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The Dark Wives

Ann Cleeves

As *New York Times* bestseller Ann Cleeves's beloved Vera series thrives in print and on TV, this stunning eleventh book explores the secrets a community can keep, as DI Vera Stanhope investigates.

Summary

The man's body is found in the early morning light by a local dog walker in the park outside Rosebank, a care home for troubled teens on the outskirts of Newcastle. The victim is Josh, a staff member, who was due to work the previous night but never showed up.

DI Vera Stanhope is called out to investigate the death, with her only clue being the disappearance of one of the home's residents, fourteen year old Chloe Spence. Vera can't bring herself to believe that a teenager is responsible for the murder, but even she can't dismiss the possibility.

Vera, Joe and new team member Rosie Mills, are soon embroiled in the case, and when a second connected body is found near the Three Dark Wives monument in the wilds of the Northumberland countryside, superstition and folklore begin to collide with fact. Vera knows she has to find Chloe to get to the truth, and the dark secrets in their community that may be far more dangerous than she could have ever believed possible.

Contributor Bio

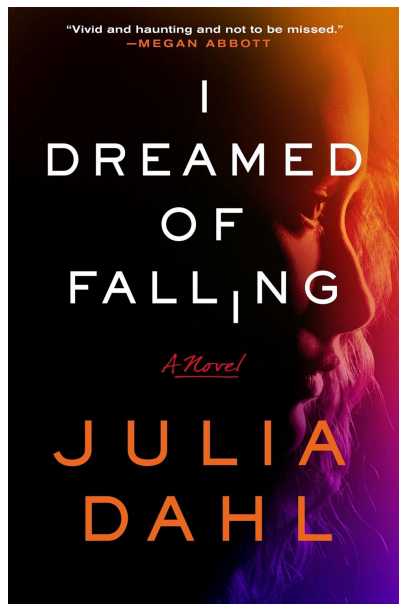
ANN CLEEVES is the multi-million copy bestselling author behind three hit television series—*Shetland*, starring Douglas Henshall, *Vera*, starring Academy Award Nominee Brenda Blethyn, and *The Long Call*, starring Ben Aldridge. The first *Shetland* novel, *Raven Black*, won the Crime Writers' Association 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

"This is the work of a pro—a diverting, solidly crafted mystery that's guaranteed to entertain."—*New York Times Book Review* on *The Rising Tide*

"Vera . . . roots her way to the truth with the charm of a next-door neighbor and the steely resolve of an army general."—*The Wall Street Journal* on *The Rising Tide*

"Vera Stanhope is one of the literary world's most realistic detectives . . . This just might be my favorite Vera book, at least thus far."—*Free-Lance Star* on *The Rising Tide*



Minotaur Books
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FIC030000

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I Dreamed of Falling

A Novel

Julia Dahl

In acclaimed author Julia Dahl's new standalone, the death of a young mother triggers an avalanche of secrets in a small Hudson Valley town.

Summary

Roman Grady is the sole reporter for the local newspaper in a tiny Hudson Valley town - a town so small that every store opening and DUI is considered newsworthy. But when Roman's longtime girlfriend, Ashley, the mother of his four-year-old son, is found dead, he realizes he had no idea what was really going on in her life.

And when he starts asking questions, he's not prepared for the answers.

What was Ashley doing at the cliffside home of her troubled ex-girlfriend? How did no one in a house full of people see what happened to her? And why does it seem like everyone in town suddenly has something to hide? As Roman and his mother dig into Ashley's last few months, the truths they uncover threaten to expose painful secrets. The kind of secrets that can get you killed.

A gripping thriller and a moving portrait of a family struggling through tragedy, *I Dreamed of Falling* showcases Julia Dahl's talent for using crime fiction to tell an immersive and unforgettable story. Dahl's unflinching novel asks hard questions about love, regret, inequality, and the possibilities and the perils of forgiveness.

Contributor Bio

JULIA DAHL is the author of *The Missing Hours*, *Conviction*, *Run You Down*, and *Invisible City*, which was a finalist for the Edgar Award for Best First Novel, one of the *Boston Globe's* Best Books of 2014, and has been translated into eight languages. A former reporter for CBS News and the *New York Post*, she now teaches journalism at NYU.

Quotes

Praise for *I Dreamed of Falling*

"With this suspenseful, poignant book, Julia Dahl delivers not only an intricately crafted thriller, but also a profound portrayal of generations of life in the Hudson Valley, and of the making and unmaking of family. Its characters will stay with you for long after you're done reading." -Clemence Michallon, internationally bestselling author of *The Quiet Tenant*

Praise for *The Missing Hours*

"An adventure thriller . . . a great reckoning with the moment we find ourselves in."
-*The New York Times Book Review*

"A smart, thoughtful, and gripping book. You'll find it hard to put this novel down."
-Oxygen

"A provocative and timely standalone novel." —*South Florida Sun Sentinel*



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Death at the Sanatorium

Ragnar Jónasson

Fresh off his career-changing standalone co-written with Icelandic PM, *Reykjavík*, #1 Icelandic bestseller Jonasson presents a new thriller spinoff of *The Darkness*, soon to be a TV series.

Summary

1983: At a former sanatorium in the north of Iceland, now a hospital ward, an old nurse, Yrsa, is found murdered. Detective Hulda Hermannsdottir and her boss, Sverrir, are sent to investigate her death. There, they discover five suspects: the chief physician, two junior nurses, a young doctor, and the caretaker, who is arrested following false testimony from one of the nurses, but subsequently released.

Less than a week after the murder, the chief physician, is also found dead, having apparently fallen from a balcony. Sverrir, rules his death as suicide and assumes that he was guilty of the murder as well. The case is closed.

2012: Almost thirty years later, Helgi Reykdal, a young police officer, has been studying criminology in the UK, but decides to return to Iceland when he is offered a job at the Reykjavik police department—the job which detective Hulda Hermannsdottir is about to retire from.

He is also a collector of golden age detective stories, and is writing his thesis on the 1983 murders in the north. As Helgi delves deeper into the past, and starts his new job, he decides to try to meet with the original suspects. But soon he finds silence and suspicion at every turn, as he tries to finally solve the mystery from years before.

Contributor Bio

RAGNAR JONASSON is an international award winning author, with over four million books sold in 36 territories. His books have been #1 bestsellers in Germany and France, as well as on Amazon Kindle in the UK, Canada, and Australia. In 2021 he became the first Icelandic author to enter the *Sunday Times* and *Wall Street Journal* bestseller lists. The Dark Iceland series and the Hulda series are being developed for television by CBS Studios/Stampede and Warner Bros. respectively.

Quotes

"A slow-burning, spellbinding whodunit. Agatha Christie, to whom it's dedicated, would be proud."—*Kirkus Reviews* (Starred Review)

"Jónasson has clearly learned a thing or two from Christie's trademark tight plotting and penetrating characterizations, and Jakobsdóttir's insider knowledge of Iceland's halls of power lend the proceedings an air of authenticity. Fans of Jo Nesbø's Harry Hole series will be rapt."—*Publishers Weekly* (Starred Review)

"*Reykjavik* . . . qualifies as a breakout: seamlessly plotted, with terrific characters and plenty of surprising, earned twists."—*The New York Times*

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Death by Misadventure

A Lady Emily Mystery

Tasha Alexander

In the latest installment of Tasha Alexander's *New York Times* bestselling series, Lady Emily must solve a string of high stakes "accidents" while trapped in a lavish villa in the Bavarian Alps.

Summary

In the winter of 1906, Lady Emily and husband Colin are invited to the opulent home of Baroness Ursula von Duchtel in the Bavarian alps. Outside is a mountainous winter wonderland with a view of Mad King Ludwig's fairy tale castle. Inside, the villa hosts a magnificent but eclectic art collection---as well as an equally eclectic collection of fellow guests, among them a musician, an art dealer, a coquette from the demi-monde, and Kaspar, the Baroness' boorish son-in-law, whom, it begins to appear, someone wants dead.

Almost forty years earlier, Niels, a young German lord, sings to himself in the forest surrounding those same alps, capturing the attention of a not-yet-mad King Ludwig. Niels and the king become fast friends, their relationship deepening into something more as their time together stretches on. But while King Ludwig is content to live out a fantasy where their responsibilities don't matter and the outside world doesn't affect them, Niels knows that their bliss cannot last forever...

Decades later, Emily continues to investigate Kaspar's increasingly lethal "mishaps" when tragedy strikes, ensnaring the guests in a web of fear and suspicion. It's up to Emily to sift through old secrets and motivations, some stretching far into the past, to unmask the killer.

Contributor Bio

TASHA ALEXANDER, the daughter of two philosophy professors, 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:

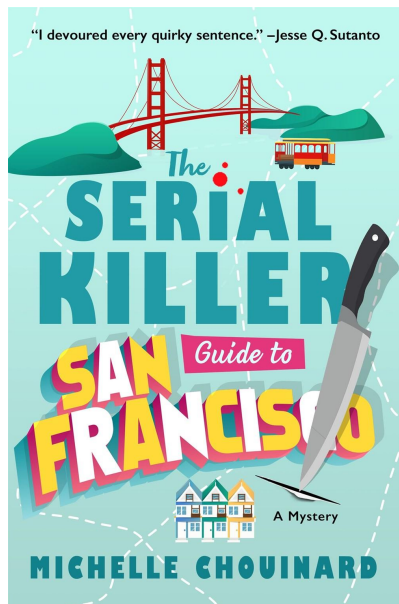
"As is always the case with the Lady Emily series, there is suspense galore, a colorful cast of characters, spot on period research and whimsical humor throughout."

—**Bookpage, starred review on *A Cold Highland Wind***

"Surprising, with a twist readers won't see coming. Alexander consistently entertains."

—**Publishers Weekly on *Secrets of the Nile***

"A complex, exciting mystery." —**Kirkus Reivews on *The Dark Heart of Florence***



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Wt

The Serial Killer Guide to San Francisco

A Novel

Michelle Chouinard

In Michelle Chouinard's clever mystery *The Serial Killer Guide to San Francisco*, the granddaughter of a serial killer shows readers another side of the beloved city.

Summary

The chill of a San Francisco summer can be deadly. No one knows this better than Capri Sanzio, who makes her living giving serial killer tours of the city. Capri has been interested in the topic since she was a kid, when she discovered she's the granddaughter of serial killer William 'Overkill Bill' Sanzio. She's always believed in his innocence, though she's never taken the leap to fully dive into the case.

But now an Overkill Bill copycat has struck in San Francisco. And Capri's former mother-in-law, Sylvia, just cut off Capri's daughter's tuition payments. Needing cash, Capri wonders if this is the time to exonerate her grandfather. The case is back in the news and the police will be looking to understand the past to catch a present-day killer. Capri could finally uncover the truth about Overkill Bill—documenting the process with a podcast and a book—and hopefully earn some money.

Before Capri can get very far, the cops discover the copycat's latest victim: Sylvia. Capri soon finds herself at the heart of the police's investigation for an entirely different reason. She and her daughter are prime suspects.

Contributor Bio

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

Quotes

Advance Praise for *The Serial Killer Guide to San Francisco*

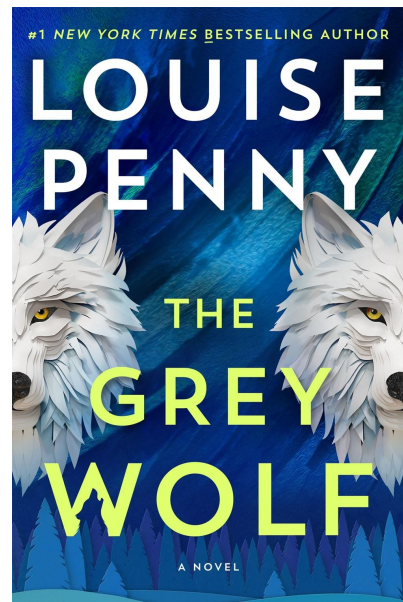
"I could practically feel the heavy San Francisco fog as I was reading . . . I was glued to the pages!" —Alicia Thompson, author of *Love in the Time of Serial Killers*

"Quirky situation, colorful characters, a San Francisco that comes alive on the page—if I didn't live nearby already, Michelle Chouinard would make me want to move here!" —Laurie R. King, author of *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*

"Both chilling and yet wholesome. I was drawn into the glamorous, mysterious world and could not keep myself from turning the pages and racing to the end. I devoured every quirky sentence." —Jesse Q. Sutanto, author of *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers*

"Only *Murders in the Building* meets *Vertigo* meets *Gilmore Girls*. . . Chouinard's delightful series opener has the low-down on high society, a pretzel of a plot, and an admirably light touch with darkness. Brava!" —Catriona McPherson, author of the Last Ditch Motel mysteries

"Prepare to be enthralled . . . A spine-tingling novel that will keep you up all night!" —Michelle Gagnon, author of *Killing Me*



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432 Pages
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The Grey Wolf

A Novel

Louise Penny

The 19th mystery in the #1 New York Times-bestselling Armand Gamache series.

Summary

Relentless phone calls interrupt the peace of a warm August morning in Three Pines. Though the tiny Québec village is impossible to find on any map, someone has managed to track down Armand Gamache, head of homicide at the Sûreté, as he sits with his wife in their back garden. Reine-Marie watches with increasing unease as her husband refuses to pick up, though he clearly knows who is on the other end. When he finally answers, his rage shatters the calm of their quiet Sunday morning.

That's only the first in a sequence of strange events that begin *THE GREY WOLF*, the nineteenth novel in Louise Penny's #1 New York Times-bestselling series. A missing coat, an intruder alarm, a note for Gamache reading "this might interest you", a puzzling scrap of paper with a mysterious list—and then a murder. All propel Chief Inspector Gamache and his team toward a terrible realization. Something much more sinister than any one murder or any one case is fast approaching.

Armand Gamache, Jean-Guy Beauvoir, his son-in-law and second in command, and Inspector Isabelle Lacoste can only trust each other, as old friends begin to act like enemies, and long-time enemies appear to be friends. Determined to track down the threat before it becomes a reality, their pursuit takes them across Québec and across borders. Their hunt grows increasingly desperate, even frantic, as the enormity of the creature they're chasing becomes clear. If they fail the devastating consequences would reach into the largest of cities and the smallest of villages.

Including Three Pines.

Contributor Bio



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Wt

Killing Time

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 private detective agency is working flat out on a series of shop burglaries. The break-ins seem to have taken a violent turn when a friend of Agatha's is murdered during a raid on his shop. Although determined to nail the villains, Agatha still makes time to help Sir Charles Fraith prepare to stage a massive, hugely glamorous, promotional event in the grounds of his ancestral home, Barfield House.

When Agatha begins to receive death threats and narrowly avoids being abducted by kidnappers, she takes advantage of a previously arranged trip to Mallorca to lie low for a while. There she meets her partner, former police officer John Glass, who is now working as a dance instructor on a cruise liner. Their relationship founders over John's apparent closeness to his stage dance partner, Louise. Putting her love life on hold, Agatha heads home, having worked out who has been threatening her life.

Can Agatha track down whoever it is that wants her dead, nail her friend's murderers and rescue her romance with John Glass? Everything comes to a climax at the Barfield Extravaganza when Agatha also manages to solve a 400-year-old Cotswold murder mystery!

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.

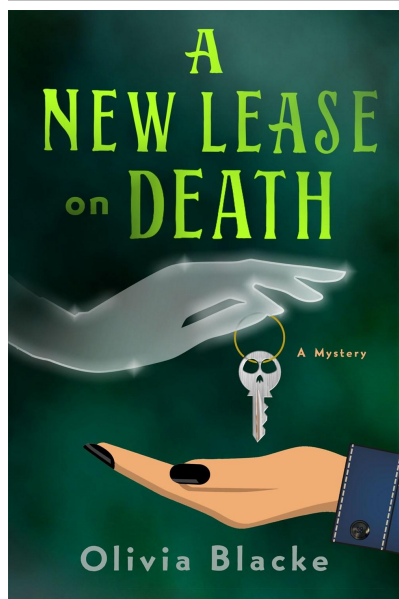
Quotes

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

"Green...ably continues 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*



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A New Lease on Death

Olivia Blacke

In this darkly funny supernatural mystery about an unlikely crime-solving duo that launches a commercial, unique, and genre-blending series, death is only the beginning.

Summary

Ruby Young's new Boston apartment comes with all the usual perks. Windows facing the brick wall of the next-door building. Heat that barely works. A malfunctioning buzzer. Noisy neighbors. A dead body on the sidewalk outside. And of course, a ghost.

Since Cordelia Graves died in her apartment a few months ago, she's kept up her residency, despite being bored out of her (non-tangible) skull and frustrated by her new roommate. When her across-the-hall neighbor, Jake Macintyre, is shot and killed in an apparent mugging gone wrong outside their building, Cordelia is convinced there's more to it and is determined to bring his killer to justice.

Unfortunately, Cordelia, being dead herself, can't solve the mystery alone. She has to enlist the help of the obnoxiously perky, living tenant of her apartment. Ruby is twenty, annoying, and has never met a houseplant she couldn't kill. But she also can do everything Cordelia can't, from interviewing suspects to researching Jake on the library computers that go up in a puff of smoke if Cordelia gets too close. The roommates form an unlikely friendship as they get closer to the truth about Jake's death...and maybe other dangerous secrets as well.

Contributor Bio

OLIVIA BLACKE (she/her) had her first encounter with a ghost when she was only five years old, but her first involvement with an active crime scene wasn't until much later, when she accidentally stepped into a chalk outline on a Manhattan sidewalk. Armed with a Criminology and Criminal Justice degree, she finally found a way to channel her love of the supernatural and passion for writing into darkly humorous supernatural mysteries. She is also the author of the Record Shop Mysteries and the Brooklyn Murder Mysteries.

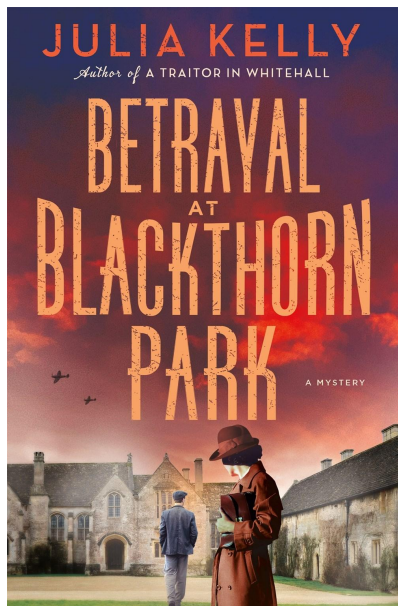
Quotes

Olivia Blacke's cozy mysteries are:

"Colorful [and] winning." - *New York Times Book Review*

"Charming." - Elle Cosimano

"Fantastic." - Mia P. Manansala



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Betrayal at Blackthorn Park

A Mystery

Julia Kelly

With mystery, intrigue, and the hints of romance international bestselling author Julia Kelly is known for, Evelyne Redfern returns in *Betrayal at Blackthorn Park*.

Summary

Freshly graduated from a rigorous training program in all things spy craft, former typist Evelyne Redfern is eager for her first assignment as a field agent helping Britain win the war. However, when she learns her first task is performing a simple security test at Blackthorn Park, a requisitioned manor house in the sleepy Sussex countryside, she can't help her initial disappointment. Making matters worse, her handler is to be David Poole, a fellow agent who manages to be both strait-laced and dashing in annoyingly equal measure. However, Evelyne soon realizes that Blackthorn Park is more than meets the eye, and an upcoming visit from Winston Churchill means that security at the secret weapons research and development facility is of the utmost importance.

When Evelyne discovers Blackthorn Park's chief engineer dead in his office, her simple assignment becomes more complicated. Evelyne must use all of her—and David's—detection skills to root out who is responsible and uncover layers of deception that could change the course of the war.

Contributor Bio

JULIA KELLY is the international bestselling author of historical novels about the extraordinary stories of the past. Her books have been translated into 14 languages. She has also written historical romance. In addition to writing, she's been an Emmy-nominated producer, journalist, marketing professional, and (for one summer) a tea waitress. Julia called Los Angeles, Iowa, and New York City home before settling in London.

Quotes

Praise for *A Traitor in Whitehall*

"An exceptional historical murder mystery." –*Wall Street Journal*

"A superbly constructed whodunit that pays homage to Agatha Christie's locked-room mysteries." –*Oprah Daily*

"Kelly's narrative zips along. . . a well-plotted start to an entertaining new series." –*Shelf Awareness*

"Romance, feminism, and historical detail combine in an exciting new series." –*Kirkus Reviews*



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The More the Terrier

An Andy Carpenter Mystery

David Rosenfelt

National bestselling author David Rosenfelt's *The More the Terrier* is the latest Christmas mystery starring reluctant lawyer Andy Carpenter.

Summary

Reluctant lawyer Andy Carpenter is excited to be back in Paterson, New Jersey, after a week-long family vacation in the Adirondacks. Andy had a great time with his wife Laurie and their son. One might even say the trip put him in the Christmas Spirit, or as close as he's ever going to get. But at heart Andy's a homebody, and he missed their three dogs. But when they get home, there are four dogs eagerly awaiting pets and one anxious dog sitter.

When the dog showed up on the doorstep a few days ago, the sitter knew Andy would know what to do. Andy recognizes Murphy, who the Carpenters fostered before the dog went home with sixteen year old Brian and his mother. Brian wanted to learn all he could about caring for Murphy, which made Andy like him immediately.

When Andy goes to take Murphy home, instead of the happy reunion he expects, he finds Brian's mother in tears. It turns out Murphy ran off months ago... after Brian was arrested for murder. Andy had hoped for a quiet Christmas, but he likes Murphy's family and his golden retriever, Tara, likes Murphy. And something about this case doesn't sit right with him.

Contributor Bio

DAVID ROSENFELT is the Edgar-nominated and Shamus Award-winning author of almost thirty Andy Carpenter novels, most recently *Flop Dead Gorgeous*; nine stand-alone thrillers; two non-fiction titles; and four K Team novels, a spinoff 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

"The climactic revelation, as in all of Andy's best cases, is both head-shakingly incredible and deeply satisfying." —*Kirkus Reviews* on *Santa's Little Yelpers*

"Rosenfelt provides everything you need to enjoy this snowy mystery."
—Bookreporter.com on *Best in Snow*

"*Silent Bite* is highly recommended and is proof that each new instalment in the Andy Carpenter Mystery series is a winner." — Portland Book Review

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Blue Christmas Bones

Carolyn Haines

The latest Christmas mystery in the series that *Kirkus Reviews* characterizes as "Stephanie Plum meets the Ya-Ya Sisterhood," featuring sassy Southern private investigator Sarah Booth Delaney.

Summary

Sarah Booth Delaney and her friends can't help falling in love with Christmas this year, which they plan to spend celebrating the King of Rock n' Roll at the annual Elvis Festival in Tupelo. The main attraction is an Elvis impersonator competition, drawing impersonators from all over the world to honor the king.

But before the revelry can get underway, a priceless jewel-encrusted belt once belonging to Elvis is stolen from its display case, and Sarah Booth and Tinkie are roped into the biggest heist in the history of Mississippi. Soon suspicious characters are lurking around every corner, with one eyewitness even claiming to have seen the real Elvis in the flesh. Sarah Booth will have to find the devil in disguise or she might just end up singing Jailhouse Rock herself.

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

"Haines shows Sarah at her madcap best back in her hometown in this clever adventure. This is crazy cozy with a little something for everyone: paranormal doings, plenty of Evanovich zaniness, and a cast of eccentrics."

—*Booklist on Bone to Be Wild*

"Enjoyable...Jitty, the headstrong ghost who shares Sarah Booth's family home, is just one of the many well-drawn characters who help bring this Southern tale to colorful life." —*Publishers Weekly on Rock-a-Bye Bones*

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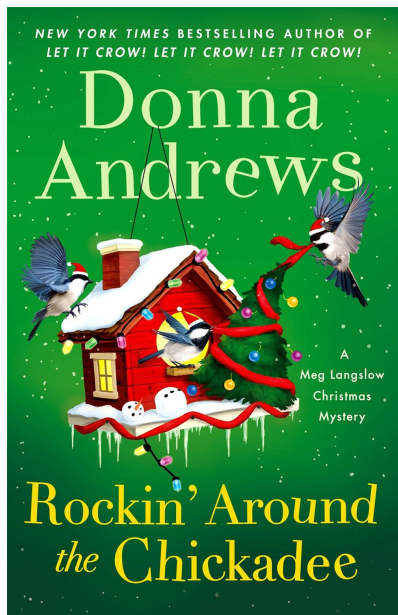
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Rockin' Around the Chickadee

Donna Andrews

Bells are ringing and alarms are sounding in Donna Andrews' latest cheery addition in the *New York Times* bestselling Meg Langslow series.

Summary

Meg's sister-in-law, Delaney is pregnant. Since her due date is on or around Christmas Day, this is putting a bit of a damper on the usual holiday festivities. Meg and Michael are NOT hosting the usual house full of relatives and parties. Instead, Meg, along with her mother, her grandmother, her cousin Rose Noire, and her good friend Caroline, are militantly doing everything they can think of to keep Delaney quiet and healthy. All the relatives are farmed out to friends and neighbors; all the parties are being held somewhere else, and while Delaney is bored and mutinous, she's doing well, and they're managing to maintain a serene, peaceful environment for her . . . until a body is found in Meg and Michael's yard. Can Meg still keep Delaney calm in the middle of a murder investigation, all while trying to catch the killer?

Full of her usual twists and turns, paired with relatable family holiday drama and Caerphilly's traditional Christmas merriment, Donna Andrews brings readers another joyful classic.

Contributor Bio

DONNA ANDREWS has won the Anthony, Barry, and three Agatha Awards, an RT Book Reviews Award for best first novel, and four Lefty and two Toby Bromberg Awards for funniest mystery. She is a member of the Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, and Novelists, Inc. Andrews lives in Reston, Virginia. Let it Crow! *Rockin' Around the Chickadee* is the 36th book in the Meg Langslow series.

Quotes

Praise for Donna Andrews and the Meg Langslow series:

"This Christmas romp, complete with a litter of adorable puppies, will certainly please fans and newcomers alike. Andrews consistently entertains." —*Publishers Weekly* on *The Twelve Jays of Christmas*

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



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The Night Woods

Paula Munier

The sixth Mercy Carr Mystery in which Mercy and Elvis must prove the innocence of a new friend accused of murder.

Summary

Record snow and sleet and rain are pummeling Vermont and a wild boar has escaped from an exclusive hunting club nearby—but that won't stop a very pregnant and very bored Mercy Carr from hiking her beloved woods with her loyal dog Elvis. She's supposed to be decorating the nursery and helping her mother plan the baby shower, but she'd much rather be playing Scrabble with Homer Grant, a word-loving, shotgun-toting hermit living deep in the forest. But when she and Elvis drop by Homer's cabin for their weekly game, they arrive to find an unknown dead man—and no sign of Homer.

As they search the woods, Mercy discovers a patch of devastation that could only be left behind by wild boar. She's relieved when Elvis tracks Homer, injured but alive. But Homer's troubles are far from over, as he's still the number one suspect and he remembers nothing of the attack. When another corpse with a link to Homer is found, Mercy is determined to help her friend, an effort complicated by the unexpected arrival of her young cousin Tandie, sent by Mercy's mother to keep an eye on her until the baby is born.

As the floods worsen, Troy and Susie Bear are called out with all the other first responders, and Mercy finds herself alone at Grackle Tree Farm with a concussed Homer, Tandie, and Elvis. As waters rise and the wild boar rampages, Mercy realizes that the murderer is out there ready to strike again, this time much closer to home.

Contributor Bio

PAULA MUNIER is a literary agent and the *USA TODAY* bestselling author of the Mercy Carr mysteries. *A Borrowing of Bones*, the first in the series, was nominated for the Mary Higgins Clark Award and named the Dogwise Book of the Year. *Blind Search* was inspired by the real-life rescue of a little boy with autism. *The Hiding Place* debuted in March 2021. Paula credits the hero dogs of Mission K9 Rescue, her own rescue dogs, and a love of New England, where she lives, as her series' major influences

Quotes

"I love books where the story and the characters grow out of the place that they're set, and that couldn't be more true of *The Hiding Place*, which delivers a satisfying, twisty plot, an entertaining ensemble of locals and, of course, a pair of heroic dogs." —Ann Cleeves, *New York Times* Bestselling Author on *The Hiding Place*

"Enjoyable... distinctive characters... This is a fine escapist fare for a hot summer day." —*Publishers Weekly* on *The Wedding Plot*



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Out in the Cold

An Alex Martel Thriller

Steve Urszenyi

Special Agent Alex Martel is thrown back into a deadly world of deception when a series of attacks threaten to incite World War III in this action-packed thriller.

Summary

While sailing across the Mediterranean, the megayacht *Aurora* is rocked with explosions, taken under siege by unknown assailants. On board are some of Europe's wealthiest and most powerful political players, including the secretary general of Interpol, a high-ranking Finnish diplomat, and Special Agent Alex Martel—whose lethal sniper skills kick in to bring them safely to shore.

Someone is waging a ruthless campaign of attacks against Finland, one of NATO's newest members, in an attempt to throw the Alliance into turmoil. Teaming back up with CIA agent Caleb, Alex is thrust into the middle of the fray, pursuing the villains from the waters off of Monaco to the Baltic Sea and home to American soil.

As the US is pulled deeper into the conflict, a global catastrophe seems inevitable. But who is really responsible for these escalating attacks on Finland? The Russians, or someone much closer to home? As new allies surface and old enemies reappear, Alex has no way of knowing who to trust—and she might only have one last shot to keep the world from going to war.

Contributor Bio

STEVE URSZENYI served for many years as a paramedic in Toronto and a tactical medic with the Ontario Provincial Police. As part of an elite tactical team, he was involved in countless SWAT operations and is an expert in chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives (CBRNE) incident response. Steve is also the former commander of the Province of Ontario's disaster medical response team. When not writing, Steve loves touring on his Harley-Davidson motorcycle with his wife, Lynne.

Quotes

Praise for *Perfect Shot*:

"Urszenyi brings his background as a police tactical medic to this boldly authentic debut, introducing an impressive female warrior in the first of an anticipated series."
—**Booklist**

"Urszenyi is a writer to watch." —**Publishers Weekly**

"Gripping and on target, *Perfect Shot* hits with maximum impact. Steve Urszenyi's debut thriller never lets up from the first page to the last." —**Jack Carr, New York Times bestselling author of *The Terminal List***



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An Insignificant Case

Phillip Margolin

A new standalone legal thriller from the international bestselling author of *GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN*.

Summary

Charlie Webb is a third rate lawyer who graduated from a third rate law-school and, because he couldn't get hired by any of the major law firms, has opened his own law firm, where he gets by handling cases for dubious associates from his youth and some court appointed cases. Described as "a leaky boat floating down the stream of life," Charlie has led unremarkable life, personally and professionally. Until he's appointed to be the attorney for a decidedly crackpot artist who calls himself Guido Sabatini (born Lawrence Weiss). Sabatini has been arrested – again – for breaking into a restaurant and stealing back a painting he sold them because he was insulted by where it was displayed. But as Lawrence Weiss, he's also an accomplished card shark and burglar and while he was there, he stole a thumb drive from the owner's safe.

Not knowing what else Sabatani has stolen, Webb negotiates the return of the painting and "other items" for the owner dropping charges against Sabatini. But the contents of the flash drive threatens very powerful figures who are determined to retrieve it, the restaurant owner (Gretchen Hall) and her driver (Yuri Makarov) are being investigated for the sex trafficking of minors, and there are others who have a violent grudge against Sabatini. When a minor theft case becomes a double homicide, and even more, Charlie Webb, an insignificant lawyer assigned to an insignificant case, is faced with the most important, and deadliest, case of his life. Going back to his long-time bestselling roots, Phillip Margolin returns with a brilliant standalone legal thriller in the tradition of John Grisham.

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

"Suspenseful...perfect for fans of John Grisham and Scott Turow." —*Booklist* on *Betrayal*

"It takes a really crafty storyteller to put people on the edge of their seats and keep them there. Phillip Margolin does just that."—*Chicago Tribune*

"In the hands of Phillip Margolin, nothing is ever simple and no one is really safe. He is the master of suspense mystery."—*AP* on *A Reasonable Doubt*

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All's Fair in Love and Treachery

Celeste Connally

Bridgerton meets Agatha Christie in this dazzling next installment in a captivating Regency-era mystery series with a feminist spin.

Summary

21 June, 1815. London may be cheering the news of Napoleon's surrender at Waterloo, but Lady Petra Forsyth has little to celebrate after discovering that the death of her viscount fiancé three years earlier was no accident. Instead, it was *murder*, and the man responsible is her handsome, half-Scottish secret paramour Duncan Shawcross—yet the scoundrel has disappeared, leaving only a confusing riddle about long-forgotten memories in his wake.

So what's a lady to do when she can't hunt down her traitorous lover? She concentrates on a royal assignment instead. Queen Charlotte has tasked Petra with making inquiries surrounding the death of the Asylum for Female Orphans' matron. What's more, an intercepted letter hints there may be a link between the matron's death and a group of radicals with ties to the aristocracy.

Then, Petra overhears a nefarious conversation with two other men about a plot to topple the monarchy, set to take place during the celebrations currently gripping London.

As the clock counts down and London's streets teem with revelers, Petra's nerves are fraying as her past and present collide. While all's fair in love and war, she can never surrender, especially when more orphaned girls may be in trouble. And to save their lives, the monarchy itself, and her own heart, Lady Petra must face her fears with the strength of an army of soldiers and fight with the heart of a queen.

Contributor Bio

CELESTE CONNALLY is an Agatha Award nominee, and a former freelance writer and editor. A lifelong devotee of historical novels and adaptations fueled by her passion for history—plus weekly doses of PBS Masterpiece—Celeste loves reading and writing about women from the past who didn't always do as they were told.

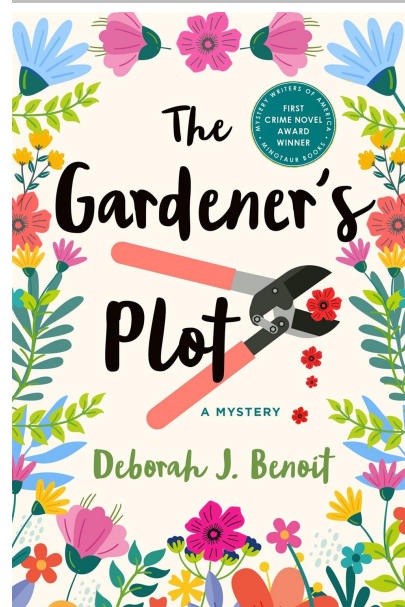
Quotes

Praise for *Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Lord*:

"Effervescent...A delightful period adventure with pitch-perfect banter." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Delightful...Petra is marvelously drawn—an easy-to-love, instantly memorable heroine—and Connally equips her with a brisk, page-turning adventure. This is catnip for historical suspense fans." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Refreshing for the complexity of its lead characters and will be popular with Bridgerton fans." —*Booklist*



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The Gardener's Plot

A Mystery

Deborah J. Benoit

The Gardener's Plot takes readers to the heart of the Berkshires and introduces amateur sleuth Maggie Walker in Deborah J. Benoit's Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Award-winning debut.

Summary

After life threw Maggie Walker a few curveballs, she's happy to be back in the small, Berkshires town where she spent so much time as a child. Marlowe holds many memories for her, and now it also offers a fresh start. Maggie has always loved gardening, so it's only natural to sign on to help Violet Bloom set up a community garden.

When opening day arrives, Violet is nowhere to be found, and the gardeners are restless. Things go from bad to worse when Maggie finds a boot buried in one of the plots... and there's a body attached to it. Suddenly, the police are looking for a killer and they keep asking questions about Violet. Maggie doesn't believe her friend could do this, and she's going to dig up the dirt needed to prove it.

Contributor Bio

DEBORAH J. BENOIT was a legal secretary for 30 years before deciding to pursue more creative endeavors. Her debut novel, *The Gardener's Plot*, won the Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Competition. Born and raised in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts, there's no place she'd rather call home, even in winter. Determined to never stop learning, Deborah loves sharing her knowledge of gardening, through articles she's written, in person, and on social media. When not writing or digging up plots in her garden, she can be found working on her latest fiber arts project. Learn more about Deborah at <https://penpaperplant.com/>.



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Trouble Island

Sharon Short

A gripping new novel inspired by a real place and events from the author's family, *Trouble Island* is the standalone suspense debut from historical mystery writer Sharon Short.

Summary

Many miles from anywhere in the middle of Lake Erie, Trouble Island serves as a stop-off for gangsters as they run between America and Canada. The remote isle is also the permanent home to two women: Aurelia Escalante, who serves as a maid to Rosita, lady of the mansion and wife to the notorious prohibition gangster, Eddie McGee. In the winter of 1932, the women anticipate the arrival of Eddie and his strange coterie: his right-hand man, a doctor, a cousin, a famous actor, and a rival gangster who Rosita believes murdered their only son.

Aurelia wants nothing more than to escape Trouble Island, but she is hiding a secret of her own. She is not a maid, but a gangster's wife in hiding, and it has become clear that Rosita wants to keep Aurelia right where she is. When Rosita suddenly disappears, Aurelia plans her getaway, but instead finds Rosita's body in the water. Then the group of criminals, celebrities, and scoundrels arrives, and an ice storm makes unexpected landfall, cutting Trouble Island off from both mainlands, and with more than one murderer among them.

Both a gripping locked room mystery, and a transporting, evocative portrait of a woman in crisis, *Trouble Island* marks the enthralling standalone suspense debut from Sharon Short, promising to be her breakout novel, inspired by a real island in Lake Erie, and true events from her own rich family history.

Contributor Bio

SHARON SHORT is the author of fifteen published books. She is a contributing editor to *Writer's Digest*, for which she writes the column, "Level Up Your Writing (Life)" and teaches for Writer's Digest University. She is also a three-time recipient of the Individual Excellence Award in Literary Arts from Ohio Arts Council and has been a John E. Nance Writer in Residence at Thurber House (Columbus, Ohio). Sharon currently serves as President of the Midwest Chapter of Mystery Writers of America.

Quotes

"A spectacular locked-room tour de force that grabbed me by the throat with the first page and didn't let me take a breath until I finished. Do not miss this book!"—Linda Castillo, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Burning*

"A compelling and atmospheric tale that kept me enthralled until the very end. I loved this book!"—Karen Dionne, #1 internationally bestselling author of *The Marsh King's Daughter*

"A land-locked mystery full of guns, gangsters, secrets, and surprises, with twists I didn't see coming and 1930s atmosphere to burn."—Erin Flanagan, Edgar Award-winning author of *Deer Season*



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The Secret of the Three Fates

A Mystery

Jess Armstrong

Following the atmospheric and award-winning gothic historical mystery debut, *The Curse of Penryth Hall*, USA Today bestselling author Jess Armstrong's heroine, Ruby Vaughn, returns in *The Secret of the Three Fates*, where the Scottish Hills hold ghosts of the past that threaten Ruby's present.

Summary

American heiress Ruby Vaughn still hasn't entirely forgiven her octogenarian employer and housemate Mr. Owen for bringing the occult into their lives during her recent trip to Cornwall. He claims their journey to Manhurst Castle in the Scottish Borders is simply to appraise and acquire illuminated manuscripts for their rare bookshop, however when Ruby discovers there are no manuscripts and receives news of a séance to be held that very night, she begins to grow suspicious about the true reason why they have come.

The Great War left grieving families willing to sacrifice anything for the chance to say goodbye to a lost loved one. Mr. Owen is no exception. He is desperate to speak to his son, but he doesn't want to face the spirits alone. When the séance—hosted by a trio of mediums billing themselves as The Three Fates—goes awry, Mr. Owen's secrets begin to unravel, threatening to reveal a history that he has been running from for half his life. Something Ruby knows all too well how to do.

When Ruby finds one of the Three Fates murdered the night of the seance, she and Mr. Owen quickly become the prime suspects. To clear their names, Ruby enlists the help of Ruan Kivell, the folk healer Pellar who helped her weeks before in Cornwall. As their investigation progresses Ruby and Ruan realize someone is determined to prevent them from uncovering the truth about what happened to the dead medium.

Contributor Bio

JESS ARMSTRONG's 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, a yellow cat, a speckled dog, and the world's most pampered school-fair goldfish. And when she's not working on her next project, she's probably thinking about cheese, baking, tweeting, or some combination of the above. You can find her on Twitter @JessL_Armstrong or see what's new on her website at writingjess.com.

Quotes

Praise for *The Curse of Penryth Hall*

"A delightful debut." —*People*

"Armstrong's lively prose will make cynics believe in curses and witches. Ruby's intelligence, insight, fearless nature, and complicated background will make readers eager for a sequel." —Shelf Awareness

"Readers who like their historical mysteries embellished with plenty of gothic ambience and enhanced with an abundance of dry wit will adore this splendid debut." —*Library Journal* (starred review)

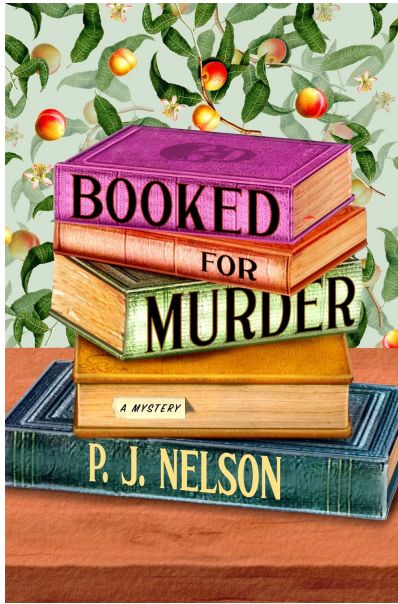
"An intriguing and altogether enchanting mystery." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"An engrossing debut. . . Ruby is a wonderful concoction, world-weary and reckless, and Armstrong outfits her with a moody, gripping mystery that keeps the pages turning. . . Fans of Gothic-flavored suspense will devour this." —*Publishers Weekly*

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Booked for Murder

P. J. Nelson

In this atmospheric southern cozy debut, Madeline Brimley returns to the bookstore she inherited, discovering that small towns hold deadly secrets.

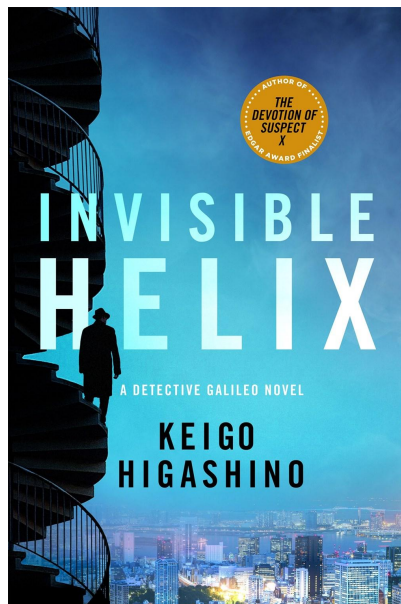
Summary

Madeline Brimley left small town Georgia many years ago to go to college and pursue her dreams on the stage. Her dramatic escapades are many but success has eluded her, leaving her at loose ends. But then she gets word that not only has her beloved, eccentric Aunt Rose passed, but she's left Madeline her equally eccentric bookstore housed in an old Victorian mansion in the small college town of Enigma. But when she arrives in her beat-up Fiat to claim The Old Juniper Bookstore, and restart her life, Madeline is faced with unexpected challenges. The gazebo in the back yard is set ablaze and a late night caller threatens to burn the whole store down if she doesn't leave immediately.

But Madeline Brimley, not one to be intimidated, ignores the threats and soldiers on. Until there's another fire and a murder in the store itself. Now with a cloud of suspicion falling over her, it's up to Madeline to untangle the skein of secrets and find the killer before she herself is the next victim.

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.



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Invisible Helix

A Detective Galileo Novel

Keigo Higashino, Giles Murray

Detective Galileo, Keigo Higashino's best loved character from *The Devotion of Suspect X*, returns in a case where hidden history, an impossible crime, are linked by nearly invisible threads in surprising ways.

Summary

The body of a young man is found floating in Tokyo Bay. But his death was no accident—Ryota Uetsuji was shot. He'd been reported missing the week before by his live-in girlfriend Sonoka Shimauchi, but when detectives from the Homicide Squad go to interview her, she is nowhere to be found. She's taken time off from work, clothes and effects are missing from the apartment she shared. And when the detectives learn that she was the victim of domestic abuse, they presume that she was the killer. But her alibi is airtight—she was hours away in Kyoto when Ryota disappeared, forcing Detectives Kusanagi and Utsumi to restart their investigation.

But if Sonoko didn't kill her abusive lover, then who did? A thin thread of association leads them to their old consultant, brilliant physicist Manabu Yukawa, known in the department as "Detective Galileo." With Sonoko still missing, the detectives investigate other threads of association—an eccentric artist, who was Sonoko's mother figure after her own single mother passed; and an older woman who is the owner of a hostess club. And how is Sonoko continuing to stay one step ahead of the police searching for her? It's up to Galileo to find the nearly hidden threads of history and coincidence that connect the people around the bloody murder—which, surprisingly, connect to his own traumatic past—to unravel not merely the facts of the crime but the helix that ties them all together.

Contributor Bio

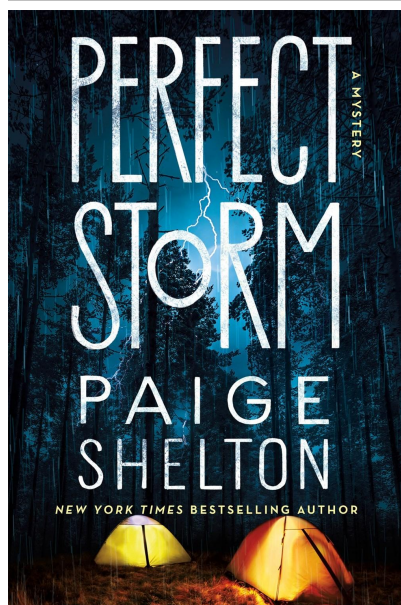
KEIGO HIGASHINO is one of Japan's best-selling novelists, his works translated into more than twenty languages. He's best known for this Detective Galileo mystery series (*The Devotion of Suspect X*) and his Kyoichiro Kaga series (*Malice*, *The Final Curtain*). In English, his work has been a finalist for both the Edgar Award and the CWA Dagger, along with many awards in his home country. He lives in Tokyo, Japan.

Quotes

"Think of the artfully precise, psychologically charged films of Alfred Hitchcock and you're close to what Higashino achieves in *Salvation of a Saint*." —*Richmond Times-Dispatch*

"With each book, Higashino continues to elevate the modern mystery as an intense and inventive literary form." —*Library Journal* (starred review) on *Malice*

"An excellent brain knot of a mystery...one of the most clever endings I've read in some time." —*Los Angeles Times* on *The Devotion of Suspect X*



Perfect Storm

Paige Shelton

The next installment in the Alaska Wild series a gripping, atmospheric, traditional mystery series with a great wilderness hook.

Summary

Beth Rivers needs to disappear. Her one-time kidnapper, Travis, is on his way to her town in Alaska, and she's losing time to get out quickly.

The perfect spot for Beth and her boyfriend, Tex, to hide, presents itself in a camp in the woods, away from Benedict. But when their trip takes them by Blue Mine, a small community that has seen tragedy over the last couple months, plans get diverted. Beth and Tex bring the widow of a recently murdered man back to Benedict, for Police Chief Gril to investigate, only to find that nothing is quite what it seems. When the woman vanishes, Beth must be on the alert for further danger. Who knows what further unwelcome disappearances--or appearances--might be lurking in the unforgiving Alaska storms.

Contributor Bio

PAIGE SHELTON had a nomadic childhood, as her father's job as a football coach took her family to seven different towns before she was even twelve years old. After college at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, she moved to Salt Lake City and fell in love with the mountains and her now husband. After many decades in Utah, she and her family moved to Arizona. She writes the Scottish Bookshop Mystery series and the Alaska Wild series. Her other series include the Farmers' Market, Cooking School, and Dangerous Type mystery series.

Quotes

"Stunning....A mystery, a thriller, and an all-around great vehicle for an intrepid heroine who never gives up." —*Kirkus Reviews on Lost Hours*

"Enticing....Shelton wraps up the central mystery with a satisfying and surprising conclusion. Series fans will find much to enjoy." —*Publishers Weekly on Lost Hours*

"An excellent adventure tale set against the stunning backdrop of Alaska." —*Kirkus Reviews on Winter's End*

"Captivating...The rugged Alaska landscape lends atmosphere, and while this entry can be enjoyed as a standalone, there's great pleasure in reading the series from the beginning and observing Beth, a wonderfully complex character, growing stronger and more confident with each book. Hopefully, she'll have a long run." —*Publishers Weekly on Winter's End*

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