Rights Catalog for Book to Film/TV

FALL 2026

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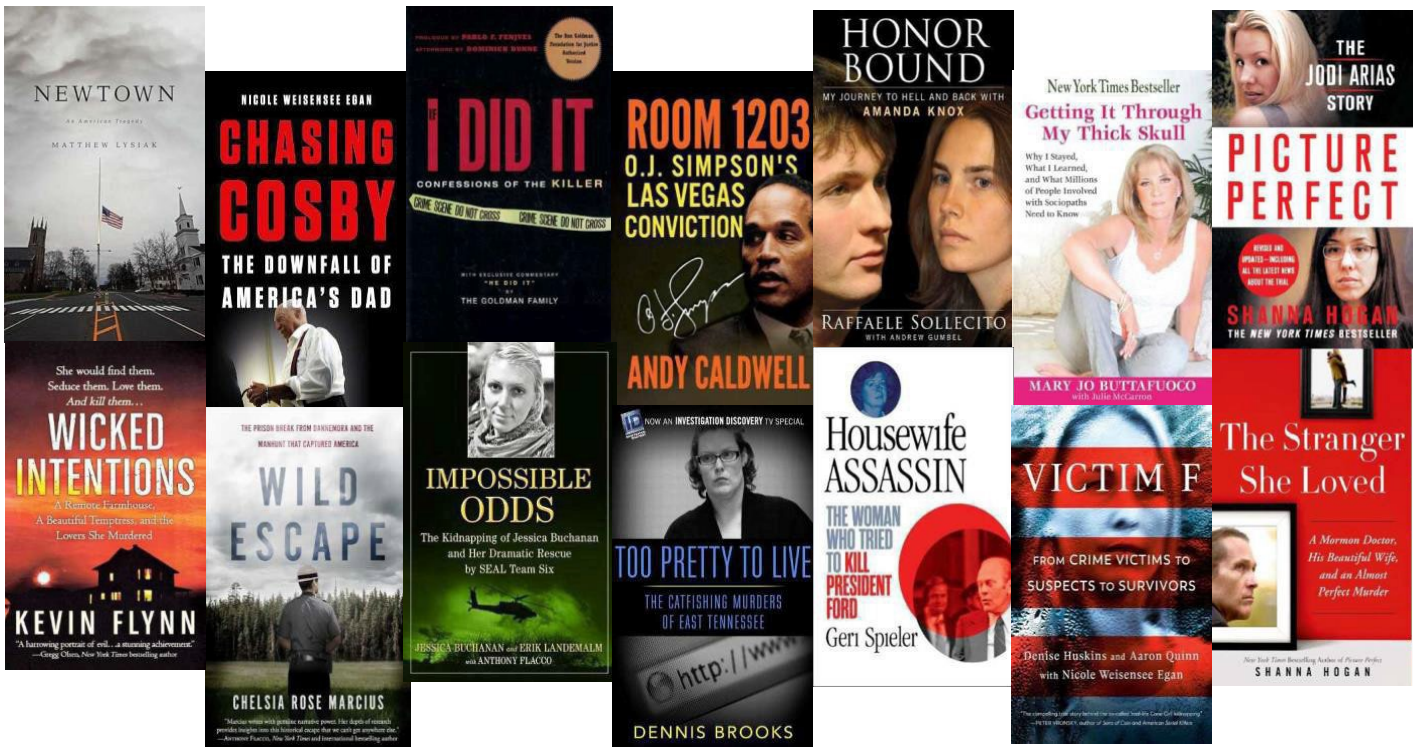
Sharlene Martin, Founder of Martin-Newens Literary Management, began her business career in 1985 when she founded Helping Hands, the very first American nanny agency servicing the NY tri-state area and became the VP of the newly created International Nanny Association. Within a few years, she was named Entrepreneur Magazine's Homebased Entrepreneur of the Year as well as Connecticut Entrepreneur of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce. That led to the Harvard Business School using her agency as a case study in Entrepreneurship for their students. She was also honored and presented with the *Spirited Woman Award* in New York City in 1987 by Sherry Lansing. She sold her company when she moved to California in 1990.

She began working in television in 1993 as a partner in Martin/Walker-Lampley Productions, a company formed with Bree Walker, a prominent CBS news anchor. She later spent time as a reality television developer for Media Savvy, and as a Casting Director for the famed Casting Director, Joy Todd. Her most challenging project for film was casting the movie "Gods and Generals," with **156** speaking roles. She spent several years at various key creative positions in the entertainment industry while raising her two children while they attended the Oakwood School in North Hollywood.

In 2003, after a meeting with an AFI screenwriter/author (who later became her husband!) she was encouraged to form her own literary agency--- **Martin Literary & Media Management.** She chose to primarily represent **adult nonfiction**, a genre she continues to love to this day, although Martin Literary has a team of nine who represent all popular genres of books. Sharlene has represented some of the top true crime books in publishing and conducts her business with a strict policy that any crime-related book represented must always be told to benefit the victim, **never** the perpetrator. Here are just a few of her notable true crime book sales:



Many of Sharlene's authors have had their books boosted as serial reprints in prestigious publications such as Readers' Digest, People Magazine, WHO, and the NYTimes. Other client appearances include 60 Minutes, TODAY Show, The View, Fox and Friends, Good Morning America, The Early Show, 20/20, 48 Hours, Discovery Channel, Inside Edition, The 700 Club, ET, The Insider, ABC Nightline, Dr. Phil, Anderson Cooper, HLN, Discovery ID, Fox News, CNN and the former OPRAH show.

She is actively doing business with major film and TV companies for adaptations of her clients' books and shares the ***MLM Book to Film-TV Rights Catalog*** with key people in the entertainment industry on a quarterly basis. It's also updated with new sales weekly at www.MartinLit.com/film-tv . Sharlene is a member of the Producers Guild of America (pga) and is devoted to adapting books for Martin Literary's clients.

Some of her producing credits include:

*Executive Producer for ***Housewife Assassin-***in development with Fox Entertainment Studios for an 8 episode limited series.

*Executive Producer for **Apple TV+** straight to series one-hour scripted highly acclaimed mystery, ***HOME BEFORE DARK***, directed and executive produced by **Jon M. Chu** (Wicked, Crazy Rich Asians), based on her client, Hilde Lysiak, a 14-year-old crime reporter and publisher of the Orange Street News, and author of the Scholastic Branches six book series, ***Hilde Cracks the Case*** and ***Hilde on the Record: Memoir of a Kid Crime Reporter.***

*Executive Producer of Lifetime's movie, ***The Pregnancy Project***, which garnered the two top *Imagen Awards,* for *Best Primetime Movie/Special* and *Best Actress (Alexa Vega).* Currently streaming on HULU.

*Co- Creator/EP of the six season crime reality series, ***DEADLY SINS*** for Discovery ID.

*Co-EP for the season of six specials, ***EPIC MYSTERIES*** for Discovery ID.

*Executive Producer with Outpost Entertainment for A&E's documentary ***OJ: Guilty in Vegas***.

*Executive Producer on ***Secrets of a Marine's Wife*** for Sony Television at Lifetime.

She is currently in development on a number of projects based on her clients' books and enjoys collaborating with screenwriters, producers, directors and production companies. See full credits at www.IMDB.com (Sharlene Martin (1))

Additionally, she is co-author with her husband, NYT bestselling author Anthony Flacco, on the books ***Publish Your Nonfiction Book*** (Writer's Digest Books) and ***Literary Fails: Totally (sic)!***

Publishers, editors, writers and entertainment execs consistently express their joy in working with someone who is such an avid fan of great writing and an enthusiastic guardian and representative of her clients' work. She employs this personal touch in all her business relationships and credits it with her proven record of success

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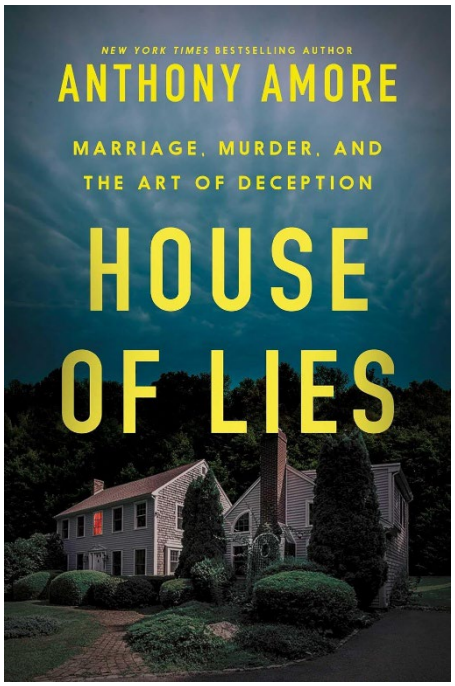


HOUSE OF LIES

By Anthony Amore
Pegasus Crime, Jan. 2027

Ana Walshe, a successful real estate executive and mother of three, vanished from her home in the wealthy suburb of Cohasset, Massachusetts, the case captivated the nation. Within days, suspicion fell on her husband Brian Walshe -a man already under federal indictment for selling forged Warhols, and whose life, it turned out, was a masterclass in deception.

In House **of Lies: Marriage, Murder, and the Art of Deception**, best-selling author and art crime expert Anthony Amore traces Walshe's descent from elite con artist to convicted killer, exposing the disturbing psychological throughline that connects art fraud and uxoricide. Blending true crime, psychological insight, and investigative rigor, this is the definitive account of a chilling modem-day tragedy.

Hundreds of thousands of social media detectives began examining what they could of Ana's life. Her Instagram account provided perhaps the best glimpse. Petite and very well dressed, she seemed to embody the perfect life. There were photos of her on airplanes sporting a large diamond; pictures of her three hand- some sons, all under six years old and impeccably dressed; a photo of her in a bikini, proudly belying her recent pregnancies; scenes from fine dining; and lots of selfies (one person described them as "thirsty").

Within days, Cohasset Police charged Brian with deliberately misleading investigators when they found that the timeline of his actions he provided was far from truthful. There was more: a broken knife and evidence of blood were found in the basement. And when detectives looked at the internet history on his six-year-old son’s iPad, they found searches for instructions on dismembering and disposing of a 115-pound body-Ana's exact weight. In the days that followed, investigators would uncover a mountain of ominous circumstantial evidence that pointed towards murder and Brian as the culprit.

Brian's earlier conviction for art fraud tells the tale of a dangerously anti-social individual, one with seemingly no conscience and a lust for vast sums of money at the expense of others. He not only had conned friends out of hundreds of thousands of dollars, but he had also pilfered a million dollars from his late father both before and after his death. His art crime of selling forged Warhols provides just a glimpse into the actions of a sociopath who smiled as he was led from the courthouse when facts were aired that pointed blame at his wife's vanishing squarely on him.

Told with the unique perspective of an expert in art-related crime, House of Lies will paint a portrait of Brian Walshe and the path he took from art scams to the most heinous of crimes: the murder of the mother of his children. It will tell of the parallels between the two acts and provide a glimpse into the chaotic world of status-seeking while displaying the profile of a sociopath that ultimately cost a young woman and mother her life.
In December 2025, Judge Diane Freniere called Brian Walshe's crimes “barbaric and incomprehensible” and she chastised him for “deceitful and manipulative behavior” and sentenced him to life without parole.

The Optionist Review By Andy B. Lewis

HOUSE OF LIES: True Crime

- **For fans of:** The Talented Mr. Ripley meets Murdaugh: Death in the Family
- **Potential logline:** The true story of how Brian Walshe committed art fraud, scammed friends and family, then murdered his wife, chopping up the body to hide the evidence, as told by a former DHS official with experience in art fraud and theft. **House of Lies: Marriage, Murder, and the Art of Deception by Anthony M. Amore (Pegasus Crime/Simon & Schuster, Winter 2027)**

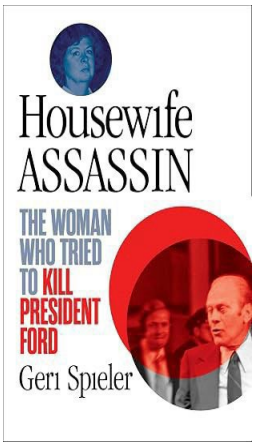
I highlighted this story when it first broke exactly two years ago. At the time, there was a lot of circumstantial evidence suggesting that Brian Walshe was responsible for killing his wife, Ana. The one hurdle was that there was no body. Now, two years later, Walshe was just convicted of murdering Ana and sentenced to life without parole. There are a lot of people scrambling to make a doc, which is a no-brainer. But this book-long examination of the case proves why it would make a compelling movie/limited series.

This in-the-works book from Amore, a DHS official-turned-author, would be a strong underlying IP for an adaptation. Amore is an art theft expert — he's currently head of security at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, working to recover the 13 masterpieces stolen 35 years ago. He also worked on post-9/11 terrorism cases for DHS. He's written best-selling books on stolen Rembrandts and on the notorious theft of the only privately owned Vermeer (which is being developed as a limited series). He's also been following this case longer than most, having started when Walshe was earlier charged with art forgery. He followed the trial from the courtroom and wrote about it extensively on Substack. The book just sold to Pegasus and won't be published for a year, but the screen rights are being shopped as we speak.

Walshe was a privileged ne'er-do-well who built his life on fraud and cons, including bilking his own dad of half a million dollars. When Ana disappeared, he was awaiting sentencing on federal charges for scamming an L.A. couple out of $80K by selling them a pair of fake Warhols. Initially, Walshe's ability to pull off these scams stemmed from his confidence and polish. He knew how to talk to people, move in wealthy circles and look like he belonged. But he would also become sloppy. His fakes weren't polished and the scams couldn't withstand serious scrutiny.

Ana was the opposite, a classic immigrant striver who had come to the U.S. from Serbia and who'd worked her way up from the bottom of the hospitality business to a high-powered job at Tishman Speyer. Her 2023 disappearance was only discovered when her employer reported that she didn't show up for work in Washington, D.C. (Ana commuted between the capital and the couple's home in a wealthy Boston suburb). Brian claimed that Ana left for Washington, D.C. on New Year's Day and wasn't all that concerned that he hadn't heard from her. His story quickly fell apart. Especially after police discovered damning Google searches on his child's iPad for "Best way to dispose of a body," "Better to throw away crime scene clothes or wash them" and "Can you be charged with murder without a body." Just before trial, Walshe floated the cockamamie story that Ana had died of natural causes and that he simply cut up and disposed of the body out of fear that no one would believe he wasn't responsible for her death.

Amore's book promises to go deep on both Walshe and the murder. Roughly half of it follows Brian and Ana's early life—his screwed-up childhood, her move to the States, their meeting and courtship, his Warhol scam, how he plundered his father's estate after his 2018 death. The second half is a detailed account of the investigation, from her disappearance to his recent conviction. Amore links the art fraud with the murder, noting that Walshe shared "the same anti-social tendencies as the major art fraudsters of recent years: an overabundance of hubris combined with a sloppiness borne of an inflated self-confidence. It's a trend in forgery scandals, and a trend we will see later in Walshe's greatest crime." This is a smart take. It's also why I think this would be a good underlying IP for a TV movie or a limited series. Walshe is the kind of central character who's hard to like and even harder to ignore. He's a real-life Tom Ripley. Meanwhile, Ana is his sympathetic victim — the one who gets you to shout at the TV: "Get out while you can!"



HOUSEWIFE ASSASSIN

BY

Geri Spieler

Diversion Books

***Spieler offers a portrait of an erratic, unstable woman with a protean capacity to shift identities, with the 1960s and '70s as a dramatic backdrop. Fans of true crime accounts or contemporary history will savor this.* —Publishers Weekly**

This dark psychological drama is a filmic mental adventure for two female characters: One an analytical journalist and the other a former FBI informant, leftist radical, and attempt presidential assassin. The mental combat lasts over dozens of jailhouse interviews covering nearly thirty years.

When journalist Geri Spieler received a note from President Gerald Ford's attempted assassin, Sara Jane Moore, asking Spieler to meet with her in prison, she had no idea that it was to be the beginning of a long interview process that would span the next three decades. There was no issue of doubts about Moore's guilt, since she had been caught red-handed after firing a shot at President Ford and barely missing his head. Only the quick action of a nearby off-duty Marine prevented her from taking a second, more accurate killing shot.

The point of fascination for Spieler was the challenge of unraveling the personality of a woman who appeared to be nothing more than a middle-aged Southern housewife. Fortunately for her, Moore also enjoyed a payoff in their long interview relationship. She earned the attention of a smart and focused woman of creative drive who listened and weighed everything Moore told her.

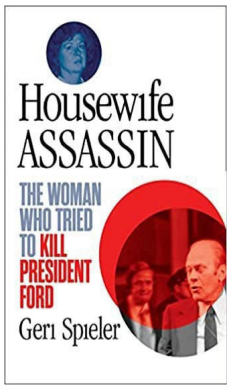
The plot journey leading up to Sara Jane Moore's attack on the President of the United States is a years-long saga of a disintegrating life run by a woman so devoid of empathy and compassion that she enjoyed an existence nearly free of any sense of obligation to anything. She goes through marriages like water, three, and four, five of them: some as short as a month to a man two years older than her own father--most producing children. She leaves behind each of her four offspring as easily as she drops marriages and the lives that hold them. She is a smart and attractive woman who knows how to be socially attractive but exits from moment to moment as unreliable as the next emerging whim. Moore develops a personality that seems like a gracious, bright, and funny person with recognizable Southern charm that rests like cake icing over a heart of ice and an empty hole where her personal character out to be.

After thirty years of repeated personal visits and phone calls, Moore convinces Geri Spieler to write Moore's life story. The contradictions immediately come clear and Geri Spieler begins to grind away on the problem of trying to peel away Moore's layers. She conducts secondary interviews with relatives and acquaintances. She double and triple checks facts with documented evidence to catch Moore in her bouts of falsehood and to support her when a grain of truth slips out. Spieler suffers massive self-doubt about her task but refuses to let go of her quarry. Moore plays a complex game of falsehood and truth, mixing in just enough truth to keep Spieler coming back, but never giving her a full and complete version of anything. The risk that Moore takes each time is that Spieler keeps getting closer to answering the question of

what makes Sara Jane Moore tick which Moore expends her capital of truth to keep Spieler's attention focused on her. In the end, Spieler wins the battle — as we do through her —by zeroing in on Moore's internal nuggets in spite of all the obfuscation thrown at her. The portrait emerges as sketched by Moore herself through actions and words. It is like watching wisps of fog part to reveal a statue. The classic sociopath is revealed: a human being in all parts except any connection to a sense of consequence for others. The message is permanently embraced by the U.S. Secret Service that you can never tell a person's intent by their appearance.

http://www.GeriSpieler.com

The Optionist Review by Andy B. Lewis



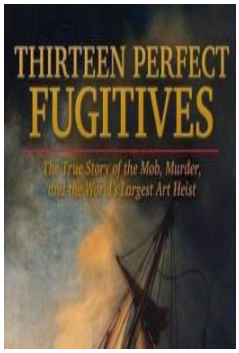
Potential logline: What drove a middle-aged San Francisco mom to try to assassinate President Gerald Ford?

***Housewife Assassin: The Woman Who Tried to Kil President Ford* by Geri Spieler (Diversion Books, Feb. 2023)**

What would make a forty-something suburban mom try to attempt to assassinate President Gerald Ford? That's at the heart of the fascinating true story of Sarah Jane Moore (pictured, top), who in 1975 became the only woman to actually shoot at a U.S. president, missing only because she didn't know the sight on her gun was off by a few inches. But Moore wasn't Lee Harvey Oswald or John Wilkes Booth. She was a homemaker married to a doctor with a nice house in Danville, Calif. and a country club membership. Not all was rosy though. Moore got divorced and had to give up the home and move into the San Francisco's Mission District with her youngest son. This, it turns out, was her fourth divorce, and along the way she had essentially abandoned three kids to be raised by her parents in West Virginia. She got involved with People in Need, a food for the poor program set up Randolph Hearst as gesture to get the Symbionese Liberation Army to release his daughter Patty. Through that group, she became friendly with the Hearsts and even acted a go-between in negotiations over Patty's release. The FBI then recruited her as an informant to spy on other activists.

But her work with Hearst's group helping the poor (and her own uneven life circumstances) radicalized her, and she became more of a double agent, revealing FBI information to her colleagues. Eventually, she decided the only way to draw attention to the cause was to shoot the president on a visit to S.F. in Sept. 1975. She missed because of a misaligned site on a hurriedly bought gun (the FBI had confiscated her usual gun the day before but decided she wasn't a threat and released her). Before she could get off a second shot, a bystander tackled her. Moore ended up serving 30 years in prison before being released in 2007. This is a wild story that would work on multiple levels on the screen. It has a great part for a forty-something actress in Moore and her transformation from housewife to assassin. At this moment, we're all curious about how someone becomes politically radicalized and why they decide to turn to violence. It would also be a great early '70s period film about the lingering impact of the '60s, and the waning of the California Dream in the harsh economics of the decade. But there's an element of fun. Built on a failed attempt on a minor president makes the story, in my mind, more approachable because on the surface the stakes are so low, even if the story grapples with bigger themes.

REPS: Sharlene Martin, Martin Literary Management



13 Perfect Fugitives

by Geoffrey Kelly

Post Hill Press, March 2026

On March 18, 1990, the **world's largest art heist** occurred. We're aware there have been a few about this robbery years ago, **but most of them got it <u>wrong</u>.** And none has been a it authored with written approval by the FBI) by the ***FBI's longest-tenured case agent assigned to the Art Crime Division investigation who <u>solved the theft</u>.*** As St. Patrick's Day festivities were winding down in Boston, thirteen pieces of artwork were plucked from the walls of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum by two subjects posing as police officers. They rang the night bell, claiming they were responding to a call of a disturbance. The guard on duty, against protocol, let them in. As the author writes, "not since some Trojan night watchman signed for the big wooden horse has a greater lapse in security led to such dire consequences." After incapacitating the guards with handcuffs and duct tape, the subjects spent the next eighty-one minutes inside the museum, almost leisurely removing some of the world's most valuable pieces of artwork from the walls, including a rare Vermeer and Rembrandt's only known seascape. The total loss associated with this robbery has been estimated at over **ONE BILLION** Dollars.

Geoffrey Kelly was the lead investigator, right up until his recent retirement from the FBI. During that time, he traveled the world, running down leads in his sometimes-Quixotic effort to find the stolen artwork. He has dined with fine art collectors, appraisers, and museum directors. He has also dined with mobsters, thieves, and killers. It was through his associations with the latter group, those denizens of a seamy and nefarious underworld, where he made the most progress on the case. In 2009, the author received a break; information which corroborated previously established theories about the heist and the individuals responsible. For the first time since the robbery occurred, the author spoke to witnesses with first-hand knowledge of the crime and, more importantly, witnesses who had actually seen the artwork with their own eyes in the years since it was stolen from the museum. The author followed the trail of the artwork, eventually led him to an aging used-car salesman from Hartford, Connecticut named Bobby "The Cook" Gentile.

In addition to selling cars, the enigmatic Gentile was also a soldier in the Philadelphia mob who trafficked narcotics and built homemade silencers. Relentless investigation by the author determined that Gentile took possession of a number of the stolen paintings in or about 2002 from an associate of Carmello "Mello" Merlino, a Boston mobster referred to by the FBI as a "person of interest" in the heist. Merlino and his crew operated a drug trafficking operation out of an auto parts storefront in Boston. One of his associates, George Reissfelder, drove a Dodge that was identical to the one driven by the robbers to the museum that night. Six weeks later, a family member helped him hang one of the stolen paintings on his bedroom wall. Less than a year later, Reissfelder was found dead under suspicious circumstances. And two weeks later so was Lenny DiMuzio, another Merlino associate whose bullet-riddled body was discovered in the trunk of his car in East Boston.

Readers will learn that another Merlino associate, Bobby Donati, once tried to sell one of the stolen Gardner items to a Boston jeweler six weeks after the heist; the dealer demurred because the piece was "too hot." That September, Donati also ended up the trunk of his car, beaten and stabbed to death. And their associate Jimmy Marks, who was bragging months after the heist that he had two of the stolen paintings hidden in his apartment, was gunned down in February on his front porch in a "classic mob-style hit." 1991 was certainly a busy year for the Gardner. <u>These are details that have not become well known and keep the suspense of this true crime moving throughout the book.</u>

Based on the author's meticulous investigation, conducted to the exacting standards required of an FBI special agent, the Bureau, in conjunction with the Boston U.S. Attorney's Office and the Gardner Museum, announced that the case had finally been solved. Although the paintings have yet to be recovered, the FBI finally knew who had committed the robbery. The story of *13 Perfect Fugitives* is a first-person account, including extensive interviews with mobsters, witnesses, victims, informants, and family members. This book painstakingly details the author's twenty-two-year journey to find the world's most valuable stolen artwork, providing insight and hopefully a little humor along the way. The author has always thought of the missing objects as thirteen perfect fugitives. Instead, they hide, secreted far away prying eyes and nosy FBI agents, biding their time.

<u>Former FBI Agent Answers Heist Questions</u>

view in browse

THE OPTIONIST.

12/6/2024 **For fans of:** ***The Thomas Crown Affair*** **and** ***Ocean's 12***

This is one you should jump on, stat. –*written by Andy B. Lewis, THE OPTIONIST*

13 Perfect Fugitives*: A True Story of The Mob, Murder, and the World's Largest Art Heist* **by Geoffrey J. Kelly**

The daring and brazen 1990 robbery of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum has long fascinated Bostonians like me, who grew up in its wake. But it has also captivated true-crime aficionados beyond the 617 area code. It's spawned documentaries, podcasts, novels and true-crime books. But none have told the tale from the perspective of the longest-tenured FBI investigator in the case, ***Geoffrey J. Kelly,*** *who finally shares his story. A quick recap: On Sunday, March 18, 1990, just a day after the heavily Irish city celebrated St. Patrick's Day, two people posing as cops gained entry to the museum. They tied up the guards and stole 13 major artworks, including a rare* ***Vermeer*** *and the only seascape that* ***Rembrandt*** *ever painted. The value of their haul in today's market: $1 billion. It immediately became the most famous unsolved art theft in world.*

The big break in the case finally came in 2009, when the FBI arrested used-car salesman and alleged mobster ***Robert "The Cook" Gentile*** *on firearm charges. Gentile, who was already a person of interest in the Isabella Stewart Gardner heist, led them to* ***Carmello "Mello" Merlino,*** *a mobster who operated a drug trafficking operation out of an auto parts storefront in Boston. That led them to the pair's associates, who were likely involved in the crime and who all died mysteriously soon after. Nobody was ever officially convicted in the case, but in 2013, with all the key suspects dead at that point (Gentile died in 1999, Merlino in 2005), the FBI declared that the case had been solved. The paintings still haven't been recovered.*

The proposal begins with the robbery, skips ahead to Gentile's arrest, and then doubles back to map all of the twists and turns along the way. Kelly ends with the case being "solved," convinced that the art will eventually be recovered. But in the meantime, he says the notion that this was "the perfect crime" simply isn't true. The artwork isn't actually worth that $1 billion figure; it's not worth anything because the thieves will never be able to offload treasures this hot. To be a perfect crime, the criminals need to be able to enjoy the spoils of their ill-gotten gains, right? Kelly does a great job of bringing his own perspective to the case, but he also interviews cops, investigators and mobsters and lets them air their opinions. This might be Kelly's first book, but he shows a great eye for character (as you might expect from a seasoned detective) and a born raconteur's knack for storytelling. This is a fresh -and welcome -take on the case.

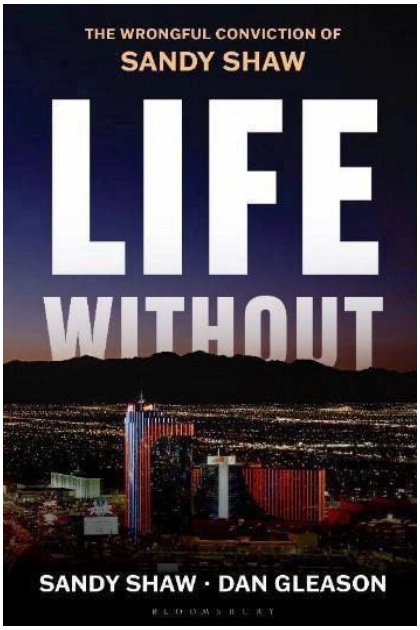
Kelly's career, though, goes much deeper than just the Isabella Stewart Gardner case. He's investigated everything from ***Tom Brady's*** *stolen Super Bowl jersey to the unidentified "Lady of the Dunes" murder to*

finding and returning 22 Okinawan treasures missing since WWII. Another one of his cases, which involved a string of armored car heists, was the basis for ***Ben Affleck's*** *The Town, with* ***Jon Hamm*** *playing a fictionalized version of the author. After hanging up his badge and retiring earlier this year, Kelly founded Argus Cultural Property Consultants, a firm that is fittingly dedicated to helping people protect valuable art.*

So how to adapt this? *Well, there's a couple of possibilities. The first is a movie that revolves around Kelly. It would be a cerebral procedural about a dogged, shrewd investigator. Hamm again? I'd buy that. Still, Kelly's entire career is so fascinating someone might consider turning it into a series about the head of Boston's FBI office getting handed case files that range from the weird (Super Bowl jerseys) to the notorious (Lady of the Dunes) to the unsolvable (the Gardner theft). I would structure it with the Gardner theft as the central, multi-season mystery and pepper it with some smaller, solved-in- one-episode crimes. In fact, I think this approach would be especially fitting for today's shorter-season world in which some procedurals (Bosch, The Lincoln Lawyer, etc.) are better at 10-ish episodes than they would be at the*

20-ish of a network.

https://spectrumculture.com/2026/06/28/thirteen-perfect-fugitives-by-geoffrey-kelly-review/



Life Without

The Wrongful Conviction of Sandy Shaw

By Sandy Shaw and Dan Gleason

Bloomsbury

How many fifteen-year-old girls have witnessed **four** murders? Well, Sandy Shaw wishes she wasn't in that group. In 1987, when Sandy heard the bark of the first pistol shot right next to her ear, she bolted and ran for her life. After ducking behind desert scrub brush in the dim glow of the moonlight, she spotted eighteen-year-old Troy Kell and his buddy Billy Merritt standing over the **dead body of James Cotton Kelly**. Though only fifteen, this was the **fourth murder** Sandy witnessed in two years.

Touted as the **"Show & Tell Killer"** by the media because a crooked prosecutor told the press and jury she took classmates to view the dead body, Sandy was immediately maligned by the press. She was convicted and sentenced to **two life terms without parole** and became the **youngest female ever incarcerated in an adult Nevada prison**. Shaw endured **twenty-one years in prison and fifteen more on "lifetime parole"** for this **wrongful conviction** before being **fully exonerated in June of 2022** by the Nevada Supreme Court. Yet, she lost her entire youth in the process—the best years of her life. She never went to Prom. Never got married. Never had kids. Her dreams were stripped away .And she has **never** told her story. Now—being fully free—the time is right to tell.

Life Without is a crisis-driven tale of violence and murder, tragedy and injustice, and ultimately—triumph. This true life story is of a woman with extreme bad luck, a childhood ripped away, generations of dysfunction before and alongside her who endured abuse of all kinds, and who still found her way to freedom and redemption after so many years of being denied.

"Like most of society, I'm fascinated by true crime stories. What happened to Sandy Shaw at the young age of 15 is unbelievable. As a master storyteller, Dan Gleason beautifully conveys Sandy's unfortunate story and her long fight to clear her name." —Kristina Rivera, producer, *American Sniper*, *Sully*, and *The Mule*

"Sandy Shaw's powerful story, in the hands of writer Dan Gleason, is hard to put down. Gleason, with empathy and admiration, details how Shaw used her prison time to grow as a compassionate person. This is a story of redemption and reclaimed justice." —David Bonior, US House Majority Whip, 102nd and 103rd Congresses; author of *When Mercy Seasons Justice*

"This is an important story, the kind not often told because it includes revelations that society doesn't want to hear. That Sandy Shaw is both willing and able to tell her story is miraculous. That Dan Gleason recognized its significance and worked for years to make it available is a public service."—Stephen Greenleaf, author of the John Marshall Tanner detective mystery series, *The Ditto List*, and *Impact*

"In *Life Without*, Dan Gleason tells Sandy Shaw's story in her voice, with an insider's insight, deftly recreating the crime, the trial, the bleak times that followed, and the push for the ultimate victory. It's a hell of a story!"
—William Brashler, author of *The Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars and Motor Kings*

NET GALLEY ADVANCE REVIEWERS FOR

LIFE WITHOUT

Anne M, Reviewer

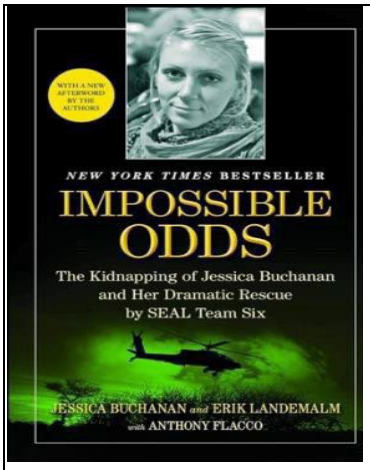
Oh my Lord, what a story. I have no idea why Sandy Shaw isn't a bitter, twisted, seriously angry woman, but she seems a decent, well-adjusted human being. And that's a miracle given what she's gone through. And what the system put her through when she should have been protected. Ms. Shaw tells her story framed by a legal hearing. Her childhood was a farce of her father kidnapping her and her regularly changing schools and then she personally witnessed a horrendous murder. It's easy to see how she had psychological issues. At 15 she was being stalked and harassed by an older acquaintance. Unable to get rid of him, she asks a school friend to frighten him away or beat him up. That decision leads to Ms. Shaw being locked up for ***"Life Without"****. From the several incompetent lawyers who didn't do their jobs properly, to a corrupt prosecutor with a point to prove, and then a prison guard who hated her and kept writing her up for infractions, you have to keep reminding yourself that this is real. I've no idea how innocent Sandy Shaw is overall, but I do know that she was badly treated and desperately unlucky. I'm glad her mother stood by her and helped her where she could. This is a heartbreaking story of a system that really needs redrafting. But given how little the current administration cares for 'the rule of law', that's unlikely to happen any time soon.*

Reviewer 1509280

Life Without *was a great book, but an infuriating one at the same time. The gross miscarriage of justice from start to finish on Sandy's case is unforgivable. It absolutely blows my mind that she spent 21 years in prison given the circumstances of her case. She was failed by pretty much every single person that was involved. The fact that she never gave up and just kept trying again, despite the dirty moves pulled by the justice department, is inspiring. I can't imagine the mental fortitude it would take to not give up after everything she went through.*

Ellen R, Reviewer

I received an advance review copy for free, and I am leaving this review voluntarily. This book was absolutely insane in that the miscarriage of justice for Sandy should never have happened. This was a fantastic first-hand look at what happened to her and what can happen to others from start to finish. I appreciated her sharing how she navigated everything and I was really rooting for her. This was such an important book because it helps the average person become aware that these things happen way more than they should. When I finished the book I just wanted to give her an enormous hug.



Impossible Odds

The Kidnapping of Jessica Buchanan and Her Dramatic Rescue by SEAL TEAM 6

Atria Books/Simon and Schuster

By Jessica Buchanan& Eric Landemalm with Anthony Flacco

Script available by author Anthony Flacco, MFA Screenwriting/AFI

On October 25, 2011, 32-year-old **Jessica Buchanan** is an attractive American teacher working for a humanitarian NGO in Somalia. She trains local communities on how to avoid the landmines and unexploded munitions that litter the region. But on this day, she and an older male colleague are kidnapped at gunpoint and held for ransom by an organization of Somali pirates who have moved their operations on land. Their number includes traumatized child soldiers who are hooked on drugs supplied by their masters. An FBI asset sees the attack and within two hours the White House and FBI are already monitoring. They quickly locate the captors out in desert, but fear that an attack will only result in the captives' deaths.

For the next three months, Jessica is terrorized by more than two dozen terrorists, some adult and some very young, who carry assault rifles at all times and work themselves into near delirium by chewing addictive khat leaves. She is held outdoors in filthy conditions and kept on a starvation diet while her health and that of her 60-year-old Danish counterpart steadily deteriorates. Negotiations drag.
Strangely, her worst tormentor is the youngest, a child soldier of about 12, who appears determined to inflict all the sadism upon others that the world has shown to him. Only Jessica's "friendship" with her one reluctant captor named “Helper,” plus her understanding of their culture, allows her to manipulate the men just enough to remain alive. She repeatedly staves off rape and mock execution. But while tied to trees in the Somali wilderness, she slowly succumbs to malnutrition and kidney failure and only keeps her sanity by visualizing long visits to familiar places.

As the ordeal stretches into its third month, the captors grow increasingly nervous. They worry about turncoats within their own ranks. Nobody can be trusted. The khat leaves fuel paranoia. The aura of the camp shifts to desperation laced with heightened suspicion. The kidnappers become even more agitated when a faint but constant droning sound begins to drift down from somewhere high overhead. It is nearly too soft to hear and never quite identifiable. Nobody can see anything up there, but thenoises continue. Their paranoia is correct here; the SEALs are watching everything these men do.

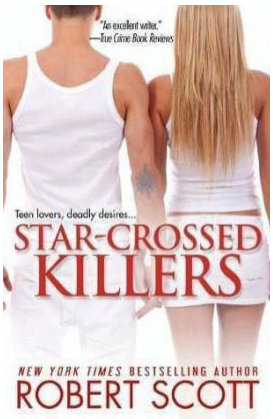
Throughout the ordeal, every moment Jessica Buchanan spends suffering in captivity is matched by that of her adoring husband of less than three years, **Erik Landemalm (35)**, a humanitarian aid worker who manipulates tribal chiefs to circulate false gossip and confuse the kidnappers. While SEAL Team Six rehearses their potential raid, Erik bolsters the hunt for her by acting as liaison between their two families, the FBI, professional hostage negotiators, and the United States Government.

During those torturous months, they are teased by rare chances to communicate for a display of “Proof of Life,” and tormented by th kidnappers’ unexplained silences and psychotic outbursts. Their long midnight of the soul tests their individual resolve as well as their faith in one another. Finally, after 93 days of fruitless negotiations, Jessica’s rapidly failing health raises her medical state to a life and death issue. President Obama secretly orders Seal Team Six to raid the location. The violent rescue by 24 SEALs is played out in detail, from their rehearsals to the parachute drop, to the attack itself. It is January 25, 2012, and while the President delivers his State of the Union speech to a national television audience, the rescue team parachutes from a C-130 under cover of darkness, hikes two miles to the location and attacks the heavily armed hostiles on duty that night. All are killed with no harm to the hostages, who are quickly airlifted out on a military rescue helicopter.

Watch 60 Minutes***: http://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-rescue-of-jessica-buchanan/***

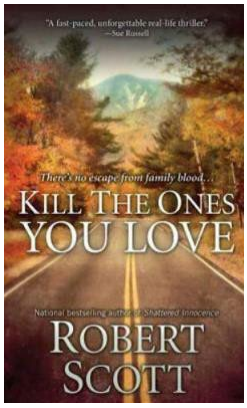
From New York Times Bestselling True Crime Author

Robert Scott

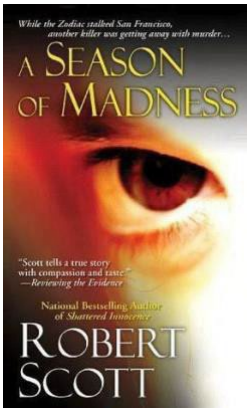


When nineteen-year-old Steven "Boston" Colver set eyes on beautiful young Tylar Witt, the sparks between them could not be denied. It didn't matter that she was only fourteen. The two saw their love written in the stars. All they wanted was to spend every moment in each other's arms.

When Tylar's concerned mother, Joanne Witt, tried to come between them, her efforts only fueled the wild passions of two California teens who saw themselves as a modern-day Romeo and Juliet, trapped in a heartless world. Boston and Tylar would prove their love by any means necessary. They would allow no one to stand in their way. And they made a promise to stay together—until death and beyond. . .
"An excellent writer." —*True Crime Book Reviews*



A handsome, married young father and former deputy sheriff, Gabriel Morris looked like the picture of respectability. When his mother and her boyfriend were found brutally murdered in their pleasant Oregon seaside home, authorities were shocked to find a trail leading to him. Soon, police in several states were caught up in a riveting chase as Gabriel, with family in tow, went on a cross-country crime spree. No one knew if his wife, Jessica, was a victim or accomplice; or if his four-year-old daughter was in jeopardy. In a gracious Virginia suburb, a SWAT team swooped down on the renegade family and ended their wild, dangerous ride.
What followed was even more shocking, as the story of how Gabriel Morris ended up on the wrong side of the law took investigators on a dark journey into the heart of a killer...
Vividly described, unsettling…Scott spells out how rage and obsession can become fatally warped." —*Publishers Weekly* on *Kill the Ones You Love*



California Nightmare. . . Annette Edwards was a vivacious 19-year-old on her way to watch the Fourth of July fireworks. Eighteen-year-old Pam Moore was a former beauty pageant contestant, hitching a ride on a busy street. Linda Slavik was a young mother enjoying a night out with a friend. Annette Selix was just eleven, an innocent child on her way home from the market. Each of them was attacked without warning, brutally assaulted, and left for dead by a bitter, disfigured man in the grip of a violent the so-called "Hilltop Rapist." But serial predator Darrell Rich didn't stop at just four victims. He couldn't stop. .
"Scott tells a true story with compassion and taste." --*Reviewing the Evidence*

Robert Scott was the author of eighteen true crime books.
He passed away and these three books are handled by Martin Literary Management

HIDDEN GIRL: The True Story of a Modern-Day Child Slave

By Shyima Hall with Lisa Wysocky
Simon & Schuster

When Shyima Hall was eight years old her poverty-stricken Egyptian parents, overwhelmed with close to a dozen children, sold her into slavery. The price? 17 dollars a month. The wealthy Cairo couple who bought Shyima moved to California two years later and brought the little girl into the US illegally. As a child slave, Shyima Hall had no friends or family, no emotional support whatsoever. She did not speak a word of English and, after moving to the US, was thousands of miles and an ocean away from everything that was familiar to her. On top of that, a terrorized Shyima was forced to toil 16 or more hours a day, seven days a week for her captor's family, which included five children—some of whom were near her age. At night, Shyima slept on a squalid mattress in a windowless garage. A bucket and some water were all she had in which to wash herself and her clothes; and she was forbidden from going to school. Shyima never visited a doctor or dentist, even when she was ill with the flu. Additionally, her captors continually berated her and often slapped her.

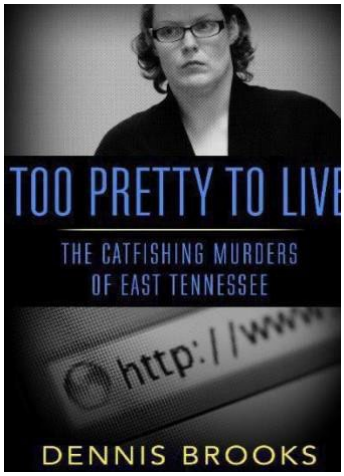
While Shyima was rarely allowed outside the home, a neighbor began to suspect something was not quite right. Rumors abounded, with glimpses of a small dark-haired girl during times children her age should have been in bed. In 2002, possibly acting on a tip from a neighbor, child welfare authorities rescued Shyima. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) investigated her case, and her captors were eventually prosecuted and imprisoned.

At the time of her rescue, 13-year-old Shyima decided to stay in the US. She hasn't returned to Egypt or seen her family since. While Shyima may have been isolated during her slavery, she was not alone. From 2010-11, US federal immigration officials launched 651 investigations into human trafficking and arrested roughly 300 people. According to the United States State Department, there are more than 12 million people entrapped in some form of slavery worldwide.

While Shyima could have chosen to fade into obscurity, she has decided on a much different path. Now 26, Shyima speaks to groups across the country about combating human trafficking and has often briefed ICE agents about the emotional and physical trauma that victims endure. Shyima's dream is to become a federal agent for ICE to help crack down on human trafficking and free the enslaved. And she took a major step toward that goal in December 2011 when she became a citizen of the United States.

Hidden Girl empowers readers to step up when they believe a wrong is being committed. If not for a concerned neighbor, Shyima might still be ensnared in the web of slavery. This first-person, 65,000- word narrative details Shyima's difficult Egyptian childhood and her challenging years as a slave. Her assimilation into foster homes, school, eventual adoption, and request for legal emancipation is shown through the rare point of view of a young teen experiencing both freedom and the culture of the United States for the first time. Shyima's many firsts are also shared. Imagine being 13 and never having seen the inside of a school, been to a movie or a store, eaten at a restaurant or made a friend. These emotional firsts are told with honest humility and wonder and come with their own unique set of challenges. The story culminates with Shyima triumphantly standing before a federal judge and being sworn in as a naturalized citizen of the United States. http://video.pbs.org/video/2365210010/

Watch AP story: AP Video Story



TOO PRETTY TO LIVE

The True, Strange Story of the Catfishing Murders of East Tennessee

By Dennis Brooks
Diversion Books
Pitch available for Scripted Television

One morning in Mountain City, Tennessee, a young couple were found dead in their home. Shot through their heads. The woman died holding in her arms her baby son, who was still alive. The mother was wearing pajamas. The bullet that killed her lay in the baby's bouncy seat.

The motivation behind these killings is a shocking story. A collection of four people contributed to the crime. A father who fancied himself a pseudo-CIA agent and acted under the belief he was protecting his family. A boyfriend in his late 30s, gullible to the commands of the first female to ever give him attention, entering the victims' home to aid the father. A mother, chronically overprotective and delusional, who domineered and controlled the men. And at the center of it all, a young woman able to manipulate them all despite her limitations.

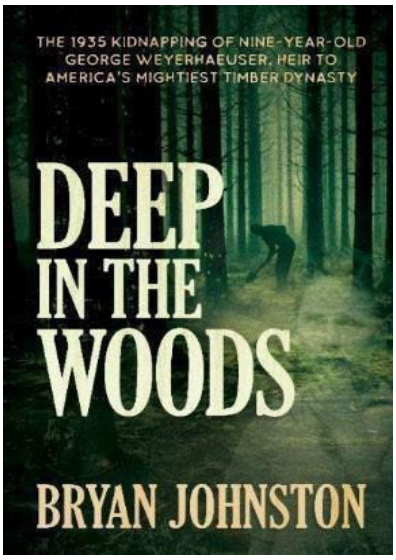
Jenelle Potter, 30 at the time of the deaths of Bill Payne and Billie Jean Hayworth, had lived her entire life in her parents' home under their watchful eyes. As an adult, she never held a job. Socially awkward, she was drawn to the internet for the opportunity to communicate with the world. Through the type-written word, she was able to be anyone she wanted to be.

After Bill and Billie Jean began their relationship and started a family, Jenelle began assuming fictitious online identities to influence others to align against the couple and their friends. Presumably, Jenelle had been attracted to Bill. His new love for Billie Jean sent Jenelle into a jealous rage and pattern of harassment against Billie Jean and her friends. Jenelle's main pseudonym was Chris, a purported CIA agent who had gone to school with Jenelle. As Chris, Jenelle wrote often to her mother, Barbara Potter, who soon began to think of Chris as being like a son. Yet Barbara never met Chris, in spite of her yearning to do so. She was "catfished." Chris wrote to Barbara about the surveillance he had conducted on the victims and how the victims were conspiring to harm Jenelle.

Through this correspondence, Jenelle was able to convince her mother that she was in danger and that the danger would only end with the victims' deaths. Barbara thus began encouraging her husband, Buddy Potter, to act. Chris promised CIA backing for the sordid deed. Jenelle also assumed the Chris identity in writing to her secret boyfriend, Jamie Curd, who was also "catfished." As Chris, Jenelle was able to pit Jamie against his cousin, Bill, and manipulate him into assisting Buddy.

Too Pretty to Live tells the story of this crime and its ensuing prosecution. Dennis Brooks was a 17-year veteran Assistant District Attorney when the matter came to him with only the men being charged. Through a creative use of forensic linguistics and utilizing the theory of criminal responsibility, Brooks was able to weave together a case that ultimately convicted each of the Potters of two counts of first-degree murder. This story will shock and amaze you.

DEEP IN THE WOODS



By Brian Johnston—POST HILL PRESS

Book trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TlzPyOvJGTg

On a sunny Friday afternoon, May 24, 1935, curly haired nine-year-old George Weyerhaeuser was snatched off the streets less than three blocks from his house, while walking home from school. George was not just any boy. He was a Weyerhaeuser, heir to America's mightiest timber dynasty. To this day, his great grandfather, Frederick Weyerhaeuser, is still considered the 12th richest man in American history. Bill Gates is 11th.

The ransom note contained 21 demands, the first being that the kidnappers wanted $200,000 – over three million in today's dollars – in small, unmarked bills, and the money had to be paid within five days. Or else. The family was instructed to communicate with the kidnappers through personal ads in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer newspaper, using the code name "Percy Minnie." While the family scrambled to raise the money, the kidnappers kept George sealed in a trunk, locked in a closet, manacled in a dirt pit in the forest and chained to a tree.

When the Weyerhaeuser's produced the money hours before the deadline, they received a letter with exact instructions for the drop. The payoff played out like something ripped from a Dashiell Hammett novel with the kidnappers driving off with a king's ransom.

The kidnappers, true to their word, released George. They took him deep into the woods and left him by a timber road in the rain with a blanket and one dollar. After waiting two hours in pitch darkness George took it upon himself to find his way home. He hiked for miles until finally coming upon a farmhouse.

The farmer piled him into his Model-T and headed for Tacoma, stopping in the town of Renton, to call the family. The telephone system the FBI had set up in the Weyerhaeuser home failed miserably: the farmer's call never made it through. Frustrated, the farmer then called the Tacoma police. At that very moment, a Seattle Times reporter was in the police station, and he overheard the call between the farmer and the police. He hailed a taxi and instructed the cabbie to race to Renton while keeping a weather eye out for a Model-T. The cabbie and reporter spotted the car and managed to get the farmer to pull over. The reporter insinuated that he was with the police, gave the farmer five dollars for his trouble, and the farmer handed George over, no questions. The reporter then instructed the cabbie to drive back to Tacoma on back roads, while he sat on the backseat floorboards, out of sight, and interviewed the boy. With George home, thus began, as the New York Times called it, *The greatest manhunt in Northwest history.*

The kidnappers were William Mahan, a career criminal bank robber and the mastermind of the caper, and the husband-and-wife team of Harmon and Margaret Waley. Harmon was a 24-year-old petty thief, and Margaret was a 19-year-old Mormon girl who had never been in trouble and who, according to her faith, did whatever husband told her to do.

The FBI managed to register the serial numbers of all 20,000 ransom bills. It took 4,200 person-hours accomplished within three days. The list was then spread across the land. When Margaret tried to pass a five-dollar ransom bill to purchase a twenty-cent cigarette case for her father at a Woolworth's department store, the FBI swooped in. Harmon was apprehended hours later after he burned several thousand dollars of the money in a potbellied stove.

After the Waley's were busted, William Mahan managed to evade the law. He was almost captured the

following day on a one-in-a-million chance encounter in Butte, Montana. While standing on a street corner, he locked eyes with a police officer who, remarkably, recognized him because he had arrested Mahan years earlier. After a chase on foot, Mahan escaped when a guard dog got between him and the cop, and the cop refused to shoot the dog. As a result, Mahan remained on the lam for another year.

In the meantime, the Waley's went to court. Harmon pled guilty and was sentenced to 45 years at Alcatraz, rubbing elbows with the likes of Al Capone. Margaret tried to plead guilty – even though she never once saw George during the entire duration of the kidnapping – because she couldn't imagine her husband behind bars while she remained free. The judge refused to allow her to plead guilty, based on the evidence, and she went to trial. And what a trial it was, becoming one of the most sensational and high-profile cases in the region's history, the courtroom packed to overflowing. While the courtroom drama was playing out, a different drama was taking place on the streets. The Northwest was in the grip of a massive lumber strike, complete with riots, bayonet-wielding National Guardsmen, smoke grenades, and buildings dynamited.

Margaret's lawyer was the former mayor of Seattle, and as her defense he chose to characterize her as the stupidest woman on the planet. It didn't work. She was sentenced to 20 years on a Michigan work farm. On the day she was sentenced she vowed she would count the days, the hours, the minutes before she and her beloved Harmon would be reunited. A day later she blamed him for all her misery.

One year after the kidnapping, Bill Mahan's luck finally ran out. He was captured in San Francisco, pled guilty and was sentenced to 60 years in Alcatraz.

Twenty-eight years after going to prison, Harmon Waley was released. By then, George Weyerhaeuser was a grown man, and one of the top brass in the Weyerhaeuser organization. Waley, now 52-years old, called his former kidnap victim and had the gall to ask George for a job. George Weyerhaeuser, in a breathtaking display of grace and compassion, hired him.

https://www.king5.com/video/entertainment/television/programs/new-day-northwest/new-book-highlights-an-obscure-part-of-pacific-northwest-history-new-day-nw/281-86219883-723e-47ec-909d-60ed49839b47

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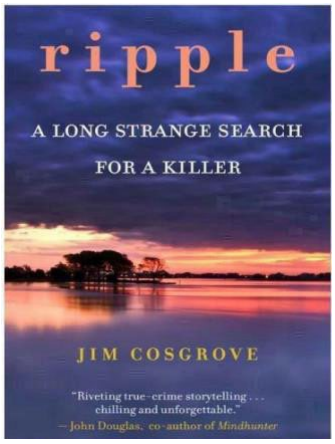


RIPPLE

A Long Strange Search for a Killer

By Jim Cosgrove

Steerforth Press

"An intriguing . . .excavation of an unsolved crime."***--Kirkus Reviews***

"Exquisite details help to make *Ripple* a captivating true crime account of a murder..." ***--Foreword Reviews***

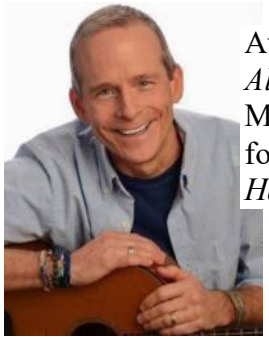
"Cosgrove masterfully weaves together the family's fabric and spends enough time with each of them to capture their individual characters, drawing the reader into their search for Frank. His conversational tone makes this an easy read for all, especially true crime lovers." –***Booklist***

"Thoroughly riveting and ultimately redeeming examination of an American mystery. Like a great profiler, Cosgrove reveals both the darkness and light in his subjects."
--John Douglas, FBI profiling pioneer &co-author of the#1 New York Times bestseller *Mindhunter*

-"Both a true-life murder mystery and a family saga, Ripple is, at the same time, a lament for the universal human condition. Through sensitive prose and self-revealing introspection, Jim Cosgrove chronicles his decades-long quest to uncover the truth of a family friend's disappearance and death and, in the process, has produced a moving and revealing chronicle of the challenge in truly knowing what is in another person's heart."
--Mark Olshaker, documentary filmmaker, novelist and co-author of *Mindhunter* and *The Killer's Shadow*

Follow journalist Jim Cosgrove as he picks up the trail of a decades-old case involving the disappearance of a family friend. In 1982, Frank McGonigle, a hapless Grateful Dead fan, left his Kansas City home and never returned. His large Irish-Catholic family searched nine years for him, only to learn of his murder in a gritty South Carolina fishing village.

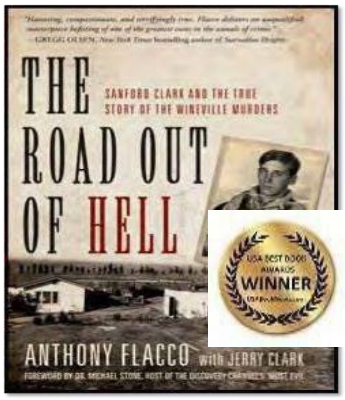
With the help of a cast of salty characters, Cosgrove uncovers connections to a ruthless local crime boss and miscues from a threadbare sheriff's department. A chance meeting with a soft-hearted psychic who provided freakishly accurate details about Frank's death put Cosgrove face to face with the alleged killer. After a 25-year investigative journey that has brought the McGonigle family some long-sought closure, it's clear that Cosgrove's story and Frank's have become inextricably intertwined. ***Ripple*** interweaves themes of familial bonds, guilt, redemption, compassion, and self-discovery with a thread of the esoteric.



Award-winning entertainer, author, and speaker Jim Cosgrove is a former staff writer for the *Albuquerque Journal* and for Hallmark Cards. His first book, *Everybody Gets Stinky Feet* (Mighty Mo Productions, 2017), is a collection of essays from his time as a parenting columnist for *The Kansas City Star*. His three children's books *Bop Bop Dinosaur*, *Sullen Sally*, and *Hark! It's Harold the Angel* were released in 2020 by Ascend Books.

Young music fans may be more familiar with Cosgrove's persona as beloved kid-rocker " Mr. Stinky Feet." Over the past 23 years, he has performed more than 4,500 high-energy shows throughout North America and Europe and twice at The White House Easter Egg Roll. His nine family albums have earned an impressive collection of national parenting awards. His YouTube channel has more than 2.5 million views. In 2020, his music was streamed more than one million times on Spotify alone.

https://www.kansascity.com/entertainment/books/article259556284.html?fbclid=IwAR0NToGhof5AkW_5Pk Zxuv-iVOSDdWDETuMfWTjCq3HdYsix-D_RCq9Sqls



THE ROAD OUT OF HELL

Sanford Clark and the True Story of the Wineville Murders

By Anthony Flacco/ Sterling Publishing

And you wonder: How the hell did this guy go on to be a loving father and how did they bury all that crap? That's a story in itself."
-Clint Eastwood, Director of THE CHANGELING

The Road Out Of Hell travels beyond the murder farm. This story puts us behind young Sanford Clark's POV throughout his capture, then past the trial, conviction, and execution of Gordon Stewart Northcott. It is based on the question, how can any child endure such treatment for two years and somehow go on to build a positive life?

We follow this shattered boy through a stint in the reformatory until age 18 (for being in the States illegally), then his deportation back to his childhood hometown in Canada. There, initial public suspicion remains high, even though the press has made it clear he was never a willing perpetrator. For those first months after returning, every social encounter is a quiet ordeal, either over his treatment by others or because of his own painful shyness.

Soon after he comes home, Canada joins Britain in what will become the Second World War. Sanford enlists and fights heroically in Europe, commanding a cannon crew through heavy artillery battles. His cheerful demeanor while under fire inspires his fellow soldiers; a quick death from an exploding shell doesn't seem to scare him at all. Sanford cracks corny jokes while they load and fire. He earns a number of combat medals.

He returns from war and gets a job as a postal carrier with a route in his old hometown. Courage under fire has burnished his public image a bit, and slowly, his persistently kind and personable demeanor wins people over. He meets June at a party when she rescues him from a solitary corner. They hit it off and she will soon be his wife. When he finally reveals his past to her, she smiles! She already knows his story. Rather than hardening her heart toward him, it has completely opened her up. She sees how much he desires to rebuild his life and she wants to do it with him.

They marry in a simple ceremony, and both work to buy a small house on Sanford's mail route. When they learn June can't have children, they decide to adopt, and take on a three-year-old boy from the local orphanage. The toddler is having a much harder time finding placement than a baby would. Sanford and June want to give the boy a chance. (And this boy is Jerry Clark, who will eventually open up the archives underlying this story).

Sanford makes sure his son Jerry never suffers from a lack of friends by buying the empty lot next door to their house. He grades it flat and after winter sets in, persuades the fire company to bring a truck around. They spray enough water over the lot to form a solid ice coating. Hockey is inevitable.

Jerry is 18 when his father Sanford takes him aside and tells him the entire Wineville story. He knows that despite social acceptance there will always be gossip, and he wants Jerry to hear the story from him. He tells him all about his time at the murder farm and in the burial pits with the roof pressing down on him, never knowing how long his term in the hole would be.

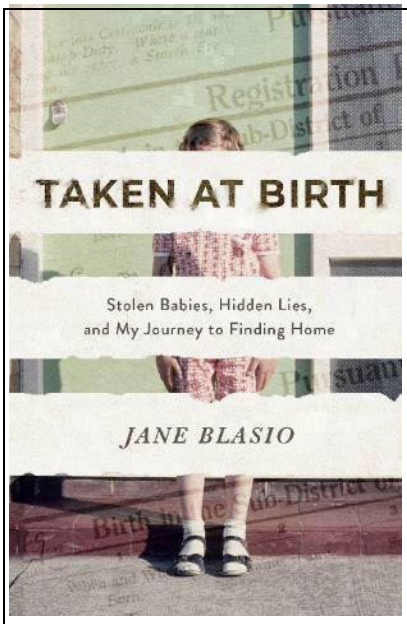
That night, Sanford hears odd noises and walks into Jerry's bedroom to see Jerry walking in his sleep and obviously in the throes of a nightmare. He is standing on his bed and pressing his hands up against the ceiling. Pushing with all his might. Trying in vain to lift the ceiling and somehow escape. Sanford gently wakes him before June is aroused by the sounds. He quietly explains to his son that it mattered to Sanford for his son to get a glimpse of what happened, not to share in his nightmares but to help him stand strong when people try to tear him down.

After twenty-eight years on his postal route, Sanford suffers a heart attack while on his mail route. He barely survives and must retire. With too much free time on his hands, old memories begin to run through his mind. They torment him. June arranges a job for Sanford at a local car museum, hosting the fancy displays. It is good for Sanford to have the distraction, and he excels at the job as a popular tour host. In his free moments, it is not the scenes of wartime battle which cause him such pain, it is always the murder farm. But he has pulled himself out of that hell and created a life to be proud of. He and June remained married for 58 years.

Listen to the podcast: ▶ THE ROAD OUT OF HELL-Anthony Flacco (spreaker.com)

See Book Trailer Here: http://www.anthonyflacco.com/booktrailer.htm

www.AnthonyFlacco.com WGA



TAKEN AT BIRTH

Stolen Babies, Hidden Lies, and My Journey to Finding Home

By Jane Blasio Revell/Baker Books

Click link to watch trailer: *www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESyhEzX7WNo*

For years from the 1940's through the 1960s, young pregnant women entered the front door of a clinic in a small North Georgia town. Their babies exited out the back, sold to northern couples desperate to hold a newborn in their arms. But these weren't adoptions—they were transactions. And one unethical doctor was exploiting other people's tragedies.

Jane Blasio was one of those babies. At six, she learned she was adopted. At fourteen, she first saw her birth certificate, which led her to begin piecing together details of her past, Jane undertook a decades-long personal investigation to not only discover her own origins, but to identify and reunite other victims of the Hicks Clinic human trafficking scheme. Along the way she became an expert in black market adoption, serving as an investigator and telling her story on every major news network. ***Taken at Birth*** is the remarkable account of her tireless quest for truth, justice, and resolution.

Jane Blasio is a Hicks Baby, sold at birth and passed through The back door of a clinic in North Georgia. She has served for more than 18 years in federal law enforcement. An expert in illegal adoption, she helped unravel the mystery of the Hicks Clinic, breaking the story in 1997. She has appeared on CNN, ABC *Primetime*, *Good Morning America*, *Fox News*, *Inside Edition*, and *Entertainment Tonight*, as well as in the *New York Times*, *People*, and *Reader's Digest*. She was the investigative lead on the recent TLC docuseries, *Taken at Birth*. Jane currently lives in Akron, Ohio, and spends as much time as she can with family and friends. www.JaneBlasio.com

MarkMeets... Jane Blasio, born and sold from the Hicks Clinic in Georgia - YouTube 1-6-2023 https://people.com/human-interest/woman-searching-for-birth-parents-discovers-she-was-stolen-as-a-baby/

TAKENATBIRTH: Stolen Babies, Hidden Lies, and My Journey to Finding Home by Jane Blasio -YouTube

People like to say it takes a lot of courage to do a book like this: I think it takes a site more than that. Jane Blasio lived a story that most could only imagine, from being sold as an infant by a small- town doctor, to years of searching for her birth mother, a gut-wrenching ordeal. But she not only lived it, she wrote the mortal hell out of it, bringing it all to life for the reader as it poured out of her. Sometimes you have to remind yourself that this was life lived, not one just crafted.--**Rick Bragg, Pulitzer Prize winner for NYT journalism**

SOLE SURVIVOR

By Holly K. Dunn

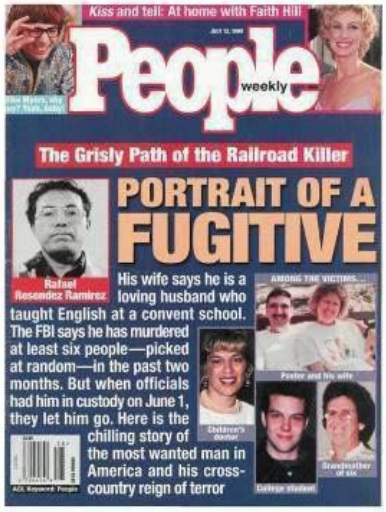
Diversion Publishing

Just as she was starting her junior year of college, Holly Dunn and her boyfriend were attacked while walking along railroad tracks. After her boyfriend is murdered, Holly is stabbed, raped, and beaten nearly to death. Their assailant remained at large for two years before police realized he was a serial killer connected to many more murders in several states. In this memoir of survival and healing from a horrific true crime, Holly recounts how she survived the vicious assault, endured a long journey of healing, and ultimately found meaning and purpose through service to victims of sexual assault and other violent crimes.

On August 28, 1997, Holly Dunn and her boyfriend, Chris Maier, were strolling along a set of railroad tracks not far from the University of Kentucky in Lexington where both were students. As they were heading back to a nearby house party, a strange man emerged from the shadows brandishing a sharp, pointed weapon.

Holly and Chris offered him money, credit cards, even their car while begging the man not to hurt them. Disregarding their pleas, the stranger viciously attacked them both, tying their arms and feet and dragging them into a ditch on the side of the tracks. Holly watched helplessly as the assailant bludgeoned Chris to death with a 50-pound rock. The killer then turned to Holly, stabbing her in the neck, raping her, and beating her over the head and face with a board until she was unconscious. Leaving her for dead, the attacker fled the scene.

After a while, Holly regained consciousness and miraculously managed to walk barefoot and coated in blood to a nearby house for help. From there, Holly was rushed to the University of Kentucky Medical Center where she stayed for five days being treated for multiple cuts and gashes, a broken eye socket, and a fractured jaw. Much worse than the physical harm was the emotional and psychological devastation that Holly endured after the attack. Holly's memoir moves from a detailed account of the night she and Chris were attacked by the tracks, through her heartbreaking journey of grief and healing as she comes to terms with what happened.

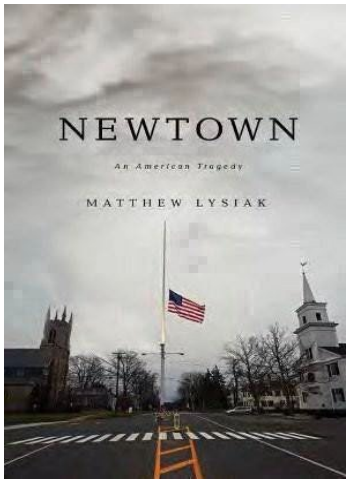


For two years after the attack, Lexington police have no idea who or where Holly's attacker is. **At the story's midpoint, the assailant is revealed to be a serial killer who has murdered multiple people in several states.** Given that his victims are all discovered a short distance from train tracks, the media nicknames him the **Railroad Killer**.

His best-known alias at the time was Rafael Resendez-Ramirez, an illegal immigrant from Mexico with a mile-long rap sheet dating back to when he was 16 years old. At the height of a national manhunt, Resendez- Ramirez is added to the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list, right between Osama Bin Laden and followed shortly after by Whitey Bulger. After he is finally apprehended by a fiercely determined Texas Ranger, the killer's actual name turns out to be **Angel Maturing Resendiz**. Resendiz is brought to justice, and Holly bravely testifies against him during the punishment phase of his trial in Houston, Texas. The jury recommends the death penalty, and the notorious Railroad Killer is finally executed in 2006.

Holly's story doesn't end with Resendiz's death, however. Not long after her attacker's arrest, Holly begins speaking to various groups to tell her story, offer safety tips, train law enforcement, and much more. She also works with a local police detective for several years to establish **Holly's House** in her hometown, Evansville, Indiana. Holly's House offers a safe and nurturing space for forensic interviews, services and support for victims, and community outreach and education programs. Her Christian faith brought her strength throughout the healing process, and she believes she was given a second chance at life for a reason. Since her ordeal, Holly has embraced every opportunity to serve others, especially those who have endured rape and other violent crimes. Holly's story is ultimately inspiring and redemptive as she demonstrates that even in the face of one's worst nightmare come true, life can still be good, meaningful, and joyous.

People Magazine Presents: https://vimeo.com/932261353/76caa41015?share=copy



The NEWTOWN Manifesto

An American Tragedy

By Matthew Lysiak

Gallery Books/Simon & Schuster

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WITH OVER FIVE HOURS OF VERIFIED AUDIO RECORDINGS BY SHOOTER

In the vein of Dave Cullen's *Columbine*, the first comprehensive account of the Sandy Hook tragedy—with exclusive new information that chronicles the horrific events of December 14, 2012, including new insight into the dark mind of gunman Adam Lanza via discovered recordings by author.

26 people dead; 20 of them schoolchildren between the ages of six and seven. The world mourned the devastating shooting at Sandy Hook elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut in December 2012. Now, here is the startling, comprehensive look at this tragedy, and into the mind of the unstable killer, Adam Lanza. Drawing on hundreds of interviews and a decade's worth of emails from Lanza's mother to close friends that chronicled his slow slide into mental illness, *Newtown* pieces together the perfect storm that led to this unspeakable act of violence that shattered so many lives.

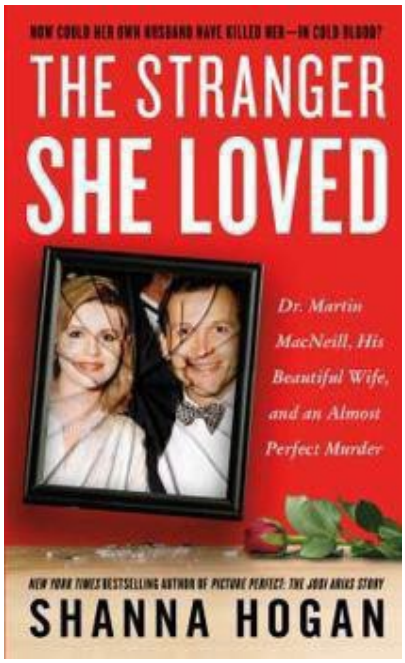
Newtown explores the two central theories that have permeated the media since the attack: some claim Lanza suffered from severe mental illness, while others insist that, far from being a random act of insanity, this was a meticulously thought out, premeditated attack at least two years in the making by a violent video-gamer so obsessed with "glory kills" that he was willing to go to any length to attain the top score. Lanza's dark descent from a young boy with adjustment disorders to a calculating killer is interwoven with the Newtown tragedy as it unfolded at the time, told from the points of view of eyewitnesses, survivors, parents of victims, first responders, and Adam's relatives. A definitive account of a tragedy that shook a nation, *Newtown* features exclusive material including initial misinformation reported by the media and commentary on how this American tragedy became a lightning rod for political agendas, much like Columbine did more than a decade ago.

Matthew Lysiak was a staff writer for *The Daily News* (New York) who has received national recognition for his exclusive reporting on the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary and the Newtown killer Adam Lanza, the Aurora gunman James Holmes, the Tucson shooter Jared Loughner, the Fort Hood army psychiatrist Nidal Malik Hasan, and more. Lysiak currently lives in Arizona with his wife and four daughters**. The Apple TV+ series, Home Before Dark, is inspired by his work and his family.**

THE STRANGER SHE LOVED

By NYT Bestselling author Shanna Hogan

St. Martin's Press



Michele MacNeill lay slumped, limp and lifeless folded inside the drained bathtub. Her husband Martin—clad in a white lab coat—hovered above the tub, wailing for help.

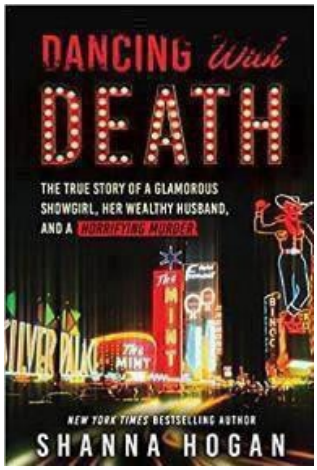
It was late on the morning of April 11, 2007, and Michelle, a 50-year-old former beauty queen and mother of eight, was dead inside the master bathroom of her Pleasant Grove, Utah home. She had just undergone a full-face lift eight days prior. At the hospital as his wife of 30-years was pronounced dead, Dr. Martin MacNeill— a practicing physician, lawyer, and Mormon bishop— wept dramatically. Michele's death was quickly ruled natural by the medical examiner due to an unknown heart arrhythmia. Dr. MacNeill appeared every bit the grieving widower.

But as investigators would discover, nothing about Dr. MacNeill was as it seemed. It would take six long years and the unrelenting dedication of Michele's children to solve the mystery of her death, exposing a complex web of lies, betrayal and murder. Beneath the carefully concocted façade of a family man, Dr. MacNeill was a cunning manipulator with a disturbing double identity. He used his position as a doctor to gain access to other women and used his title as attorney to get around the law.

The unraveling of Dr. MacNeill's lies began soon after Michele's surgery, which he had persuaded his wife to undergo. As she recovered, a disturbingly groggy Michele turned to her older daughter Alexis and said, "In case anything happens to me, make sure it was not your dad. "Michele had suspected her husband of an affair and believed he intended to kill her.

Days after his wife's funeral, Dr. MacNeill hired his mistress, Gypsy Willis, to be the live-in nanny—much to the chagrin of his children. Both Dr. MacNeill and Gypsy neglected the MacNeill children and eventually lost custody. In the summer of 2007, they abandoned his teenage, adopted daughter in her homeland of the Ukraine. He then used the girl's Social Security number to give his mistress a new identity and conceal his own massive debts.

As Dr. MacNeill's children began to suspect their father of murder, they conducted their own investigations, revealing his multiple affairs, a criminal record for forgery and falsified transcripts proving he was never qualified as a doctor. Toxicology tests later proved Michele was dosed with a combination of drugs that would have left her helpless to defend for her herself. In 2013, Dr. Martin MacNeill was convicted of murdering his wife by pressing her to get plastic surgery, drugging her and drowning her in the bathtub. As the prosecutor would say in court, "it was an almost perfect murder**." He later committed suicide in prison**



DANCING WITH DEATH

The True Story of a Glamorous Showgirl, Her Wealthy Husband, and a Horrifying Murder

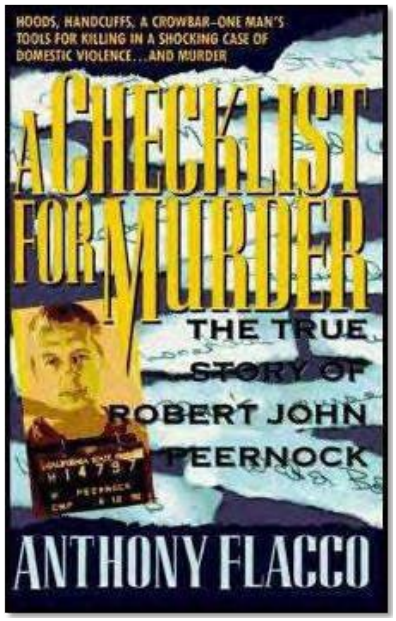
By Shanna Hogan St. Martin's Press/Diversion

October 23, 2004. The crime scene is gruesome. On the outskirts of the Phoenix desert detectives discover a headless, limbless torso entombed inside a large plastic box, stewing in blood and grim. Matching a set of car keys found with the victim, detectives quickly identify the torso in the box as Jay Michael Orbin.

Flash back to 20 years prior where a young Jay Orbin is sipping a beer at a strip club. Jay is a budding art dealer who travels two weeks a month on business trips. He is also a playboy with an affinity for strippers. When a beguiling blonde stripper named Marjorie Marqui sensually cavorts on stage, Jay falls head over heels. After weeks of seducing her with money and gifts they begin dating and Marjorie even moves to his house. After one embarrassing sexual encounter, Marjorie leaves Jay and returns to her home state of Florida. Eight years later, Jay has not forgotten about Marjorie and stills refers to her as the "love of his life." Then, in 1995, on a business trip to Las Vegas, Jay sees Marjorie's face on a billboard advertising a topless dance show. Jay is in awe. He had been searching for her for years. He finds her number in the phone book and calls her. They meet for drinks where Marjorie tells Jay about her life over the past 10 years. After leaving Phoenix, Marjorie returned to her home state of Florida and hooked up with a multi-millionaire playboy named Michael J. Peter, who is known throughout Florida as the "strip club king." While with Michael, Marjorie stared in his burlesque-style dance troupe called the "Platinum Dolls." Michael and Marjorie had a romantic relationship, and she was involved in many of his endeavors, staring in his movies and music videos including a cameo in the Motley Crew video "Girls, Girls, Girls." Marjorie was even featured with Michael in an episode of Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous, about his life of opulence. When speaking with Jay, Marjorie does leave out many mysterious details about her past, which would be revealed later in the story.

Jay and Marjorie rekindle their relationship and he quickly proposes marriage. Marjorie, however, turns him down. But when Marjorie tells him of her one regret—that she is infertile and can never be a mom—they make a deal. If Marjorie marries him, Jay promised to pay for fertility treatments. The couple agrees to an arrangement where if Marjorie is not pregnant in two years she will leave. They elope in Vegas and Marjorie moves with him to Phoenix, soon giving birth to a son named Noah. While Jay's family and friends have mixed opinions about Marjorie, their relationship seems to work and over the next eight years they live together as a seemingly happy family. Then, on September 8, 2004, Jay's 45th birthday, he fails to return home from a business trip. Over the next few weeks, the family becomes increasingly concerned. Jay's older brother Jake comes down from San Diego to search for his brother. The family, in particular Jake, will be instrumental in uncovering Marjorie's mysterious past. While Marjorie tells the family that Jay is expected any day, Jake convinces Marjorie to report him missing. With missing persons detectives Marjorie seems unconcerned and evasive. It's clear to them that she's hiding something.

During one phone call with Detective Jan Butcher, Marjorie refuses to take a lie detector test. In the background a male voice pipes up in the background telling Marjorie not to cooperate. Suspicious, Detective Butcher orders a search warrant on the house and discovers that Marjorie has been having an affair with a 60-year-old body builder named Larry Weisberg, who attacks SWAT officers and is Tasered inside Marjorie's house. That night Jay's brother Jake goes to the house to check on Noah and hears Marjorie tells detectives a shocking secret that she and Jay are not actually married. They had divorced eight years prior because Marjorie had a tax lien in her name. No one, not even Jay's parents, knew of the divorce. Because Marjorie was not Jay's wife, she would not be entitled to his assets in a divorce. She is, however, the main beneficiary on his millionaire dollar life insurance payouts. Over the next month, Jake hires a private detective to learn more about Marjorie. He soon discovers that Marjorie is not who she has claimed to be. Marjorie had been married and divorced seven times and has a petty criminal record and links to mob ties through her ex, Michael J. Peter. The family later learns that Marjorie had been suspected of egregious acts at her son's karate studio, including harassing other parents. She had even been dying her eight-year-old son's hair blonde to match hers since he was just a few months old. Then, on October 23, 2004, more than a month after he went missing, a dismembered chunk of Jay's torso is discovered in the Phoenix desert. Homicide detectives quickly put together a case against Marjorie and her boyfriend Larry Weisberg. After discovering video of Marjorie buying the Rubbermaid tub as torso was discovered in, an arrest is made. No evidence is ever found on Larry Weisberg and he is later offered immunity. On September 21, 2009, Marjorie is convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.



A CHECKLIST FOR MURDER

By Anthony Flacco
Penguin Random House/Diversion Books
Screenplay available

Robert Peernock e is a computer programmer working for the State of California, who claims to have discovered government corruption in the awarding of state contracts. He has been a victim of constant harassment because of his whistle-blowing activities. As a point of proven fact, Peernock has already won numerous lawsuits against the organizations he has targeted, and he claims to be on the verge of releasing a detailed book that traces government corruption from office to office, all the way up to the Governor of State of California. When his wife is found dead and his daughter clinging to life in a car accident, Peernock claims he is being framed. He claims his daughter was drugged and brainwashed, and then the murderer was set up to implicate him— all in order to destroy his credibility. His opponents would then be safe from the effects of his book, even if he ever got it published.

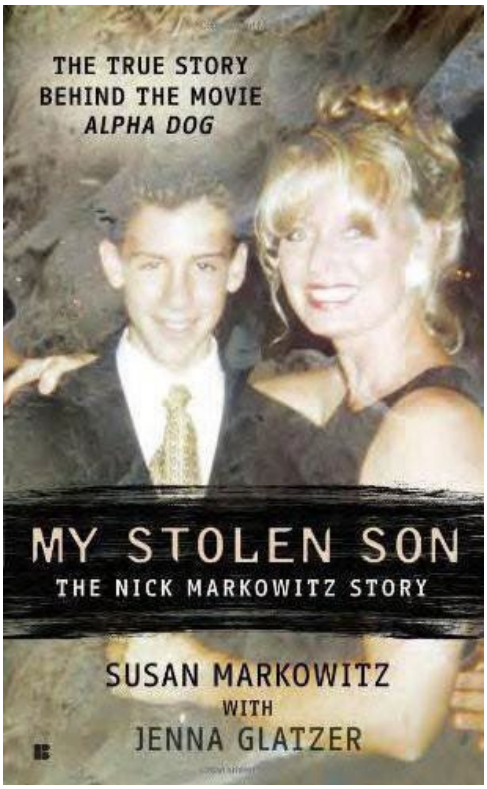
Police reject Robert Peernock's alibi. They want him to come in for another interview. He flees town. Even so, he continues to communicate with police, via his attorney. He reveals that he is afraid to return, because the police work for the same forces that Peernock is trying to expose. He is sure that he will become a "jailhouse suicide" if he surrenders. So, in a desperate effort to hide from them, he gets plastic surgery in Las Vegas and returns to L.A. in secret, where his girlfriend helps him avoid capture for months. He fails to assist in his daughter's recovery or attend his wife's funeral.

Eventually, Detective Steve Fisk puts in enough overtime to track him down and Assistant District Attorney Craig Richman begins to look for holes in Peernock's alibi. But… when civil attorney Victoria Doom enters the case *pro bono* to help shattered Natasha get put her life back together, she discovers a host of contrasting details and helps to prove that Peernock has committed a near-perfect murder. The question regards motive. Before the crimes, he had already been granted his wife's permission for a divorce—and even after splitting their estate, they would both be very well off. So why would he attack his own daughter?
Natasha herself talked about how she used to be the apple of her father's eye. Young Natasha suffers violent recurring nightmares about the crime— at the same time, her jailed father suffers from nightmares about being set up and convicted for murder. It is only because of Victoria Doom's after-hours passion for this case that the truth finally comes out: Robert Peernock indeed would have committed the perfect murder if only he had not been so obsessive about keeping his detailed checklist for murder.

Victoria Doom reveals that Peernock's fight against the state drove his paranoia out of control, until he became convinced that both his ex-wife and his daughter had been enlisted in the state's clandestine struggle to silence him. After a fierce murder trial filled with screaming outbursts– and a bound and gagged defendant in the courtroom– Robert Peernock's jury finds him guilty of 1st Degree Murder along with a host of accompanying crimes.

Later, while Doom helps Natasha to quietly get on with her life in an out-of-state location, word comes from the police that Peernock is in jail trying to hire a killer to go after his daughter and finish the job on her. He is working at this task with the relentless patience of an obsessive madman. The story ends with Peernock in his solitary cell, hand drawing the new home page for his website: It shows a picture of him bound and gagged in court during his trial. The caption cries: "Innocent whistle-blower!" For the text underneath, he writes: "This is the story of an innocent man…" and smiles as he reads back over his handiwork. **UPDATE: ROBERT PEERNOCK DIED IN PRISON FROM COVID IN APRIL, 2021**

For more about Anthony, see www.AnthonyFlacco.com
Watch 1/14/2023 HERE



MY STOLEN SON

The Nick Markowitz Story By Susan Markowitz

Penguin Random House

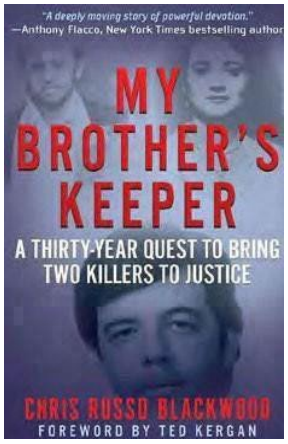
* Starred Review from Publishers Weekly

This poignant memoir tells the painful story of a brutal slaying that captured national attention when it became the basis of the 2007 drama Alpha Dog. In the summer of 2000, Susan Markowitz's 15-year-old son, Nicholas, was kidnapped and murdered by a local drug dealer in revenge for his brother's debts. Nicholas's death, the ensuing trials of his killers, and the international manhunt for a fourth suspect nearly tore his family apart and sent his mother on a decade-long quest for justice and sanity. Markowitz writes with candor about her grief-induced alcoholism and suicide attempts as well as the troubles that shook her family's foundation long before Nicholas's death. Her unflinching honesty makes this a deeply powerful story that will move fans of the film and anyone grieving a loved one's death by homicide or suicide.

On the morning of August 6, 2000, fifteen-year-old Nicholas Markowitz - knowing he was in trouble with his parents - snuck out of the house. He never came home. One week later, authorities arrived on Susan's doorstep with devastating news: her son had been found dead. Days earlier, a 20- year-old drug dealer, Jesse James Hollywood, and 3 of his accomplices, had kidnapped the teenager in broad daylight as revenge for a drug-related debt owed by Nick's half-brother. They later murdered innocent boy in cold blood and buried him in a shallow grave. Hollywood fled to Brazil as a fugitive and became the youngest man ever on the FBI's top ten "Most Wanted" list. It would be nearly a decade before he was brought to justice.

Initially, Susan had thought only about getting justice for her son. But along the way, she rediscovered her own will to live and promised to honor her beloved son's memory by making sure something positive came from the pain he had to endure. ***MY STOLEN SON*** is the gripping account of one mother's relentless 9-year fight to bring her son's killer to justice, and to rebuild a family shattered by an unconscionable crime.

For more see: www.NicholasMarkowitz.comor www.MyStolenSon.com



MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

By Chris Blackwood,

Wild Blue Press

On the night of Gary Kergan's murder, he was a confidant, charismatic 40-year-old on the verge of a break- through business deal for himself and younger brother Ted. He had called Ted with the news that the funding they sought for their franchise partnership was granted; the brothers were soon going to own dozens of franchise locations. This was the level of success they had chased together for years. On the phone call, Gary told Ted he was on his way over, so the elated pair could celebrate this great news together. Ted settled on his sofa and waited for the sounds of his brother's steps on the front porch. For so many years, the brothers had functioned as a duo in business ventures, beginning with mutual paper routes as teenagers. Ted was four years younger and looked up to his brother, while Gary, a big man at six feet, five inches tall, had always been Ted's protector. Everyone who knew the Kergan brothers realized they had a special closeness, even if people were unaware it was built on escaping the poverty of their childhoods together. When they spoke on the phone, they used a special kind of coded language that often- made sense only to them. Ted fell asleep waiting. Gary never arrived.

It would later be learned the celebratory mood had caused Gary's good judgment to fail him. He drove to a North Baton Rouge strip bar to meet up with Leila Mulla, a young dancer there. They later left the bar together and were seen entering her apartment just blocks away. But Leila already had a boyfriend. He was hiding inside the apartment with a heavy blunt instrument in his hand, waiting for her to bring home a victim with a fat wallet. And with that, Gary disappeared into the memories of those who loved him.

The following day, his late model Eldorado turned up in suburban New Orleans, an hour's drive east of the dancer's apartment. When police popped open the trunk, they found it soaked with a large pool of blood, evidence of such great blood loss that the victim's survival was unlikely. As evidence in a murder case, that much blood legally served as a stand-in for the body itself as proof of death. The authorities called it a "body of blood."

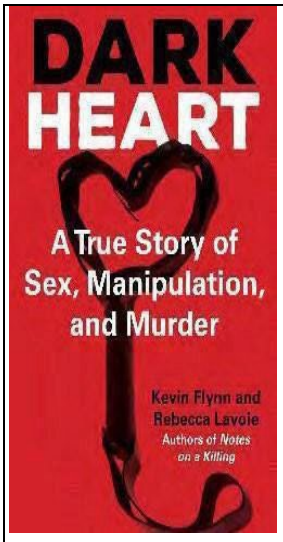
Ted mobilized a search for his brother and quickly came across the name of Leila Mulla, a 19-year-old Kent, Ohio high school honor student and daughter of a prominent Syrian physician. Leila had run away from drug rehab and ended up homeless in New Orleans. There she had met Ronald Dunnagan, a magician and drifter in his thirties.

Police investigated her and her boyfriend, but no solid evidence was found. And yet Ted did not doubt their guilt.
Leila chronicled her sex trade tricks and her earnings in several diaries, and one of them included this damning entry: "Hit Gary next time," and a reference to the fact that Gary owned a chain of South Louisiana Sonic restaurants. Ted didn't doubt their guilt. The question was one of proof.

After being extradited to Baton Rouge, Leila and Ron spent several months in East Baton Rouge Parish Prison. When the investigation failed to turn up Gary's body, the grifter pair was released and went their separate ways.

But Ted Kergan remains convinced the couple was guilty and refused to hold a memorial service for his brother until he found the truth. This began his decades-long investigation and pursuit of his brother's killers. After years of private detective work, DNA science finally caught up with the paltry evidence in Gary's death. The Baton Rouge police department re-opened the case and established new DNA evidence which triggered Leila's and Ron's arrest in December of 2012. It was only brother Ted's persistence that brought about their conviction. The killers would have done the perfect murder, if not for the bond between the Kergan brothers. Ted Kergan was never going to walk away from this.

The twists and turns of Ted Kergan's investigation read like a crime novel but reflect one man's quiet determination to bring justice for a brother who had always been his protector in life. He repeatedly comes oh-so-close to bringing Leila and Ron to justice, only to see their experienced criminal attitudes allow them to bluff their way past the law. Sometimes it seems as if the stars are lined up to help them – and the years tick by. This real-life drama is a compelling tale driven by the victim's brother who obsessively seeks the truth, spending a fortune in the process. Even though Gary's body was never recovered, the body of blood in his car was enough for the conviction. Ted lived to see the killers face the consequences of their murderous acts, and to know they were both aware of his role in chasing them down after a manhunt spanning three decade. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gp6dNpk_xjQ



DARK HEART

A True Story of Sex, Manipulation, and Murder

By Kevin Flynn & Rebecca Lavoie

Penguin Random House

In this tale of *The Loft* meets *Fifty Shades of Grey*, a beautiful co- ed goes missing after being lured to the apartment of a couple seeking a partner for a kinky threesome. Was it a sex act gone wrong or something more sinister?

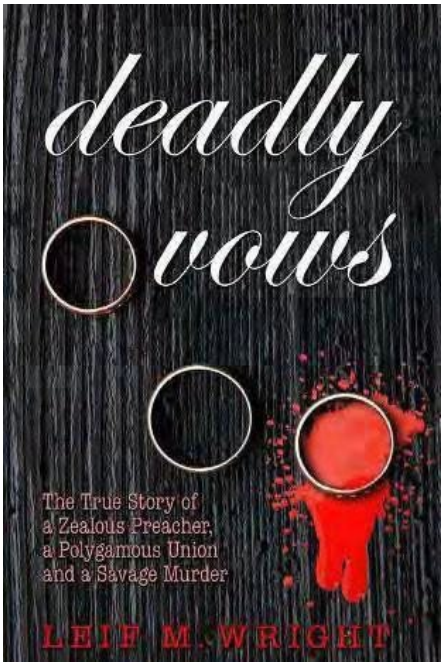
Though 19-year-old **Lizzi Marriott** said she'd be home before midnight, the marine biology student never arrived. She'd said she was on her way to visit her new friends, Kat and Seth. What she didn't know was the real reason the couple invited her over.

To the outside world, 18-year-old **Kat McDonough** and 30-year-old **Seth Mazzaglia** were a normal couple who enjoyed acting, video games, and Dungeons and Dragons. Seth convinced the impressionable Kat their role-playing alter egos were real, spirits from their "past lives" who could control their present. Seth cautioned that he was pursued by an otherworldly "Darkness," a power that would overtake him unless Kat did what he said. From there, Seth led the much-younger woman into the world of extreme bondage, knife play, masochism, threesomes, and erotic asphyxiation.

Seth turned Kat literally into his sexual slave, demanding all her master's needs be unquestionably met. When Kat left for two weeks to work as a summer camp counselor, he demanded she find him a "replacement" to satisfy his pleasures. When she failed, the master inflicted punished on his slave: days of bondage and rough sex. He said the punishment would continue until she found him a friend who would "die by orgasm" in front of her.

When Lizzi Marriott vanished, police traced her last known location to Seth and Kat's apartment. After hours of interrogation, Seth confessed Lizzi died during a BDSM session in which he accidentally choked her with a rope. He disposed of her naked body in a swift river which dumped into the Atlantic Ocean. Later, in an effort to free her arrested boyfriend, Kat told defense lawyers the girl accidentally died of smothering when she sat on Lizzi's face. Authorities were never able to recover Lizzi's body, losing the most important piece of evidence in the case. Prosecutors desperately needed Kat's eyewitness account to convict Seth. After Kat was arrested on witness tampering charges, they cut a deal for her testimony.

In court, Kat told what really happened that night. After playing a flirty game of strip poker, Lizzi rebuffed Seth's advances and an invitation to join the couple in bed. The master, unaccustomed to hearing "no" in his own bedroom, strangled Lizzi from behind with a rope used for bondage. Under cover of darkness, both Seth and Kat dumped Lizzi's body into the river and abandoned her car. Kat, however, was a troublesome witness. She had lied many times to protect Seth – lies the defense used against her. At trial, they confronted her with her beliefs in spirits and dragons and her own kinky predilections. Defense attorneys accused Kat of killing Lizzi and setting Seth up to take the fall. It would be up to a jury to decide whom they believed most.



DEADLY VOWS:

The True Story of a Zealous Preacher, a Polygamous Union and a Savage Murder

By Leif M. Wright

New Horizon Press

A lone Palo Verde tree stands out defiantly against the Arizona desert, miles from anything else. Well, except for the strange pile of volcanic stones under it. What a jogger discovers underneath those stones— the violently desecrated corpse of a woman who had been brutally stabbed, then dismembered and disfigured—leads to one of the strangest cases detectives and medical examiners have ever seen.

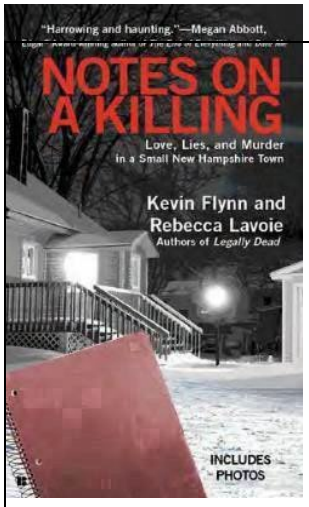
In beautiful San Diego, handsome, engaging and popular preacher Sean Goff is telling everyone who will listen that his second wife, Joy—the one who had been living with him, his first wife and the trio's three kids—simply tired of domestic life and pulled up roots to wander around Europe with an old flame, leaving her children and everything else behind.

Joy's friends keep pushing Sean for answers, until they start receiving emails from Joy telling them to chill out and leave her alone. Except the emails don't really sound like the Joy they knew. And leaving her kids behind definitely doesn't sound like her. So, they call police, who send a missing persons detective to talk to Sean.

Back in Arizona, medical examiners unravel the horrific crime that had been perpetrated on the woman found underneath the tree: she had been stabbed at least a dozen times in the chest—at some point so violently that her bones reveal injuries they've never seen before. Her fingertips have been sawed off and disposed of somewhere else. Her teeth have been sawed completely from her head. Her face has been bashed in. Some killer knew exactly what police would be looking for and had gone out of his way to make sure they wouldn't find it.

Deadly Vows follows Sean Goff's transformation from wunderkind preacher to cold-blooded manipulator and killer from the perspective of the man who saw it all, his best friend.

Deadly Vows is visceral, visually oriented and captivating for both readers and would be for viewers on film — from the cinematic opening page
to the gripping courtroom drama that closes it. Its themes of fringe religion, polygamy and the transformation of a man and his wives demand to be displayed on-screen as both a spectacle and a cautionary tale.



NOTES ON A KILLING

By Kevin Flynn & Rebecca Lavoie
Penguin Random House

Sandra Merritt was surprised to get a phone call at work from Edith "Pen" Meyer, her AA confidant. Pen urged Sandy to resume her affair with a married man, reversing the advice she'd given for months. After the call, Pen vanished. Investigators found Pen's lakefront home empty except for her beloved dog, Fluff. Sandy and Pen's boyfriend suspected Ken Carpenter in the disappearance. When Sandy had called off the yearlong affair with the married man - filing a restraining order against him - Carpenter openly blamed her supportive friend Pen for coming between them. During the search, an anonymous caller told police Pen had flown to the islands with a secret lover. Investigators recognized the voice on the phone as Carpenter's. The caller also suggested detectives check out the pay phone at the local country store. There, investigators discovered a key to Pen's safe deposit box fastened to the phone with a piece of range duct tape.

Already suspicious of Carpenter, police asked Sandy to record phone calls with her ex-lover. On the tape, Carpenter told Sandy he had "spoken to God" and what happened to Pen would be revealed in a few days. When police searched Carpenter's home, they came across a fire pit smoldering in the backyard. Inside the ashes was a pair of eyeglasses missing from Pen's home, keys to her house and PO Box, and more than a dozen human bone fragments. They also found a roll of orange duct tape, a garrote, and a .22 rifle wrapped in a raincoat. Under a chair, police discovered a notebook with plans for a murder and scripts for Pen to read over the phone to Sandy. After his arrest, Sandy received a contract in the mail turning over all of Pen's property to her. Pen's signature had been forged on the paper.

Pen Meyer's murder was hardly an open-and-shut case for prosecutor Kirsten Wilson. With no usable DNA and a handful of bone fragments, they couldn't even get a death certificate, let alone a forensic cause of death. Investigators monitored Carpenter's jailhouse calls with his wife, Cynthia "Harv" Harvey, for clues.

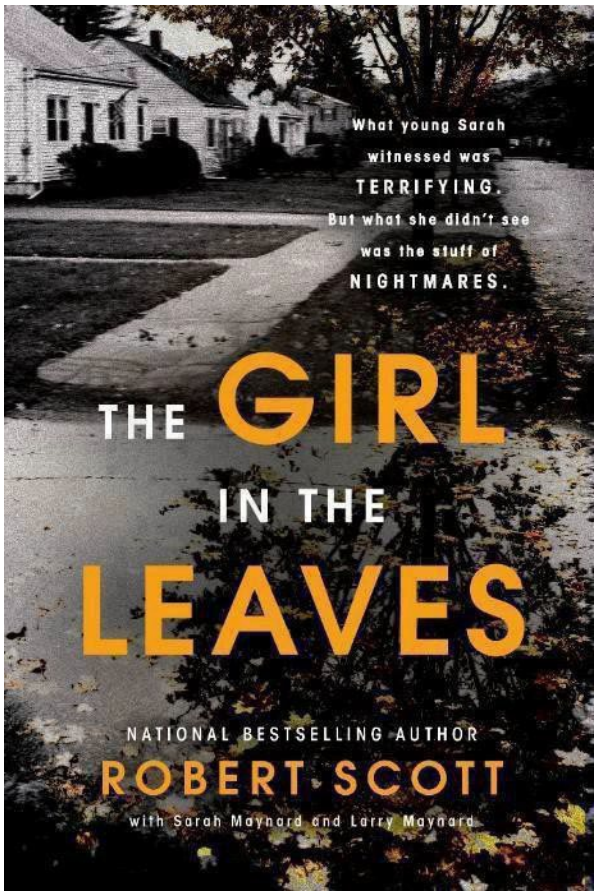
Carpenter consistently maintained his innocence. A nurse herself, Harv grilled him on why so few bones were in the fire pit. Carpenter eventually drew a map to a hollowed stump in their yard. There, Harv found burnt pieces of skull and Pen's distinctive jewelry. Loyalties torn, Harv called the police. Carpenter doubled down. He claimed a stranger named "Phil Waters" had approached him after the restraining order and said he could take care of his "problem." Carpenter said he left Pen alone with Phil at his house, and when he returned, the woman was gone, and the fire was burning in his backyard. To prove his claim, he led Harv to more hidden evidence: a letter in Pen's handwriting talking about the wonderful day they'd spent together – the day Pen disappeared. Police believed Carpenter forced Pen to write it at gunpoint.

Meanwhile, a yearlong effort to reconstruct the skeleton from the various pieces was underway in a forensic pathologist's lab in neighboring Maine.

When Carpenter's public defender withdrew because of a conflict, famed defense attorney Mark Sisti took the case. Sisti, whose reputation had stemmed from his defense of Pamela Smart, excelled at raising doubt about how and where the killing could have happened, or whether the charred remains were even Pen Meyer's. In the courtroom climax, the forensic anthropologist testified she had discovered a bullet hole in the reconstructed skull, answering once and for all how Pen was murdered. After a rousing closing argument re-written from scratch on the penultimate night of the trial, the jury convicted Ken Carpenter in just two hours.

THE GIRL IN THE LEAVES

By Robert Scott with the cooperation of Sarah & Larry Maynard
Penguin Random House



Sarah and Kody Maynard were just typical kids growing up in idyllic Apple Valley, Ohio. Kody, at the age of 11, was already a superb baseball pitcher, and Sarah was a pretty, happy-go-lucky cheerleader at the age of 13. On November 10, 2010, however, their whole world was overturned in an instant.

As soon as Sarah and Kody walked home from school and entered the front door of their home, they noticed blood on the living room carpet. Suddenly a man came running down the hallway to grab them. Sarah managed to slip by him and dashed to her bedroom, while Kody turned to run out the front door. Before Sarah could call the police, the knife-wielding man grabbed her and tied her up.

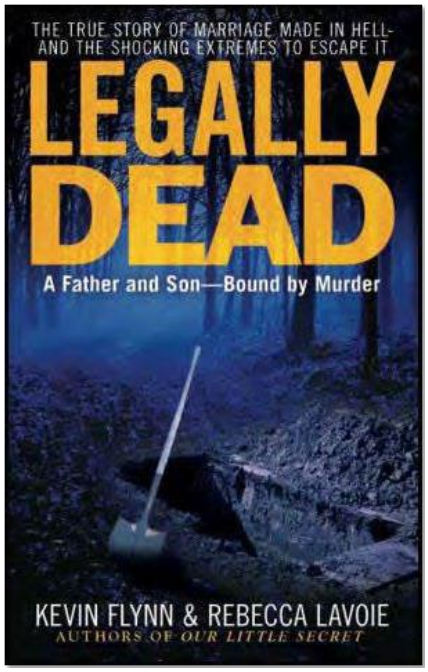
Taken to the man's residence, Sarah was forced into his basement and tied upon a bed of leaves in a dark corner. In fact, her assailant was absolutely fixated with trees and leaves. Every room in his house was stuffed with dry leaves.

Meanwhile, Sarah's father, Larry Maynard, was beside himself with worry, not knowing what had happened to his daughter, son Kody or ex-wife Tina. Many law enforcement agencies became involved, including the FBI, but more than any other, Sarah's fate now depended upon Knox County Sheriff David Barber.

In a race against time, Knox County Sheriff's Office detectives uncovered one vital clue after another about the crime and who might have kidnapped Sarah. And all the while, shackled to a bed of leaves, Sarah survived on one bowl of cold cereal, playing a cat and mouse game of wills with her captor. By now she was certain that her assailant had killed Kody and her mother, and she also believed that she would be next once he tired of her.

Suddenly on November 14, 2010, a SWAT team burst into the man's house and arrested him. Then to their astonishment, they found Sarah alive in a dark corner of the basement, tied to a bed of leaves.

Unfortunately for Tina, Kody and Tina's friend, Stephanie Sprang, Sarah was right about their demise. The perpetrator, 30-year-old Matthew Hoffman of Mount Vernon, Ohio, had killed them and stuffed their bodies into the trunk of a hollow tree. On the one-year anniversary memorial service for Kody, Tina and Stephanie, Sarah spotted Sheriff Barber in the crowd. She well knew who had saved her, and in an exuberance of gratitude, Sarah ran up and gave him a huge hug. This a story of Sarah's courage, Larry Maynard's anguish and the tireless work by the detectives of Knox County in saving Sarah. Both Sarah and Larry Maynard have been on the TODAY show.



LEGALLY DEAD

Father and Son Bound by Murder

By Kevin Flynn & Rebecca Lavoie

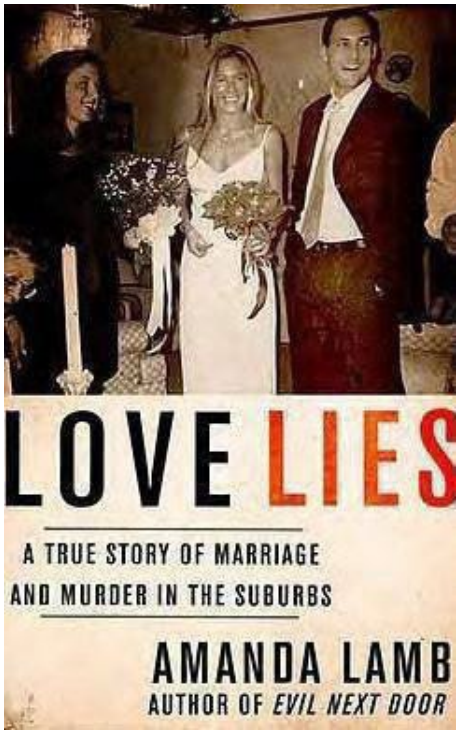
Penguin Random House

On March 11, 1996, Vicki Bader found an unpleasant delivery in her mailbox - a pipe bomb. It was the latest in a series of threats against the New Hampshire woman and mother of three. Vicki's tires had been slashed, she'd received harassing phone calls, and someone had killed her pet birds by roasting them alive in her oven. Police focused on Vicki's relationship with her ex-husband, a narcissistic attorney named Seth Bader. As the custody battle over their three sons dragged on, Bader enjoyed putting the screws to Vicki. His intimidation was so overwhelming, a psychologically weakened Vicki repeatedly attempted suicide.

Each time she recovered, Bader would push her harder, unmercifully, driving her to the brink. Bader was living in a mansion, using all his legal tricks to keep the children away from their mother. Their oldest boy, 13-year-old Joey, lived like a virtual slave in his house– cooking, cleaning, and caring for his brothers while Bader romanced his sexy new girlfriend, Mary Jean Martin. He lavished Mary Jean with expensive gifts, but it was never enough to secure her love. The money owed to his ex-wife became a wedge in their tumultuous relationship.

In August 1996, Vicki Bader vanished. Seth Bader said their last meeting was an uneventful drop off of their three- year-old son at his house. No one knew where she went afterward. Nearly a year later, police would be led to a body in the deep woods of Maine. Investigators would discover Vicki was murdered by a motley group of thugs organized by Seth Bader. The conspiracy included a pool shark, a wannabe gangster, a gold-digging siren, and– most disturbing of all– the Bader's own son.

Did Seth Bader try to drive Vicki to suicide, then scheme to kill her himself? Or was the lawyer a patsy for a hungry group of con-artists who smelled a big payday? The answers are revealed in ***Legally Dead***, the latest compelling true crime story from authors Kevin Flynn and Rebecca Lavoie. This tale of depravity and selfish scheming is one that you will not soon forget.



LOVE LIES

By Amanda Lamb

Penguin Random House

Love Lies would translate perfectly from the page to the screen. It has all the elements of a real-life thriller. Nancy and Brad Cooper were Canadians who had discovered the American dream in North Carolina. It was a place where they would raise their two daughters, make new friends and spend their time jogging on picturesque trails. That is *until Nancy disappeared.*

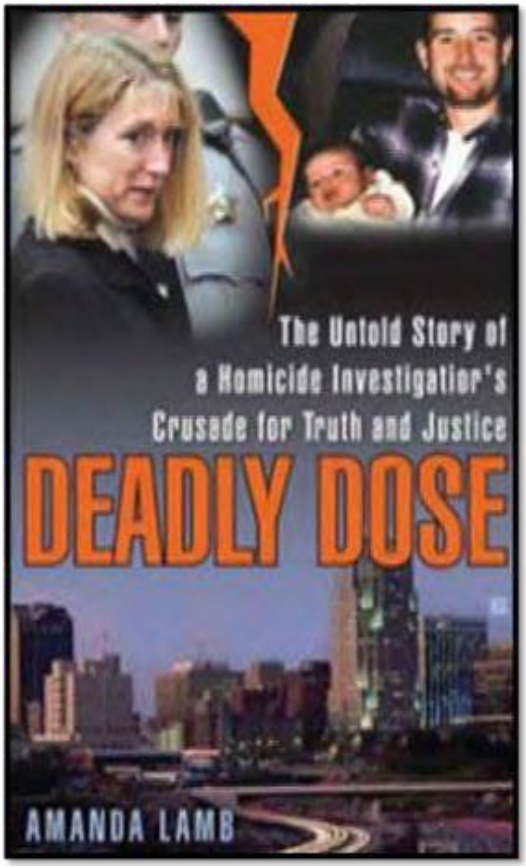
Hundreds searched for her. Finally, a man walking his dog found Nancy facedown, partially clothed in an undeveloped subdivision three miles from her home. Her handsome husband, Brad, said she went jogging and never returned. But in the days and weeks following the discovery of Nancy's body came startling discoveries about the couple's crumbling marriage.

Despite Nancy's reputation as a saucy, strong-willed, gutsy woman, friends and family said Brad had been controlling Nancy's life—cutting her off from money, friends and relatives. It was obvious they were headed for divorce, but the couple had many dark secrets, as did their friends, which were yet to be uncovered—infidelities, alcohol-infused arguments, and betrayals.

Brad Cooper was arrested for his wife's murder—but the investigation didn't end there. Police continued to search for the smoking gun, the one piece of incontrovertible evidence that would seal his fate. They found it in the form of a Google Map search of the site where Nancy's body was dumped. Prosecutors say Brad performed the search on his computer at work 12 hours before his wife disappeared.

After a contentious 10-week trial, Brad Cooper was convicted of killing Nancy. But the controversy over his guilt still lingered. Some believed that he was railroaded by overzealous police and prosecutors in what was a largely circumstantial case. Ultimately, the North Carolina Court of Appeals overturned his conviction ruling the trial court judge had made several mistakes. But there would not be another trial—Brad cut a deal with the state. He admitted to second degree murder in return for a shorter sentence. He is scheduled to be released from prison in 2020.

Love Lies would be a perfect vehicle for film because it exposes the subtleties of domestic abuse that we can't see against the backdrop of an alleged suburban paradise that turns out to be anything but heavenly.



DEADLY DOSE

The Untold Story of a Homicide Investigator's Crusade for Truth and Justice

By Amanda Lamb
Penguin Random House

Ann Miller wasn't the kind of woman anyone would suspect of being a killer, anyone *except* veteran homicide detective Chris Morgan.

When pediatric AIDS researcher Eric Miller died of an unknown illness at the hospital in Raleigh, North Carolina, his grieving wife came to the police station to give a statement. But almost immediately, Morgan saw something unnerving in the mousy, demure woman who appeared to everyone else to be a victim.

Deadly Dose is an excellent vehicle for film because it documents the investigation of one of the few sociopathic female killers of our times. Ann was a scientist, a mother, a churchgoing woman, not someone who schemed and plotted the demise of her kind and brilliant husband. In the tradition of some of the most famous female killers in history, she used arsenic to take her husband's life.

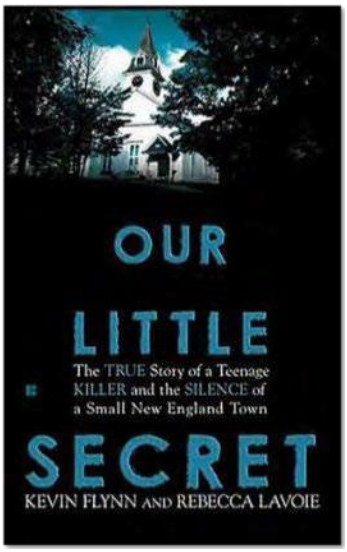
The main character for the film would be Chris Morgan, the larger-than-life tough-talking cop who refuses to rest until he sees Ann behind bars. For four years, he pursues her as she leaves Raleigh and continues on with her life. He soon discovers that behind the façade, she isn't at all who she pretended to be.

Ann had a series of lovers. One man in particular she called upon to help with her husband's murder. When he fell down on the job, she decided to finish it herself. But the lover couldn't take the heat of the police moving in on him, trying to get him to talk and ended his own life.

A film version of ***Deadly Dose*** as told through the eyes of investigator Morgan would have viewers on the edge of their seats, and husbands constantly looking over their shoulders…

OUR LITTLE SECRET

The True Story of a Teenage Killer and the Silence of a Small New England Town



By Kevin Flynn and Rebecca Lavoie
Penguin Random House

Just as "Gone Baby Gone" made audiences question the difference between the law and the right thing to do, so will **Our Little Secret.** This true story will have everyone asking himself or herself, "What would Ido?" If you knew your friend killed somebody, would you keep it a secret? What if you thought the victim deserved to die?

Our Little Secret explores a 20-year-old New Hampshire cold case. In 1985, Danny Paquette is shot square in the heart by a stray bullet from the woods 300 yards away. Although Danny's sexual conquests have made him the enemy of many husbands, police rule his death an accident. They don't believe anyone could make that precise of a shot.

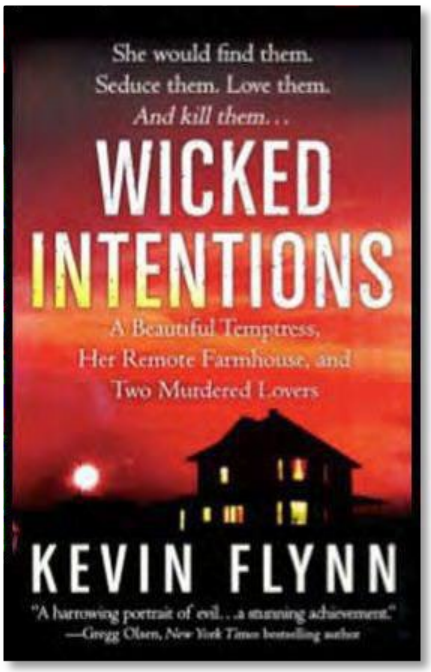
Danny's in-laws are not sad to see him die. His ex-wife had fled to Alaska to get away from him. His adopted daughter Melanie, whom he had sexually abused, is secretly living with relatives in another town. Her aunt is a homicide prosecutor. Danny's brother, Victor, is a profane biker who lives outside the law. Ironically, he's the one who pushes police to keep the case alive. Victor thinks the bullet that killed Danny might have been meant for him. Steve Agrafiotis was a rookie cop on the murder case, doing grunt work for investigators. In 2004, he is now the police chief and re- opens the case. He hires an 80-year-old civilian retiree to dive into the file. They focus on a then- 17-year-old boy named Eric Windhurst, who had been Melanie Paquette's alibi. The kid was a crackerjack shot. An anonymous letter in the 90s accused Windhurst, but no one in his hometown would talk to cops.

Detectives fly across country to confront Melanie. She tells police Windhurst shot her father because Danny was about to learn where she was living. She feared he would come and rape her again. Windhurst agrees to kill Danny in order to protect Melanie.

Windhurst's actions are an open secret in town. Everyone knows; no one turns him in. They believe it was a justified killing. Authorities however find that grown-up Windhurst is a decent man haunted by his deadly action. As the case heads to trial, attorneys think no jury in the world will convict a man who killed a child molester. But then, one final twist. Prosecutors learn that Windhurst's reasons for killing Danny Paquette have nothing to do with Melanie…

Our Little Secret is an unforgettable true morality play. There are no white hats/black hats. The victim is unsympathetic; the killer is righteous; the damsel in distress is manipulative.

To see book trailer: **Video Book Trailer**



WICKED INTENTIONS

The Sheila LaBarre Murders

By Kevin Flynn
New Horizon Press; St. Martin's Press

In the vein of "Monster" and "Zodiac" comes **Wicked Intentions**, the true story of a beautiful seductress who lured men to her secluded farm, then murdered them and incinerated their bodies. As **Wicked Intentions** opens, two police officers arrive at a farmhouse in the woods at dusk. They' redoing a well-being check on Kenny Countie, a man whose last known address was this farm. The home is deserted but they discover two fires actively burning in barrels. When they approach, they discover a human bone covered in burnt flesh.

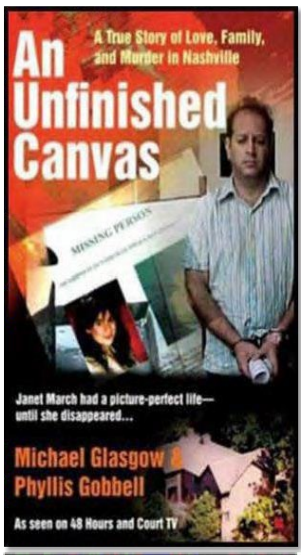
Wicked Intentions follows the exploits of Sheila LaBarre, who spent years using her sexuality to allure men, and her anger to battle anyone who crossed her. Her home is filled with her "children," hundreds of free-range rabbits. As police search her blood-splattered home and the 115 acres of pasture surrounding it, LaBarre eludes detectives. While
on the run (with three rabbits in tow), she charms and manipulates people into doing her bidding, giving her shelter, and proclaiming her innocence to the police and media.

Wicked Intentions is also the tale of a reporter obsessed by a story that should catapult him into the national spotlight. As in "Capote," the reporter transforms from a mild-mannered, disinterested writer to an aggressive, take-no-prisoners journalist who is willing to cross lines in order to get the story, even do a killer's bidding. As police and the media uncover the details of LaBarre's past, they learn that many men had cycled through the farm in the past few years; none of them are accounted for. Flashbacks illustrate how Sheila conned the farm out of an elderly widow chiropractor, and about the many men who lived on the farm with her. Sheila would troll homeless shelters and telephone chat lines looking for men who were meek and easily led.

They were all beaten and battered by Sheila; virtual captives on the isolated farm. LaBarre is eventually captured and her attorneys mount an insanity defense. To the horror of all, it seems Kenny Countie isn't the only man she killed, dismembered, and incinerated on her farm. To this day, authorities cannot say just how many are out there.

Wicked Intentions is a gripping true crime story that transcends the genre. Part murder mystery, part psychological study, its protagonist, a female serial killer, offers an actress an eat-the-furniture role that also has real pathos. Equally suitable as a MOW or a feature film, Wicked Intentions stands apart from other black widow tales.

To See Book Trailer: **Video Book Trailer**



AN UNFINISHED CANVAS

A True Story of Love, Family, and Murder in Nashville

By Michael Glasgow and Phyllis Gobbell

Penguin Random House

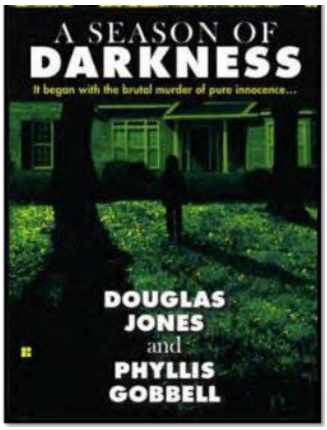
Screenplay Available by PGA Writer

The electrifying true-crime thriller, *An Unfinished Canvas,* brilliantly captures a unique cast of characters. Janet March, the attractive young wife of corporate lawyer Perry March, had it all: two children she adored, a flourishing career as an artist, and a dream house she had designed. What no one knew was that her husband, attorney to the rich and powerful, led a destructive double life of secrets and lies. The night before she was scheduled to meet with a divorce lawyer, Janet simply vanished. Perry maintained that they argued, and Janet drove away, promising to return for their son's sixth birthday. But no one ever saw or heard from Janet March again.

Janet and Perry March are rising stars in Nashville, a city in the New South that is rising, as well. Larry Levine, an intimidating attorney, and his wife Carolyn will stop at nothing – even a secret mission in Mexico to retrieve their grandchildren– in the quest to find justice for their daughter. Perry's father, Arthur March, lures Perry to Mexico to begin a new life, but in the tradition of the best Shakespearean dramas, father turns against son, exposing their conspiracy to murder Janet's parents. Inmate Nathanial Farris is a street-smart kid who cons the arrogant Perry March, working with police and the D.A. to expose a plot against Larry and Carolyn Levine.

The book chronicles the bizarre events on the night Janet March was last seen and during the disturbing two weeks before she was reported missing; Perry March's flight with his children to Mexico; the international custody battle over the two March children, Sammy and Tzipora. A decade after Janet's disappearance, Nashville's Cold Case Unit develops a case against Perry, and a secret grand jury is empaneled. Following his murder indictment, and with the involvement of the FBI and the office of Mexican President, Perry is arrested and extradited back to Tennessee. Excellent detective work uncovers a scheme by Perry March from behind bars, while he is awaiting trial, to hire a hitman to murder his former in- laws. Perry goes to trial almost 10 years to the day from the date his young wife vanished. Assistant D.A. Tom Thurman has his work cut out for him– no body, no cause of death, no physical evidence– but in the third of a series of trials, Perry March is found guilty. The "smartest guy in the room" goes to prison for 56 years.

The March case received national attention over the decade from 1996 to 2006, during which time CBS's *48 Hours* aired four episodes. Leslie Stahl stated, "This is as good a mystery as you will ever see—in fiction or in real life."



SEASON OF DARKNESS

Marcia Trimble and the Coldest Cold Case Solved

By Doug Jonesand Phyllis Gobbell
Penguin Random House

Radio personality Teddy Bart, on the Marcia Trimble case:
"It had all the elements: a beautiful little girl, a murder, a bungled police operation, fundamentalist religion, and a neighborhood where things like this aren't supposed to happen."

It is a spring-like February afternoon in 1975. Nine-year-old Marcia Trimble, who lives in a quiet, attractive neighborhood, goes across the street to deliver Girl Scout cookies. She never comes home. Her disappearance prompts a massive search, unlike anything known in Nashville, Tennessee. Turf wars develop among the various police units, each with its own command structure. Volunteers trek through the neighborhood leaving millions of fingerprints and footprints before FBI agents arrive. Police set up a command post in a bedroom of the Trimble house. Detectives question Jeffrey Womack, who lives on Marcia's street. The 15-year-old has a condom in his pocket, and "Fuck You" written on his shoes. He is targeted as a suspect, and police will pursue him for more than 30 years.

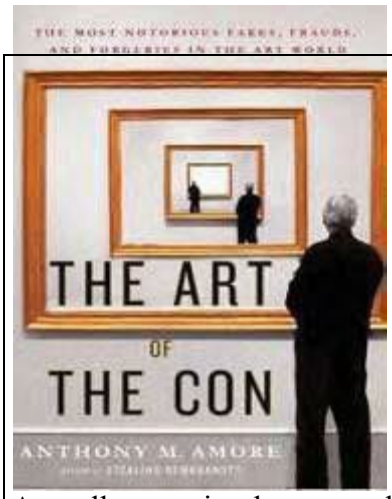
Young detective Diane Vaughn has been working on a series of rapes and the murder of a college coed named Sarah Des Prez, all within a five-mile radius of the Trimbles' neighborhood. She is close to connecting those vicious crimes. But she is drawn away into the search for Marcia Trimble, which has consumed police, the media, and the entire city.

Marcia's mother, Virginia Trimble, is a devoutly religious woman, one whose stoic demeanor in front of the TV cameras fuels nasty rumors and innuendos. On Good Friday, Virginia tells reporters, "It is a time of miracles. Who knows what may happen?" On Easter morning, 33 days after Marcia's disappearance, the child's body is discovered in a deteriorated garage less than 200 yards from the Trimbles' front door. The family is grief-stricken. The city is in shock. One statement will come to define the Marcia Trimble murder: "In that moment, Nashville lost its innocence."

The police are under even more pressure to solve what is now a homicide. They focus their investigation on the boys in the neighborhood, with Jeffrey Womack as the prime suspect. In the wake of bizarre stories involving the children, many of the families move away. The Trimble murder and investigation take a brutal toll on Marcia's family, her neighborhood, and the police department. The Marcia Trimble story becomes part of the fabric of Nashville.

What follows is a trail of twists, turns, frustrating dead ends, lives forever damaged, and a city forever changed. The mystery evolved over three decades. Investigators are criticized for their "tactics of intimidation" in obtaining DNA samples from more than 100 young men, most of whom were "boys in the neighborhood" in 1975. Though no evidence ever implicates Jeffrey Womack, he remains under a cloud of suspicion. It seems the case will never be solved.

But in 2007, the reopening of another 1975 case plunges Cold Case detective Bill Pridemore into the heart of the Marcia Trimble case again. He takes a fresh look at all the evidence. The good police work by Detective Diane Vaughn, deceased since the 1980s, leads Pridemore to an astonishing revelation about the Des Prez murderer– paving the way for a shocking, long-awaited conclusion to the coldest of cold cases: the Marcia Trimble murder. For more about Phyllis, see www.phyllisgobbell.com



THE ART OF THE CON

By Anthony M. Amore

St. Martin's Press

Unscripted documentary Series Proposal

Art collectors simply want to believe. *They want to believe very badly.*

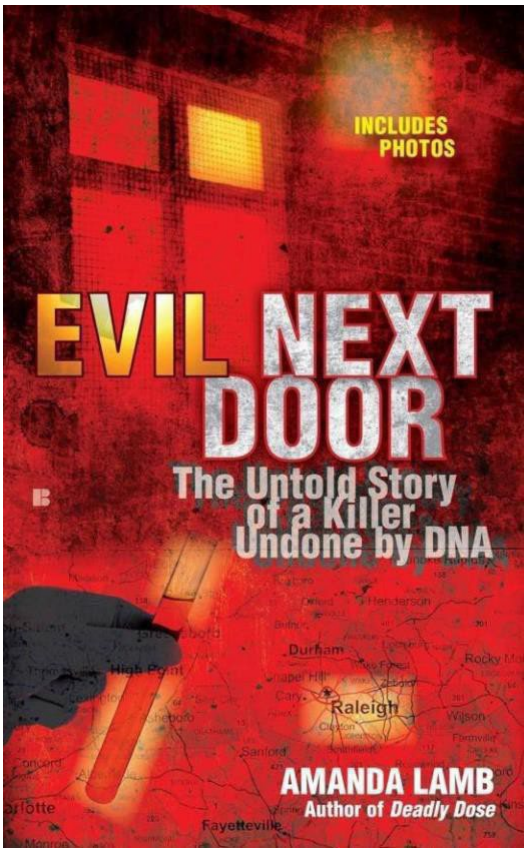
Hermann Goering's eyes opened wide when he saw Johannes Vermeer's *The Woman Taken in Adultery*. With only 35 or 36 known paintings attributed to the great Dutch master (scholars will probably argue over the actual number forever), a "new" Vermeer would be a crowning addition to his growing, awe- inspiring, and completely ill-gotten art collection. Even that failed artist Adolph Hitler himself, who at the time was building his *Fuhrermuseum* in which he would display the greatest art collection he could steal and loot, hadn't scored such a coup as a heretofore unknown Vermeer. Never mind the fact that *The Woman Taken in Adultery* didn't look at all like the work of Vermeer.

Goering had to have it and traded 200 looted paintings to the person in possession of this "missing Vermeer," mediocre artist Han van Meegeren. Later, with the war over and facing execution, van Meegeren admitted that he had forged the alleged Vermeer and proved so by painting another in the courtroom. Goering, facing his own trial in Nuremberg, was informed of the forgery, but steadfastly refused to believe it. Art fraud has been a consistent scam used by con artists throughout the decades.

And even today, armed with the advances in methods used to unmask fakes and the knowledge of the widespread problem of art forgery, dupes continue to line up to buy bogus "masterpieces." The news continues in the headlines with the breaking news recently that Glafira Rosales had sold 63 Modernist fakes for an estimated $80 million, with her own personal take a cool $33 million. All that for paintings put on canvas by a Chinese immigrant who, having failed at his own attempt art superstardom in the United States, worked for Rosales out of the garage of his home in Queens, often putting his forgeries out in the driveway to dry out in the sun. And just last year, authorities in Germany broke up a Russian forgery gang they say sold more than 400 forgeries by artists including Kandinsky, Goncharova, and vonJawlensky.

Art scams are today so numerous that the specter of a lawsuit arising from a mistaken attribution has scared a number of experts away from the business of authentication, and with good reason. Art scams are increasingly convincing and involve incredible sums of money. The cons perpetrated by unscrupulous art dealers and their accomplices are proportionately elaborate. From these stories comes the reality show, ***The Art of the Con.***

The Art of the Con will tell the stories of some of history's most notorious yet untold cons. They involve stolen art hidden for decades; elaborate ruses that involve the Nazis and allegedly plundered art; the theft of a conceptual prototype from a well- known artist by his assistant to be used later to create copies; the use of online and television auction sites to scam buyers out of millions; and other confidence scams incredible not only for their boldness but more so because they actually worked. ***The Art of the Con*** will also take the viewer into the investigations that led to the capture of the con men, who oftentimes return back to the world of fakes, frauds, and forgeries in the art world. For some, it's an irresistible urge because their innocent dupes all share something in common: They want to believe.



Evil Next Door

By Amanda Lamb
Penguin

A brutal murder.

An abundance of DNA evidence.

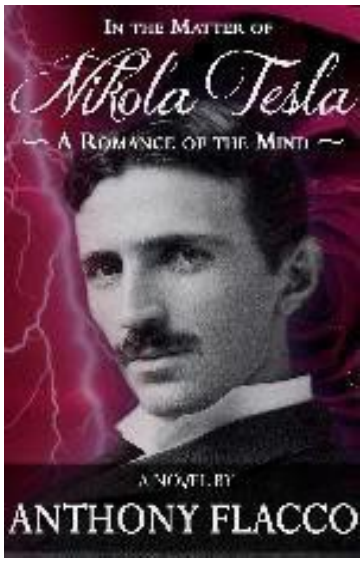
A three-and-a-half year search for a killer who was always so close-yet untouchable.

After the rape and murder of Raleigh, North Carolina, resident Stephanie Bennett, police had ample DNA evidence.

They also had a suspect: the man next door. But for more than three years, he eluded them by refusing to hand over a DNA sample, wiping down anything he touched and even planting decoy samples.

This is the gripping story of how a team of detectives finally tripped him up-and brought closure to an innocent young woman's family.

ADULT FICTION



IN THE MATTER OF NIKOLA TESLA

A Romance of the Mind

Adapted from the Novel by Anthony Flacco, wga/w

*** Full Treatment Available ***

This proposed **six part limited dramatic historical** series is told through the POV of mega-rich financier, **J.P. MORGAN** in following the life of the brilliant inventor Nikola Tesla. It is told through the eyes of those who work with him, work against him, spy on him, believe in him, and betray him. The story follows a five-year timeline from 1899 to 1904. For Morgan, the Great Question is simple: what drives this revolutionary scientific genius -- and does the answer threaten Morgan's empire? **WHY J.P. MORGAN??**

WHY J.P. MORGAN?

These six episodes are told principally from Morgan's POV because he is the reason for the failure of Tesla's plan for Universal Free Energy. Morgan is the source of the blackball put on Tesla by Wall St. investors. Plainly put, J.P. Morgan single-handedly destroyed the career of Nikola Tesla.

But as the story will show, he had no other choice, given the information he possessed. Tesla wasn't dangerous because he was wrong; he was dangerous because he was right. If Morgan hadn't stopped Tesla, then for better or worse, there is no doubt the world would be much different today. And in Morgan's view that meant disaster, either from Tesla himself or from the people given his machines and tearing up the planet with their carelessness.

J.P. Morgan's museum-quality office is the lair of the 19th Century Alpha Male, with oversized Victorian furniture calculated to impress, intimidate. There he pulls in other people (Mark Twain, George Westinghouse, Tesla assistant George Scherff) to ask about Tesla and get their perception of the man. Morgan has massive investments at stake, perhaps entire industries, and he has to know whether or not to continue backing Tesla's experiments or cut him off and leave him dry. The stories these men tell are played out in Morgan's visionary imagination, while *none of them agree* on who this strange man is.

Each time one of them begins talking about Tesla, the narrative begins as seen from their POV, however the POV quickly switches to that of J.P. Morgan, while he visualizes what he is being told. HIS version never makes the speaker or the subject look very good. Everybody in Morgan's POV is always noticeably more unkempt in appearance and slow of speech.

HERE'S HOW THE POV CHANGES ARE USED:

Author Mark Twain looks at Tesla and sees a beautiful genius doomed to be derailed by human stupidity. Tesla plays out exactly that way in Twain's POV.

But while Morgan listens to the famous author, the narrative switches to his POV and shows a decadent writer of trivial popular novels who is speaking up for a dangerously eccentric inventor. George Westinghouse tells Morgan about his associations with Tesla. In financing the Niagara Falls power

system for Tesla, using Morgan's money, he has come to see Tesla as an inventive man. But he sees Tesla's naivety as proving his genius to be overrated.

Of course, while Morgan listens, the narrative shifts to his POV and reveals that he regards Westinghouse as an uncultured "lucky winner" in business. In Morgan's POV, Westinghouse is a rather unintelligent bore who can barely keep Tesla listening to him when he speaks. Morgan dismisses the worth of his responses, lights a cigar, and begins to sing an idle tune under his breath while Westinghouse drones on.

As for George Scherff, Tesla's long-term assistant is so kind in his version of Tesla that Morgan accuses him of covering up for his boss. But Scherff persists in telling of a solitary genius who lives most of his life inside his head, where he entertains a "muse" who may be invisible, but who is real to him.

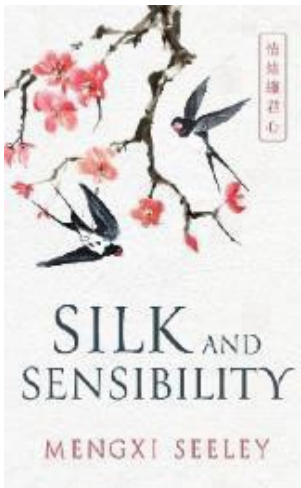
Scherff insists Tesla's motives are pure. His POV shows Tesla as a passionate romantic with a vivid personal imagination. Scherff tells how he sometimes watches Tesla's revels from the shadows, a guilty voyeur filled with admiration.

But while Morgan listens, his POV overlaps Scherff's, and now both Scherff and Tesla come across as "a fool and his servant," sloppily attired and slower of speech. Morgan sees what the genius cannot: the proposed World Power System would concentrate all broadcasting of electrical power as well as all forms of information to a handful of Tesla Towers around the globe. The commercial and military challenges to seize control of them would never end.

In this way we come to understand why the great J. Pierpont Morgan, more financially powerful than the United States government, will see to it that this man must be stopped. The fact that Nikola Tesla has already conceived, designed, and installed the first electrical generators at Niagara Falls doesn't speak in his favor-- it proves he must be stopped.

And so, although the Niagara Falls power station is a model for the world's emerging power grid, Tesla will die in 1943 too poor to pay his own light bill.

According to J.P. Morgan, civilization dodged a bullet.



SILK AND SENSIBILITY

By Mengxi Seeley

Proper Romance/Historical Fiction

Fall 2026

A charming retelling of Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility set in Ming-dynasty China. Two sisters with conflicting attitudes on passion and restraint must each choose between the traditions that bind their hearts and pursuing the love that could save them.

Nineteen-year-old Ailin is torn between duty and desire. Following her father's death, her family must rely on the wealthy Jiang clan for financial survival. Though Ailin knows she should marry strategically to help her family, her heart has already been captured by the poor but gentle scholar Enze. When his family opposes their union, Ailin knows she must hide her feelings until she can strengthen her dowry and stand on her own terms.
Meilin encourages her older sister to fight for her personal desires, but Meilin's romantic ideals conflict with Ailin's devotion to duty. Meilin believes in being honest about one's feelings regardless of what others may think, and she unabashedly pursues a charming playwright while also clashing with a frustratingly handsome but gruff army captain.

The sisters would do anything to help the other find happiness, but their assumptions about restraint and passion are as different as earth and sky. Ailin feels honor bound to her family yet is unable to deny her love for Enze, even as circumstances push them further apart, while Meilin grapples with unexpected feelings for Captain Bai and societal restrictions that leave little room for her own hopes. Silk and Sensibility explores the delicate cultural expectations of womanhood in historical China by following two sisters who must learn to balance loyalty and longing, courage and constraint, to claim their own happiness.

Mengxi Seeley is a 1.5 generation immigrant born in China and raised in Utah. She has an MA in East Asian Studies from Stanford University and a BA in international relations from Brigham Young University. After working for many years as an academic translator, she now writes novels inspired by historical research, but with fantastically happy endings.
Mengxi is on the Diversity Committee for the 2026 Storymakers Conference, where she has taught as faculty. When not writing, she enjoys reading, gardening, running, and over-analyzing movies with her family. She lives in Virginia with two little princesses and an absent-minded professor. You can find out more about Mengxi and her upcoming book www.mengxiseeley.com

Once Through The Heart

A **Dark Romantasy** by Brooke Shaden

Six-figure, Two-book deal, in a Pre-empt to **Mira/HarperCollins US, Rights also to HarperCollins UK**

Coming Summer 2027

When you're a vampire hunter, the most dangerous heart to stake is your own…

Onyx Feller is the best damn vampire hunter at Bloodright Bureau, so when he's forced to work with Amaya Fucking Arles (who may or may not have a higher kill count than him), his day couldn't get worse. Until they fail their mission to take out the bloodthirsty Borderlanders, and his day becomes a historical disaster. Because instead of finding the Borderlanders, they find two abandoned vampire children instead.

Bloodright Bureau Guideline #8: Vampire children are to be killed on sight.

…Which is exactly what he's trying to do when Amaya gets between Onyx's crossbow and the little abomination snapping his fangs like a rabid raccoon. He needs to pull the trigger, but try as he might, he just…can't. Because one of the kids has tears in his eyes, and the other is looking up at him with a hopeful smile over her tiny little fangs.

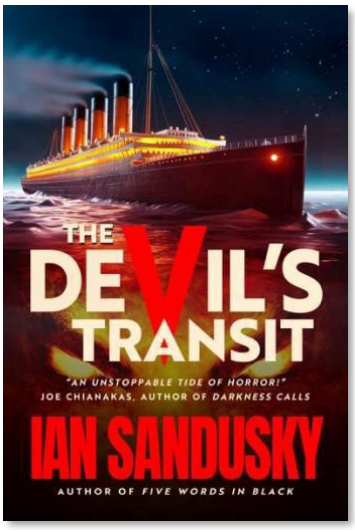
Onyx and Amaya suddenly find themselves reluctant guardians to two small vampires, enemies of their agency, traitors to the city, and wanted by every human *and* vampire around. Because these kids aren't just undead, they're necromancers, and everyone wants to murder them or exploit their power. Droves of citizens are dying in unprecedented attacks, and Onyx and Amaya can't stop it as the Borderlanders close in on them.

It isn't just Onyx's life falling apart, it's his entire system of beliefs as he confronts his morality, ideas of family, and his growing attraction to Amaya. How do you hold a family together when the world insists it shouldn't exist?

Take the found family and adopted supernatural children from *The House in the Cerulean Sea*, drop them into the blood-soaked human-versus-vampire chaos of *The Serpent and the Wings of the Night*, and you have ***Once Through the Heart***. Inspired by the author's experience fostering six children between 2019 and 2023, *Once Through the Heart* reimagines the foster-care journey through a dark fantasy lens.

About the Author:

Brooke Shaden is an internationally awarded and influential artist focused on writing, photography, and motivational speaking. She specializes in dark, conceptual works that help to destigmatize grief. She is represented by brands like Sony and Microsoft, has her work in international galleries and museums, and is followed by 1.2 million people online. Brooke was a foster mother from 2019-2023, and much of her art is inspired by the idea that we can love more deeply by learning how to let go. See more here: https://brookeshaden.com/



THE DEVIL'S TRANSIT

By Ian Sandusky

Rogue River, July 2026

Everyone knows the story. The great, unsinkable ship, **Titanic**—the largest ocean liner at the time and the pinnacle of luxury—set out on its maiden voyage across the Atlantic on April 10, 1912 with over 2,200 people aboard. It struck an iceberg five days later, sinking on April 15, 1912.

But what if that's not the real story? What if something much worse, much more sinister was the cause?

What if the devil is real?

In 1910, a team of British scientists in Egypt find it—a creature, a beast—something dead as far as they can tell, in which great lengths were taken to bury it far beneath the sand. When the American government gets wind of the discovery, they fund its **secret** travel across the Atlantic to the United States in the only ship large enough to do so—the Titanic**.**

The small team of US soldiers is sent to protect the infernal cargo. As unimaginable chaos ensues on board, they must face a choice: to fulfill their duty or save themselves—if they even can.

Ian Sandusky's ominous and psychological Horror story, **THE DEVIL'S TRANSIT**, is **TITANIC** meets **EVENT HORIZON**, with a dash of **CONTAGION** and Netflix's **1899**.

Ian grew up in the small town of Holland Landing, Ontario. He was an avid reader and writer but leaned more towards combat sports – earning a 2nd Degree Black Belt in Karate, becoming an instructor at 14, and later a club bouncer and bar manager during college.

Before even graduating, Canadian Ian Sandusky had four published horror novels to add to his resume. His short stories have been featured in numerous anthologies, literary journals, and magazines. He stepped away from writing for a time to run his family business where he accumulated quite a following across many social media outlets. Though as with most creatives, he couldn't stay away from getting his stories out. THE DEVIL'S TRANSIT is his first novel since being back in the game. He contracted with Roan & Weatherford's Rogue River imprint in a multi-book deal which includes THE DEVIL'S TRANSIT sequel.

THE LAST NIGHTINGALE

Part One of 4-book Series

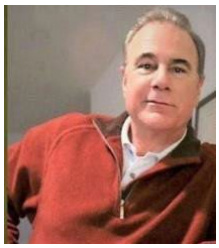
By NYT & International Bestselling Author
Anthony Flacco

Perfect for fans of The Devil in the White City!

"Dickens meets Hannibal Lecter. Brace yourself." -Booklist

Original Sunday NY Times review by Marilyn Stasio: "Every historical mystery tries to home in on the ideal setting at the perfect moment in time. Anthony Flacco succeeds on both counts in his first novel, THE LAST NIGHTINGALE, which opens on April 18, 1906, at 5:12 a.m. — the exact second of the first shock wave of the great San Francisco earthquake. The heaving streets, the burning buildings, the screams of the victims: Flacco imagines the chaos in precise and vivid detail while contributing his own distinctive narrative touch. It seems the quake has provided cover for a serial killer, and while the city struggles to save itself, 12-year-old Shane Nightingale is more intent on finding the madman who murdered his family. Once Shane crosses paths with Sgt. Randall Blackburn, who has also made it his business to catch the killer known as "the Surgeon," man and boy discover that they make an unorthodox but efficient team. And who knows
— once they overcome fire, pestilence, lawlessness and the other legacies of the earthquake to vanquish this monster, there could be more work for such a dynamic duo."

The Historical Fiction Company series review: "This series is fast-paced and action packed, somewhat in the style of old-fashioned weekly radio detective dramas or Saturday morning trips to the local cinema. There are a whole series of heart stopping and cliff hanging moments."



Author Anthony Flacco is a New York Times and International Bestselling author who draws upon his experience as an award-winning screenwriter, AFI Screenwriting MFA graduate, and Disney Screenwriting Fellowship winner. He is the author of a dozen books, all with major publishers, and was optioned for the screen by Malpaso Productions for the book he wrote, ***Impossible Odds: The Kidnapping of Jessica Buchanan and Her Dramatic Rescue by SEAL Team Six.***

www.AnthonyFlacco.com

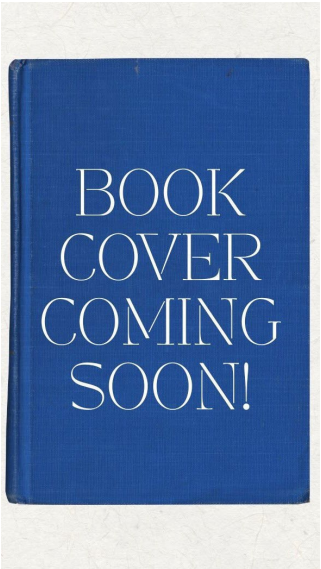
Check out these two **15-second** character videos:

https://www.bookcandystudios.com/bcp-anthonyflacco

LETHAL VOWS

By Traci Hunter Abramson

Thriller with Romance/Action Adventure
Shadow Mountain -- October 2026



When celebrity actor and podcaster Luca Tavasci gains a stalker whose threats turn deadly, his overbearing mother publicly campaigns to find him a wife, and a bomb nearly kills an innocent woman in his place, Luca's solution to staying alive is outrageous even by Hollywood standards: a whirlwind marriage to a private security specialist who can stay close enough to protect him without raising suspicion.

Marina Sanchez never expected losing her cybersecurity job would end with a diamond ring on her finger and a wedding four days away. Buried under debt, haunted by the loss of her police-officer father, and desperate for a fresh start, she agrees to go under-cover as Luca's fiancée to uncover whoever is threatening his life. But stepping into Luca's glamorous world proves far more dangerous—and far more personal—than she imagined.

As the threats escalate and the line between pretend and real begins to blur, Luca and Marina must convince everyone around them that their marriage is genuine while trying to uncover a killer hiding in plain sight. Because someone is watching their every move . . . and if Marina fails, she could lose not only her client but her heart too.

About the Author:

Traci Hunter Abramson is an **award-winning and best-selling author in the suspense, espionage, action/adventure, and romance genres.** She was born in Arizona, where she lived until moving to Venezuela for a study abroad program. After graduating from Brigham Young University, she worked for the **Central Intelligence Agency**, eventually resigning in order to raise her family. She credits the CIA with giving her a wealth of ideas as well as the skills needed to survive her children's teenage years. She loves to travel and recently retired after twenty-six years coaching her local high school swim team. She has written over forty-five best-selling novels and is an eight-time Whitney Award winner, including 2017 and 2019 Best Novel of the Year and a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2024. You can find out more about Traci and her books at www.traciabramson.com.

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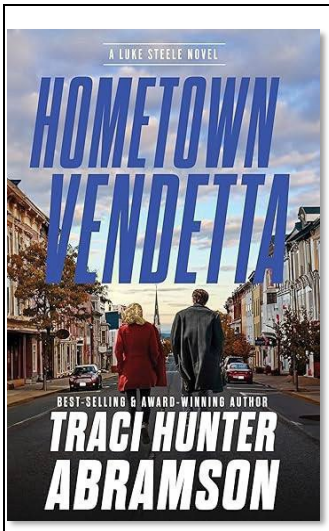

HOMETOWN VENDETTA

By Traci Hunter Abramson

Romantic Suspense/Action Adventure/CIA Thriller
Shadow Mountain Publishing, 2025

Twenty-eight-year-old Kelsey Weber is one of the CIA's finest undercover agents. After two years under deep cover in Salman Nassar's desert compound, she's unearthed vital information on the volatile Middle Eastern extremist sect.

When her allegiance is called into question, Nassar teaches her a lesson she won't forget—with a bullet to the leg. Kelsey is whisked out of the field to recuperate in the safety of her missionary parents' empty Virginia home. But civilian life
proves to be more complicated than Kelsey anticipated when she meets FBI agent Noah Cabbott, the handsome neighbor tasked by her parents with safeguarding the family home in their absence. As their relationship deepens, she's torn by her inability to divulge who—and what—she really is.

In a twist of fate, their separate investigations converge in a horrifying plot that threatens the nation's security, and Kelsey's identity is revealed. She and Noah have been assigned as members of a secret task force, united with one common goal: to thwart Nassar's impending terrorist attack. As the situation grows increasingly dire, she is horrified to learn that there is a traitor in their midst: An agency mole has been leaking information to the enemy. Kelsey's world is thrown into chaos with the shocking realization that nothing is as it seems, and each step toward the truth draws her deeper into a web of conspiracy more intricate and deadly than she dreamed . . .

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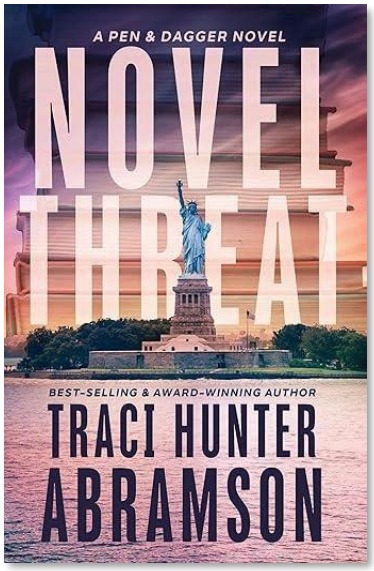
NOVEL THREAT

By Traci Hunter Abramson

Romantic Suspense/Action Adventure – Shadow Mountain Publishing, 2025



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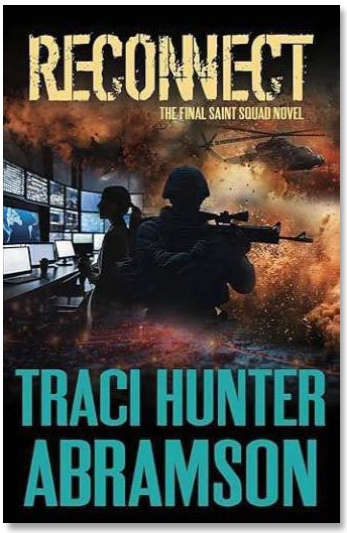
RECONNECT

By Traci Hunter Abramson

Romantic Suspense/Action Adventure -
Released Covenant, February 2025



Deep in the jungles of Nicaragua, the members of the Saint Squad were faced with an impossible decision: neutralize the threat to national security or ensure that all their team members walked out alive. Choosing his safety over the country's was a risk Brent wasn't willing to take. He ran headlong into danger to save the nation and did not come back with his team . . .

About the Author:

Traci Hunter Abramson is an **award-winning and best-selling author in the suspense, espionage, action/adventure, and romance genres.** She was born in Arizona, where she lived until moving to Venezuela for a study abroad program. After graduating from Brigham Young University, she worked for the **Central Intelligence Agency**, eventually resigning in order to raise her family. She credits the CIA with giving her a wealth of ideas as well as the skills needed to survive her children's teenage years. She loves to travel and recently retired after twenty-six years coaching her local high school swim team. She has written over forty-five best-selling novels and is an eight-time Whitney Award winner,
including 2017 and 2019 Best Novel of the Year and a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2024. You can find out more about Traci and her books at www.traciabramson.com.

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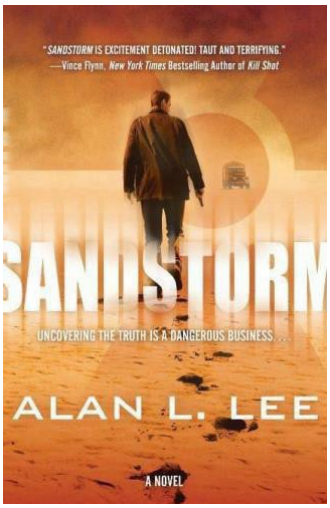


Sandstorm: A Novel

By Alan Lee

Tor/St. Martin's Press

Lurking in the shadows, away from any government oversight, a secret partnership has been formed between an exclusive billionaire boys club, rogue elements of Israel's famed Mossad intelligence unit and a prominent U.S. senator. They aim to change the world order by toppling the Iranian regime, bringing a halt to its nuclear program in the process by any means necessary. Success means lining their pockets with vast wealth and increased power.

CIA operative Nora Mossa is trained to kill when the situation calls for it. She's also capable of disappearing into thin air. Being efficient, deadly and beautiful however, won't be enough to stay alive after her mentor Erica Janway is assassinated at her Annapolis, Maryland home.

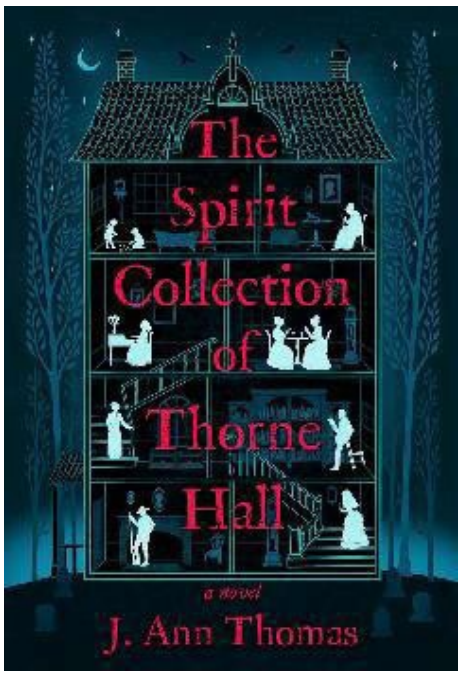
Warned by Janway that an unsanctioned covert operation was underway, Nora is forced to run after an attempt is made on her life in Rome. Unsure whether she can trust anyone at the Agency, Nora turns to the only person she feels is capable of keeping her alive while uncovering the truth behind Janway's demise. The problem is, her former lover Alex Koves made it clear years ago that he never wanted to see or have contact with her again.

Once considered a golden boy at the CIA, Alex is living a comfortable life in sunny St. Thomas. Rugged, charming and lethal when need be, Alex seems content in maintaining his quiet existence by the ocean. When Nora shows up to ask for his help, he has no intention of lending a hand. Feeling he couldn't live with himself if something happened to her, Alex has a change of heart and joins Nora in her quest to discover who is responsible for Janway's death. Their investigation takes them across the globe where they piece together clues that reveal a deadly plot capable of killing thousands in a Chernobyl-like mishap.

Rushing from the U.S. through Europe to the Middle East, *Sandstorm* is a fast-paced, complex thriller in the style of Brad Thor and Vince Flynn. With a well-drawn female character and her larger-than life partner, author Alan Lee has crafted a captivating, contemporary tale of international intrigue.

About the author: First time novelist Alan Lee is the Morning Anchor at Detroit's Fox station, *WJBK-TV*. Alan has helped build Fox 2 News Morning into a ratings juggernaut by combining his signature blend of seasoned journalism with an uncanny knack for making every guest, from politicians to entertainers, feel welcome and at ease. Alan has particularly enjoyed interviewing the best-selling authors who make it a point to visit Fox 2 during the Detroit legs of their book tours, and several have promised blurbs.

Prior to Detroit, Alan accepted a newly created co-anchor position on the morning show of Washington, D.C's NBC station, WRC-TV. In addition to sharing the hallways with journalism legends like Robert Hager, Andrea Mitchell and Tim Russert, Alan had the privilege of covering the storied Washington newsbeats of the White House, the Pentagon and the CIA. It was here Alan's burning lifelong interest in espionage truly caught fire, and where the first seeds of Sandstorm began to germinate. Alan is also an experienced blogger, regularly creating posts on his other passion in life, sports, and on his blog writing. Both The Sporting Life and The Day of the Writer will be yet additional vehicles to help market ***Sandstorm***. Alan resides in Southern California with his wife, their two sons and their two dogs**.**



The Spirit Collection of Thorne Hall

By Jamie Thomas

Alcove Press, Feb. 202

Audio Rights sold to Dreamscape in auction!

A chilling gothic romance for fans of Mike Flannigan's many Netflix hits such as *The Haunting of Bly Manor*

An isolated young woman lives a life 100 years out of step with the world outside her family's haunted New England mansion in this contemporary gothic tale of chilling ghosts and swoon-worthy romance. For more than a hundred years, the Thorne family has lived in splendor and isolation in their New England manor, devoting their lives to pacifying the fourteen spirits cursed to dwell there. Now, with her father on his deathbed, 25-year-old Elegy Thorne is about to inherit the Spirit Collection despite her terrifying inability to control them.

Timid but headstrong, Elegy lives, speaks, and dresses one hundred years behind the world around her. She must keep the house and everything inside as near as possible to America's Gilded Age when the spirits were summoned, lest they erupt in violence. She is resigned to live this nightmarish existence forever until—for the first time in her life—she falls in love with a young man who is helping restore a damaged part of the mansion.

As Elegy's secret romance blossoms, she slowly comes to recognize her own strength and agency despite a traumatic upbringing amid the literal ghosts of the past, until at last she confronts and breaks free of the grief that has held her family hostage for generations.

Moments of charming fish-out-of-water humor are woven into this gripping and occasionally terrifying haunted house story of the transformative power of romantic love.

Jamie's debut novel ASPERFELL (Uproar Books, 2020) earned the gold medal for Fantasy at the INDIES Awards and was named among *Booklist*'s top ten debut speculative fiction novels of the year, among other accolades. A certified Language Arts teacher in the state of Washington, Jamie holds a master's degree in English education and did her graduate research in the area of gender equality in high school literary curriculum. She's also a classically trained opera singer and lives in Spokane with her husband, daughter, two enormous dogs, and two mischievous cats.

Gold in Peace, Iron in War

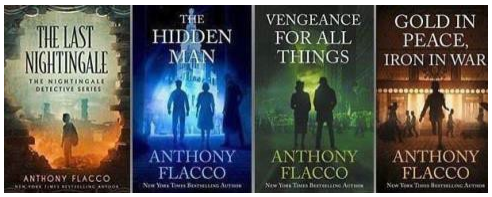
Part of a four book series

By NYT & International Bestselling Author Anthony Flacco

Severn River Publishing 2023

This story is fast-paced and action packed, somewhat in the style of old fashioned weekly radio detective dramas or Saturday morning trips to the local cinema. There are a whole series of heart stopping and cliff hanging moments." – The Historical Fiction Company

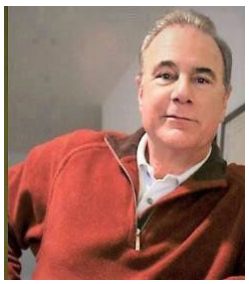
This exhilarating historical crime series features real-life figures and events. Perfect for fans of The Devil in the White City!



The year is 1920, and following the end of WWI, a horrifying child trafficking ring known as the "Baltic Pipeline" is running out of eastern Europe. In the U.S., the perpetrators have infiltrated America's Orphan Trains, which were designed to bring war orphans to new families, and are instead using them to supply de facto slaves to the most corrupt members of our financial elite.

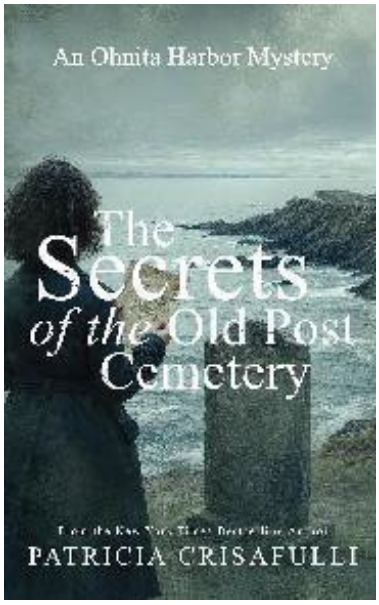
Vignette Nightingale (24) and her adoptive father Randall Blackburn (49) are the private investigators hired to combat the smuggling ring but quickly find themselves plunged into a sinister investigation with roots far deeper than they could have imagined. They are aided by NYC's first all-female police squad, operated by led by Deputy Commissioner Ellen O'Grady, NYC's first female Police Commissioner, and by Detective Isabella Goodwin, a master of disguises who heads the squad. Her fellow female officers battle the smugglers, even as the police patriarchy takes credit for their work, and corrupted officials throw obstacles designed to stop them. Their biggest problem is that the smugglers have bribed or blackmailed so many high government officials and police officers, nobody knows who can be trusted. Betrayal is everywhere.

Beneath the story of intrigue runs the character arc of nine-year-old Dante, an orphan who refuses to discuss his past but who was brought to the U.S. by the traffickers. Vignette meets him on the street and takes him under her wing. He soon comes to idolize Randall and Vignette, and the information he knows about the smuggling ring helps identify and disrupt the murderous human traffickers and their shady allies in the upper echelons of power.



Author Anthony Flacco, a New York Times and International Bestselling author who draws upon his experience as an award-winning screenwriter, AFI Screenwriting MFA graduate, and Disney Screenwriting Fellowship winner. He is the author of a dozen books, all with major publishers, and was optioned for the screen by Malpaso Productions for the book he wrote, ***Impossible Odds: The Kidnapping of Jessica Buchanan and Her Dramatic Rescue by SEAL Team Six.***

www.AnthonyFlacco.com



The Secrets of the Old Post Cemetery

By Patricia Crisafulli
Woodhall press
The much-anticipated third book in the Ohnita Harbor Mystery Series

A riveting story with emotional complexity — exploring love, betrayal, murder and a chance for redemption.

Fans of TV's *Murder, She Wrote* and the Nancy Drew mysteries will find a new home in Ohnita Harbor, New York. The Ohnita Harbor Mystery Series bring to life a Great Lakes port city with three centuries of history, quirky modern-day characters, intriguing artifacts, and an engaging protagonist—librarian and authenticator Gabriela Domenici.

The third book in the series, ***The Secrets of the Old Post Cemetery***, brings to life yet another treasure—this time, the Revolutionary War-era Traitor's Map that holds the clues to a modern-day murder. Written as a standalone, this third book in the series heightens the drama and intrigue that fans have come to expect from New York Times bestselling author Patricia Crisafulli and her first two novels: *The Secrets of Ohnita Harbor* and *The Secrets of Still Waters Chasm* (all from Woodhall Press).

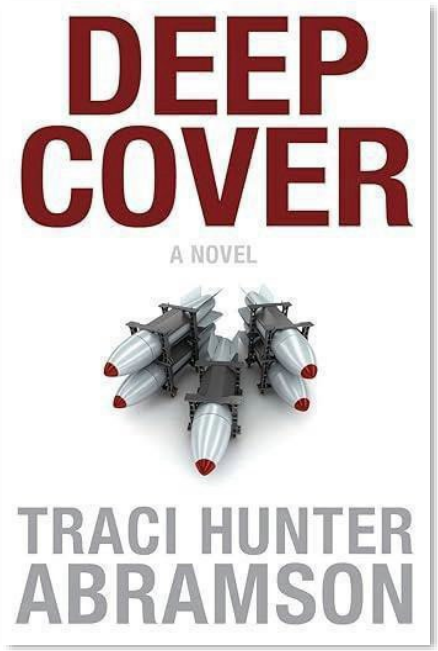
Patricia Crisafulli is an award-winning New York Times best-selling author. She received a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree from Northwestern University, where she received the Distinguished Thesis Award in Creating Writing. She is launching the Ohnita Harbor Mystery Series with The Secrets of Ohnita Harbor. Connect with her at www.FaithHopeandFiction.com.

Inspirational Adult Novels

DEEP COVER

By Traci Hunter Abramson

Inspirational Romantic Suspense/Action Adventure - Covenant



Twenty-eight-year-old Kelsey Weber is one of the CIA's finest undercover agents. After two years under deep cover in Salman Nassar's desert compound, she's unearthed vital information on the volatile Middle Eastern extremist sect. When her allegiance is called into question, Nassar teaches her a lesson she won't forget—with a bullet to the leg. Kelsey is whisked out of the field to recuperate in the safety of her missionary parents' empty Virginia home. But civilian life proves to be more complicated than Kelsey anticipated when she meets FBI agent Noah Cabbott, the handsome neighbor tasked by her parents with safeguarding the family home in their absence. As their relationship deepens, she's torn by her inability to divulge who—and what—she really is.

In a twist of fate, their separate investigations converge in a horrifying plot that threatens the nation's security, and Kelsey's identity is revealed. She and Noah have been assigned as members of a secret task force, united with one common goal: to thwart Nassar's impending terrorist attack. As the situation grows increasingly dire, she is horrified to learn that there is a traitor in their midst: An agency mole has been leaking information to the enemy. Kelsey's world is thrown into chaos with the shocking realization that nothing is as it seems, and each step toward the truth draws her deeper into a web of conspiracy more intricate and deadly than she dreamed . . .

About the Author:

Traci Hunter Abramson is an **award-winning and best-selling author in the suspense, espionage, action/adventure, and romance genres.** She was born in Arizona, where she lived until moving to Venezuela for a study abroad program. After graduating from Brigham Young University, she worked for the **Central Intelligence Agency**, eventually resigning in order to raise her family. She credits the CIA with giving her a wealth of ideas as well as the skills needed to survive her children's teenage years. She loves to travel and recently retired after twenty-six years coaching her local high school swim team. She has written over forty-five best-selling novels and is an eight-time Whitney Award winner, including 2017 and 2019 Best Novel of the Year and a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2024. You can find out more about Traci and her books at www.traciabramson.com.

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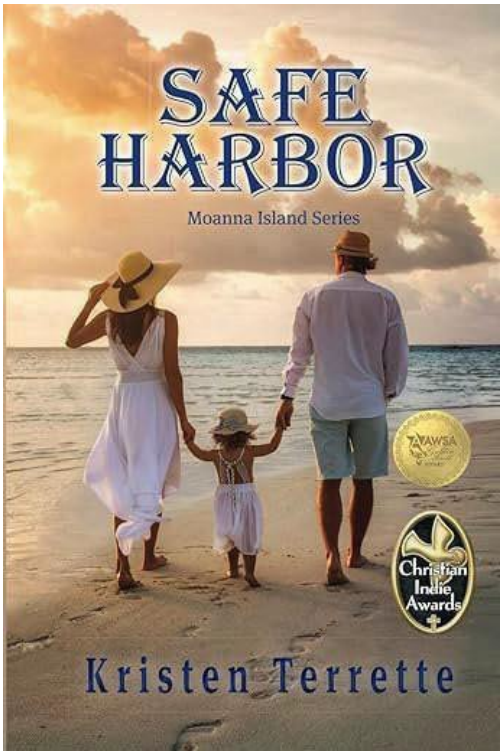


SAFE HARBOR

By Kristen Terrette

Elk Lake Publishing, 2023

2024 Romance Novel of the Year
(AWSA Golden Scroll)
2024 Christian Indie Award, 1st Place
(CIPA)
2023 Emerging Leader
(ECPA)

Eva Elliott is left with a jaded heart after the death of her boyfriend while she was pregnant. She pushed away the idea of God and love, focusing solely on her daughter, Willow.

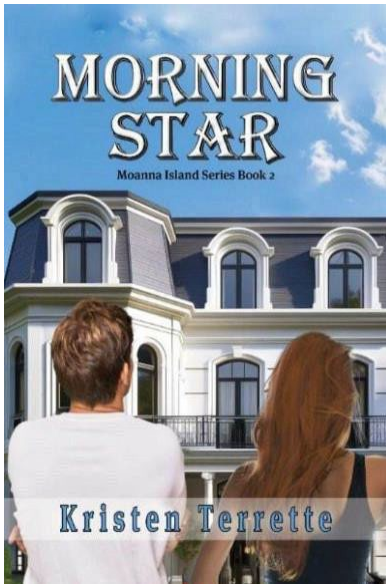
She accepts an offer from her mom to move her and Willow to Moanna Island, off the coast of Georgia. She hopes the move will help her tuck away the guilt for her role in her boyfriend's death.

Thad Smith's Pro-Football career came to a crashing and embarrassing halt, sending him running to Moanna Island. He now enjoys living under the radar and finds a new purpose, but he feels guilty for the sting of loneliness that's crept into his seemingly full life.

When he saves Willow from drowning in the ocean the first day Eva arrives on the island, he can't deny the electricity between them. Eva stubbornly fights the stirring in her heart the moment Thad smiles, but since Thad coaches the football team where Eva teaches and lives down the street, God continues to intertwine their lives. When he tells Eva he's not only falling for her, but Willow as well, she thinks maybe…just maybe, it would work between them.

But shame, secrets on both sides, ex-lovers, and a killer hurricane all threaten the love and life they seek to share—and one of them may not survive.

Kristen holds a master's degree in theological studies and served as a Children's Ministry Director and Women's Leader for many years before returning to her first love—stories. After managing an international blog and a publishing house's social media feed, she found herself as an intern at the esteemed literary agency, Writers House, in the summer of 2022. This landed her a job with Martin Literary Management where she now represents author clients of her own. Stories are her thing and authors are her people. She's had five novels published in both the romance and young adult genres with more on theway and has clients across many genres (she has a hard time staying in one lane). When not on her computer editing, pitching books, or with her nose in one, you may find her getting a little too loud on the sidelines of a kids' basketball game. Check her out at: www.kristenterrette.com



MORNING STAR

(Moanna Island Series, Book Two)

By Kristen Terrette, Elk Lake Publishing, 2024

2025 Golden Scroll 3rd Place Winner in the Romance Novel of the Year Category (AWSA)

2025 Christian Market Book Awards 3rd Place Winner in Novel of the Year Category (ASWSA)

2023 Emerging Leader (ECPA)

Addie McHenry, restoration home builder extraordinaire, catches her big break when the House to Home Network contracts her to film a **reality TV** show focusing on how she brings home back to life. She sets her sights on one of the oldest on Moanna's beach and must risk everything just to get it.

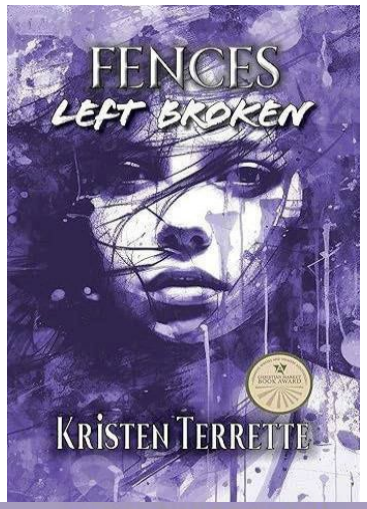
Shane Armstrong moved from Savannah to his grandmother's Oceanside house when his world shattered five months before. He went on leave from his job as a **Coast Guard helicopter rescue swimmer**, hoping his grandmother's peaceful street will heal him. The reality TV show's arrival threatens this serenity.

With each encounter, Shane's walls start to crumble as Addie brings more than just the historical home back to life. And Addie tries desperately not to enjoy spending time with the irritable and scowling boy next door. Both being only temporary Moanna residents, their thin ice relationship crashes to a halt. Can Shane return to his risky job with the Coast Giard And can Addie let him go and follow her dreams even when tragedy strikes?

Safe Harbor, Book One of the Moanna Island Series won the 2024 Romance Novel of the Year (an AWSA Golden Scroll) & 2024 Christian Indie Award, 1st Place (CIPA)

Kristen Terrette holds a master's degree in theological studies and served as a Children's Ministry Director and Women's Leader for many years before returning to her first love—stories. After managing an international blog and a publishing house's social media feed, she found herself as an intern at the esteemed literary agency, Writers House, in the summer of 2022. This landed her a job with Martin Literary Management where she now takes on author clients of her own. Stories are her thing and authors are her people.

She's a multi-award-winning, multi-published author in both the romance and young adult genres, with more on the way and has clients across many genres (she has a hard time staying in one lane).
Check her out at: www.KristenTerrette.com



FENCES LEFT BROKEN

By Kristen Terrette

Young Adult - Elk Lake Publishing - 2023
A Golden Scroll Award Finalist, 2024
A Christian Market Book Award Finalist, 2024 A
Christian Indie Award 2nd Place Winner, 2025

Finding out she's the granddaughter of neighboring families -torn apart by racism, war, death and murder—only the beginning of the story.

Mia's father is dead. Now she's dumped in the rural Mississippi Delta town of Marigold the summer before her senior year with family she's never known.

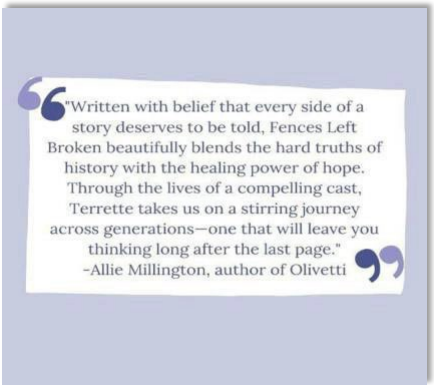
The strange catch? Her maternal and paternal grandparents are next-door neighbors. But so much more than a fence and their skin colors separate these rivaling families, *her* families, the Montagues and Capulets of Marigold.

When she learns their hatred toward one another has something to do with murder, she and her new friends—who are longing for adventure in the last three weeks of a boring summer—set out to uncover the buried secrets and tragedies from as far back as the Great Depression, World War II, and the Freedom Summer Movement of '64.

Mia hopes to reconcile her grandparents by finding the truth. But can broken family fences be truly mended in the face of decades of unforgiving hate?

About the Author:

Kristen Terrette holds a master's degree in theological studies and served as a Children's Ministry Director and Women's Leader for many years before returning to her first love—stories. After managing an international blog and a publishing house's social media feed, she found herself as an intern at the esteemed literary agency, Writers House, in the summer of 2022. This landed her a job with Martin Literary Management where she now takes on author clients of her own. Stories are her thing and authors are her people. She's a multi-award-winning, multi-published author in both the romance and young adult genres, with more on the way and has clients across many genres (she has a hard time staying in one lane). Check her out at: www.KristenTerrette.com



MIDDLE GRADE

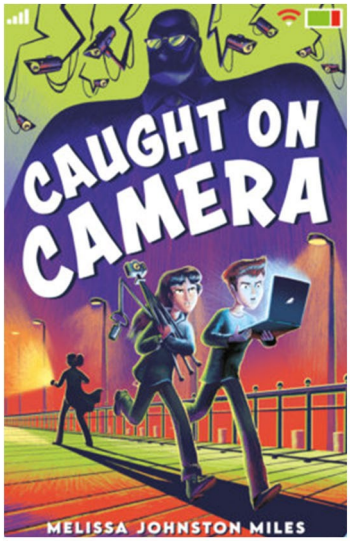
and

YA NOVELS

Caught on Camera

By Melissa J. Miles

Middle Grade Thriller – Moon & Bird/Watkins – US & UK release
Coming Spring 2027



When 13-year-old Dominic Jackson already finds English class less boring than usual when he spots a supposedly dead senator spinning a postcard rack in Times Square. The rest of the class is glued to the sights and sounds of the city, excited to experience the setting of their class novel. But Dominic, a whiz at patterns, only has eyes for the distinctive birthmark and unique mannerisms belonging to disgraced Senator Jefferson Morgan. The entire world watched news footage of the yacht explosion that killed the senator just days before his scheduled testimony against the global crime ring Double Helix. So how could he be at looking at postcards? After all, dead men don't buy souvenirs.

At home, Dominic enhances the image. The ball cap and dark glasses might fool facial recognition cameras. But not him. However, convincing his parent proves impossible. Desperate to prove he's right, and to bring Senator Morgan to justice, Dominic creates a podcast to share his conclusions about Morgan's identity. It goes viral in a way he never imagined. Soon, Dominic is on the run—trying to figure out Senator Morgan's next steps while evading underworld operatives, a rogue federal agent, and his own anxieties.

CAUGHT ON CAMERA features a neurodivergent main character with superpowers (Melissa's now-adult son is autistic, and this novel showcases the way his special mind thinks). It's a fun ride for kids who love adventure and mysteries with lots of surprises along the way.

About the Author:

Melissa Miles is a pediatric nurse and a certified K-12 educator. She is the co-Regional Advisor for SCBWI Southern Breeze and a Board Chair for Superhero Success Foundation, a non-profit she created that advocates for more disability representation in children's books. Learn more here: https://www.melissajohnstonmiles.com/

PIDGE

By Allie Millington

Middle Grade - Feiwel & Friends - Fall 2027 release

From the *New York Times Bestselling* author of *Olivetti*, a story about the wonder of words, a Purpose of Great Proportions, and how kindness can cross over any language.

Pidge, a speckled Raven with a passion for crosswords, has never fit in with his flock. Since his first memories of being found in a nest of newspapers, Pidge has had a peculiar fascination with People, searching for who might have saved him and most importantly why. This leads him to a series of scattered Post-It notes, and a boy named Hugo with a rare ear condition. When Pidge witnesses a bullying incident and rescues Hugo's hearing aid headband, he chooses to return it instead of showing off this Finding to his flock. And the moment he does, he discovers Hugo can now understand him.

In an attempt to prove himself and that People can be trusted, Pidge works hard to become Hugo's friend by helping him complete the list of Post-It promises he made in honor of his grandpa. Promises Hugo needs to get done before his upcoming surgery--a surgery that will help his hearing but take away his ability to understand Pidge's words. As the two navigate their unlikely friendship, they are pulled between the pressures of their own species, of belonging and being remembered. When Pidge's flock is in danger, he must find a way to help them and still be there for Hugo when he needs him most. But can you stay connected even when you can no longer communicate?

Written to other ravens and as a love letter to reading Pidge tells us a story about the wonder of words, a Purpose of Great Proportions, and how kindness can cross over any language. Perfect for fans of Katherine Applegate and Jasmine Warga.

About the Author:

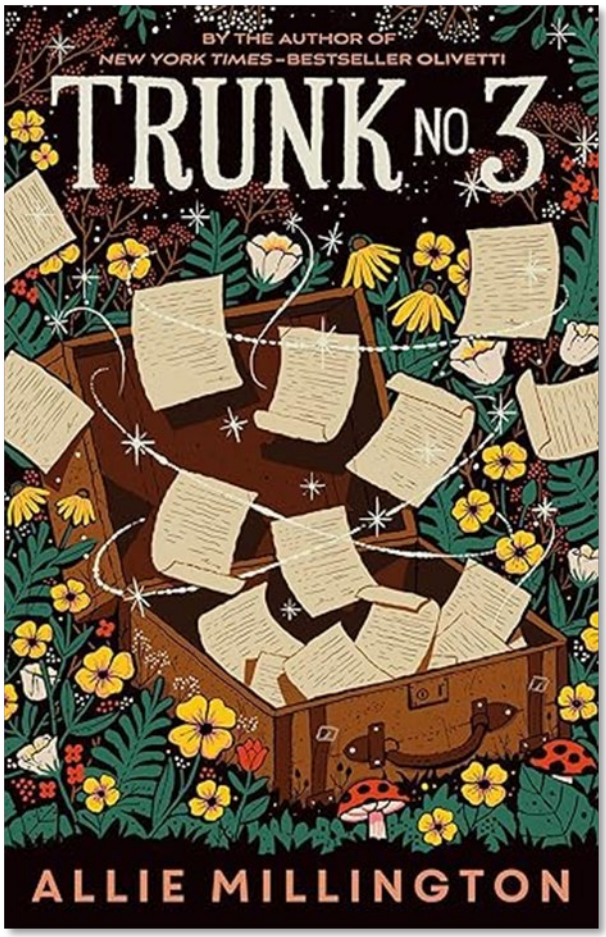
Allie Millington is an author, artist, and entrepreneur. She enjoys telling stories from unique, unexplored points of view and strives to share relatable truths through a quirky lens, all while bringing a balance of humor and heart. Her projects are represented by the WME, including her previous middle grade novels, also by Macmillan, *Olivetti* (an NYT bestseller), *Once For Yes*, and *Trunk No.3*. She also has two picture books with Worthy Kids/Hachette, and a poetry gift book, *Looking Down*, with Align/Penguin Random House coming in 2027. Allie lives near Atlanta, Georgia, with her husband, baby Lowen, fluffy dog Crumpet, and a collection of clacking machines.

You can find her on Instagram here: @allieinink or on her website: https://www.alliemillingtonbooks.com

TRUNK N°.3

By Allie Millington

Middle Grade - Feiwel & Friends - October 2026 release



**"Skillfully wrought alternating narration, featuring cheeky footnotes from the trunk, steers an affectionate and emotionally resonant story steeped in sparkling magic and infused with clever wordplay. It all adds up to a kindhearted, and in Earl Grey's words, fortifyingly 'emotionful' outing."*
- Publisher's Weekly (Starred Review)

"An enchanting exploration of family, friendship, and the joy that feeling seen can bring." – Booklist

From the *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Olivetti*, here is the story of a magical – and lifechanging – correspondence.

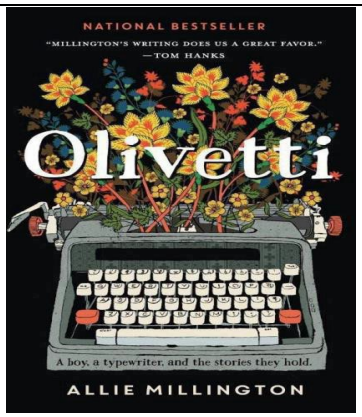
Trunk No.3, a worn, wrinkled suitcase with a secret, was perfectly fine with staying closed forever. Until she's stolen by a despondent boy with plans to run away. When a strange note appears in the trunk, however, an accidental correspondence begins to throw everything off course—and toward something, *someone*, entirely unexpected.

Eleven-year-old Earl Grey has been raised at the Repertorium—a rare library that holds once-forgotten items, each with a tangible memory tied to their very being. She longs to discover life outside of the library, and to find answers about her *Before.* Little does Earl Grey know that the mysterious pen pal she starts writing to will lead to a life-changing friendship and the unraveling truth of her past.

New York Times-bestselling author Allie Millington weaves together a poignant, uniquely delivered story about connection, worth, and seeing *more* in the seemingly ordinary—including ourselves.

About the Author:

Allie Millington is an author, artist, and entrepreneur. She enjoys telling stories from unique, unexplored points of view and strives to share relatable truths through a quirky lens, all while bringing a balance of humor and heart. Her projects are represented by the WME, including her previous middle grade novels, also by Macmillan, *Olivetti* (an NYT bestseller), and *Once For Yes*. Her two picture books, *When You Find A Hope* and *When You Find A Question* are with Worthy Kids/Hachette. And Allie has a poetry gift book, *Looking Down*, with Align/Penguin Random House coming in 2027. Allie lives near Atlanta, Georgia, with her husband, baby Lowen, fluffy dog Crumpet, and a collection of clacking machines. You can find her on Instagram here: @allieinink or on her website: https://www.alliemillingtonbooks.com



OLIVETTI

By Allie Millington
Middle Grade -Feiwel & Friends
March 2024

Review by ***Tom Hanks*** *in NYT 3-24-2024*

It's a thankless job, keeping memories alive. At least that's how recently replaced computer Olivetti the typewriter feels. But when the family who leaves him behind is in trouble, he knows he has just what they need.

Toy Story **meets** ***Greenwild*** **in this heartfelt story of family, resilience.**

Being a **typewriter** is not as easy as it looks. Surrounded by books (notorious attention hogs) and recently replaced by a computer, OLIVETTI has been forgotten by the Brindle family— the humans he's lived with for years. The Brindles have become busy creatures: Felix and Beatrice work constantly, three of their children put the *extra* in extra curriculars, and Ernest, their reclusive, guarded twelve-year-old, goes off alone to read his collection of Oxford English Dictionaries. The least they could do was remember OLIVETTI once in a while, since he remembers every single word, they've typed on him. It's a thankless job, keeping memories alive. OLIVETTI gets a rare glimpse of action from Beatrice, his used- to-be most frequent visitor—only for her to drop him off at Heartland Pawn Shop and leave him helplessly behind. It isn't until Ernest spots him in the shop window that OLIVETTI learns **Beatrice has mysteriously gone missing**. OLIVETTI believes he can help find her *and* prove he's more than just some pawn. He breaks the only rule of his 'kind' and **types back to Ernest, divulging Beatrice's memories stored inside him.**

Their search takes them across **San Francisco—typing on toilet seats, dodging a dumpster-diving girl, and sure, committing a few minor felonies**. As OLIVETTI spills out the past, Ernest is forced to face what **he and his family have been running from *The Everything That Happened***. Only by working together will they **find Beatrice, friendship, and the parts of themselves they've lost.**

This Middle Grade magical realism story is told from the unique vantage points of a witty typewriter and a lonely, introverted boy—both of whom **discover their voice and belonging**. It's full of humor, heart, and the magic of memories.

Allie is an author, artist, and has been known to be spotted foraging in the woods. Growing up, every day after school she'd throw a ball against a wall for hours on end speaking stories into existence. (Much later she discovered she shared this childhood quirk with Judy Bloom, which made her feel Less crazy). At eighteen, Allie moved from Atlanta to England, where she worked in a secondary school, and eventually met her husband. In their first three years of marriage, they moved to Brazil to serve in classrooms and soccer fields, then became house parents for young adults in Foster Care back in Atlanta. She can never get enough of middle schoolers, though, so she also works part time as the program coordinator for a non-profit that mentors under- resourced students. Olivetti is Allie's debut novel. You can find her on Instagram @allieinink or on her website at https://www.alliemillingtonbooks.com

- **OLIVETTI**

An Instant Indies Bestseller!
An Amazon Best Book of the Month, April 2024 Barnes and Noble Pick of the Month, April 2025 New York Times Bestseller, May 13, 2025 MacMillan Publishers Book of the Month May, 2025 Maria Shriver Sunday Paper 2025 Summer Reading List

SJL *Best Books of 2024,* ***Booklist*** *Best Books of 2024,* ***Bookshops*** *Best Books of 2024,* ***Audio File****'s best Audiobooks for Family & Children in 2024,* ***The Children's Book Review's*** *Best Middle Grade Books of 2024,* ***Amazon's*** *Best Books and* ***Amazon Editor's Pick, NPR*** *10 Best Book Ideas for Kids in 2024,* ***Boston Globe's*** *75 Best Books of 2024, Chinese and French Rights Bought!*

Her Olivetti is neither an automaton nor a pushover — there is a painful and problematic crisis in the house he has called home and his voice drives the action with compassion. Ernest speaks with a confusion and simmering panic recognizable to anyone who was once 12, loved their mother deeply and feared for her life... **The Brindles will go on confronting 'Everything,' with hope, gusto and all the unity theycan muster. They will set the family table for seven, with a place for Olivetti; put paper in his carriage and wait." –Tom Hanks in the *New York Times Book Review***

"★ **An introverted boy and his missing mother's cherished typewriter plumb forgotten family stories while journeyingtoward acceptance in this touching middle-grade mystery**. The Brindle family swarms distractedly around seventh-grader Ernest, everyone fixed in their ways until the morning Beatrice, his mom, vanishes. This isn't the family's first trauma, but, after "Everything That Happened," Ernest finds an unexpected ally: Olivetti, Beatrice's classic typewriter, who explains, "We [typewriters] hold thousands of stories. Worlds full of words."
...As inanimate narrators go, Olivetti is especially well suited to the task and takes turns with Ernest in lending his perspective to the short chapters. **And, as stories about stories go, Olivetti's and Ernest's insights about the power of memories, both held and shared, speak volumes.** Offering a Where'd You Go, Bernadette vibe, with its unspooling of a youth perspective on the adult world, this melancholic yet hopeful pick will appeal to fans of books with nonhuman protagonists and readers whoenjoy emotional stories with alternating perspectives, such as *A Rover's Story* and *The Lost Library.*" –Booklist Magazine, **starred** review

"★Debut author Millington skillfully delivers a complex storyline that deals with heavy topics. **With plenty of quotable wisdom, richly textured language, and dry humor, this work reads like a classic.**" *–Kirkus Reviews,* **starred** review

"**An ideal pick for readers looking for both honesty and hope**."–BCCB

"**A lively and tender story about language, archive, and family history, Millington's debut will keep young readers on their toes** ...Formatted in alternating chapters between Ernest and Olivetti's points of view, readers will be - delighted by the book's playfulness, as well as its bittersweet look at the power of memory, and how a family can be broken and then healed. A quirky, heartfelt novel." *–School Library Journal*

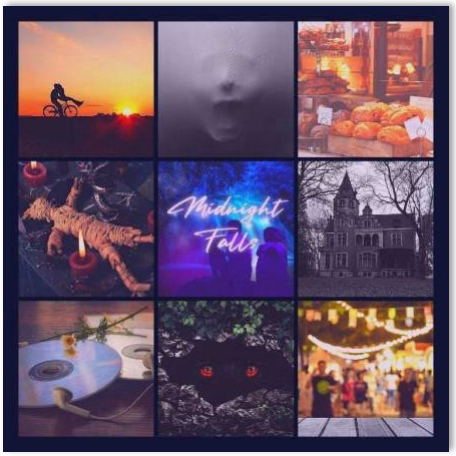
"[A] **unique debut.** Despite the recent appearance of a laptop ("the glossy show-off"), Olivetti has accumulated "an endless number of memories" working with owner Beatrice. His patient existence is upended when he's abruptly sold to a pawn shop and Beatrice goes missing... Olivetti's snarky observations entertain, and the human protagonists' endearing s**upport for each other's endeavors paint a worthwhile portrait of community**."*–Publishers Weekly*

"**A lovable introvert, a typewriter with a lot to say, and an irresistible mystery come togetherto create a one-of-a- kind reading experience.**" –Molly Olivo, bookseller at Child's Play, Washington, D.C.

MIDNIGHT FALLS

By Hayley Reese Chow & E. P. Stavs Young

Adult - Charlesbridge - Fall 2027 release



MIDNIGHT FALLS crosses the lovably bizarre spirits of Studio Ghibi with the banter-filled Gilmore Girls vibe and an Addams Family aesthetic in this cozy, but creepy, YA paranormal mystery with a sweet side of dual-POV romance. With themes of finding your voice, your home, and your roots, this novel is a feel-good, fun read for all the oddballs out there who love a little fantastical weirdness in their every day.

Still reeling from her mother's death, sixteen-year-old Amelia Wells braces herself for a new life as she moves across the country to live with her mysterious great-aunt in her mom's hometown. Nothing, however, could prepare her for the paranormal spectacle of Midnight Falls—a cheerful tourist destination for spirits and humans alike. As her witchy great-aunt, a sentient B&B, and the quirky local spirits greet her with open arms, Amelia seizes the opportunity to learn more about the home her mother never spoke of. But when Amelia finds out her father disappeared from Midnight Falls under suspicious circumstances, she starts her own investigation to find out what happened to him.

Wyatt Banning has had *enough* of Midnight Falls. Weighed down by the responsibilities of his family's recently viral bakery, he doesn't have time to play tour-guide for the new girl… even if she is cute. And he *definitely* doesn't have the energy for the spirits' weird pranks—especially the creepy, invasive voice that's been haunting his thoughts for weeks. But when Wyatt's touch gives Amelia nightmarish visions of the past, it becomes clear that someone in Midnight Falls is hiding a murderous secret. The clock is ticking for the next victim though, and if Amelia and Wyatt don't untangle the town's darkest mystery in time, it could be one of them.

About the Authors:

Hayley Reese Chow is an award-winning author, mother of wild boys, wife, mechanical engineer, Air Force Reserve officer, four-time All-American fencer, ex-ultramarathoner, world traveler, and super nerd with three older sisters who are way cooler than her.
E.P. Stavs grew up in rural New York where she stayed awake far too late reading beneath covers with a flashlight and a thoroughly worn-out library card. But it wasn't until several years, marriage, and two babies later that she would draft the first in a series of young adult romantic fantasy books to completion.
E. P. and Hayley met through a mutual love of each other's books and eventually became critique partners. Soon after, they were diving into the world of co-authoring, and their quirky YA paranormal came to life.

CAT TAKES QUEEN

By Ilona Bray & Stephen Soong

Middle Grade - Feiwel & Friends - Fall 2026 release

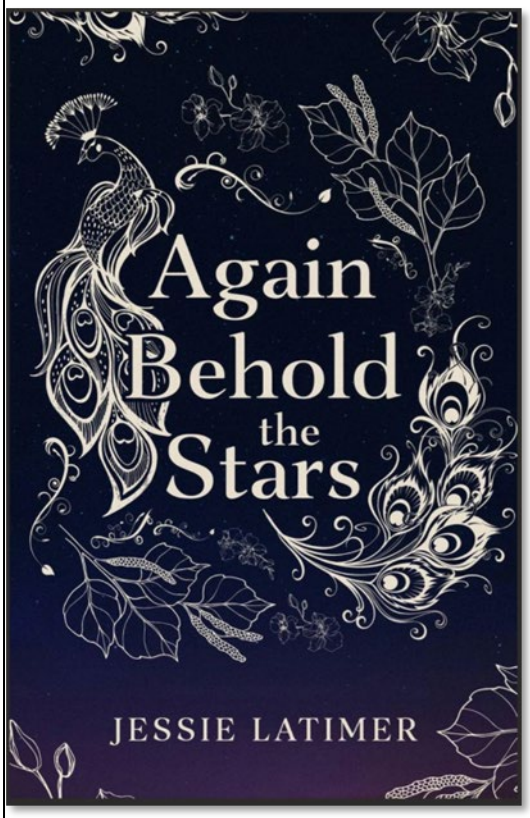
"An entertaining, upbeat story of friendship with an appealing cat protagonist that highlights the allure of chess." -Kirkus

"A lively adventure that will appeal to chess lovers and provide a fun introduction to the game, too." -School Library journal

Morphy, a witty stray cat with an attitude, steers clear of humans—except for Edgar, his elderly chess-playing friend. When Edgar is taken away in an ambulance, Morphy sets out to find him. Only by teaming up with Edgar's headstrong granddaughter, who's trying to gain her judgmental parents' respect via chess mastery, and a young street-chess player from Central America who struggles with PTSD, can Morphy help bring Edgar home, elude a catnapper, and create a new "found family" in CAT TAKES QUEEN: *In Which a Humble Cat of Astonishing Genius Recounts a Tale of Chess Mates and Checkmates.*

This outside-the-box middle grade novel interweaves a compelling narrative with pithy chess scenarios and brain-teasers, complete with diagrams and simple explanations. This responds to a market gap as chess is gaining popularity all over the world. Parents, teachers, and librarians agree chess is exploding among children, yet the vast majority of chess-related books for young people either are straight how-tos or use the chess world mainly as background. This book, and potential media, by contrast, allows budding chess enthusiasts to deepen their knowledge and pick up tips and lingo. Plus, it's hilarious, because, well… cats!

About the Authors:
The authors are a husband-and-wife team, each bringing unique expertise to this project. They recently moved from the Bay Area to EcoVillage at Ithaca, in New York State. **Ilona Bray** is all about words and stories and would rather play Scrabble than any other game—though she finds chess fascinating in its elusive brain-teasing. **Stephen Soong**, a self-described Chinese-American chess geek, taught himself the game (with the aid of a lot of books). At Brown University, he was on a team of students that competed at the U.S. Amateur Team Championships, where he managed to beat a computer. At one point his U.S. Chess Federation rating placed him in the top 5% of all rated chess players nationwide.



Again Behold the Stars

By Jessie Latimer

Quill & Flame Publishing along with Tantor Audio
August 11, 2026

Received a Kirkus Starred Review!

"Latimer's story is compulsively readable and endlessly unexpected. Themes of self-sacrifice, forgiveness, and growth make the story deeply affecting, such as when the Narrator says, 'Some sorrows can't be avoided. But maybe avoiding them is not the point. Maybe, just maybe, sorrow does not always mean The End.' The story sticks an ending that feels both impossible and inevitable, with character arcs strong enough to earn the novel a permanent place on the family bookshelf. A heartfelt adventure that will leave readers hungry for more." ***-Kirkus***

"Again Behold the Stars is thoughtfully crafted, cleverly told, and brimming with originality. With rich world building and vibrant characters, Latimer delivers a tale full of wit and whimsy that will whisk you away on an unforgettable adventure."
-Allie Millington, NYT Bestselling Author of *Olivetti*

Rigby Rhymes wants one thing out of life: a grand adventure, just like the ones in her favorite books. Preferably one involving secret passageways, magic spells, and dashing, long-haired guys with swords. Unfortunately, she lives in the real world, and no wizards have stopped by to tell her she's the Chosen One. So when she kicks the bucket before even learning to drive, her dreams of adventure die with her. But then, en route to the afterlife, an eccentric angel offers her a deal: if she agrees to enter the story-world of her favorite novel and change the plot enough to keep the brooding villain, Wick, from dying at the end, she'll get a second chance at life.

But when snoopy Wick discovers he's a fictional character and tears Rigby's copy of the book in half, he inadvertently stops time in the story-world and attracts the attention of the interdimensional Vices, a book-burning gang of Deadly Sins obsessed with eradicating happy endings. With the unlikely help of Wick (and her goody two-shoes fictional crush, Chance Golden), Rigby must return to the real world, seek a mysterious librarian called the Bookbinder, and repair the book before the Vices destroy the story-world--and Rigby's last chance at a grand adventure--forever.

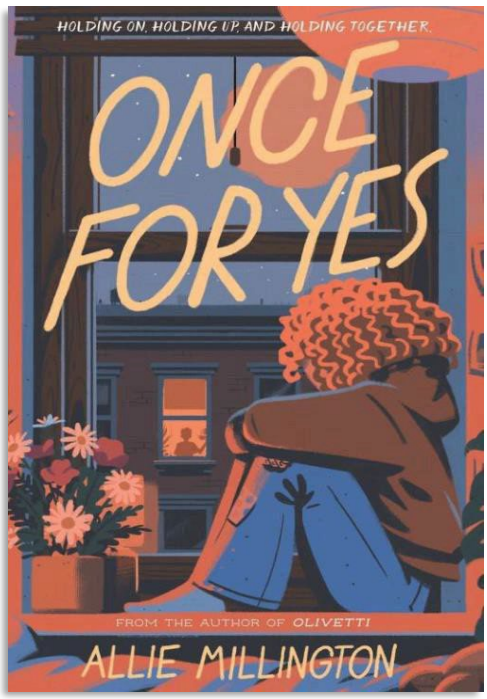
Jessie's debut is narrated by the self-aware voice of the book itself (similar to the narration style of TheBook Thief and A Series of Unfortunate Events). It's A NEVERENDING STORY for this generation

Jessie Fanczi Latimer is a writer and freelance editor living with her husband & young son in metro-Atlanta. She is a lover of books and killer of houseplants. As a child, she was constantly getting into trouble for reading when she was supposed to be doing other things. Jessie holds a BFA and MFA in Creative Writing from Reinhardt University in Waleska, Georgia, where she edited an edition of The James Dickey Review. She once lived in a bedroom with a bookshelf that opened to a secret passageway, and she loves sharing book reviews on her Bookstagram and Book Tok pages.www.jessielatimerbooks.com

ONCE FOR YES

By Allie Millington

Middle Grade - Feiwel & Friends - March 2025



The Odenburgh, an old apartment building made of brick and blunt opinions, is the last of its kind in a swiftly changing neighborhood. After years of putting up with people and their many problems, the Odenburgh knows there's no point in getting attached. They all just leave eventually. A truth that comes all too soon when the building is sold and slated for demolition, giving tenants a month to move out.

No one is more troubled by the news than eleven-year-old Prue, who refuses to leave her family's apartment. Not when it was the last place she lived with her sister Lina, before she lost Lina forever. When Prue launches a plan to save their home, the Odenburgh joins in—flickering lights, jamming elevators, triggering fire alarms—all to try and bring a building full of bickering residents together. In the process, Prue meets Lewis, an eccentric boy who lives across the street—and the only one who can help her discover the missing elements of her sister's story.

Heartfelt and bursting with a community of unique characters, *Once For Yes* is a testament to the endurance of love and the people we carry with us, wherever we go. Told from the unique vantage points of an ornery apartment building and a cast of quirky humans, ONCE FOR YES is a story about falling in love, the grief of goodbyes, and the people we carry with us, wherever we go.

Praise for ONCE FOR YES:

★ "a well-crafted read with a tragedy at its heartbreaking center and a constellation of moving parts that draw readers into its uniquely human anti-gentrification story." **-The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books**

About the Author:

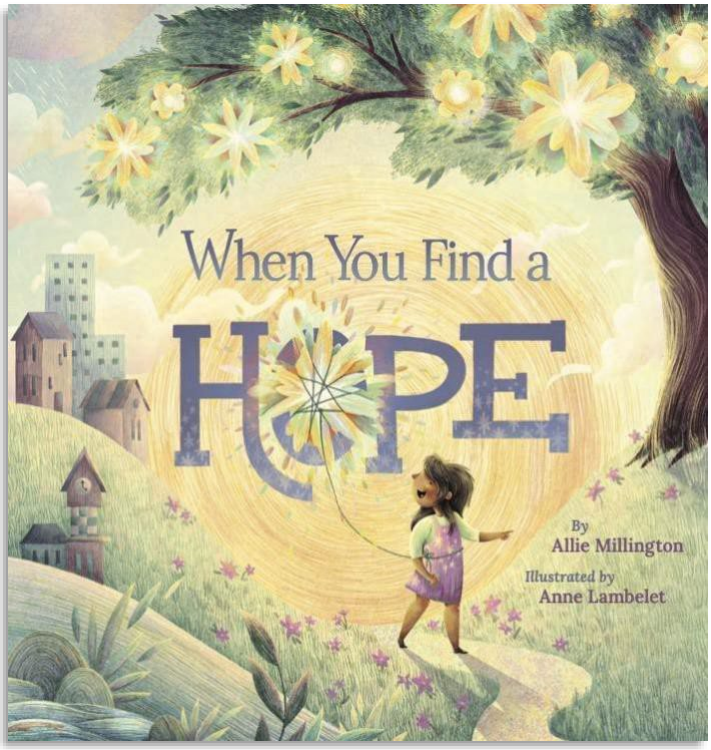
Allie Millington is an author, artist, and entrepreneur. She enjoys telling stories from unique, unexplored points of view and strives to share relatable truths through a quirky lens, all while bringing a balance of humor and heart. Allie's debut middle-grade novel, *Olivetti,* was an Indies Introduce selection, and an **instant USA Today and Indies bestseller**, and now an **New York Times bestseller** too. Her second novel, *Once for Yes* was praised as "wholly original and brimming with empathy" by *School Library Journal.* She is also the author of two picture books, *When You Find A Hope* and *When You Find A Question.* Allie lives near Atlanta with her family, a fluffy dog called Crumpet, and shelves full of curious findings. You can visit her on alliemillingtonbooks.com

When You Find a Hope

By New York Times Bestselling Author, Allie Millington

Picture Book – Worthy Kids/Hachette –

March 2025



Experience the improbable beauty of a shattered hope born anew in this magical tale about a young girl, a tree full of hopes, and the power of perseverance.

In this tale of unexplained wonder, there is a tree that grows hope from its branches. A curious girl visits the tree and plucks the largest, brightest hope she can find. Her hope can float, so she tethers it to her side and takes it with her everywhere. When the unimaginable happens and her hope is crushed, the girl pieces her hope back together and drags it along behind her until even the pieces are lost—or are they? Looking back, she finds that small trees have begun to sprout in her wake, the beautiful offerings of her now firmly rooted, thriving hope.

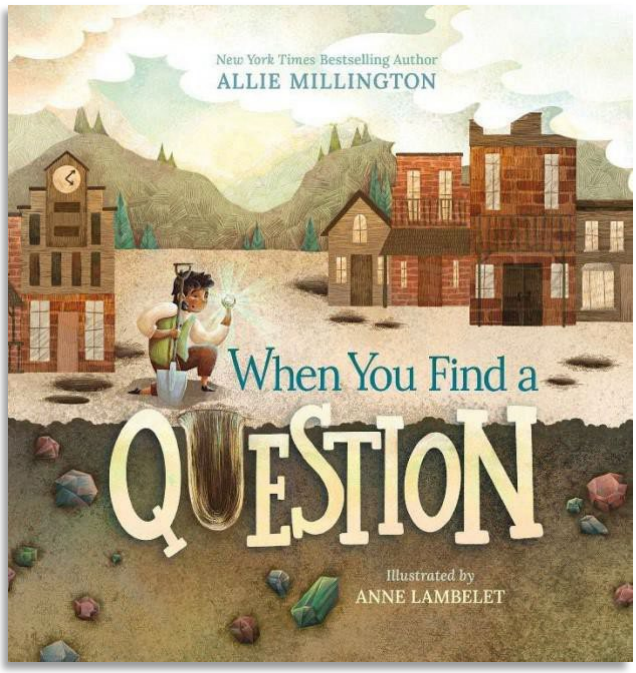
The first picture book from bestselling author Allie Millington (*Olivetti*), this moving story celebrates the importance of holding onto hope and the improbable beauty of a lost hope born anew.

About the Author: **Allie Millington** is an author, artist, and entrepreneur. She enjoys telling stories from unique, unexplored points of view and strives to share relatable truths through a quirky lens, all while bringing a balance of humor and heart. Allie's debut middle-grade novel, *Olivetti,* was an Indies Introduce selection, and an **instant USA Today and Indies bestseller**, and now an **New York Times bestseller** too. Her second novel, *Once for Yes* was praised as "wholly original and brimming with empathy" by *School Library Journal.* She is also the author of two picture books, *When You Find A Hope* and *When You Find A Question.* Allie lives near Atlanta with her family, a fluffy dog called Crumpet, and shelves full of curious findings. You can visit her on Instagram: @allienink or on her website at alliemillingtonbooks.com

When You Find a Question

By New York Times Bestselling Author, Allie Millington

Picture Book – Worthy Kids/Hachette - March 2026 release



Answers can teach us many things. But what if Questions can teach us even more?

There is a town where everyone digs for Answers, valuing them above all else. One day, a boy digs up something he's not seen before—a Question. Curious, but afraid of what others will think, he keeps his Question hidden.

But the more the boy wonders, the more his Question grows and grows, until finally he can't hold it in any longer.

The boy lets his Question out—and that's when his town changes forever.

Discover the value of boundless curiosity in this magical tale about the power of asking questions.

About the Author:

Allie Millington is an author, artist, and entrepreneur. She enjoys telling stories from unique, unexplored points of view and strives to share relatable truths through a quirky lens, all while bringing a balance of humor and heart. Allie's debut middle-grade novel, *Olivetti,* was an Indies Introduce selection, and an instant USA Today and Indies bestseller, and now an New York Times bestseller too. Her second novel, *Once for Yes* was praised as "wholly original and brimming with empathy" by *School Library Journal.* She is also the author of two picture books, *When You Find A Hope* and *When You Find A Question.* Allie lives near Atlanta with her family, a fluffy dog called Crumpet, and shelves full of curious findings. You can visit her on Instagram: @allienink or on her website at alliemillingtonbooks.com