

Minotaur Books
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Parents Weekend

A Novel

Alex Finlay

From Alex Finlay, the author of *If Something Happens to Me*, comes an action-packed new thriller, *Parents Weekend*.

Summary

In the glow of their children's exciting first year of college at a small private school in Northern California, five families gather for a night of dinner and cocktails for the opening festivities of Parents Weekend. As the parents stay out way past their bedtimes, their kids—five residents of Campisi Hall—never show up at dinner.

At first, everyone thinks that they're just being college students, irresponsibly forgetting about the gathering or skipping out to go to a party. But as the hours click by and another night falls with not so much as a text from the students, panic ensues. Soon, the campus police call in reinforcements. Search parties are formed. Reporters swarm the small enclave. Rumors swirl and questions arise.

Libby, Blane, Mark, Felix, and Stella—The Five, as the podcasters, bloggers, and TikTok sleuths soon call them—come from five very different families. What drew them out on that fateful night? Could it be the sins of their mothers and fathers come to cause them peril, or a threat to the friend group from within?

Told through multiple points of view in past and present—and marking the return of FBI Special Agent Sarah Keller from *Every Last Fear* and *The Night Shift*—*Parents Weekend* explores the weight of expectation, family dysfunction, and those exhilarating first days in the dorms when our friends become our family.

Contributor Bio

ALEX FINLAY is the bestselling author of several novels, including his latest bestseller, *If Something Happens to Me*. His work regularly appears on best-of-the-year lists and has been translated into twenty-five languages. Alex's books are optioned for film and television, and *Every Last Fear* is in development for a major limited series. Alex lives in Washington, D.C., and Virginia.

Quotes

Praise for Alex Finlay:

"[A] top-notch mystery thriller . . . Readers will eagerly follow the maze-like plot, with its many twists and turns, to the exciting conclusion. This isn't to be missed."

—*Publishers Weekly* (Starred Review)

"Finlay has mastered the thriller genre . . . [he] superbly creates a character-driven coming-of-age tale that is full of twists."—*Library Journal*

"[Finlay's novels] have earned him a reputation for producing suspenseful, fast-paced thrillers. As usual, his characters are well drawn, his writing is tight and vivid, and he keeps readers guessing."—Associated Press



No One Was Supposed to Die at this Wedding

A Novel

Catherine Mack

The second in a witty, *USA Today* bestselling series following author Eleanor Dash as she goes from wedding guest to murder mystery investigator at her best friend's wedding on Catalina Island.

Summary

Attending your best friend's wedding should be a piece of (wedding) cake, but not for Eleanor Dash, bestselling author of the Vacation Mysteries series. Because murder seems to follow her every time she goes on vacation and is definitely her uninvited plus-one to the special occasion.

Emma Wood, Eleanor's best friend since childhood, is starring in the movie adaptation of *When in Rome*, Eleanor's first novel. Emma is also marrying Fred Winters, a major movie star and Emma's co-star, who just happens to be playing Connor Smith, Eleanor's ex and leading man of the series.

Filming wraps and they invite the whole cast and crew to their wedding at nearby Catalina Island. There may be a storm headed their way—because of course there is—but nothing will stop their nuptials . . . that is until Emma receives a note that says "Someone is going to die at the wedding."

Eleanor is a professional at this point, and she'll do everything she can to uncover the murderer so true love can prevail . . . before it's too late for her and the rest of the storm-trapped wedding party.

Contributor Bio

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

Quotes

Praise for *Every Time I Go on Vacation, Someone Dies*:

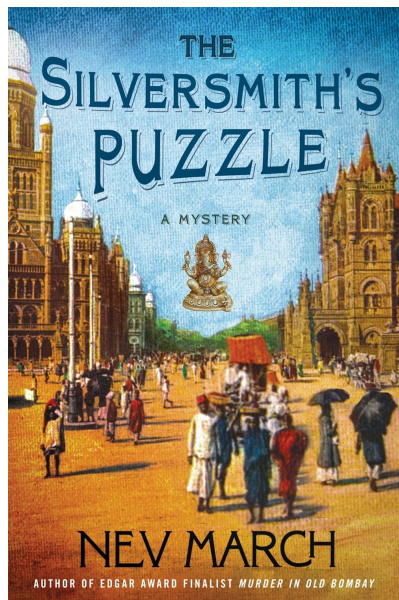
"[A] fizzy series debut . . . [that] gleefully pokes fun at genre tropes while evoking Eleanor's zany world."—*The New York Times*

"This humorous mystery with a touch of romance was auctioned to Fox TV for development as a series, with Mack writing the pilot. For fans of *Knives Out* or E.J. Copperman's 'Jersey Girl Legal Mysteries.'"—*Library Journal* (Starred Review)

"Eleanor's first-person narration is a delight, chock-full of amusing asides (often in footnotes) that wryly examine the craft of mystery writing and business of publishing. A sequel would be welcome."—*Publishers Weekly*

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The Silversmith's Puzzle

A Mystery

Nev March

Captain Jim Agnihotri and Lady Diana Framji return to India as they investigate a murder amidst colonial Bombay's complex hierarchy in March's fourth mystery.

Summary

In 1894 colonial India, Lady Diana's family fortunes have been slashed from a global financial slump, but even worse, her brother Adi has been accused of murder. To save him from the gallows, Captain Jim and Lady Diana rush back to Bombay to clear his name. However this proves to be difficult as the traditional Parsi community finds Jim and Diana's marriage taboo. They attempt to uncover the truth despite being ostracized.

Adi's business partner, a silversmith, was murdered with perplexing last words. He was full of secrets, with tense relationships with suppliers and numerous unpaid bills. Captain Jim must peel back the curtains on this man's life and death to uncover just why he was so desperate for gold and where that gold went. And what awful secret does the gold represent?

Set in lush, late-Victorian India, Captain Jim and Diana struggle with the complexities of caste, tradition, and loyalty. Their success, and even their lives, may depend on Diana, who sacrificed her social status and inheritance for love. Can she find a way to reconnect with the tight community that threw them aside?

Contributor Bio

NEV MARCH is the first Indian born writer to win the Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Award for her Edgar-?nalist debut, *Murder in Old Bombay*. After a long career in business analysis, she returned to her passion, writing ?ction. Nev sits on the NY chapter board of Mystery Writers of America and is a member of Crime Writers of Color. A Parsi Zoroastrian, she lives with her family in New Jersey and teaches occasionally at the Rutgers University Osher Institute.

Quotes

Praise for *The Spanish Diplomat's Secret*

"These characters are great, a lot of fun to read, and have interesting stories." –Red Carpet Crash

"[Captain Jim and Lady Diana's] opinion of Sherlock Holmes's approach to crime detection continues to evolve." –Historical Novel Society



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Death at a Highland Wedding

A Rip Through Time Novel

Kelley Armstrong

***Death at a Highland Wedding* is the fourth installment in *New York Times* bestselling author Kelley Armstrong's gripping Rip Through Time Novels.**

Summary

After slipping 150 years into the past, modern-day homicide detective Mallory Atkinson has embraced her new life in Victorian Scotland as housemaid Catriona Mitchel. Although it isn't what she expected, she's developed real, meaningful relationships with the people around her and has come to love her role as assistant to undertaker Dr. Duncan Gray and Detective Hugh McCreadie.

Mallory, Gray, and McCreadie are on their way to the Scottish Highlands for McCreadie's younger sister's wedding. The McCreadies and the groom's family, the Cranstons, have a complicated history which has made the weekend quite uncomfortable. But the Cranston estate is beautiful so Gray and Mallory decide to escape the stifling company and set off to explore the castle and surrounding wilderness. They discover that the groom, Archie Cranston, a slightly pompous and prickly man, has set up deadly traps in the woods for the endangered Scottish wildcats, and they soon come across a cat who's been caught and severely injured. Oddly, Mallory notices the cat's injuries don't match up with the intricacies of the trap. These strange irregularities, combined with the secretive and erratic behavior of the groom, put Mallory and Duncan on edge. And then when one of the guests is murdered, they must work fast to uncover the murderer before another life is lost.

Contributor Bio

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

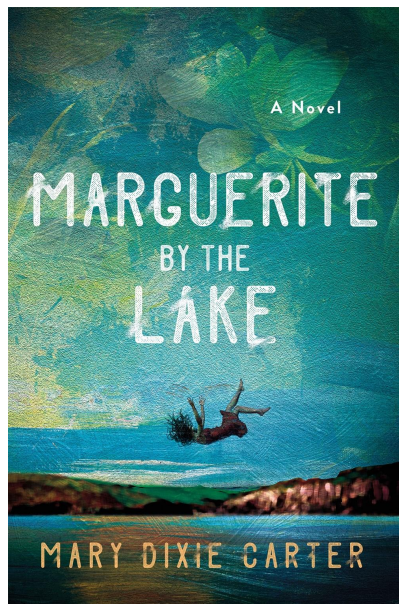
Quotes

Praise for *Disturbing the Dead*

"A fascinating time-slip mystery. Armstrong kept me guessing all the way to the end."
 —Darcie Wilde

"With compelling characters and plot, *A Rip Through Time* is one to look out for."
 —Nekesia Afia

"Watching Mallory--and the talented Kelley Armstrong--juggle all these balls at one time is a great read." —Charlaine Harris



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Marguerite by the Lake

A Novel

Mary Dixie Carter

From Mary Dixie Carter comes an atmospheric, tense novel about the death of a wealthy garden designer, her lonely widower, and the scrappy young gardener who smoothly steps into her life.

Summary

Marguerite Gray is a lifestyle icon known for her garden parties, high-end business ventures, and being the muse behind the famous Serge Kuhnert painting, *Marguerite by the Lake*. Her presence is overpowering, her taste, legendary. For the last few years, Phoenix has been the gardener on the famed Rosecliff grounds, home of the Gray family: Marguerite and her husband Geoffrey. Phoenix came from humble beginnings, and now she works hard to craft the landscape that underpins Marguerite's brand.

When a storm threatens the launch party for Marguerite's latest book, it's Phoenix who spots the danger to the guests and rushes to Geoffrey's side to save him from a falling tree. Geoffrey is grateful—perhaps too grateful. Marguerite is . . . jealous. Phoenix senses the danger of being drawn deeper into their lives but can't resist the attention, becoming embroiled in an affair that could destroy her career.

But soon after the affair begins Marguerite falls to her death, from the same high point at Rosecliff where she posed for *Marguerite by the Lake*. Now Phoenix has another secret, one that haunts her even as Geoffrey invites her to move into the manor with him. A secret that Detective Hanna and Marguerite's daughter—her spitting image—are circling closer and closer to. Phoenix tries to put it all behind her and find her rightful place at Rosecliff. But as every gardener knows, nothing stays buried forever.

Contributor Bio

MARY DIXIE CARTER (she/her) is the author of the critically acclaimed novel *The Photographer*. Her writing has appeared in *TIME*, *The Economist*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Chicago Tribune*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, and *The New York Sun*. She served as publishing director at *The Observer* for five years. She graduated from Harvard with an honors degree in English Literature and holds an MFA in Creative Writing from The New School. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and two children.

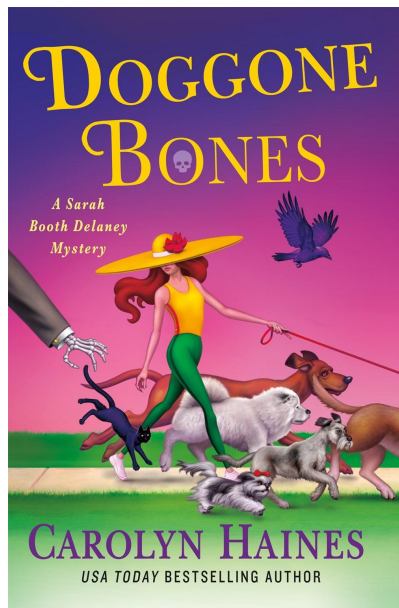
Quotes

Praise for *The Photographer*:

"A breathless psychological thriller about epic mind games."—*PEOPLE*

"I've rarely felt as unnerved by a novel as I did after reading Mary Dixie Carter's *The Photographer*, a debut that trains a literal lens on aspiration, envy and overweening obsession."—*New York Times Book Review*

"Brace for hold-your-breath suspense from this dazzlingly devious newcomer."
 —*Publishers Weekly* (Starred Review)



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Doggone Bones

A Sarah Booth Delaney Mystery

Carolyn Haines

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

Summary

After a dog belonging to local pet activist Tilly Lawson is snatched right out of her backyard in Sunflower County, MS, Sarah Booth and the Delaney Detective Agency are up to their ears in concerned pet owners. Could Tilly's work liberating abused animals have come back to bite her, or was this a random act of dognapping?

Delaney Detective Agency has their work cut out for them, especially as a troublesome online pet detective agency tries nosing their way into the investigation. But as Sarah Booth and Tinkie start to sink their teeth into the mystery, they discover there's much more at play than they thought: neighborhood rivalries, questionable dog breeders, and an illegal dogfighting operation.

As their digging churns up dangerous attention—and with their own beloved dogs, Sweetie Pie and Chablis, possibly next in line to be dognapped—Sarah Booth and Tinkie are in a race against time to track down the thieves and return the missing pets home.

Contributor Bio

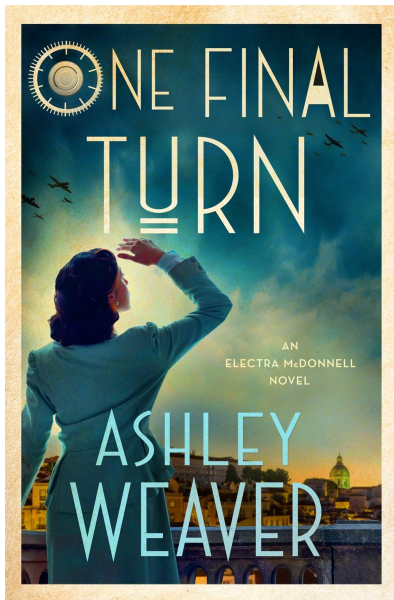
CAROLYN HAINES is the author of the Sarah Booth Delaney Mysteries. She is the recipient of both the Harper Lee Distinguished Writing Award and the Richard Wright Award for Literary Excellence. Born and raised in Mississippi, she now lives in Semmes, Alabama on a farm with more dogs, cats, and horses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

An Electra McDonnell Novel

Ashley Weaver

The fifth and final installment in the Electra McDonnell series brings safecracker Ellie on a mission across World War II-era Europe to Lisbon, Portugal to rescue a key group of escaped POWs.

Summary

Ellie McDonnell is about to embark on her most perilous mission yet: go to Lisbon, Portugal to save her beloved cousin Toby who has reportedly escaped from a German prisoner of war camp. Toby has been missing since the Battle of Dunkirk and Ellie had all but lost hope in ever seeing him again until Major Ramsey, the British military intelligence officer she had been working closely with over the past few months, shared the news he'd intercepted.

Nothing will stop Ellie from finding her cousin, not even the awkward experience of having to travel to an unknown country with Ramsey after he'd dismissed her for being untrustworthy just as she'd realized she had fallen in love with him. Under the supervision of Captain Archie Blandings, a charming intelligence officer based in Lisbon, Ellie meets with undercover operatives to track down where Toby might be hiding from the Nazis and whether they are too late to safely recover him, all the while fighting her feelings for Ramsey and the incessant burden of war looming around her at every turn.

Contributor Bio

ASHLEY WEAVER (she/her) is the author of the Amory Ames Mysteries and the Electra McDonnell series. When not writing, she works as an elementary and middle school librarian. A lifelong lover of books, Weaver has worked in libraries since she was fourteen and holds an MLIS from Louisiana State University. She lives in Central Louisiana.

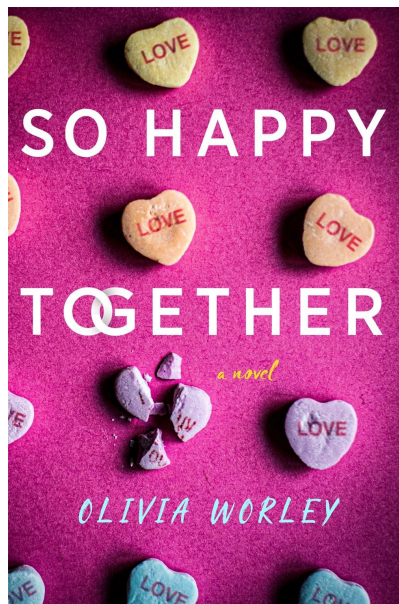
Quotes

Praise for the Electra McDonnell series:

"Outstanding . . . Weaver populates this bright, fast-paced thriller with engagingly flawed characters and breathless action. Readers will delight at the dynamic between the leads and look forward to future adventures."—*Publishers Weekly* (Starred Review)

"Mystery, romance, and adventure aplenty in a rousing wartime setting."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Weaver has a knack for tying up her readers with thin threads of clues—just enough to let the reader unwind and believe they know what the outcome is, only to be tied up again in a new chapter."—*New York Journal of Books*



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So Happy Together

A Novel

Olivia Worley

Unrelentingly twisty and utterly compelling, *So Happy Together* is an unputdownable, shattering read for fans of *You*, Riley Sager, and *Promising Young Woman*.

Summary

Jane likes Colin. Jane likes Colin, very much. When he breaks off their slowly blooming relationship after five dates, Jane knows he was just too afraid of the intense feelings he has for her. She'll get him back, she knows she will.

That is, until he starts dating Zoe—perfect, luminous, “we have pet nicknames for each other” Zoe. A quick stumbling block in the way of relationship bliss—even though she’s so nice, dammit—but Zoe doesn’t have what it takes to love Colin. She’d never stay with him through thick and thin. All Jane has to do is prove it, and they’ll be so happy together.

Then she sneaks into his apartment and makes a shocking discovery, one that will ensnare them all in a dark and complicated web of lies, secrets, and murder.

Contributor Bio

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

Quotes

Praise for *The Debutantes*:

“Compulsive and page-turning, this will keep you up late, biting your nails over the fates of these girls caught in a patriarchal stranglehold in the depths of upper-class New Orleans.” —Wendy Heard, author of *She’s Too Pretty To Burn*

“*The Debutantes* is a compulsively readable thriller that kept me up far too late.” —Liz Lawson, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Agathas*, *The Night in Question*, and *The Lucky Ones*

Praise for *People to Follow*:

“Part dizzyingly fast-paced thriller, part wickedly incisive social commentary, there's never a dull moment in this well-characterized debut. Hole up, unplug, and keep the lights on.” —*Booklist*

“[With] lightning-quick pacing and savvy twists, and through four shifting perspectives, Worley notably considers social media fame’s impact on both the content creator and their following.” —*Publishers Weekly*



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The Bachelorette Party

A Novel

Camilla Sten

Scream meets *The Sanatorium* and *The Retreat* in this wickedly compelling and compulsively page-turning thriller of friendship and murder from the author of *The Lost Village*, Camilla Sten.

Summary

On a remote island nestled off the coast of Sweden, four friends—Tilly, Anna, Linnea and Evelina—meet every year. Best friends since childhood, the idea is to drink beer, dance by the water, and shake off the weight of life's expectations. The location of the island is a secret to everyone but them. One night of reckless fun and secret-sharing, and then they return to their normal lives.

Ten Years Later. Ever since she was a teenager, Tessa Nilsson has been consumed by the story of four friends who disappeared. As her true crime fervor turned into a wildly popular podcast, Tessa covered Sweden's most gruesome cases, but could never find the answers behind what happened to these women who disappeared. Now Tessa's podcast has crashed and burned, any chance she had at uncovering the truth vanishing with it.

Anneliese is Tessa's best friend, and before she walks down the aisle, she wants to have a bachelorette party. The destination: Baltic Vinyasa, a sleek, sophisticated yoga retreat on a small island off the coast—one with such similar characteristics to the tragedy years ago that it raises the hair on Tessa's neck. The idea is to drink gallons of cava, do sunrise yoga, and get in their last chance to bond with the bride. Tessa will not pass this up. It's her last chance to find out what happened to the four women, once and for all.

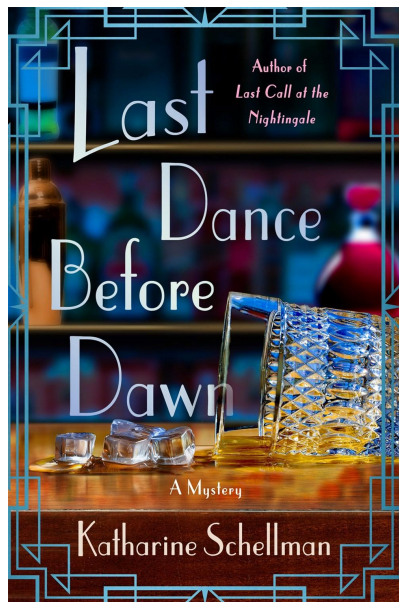
And it's someone else's last chance to get revenge.

Contributor Bio

CAMILLA STEN has been writing stories since she was a young girl. In 2019, she published the now internationally acclaimed, hair-raising novel *The Lost Village*. Rights for *The Lost Village* have been sold to seventeen territories around the world including film and TV. An ever prolific author, Camilla is already working on her next psychologically intense suspense novel, all while travelling the world.

Quotes

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



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Last Dance Before Dawn

A Mystery

Katharine Schellman

***Last Dance before Dawn* is the fourth in the luscious, mysterious, and queer Nightingale mystery series by Katharine Schellman, set in 1920s New York.**

Summary

Vivian Kelly has finally created a home and a family at the glamorous speakeasy known as The Nightingale, where no one cares who you are in the daytime. After all, in the underground world of 1920s New York City, everyone has a secret to keep, and they're on Nightingale's dance floor to leave those secrets behind. But sometimes it takes more than a dance to escape your past.

When a stranger from Chicago shows up at The Nightingale looking to settle old scores, Vivian and The Nightingale's owner, the mysterious and alluring Honor Huxley, send him packing. They soon discover, though, that the stranger was just a warning. Slowly, the people who have made The Nightingale their home realize that someone is following them. Hunting them. And that someone won't stop until they unravel a mystery that's been cold for years: a missing girl, a boy out for revenge, and a truck full of cash that disappeared in a job gone horribly wrong.

Vivian just wants to protect the people she loves, and she's willing to dig into the dirt of the past to make it happen. But some questions are safer left unanswered, and now that Vivian has built a family for herself, she has more to lose than ever before.

Contributor Bio

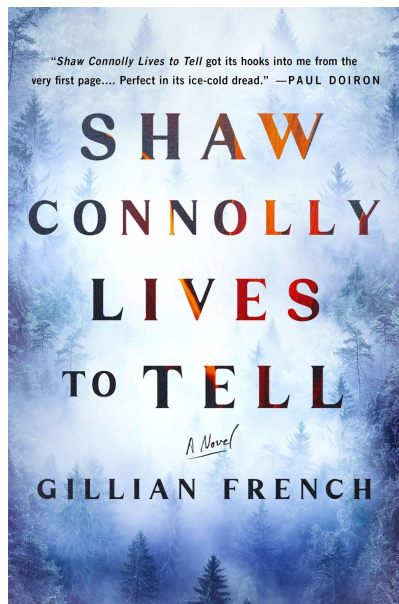
KATHARINE SCHELLMAN writes the Lily Adler Mysteries and the Nightingale Mysteries. Her books, which reviewers have praised as "worthy of Agatha Christie or Rex Stout" (Library Journal, starred review), have been named a Library Journal Best Crime Fiction of 2022, a Suspense Magazine Best Book of 2020, and a New York Times June 2022 editor's pick. Katharine lives in the mountains of Virginia in the company of her husband, children, and the many houseplants she keeps accidentally murdering.

Quotes

"The characters and plot come alive in this atmospheric historical mystery." —*Library Journal* (starred review) on *Last Note of Warning*

"Fizzy . . . Vivian is a terrific character, plucky and resourceful, determined to choreograph a different life for herself."—*New York Times Book Review* on *Last Call at the Nightingale*

"Excellent . . . Vivian proves to be a most imaginative sleuth. Readers will eagerly await her return."—*Publishers Weekly* (Starred) on *Last Call at the Nightingale*



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Shaw Connolly Lives to Tell

Gillian French

A page-turning, atmospheric thriller about a woman who will stop at nothing to uncover the truth behind her sister's disappearance.

Summary

Shaw Connolly is no stranger to trauma. As a fingerprints analyst, she's one of the first on-site for crimes, including murder scenes and a mysterious string of arsons popping up throughout the rural Maine community her department serves. But the tragedy of her little sister's disappearance sixteen years ago has always weighed on her the most; Thea is never far from her thoughts or dreams, and Shaw knows that her obsession with finding the truth about Thea is driving her husband away and impacting her two boys. But she can't let it go, and has even started taking disturbing calls from a man named Anders Jansen who all but claims to have committed the crime.

Anders taunts Shaw with hints and innuendo about what supposedly happened all those years ago. But his calls go to the next level as he reveals just how much he knows about Shaw's personal life, like her stalled career and ruined marriage. As his stalking escalates to threats on her and her family's lives, he begins to show just how dangerous he might be. But Shaw is too desperate for answers to hang up now, just when she's getting close to finding answers. The only question left is what she must lose to learn the truth.

A taut, atmospheric thriller from Edgar Award-finalist young adult author Gillian French, *Shaw Connolly Lives to Tell* introduces a compelling new voice in adult suspense fiction.

Contributor Bio

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

Quotes

Praise for *Shaw Connolly Lives to Tell*

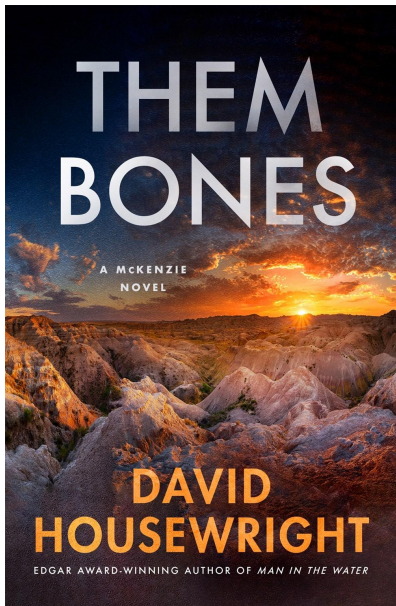
"*Shaw Connolly Lives to Tell* got its hooks into me from the very first page. Gillian French is a gifted storyteller who knows how to tease the reader with well-timed twists and disclosures—just as stalker Anders Jensen knows exactly how to keep forensic technician Shaw Connolly off-balance and guessing. And the Maine setting? Perfect in its ice-cold dread." —Paul Doiron

Praise for Gillian French

"Gorgeously written and helmed by a protagonist with an indelibly fierce heart." — *Kirkus Reviews* (starred review) on *Grit*

"Keen plotting, evocative writing, and dynamic characterization make French a writer to watch." — *Booklist* (starred review) on *Grit*

"French's most recent YA mystery brims with lyrical prose and striking imagery... the foreboding atmosphere, rich setting, and gorgeous prose make for a rewarding read." — *School Library Journal* on *The Missing Season*



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Them Bones

A McKenzie Novel

David Housewright

A stolen dinosaur skull is at the center of a complex mystery laid at the feet of unofficial P.I. Rushmore McKenzie.

Summary

There are two things that Rushmore McKenzie hates to turn down—a request from a friend and a challenge. Both of them show up in his wife's nightclub in the person of Angela Bjork, who has come to request McKenzie's help. McKenzie, once a homicide detective, now through a series of unlikely events, is a retired millionaire. But occasionally, for friends, he will do some unofficial private detective work. Over the years, he's hunted down a stolen Stradivarius, the hoard of 1930's gangster, and recovered a stolen, apparently cursed, artifact but McKenzie never imagined a case like this. An exceedingly rare dinosaur skull has been stolen.

Angela, a doctoral candidate, was out on a dig site in Southeastern Montana, when she found a skeleton of an Ankylosaurus. And no sooner than when the skull was removed and placed on a truck then they were attacked, the truck and skull stolen. Worried that nothing is being done to find the stolen skull, she turns to McKenzie. Worth millions on the black market, the chance to recover it becomes fainter by the day. And the people behind the theft are likely willing to do anything, to anyone, to hold onto it.

Contributor Bio

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

Quotes

Praise for *In a Hard Wind*

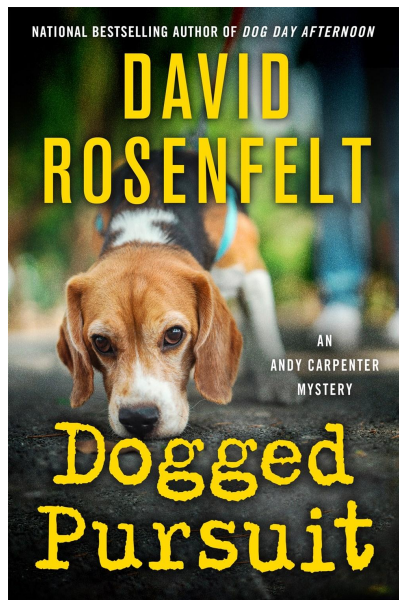
"Housewright's finest hour, bar none." —*Kirkus* (starred review)

Praise for *Something Wicked*

"A tale involving friends, family, romance, action, death, racism, inheritance, social justice, and divisiveness that pulls readers in and keeps one hooked from beginning to end." —*Mystery & Suspense*

"A perfect dock/patio/porch summer read." —*St. Paul Pioneer Press*

"You have to like a series in which the latest book is just as good as the first book and all the books in between." —*Booklist*



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Dogged Pursuit

An Andy Carpenter Mystery

David Rosenfelt

In *Dogged Pursuit*, David Rosenfelt takes readers back to the start of this beloved series as Andy Carpenter begins his career as a defense attorney in Paterson, New Jersey.

Summary

Andy Carpenter has spent the three years since graduating law school working as a prosecutor in Paterson. But having seen how the system never looks out for the little guy, he leaves to start his own practice as a defense attorney. His office might be a little bit of a dump, but he's excited to make a change.

Andy goes to the shelter to adopt a dog, where he meets his beloved golden retriever, Tara, for the first time and feels an immediate connection. The shelter is crowded and Tara's been sharing space with a dog named Sonny; Andy hates to break them up and so asks to take Sonny, too, but since there's a pending criminal case involving the owner, he'll need to get written permission for temporary possession.

Andy discovers that Sonny's owner, Ryan Tierney, has been arrested for the murder of his ex-boss. But he takes an immediate liking to Ryan and his clear dedication to his dog, and ends up with his first case along with the two dogs.

This prequel to the long-running and perennially popular Andy Carpenter mysteries is a gift for fans and a terrific entry-point for newcomers.

Contributor Bio

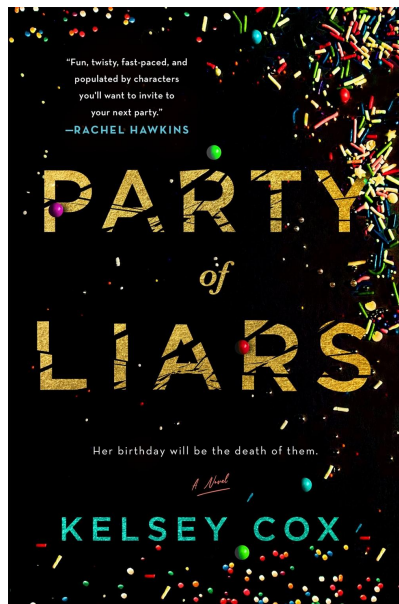
DAVID ROSENFELT is the Edgar-nominated and Shamus Award-winning author of almost 30 Andy Carpenter novels, most recently *Dog Day Afternoon*; nine stand-alone thrillers; two nonfiction titles; and four K Team novels, a series featuring some of the characters from the Andy Carpenter series. After years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

Quotes

Praise for *Dog Day Afternoon*

"Solid legal thrills from a master of the light touch." –*Kirkus Reviews*

"This is a series I love...I hope Andy NEVER retires...I'm waiting for the next one, which can't come soon enough." –*Deadly Pleasures*



Party of Liars

A Novel

Kelsey Cox

A lavish Sweet Sixteen turns deadly in this twisty, pulse-pounding novel — serving a fresh take on a classic locked-room mystery for fans of *The Guest List* and *First Lie Wins*.

Summary

Today is Sophie Matthews' sixteenth birthday party, an exclusive black-tie bash in the heart of the Texas Hill Country, where secrets are as deep-rooted as the sprawling live oaks. Sophie's dad has spared no expense, and his renovated cliffside mansion — once thought haunted, and shuttered for years from outsiders — is now open. It's the event of the season and the champagne is set to flow all day. Then, just before the candles on the three-tiered red velvet cake are blown out, a body falls from the balcony onto the starlit dance floor below.

But, who is the victim, and who is the killer?

There is Dani, the gorgeous new mother who's been plagued by self-doubt ever since the birth of her baby girl.

Órlaith, the superstitious Irish nanny, who senses a looming danger in this cavernous house.

Mikayla, the birthday girl's best friend, who is not nearly as meek as the popular kids assume.

And Kim, the cunning ex-wife, who has a grudge she can't let go of...

Everyone is invited in. Not everyone will get out alive.

Contributor Bio

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

Quotes

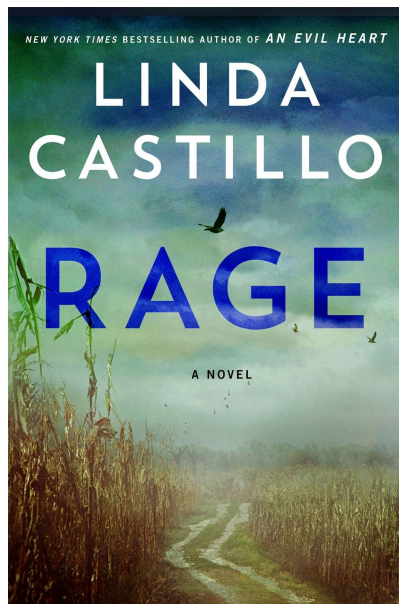
"*Party of Liars* is my favorite kind of thriller- fun, twisty, fast-paced, and populated by characters who feel so real you'll want to invite them (well, *some* of them) to your next party. With this debut, Kelsey Cox joins my auto-buy list forever!" - Rachel Hawkins, *New York Times* bestselling author

"I couldn't put it down! *Party of Liars* brings the gothic house mystery to Texas, featuring a killer cast, heart-pumping pace, and well-plotted twists and turns." - Nina Simon, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Mother-Daughter Murder Night*

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Rage

A Novel

Linda Castillo

In this new installment of the Edgar Award winning series, Chief of Police Kate Burkholder investigates a brutal double murder that takes her into the dark underbelly of Amish society.

Summary

Summer has arrived with a vengeance in Painters Mill, and a macabre discovery by three Amish children brings the quiet to a grinding halt. Chief of Police Kate Burkholder arrives on scene to find the dismembered body of 21-year-old Samuel Eicher, a local Amish man who owned a successful landscaping business. What twisted individual murdered him in such a sadistic way?

The investigation has barely begun when, miles away, a second body is found, stuffed into a barrel and dumped in a ravine. The deceased is *21-year-old* Aaron Shetler, Samuel Eicher's best friend. What could these two young Amish men have done to deserve such violent ends?

With a heat wave bearing down, Kate learns quickly that, for reasons she doesn't understand, no one is willing to talk about what happened to the men. Just as she begins to fear the case may be hopeless, a mystery woman comes forward and reveals that fun-loving Aaron and Samuel had recently befriended some very unsavory characters---individuals who may have ties to a larger, more sinister, black market.

To solve the case, Kate must delve into the most sordid corners of her community, but when she gets too close, the killers target Kate herself. Will the secrets simmering beneath the surface of Painters Mill take another life before she can expose the truth? Or will Kate be the final victim?

Contributor Bio

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

Quotes

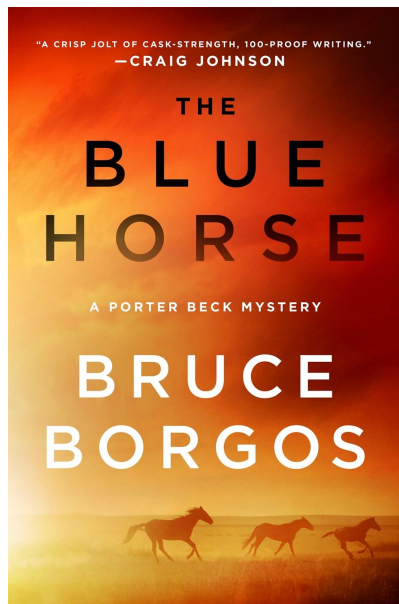
Praise for the Kate Burkholder novels:

"Electrifying." —***Publishers Weekly***

"A captivating story by a gifted storyteller." —***The Washington Book Review***

"Magnetic."—***People Magazine***

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



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The Blue Horse

A Porter Beck Mystery

Bruce Borgos

A controversial wild horse round-up in the high desert of Nevada results in two murders and too many suspects for Sheriff Porter Beck to deal with.

Summary

A helicopter driving a controversial round-up of wild horses suddenly crashes and the pilot is found to have been shot. Then the person coordinating the round-up for the Bureau of Land Management is savagely murdered, buried up to her neck and then trampled to death by the very same wild horses. And there's no lack of suspects—with the wild horse advocacy group having sworn to protect the horse At Any Cost! Now the state and federal agencies are showing up looking for answers or at least a scapegoat.

Sheriff Porter Beck has had better days.

Porter Beck's new girlfriend, Detective Charlie Blue Horse, arrives to help with the investigation, which leads them to Canadian Lithium mining operation near the round-up area that sets off Beck's mental alarm bells. Brinley, Beck's sister, is leading a group of troubled kids in a wilderness program, when one of them, Rafa, bolts one night. When Brinley catches up to him, they're just outside the mine—in the wrong place, at the wrong time.

With his personal life in turmoil, too many suspects and too many secrets, the feds pushing for a quick resolution, and his impetuous (if skilled) sister in the mix, one wrong step could be deadly for Porter Beck.

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.

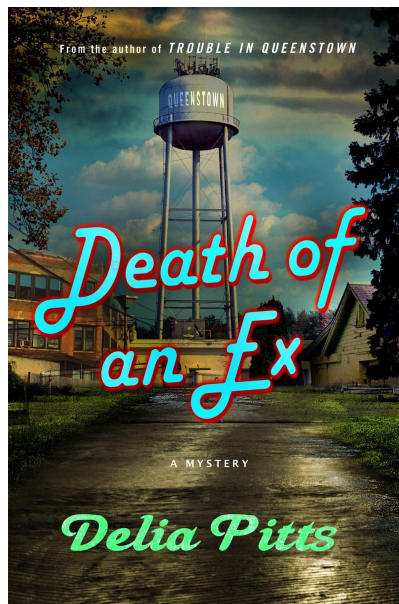
Quotes

Praise for the Porter Beck novels

"An intense thriller capitalizing on current technology, and Borgos writes strong, capable women characters." —*Library Journal*

"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...[*Shades of Mercy*] is fast-paced, twisty, and highly entertaining." —*Best Thriller Books*

"A crisp jolt of cask-strength, 100-proof writing." —Craig Johnson



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Death of an Ex

A Vandy Myrick Mystery

Delia Pitts

Pitts expertly writes about family, race, class, and grief in her mysteries. Vandy Myrick returns in *Death of an Ex*, where she tries to piece together what brought her ex-husband's life to an end.

Summary

Queenstown, New Jersey, feels big when you need help and tiny when you want privacy. For Vandy Myrick, that's both a blessing and a curse. Now that Vandy's back in "Q-Town", her services as her hometown's only Black woman private investigator have earned her more celebrity—or notoriety—than she figured.

Keeping busy with work helps Vandy deal with the grief of losing her daughter, stitching the seams, cementing the gaps. The memories will always remain, and they come crashing back to the surface when her ex-husband, Phil Bolden, walks back into her life. Promising everything, returning home, restoring family. Until she answers her door to the news that Phil has been murdered. And Vandy decides Phil is now her client.

It's hard to separate the Phil that Vandy knew with the one Queenstown did. She sees him—and their daughter—in Phil's son, who attends a prestigious local high school. She sees the layers of a complicated marriage with his wife. She sees all of Phil's various roles: parent, husband, businessman, philanthropist. But which role got him killed?

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 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.

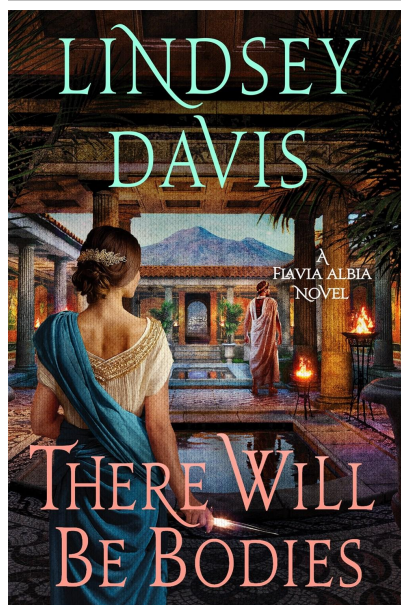
Quotes

Praise for *Trouble in Queenstown*

"*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*

"The story flies. Pitts's prose strikes a sophisticated balance between elegance and energy." –*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*



There Will Be Bodies

A Flavia Albia Novel

Lindsey Davis

A decade after the destructive eruption, Flavia Albia finds herself investigating family secrets and possible crimes buried in the ash of Mount Vesuvius.

Summary

In first century Rome, Flavia Albia—daughter and successor to Marcus Didius Falco—is once again faced with uncovering the truth. Quite literally. Only ten years previous, Mount Vesuvius erupted and rained ash down about the Roman cities and towns along the Bay of Naples. But while some cities were destroyed, others were merely badly damaged. And the uncle of Flavia Albia's husband seizes the opportunity to buy a villa...cheap! It just has to be dug out of the ash, and restored. Oh, and any bodies uncovered, including the previous owner, given a proper burial.

And as the Villa is being renovated, there are indeed bodies found. But one is not like the others—instead of buried in the ash, the previous owner's body is found in a locked storeroom and Albia is immediately suspicious that he didn't die in the eruption. With suspicious caretakers, a large inheritance, untrustworthy friends and a Sicilian pirate sniffing around, Albia must solve the riddle of a long ago death, maybe murder, to prevent another one.

Contributor Bio

LINDSEY DAVIS is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling series of historical mysteries featuring Marcus Didius Falco, which started with *The Silver Pigs*, and the mysteries featuring Falco's daughter, Flavia Albia, which started with *The Ides of April*. She has also authored a few acclaimed historical novels, including *The Course of Honour*. She lives in Birmingham, UK.

Quotes

"Melds scrupulous research, arch banter, caustic characters, and strong plotting...Flavia Albia is delightful, trickster-y company to spend time with." —*New York Times Book Review* on *A Comedy of Terrors*

"Superior...combines an engrossing plot with a plausible evocation of life in ancient Rome." —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review) on *Desperate Undertaking*

"Refreshingly wry and pointed...studded with humor and interesting historical detail." —*Kirkus Reviews* on *Desperate Undertaking*

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Savvy Summers and the Sweet Potato Crimes

A Mystery

Sandra Jackson-Opoku

A sparkling debut mystery set on the south side of Chicago, featuring the quick-witted, unforgettable Savvy Summers, proprietor of a soul food café.

Summary

When Savvy Summers first opened Essie's soul food café, she never expected her customer-favorite sweet potato pie to become the center of a murder investigation. But when Grandy Jaspers, the 75-year-old neighborhood womanizer, drops dead at table two, she suddenly has more to worry about than just maintaining Essie's reputation for the finest soul food in the Chicagoland area.

Even as the police deem Grandy's death an accident, Savvy quickly finds herself—and her beloved café—in the middle of an entire city's worth of bad press. Desperate to clear her name and keep her business afloat, Savvy and her snooping assistant manager, Penny Lopés, take it upon themselves to find who really killed Grandy.

But with a slimy investor harassing her to sell her name and business, customers avoiding her sweet potato pie like the plague, and her police sergeant ex-husband suddenly back in the picture, will Savvy be able to clear the café's name and solve Grandy's murder before it all falls apart?

After all, while Savvy always said her sweet potato pie was to die for, she never meant literally.

Contributor Bio

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

Quotes

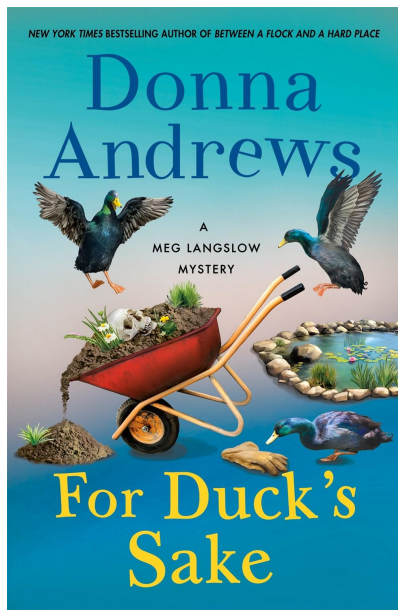
"An intimate look into the world of Chicago soul food, plus a fun mystery. Sit back and enjoy but beware the powerful pangs of hunger Sapphire can create." —Carolyn Haines, *USA Today* bestselling author

"*Savvy Summers and the Sweet Potato Crimes* is a delightful debut filled with unforgettable characters, witty dialogue and unexpected twists. This loving tribute to soul food and its culture will leave you begging for a second helping." —Valerie Wilson Wesley, author of *A Shimmer of Red*, an Odessa Jones Mystery.

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For Duck's Sake

A Meg Langslow Mystery

Donna Andrews

Donna Andrews returns with her latest charming addition to the bestselling Meg Langslow mystery series.

Summary

Meg is in the backyard of the house her brother Rob, Delaney, and their new baby have moved into, supervising some workmen who are using a bulldozer to start digging out a duck pond. She wants to get away from her own house, which has become the staging site for Caerphilly's first Mutt March, which will be held the next day. Meg thinks it will be more peaceful at Rob's house--and it is until the bulldozers uncover a skeleton whose skull has a hole and a bullet rattling around inside.

Meanwhile, Chief Burke begins searching the police records to see if he can identify any missing persons who would fit the bill. He doesn't turn down Meg's offer to help with his identification efforts, and she begins looking in the library and talking to old-timers. She's all the more eager to help because Iris Rafferty, who sold the house to Rob and Delaney and still lives in the mother-in-law suite, disappears the morning after the finding of the body . . . does her disappearance have anything to do with finding the body? Was it voluntary? Or was she kidnapped--possibly by the prowlers who are spotted lurking around the half-finished duck pond at night? Or do the prowlers have sinister designs on one or more of the dogs who will be marching into the parade?

Written with her classic cozy and investigative style, Donna Andrews is sure to delight in the latest in her Meg Langslow mystery series.

Contributor Bio

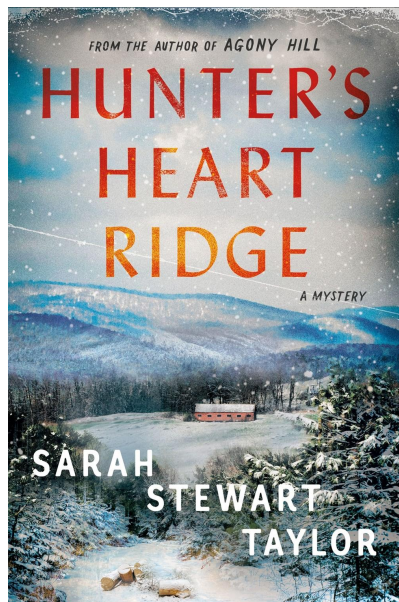
DONNA ANDREWS has won the Anthony, Barry, and three Agatha Awards, an RT Book Reviews Award for best first novel, and four Lefty and two Toby Bromberg Awards for funniest mystery. She is a member of the Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, and Novelists, Inc. Andrews lives in Reston, Virginia. *For Duck's Sake* is the 37th book in the Meg Langslow series.

Quotes

Praise for Donna Andrews and the Meg Langslow Mystery Series:

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

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



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Hunter's Heart Ridge

A Mystery

Sarah Stewart Taylor

In this sequel to Taylor's lyrical series debut, *Agony Hill*, Detective Frank Warren and his formerly CIA-connected neighbor Alice Bellows return to investigate the death of a federal judge.

Summary

It's opening day of deer season in 1965 Vermont and Detective Warren is hunting in the woods when he gets a call to return to Bethany. There's been an accident at The Ridge Club, an exclusive men's hunting and fishing club for congressmen, judges, and titans of industry. A federal judge has been murdered, and Warren quickly realizes that many of the club's members are powerful men who may have ulterior motives and suspicious connections in high places.

Meanwhile, Warren's neighbor Alice is getting ready for the first big snowstorm of the winter and worrying about her pregnant friend and fellow widow, Sylvie Weber, whose due date is coming up. When her old handler and friend, Arthur Crannock, unexpectedly shows up in Bethany, Alice begins to wonder whether his presence has anything to do with the judge's death.

As the snowstorm bears down on Bethany, Warren and his assistant Trooper Pinky Goodrich are trapped at the Ridge Club, likely along with a killer.

Sarah Stewart Taylor's historical series combines the intricacy of a satisfying mystery with the keen observation of a time and place during great transformation and upheaval.

Contributor Bio

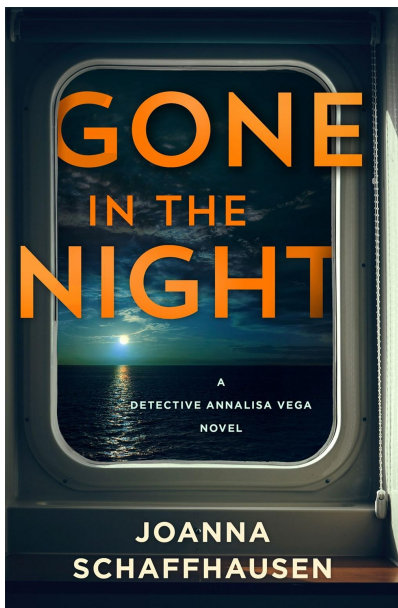
SARAH STEWART TAYLOR is the author of the Sweeney St. George series, set in New England, the Maggie D'arcy mysteries, set in Ireland and on Long Island, and *Agony Hill*, the first in a new series set in rural Vermont in the 1960s. Sarah has been nominated for an Agatha Award and for the Dashiell Hammett Prize and her mysteries have appeared on numerous Best of the Year lists. She writes and lives with her family on a farm in Vermont where they raise sheep and grow blueberries.

Quotes

Praise for *Agony Hill*

"The author of the Maggie D'arcy mysteries (*A Stolen Child*) launches a historical mystery series with a compassionate, vulnerable detective and a setting so vividly described it could be a character. Julia Spencer-Fleming fans will want to try this one."
—*Library Journal* (starred review)

"A classic mystery that pulls the reader in and doesn't let go until there's a resolution."
—First Clue



Gone in the Night

A Detective Annalisa Vega Novel

Joanna Schaffhausen

The fifth installment of the beloved Annalisa Vega series

Summary

Detective Annalisa Vega hasn't forgiven her brother for his role in a murder, and he hasn't forgiven her for turning him in, so she's surprised when he asks her to visit him in prison. Turns out, he has a possible case for her: one of his fellow inmates, Joe Green, may be innocent of the murder that landed him behind bars.

Joe is doing hard time for killing his ex-wife's lawyer, but an anonymous letter sent to the prison warns that the eyewitness in Joe's trial made up her story. With her private investigation business foundering, Annalisa is desperate enough to start poking around into Joe's meager case. She immediately finds two problems: One, the eyewitness definitely lied about what she saw the night of the murder, and two, Annalisa's husband Nick was the cop who arrested Joe in the first place.

Faced with correcting Nick's mistakes, Annalisa digs deeper into Joe's past and discovers he has two ex-wives with nothing good to say about him. The women may have orchestrated an elaborate frame to put Joe in prison, but one wife has completely disappeared since then. Did Joe somehow kill her? Or is he the real victim? Annalisa's search for the truth tests the bounds of her marriage, her family, and her own sense of justice. Meanwhile, a devious killer keeps sending men to a watery death in the vastness of Lake Michigan. If Annalisa doesn't figure out the truth about Joe soon, her husband might be next.

Contributor Bio

JOANNA SCHAFFHAUSEN wields a mean scalpel, skills developed in her years studying neuroscience. She has a doctorate in psychology, which reflects her long-standing interest in the brain. Previously, she worked for ABC News, writing for programs such as *World News Tonight*, *Good Morning America*, and *20/20*. She lives in the Boston area with her husband and daughter. She is also the author of *The Vanishing Season*, *No Mercy*, *All the Best Lies*, *Every Waking Hour*, *Gone for Good*, and *Long Gone*.

Quotes

Praise for *All the Way Gone*

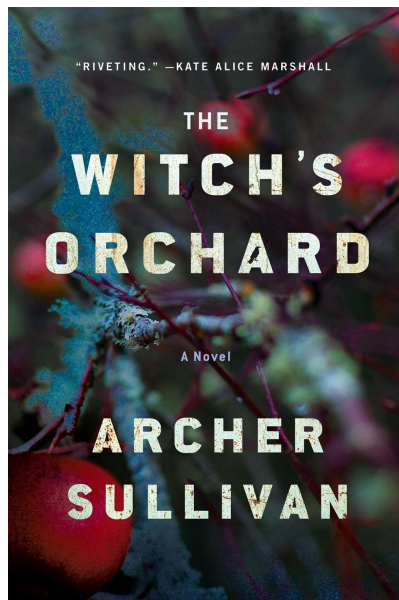
"Enough to keep you awake long after you turn the last page." -Kirkus

"A tense, emotional, and suspenseful novel with an unusual and riveting story arc that kept me engaged throughout." -Mystery and Suspense Magazine

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The Witch's Orchard

A Novel

Archer Sullivan

A ninth generation Appalachian, Sullivan brings the mountains of North Carolina to life in *The Witch's Orchard*, a wonderfully atmospheric novel that introduces private investigator Annie Gore.

Summary

Former Air Force Special Investigator Annie Gore joined the military right after high school to escape the fraught homelife of her childhood. Now, she's getting by as a private investigator and her latest case takes her to an Appalachian holler not unlike the one where she grew up.

Ten years ago, three little girls went missing from their tiny mountain town. While one was returned, the others were never seen again. After all this time without answers, the brother of one of the girls wants to hire an outsider, and he wants Annie. While she may not be from his town, she gets mountain towns. Mountain people. Driving back into the hills for a case this old—it might be a fool's errand. But Annie needs to put money in the bank and she can't turn down a case. Not even one that dredges up her own painful past.

In the shadow of the Blue Ridge, Annie begins to track the truth, navigating a decade's worth of secrets, folklore of witches and crows, and a whole town that prefers to forget. But while the case may have been buried, echoes of the past linger. And Annie's arrival stirs someone into action.

Contributor Bio

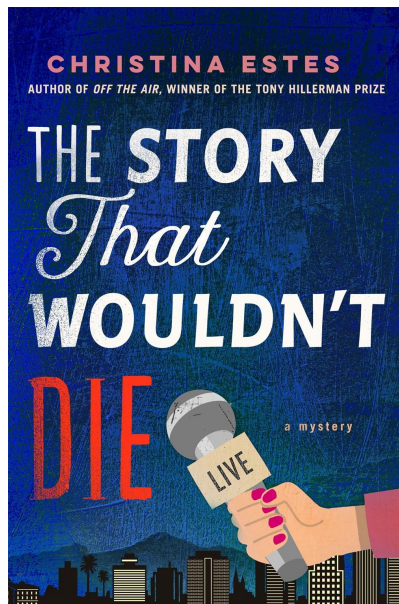
ARCHER SULLIVAN is a ninth generation Appalachian. She's moved thirty-seven times and has lived everywhere from Monticello, Kentucky to Manhattan, New York and from Black Mountain, North Carolina to Beverly Hills, California. Her work has appeared in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, *Tough*, *Shotgun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

Quotes

"A riveting mystery, weaving together the darkest secrets of a small community with a beguiling thread of folklore and local legend. Sullivan has crafted a compelling and complex heroine in Annie Gore, whose wits, compassion, and grit are the beating heart of this tense and layered thriller—I couldn't put it down." –Kate Alice Marshall, author of *What Lies in the Woods* and *A Killing Cold*

"Meet Annie Gore—tough, funny, stubborn, nosy, flippant, and highly efficient at her job: solving a mystery in a scruffy patch of Appalachia. This is a dandy tale, with crackling dialogue and unforgettable characters, all served up at a breakneck pace and dusted with the dark, gritty poetry of the hills." –Julia Keller, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of the Bell Elkins mysteries

"An enthralling trip through the twisting byways of small-town Appalachia, where everyone knows everyone—or do they? P.I. Annie Gore is a delight—tough, cynical, and determined to find the truth behind the tantalizing story of the witch's orchard—a story that changes with each teller. I read this in one satisfying gulp." –Vicki Lane, author of the Elizabeth Goodweather Appalachian Mysteries



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The Story That Wouldn't Die

A Mystery

Christina Estes

In Christina Estes's *The Story That Wouldn't Die*, Jolene Garcia refuses to stop investigating, but someone is determined to kill the story—and maybe her—for good.

Summary

Phoenix, Arizona TV reporter Jolene Garcia is fresh off winning her first Emmy and committed to covering stories that matter to her community. But Jolene's managers want stories that grab immediate attention and generate clicks, not ones that take time to develop.

When a beloved small business owner dies in a car crash, Jolene isn't convinced it was an accident. He'd been raising questions about who keeps getting lucrative deals at city hall—questions that powerful people don't want answered. The deeper Jolene digs, the more suspicious things she uncovers.

Exposing greed, ambition, and deception could become the biggest story of Jolene's career. Her bosses tell her to drop it. But there's a story here, and Jolene's going to find it.

Contributor Bio

CHRISTINA ESTES is an award-winning reporter who has spent more than twenty years covering crime, public policy, and business for TV and radio stations in Phoenix, Arizona. Her reporting has appeared on National Public Radio (NPR) and CBS. Christina's career inspired her mystery series featuring reporter Jolene Garcia, which begins with *Off the Air*, winner of the Tony Hillerman Prize for Best First Mystery Set in the Southwest.

Quotes

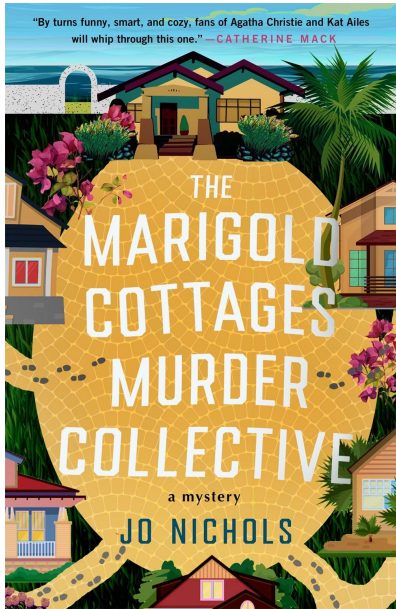
Praise for *Off the Air*

A Good Morning America Buzz Pick

"[A] spirited debut." –Shelf Awareness

"A love letter to Phoenix disguised as an entertaining whodunnit." –Axios Phoenix

"Deftly takes us into the world of local news broadcasting with a tale that demonstrates how, behind the smiling faces of TV anchors, covering a big story is a dog-eat-dog world." –J. A. Jance



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The Marigold Cottages Murder Collective

Jo Nichols

The perfect summer read, full of charm and heart, written in the vein of *The Thursday Murder Club* or *Only Murders in the Building* but with a southern California twist.

Summary

Mrs. B, the landlady of The Marigold Cottages is a stubborn idealist who only rents to people she cares about: Sophie, an anxious young playwright with a dark past; Hamilton, an agoraphobe who likes to overshare; Ocean, a queer sculptor raising two kids alone; the perfectionist Lily-Ann; and Nicholas, a finance bro who's hiding secrets.

The tenants live contentedly in their doll-house bungalows in Santa Barbara, just minutes from the beach, until their peace is shattered when Anthony, a quiet, hulking, but potentially violent ex-con moves in. Three weeks later, a dead body is discovered on the streets of the peaceful neighborhood. Anthony is arrested, and the tenants heave sighs of relief. Until Mrs. B, convinced that he's innocent, marches down to the police station and confesses to the crime herself. The tenants band together and form "The Marigold Cottages Murder Collective" to save their beloved landlady. As clues are unearthed and secrets are revealed, the community of misfits only grows more tight-knit...until a second body is found. Full of eccentricity, humor, community, *The Marigold Cottages Murder Collective* will keep you hooked until the last page

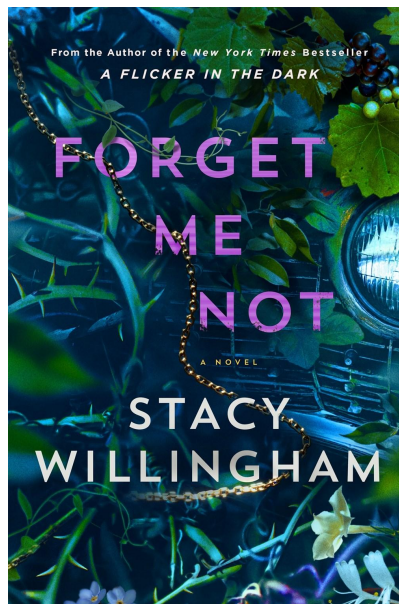
Contributor Bio

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

Quotes

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

"Simply put, it's the most charming, heartfelt, and funniest mystery I've ever read. Readers of Richard Osman rejoice... If I could live in the witty, just, and sundrenched world Jo Nichols has created, I wouldn't hesitate to call the movers tomorrow." - Katy Hays, *NYT* Bestselling author of *The Cloisters*



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Forget Me Not

Stacy Willingham

A riff on the power of sisterhood and the danger of secrets from the *New York Times* bestselling author of *A Flicker in the Dark* and *All The Dangerous Things*.

Summary

Claire Campbell's big sister died twenty-two years ago when she met up with an older man in a 90's chat room. Now, he's on death row after confessing to the murder of another girl. After a public outburst threatens her credibility as a journalist, Claire's suspended from the newsroom. With her newfound free time, she applies for a job at Featherbank Farm, a coastal vineyard in South Carolina, on a whim. Even better, it's only an hour away from where she and Natalie grew up and Claire is desperate to get some closure on her sister and set her life back on track.

At first glance, Featherbank is idyllic and full of nostalgia for Claire. Soon though, she stumbles across an old diary written by one of the farm owners. In the folds of a love story overtaken by manipulation and control that's uncannily similar to what happened to Natalie, pieces of unsolved crimes surface in the diary. Is something more sinister happening at Featherbank? If Claire can piece together enough evidence to solve these cold cases, she could definitely get her job back. And she can't ignore the feeling that, somehow, Natalie's death is tied to this all. Featherbank was supposed to be the place to help her forget, but with every secret she uncovers, she realizes that may be impossible.

Contributor Bio

STACY WILLINGHAM is the *New York Times*, USA Today and internationally bestselling author of *A Flicker in the Dark*, *All the Dangerous Things* and *Only If You're Lucky*. Her debut, *A Flicker in the Dark*, was a 2022 finalist for the Book of the Month's Book of the Year award, Goodreads Choice Best Debut award, Goodreads Choice Best Mystery & Thriller award, and ITW's Best First Novel award. She currently lives in Charleston, South Carolina, with her husband, Britt, and Labradoodle, Mako.

Quotes

Praise for *Only If You're Lucky* and Stacy Willingham:

"[An] atmospheric mystery perfect for fans of Donna Tartt's *The Secret History*...The explosive revelations rolled out at the novel's end will satisfy even the most jaded readers." –Oprah Daily

"Willingham is known for psychological twists, and the one she plants here is a doozy." –*Booklist*

"Cunning...twisty...Willingham's prose remains evocative, and her deep dive into the thorny nature of female friendship rings true...a gripping ride." –*Publishers Weekly*