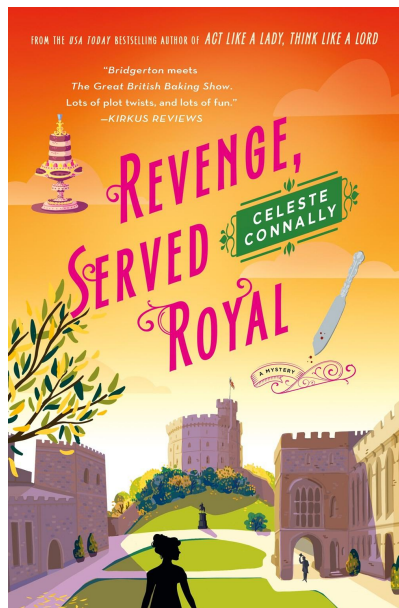
"Mesmerizing and unflinchingly dark...Wilding is a powerful new talent whose captivating characters will stay with readers long after they've finished the book."

–Rachel Kapelke-Dale, author of *The Ingenue*

"Fans of Lucy Foley and Ruth Ware won't want to miss this one." **–Nora Murphy, author of *The Favor***

"A very accomplished debut...I loved it." **–Harriet Tyce, bestselling author of *The Lies You Told***

"A mesmerising, moving story that is impossible to look away from." **–Gytha Lodge, bestselling author of *Little Sister***



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Wt

Revenge, Served Royal

A Mystery

Celeste Connally

Bridgerton meets Agatha Christie in this dazzling third installment to the captivating Regency-era Lady Petra Inquires mystery series.

Summary

September, 1815. Autumn is in the air as Lady Petra Forsyth and the most illustrious members of the ton descend upon Windsor Castle for a week of royal celebrations. Among the festivities is Queen Charlotte's inaugural patisserie contest in which Lady Petra's cook is one of the contestants, and Petra herself is serving as a judge.

Petra's happiness at tasting delicious treats only increases at finding her Aunt Ophelia, as well as Sir Rufus Pomeroy, England's most famous former royal chef-turned-cookbook author, in attendance. Sir Rufus is slated to present his best recipes to the Queen, and Petra will be granted an early viewing in the royal library.

Upon arrival, however, Petra encounters a frantic housemaid pointing to the body of a guest—and to a valet standing over the victim. What's more, the valet turns out to be Oliver Beecham, the ne'er-do-well brother of Petra's lady's maid. But as Oliver is hauled away to the dungeons, he professes his innocence, claiming the late guest recently argued with several aristocrats and boasted about hiding a potentially scandalous document within Windsor Castle.

In order to prove Oliver's innocence and find the incriminating document, Petra must use both her wits and her charm. Indeed, she will need to act like a lady, eat like a chef, and think like one of Her Majesty's best spies before a murderer turns the celebrations from sweet to royally deadly.

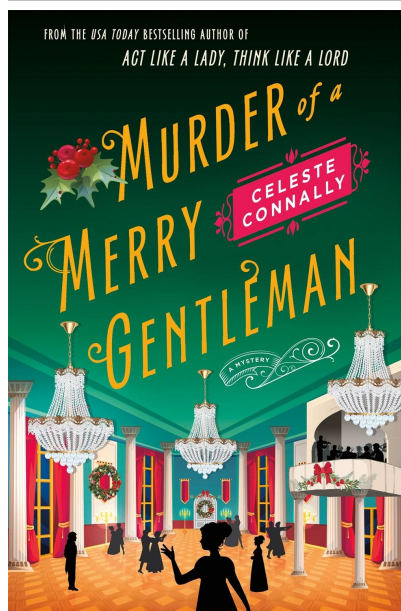
Contributor Bio

CELESTE CONNALLY is the *USA Today* bestselling author of the Lady Petra Inquires series, an Agatha Award nominee, and a former freelance writer and editor. Her mysteries are set in Regency-era England and feature a headstrong heroine and as many equestrian scenes as her plots and editor will allow. She delights in giving her books a good dose of romance and a few research facts she hopes you'll find as interesting as she does. Passionate about history and slightly obsessed with period dramas, what Celeste loves most is reading and writing about women who don't always do as they are told.

Quotes

"*Bridgerton* meets *The Great British Baking Show*. Lots of plot twists, and lots of fun."
—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Readers should pick this up and be ready for delicious treachery, lies, and scandal."
—*First Clue*



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Wt

Murder of a Merry Gentleman

A Mystery

Celeste Connally

Bridgerton meets Agatha Christie in this dazzling fourth installment to the captivating Regency-era Lady Petra Inquires mystery series.

Summary

London, December, 1815. It's Christmastime, and Lady Petra Forsyth is concentrating on behaving herself. Thus, she's volunteered to assist the Lady Patronesses of Almack's Assembly Rooms with a series of bachelor-auction dances in the fortnight leading up to Christmas Eve. Over five nights, the families of unmarried ladies will each bid for their daughter to be the evening's hostess and dance with the five eligible bachelors—called the Merry Gentlemen in a nod to the season.

However, after only the first evening, Petra discovers the dead body of one of the bachelors, splayed below the ballroom's balcony. The death is declared an accident, but when another bachelor's life is nearly ended a few days later, Petra fears something more sinister may be afoot. As tensions rise, the Patronesses ask Petra to investigate from within...by pretending to be one of the ladies vying for the bachelors' attentions. Indeed, it's enough to make an obstinate, headstrong girl scream.

As she begins to unravel the truth, all while pretending to flirt with the bachelors to keep her cover, Petra will need to act like a lady—a Lady Patroness, that is—think like an enterprising scientist, and use every lock pick and defensive move she has learned to ensure that her reputation—and her life—don't become the next target.

Contributor Bio

CELESTE CONNALLY is the *USA Today* bestselling author of the Lady Petra Inquires series. Her mysteries are set in Regency-era England and feature a headstrong heroine and as many equestrian scenes as her plots and editor will allow. She delights in giving her books a good dose of romance and a few facts she hopes you'll find as interesting as she does. Passionate about history and obsessed with period dramas, Celeste loves reading and writing about women who don't always do as they are told.

Quotes

"*Bridgerton* meets *The Great British Baking Show*. Lots of plot twists, and lots of fun."
—*Kirkus Reviews* on *Revenge, Served Royal*

"Readers should pick this up and be ready for delicious treachery, lies, and scandal."
—*First Clue* on *Revenge, Served Royal*

"Fast-paced, witty....For fans of headstrong women sleuths and readers of Deanna Raybourn and Kerry Greenwood." —*Library Journal* (starred review) on *Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Lord*



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Bad Company

A Novel

Sara Paretsky

International bestseller and groundbreaking icon Sara Paretsky returns with a brand new novel and character - proving once again that she's one of the pre-eminent authors in crime fiction and beyond.

Summary

To all appearances, Lily Sedako is an unexceptional retiree - a seventy-something single woman living in Chicago, her days filled with the routine tasks of normal life. But underneath that exterior, lies a remarkable past. A former CIA field agent, she spent her career in various Central Asian countries, but most notably in Hayalistan, a former USSR territory. But everything went sideways when Lily's connections to the mountain tribes resulted in her being moved to a new post and Rani, the tribal leader and first democratically elected President was removed, presumed killed, in a coup back in 2002.

All of this is long behind her when she receives an anonymous package containing a magazine with an article about Hayalistan - an article with a previously unknown photo showing Lily in the background. This was no mistake - someone out there is trying to expose Lily, after more than two decades, for reasons unknown.

Lily, however, is no one's pawn even now. Determined to find out who is behind this, how they obtained these forbidden photos, and what their goal is before she is a casualty in someone else's scheme.

Using hard won skills and personal connections from her former life, Lily is determined to unravel the machinations going on now and what really happened back in Hayalistan more than twenty years ago.

In a powerful novel about love, power, corruption, aging, trust...and revenge, *Bad Company* reaffirms Sara Paretsky place as one of the pre-eminent crime writers of our time.

Contributor Bio

Hailed by the Washington Post as "the definition of perfection in the genre," SARA PARETSKY is the New York Times bestselling author of numerous novels, including the renowned V.I. Warshawski series. She is one of only four living writers to have received both the Grand Master Award from the Mystery Writers of America and the Cartier Diamond Dagger from the Crime Writers Association of Great Britain. She lives in Chicago.

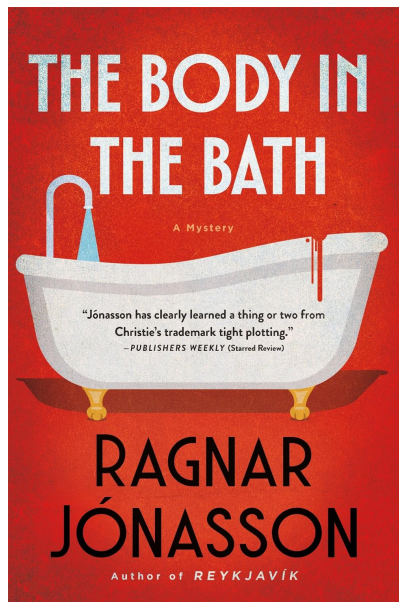
Quotes

"Sara Paretsky is a legend . . . If you haven't read her yet, now is the time." —Harlan Coben

"V.I. Warshawski is one of my all-time favorite investigators. Doesn't get any better than this!" —Lisa Gardner

"An author of matchless intelligence, craft, and power. This is why Sara Paretsky reigns as one of the all-time greats." —Karin Slaughter

"Paretsky's phenomenal gifts for significant and riveting stories, lacerating dialogue, rich psychology, and barbed humor reach tornadic force." —*Booklist* on *Pay Dirt* (starred review)



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Wt

The Body in the Bath

A Mystery

Ragnar Jónasson

From the author of *The Mysterious Case of The Missing Crime Writer* comes the next mystery featuring detective Helgi Reykdal.

Summary

When Bergþóra Úlfsdóttir, Helgi's ex-girlfriend, is found dead in her home just before Christmas, Helgi is brought onto the case—but this time, he's a suspect of her murder, given his complicated relationship with Bergþóra. The timing is suspicious: just before her own death, Bergþóra fatally hit Helgi's new girlfriend, Anita, with her car, ruining the future he'd hoped to build with her.

Meanwhile, Helgi has also been looking into the disappearance of Hulda Hermannsdóttir; the woman who'd held his office before him supposedly died of suicide but Helgi remains unconvinced. As he digs into this old case, it begins to seem as though Hulda's disappearance has more layers—layers that draw connections between Bergþóra's and Anita's deaths and Hulda's disappearance.

Contributor Bio

RAGNAR JÓNASSON is the award-winning Icelandic author of the international bestselling Hulda series, the Dark Iceland series, and standalone crime fiction, with five million copies sold across 36 territories. Ragnar was also an executive producer of the CBS Studios TV series *The Darkness*, based on the first novel in his Hulda series, starring Lena Olin and directed by Lasse Hallström. His novel *Outside* is being developed for the screen by Ridley Scott.

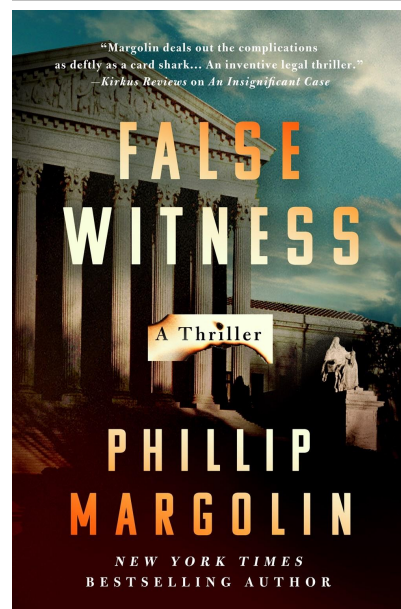
Quotes

Praise for *The Mysterious Case of the Missing Crime Writer*:

"Cleverly plotted, slyly humorous, and bursting with love for the golden age of detective fiction, this outperforms even its outstanding predecessor."—*Publishers Weekly* (Starred Review)

"A lightning-fast read for fans willing to keep turning the pages till the crucial clues drop."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Flashbacks are effectively used as a creative way to tell the backstory of the missing novelist. This Golden Age-style mystery is a definite departure from Jónasson's 'Dark Iceland' series, which was set in an atmospheric small town in Iceland."—*Library Journal*



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False Witness

A Novel

Phillip Margolin

A lawyer who was set-up, imprisoned, and disbarred, only to be vindicated and reinstated, is determined to find out who set her up and cover their tracks with a trail of dead bodies

Summary

Defense Attorney Karen Wyatt exposed corruption in the police force and the District Attorney's office while getting her client exonerated in court. But in doing so, she put a target on her back and she was set-up on fake drug charge, imprisoned and disbarred until the conspiracy unraveled and her innocence was proven. Now reinstated to the bar, Wyatt is still interested in finding out who ordered her to be set-up - but the key figures were either killed or are in Witness Protection.

In the meantime, Wyatt is a practicing defense attorney, whose current client is either guilty of a heinous murder, or is a too-trusting patsy for an acquaintance set-up for a crime he didn't commit. It will take all of Wyatt's genius to defend her client successfully but that's just one piece of an increasingly complex puzzle.

With a deadly criminal drug gang, a powerful, corrupt figure hiding in the D.A.'s office, and a Congressman who turned up with an unbelievable story after disappearing for days, *Traitor* is twisty, breathtaking, and unpredictable thriller.

Contributor Bio

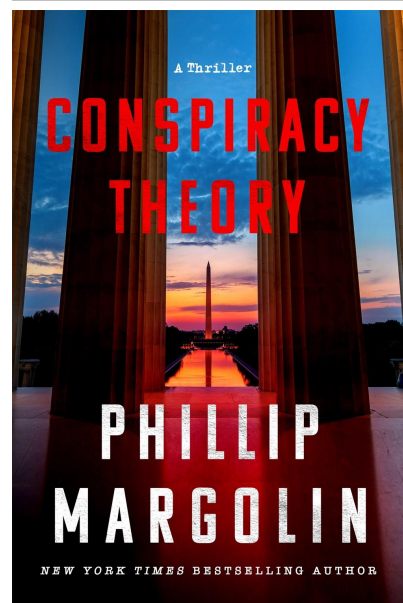
PHILLIP MARGOLIN is the author of over twenty-five novels, many of them *New York Times* bestsellers, including *Gone But Not Forgotten* and *The Third Victim*. Margolin was also a prominent criminal defense attorney for many years. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

Quotes

"A breath of fresh air: an exciting new lead character, an exciting mystery full of false leads and abrupt shifts in direction, and plenty of suspense." —*Booklist* on *False Witness*

"Margolin deals out the complications as deftly as a card shark...An inventive legal thriller." —*Kirkus Reviews* on *An Insignificant Case*

"Margolin is a talented storyteller. He's got a silky, deceptively simple style that snakes back around when you least expect it and grabs you." —*New York Journal of Books* on *Violent Crimes*



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9.3 in H | 6.1 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb
 Wt

Conspiracy Theory

A Thriller

Phillip Margolin

Searching for a plot for his next legal thriller, D.C. area lawyer and novelist Michael Harris stumbles across a conspiracy theory that may have put his own life at risk.

Summary

Five years ago, Gloria Hale, the President's wife, was assassinated by a lone gunman, who was himself killed in a shoot out with a security guard while trying to escape. At the same time and hotel, a young lawyer, Marsha Hart, disappears in the chaos after the shooting, only to have her murdered body turn up a few days later, her murder never solved.

Michael Harris is a D. C. area lawyer with a second career as a novelist, but after a very successful debut, his subsequent legal thrillers have been less and less successful. With one more book due under his contract and desperate to revive his flagging career, Harris is stumbles across the voluminous research done by a recently deceased former Secret Service agent obsessed with proving that the First Lady's assassination was a conspiracy. Thinking he might be able to turn one of these wildly unlikely theories into his next book, Harris begins to look into the matter. He doesn't turn up anything but his inquiries might have set something into motion - leading to another murder, a fire destroying the original evidence, and an attempt assault of Harris himself. This might be a coincidence or Harris may well be the next target in an increasingly deadly conspiracy.

Contributor Bio

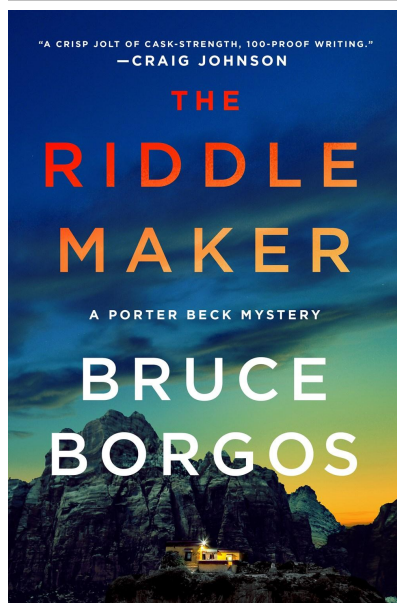
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The Riddle Maker

A Porter Beck Mystery

Bruce Borgos

In the latest in this *USA Today* bestselling series, Nevada sheriff Porter Beck receives an anonymous riddle leading him to a body hidden for decades, leading Beck and his team in a chase to unravel riddles that will help them uncover and stop a long-time serial killer.

Summary

Porter Beck is the sheriff of Lincoln County, Nevada, which is mostly desert and mountains, large in area and low in population, largely known to the outside world for containing Area 51. It is there, in the Black Mailbox near Area 51, that a communique for Beck himself is found. It's a riddle that, once deciphered, leads Beck and his team, as well as Las Vegas PD, to Lake Mead where, in its ever-shallowing waters is found an old oil drum chained to the bottom of the lake. Inside are human remains, which prove to be Beck's maternal grandfather, missing since the 1970s.

The case brings out an FBI profiler who believes this riddle ties to a previous case, the disappearance of her own brother seventeen years earlier, and a riddle she received that she could never decipher.

Now convinced they are on the trail of a serial killer - someone who sends riddle after riddle, sending Beck and his team from the deserts of Nevada to the mountains of Arizona, and ultimately to eastern Utah in order to uncover and stop a killer from a last, brutal murder.

Contributor Bio

BRUCE BORGOS is the author of The Porter Beck Mystery series and two other novels. He lives in the Mohave Desert with Pam, his wife of 40 years, and their golden retriever, Charlie Blue Horse. He has a lifelong obsession with words and stories and a fascination with how anyone can prefer white wine over red.

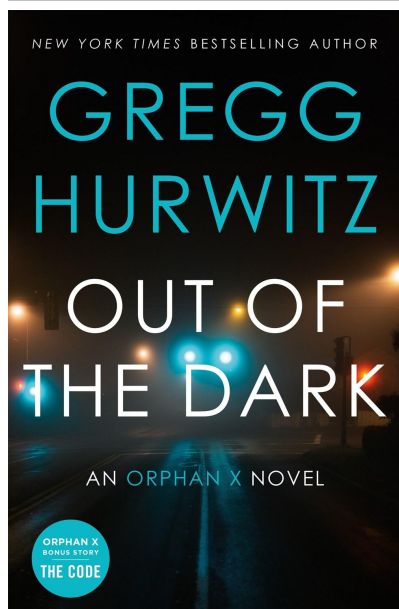
Quotes

Praise for the Porter Beck novels

"Borgos has the rare ability to weave both a riveting, unpredictable tale and make the setting - the wild, scorching Nevada desert - and characters leap off the page." ?I.S. Berry, on *The Blue Horse*

"A crisp jolt of cask-strength, 100-proof writing." ?Craig Johnson on *The Bitter Past*

"Borgos is here to stay in the thrillerverse with awesome stories that vividly capture life in a desert town with cool new scenarios and dangerous threats to keep the good guys and gals busy with action and suspense...fast-paced, twisty, and highly entertaining." ?*Best Thriller Books* on *Shades of Mercy*



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Wt

Out of the Dark

An Orphan X Novel

Gregg Hurwitz

Evan Smoak, Orphan X, takes on his biggest challenge and his most unlikely, and probably impossible target in the *New York Times* bestseller, now in trade paperback

Summary

Evan Smoak was once an infamous assassin known only as Orphan X. After he broke with the Orphan program, he went deep underground to start a new life. But now someone from his past is after him. The order has come down from the very highest level of government to eliminate every trace of the Orphan Program by killing all the remaining Orphans and their trainers. After Jack Johns, Evan's mentor and the only father he ever knew, was killed, Evan decided that the time had come to strike back. His target is the man who started the Program and who is now the most heavily guarded person in the world: the President of the United States.

But President Bennett knows that Orphan X is after him and, using weapons of his own, he's decided to counter-attack. Bennett activates the one man who has the skills and experience to track down and take out Orphan X—the first recruit of the Program, Orphan A. With Evan devoting all his skills, resources, and intelligence to find a way through the layers of security that surround the President, suddenly he also has to protect himself against the deadliest of opponents. It's Orphan vs. Orphan with the future of the country—even the world—on the line.

Contributor Bio

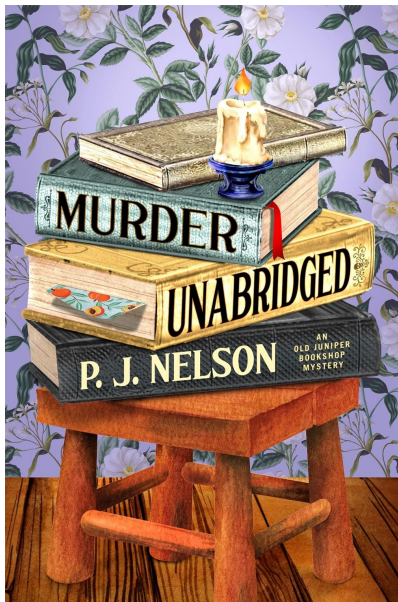
GREGG HURWITZ is the *New York Times* bestselling author of thrillers, including *Hellbent*. Critically acclaimed, his novels have graced top ten lists and have been published in 22 languages. He is also a *New York Times* bestselling comic book writer, having penned stories for Marvel and DC. Additionally, he's written screenplays for or sold spec scripts to many of the major studios, and written, developed, and produced television for various networks. Gregg resides in Los Angeles.

Quotes

"Chases, hand-to-hand combat, and gunfights make the short chapters speed by like automatic gunfire. Hurwitz is at the top of this game in this gritty thriller." —*Publishers Weekly*, Starred Review

"Nobody walks the line between blistering action and searing character development better than Hurwitz. And that combination, more than anything, makes "Out of the Dark" a book you'll savor well into the night." —*Providence Journal*

"A complicated, swift-paced plot involving numerous twists plus a surprise ending—the essentials that make up a great thriller...Plan to stay up all night reading this one." —*Library Journal*, Starred Review



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Murder Unabridged

An Old Juniper Bookshop Mystery

P. J. Nelson

The Old Juniper Bookstore is the scene for an unexpected mystery when a late night visitor confesses to a long-ago unsolved murder, then turns up dead by morning.

Summary

Madeline Brimley is still getting used to running The Old Juniper Bookstore in Enigma, Georgia. When she inherited it from her aunt, it came at an opportune time. Madeline's acting career had slowed down to the point that it was exhibiting no signs of life so returning home to the small Georgia college town of Enigma actually sounded like a good idea. And, except for a murder, arson, and a long-dead body found in the front garden, it's actually turned out well. But when an old man, claiming to be a distant relative named Trilby, shows up in the middle of the night, then confesses to an unremembered murder that happened in the Victorian house that is now The Old Juniper Bookstore, Madeline is...to put it mildly...poleaxed. Given the inclement weather and time of night, Madeline puts him up for the night, hoping to turn him over to the local police in the morning. A plan that goes wrong when, next morning, Trilby is found to have died overnight. And not of natural causes - he was poisoned. Now the bookstore is a crime scene and Madeline a possible suspect.

Now Madeline has both an old and a new mystery to solve is she is to clear her own name before she finds herself taking the fall for this unusual and unexpected death.

Contributor Bio

PJ NELSON is the pseudonym of an award-winning actor, dramatist, professor, and novelist (among other many other professions) who has done just about everything except run a bookstore. He lives in Decatur, Georgia.

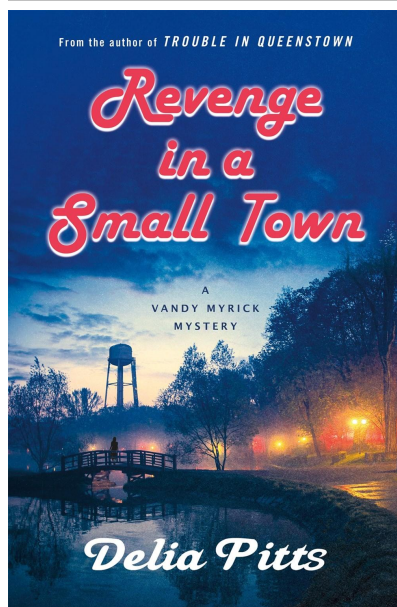
Quotes

Praise for *Booked for Murder*

"A wonderfully rich narrative that ricochets between the past and the present, reminding us just how complex life can be." —*firstCLUE*

"Atmospheric... will appeal to readers who enjoy Southern or bookstore settings, quirky characters, and beautiful, descriptive writing." ?*Library Journal* (starred)

"An intelligent blend of Dixie cozy and Southern noir, the author delivers the unexpected." ?*Richmond Times Dispatch*



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Wt

Revenge in a Small Town

A Vandy Myrick Mystery

Delia Pitts

Award-winning private investigator Vandy Myrick returns in Delia Pitts's *Revenge in a Small Town*, where Vandy must solve a case in the past to find out what killed someone in the present.

Summary

As the only Black woman private investigator in Queenstown, New Jersey, Vandy Myrick knows she can't be choosy when it comes to new cases. She's still building her business after returning to her hometown to start over after losing her daughter. When it comes to Q-Town, Vandy never knows who might hire her.

The Bartlett twins want Vandy to save their mother. Merna Bartlett has been bedridden for decades, after falling down the stairs in the mansion where she worked as a maid for Q-Town's most powerful family. But recently, Merna's talking about stories she could tell and scores she could settle—and the twins are worried she will be murdered to end her revenge campaign. Though Vandy isn't a bodyguard and she's never going to make money on this case, she wants to ease their minds.

But when she shows up for her first day on the job to discover Merna has died, Vandy's case blows apart. The Bartlett twins believe Merna was killed because of a forty-year old mystery. They want Vandy to uncover what happened to their mother both now and four decades ago.

Contributor Bio

DELIA PITTS worked as a journalist before earning a Ph.D. in history from the University of Chicago. After careers as a U.S. diplomat and university administrator, she left academia to write fiction. Delia is the author of the Vandy Myrick mysteries, featuring a Black private investigator in New Jersey. She won the Shamus award for best private investigator novel and was an Anthony award finalist. She is also the author of the Ross Agency mysteries and several short stories. She's a member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, and Crime Writers of Color. Learn more about Delia at www.deliapitts.com.

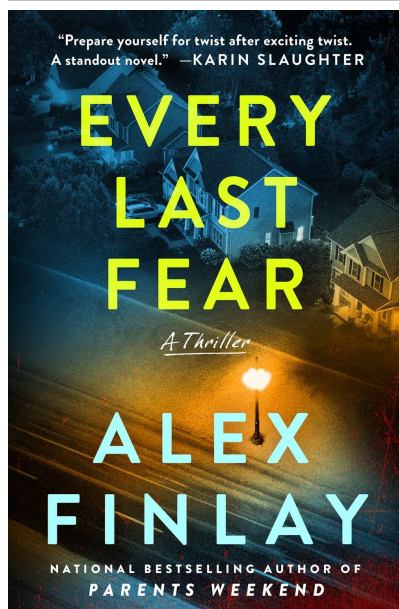
Quotes

Praise for the Shamus Award Winning Vandy Myrick Mysteries

"*Trouble in Queenstown* starts at a simmer, but when Vandy's investigation gets going, it reaches a full boil." —*The New York Times Book Review*

"[Vandy Myrick] is a perfect fit for her new career as a private eye." —*The Washington Post*

"Pitts's prose strikes a sophisticated balance between elegance and energy." —*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*



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Wt

Every Last Fear

A Thriller

Alex Finlay

In his debut psychological thriller, Alex Finlay expertly pulls readers through the Pine family's last days, leaving their surviving son, Matt, to face his *Every Last Fear*.

Summary

After a late night out, NYU student Matt Pine returns to his dorm room to devastating news: nearly his entire family—his mom, his dad, his little brother and sister—have been found dead from an apparent gas leak while vacationing in Tulum, Mexico. The local police say it was an accident, but the FBI and State Department seem less certain—and they won't tell Matt why.

The tragedy makes headlines everywhere, not only because of the senseless nature of it, but also because this isn't the first time the Pine family has been pierced by the media spotlight. Matt's older brother, Danny—currently in prison for the murder of his teenage girlfriend Charlotte—had been the subject of a viral true crime documentary suggesting that Danny is innocent of the crime. Though the country has rallied behind Danny, Matt has a secret he's never told anyone: the night Charlotte was killed Matt saw something that makes him believe his brother is indeed guilty of the crime.

Soon, Matt is in Mexico where the crime scene photos suggest that his family's death was no accident. And when he returns to his small hometown to bury his parents and siblings—and look deeper into the mystery of their final days—Matt is faced with a hostile community that was villainized by the documentary, a frenzied media, and forces that want to keep the truth buried.

Contributor Bio

ALEX FINLAY is the bestselling author of several critically acclaimed novels, including the 2024 national bestseller, *If Something Happens to Me*. His work regularly appears on best-of-the-year lists and has been translated into twenty-five languages and sold around the world. Nearly all of Alex's books have been optioned or are in development for film and television. *Parents Weekend*, has already been scooped up by Hollywood for adaption to the screen. Alex lives in Washington, D.C. and Virginia.

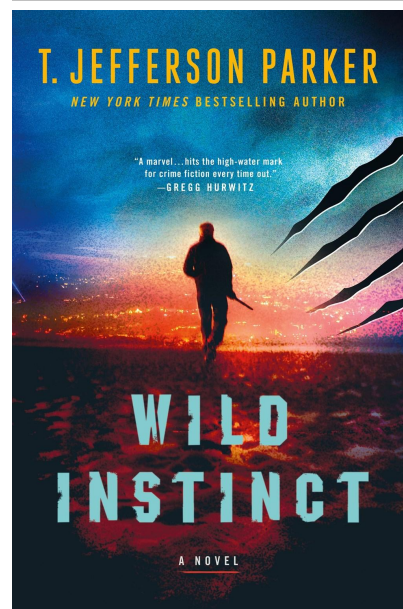
Quotes

"High-energy . . . Finlay expands the puzzle and ratchets up the action."—*New York Times*

"This debut is gripping from the first bone-chilling line until the final page."—*Newsweek*

"This delicious debut is a must-read for those who mainline true crime."—*E! Online*

"Fans of psychological thrillers will be anxious for this page-turner."—*CNN*



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Wild Instinct

A Novel

T. Jefferson Parker

The instant **USA Today** bestseller by an Edgar Award winning and **New York Times** bestselling author ("A marvel...hits the high-water mark for crime fiction every time out."—Gregg Hurwitz)

Summary

The hunt for the truth is the deadliest game.

Former Marine sniper Lew Gale, now a detective with the Orange County California Sheriff's Department, is assigned to track and shoot a mountain lion that has killed a man in the rugged country east of Laguna Beach, California. The victim is Bennet Tarlow, a rich developer and man-about-town in upscale coastal Orange County.

The investigation takes a chilling turn when Lew and his new partner, Daniela Mendez, discover that Bennet was dead long before the lion got to him. And while he might have been the first to die, he certainly will not be the last.

Contributor Bio

T. JEFFERSON PARKER is the author of numerous novels and short stories, the winner of three Edgar Awards (for *Silent Joe*, *California Girl*, and the short story "Skinhead Central"), and the recipient of a Los Angeles Times Book Prize for best mystery (*Silent Joe*). Before becoming a full-time novelist, he was an award-winning reporter. He lives in Fallbrook, California.

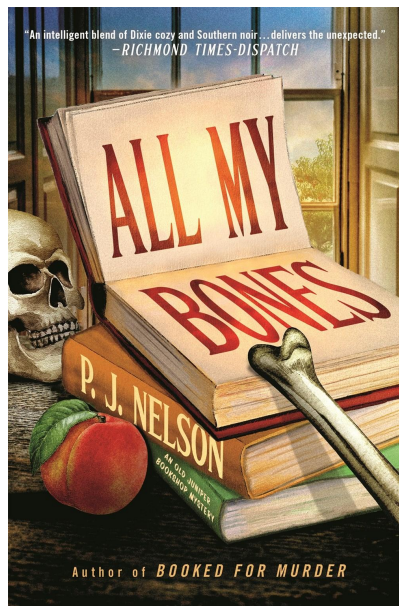
Quotes

"Parker is no slouch at plotting, but he particularly excels at creating flawed but sympathetic characters who are doing their best in a complex world." —**Library Journal (starred review)**

"With effective surprises, memorable characters, and simmering SoCal atmosphere, this goes down smooth." —**Publishers Weekly**

"The novel is a potent mixture of plot and character...it's a gift to his many fans. Expect high demand for this title." —**Booklist**

"Outstanding in every respect." —**LA Times**



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Wt

All My Bones

An Old Juniper Bookshop Mystery

P. J. Nelson

Madeline Brimley, new owner of a bookstore in a small Georgia town, finds herself playing sleuth when a friend is charged with the murder of a much-disliked woman.

Summary

Madeline Brimley recently inherited a bookstore in Enigma, Georgia, is embarking on her second career, after her first one (acting) founders upon the metaphorical rocks. Settling in, Madeline recruits her friend Gloria Coleman, the local Episcopal priest, to help her plant azaleas in the front yard of the old Victorian that houses the bookstore. Turning the soil, however, uncovers the body of one Beatrice Glassie, a troublesome woman who has been missing for the past six months.

When her friend Gloria is arrested for the murder, Madeline is determined to prove her innocence and, as she quickly finds out, there aren't many people in town who hadn't wanted to kill Bea Glassie at one point or another. And the very expensive and rare first edition of a particular volume of Grimm's Fairy Tales—ordered by the victim and her sister is somehow tied to the grim death. With the help of her not-quite-boyfriend, a local lawman, and her deceased aunt's bestfriend, Madeline plans to set a trap to catch the real murderer—before she becomes the next victim.

Contributor Bio

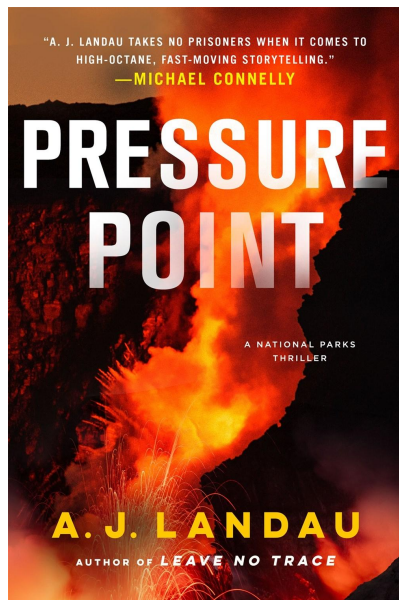
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"An intelligent blend of Dixie cozy and Southern noir, the author delivers the unexpected." ?*Richmond Times Dispatch* on *Booked for Murder*



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Pressure Point

A National Parks Thriller

A. J. Landau, Jeff Ayers, Jon Lindstrom

An unexpected volcanic eruption at Crater Lake, the dramatic death of a wanted international munitions dealer at Volcanoes National Park, and a century old, previously undiscovered murder are all part of Special Agent Michael Walker's deadliest case.

Summary

Special Agent Michael Walker is called in to investigate the most significant crimes and situations related to the U.S. National Parks. So he is the first one on site when facial recognition software notes the presence of a wanted international fugitive, an international arms dealer, at Hawaii's Volcanoes National Park. When the arms dealer - and the C4 he's carrying - falls to his death in one of those volcanos, Walker thinks the case is over. He couldn't be more wrong.

From there he is called to investigate a just uncovered century-old murder victim, one who might well be noted naturalist John Muir. And that long-ago murder is somehow linked to the conspiracy behind the arms dealer, a massive, unexpected volcanic eruption at Crater Lake National Park, and a range of volcanic activity at other National Parks. With time quickly running out, Walker has to sort out the unlikely connection between a centuries old murder and the deadly conspiracy that threatens thousands of lives.

Contributor Bio

A. J. LANDAU is the pseudonym for two authors. Jeff Ayers, reviewer, former-librarian, and author and Jon R. Lindstrom, Emmy-nominated actor, filmmaker and best-selling crime-fiction author. Ayers lives in Seattle, Washington and Lindstrom divides his time between Los Angeles and New York.

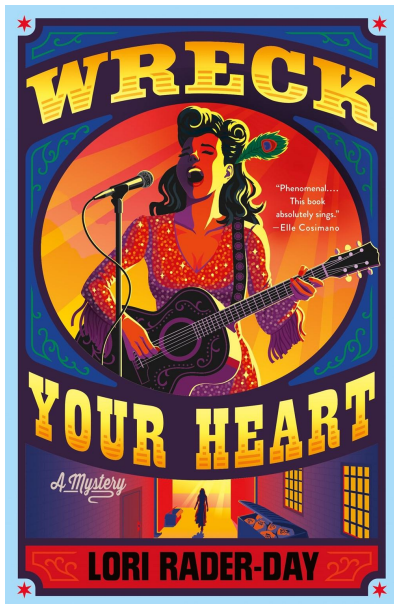
Quotes

Praise for *Cold Burn*

"A white-knuckled thrill ride driven by a bullet train of a plot, *Cold Burn* is hands down the best thriller of the year." —*L.A. Tribune*

"From the very first page, *Cold Burn* accelerates like a Cybertruck and never slows down. A wild and entertaining ride!" —C.J. Box, #1 NYT Bestselling Author of *Three-Inch Teeth*

"AJ Landau knows how to keep the pages turning. A gripping read." —Harlan Coben, #1 NYT Bestselling Author of *Think Twice*



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Wt

Wreck Your Heart

A Mystery

Lori Rader-Day

From award-winning author Lori Rader-Day, *Wreck Your Heart* is an engaging crime novel, about a country and *midwestern* singer out to catch her big break before family—or murder—wrecks everything.

Summary

Dahlia “Doll” Devine had the kind of hardscrabble beginning that could launch a thousand broken-hearted country songs. Now she’s the star of her own stage at McPhee’s Tavern. As part of Chicago’s—yes Chicago’s—country music scene, Dahlia is an up-and-coming singer in spangles and boots of classic country tunes. That is, until her boyfriend up and *went*, taking the rent money with him.

Dahlia is back to square one, relying on Alex McPhee—*again*. Alex helped her out of a bad situation when she was a kid living rough with her mother. Now he’s part landlord, part band booster, all-around rescuer. Dahlia just wishes she didn’t keep giving him reasons to have to do it.

Just as Dahlia suspects she’s scraped rock bottom, the mother she hasn’t spoken to in twenty years shows up. The next morning, a distraught young woman arrives at the bar, asking after her missing mother—*Dahlia’s* mother, too, even if the missing suburban mom the girl describes sounds different from the one who let Dahlia down all those years ago.

Though no one is using the word *sister* anytime soon, Dahlia is drawn into reuniting the family that might’ve been hers. But when a body is discovered outside McPhee’s Tavern, the crime threatens not just the place Dahlia has made into a home, but everything she’s believed about her past, her dreams for the future, and the people she was, maybe, beginning to let into her heart.

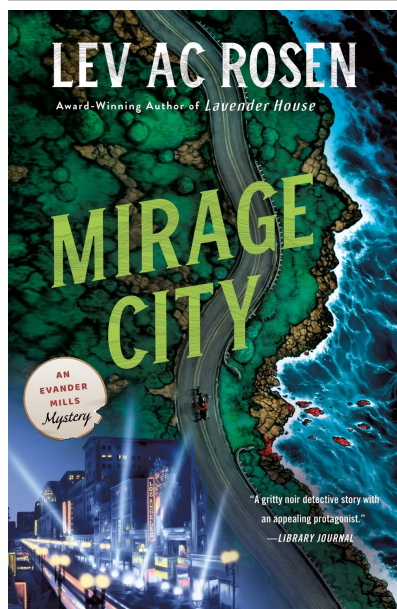
Contributor Bio

LORI RADER-DAY is the Edgar Award-nominated and Agatha, Anthony, and Mary Higgins Clark Award-winning author of *The Death of Us*, *Death at Greenway*, *The Lucky One*, *Under a Dark Sky*, and others. Lori cochairs the crime fiction readers’ event Midwest Mystery Conference and teaches creative writing at Northwestern University. She lives in Chicago with her husband, Greg, and their dog, Clementine.

Quotes

"Lori Rader-Day’s writing is phenomenal. Dahlia Devine has a voice so unique, clear, and strong, she’ll break your heart. This book absolutely sings."--Elle Cosimano

"Wise-cracking and wonderful, Philip Marlowe meets VI Warshawski. A love letter to country music and to Chicago, but very much more than that. Nobody does strong women better than Rader-Day." –Ann Cleeves



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Mirage City

An Evander Mills Mystery

Lev AC Rosen

Lev AC Rosen delivers a new and captivating 1950s mystery in this dazzling, award-winning series

Summary

Winner of the 2026 Joseph Hansen Award for LGBTQ+ Crime Writing

Private Investigator Evander “Andy” Mills’ next case takes him out of his comfort zone in San Francisco—and much to his dismay, back home to Los Angeles. After a secretive queer rights organization called the Mattachine Society enlists Andy to find some missing members, he must dodge not only motorcycle gangs and mysterious forces, but his own mother, too.

Avoiding her proves to be a challenge when the case leads Andy to the psychiatric clinic she works at. Worlds collide, buried secrets are dug up, and Andy realizes he's going to have to make some hard choices. With secrets, drugs, and doctors swirling around him, time is running out for Andy to locate the missing and get them to safety. And for him to make it back to San Francisco in one piece.

Contributor Bio

LEV AC ROSEN writes books for people of all ages, including the Evander Mills series. His most recent young adult novels include *Emmett*, *Lion’s Legacy*, and *Camp*. Rosen’s books have been nominated for Anthony and Lambda Awards and have been selected for best-of lists from the *Today* show, *Amazon*, *Library Journal*, *BuzzFeed*, *Autostraddle*, *Forbes*, and many others. He lives in NYC with his husband and a very small cat.

Quotes

"If you are in the mood for a throwback to mystery writers like Dashiell Hammett, take a look at Rosen's 1950s noir series." —**BookPage**

"[A] well-built procedural with fascinating tidbits of queer history... This series deserves a long life." —**Publishers Weekly (starred review)**

"As with earlier series entries, character development and worldbuilding take center stage... a gritty noir detective story with an appealing protagonist." —**Library Journal**