

CATALOGUE

APRIL-JUNE 2024

SEVERN HOUSE

the home of
great genre fiction
since 1974



The home of great genre fiction since 1974

Severn House began life in 1974 as an independent publisher of titles by authors popular with libraries, rediscovering and rejuvenating out-of-print authors and series.

Over the years, we've grown into one of the UK's foremost publishers of genre fiction, particularly crime and mysteries, with prestigious names from both sides of the Atlantic on our list.

We are proud to publish the likes of Simon Brett, the godfather of cosy crime; Qiu Xiaolong, recently honoured as one of the authors on *Time* magazine's 100 Best Mystery and Thriller Books of All Time list; multi award-winning author Catriona McPherson, who took home last year's Anthony Award for Best Humorous Novel; Cynthia Harrod-Eagles, whose bestselling DCI Bill Slider series just passed its 24th entry; and many other award-winning and bestselling writers.

We are also excited to welcome new names and voices to our list. In these pages, you'll find new-to-Severn House authors like Sarah Fox (*Murder Most Owl*), S.K. Golden (*Stolen Pieces*), and Esme Addison (*An Intrigue of Witches*).

In 2017, we were acquired by fiercely independent publisher Canongate Books.

Fifty (we're told) is an age for looking back at where you've come from, but it's also a time of looking forward at what's yet to come. We're just as spry, feisty, and independent as we were in 1974, and we're just as dedicated now as then to publishing the books that you want to read.

So here's to another 50 years of publishing great genre fiction! Keep reading and come along for the ride with us.

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New Releases

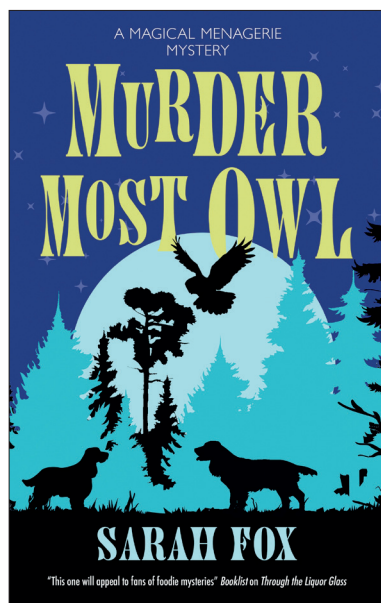
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NEW RELEASES



Sarah Fox was born and raised in Vancouver, British Columbia, where she developed a love for mysteries at a young age. When not writing novels, she is often reading her way through a stack of books or spending time outdoors with her English springer spaniel.

Murder Most Owl

A Magical Menagerie Mystery #1

SARAH FOX

The first in the enchanting new **Magical Menagerie** mystery series where things are not always what they seem. **Georgie Johansen** returns to the charming, coastal town of **Twilight Cove** and quickly finds herself in a whirlwind of romance, magic and murder!

It's been years since screenwriter Georgie Johansen last visited her Aunt Olivia's farm in the coastal town of Twilight Cove and things have certainly changed. First of all it's now an animal sanctuary, and then there's the new farmhand who's as mysterious as he is handsome. Her first day on the farm, Georgie encounters the eccentric Dorothy Shale, an older woman who lives in a cabin in the woods. There are rumours that Dorothy's a witch, but Georgie doesn't believe that. Although, Dorothy does have an unusual magical presence around her...

When Dorothy ends up murdered, suspicion falls on Georgie – she was the one who found the poor woman's body, and being new in town doesn't help with the suspicion. Things only get worse when it turns out that Dorothy left her valuable plot of land to Auntie O!

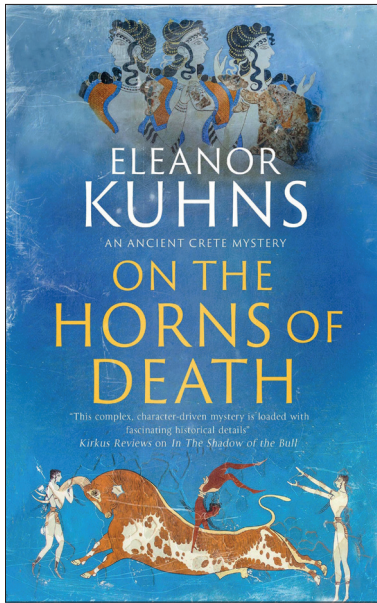
Georgie must act fast to clear her and her aunt's names by finding the real killer. But as bodies start to mount up, the pressure rises. With the help of the unusual powers of Dorothy's two dogs and great-horned owl, can Georgie uncover the truth before she becomes the killer's next target?

2 April 2024

Printed Paper Cased Fiction 224pp

Other (trim 216 x 138)
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Rights:
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Eleanor Kuhns is a previous winner of the Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel competition for *A Simple Murder*. The author of eleven Will Rees mysteries, she is now a full-time writer after a successful career as the Assistant Director at the Goshen Public Library in Orange County, New York.

On the Horns of Death

An Ancient Crete Mystery #2

ELEANOR KUHNS

Young bull-leaper Martis must solve the murder of the newest member of her bull-leaping team, with the help of her sister's Shade, in the second book in Eleanor Kuhns' fascinatingly detailed Ancient Crete mystery series.

Ancient Crete, 1450 BC. Young bull leaper Martis finds Duzi, the newest member of the bull leaping team, dead in the bull pen early one morning. Made to look like he met his end on the horns of the bull, it's clear to Martis that this was no accident...

Martis once again finds herself thrown into a dangerous game of hunting down a murderer as the deaths start to mount. An old friend of Martis' sister, and possible lover to Duzi, is the next person to be found dead, and Martis' investigations lead her to believe love and jealousy are at the heart of these crimes against the Goddess.

Is someone targeting the bull leaping community? Or is there something else at play? With only the Shade of her sister Arge to confide in, Martis struggles to untangle the growing web of secrets which stretches around her.

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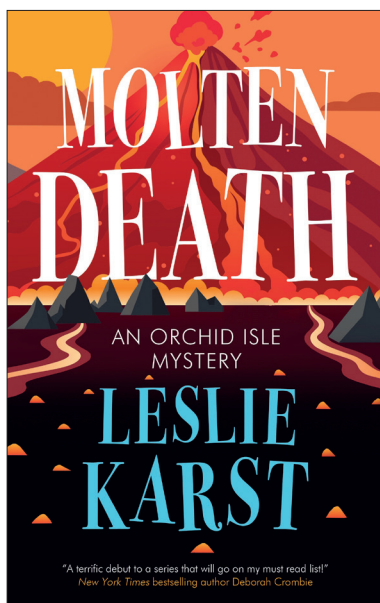
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Leslie Karst is the author of the Lefty Award-nominated Sally Solari culinary mysteries, as well as the memoir, *Justice is Served: A Tale of Scallops, the Law, and Cooking for RBG*. A graduate of Stanford Law School, it was during her career as a research and appellate attorney in Santa Cruz, California, that she rediscovered her youthful passion for food and cooking, at which point she once again returned to school – this time to earn a degree in culinary arts. Now retired from the law, in addition to writing, Leslie spends her days cooking (and eating!), gardening, cycling, and observing cocktail hour promptly at five o'clock. She and her wife and their Jack Russell mix split their time between Hilo, Hawai'i and Santa Cruz, California.

Molten Death

An Orchid Isle Mystery #1

LESLIE KARST

A glimpse of a quickly melting corpse at the foot of a volcano has amateur sleuth and food enthusiast Valerie Corbin shocked. But how can she investigate a murder, when there's no evidence the victim ever existed?

Retired caterer Valerie Corbin and her wife Kristen have come to the Big Island of Hawai'i to treat themselves to a well-earned tropical vacation.

Early one morning, the couple and their friend – tattooed local boy, Isaac – set out to see an active lava flow, and Valerie is mesmerized by the shape-shifting mass of orange and red creeping over the field of black rock. Spying a boot in the distance, she strides off alone, pondering how it could have gotten there, only to realize to her horror that the boot is still attached to a leg – a leg which is slowly being engulfed by the hot lava.

Valerie's convinced a murder has been committed – but as she's the only witness to the now-vanished corpse, who's going to believe her?

Determined to prove what she saw, and get justice for the unknown victim, Valerie launches her own investigation. But, thrown into a Hawaiian culture far from the luaus and tiki bars of glossy tourist magazines, she soon begins to fear she may be the next one to end up entombed in shiny black rock...

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Formerly a crime reporter for daily newspapers throughout the United States, **Claire Booth** has used this experience to write five previous Sheriff Hank Worth mystery novels based on small-town American life. She is also the author of one non-fiction book, *The False Prophet: Conspiracy, Extortion, and Murder in the Name of God*. She lives in California.

Home Fires

A Sheriff Hank Worth Mystery #6

CLAIRE BOOTH

Sheriff Hank Worth is pulled in different directions as he juggles the fallout from a huge explosion at a fireworks warehouse and the shocking discovery with implications on his own family in this tense mystery.

Branson Sheriff Hank Worth is one of the first on the scene of a mass casualty incident – a local fireworks warehouse has exploded, killing everyone inside. As over a dozen victims are pulled from the smoldering ruins, the painstaking identification process begins.

Chief Deputy Sheila Turley returns early from medical leave to assist in the office, while Hank delves deeper into the increasingly complicated situation at the morgue. He discovers that the previous forensic pathologist was hasty at best and negligent at worst. What starts as an offhand request to look into the errors turns into a discovery that shakes Hank's world off its axis...

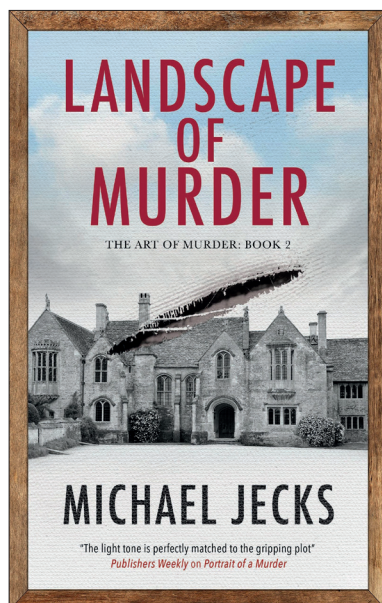
With Hank secretly investigating his discovery at the morgue, his short-handed team is stretched to the brink as it investigates the cause of the explosion. Then a shocking revelation leaves Sheila and her fellow deputies scrambling for answers to an unexpected crime. Just what happened in the warehouse in the moments before the blast? Can they unravel the mysteries in time to save Branson from yet more heartbreak? And can Hank, adrift and alone, figure out what happened before it destroys everything he holds dear?

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Michael Jecks is the author of forty-seven novels, including the acclaimed Last Templar medieval mystery series, modern spy thriller *Act of Vengeance*, eight Bloody Mary mysteries and now The Art of Murder series. A former Chairman of the Crime Writers' Association, and founder of Medieval Murderers, he lives in northern Dartmoor.

Landscape of Murder

The Art of Murder: Book 2

MICHAEL JECKS

Join struggling artist and accidental sleuth, Nick Morris, as he investigates a death at a beautiful manor home in the second darkly comic Art of Murder mystery.

When an offer to paint a beautiful Georgian house in the Peak District falls into Nick Morris' lap he jumps at the commission. Businessman Derek Swann is selling up and wants a landscape to remember. But Nick's plans for a quiet stay in the countryside are scuppered when he and his chalet neighbour Megan Lamplighter find a body in the woods surrounding the holiday park.

Rick Parrow seemed to be a troubled young adult, with a dark cloud following him around in recent days, so when it turns out he was murdered, Nick feels compelled to seek out the truth. What was bothering Rick in the days before his death? What exactly was his connection to the bear-like figure of Jez Cooper, who was staying in a chalet up from Nick? And who could possibly have wanted the boy dead?

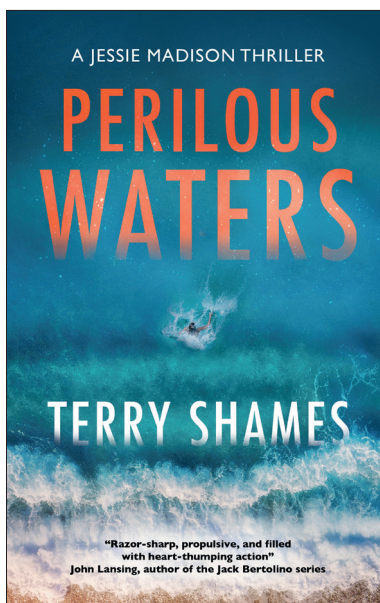
Nick's attention is pulled in every direction – from his work at the manor house, and its captivating housekeeper Adela – to the many unsavoury characters now circling the holiday park and paying a little too much attention to Nick's movements. Nick must act fast if he wants to get out of this in one piece!

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Award-winning author **Terry Shames** is the author of the Samuel Craddock mysteries. As well as winning the Macavity Award for Best First Novel, *A Killing at Cotton Hill* was also shortlisted for The Strand Critics Award. *The Necessary Murder of Nonie Blake* won the RT Critics Award for Best Mystery. Her books have also been shortlisted for Left Coast Crime Awards for Best Mystery. She is a member of Sisters in Crime and on the board of Mystery Writers of America. *Perilous Waters* is her first thriller.

Perilous Waters

A Jessie Madison Thriller #1

TERRY SHAMES

FBI dive instructor Jessie Madison's survival skills are stretched to breaking point when she is plunged into danger in this exhilarating thriller – the first in a pulsating new series.

Jessie Madison escaped to the Bahamas when she made a terrifying discovery at home and a bad decision got her dismissed from FBI dive training. Now, Jessie is ready to return home to restart her career – and stop living in fear – but her last weekend in paradise turns to disaster when she and a friend are attacked on a boat and thrown overboard, with devastating consequences.

Jessie's determined to bring their attackers to justice. Who are they? What were they looking for on the boat? And can she trust Nick, the handsome but enigmatic stranger who claims he wants to help her? Jessie must draw on all her underwater and investigative skills if she is to stay alive long enough to get answers – and hope her past doesn't catch up with her first...

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9781448311804

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Elaine Viets returned to her hardboiled roots with her Angela Richman, Death Investigator series. *A Scarlet Death* is the latest, following on from *The Dead of Night*, *Late for His Own Funeral*, *Life Without Parole*, *Death Grip*, *A Star Is Dead*, *Fire and Ashes* and *Brain Storm*, as well as the novella *Ice Blonde*. Elaine has over thirty-five bestselling mysteries in four series. A St. Louis native, Elaine took the Medicolegal Death Investigator Training Course for forensic professionals at St. Louis University, and has won the Agatha, Anthony and Lefty Awards. Elaine lives in Fort Lauderdale with her husband, writer and reviewer Don Crinklaw.

A Scarlet Death

An Angela Richman, Death Investigator Mystery #8

ELAINE VIETS

Angela Richman's new case is full of dark secrets and scandal, but shocking events closer to home prove to be her biggest challenge yet...

Nobody in Choutaeu Forest expected one of their most prominent citizens, socialite Selwyn Skipton, to be found dead in such salacious circumstances: strangled on satin bedsheets, a red letter A brutally stapled to his chest, in his private apartment above the Chouteau Forest Chocolate Shoppe.

Selwyn was a good man. He gave to charity, supported local causes, and was married to his wife for more than twenty years. What did he do to deserve such a terrible end?

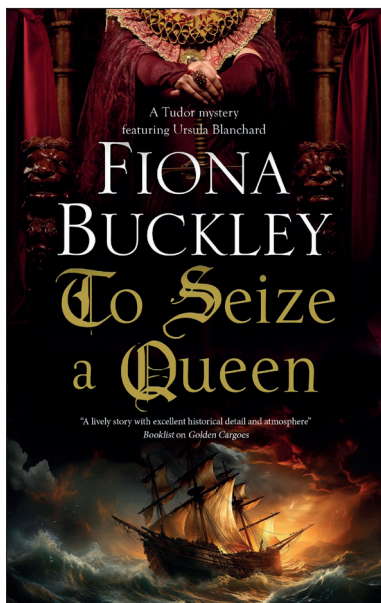
As Death Investigator Angela Richman investigates, she uncovers Selwyn's dark secret, but also faces an unexpected, chilling conundrum closer to home...

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Fiona Buckley is the author of twenty-two previous Ursula Blanchard mysteries. Under her real name, Valerie Anand, she is the author of numerous historical novels including the much-loved *Bridges Over Time* series. Brought up in London, she now lives in Surrey.

To Seize a Queen

A Tudor Mystery featuring Ursula Blanchard #23

FIONA BUCKLEY

Pirates in Penzance? Queen Elizabeth's half-sister and secret agent Ursula Blanchard takes on a dangerous new mission involving mysterious disappearances and murder in Cornwall in this gripping Tudor mystery.

1594. Ursula Stannard is attending on her half-sister, Queen Elizabeth, when she receives an urgent summons from Sir Robert Cecil. Cornishman Master Roskilly was fished out of the sea by Sir Francis Godolphin, and has a shocking tale of being snatched by pirates and put on a slave vessel to Constantinople before his audacious escape. And he's not the only one... Folk in Cornwall are mysteriously disappearing. But why are only exceptional or unusual individuals being kidnapped, and could there be a link to two recent murders?

With the queen's annual progress stalled, Ursula agrees to go undercover to unmask those responsible, knowing that Queen Elizabeth would be the most prized captive of all . . .

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£21.99 | \$29.99

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Stolen Pieces

S.K. GOLDEN

Ocean's 8 meets Janet Evanovich, this fast-paced crime caper features one badass mother, with a certain set of skills who is forced to come out of retirement to protect her son, and teach a few men a few lessons!

Ex-con artist Bee Cardello is going legit. Divorced from her mafia boss husband, she is determined to stay on the straight and narrow. So, when ex-hubby Charlie steals \$37.5 million from a dangerous kingpin, who puts out a hit on Bee and her ten-year-old son Oliver, she finds herself pulled back into the life she's worked so hard to escape.

Part of that old life being one Adam Gage – an old flame and all-round sexy badass who Charlie's now employed to keep her and Oliver safe...well, that's what he tells her. Bee has been in this game long enough to know that everyone is in it for themselves, and she'd be stupid to trust Adam... again.

When Oliver is snatched from right under their noses, rather than risk losing him forever, Bee gathers her old team, dusts off all her old grifting tricks, and comes out of retirement to get her son back!

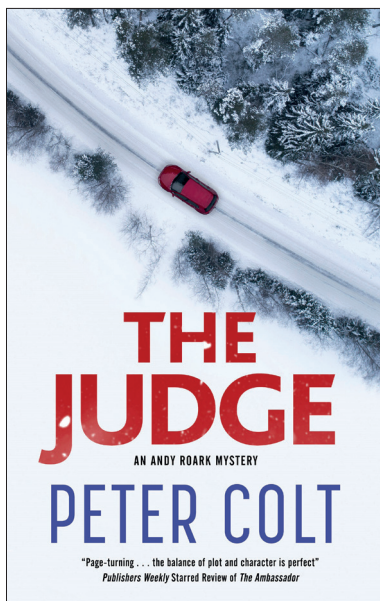
S.K. Golden is the author of the Pinnacle Hotel cozy mystery series. Born and raised in the Florida Keys, she married a commercial fisherman. The two of them still live on the islands with their five kids (one boy, four girls – including identical twins!), two cats, and a corgi named Goku. Sarah graduated from Saint Leo University with a bachelor's degree in Human Services and Administration and has put it to good use approximately zero times. She's worked as a bank teller, a pharmacy technician, and an executive assistant at her father's church. Sarah is delighted to be doing none of those things now.

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Peter Colt is a 1996 graduate of the University of Rhode Island with a BA in Political Science and a 24-year veteran of the Army Reserve with deployments to Kosovo and Iraq as an Army Civil Affairs officer. He is currently a police officer in Rhode Island. He is married with two sons and two perpetually feuding cats.

The Judge

An Andy Roark Mystery #5

PETER COLT

When a Boston judge is being blackmailed, Andy Roark must find out who is behind the threat before lives get ruined in this thrilling mystery featuring the Vietnam veteran turned private investigator.

Boston, 1985. With the late December cold comes a new job for ex-military operative turned private investigator Andy Roark. Boston judge Ambrose Messer is being blackmailed, and he needs Roark's help to stop the culprit.

Messer is judging the bench trial of a chemical company accused of knowingly dumping chemical waste in an unsafe manner, causing birth defects and cancer. The evidence against them is overwhelming, but the message from the blackmailer is clear: *If you don't want the world to know your secret, the chemical company wins.* Messer doesn't want to let a threat corrupt his judgement...but then again, he could lose everything if his secret comes out!

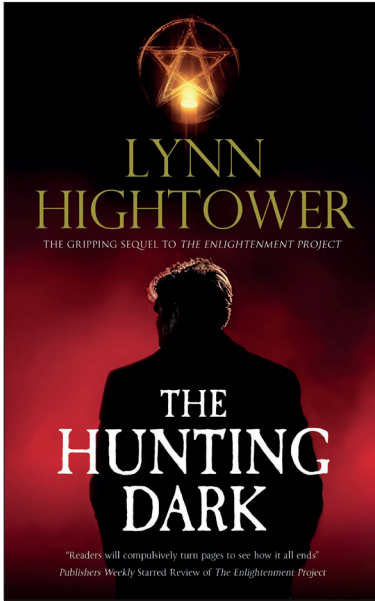
Judging his client to be a man with morals, Roark plunges into action, determined to find the blackmailer before it's too late. But the disturbing, unexpected revelations he uncovers make him a target of some very dangerous people, who soon seem determined not only to wreck the life of his client, but to destroy Roark's too...

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Lynn Hightower is the internationally bestselling author of numerous thrillers including the Sonora Blair and Lena Padget detective series. She has previously won the Shamus Award for Best First Private Eye novel and a WHSmith Fresh Talent Award. Lynn lives in Kentucky, in a small Victorian cottage with a writing parlor.

The Hunting Dark

An Enlightenment Project Novel #2

LYNN HIGHTOWER

In the Amish countryside of Kentucky, there is a house. Everyone knows about it. They whisper about the things that happen there. Creepy things. Terrible things. It would be better if they shouted: *Run.*

Six weeks ago, fragile mother of two Pammie LaRue moved in with her beloved partner Conor. They ignored the knocks on the walls. Whispering voices. Water pooling, with no obvious leak.

Eight days ago, Conor went missing, without a trace. Unless you count the drag marks in the crawl space under the house...

Neurosurgeon Noah Archer doesn't believe in ghosts and demons and haunted houses – he knows from terrible experience just how real they are. But despite his work with the Enlightenment Project, which pits cutting-edge scientific research against the darkness, he's no exorcist.

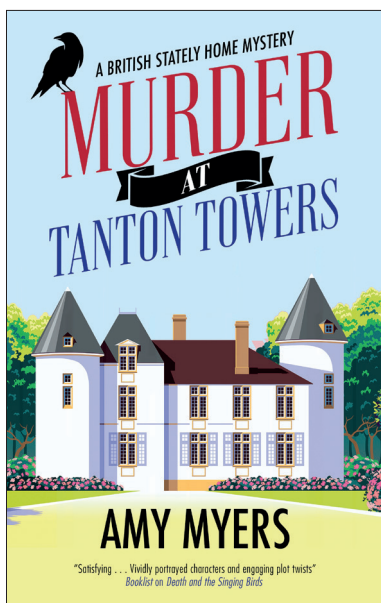
Still, when Pammie pitches up on his doorstep late one night, children in tow, Noah helps. He enters the house. But in doing so, he's made a terrible mistake. Because once the darkness has its claws in you, it won't let go...

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Amy Myers has written a wide range of novels, from crime to historical sagas to contemporary romance. She is also well known for her mystery short stories that have been published in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* and many anthologies. Her traditional and cozy mystery series include the Jack Colby, car detective mysteries, co-written with her husband, American-born car buff James Myers; the Auguste Didier series; the Tom Wasp, Victorian chimney sweep novels; the Marsh and Daughter mysteries; and the Nell Drury mysteries.

Murder at Tanton Towers

A British Stately Home Mystery #1

AMY MYERS

Introducing café-owner and divorcee Cara Shelly, who bakes a mean cake – and solves impossible crimes – in the first of a brand-new British traditional mystery series with cozy flair.

Everyone told Cara Shelly that she was crazy to set up a café in the shadow of eccentric Kentish stately home Tanton Towers. But now, three years later, the forty-something single mother can't believe her good luck. The Happy Huffkin café is thriving, and Cara considers the Tanton Towers staff – and its equally eccentric owners, Max and Alison – to be more like family than colleagues. Three cheers for Tanton Towers!

But one beautiful summer evening, when Cara's hard at work clearing up after closing time, Alison comes hurtling down to the café to beg her for help. It's trouble – and of the worst kind. Daphne Hanson, queen of the Towers' costume-clad dancing troupe – and the greatest nosy parker in Kent – is lying dead in the orangery. Strangled! But by whom? And why?

Determined that the culprit should *not* be one of her friends, and suspicious of the detective assigned the case – the deeply annoying, and annoyingly attractive DCI Andrew Mitchem – Cara launches her own investigation. But the more secrets she uncovers, the more she's forced to consider the unthinkable: that one of her dear friends could be the killer...

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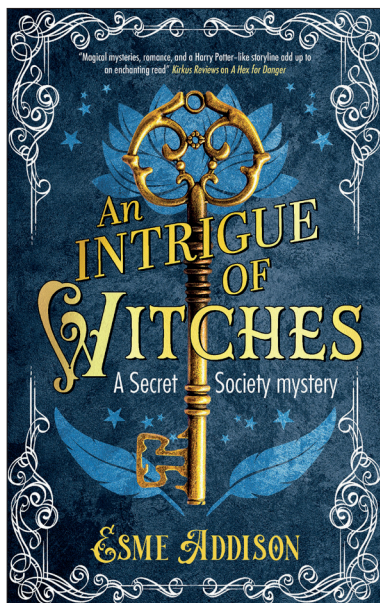
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Esme Addison is the bestselling author of the Enchanted Bay mysteries, the first of which was nominated for an Agatha Award, and the brand-new Secret Society mysteries.

Esme lives in Raleigh, NC with her family and is a member of Sisters In Crime, International Thriller Writers, Mystery Writers of America and Crime Writers of Color. When she's not writing, you can find her reading, traveling, and indulging her love of history at museums and historical sites.

An Intrigue of Witches

A Secret Society Mystery #1

ESME ADDISON

Introducing the Secret Society mystery series, and kick-ass red-headed heroine Sidney, a Black historian poised on the brink of discovering her true past...and her hidden witchy powers!

Thirty-year-old Black woman Sidney Taylor is a talented early American history professor, working in fast-paced Washington DC, with her eyes on promotion. She's also currently persona non grata. Who knew that making an inconvenient historical discovery would see her stuck at her desk, shuffling paper?

So when she receives an anonymous and very cryptic invitation to visit historic small-town Robbinsville, North Carolina and hunt for a missing archaeological treasure – with a million-dollar pay out at stake – it's one she can't refuse. Besides, her beloved grandmother lives in Robbinsville, and it's been too long since she's paid her a visit.

Soon, Sidney's on an exciting treasure hunt, following two-hundred-year-old clues that lead her ever closer to the artefact she's searching for. But what is the artefact? And why is Sidney starting to feel like she's at the heart of a terrifying conspiracy she doesn't understand?

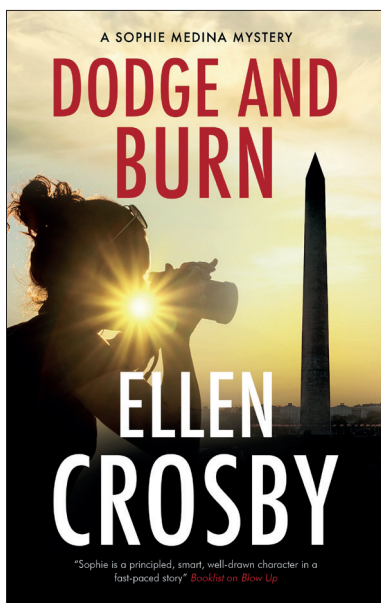
The answer blows Sidney's world apart, plunging her into a dark, glittering world of secret societies, ancient bloodlines, witches and magic, linked to an ages-old conspiracy that could destroy the very principles upon which America was founded.

7 May 2024

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Rights:
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Ellen Crosby is a former reporter for the *Washington Post*, foreign correspondent for *ABC News Radio* and economist at the U.S. Senate. She has spent many years overseas in Europe, but now lives in Virginia with her husband. She is the author of the *Wine Country* mysteries and the *Sophie Medina* mysteries.

Dodge and Burn

A Sophie Medina Mystery #4

ELLEN CROSBY

Washington, D.C.-based photojournalist Sophie Medina is not a murderer – but someone is determined to make sure she goes down for a crime she did not commit...

When billionaire philanthropist and art collector Robson Blake hires Sophie Medina to take photographs for him, she doesn't expect to show up and find her client dead. It seems he was the victim of a burglary gone wrong. But why was his state-of-the-art security system turned off...and why, in a house full of priceless Old Masters, is the only thing missing a beautiful but insignificant Ukrainian religious icon?

Before long, Sophie finds herself in the crosshairs of a D.C. homicide detective who suspects she knows more than she is saying about Blake's murder – and he's not wrong. To Sophie's mixed delight and horror, she's recently learned she has a half-brother...who might also be an international art thief, with eyes on Blake's collection.

As the police get closer to finding Blake's killer, Sophie is certain someone is trying to frame her for his murder. Can she find the real killer in time – even if it means turning in her own brother to prove her innocence?

7 May 2024

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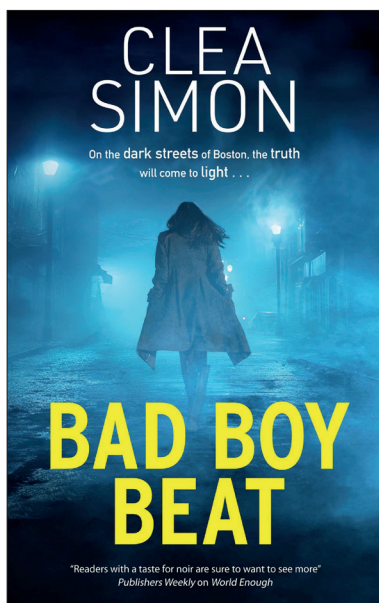
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Bad Boy Beat

CLEA SIMON

When a rookie reporter for the *Boston Standard* is convinced a series of street crimes are connected, she is willing to go the extra mile to chase down the big story. The newest mystery by Clea Simon is a page-turning story featuring a female protagonist and set in Boston's underground.

Clea Simon grew up in New York, before moving to Cambridge, Massachusetts to attend Harvard. She fell in love with the area and lives in nearby Somerville with her husband and their cat, Thisbe. She is the author of the *Dulcie Schwartz*, *Theda Krakow*, *Pru Marlowe*, *Blackie and Care* and, most recently, *Witch Cats of Cambridge* mystery series as well as a number of grittier standalone mysteries.

Boston Standard journalist Emily – Em – Kelton is desperate for a big story. As a new reporter Em covers the police beat, which has her responding to every crime that comes across the newsroom scanner. Despite the drudgery and the largely nocturnal hours, it's a beat that suits her – especially with her affinity for the low-level criminals she regularly interacts with and what she considers a healthy scepticism for the rules.

But she's sick of filing short news briefs about random street murders that barely merit a byline, and when she sets out to cover yet another shooting of a low-level dealer, she begins to wonder if these crimes are somehow connected.

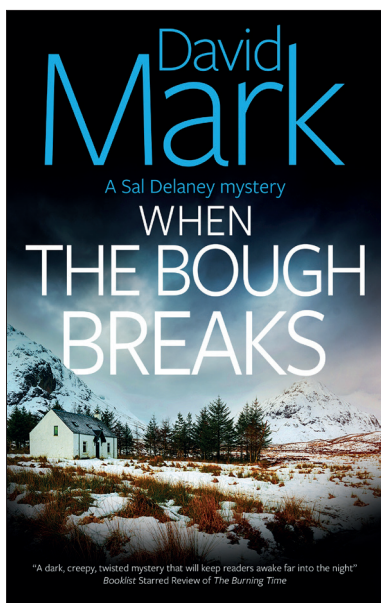
With not much to go on but her instincts, Em sets out to uncover the truth behind these sordid crimes. But the more she investigates and uncovers a pattern, the more she digs herself into a hole from which she might not come out of alive...

7 May 2024

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 9781448313044

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David Mark spent seven years as crime reporter for the *Yorkshire Post* and now writes full-time. A former *Richard & Judy* pick, and a *Sunday Times* bestseller, he is the author of the DS Aector McAvoy series, a number of standalone thrillers and the new Sal Delaney mysteries. He lives in Northumberland with his family.

When the Bough Breaks

A Sal Delaney Mystery #1

DAVID MARK

Sunday Times best-selling author David Mark delivers a pulse-pounding new dark and gritty police procedural series set in the north of England, with a complex, intriguing female protagonist.

North of England. Cumbria. Salome Delaney didn't have a great start in life. But her abusive childhood came to a tragic conclusion with the killing of her tyrant mother, Trina, by a jealous ex-boyfriend. At least, that's what the police say. Sal has never believed kind Wulf, who tried to protect her from her mother's dark side, could have committed such a crime, but the evidence was irrefutable...and who else could have done it?

Now an adult, with a good job as a Collison Investigation Officer, Sal's done her best to put the past behind her. But one snowy morning she's called to an accident scene, and she recognizes the body – Barry Ford, the man her mother left Wulf for, all those years ago.

It soon becomes clear this wasn't just an accident – it was murder. And Wulf, now out of prison, lives very close by...

The question of who really killed her mother has haunted Sal her whole life, but as she launches a complex investigation, which gets darker by the hour, she starts to wonder if she really wants to know the answer after all.

4 June 2024

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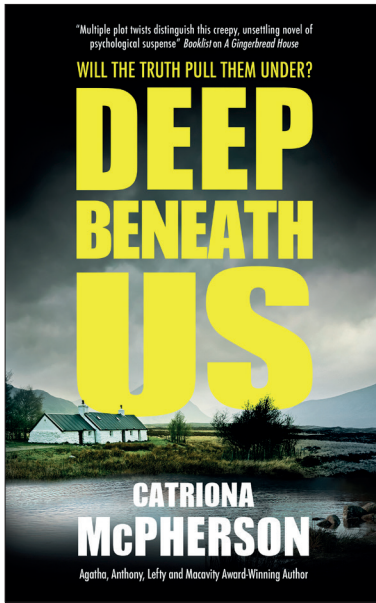
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Born and raised in West Lothian, **Catriona McPherson** left Edinburgh University with a PhD in Linguistics and worked in academia, as well as banking and public libraries, before taking up full-time writing in 2001. For the last ten years she has lived in Northern California with frequent visits home. In 2023, she won the Anthony Award for the Best Humorous Mystery for *Scot in a Trap*.

Deep Beneath Us

CATRIONA MCPHERSON

Will the truth pull them under? A twisty, gripping mystery from a multi-award-winning master of suspense that you won't be able to put down...

Tabitha Muir returns to her childhood home in the remote hills of Hiskith in Scotland after twenty years away. She's lost her job, her house, and custody of her son after a divorce, and thinks this must be rock bottom – but worse is to come. An unplanned explosion at the dam on the loch and the suspicious death of her beloved cousin Davey force Tabitha to confront her past demons.

Is Davey's death just another dark episode in the Muir family's scandalous history? As Davey's closest friends, Gordo and Barrett, help Tabitha try to answer the many questions around Davey's demise, Tabitha discovers that nothing she thought she knew about herself and those around her is true...

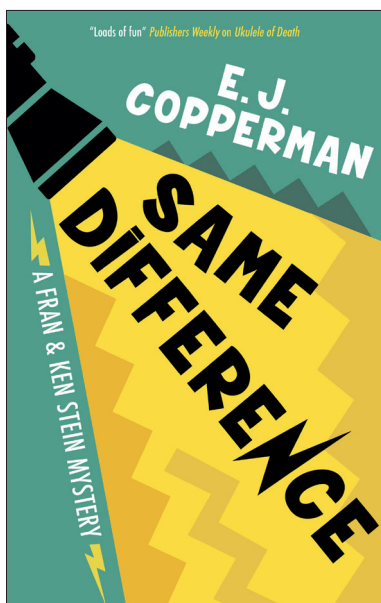
The trio are about to bring Hiskith's darkest secrets to the surface, but will the truth destroy them?

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E.J. Copperman is the nom de plume for Jeff Cohen, writer of intentionally funny murder mysteries. As E.J., he writes the *Haunted Guesthouse* and *Agent to the Paws* series, as well as the *Jersey Girl Legal* mysteries and the brand-new *Fran & Ken Stein* mysteries; as Jeff, he writes the *Double Feature* and *Aaron Tucker* series; and he collaborates with himself on the *Samuel Hoenig Asperger's* mysteries.

A New Jersey native, E.J. worked as a newspaper reporter, teacher, magazine editor and screenwriter, before his first book was published to critical acclaim in 2002. In his spare time, Jeff is an extremely amateur guitar player, a fan of Major League Baseball, a couch potato and a crossword addict.

Same Difference

A Fran and Ken Stein Mystery #2

E. J. COPPERMAN

Nineteen-year-old trans woman Eliza is missing...and her worried father sets private investigators Fran and Ken Stein on her trail in this second instalment of the light-hearted and fun cozy mystery series with a paranormal twist.

Taking a break from their usual business of helping adoptees find their birth parents, New York private investigators – and super-sized, ever-so-slightly-paranormal siblings – Fran and Ken Stein accept a job to find a missing young woman.

Nineteen-year-old college student Eliza Hennessey is trans – and she has a rocky relationship with her father, their new client. Brian's convinced his daughter's vanished, rather than run away, but Fran and Ken aren't so sure she wants to be found.

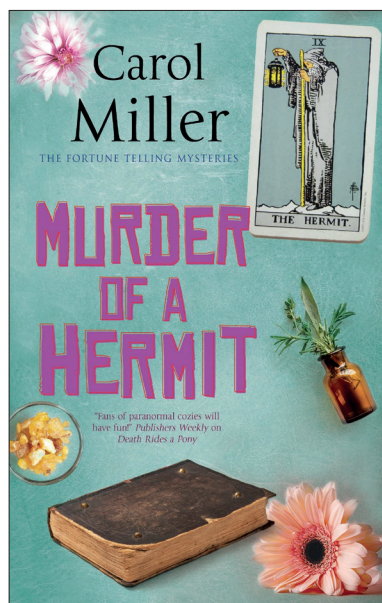
The PI duo investigate, and soon Fran is butting heads with her irritating sort-of-ex-boyfriend Mank at the NYPD, who has what seems to be a similar case on his desk. But not even Fran could guess how tangled their investigations are going to get, and how deep they'll need to dive into murder and mayhem to solve the case!

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Carol Miller is the author of three Moonshine Mystery novels, including *Murder and Moonshine*, which was named an Amazon Best Book of the Month and a *Library Journal* Starred Debut of the Month upon release. *The Fool Dies Last* was Carol's first novel with Severn House and the first entry in The Fortune Telling Mysteries series. Carol is an attorney and lives in Virginia.

Murder of a Hermit

The Fortune Telling Mysteries #3

CAROL MILLER

Hope and Summer Bailey have their work cut out for them when a man who seems to be The Hermit from their Tarot card readings is found dead in their back yard!

An impromptu Tarot reading reveals the stranger who has been watching Hope and Summer over the last few days to be the Hermit – a seeker of knowledge and wisdom. The sisters discover that he has been hired to steal a valuable and potentially dangerous book from them, but only after he's found drowned in their back garden!

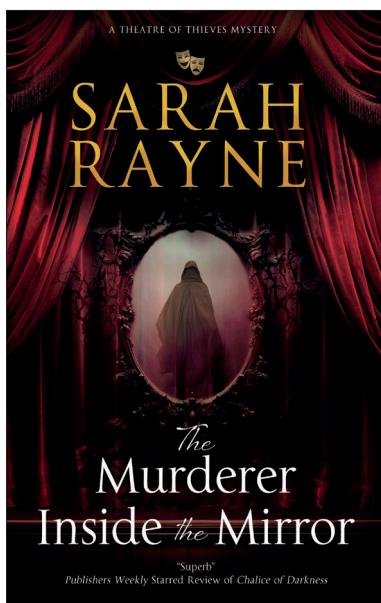
Was he killed to hide the mastermind behind the theft? When a rival fortune teller holds a séance to determine the identity of the Hermit's murderer, Hope and Summer find themselves accused of the crime. Can they clear their name and figure out who the real culprit is before the book falls into the wrong hands?

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9781448310579

Rights:
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Sarah Rayne is the author of many novels of psychological and supernatural suspense, including the Nell West & Michael Flint series, the Phineas Fox mysteries and the Theatre of Thieves mysteries. She lives in Staffordshire.

The Murderer Inside the Mirror

A Theatre of Thieves Mystery #2

SARAH RAYNE

Another day, another grand scheme! The thieving Fitzglen family are back in this second instalment of the spellbinding Theatre of Thieves gothic mystery series set in Victorian England.

London, 1908. The Fitzglens, one of London's leading theatre families and part-time thieves, are plotting their next scheme when they receive terrible news about Great Uncle Montague. He's been killed in a tragic accident at his Notting Hill home.

Montague will be much missed, not just for his talent in art forgery, but his death provides an unlooked-for opportunity: the chance to search for his infamous iron box. No one knows what it contains – if, that is, it even exists – but Jack Fitzglen is certain it has to be something highly valuable...or extremely dangerous. Why else would the grand master of storytelling have refused to even drop a hint?

Jack is amazed when he finds the box – and even more amazed by its contents. An unknown play by one of Ireland's leading playwrights, entitled *The Murderer Inside the Mirror*. Jack reads the first few pages, and is struck by a nameless feeling of dread. But even he has no idea what kind of dangerous adventure the manuscript will take him on – one which will tangle him in revenge, madness...and murder.

4 June 2024

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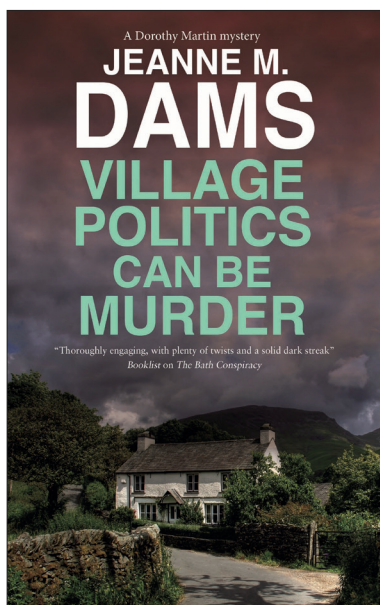
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Jeanne M. Dams, an American, is a devout Anglophile who has wished she could live in England ever since her first visit in 1963. Fortunately, her alter ego, Dorothy Martin, can do just that. Jeanne lives in South Bend, Indiana, with a varying population of cats.

Village Politics Can Be Murder

A Dorothy Martin Mystery #26

JEANNE M. DAMS

A trip to the Lake District proves to be anything but idyllic when Dorothy and Alan investigate a mysterious death.

Dorothy Martin and her husband, retired chief constable Alan Nesbitt, jump at the chance to holiday in the beautiful Lake District when Alan's old friend, Christopher Prideaux, invites them to visit him in Grasmere.

A party at Christopher's cottage is the perfect way to meet the locals, but one stands out – accountant Donald Atkinson, an egoist hoping to become a politician, clearly isn't popular among his fellow villagers. When he's found mysteriously dead during the Fell Race, could his demise be due to a sudden, fatal medical emergency, or was it murder? Dorothy and Alan find themselves catapulted into a disturbing case that will lead them back in time, and to a terrible, scandalous secret that someone is determined to keep hidden.

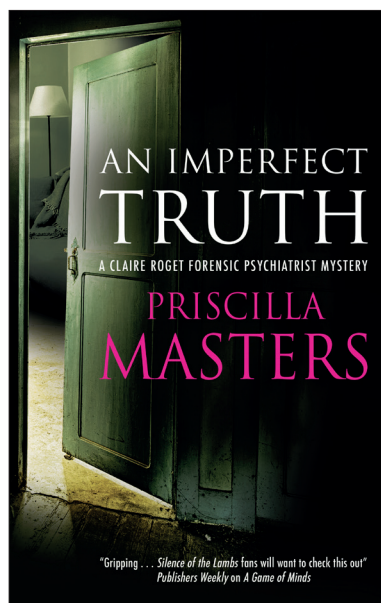
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Priscilla Masters is the author of the popular DI Joanna Piercy series, as well as the successful Martha Gunn novels, the Florence Shaw mysteries and a series of forensic psychiatrist mysteries featuring Dr Claire Roget. She lives near the Shropshire/Staffordshire border. A retired respiratory nurse, Priscilla has two grown-up sons and two grandsons.

An Imperfect Truth

*A Claire Roget Forensic Psychiatrist
Mystery #4*

PRISCILLA MASTERS

Dr Claire Roget's patient may have told her last lie, but can the truth about her death be uncovered?

Poppy Kelloway was a liar. Forensic psychiatric Claire Roget's patient made up 'facts' that damaged families, destroyed relationships and even resulted in a suicide.

Poppy left a trail of human misery in her wake, but when she's found murdered in her home by her two teenage sons, the savage nature of the attack is shocking, as is the discovery of a torn appointment card for her next meeting with Claire. Could there be a connection between the murderer and Claire's clinic, and is she in danger? Claire and Detective Sergeant Zed Willard must navigate dangerous minds and a terrible betrayal in their quest to uncover the chilling truth.

25 April 2024

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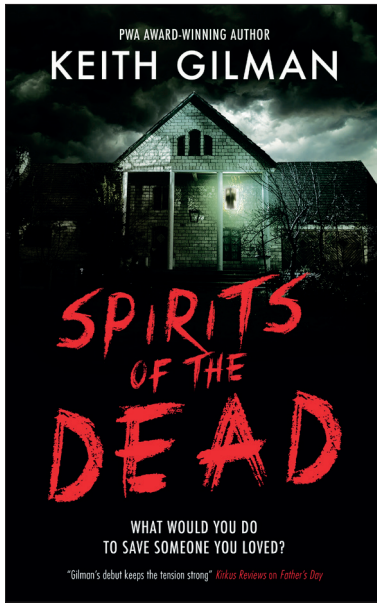
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Rights:

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Keith Gilman is an award-winning author of crime novels and stories. He is a previous winner of the Private Eye Writers of America Best First Novel Competition. His stories have been featured in a variety of crime fiction magazines and anthologies. He has now turned his attention to horror.

Spirits of the Dead

KEITH GILMAN

What would you do to save someone you loved? Husband and father Jon Levande has to ask himself that very question when his daughter is on the brink of death. But what if saving her means losing his own soul...

Death has followed successful restoration architect, unhappy husband and desperate father, Jonathan Levande, his whole life, but recently the curious incidents around him have surged. Killed deer, decapitated cheerleaders and a dead homeless man are only the beginning of this dark streak. Now it seems he'll lose his daughter as well. Marie is fatally ill, and the doctors are stumped.

Waiting for death to knock on his door again, Jon buries himself in his work and has an affair to escape his depressive life. Until one day his job of restoring old buildings leads him to St Cecelia cathedral – a haunted, old church in Delaware – and its sinister Rector...and to a proposition he can't refuse: a life for a life.

Jon doesn't believe in miracles or dark magic, but he knows that if he doesn't do *something* his daughter will die soon. Torn but determined, he chooses to save Marie, whatever it takes! But the bargain struck in hell hides dire consequences and Jon soon finds himself confronted with his dark past...

25 April 2024

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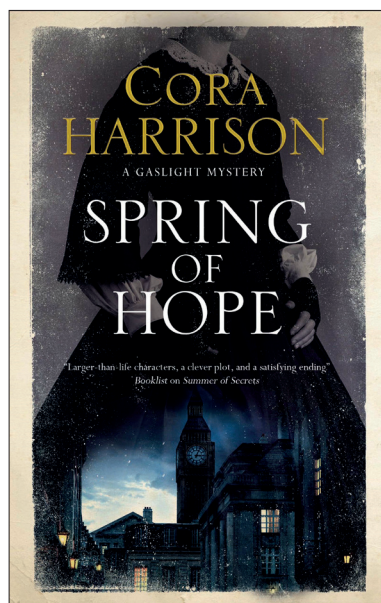
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9781448313679

Rights:

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Cora Harrison has written over 50 books for adults and children, including the Burren mysteries. She lives near the Burren in the west of Ireland.

Spring of Hope

A Gaslight Mystery #4

CORA HARRISON

When an exhibition featuring London's top engineers results in sudden, violent death, Victorian writer-sleuths Wilkie Collins and Charles Dickens investigate.

March, 1859. After the 'Great Stink' of the previous summer when Parliament was overwhelmed by the stench of sewage from the River Thames, and with cholera running rife throughout the city, Charles Dickens has a new enthusiasm. Having formed a firm friendship with Joseph Bazalgette, he is assisting the ambitious young engineer in his efforts to find a solution to London's pollution problem.

Dickens' friend and fellow writer Wilkie Collins meanwhile is distracted by thoughts of his pretty new housekeeper and her charming daughter. But what does he really know of his new employee's past – and just who – or what – is making her so frightened?

During an exhibition to showcase London's top engineers' plans to solve the sewage issue, proceedings are disrupted by a high-pitched, agonised scream – and the discovery of a blood-soaked body; the result – it would appear – of a terrible accident. Dickens, however, is convinced of foul play, and once again he and Wilkie Collins set about uncovering the shocking truth.

25 April 2024

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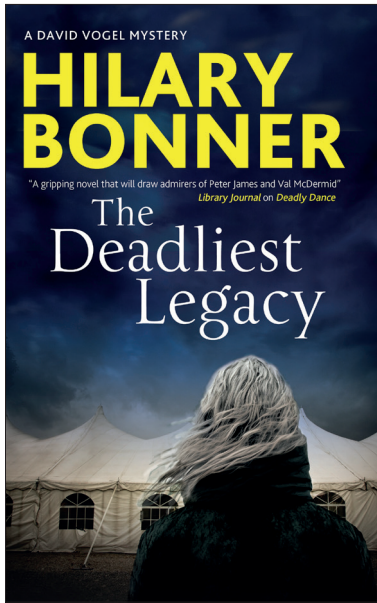
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Rights:

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Hilary Bonner is the author of seventeen previous crime novels, including four David Vogel mysteries, and five non-fiction books. A former journalist and past Chair of the Crime Writers' Association, she divides her time between Somerset and London.

The Deadliest Legacy

A David Vogel Mystery #5

HILARY BONNER

DCI David Vogel investigates a sudden death at a local book festival in this gripping police procedural: Agatha Christie with an edge!

When Delia Day, the world's most successful living romantic novelist, accepts an invitation to be the headline author at a prestigious book festival, she expects a couple of days engaging with fans, attending panels and visiting the local sights.

She doesn't expect what happens next: sudden, shocking death, right there on the festival's main stage.

DCI David Vogel is called in to investigate, and it soon becomes clear that a lethal presence is lurking in the usually sleepy little village of Appledore. But surrounded by professional authors who spend their days spinning tales – and plotting impossible crimes – can he uncover the truth, or will the killer plant enough real-life red herrings to get away with murder?

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Trade Paperback Fiction 256pp

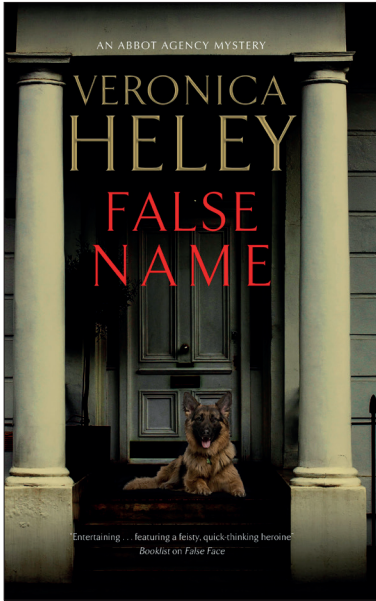
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Rights:

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Veronica Heley is the author of the ever-popular *Ellie Quicke* mysteries, as well as the *Abbot Agency* series. *False Name* is the sixteenth *Abbot Agency* novel. Veronica is actively involved in her local church and community affairs. She lives in Ealing, West London.

False Name

An Abbot Agency Mystery #16

VERONICA HELEY

Bea's life is turned upside down when a man is left for dead outside her agency office in this gripping mystery.

Bea Abbot overhears three men plotting a murder outside her garage, only to discover the intended victim – a young man who appears to be a rough sleeper – has been left there to die in freezing weather. Somewhat reluctantly, she gives him sanctuary but finds him unwilling to disclose his name or talk about his ordeal.

Who is determined to kill the stranger, and why? As he begins to reveal his identity and the events that led to his being left for dead, Bea concludes that he's the target of a conspiracy to murder. The man's would-be killers aren't ready to give up yet. Can Bea uncover the truth before they strike again?

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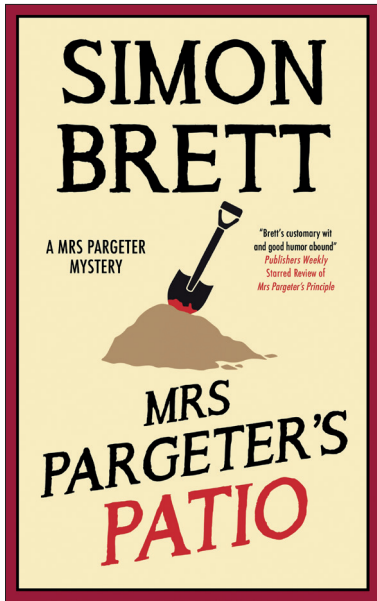
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Rights:

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Simon Brett is the author of more than one hundred books, including the much-loved *Fethering* mysteries, *Charles Paris* series and the *Decluttering* mysteries as well as the *Mrs Pargeter* novels. In 2014, he was awarded the Crime Writers' Association's prestigious *Diamond Dagger*, and in the 2016 *New Year's Honours* he was awarded an *OBE* 'for services to literature'.

Mrs Pargeter's Patio

A Mrs Pargeter Mystery #9

SIMON BRETT

A bizarre discovery right under Mrs Pargeter's patio turns a quiet and sunny June morning into a thrilling hunt for answers in this light-hearted, entertaining cozy mystery.

When widow Mrs Pargeter decides to have her morning coffee on the patio of her mansion in Chigwell, her intention is to admire her beautiful garden in peace and quiet. Little does she expect one of the patio's paving slabs to crack in two, depositing her on the ground – and revealing a human skull with a neat hole in the middle of its forehead!

Not wanting to bother the police *just yet*, Mrs Pargeter decides to save them some trouble and starts investigating the curious find herself. And who better to assist than her late husband's 'business associates', private investigator Truffler Mason and chauffeur Gary?

The trio are soon certain that a murder has been committed and the body disposed of under some convenient building works. But who is the mysterious victim? And more importantly, who put the body under Mrs Pargeter's patio?

Mrs Pargeter and her friends must find out the truth and soon, before the finger of suspicion points in an unthinkable direction: towards the late, great Mr Pargeter, whose business dealings Mrs P remains – naturally! – in blissful ignorance of...

25 April 2024

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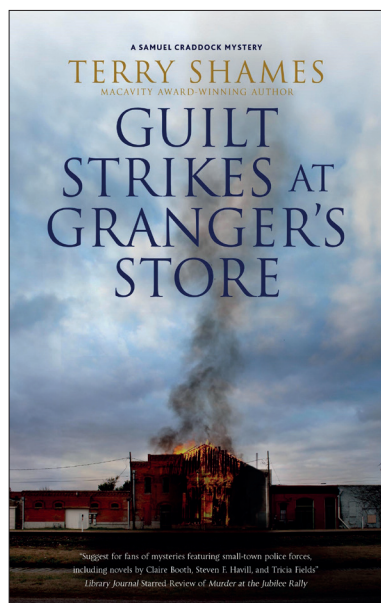
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Guilt Strikes at Granger's Store

A Samuel Craddock Mystery #10

TERRY SHAMES

Trouble hits an animal feed store in a small Texas town, leading Chief of Police Samuel Craddock to uncover jaw-dropping secrets stretching back thirty years as he grapples to solve a deadly mystery.

Award-winning author **Terry Shames** is the author of nine previous Samuel Craddock mysteries. As well as winning the Macavity Award for Best First Novel, *A Killing at Cotton Hill* was also shortlisted for The Strand Critics Award. *The Necessary Murder of Nonie Blake* won the RT Critics Award for Best Mystery. Her books have also been shortlisted for Left Coast Crime Awards for Best Mystery. She is a member of Sisters in Crime and on the board of Mystery Writers of America.

Chief of Police Samuel Craddock is perplexed by increasingly troubling events at Granger's Feed Store. The shop's owner, Melvin Granger, recently had a stroke, and his son, Mark, has moved back to the small Texas town of Jarrett Creek to look after him and run the business. But it seems that some town folk are against Mark's plans to renovate and modernize the popular animal feed store... Could a devastating fire be linked to an attack on Mark and the threatening phone calls he's been receiving?

When the mummified body of a man originally from Jarrett Creek is found in the scorched shop, Craddock's investigation takes a sudden deadly turn. Who is determined to stop the renovation at any cost, and why? As Craddock investigates, he unearths explosive secrets stretching back thirty years...

30 May 2024

Trade Paperback Fiction 240pp

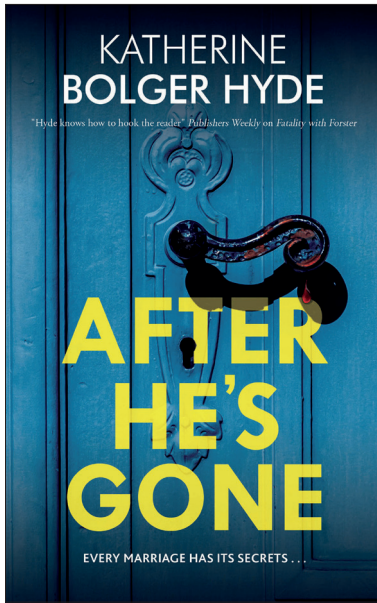
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9781448313716

Rights:

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Katherine Bolger Hyde has lived her life surrounded by books, from teaching herself to read at the age of four to majoring in Russian literature to making her career as an editor. She lives in California with her husband and is the author of five Crime with the Classics mysteries.

After He's Gone

KATHERINE BOLGER HYDE

I know my husband is dead. I just don't know whether I killed him...

Charles and I were law students when I fell for him. He was handsome, charming, sure of himself – and he deigned to look at *me*. We had a dream-come-true courtship, wedding, and honeymoon, all orchestrated and paid for by his wealthy parents. Then he brought me home... And I woke up.

Nineteen months and a baby later, I'm standing in our pristine living room, looking at Charles lying in a pool of blood. I don't remember how I got here. The police are bound to think I killed him. But I didn't...did I?

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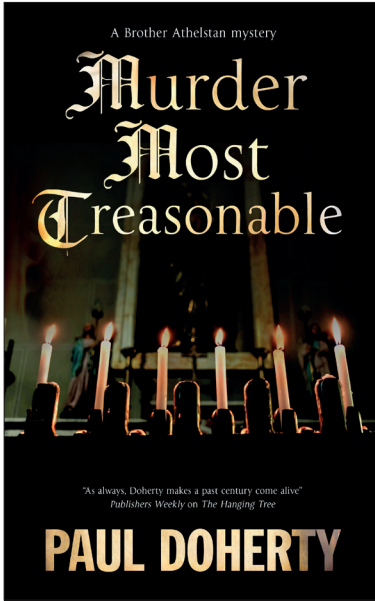
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Rights:

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Paul Doherty studied History at Liverpool and Oxford Universities and is now a head teacher in Essex. He is the author of more than one hundred historical mysteries including the Brother Athelstan, Hugh Corbett and Canterbury Tales medieval mystery series.

Murder Most Treasonable

A Brother Athelstan Mystery #22

PAUL DOHERTY

Spies, secrets and suspicious circumstances: Friar-sleuth Brother Athelstan races against time to solve impossible crimes and uncover a traitor in this gripping historical mystery set in medieval London.

London. March, 1382. Deep in the shadows, a clandestine organization known as the Secret Chancery operates under the sinister leadership of John of Gaunt's Master of Secrets. When two clerks from this covert group meet their demise in suspicious circumstances, friar-sleuth Brother Athelstan is urgently summoned to unravel the truth behind their deaths.

A puzzling question lies at the heart of the investigation: how did the killer manage to navigate a labyrinth of locked doors, leaving no trace behind? As Brother Athelstan delves deeper into the mystery, a terrifying threat also emerges: the possibility of treason. King Richard's spies in France are also dying, almost as if someone's discovered exactly who they are...

Brother Athelstan must race against the clock to uncover the truth before he and his companions get tangled up in the hunt for the traitor, with fatal consequences for them all.

30 May 2024

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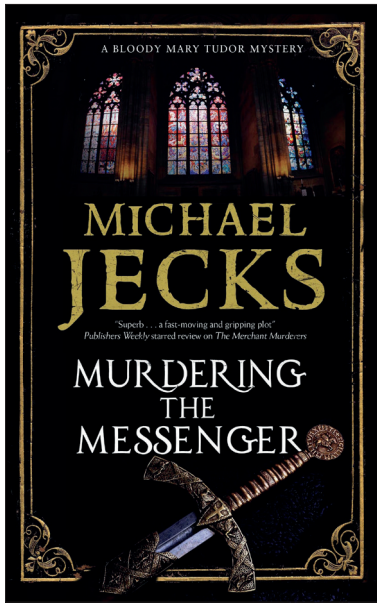
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Michael Jecks is the author of forty-seven novels, including the acclaimed Last Templar medieval mystery series, modern spy thriller *Act of Vengeance*, and seven previous Bloody Mary mysteries. A former Chairman of the Crime Writers' Association, and founder of Medieval Murderers, he lives in northern Dartmoor.

Murdering the Messenger

A Bloody Mary Tudor Mystery #8

MICHAEL JECKS

With his master breathing down his neck, and old foes crawling out of the woodwork to add to his wine-fuelled headache, Jack Blackjack has never been in more danger!

March, 1557. Jack Blackjack is back in London and enjoying a sedentary life – after his treacherous voyage back to his beloved city the previous year, he desires nothing more than the simple pleasures – women, wine, beer and more women.

But his new parish of St Helen's has different ideas for him...a week after first laying eyes on the tempting Miss Rachel Nailor, she turns up horribly dead on the church vestry floor...and someone is trying to frame him for her murder!

A fellow Lady Elizabeth sympathiser, it appears Rachel Nailor was a woman with many secrets. But was she murdered in a fit of lustful rage, or was it part of a wider political play? Who would want Rachel dead – and Jack hanged for it? The suspects are plenty and Jack is running out of time.

30 May 2024

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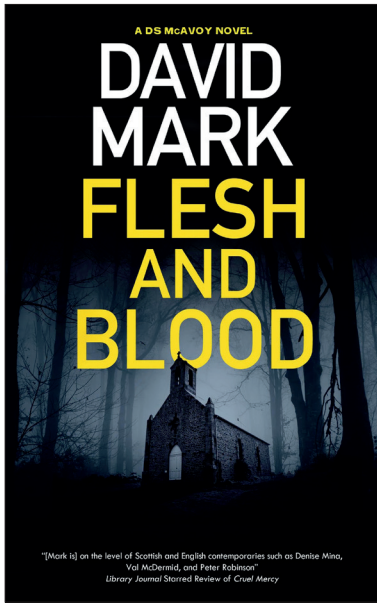
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David Mark spent seven years as crime reporter for the *Yorkshire Post* and now writes full-time. A former Richard & Judy pick, and a *Sunday Times* bestseller, he is the author of the DS Aector McAvoy series and a number of standalone thrillers. He lives in Northumberland with his family.

Flesh and Blood

A DS McAvoy Novel #11

DAVID MARK

Killer secrets. Killer crimes – the unmissable new DS McAvoy thriller from the *Sunday Times* best-selling, Kindle chart-topping author.

DS Aector McAvoy is on a well-deserved family holiday when the news reaches him that he's been attacked and left for dead on one of Hull's most well-to-do streets.

It comes as something of a shock. But not as much as the discovery of who's really been attacked – and his growing realization it's no coincidence he's far from home, in an isolated, rural campsite, on today of all days.

McAvoy's superior officer – and best friend – DS Trish Pharaoh has been keeping secrets. Secrets that are catching up with her.

Secrets that could kill them all...

27 June 2024

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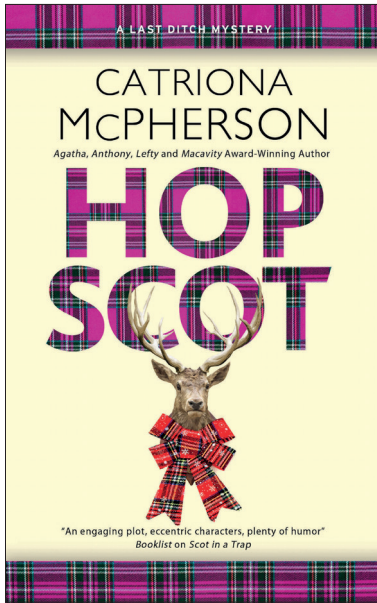
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Born and raised in West Lothian, **Catriona McPherson** left Edinburgh University with a PhD in Linguistics and worked in academia, as well as banking and public libraries, before taking up full-time writing in 2001. For the last ten years she has lived in Northern California with frequent visits home. Among numerous prizes, she has won two of Left Coast Crime's coveted Humorous Lefty Awards for the Last Ditch comedies.

Hop Scot

A Last Ditch Mystery #6

CATRIONA MCPHERSON

It's all aboard for a Campbell Clan Christmas! Lexy swaps cinnamon lattes for boiled sprouts when the Last Ditch crew travel from California to an idyllic Scottish village for the holidays, but something very unmerry is lurking below the surface...

Lexy Campbell is long overdue a trip to Scotland to see her parents, and an unexpected death in the extended Last Ditch Motel family makes Christmas in a bungalow in Dundee with nine others seem almost irresistible.

But when Lexy and the Last Ditch crew hop across the Atlantic, there's been a change of plan and they're whisked off to Mistletoe Hall in the pretty village of Yule, where the surprises continue. The news that a man disappeared from the crumbling pile sixty years ago, along with an unsettling discovery in the bricked-up basement, means that Todd, Kathi and Lexy – Trinity for Trouble – must solve another murder.

Deadly secrets, berry rustlers, skeletons and a snowy Christmas Eve in the booze aisle at Tesco: the Last Ditch crew won't forget their Scottish holiday in a hurry!

27 June 2024

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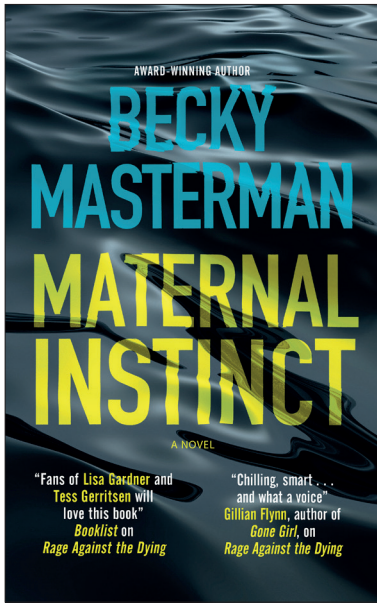
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Becky Masterman's debut thriller was a finalist for the Edgar and the Anthony Awards for Best First Novel and for the CWA Gold Dagger, and her books have been translated into twenty languages. As well as four books featuring retired FBI agent Brigid Quinn, she is the author of standalone thriller *Maternal Instinct*.

Maternal Instinct

BECKY MASTERMAN

Think moving in with your mother-in-law is your worst nightmare? You have no idea... A jaw-dropping novel of domestic suspense from the author of the critically acclaimed Brigid Quinn series.

Don't let them know what you're thinking, Althea Deming tells herself. It's your best defense. Althea didn't want her good natured but thoughtless step-son Hal and manipulative daughter-in-law Grace to move in with her, relegating her to a corner of the house that was once just hers, but she doesn't have much choice. She's been powerless since her beloved husband Robert's death. According to the will, everything that was hers now belongs to Hal – and to Grace.

Grace Deming didn't want to uproot her family to care for her difficult mother-in-law, but she's determined to make the best of it for the sake of her daughter Shyla's future. Their new home is enormous, the neighborhood prestigious. If the worst of it is that Althea dislikes her, she can cope.

After all, Althea Deming is a sweetheart. Everyone says so. Her husband. The neighbors. And soon, so does Shyla, the once vibrant and happy child now a shadow of her former self. What's wrong with Grace that she can't trust her? But all her instincts are screaming at her that Althea is dangerous, and if she doesn't fight to protect her family from her malign influence, she'll live to regret it...

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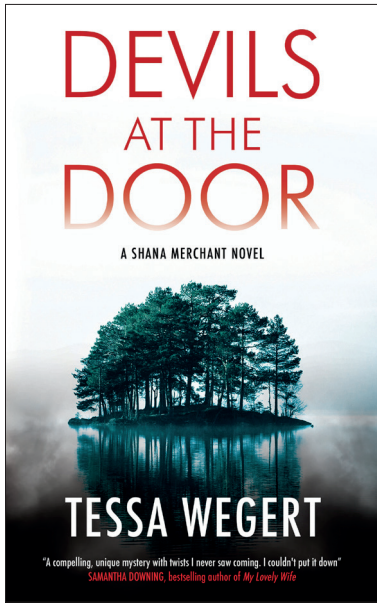
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Tessa Wegert is the author of the Shana Merchant series of mysteries. A former freelance journalist, Tessa has contributed to such publications as *Forbes*, *The Huffington Post*, *Adweek*, *The Economist* and *The Globe and Mail*. Tessa grew up in Québec and now lives with her husband and children in Connecticut, where she studies martial arts.

Devils at the Door

A Shana Merchant Novel #5

TESSA WEGERT

A suspicious drowning throws New York State senior investigator Shana Merchant's life into turmoil in this taut, thrilling small-town mystery – perfect for fans of Agatha Christie and Ruth Ware.

Senior Investigator Shana Merchant readily agrees when her brother asks her to take in his troubled, rebellious daughter for the fall semester. Doug's convinced that spending a few months in Alexandria Bay with Shana will straighten Hen out.

But when Hen arrives, Shana's not so sure. She can't help but distrust the strange and manipulative teen, who binge-watches bloody movies and roams the house at night, taking things that aren't hers.

Soon, though, Shana has more to worry about than missing heirlooms when she's called to investigate the suspicious drowning of a local teenager, only to discover her niece at the scene of the crime.

What happened that night on the dark, uninhabited island of Devil's Oven? With Hen and her new friends not talking, and a community determined to keep their secrets dead and buried, Shana knows it's a race against time to uncover the truth before her niece is upgraded from key witness to prime suspect.

27 June 2024

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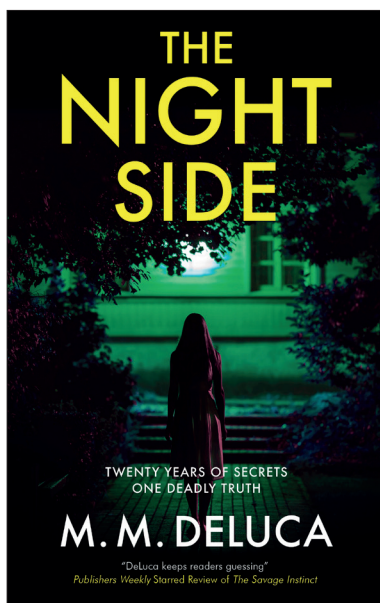
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M.M. DeLuca spent her childhood in Durham, England. After studying at the University of London, Goldsmiths College, she moved to Winnipeg, Canada, where she worked as a teacher, then as a freelance writer. She is the author of four other gripping suspense novels: *The Savage Instinct*, *The Secret Sister*, *The Perfect Family Man* and *Lilah*.

The Night Side

M.M. DELUCA

Twenty years of secrets. One deadly truth.

When Ruby Carlson was eighteen, she ran away from her home in Stoneybrook, Montana, and vowed she'd never return. Never return to life under the control of her manipulative mother, Ida, a self-styled medium and psychic scammer who made a career out of ruining people's lives. Never return to the small town where enemies lurk at every turn.

But now, twenty years later, Ruby is back. Her mother is missing, presumed dead, and Ruby reluctantly returns to a home filled with chilling memories to settle Ida's affairs. Did she really commit suicide by drowning, or is this another dark scheme? Ruby thought she knew everything about her mother, but finds herself unraveling a web of lies and secrets to reveal a story more twisted than anyone could have imagined...

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