

Minotaur Books
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352 Pages
Fiction / Thrillers
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Head Cases

John McMahon

Head Cases follows an enigmatic group of FBI agents as they hunt down a murderer seeking his own justice in this electrifying—and commercial—series debut.

Summary

Gardner Camden is a walking analytical brain with an affinity for riddles, puzzles, and codes. It makes him the perfect fit for the Patterns and Recognition (PAR) unit of the FBI, a team of five brilliant but misfit agents tasked with solving cold cases. Gardner's smart, but he's all business--except for his seven-year-old daughter and occasional visits to his elderly mother, he prioritizes his work and justice over everything else, no matter the cost. With rumors of PAR about to be disbanded, the team can't afford to make any mistakes.

A serial killer from one of Gardner's solved cases, presumed to be dead for over a decade, is found murdered, and then soon after, another body with a similar story. The mastermind murderer has left clues and riddles for Gardner and his team--a mathematician, a sniper and weapons expert, a computer analytics specialist, and their leader, a career agent--as they track him across the country. With the threat of PAR dissolving, Gardner must work to solve the riddles before it's too late.

McMahon's suspenseful and irresistible thriller confronts the scales of justices in the face of a twisted vengeance plot as this engaging cast of characters works together to stop a misguided vigilante.

Contributor Bio

The New York Times called JOHN MCMAHON'S debut novel, *The Good Detective* "pretty much perfect" and listed it among their "Top Ten Crime Novels of 2019." The book was a finalist for the 2020 Edgar Award and the ITW Thriller Award, both for Best First Novel. *Head Cases* is his fourth novel. John currently lives in Southern California with his wife, two kids and a rescue dog. He splits his time between crime writing and his day job in advertising.

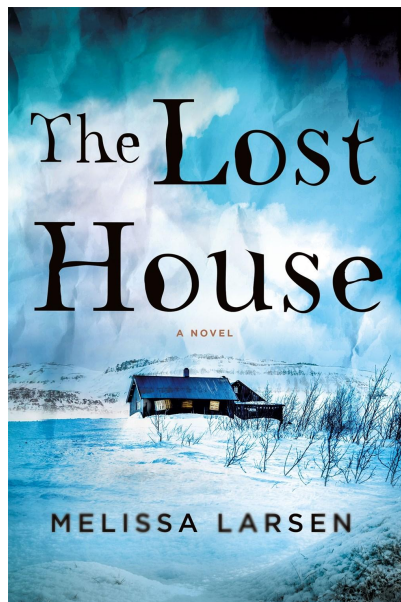
Quotes

"A taut, thrilling read."—Jess Lourey, Edgar-nominated author of *The Taken Ones* on *Head Cases*

"Everything this crime fiction-lover could want: gripping, twisty, and atmospheric, with a harrowing and intriguing plot, gorgeous prose, and fresh and compelling characters. I sincerely hope HEAD CASES is the beginning of a new series because I want more!" —Karen Dionne, author of the #1 international bestseller *THE MARSH KING'S DAUGHTER* on *Head Cases*

"[McMahon] tells his story with flair." —*New York Times* Book Review on *The Evli Men Do*

"McMahon plants devastating twists like carefully concealed land mines, but never allows the story line to come at the expense of plausibility." —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review) on *A Good Kill*



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The Lost House

A Novel

Melissa Larsen

In Melissa Larsen's *The Lost House* comes the mesmerizing story of a young woman with a haunting past who returns to her ancestral home in Iceland to investigate a gruesome murder in her family.

Summary

Forty years ago, a woman and her infant daughter were found buried in the Icelandic snow, lying together as if sleeping. Except the mother's throat was slashed and the infant drowned. The case was never solved, and there were no arrests, no convictions. Just a suspicion: the husband did it. When he took his son and fled halfway across the world to California, it was proof enough of his guilt.

Now, a year after his death, his granddaughter, Agnes, is ready to clear her grandfather's name. Still recovering from his death and her own devastating injury, Agnes is desperate to escape the shambles of her once-stable life—which is why she agrees to an interview on Nora Carver's popular true crime podcast. Agnes hops on a last-minute flight to the remote town of Bifröst, Iceland, where Nora is staying, where Agnes's father grew up, and where, supposedly, her grandfather slaughtered his wife and daughter.

But when a local girl goes missing the same weekend Agnes arrives, Agnes and Nora's investigation is turned upside down. Suddenly, everyone in the small Icelandic town is once again a suspect. Unearthing old and new truths alike, Agnes finds herself in a web of secrets that threaten the redemption she is hell-bent on delivering, as well as her life.

Set against the unforgiving landscape of remote Iceland, *The Lost House* is a chilling and razor-sharp thriller with twists that will leave you breathless.

Contributor Bio

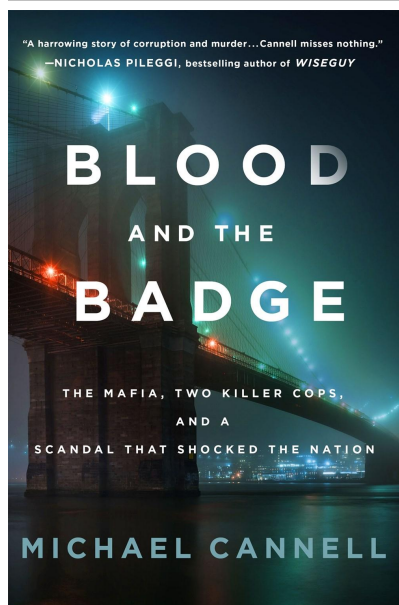
MELISSA LARSEN is the author of *Shutter*. She received her M.F.A. from Columbia University and her B.A. from New York University. When she isn't traveling somewhere to research her next novel—and somehow hurting herself in the process—she lives in New York City and teaches creative writing.

Quotes

"A chilling meditation on the human ramifications of the true crime industry... With this masterful novel, Larsen positions herself to become a giant of literary suspense."
—Danya Kukafka, bestselling author of *Notes on an Execution*

"A riveting story that's at once chilling and warmhearted and scary... A great read."
—Chris Pavone, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Two Nights in Lisbon*

"An atmospheric stunner of a novel, an addictive and deeply considered excavation of family secrets and silence." —Danielle Trussoni, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Puzzle Master*



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Blood and the Badge

The Mafia, Two Killer Cops, and a Scandal That Shocked the Nation

Michael Cannell

For the first time in forty years, former *New York Times* editor Michael Cannell unearths the full story behind two ruthless New York cops who acted as double agents for the Mafia.

Summary

No episode in NYPD history surpasses the depravities of Louis Eppolito and Stephen Caracappa, two decorated detectives who covertly acted as mafia informants and paid assassins in the Scorsese world of 1980s Brooklyn.

For more than ten years, Eppolito and Caracappa moonlighted as the mob's early warning alert system, leaking names of mobsters secretly cooperating with the government and crippling investigations by sharing details of surveillance, phone taps and impending arrests. The Lucchese boss called the two detectives his crystal ball: Whatever detectives knew, the mafia soon learned. Most grievously, Eppolito and Caracappa earned bonuses by staging eight mob hits, pulling the trigger themselves at least once.

Incredibly, when evidence of their wrongdoing arose in 1994, FBI officials failed to muster an indictment. The allegations lay dormant for a decade and were only revisited due to relentless follow up by Tommy Dades, a cop determined to break the cold case before his retirement. Eppolito and Caracappa were finally tried and then sentenced to life in prison in 2009, nearly thirty years after their crimes took place.

Cannell's *Blood and the Badge* is based on entirely new research and never-before-released interviews with mobsters themselves, including Sammy "the Bull" Gravano. Eppolito and Caracappa's story is more relevant than ever as police conduct comes under ever-increasing scrutiny.

Contributor Bio

MICHAEL CANNELL is the author of *A Brotherhood Betrayed: The Man Behind the Rise and Fall of Murder, Inc.*, and three other works of non-fiction. He has worked as an editor at *The New York Times* and contributed to *The New Yorker* and many other publications. He lives in New York City. A more complete catalog of his work may be found at michaelscannell.com.

Quotes

"Harrowing... Cannell misses nothing." —**Nicholas Pileggi, bestselling author of *Wiseguy* and co-writer of *Goodfellas***

"Cannell pulls back the veil to reveal law enforcement's most lurid chapter, an entwined tale of decorated detectives on the mafia payroll — a true account of police depravity unearthed with intensive reporting." —**Joe Pistone, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Donnie Brasco: My Undercover Life in the Mafia***



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forthcoming

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Wt

Chain Reaction

A Thriller

James Byrne

Dez Limerick, a man of many skills and a murky past, faces the impossible—a skilled, deadly opponent who anticipates his every move.

Summary

Desmond Aloysius Limerick ("Dez" to his friends and close personal enemies) is a man with a shadowy past, certain useful hard-won skills, and, if one digs deep enough, a reputation as a good man to have at your back. He was trained as a "gatekeeper"—he can open any door, keep it open as long as necessary, and control who does—and does not—go through. Now retired from his previous life, Dez still tries to keep his skills up to date.

Knocking around the country, picking up the occasional gig as a guitarist, Dez is contacted by a friend in urgent need of his musical skills. At his behest, Dez flies to the East Coast to a gig at the brand new massive complex, the Liberty Center. But he's barely landed before he finds himself in the midst of a terrorist attack, a group has taken over the whole center and thousands of hostage lives are in danger. With the semi-willing help of a talented thief, Dez takes on the impossible task of outfighting and outwitting a literal army. But that's just the beginning, as Dez learns he was actually lured there under false pretenses, by someone who knows more about Dez, his past and his skills, than any living person should.

Contributor Bio

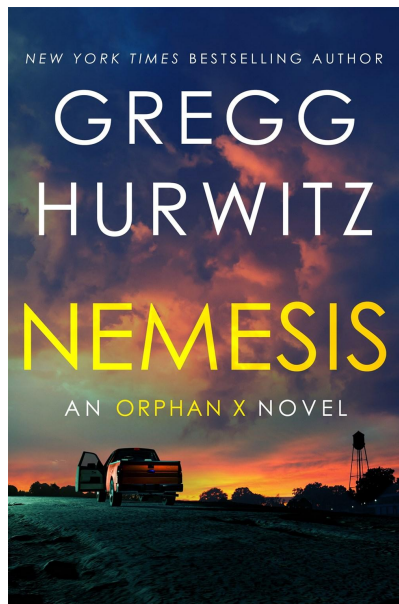
JAMES BYRNE has worked for more than twenty years as a journalist and in politics. He's the author of *The Gatekeeper* and *Deadlock*, the previous Dez Limerick thrillers. A native of the Pacific Northwest, he lives in Portland, Oregon.

Quotes

"A taut, explosive tale with high stakes and authenticity that kept me riveted." —Mark Greaney on *The Gatekeeper*

"My fav new series! Dez Limierick is brilliant, funny and hella deadly. Fans of Jack Reacher, Gray Man and Orphan X definitely need to check this out." —Lisa Gardner on *Deadlock*

"One of the most interesting, enigmatic, and coolest heroes to come across the written page." —Nelson DeMille on *The Gatekeeper*



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Nemesis

An Orphan X Novel

Gregg Hurwitz

In the latest explosive novel in this New York Times bestselling series, Evan Smoak, having shaped his life with a rigid set of rules, finds himself at odds with his oldest friend in the world, where principles are in conflict with honor—and everyone is the loser.

Summary

At one time Evan Smoak was a highly successful black ops assassin known as Orphan X, dedicated to a rigid set of operational rules. Now, even after breaking with the government program, going deep underground, and remaking his life, Smoak is dedicated to his assassin's Ten Commandments. But for the first time in his life, those principles have put him on a collision course with the man who might be his best friend in the world, Tommy Stojack.

Stojack, a gifted gunsmith who has created much of Evan's own weapons and combat gear, has apparently crossed one of Evan's sharply delineated lines. When Evan decides to go to his workshop and have it out with Tommy, Evan finds himself under attack by a group attempting to ambush and kill him. But, with all his training and skills, Evan is extremely hard to kill—and the dispute explodes into open warfare between him and Tommy. Now Evan has no choice, in his mind, than to track down and face down his only friend.

In the meantime, Tommy is honoring an old promise to an Army friend and goes to help his dead friend's son. In a depressed rural area, with conflicts flaring up, that son is partially responsible for the death of an innocent. And while Tommy is trying to keep him, and his friends, alive, Evan arrives, with vengeance in mind.

The scary thing? Evan isn't even the most dangerous threat to arrive on the scene.

Contributor Bio

GREGG HURWITZ is the author of the New York Times bestselling Orphan X novels. Critically acclaimed, his novels have been international bestsellers, graced top ten lists, and have been published in thirty-three languages. Additionally, he's sold scripts to many of the major studios, and written, developed, and produced television for various networks. Hurwitz lives in Los Angeles.

Quotes

Praise for *Lone Wolf*

"Gregg Hurwitz seems to have found a new gear as he kicks things up a notch, ramping up the action and tension to deliver the most fascinating and compelling Orphan X novel to date. Think Jason Bourne on steroids... *Lone Wolf* is one of the year's first must-read thrillers." —*The Real Book Spy*

"The series has always been a blend of Batman, the Equalizer, and Vince Flynn's Mitch Rapp, and *Lone Wolf* reinforces why it continues to be great nine novels in. Newcomers to Evan's adventures should feel fine starting here before diving into the others." —*First Clue*

"*Lone Wolf* is a crushingly brilliant piece of fiction." —*Best Thriller Books*

"Awesome and propulsive...Big Bourne and Reacher energy." — *The New York Times* on *Dark Horse*

"A stellar series...and the stories get better with each instalment." — *Associated Press* on *Into the Fire*



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Cold as Hell

A Haven's Rock Novel

Kelley Armstrong

New York Times bestselling author Kelley Armstrong returns to Haven's Rock in *Cold as Hell* as Casey Butler hunts down a dangerous killer during a deadly blizzard.

Summary

Haven's Rock is a sanctuary town hidden deep in the Yukon for those who need to disappear from the regular world. Detective Casey Duncan and her husband, Sheriff Eric Dalton, are starting a family now that they've settled into their life here. As Casey nears the end of her pregnancy, she lets nothing, including her worried husband, stop her from investigating what happens in the forbidden forest outside the town of Haven's Rock.

When one of the town's residents is drugged and wanders too close to the edge of town, she's dragged into the woods kicking and screaming. She's saved in the nick of time, but the women of the town are alarmed. Casey and Eric investigate the assault just as a snowstorm hits Haven's Rock, covering the forest. It's there they find a frozen body, naked in the snow. With mixed accounts of the woman's last movements, the two begin to question who they can trust—and who they can't—in their seemingly safe haven.

Contributor Bio

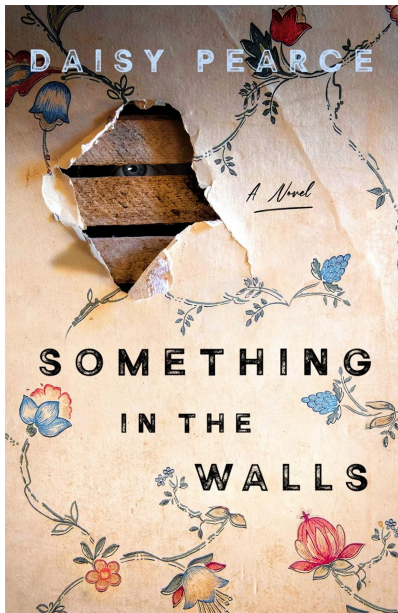
KELLEY ARMSTRONG graduated with a degree in psychology and then studied computer programming. Now she is a full-time writer and parent, and she lives with her husband and three children in rural Ontario, Canada. She is the author of the Rockton mystery series featuring Detective Casey Duncan, which begins with *City of the Lost*, and the novel *Wherever She Goes*. She is the editor of the young adult anthology *Life Is Short and Then You Die*.

Quotes

"Excellent...Armstrong gives her lead a complex mystery to solve, while vividly evoking the eerie isolation of the setting." *–Publishers Weekly* (starred review) on *Murder at Haven's Rock*

"Armstrong...has become one of Canada's best crime authors." *–The Globe and Mail* on *Murder at Haven's Rock*

"Armstrong's intriguing and atmospheric time-travel mystery will appeal to readers who enjoy historical detail." *–Library Journal* (starred review) on *The Poisoner's Ring*



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Something in the Walls

A Novel

Daisy Pearce

A child psychologist is called to a remote village to examine a teenage girl who claims she's possessed by a witch, in this chilling and spellbindingly tense novel of psychological suspense.

Summary

She's looking for the truth but something else is staring back.

Meet Alice, a thirteen-year-old girl claiming to be haunted by a witch. Enter Mina, a freshly minted child psychologist grappling with her own demons yet determined to heal Alice's troubled soul. But instead of improving, Alice's behavior becomes increasingly inexplicable and intense. Bathanel, the English town where Alice lives, has a deep history of superstition and witchcraft. They believe there is evil in the world. They believe there are ways of . . . dealing with it. And they don't expect outsiders to understand.

As Mina races to uncover the truth behind Alice's condition, the dark cracks of Banathel begin to show. Mina is desperate to understand how deep their sinister traditions go—and how her own past may be the biggest threat of all.

Unbearably tense, utterly propulsive, and studded with folklore and horror, *Something in the Walls* is perfect for anyone who loves *Midsommar* and *The Haunting of Hill House*.

Contributor Bio

DAISY PEARCE was born in Cornwall but currently lives in Sussex, UK. In 2015 she won the Chindi Authors Short Story Competition. Her short stories have previously been published in *One Eyed Grey* and performed at the Small Story Cabaret. She has also written about mental health issues for XOJane. She is the author of *The Silence* and *The Missing*. Specialist subjects include: ghosts, poltergeists and the perfect red lipstick.

Quotes

"A deliciously creepy and twisty chiller that fans of *The Conjuring* and Stephen King will love." – Bestselling author Mark Edwards

"Daisy Pearce takes readers on a haunting ride through small town folklore, unresolved trauma, and fear with shifting alliances and shocking twists that blur the line between truth and lies. Unexpected, mesmerizing, and totally original, *Something in the Walls* delivers breathless thriller pacing and horror vibes in a story with a deep emotional core that will keep you guessing until its wild end." -#1 International Bestselling author Darby Kane



An Island of Suspects

A Brittany Mystery

Jean-Luc Bannalec

Internationally bestselling author Jean-Luc Bannalec's Commissaire Georges Dupin and his team head to Breton paradise in *An Island of Suspects*.

Summary

An August heat wave has all of Brittany in its grasp, and the only chance to cool down for Commissaire Georges Dupin is his daily swim in the ocean. Until one morning his routine is interrupted because a body has been found in the harbor with clear signs of foul play. Patric Provost was from one of the long-established families on the island of Belle-Île, Breton's biggest and most famous island. Provost owned and operated a company dealing in an island delicacy: the famous Belle-Île-sheep. As Bretons say, the sheep season themselves while they're eating, grazing on salty, iodine-rich meadows, full of wild herbs, directly by the ocean. In Dupin's culinary ranking, this lamb comes right behind entrecôte. And that's saying something.

Dupin has barely stepped foot on the utopia-like island before it comes to light that Provost was not well liked. And someone was blackmailing him for one million euros, the deadline for payment the night before Provost's body was caught on a buoy. Everyone on the island has a motive. Anyone could be the killer.

Contributor Bio

JEAN-LUC BANNALEC lives in Germany and the southerly region of the French department of Finistère. In 2016 he was given the award Mécène de Bretagne. Since 2018 he has been an honorary member of the Académie Littéraire de Bretagne. He is also the author of *Death in Brittany*, *Murder on Brittany Shores*, *The Fleur de Sel Murders*, *The Missing Corpse*, *The Killing Tide*, *The Granite Coast Murders*, *The King Arthur Case*, *The Body by the Sea*, and *Death of a Master Chef*.

Quotes

Praise for the Commissaire Georges Dupin Series

"Delicious Brittany mysteries... If this isn't heaven, it's close enough." —*The New York Times*

"[Bannalec] lets his love and knowledge of Brittany shine through in his books." —*The Washington Post*

"Perfect for fans of Louise Penny or Mark Pryor." —Shelf Awareness

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Finlay Donovan Digs Her Own Grave

Elle Cosimano

From *New York Times* bestseller and Edgar-Award nominee Elle Cosimano, comes *Finlay Donovan Digs Her Own Grave*—the hugely anticipated next installment in the fan-favorite Finlay Donovan series.

Summary

Finlay Donovan and her nanny/partner-in-crime Vero have not always gotten along with Finlay's elderly neighbor, Mrs. Haggerty, the community busybody and president of the neighborhood watch. But when a simple call to a plumber turns into the discovery of a dead body in her backyard, Mrs. Haggerty needs their help.

The police take Mrs. Haggerty in for questioning and, though she swears she's innocent, it's clear to everyone she's keeping a secret . . . but whose? With her house now an active crime scene, she's released from custody with nowhere to go. Her concerned grandson, Brendan, an aspiring politician, doesn't have room in his one-bedroom apartment for her and appeals to Finlay to let her stay at her place until the investigation is over.

Finlay and Vero have no interest in getting involved in another murder case—or sacrificing either of their bedrooms so they'd have to share. After all, they've dealt with enough murders over the last four months to last a lifetime and they both would much rather share their beds with someone else. But when the focus of the investigation widens to include Mrs. Haggerty's neighbors, Finn and Vero are left with little choice but to uncover the woman's secrets before the police start digging up theirs. Desperate to clear his grandmother's name before his upcoming campaign for local office, Brendan Haggerty makes Finlay and Vero an offer that seems too tempting to refuse.

Contributor Bio

ELLE COSIMANO is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author, an International Thriller Writers Award winner, and an Edgar Award nominee. Elle's debut novel for adults, *Finlay Donovan Is Killing It*, kicked off a witty, fast-paced contemporary mystery series. Cosimano lives with her husband and two sons in Virginia.

Quotes

"Fresh, heartfelt and witty, *Finlay Donovan Jumps the Gun* is a twisty page-turner, and its relatable heroine Finlay Donovan is irresistible!"—Janet Evanovich

"Refreshing, funny and bright, these are wonderfully escapist novels."—Charlaine Harris

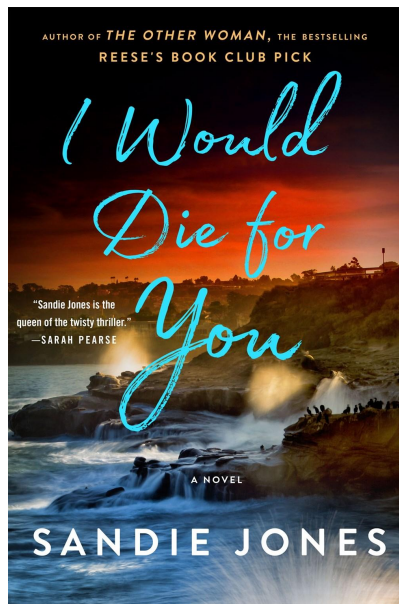
"This series is simply spectacular and always delightful! The perfect blend of mystery and romcom, and I'm ready to follow Finlay wherever she goes!"—Ali Hazelwood

"This series is magical! I'm in awe of Elle Cosimano. Every book lover in the world should be reading Finlay Donovan."—Christina Lauren

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I Would Die for You

Sandie Jones

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Reese's Book Club Pick *The Other Woman* and *The Guilt Trip* comes an electrifying new novel.

Summary

Now: Nicole Forbes lives a quiet life in a small seaside Californian town with her husband and daughter. She is not expecting a writer to knock on her door asking for her personal insight into the downfall of the biggest British band of the 1980s—unveiling the threads of a life she put behind her years ago. The same day, her daughter goes missing and the school claims her aunt picked her up . . . but she doesn't have an aunt. Convinced of a link between the two, Nicole is forced to revisit long-abandoned memories from her past to protect everything she now holds dear.

1986: Sixteen-year-old Cassie is obsessed with the hottest band in London, Secret Oktober. Harboring an intense crush on the leading man, Ben Edwards, she will do anything she can to capture his attention among the throngs of groupies at the band's scandalous backstage parties. But when Ben discovers her older sister Nicole singing at a local bar one night, he can't help but feel drawn to her, setting in motion a collision course that could tear their family apart.

Infused with the sounds of the 80s, this thrilling new novel from the inimitable Sandie Jones will captivate her readers, as she explores what the frenzy of fandom can lead to in this shocking blockbuster.

Contributor Bio

SANDIE JONES (she/her) has worked as a freelance journalist for more than twenty years and has written for publications including the *Sunday Times*, *Woman's Weekly*, and *Hello* magazine. She lives in London with her husband and three children. *The Other Woman* was her debut novel and a Reese Witherspoon Book Club pick.

Quotes

Praise for *The Other Woman*:

"One of the most twisted and entertaining plots."—Reese Witherspoon

"A perfect beach read."—Kristin Hannah

"A twisty, deliciously fun read."—Sarah Pekkanen, bestselling co-author of *An Anonymous Girl*

"Whiplash-inducing."—*The New York Times Book Review*

"Such fun. You'll cheer [Emily's] chutzpah."—*People*

"This thriller will hit close to home."—Refinery29

"Excellent . . . Jones delivers a tightly coiled story."—Associated Press



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White King

A Novel

Juan Gómez-Jurado

Antonia Scott returns in the explosive climax in this sequel to the international bestselling book and streaming series, *Red Queen*.

Summary

Antonia Scott has an unusually gifted forensic mind, whose ability to reconstruct crimes and solve baffling murders is legendary. She's the lynchpin of a top-secret project, *Red Queen*, created to work across borders and behind the scenes to solve the most devious and dangerous crimes, those that are beyond the skills of the regular police forces.

But the *Red Queen* project is under attack on all fronts. Across Europe, its agents are murdering each other and cases from the past, long believed resolved, are rearing their deadly heads again. At the center of it is the mysterious Mr. White, who has been weaving a web around Antonia for a very long time. He is as smart and capable as her but, unlike her, he's a psychotic killer who has isolated Antonia Scott. Jon Gutierrez, Antonia's protector and the only person she trusts, has been kidnapped. Antonia's husband has been killed and her remaining family is in hiding. With Jon's life at stake, Mr. White gives her a seemingly innocuous challenge: solve three crimes and bring the perpetrators to justice. The only way to keep Jon alive is to play Mr. White's game, but can even Antonia win a game when she can only see part of the board?

Contributor Bio

JUAN GÓMEZ-JURADO is an internationally bestselling author of thrillers whose award-winning Antonia Scott trilogy has sold nearly three million copies in Spanish, is published in twenty-one countries, and is the subject of an Amazon streaming series scheduled to debut world-wide in February 2024. He lives in Madrid, Spain

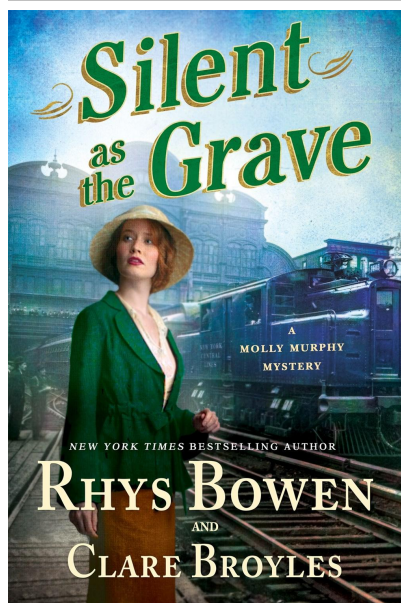
Quotes

"Pacing of the breakneck variety. Short chapters, funny asides, lethally potent descriptions: They all contribute to a frenetic page-turning momentum... you'll have great fun reading it." —*The New York Times Book Review*

"Suspenseful and terrifying...a bit of Clarice Starling and a lot of Lisbeth Salander make Antonia a thoroughly compelling character." —*Booklist* (starred review) on *Red Queen*

"I loved it from page one...Antonia never fails to fascinate and enlighten." —*Globe and Mail* (Toronto)

"*Red Queen* is one of the most extravagantly entertaining novels I've ever read." —A.J. Finn, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Woman in the Window*



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Silent as the Grave

A Molly Murphy Mystery

Rhys Bowen, Clare Broyles

Retired Detective Molly Murphy Sullivan goes undercover in the next book in the *New York Times* bestselling series from Rhys Bowen and Clare Broyles.

Summary

With a newborn and two children, Molly Murphy Sullivan is tackling motherhood. Her husband, Daniel, is off to work in Washington as Easter break begins in New York. Her dear friend and writer, Ryan O'Hara, invites Molly and the children to visit the set of his new film and watch the excitement. When one of the actresses can't remember her lines, Molly's adopted daughter, Bridie, is called to replace her in the scene. Turns out she's a natural and is asked to star in the rest of the film. Molly is skeptical about leaving Bridie alone on set, but her great friends, Sid and Gus, offer to chaperone her.

The studio is determined to produce the best film ever made. They'll do anything to get the best shot, like pretending to tie Bridie to real train tracks. But soon, their special effects start to malfunction. After a few mishaps where no one is hurt, Bridie is nearly killed when a stunt goes awry. With rumors of a Hollywood feud, Molly believes these malfunctions are methods of sabotage. Molly refuses to let anyone mess with her daughter and decides to go undercover on set to investigate the burgeoning film war. Once again, Rhys Bowen and Clare Broyles deliver an engaging mystery full of vibrant historical details and thrilling escapades featuring one of mysteries most beloved sleuths.

Contributor Bio

RHYS BOWEN is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Anthony Award--and Agatha Award--winning Molly Murphy mysteries, the Edgar Award--nominated Evan Evans series, the Royal Spyness series, and several stand-alone novels including *In Farleigh Field*. Born in England, she lives in San Rafael, CA.

CLARE BROYLES, who is Rhys Bowen's daughter, is a teacher and a musician. She has worked as a composer and arranger in the theater for both Arizona Theater Company and Childsplay and was nominated for an Arizona 'Zoni' theater award. Clare is married to a teacher and they have three children.

Quotes

"If you are one of the few on the planet yet to discover Molly Murphy, created by Rhys Bowen, now is the time to take the plunge. Molly is sassy, saucy, brave and smart."
—*The Huffington Post* on the Molly Murphy Mysteries

"Bowen and Broyles, who never disappoint, take a deep dive into the world of early-1900s New York." —*Kirkus Reviews* on *All That is Hidden*

"A treat." —*Library Journal* on *The Ghost of Christmas Past*



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The Library Game

A Secret Staircase Novel

Gigi Pandian

In *The Library Game*, *Tempest Raj* and *Secret Staircase Construction* are renovating a classic detective fiction library that just got its first real-life case.

Summary

There's a body in the library--and everyone is a suspect.

Secret Staircase Construction is busier than ever, and Tempest Raj couldn't be happier the family business is finally getting the recognition it deserves. The construction company brings magic into homes through the smallest of details, like hidden key placements, larger trick bookshelves, or secret passageways--all pulled from the client's favorite mystery novel. The crew's latest renovation is turning a residential home into Gray House, a public library celebrating classic detective fiction.

The local summer fair is around the corner, and as part of the festivities Gray House is hosting a murder mystery dinner and literary themed escape room. But when the rehearsal for the dinner ends with a real dead body, which promptly disappears, Tempest isn't sure what to make of it.

Using her grandfather's Scottish and Indian food creations for fuel, Tempest Raj and the rest of the crew must uncover who is making beloved classic mystery plots come to life in a deadly game. Multiple award winning author Gigi Pandian masterfully weaves wit and warmth in the Secret Staircase Mysteries. Readers will delight in never knowing what Secret Staircase Construction will uncover behind the next door.

Contributor Bio

GIGI PANDIAN is the *USA Today* bestselling and multiple-award-winning author of the Secret Staircase mysteries, inspired by elements from her own family background. She is also the author of the Accidental Alchemist mysteries, the Jaya Jones Treasure Hunt mysteries, and more than a dozen locked-room-mystery short stories. Pandian has won Agatha, Anthony, Lefty, and Derringer Awards, and was a finalist for an Edgar Award. A breast-cancer survivor, she lives with her husband in Northern California.

Quotes

Praise for *The Secret Staircase Mysteries*

"Wildly entertaining." –*The New York Times Book Review*

"Super-fun." –*The Boston Globe*

"Delightful." –*Reader's Digest*

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Splinter Effect

A Novel

Andrew Ludington

In this action-packed debut, time traveling archaeologist Rabbit Ward maneuvers through the past to recover a long-lost, precious menorah hiding out in ancient Rome.

Summary

Smithsonian archaeologist Rabbit Ward travels through time on sponsored expeditions to the past to secure precious artifacts moments before they are lost to history. Although exceptional at his job, Rabbit is not without faults. In a spectacular failure twenty years ago, he lost both the menorah of the second temple and his hot-headed mentee, Aaron. So, when new evidence reveals the menorah's reappearance in 6th century Constantinople, Rabbit seizes the chance for redemption.

But from the moment he arrives in the past, things start to go wrong. Rabbit quickly finds out that his prime competition, an unlicensed and annoyingly appealing "stringer" named Helen, is also in Constantinople hunting the menorah. But that's only the beginning. The oppressed Jewish population of the city is primed for revolution, Constantinople's leading gang seems to have it out for Rabbit personally, and someone local is interested enough in the menorah to kill for it.

As the past closes in on him and his previous failures compound, will Rabbit be able to recover the menorah before it's once again lost in time? With new and old dangers alike hiding behind every corner, time might just be up for Rabbit's redemption--and possibly his life.

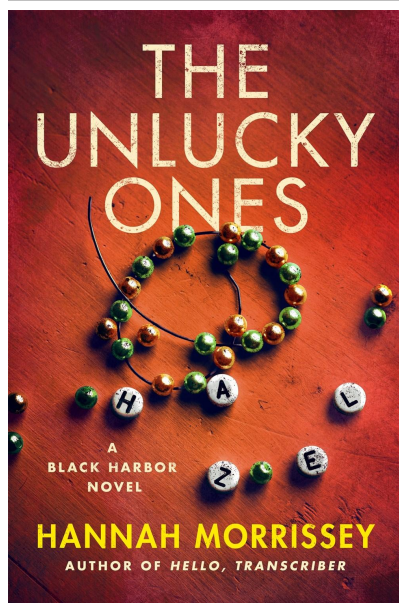
Contributor Bio

ANDREW LUDINGTON writes transportive adventure stories intended to make you forget your commute. He graduated from Kenyon College with a BA in English Literature and lives in Evanston, IL where he moonlights as a technologist for Northwestern University. *Splinter Effect* is his first novel.

Quotes

"Imaginative, fast-paced, and clever, Andrew Ludington's *Splinter Effect* is a first-rate time-traveling thriller." -Susanna Calkins, author of the award-winning Lucy Campion historical mysteries and the Speakeasy Mysteries

"*Splinter Effect* has all the fun of Indiana Jones and the rapid-fire thriller pacing of James Rollins. Rabbit and Aaron are so much fun. Read this now!" -Jonathan Maberry, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Cave 13* and *Kagen the Damned*



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The Unlucky Ones

Hannah Morrissey

A police transcriber-turned-novelist returns to Black Harbor to help solve the case of her ex-husband's murder in the newest riveting Black Harbor mystery by acclaimed author Hannah Morrissey.

Summary

Black Harbor is a tinderbox. Temperatures and violent crime have both risen to all-time highs, a new drug razes the city, and the scene to which Sergeant Nikolai Kole responds is anything but a rote homicide. In the back of a clubhouse lies a body wrapped in garbage bags and doused in bleach.

It isn't just *any body*. Tommy Greenlee, the ex-husband of Kole's former lover, Hazel, has been shot several times and left for dead. What's more...the killer left what appears to be a calling card.

Elsewhere, Hazel is haunted by her memories of Black Harbor. Lured there after eight years, she returns to find out who killed Tommy and why. Now back in Kole's orbit, their love affair can hardly pick up where it left off. They both used each other to their own ends before, which begs the question: would they do it again?

With the atmosphere growing more volatile by the second, Hazel and Kole call a truce, and as they work together to solve this murder, they will not only unearth Black Harbor's deepest, darkest secrets—they'll each have to face their own.

Contributor Bio

HANNAH MORRISSEY studied English and Creative Writing at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Her first novel, *Hello, Transcriber*, was inspired by her experience as a police transcriber. She lives in Wisconsin with her husband and two pugs.

Quotes

Praise for The Black Harbor Mystery Series

"An intriguing mix of police procedural, gothic potboiler, and psychological thriller."
 —*Kirkus*

"An unflinching look at two damaged people trying to do right in a world full of wrong, told in scalpel-sharp prose with a poet's eye for detail." —Riley Sager

"...enthraling." —Samantha Downing

"An electrifying and unnerving exploration of privilege, justice, and the strength it takes to tackle a city's grit and glitter in one fell swoop." —Tessa Wegert

"A propulsive look at family and secrets and desire...gorgeously written." —Hank Phillippi Ryan



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Long Night Moon

Brian Panowich

Brian Panowich's follow up to *HARD CASH VALLEY* brings us back to McFalls County, Georgia, with a gritty and timely journey of self-redemption.

Summary

Martin "Cookie" Cook Junior has been living like a ghost. Ever since he was released from a twelve-year prison sentence for drug addiction, he's been haunted by his past. He's become a recluse, only trusting a small circle of people into his life. But he would do anything for them so when his father is accused of sexually assaulting a young woman at a club, he runs to the rescue

The local police deputy is willing to turn a blind eye if Cookie helps him out with a suspicious errand, but when it turns out to be a setup with terrible consequences, Cookie turns to Georgia Bureau of Investigations agent Dane Kirby for help. With lyrical prose and a talent for bringing to life the sometimes twisty path of justice in McFalls County, Georgia, Brian Panowich once again delivers a crime story full of heart, with equal parts tragedy and hope.

Contributor Bio

BRIAN PANOWICH is an award winning author, a Georgia firefighter, and a father to four incredible children. His first novel, *Bull Mountain*, was a *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize finalist, ITW Thriller Award winner for Best First Novel, Southern Book Prize winner, and a finalist for both the Anthony and the Barry Awards. He lives in Georgia with his family.

Quotes

"A moving, deeply felt take on Bonnie and Clyde whose inexorable trajectory still allows room for plenty of twists." —*Kirkus Reviews* on *Nothing But the Bones*

"Brian Panowich goes all-in with *Nothing But the Bones*, a novel of all that is human: love and friendship, lust and sin, sacrifice and murder. There is profound evil in this story but also enduring goodness, and while not everything is as it appears on the surface, befitting a very satisfying crime story, what is clear from the beginning is that this is a terrific, mesmerizing read that satisfies from beginning to end." —Viet Thanh Nguyen on *Nothing But the Bones*

"The plotting is skilled, as is the sleuthing, and the landscape is stunning. But it's the hard-jawed characters, with their tough talk and scarred souls, who really get under your skin." —*The New York Times* Book Review on *Hard Cash Valley*



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Another Fine Mess

Lindy Ryan

The *Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires* meets *Buffy* by way of Charlaine Harris in this dark and delightful sequel to *Bless Your Heart*.

Summary

Making sure dead things stay buried is the family business.

For over a hundred years, the Evans women have kept the undead in their strange southeast Texas town from rising. But sometimes the dead rise too quick—and that's what left Lenore Evans, and her granddaughter Luna, burying Luna's mother, Grace, and Lenore's mother, Ducey. Now the only two women left in the Evans family, Luna and Lenore are left rudderless in the wake of the most Godawful Mess to date.

But when the full moon finds another victim, it's clear their trouble is far from over. Now Lenore, Luna, and the new sheriff—their biggest ally—must dig deep down into family lore to uncover what threatens everything they love most. The body count ticks up, the most unexpected dead will rise—and force Lenore and Luna to face the possibility that the undead aren't the only monsters preying on their small town.

Crackling with rollicking mystery, humor, heart, and horror, *Another Fine Mess* brings the unforgettable Evans women back around.

Contributor Bio

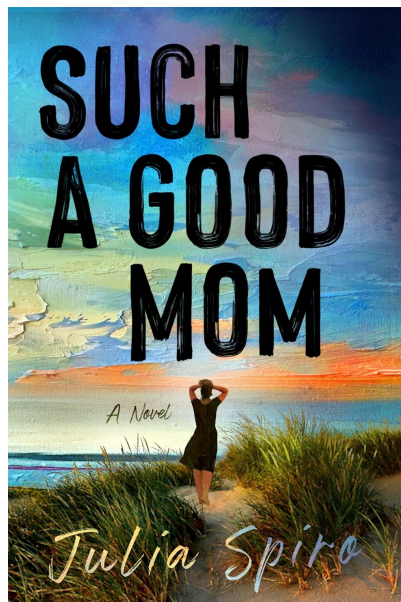
LINDY RYAN is a Bram Stoker Awards®-nominated and award-winning editor, author, director, and professor. Ryan served from 2020 to 2022 on the Board of Directors for the Independent Book Publishers Association and was named one of Publishers Weekly's 2020 Star Watch Honorees. Currently, she is the co-chair of the Horror Writers Association Publishers Council. Ryan is a regular contributor at Rue Morgue, Booktrib, and LitReactor. Her articles and features have appeared on NPR, BBC Culture, Irish Times, Daily Mail, and more. She is an active member of the Horror Writers Association (HWA), the International Thriller Writers (ITW), and the Brothers Grimm Society of North America. In 2022, she was named one of horror's most masterful anthology curators and has been declared a "champion for women's voices in horror" by Shelf Awareness (2023).

Quotes

Praise for *Bless Your Heart*:

"Such a brilliant blend of banter and dread. Lindy Ryan is on fire with this book." -Josh Malerman, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Bird Box* and *Daphne*

"Ryan's compelling horror/mystery hybrid is bursting with serious scares, humor, and Southern charm. Fans of Grady Hendrix and Rachel Harrison will appreciate." - *Library Journal*



Such a Good Mom

A Novel

Julia Spiro

Bestselling author Julia Spiro's *Such a Good Mom* is the perfect beach read. In this standalone mystery, a murder on Martha's Vineyard rocks one new mom to the core.

Summary

With a healthy newborn baby, a devoted husband, a successful career, and a busy life on Martha's Vineyard, Brynn Nelson should be the happiest she's ever been. But Brynn is struggling. Her husband, Ross, grows more distant by the day, and the challenges and exhaustion of postpartum make Brynn feel like she's slowly losing pieces of herself to motherhood. Pieces that she might never get back.

But it's summer on the Vineyard, a beacon for wealthy visitors, and a place so beautiful that it seems immune to tragedy and crime. Except for locals, like Brynn, who know all too well that tragedy can strike at any point. And this time, it hits close to home when a friend of the family is found washed ashore. Dead. And Brynn's already hectic life is turned upside down when Ross is arrested for the crime.

Left reeling with more questions than answers, Brynn's only path forward is to find out who really killed Cecelia Buckley, even if it means it was her husband. She's not sure who she's able to trust anymore. And with dizzying, endless cycle of sleepless nights, diapers, and bottles, Brynn's not even sure she can trust herself. She's not sure of anything anymore, but she won't stop until she finds the truth.

Bestselling author Julia Spiro is known for writing characters readers instantly connect to. With *Such a Good Mom*, Spiro brings the real and layered Martha's Vineyard to life through the eyes of a new mom trying to get her family out of the eye of the storm that is a murder investigation.

Contributor Bio

JULIA SPIRO lives year-round on Martha's Vineyard with her partner, their son, and their two rescue dogs. She previously worked in the film industry for nearly a decade, before deciding to leave Hollywood to pursue her dream of writing books. *Such a Good Mom* is her third book.

Quotes

Advance Praise for *Such a Good Mom*

"A rich, suspenseful exploration of marital trust, the myth of the "perfect" mom, and the costs of having it all." –Emma Brodie

Praise for Julia Spiro's Novels:

"The combined forces of lust, envy, conspiratorial scheming and townie resentment are churning just under the surface at all times." –*Vineyard Gazette* on *Someone Else's Secret*

"Spiro brings Martha's Vineyard to life with delicious precision. . . If the walls in these summer estates could talk, they would say, 'Trust no one.'" —Jessica Knoll

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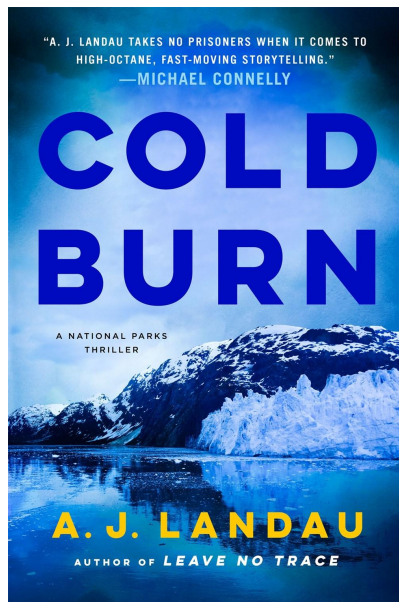
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Cold Burn

A Novel

Jon Land, Jeff Ayers, A. J. Landau

Agent Michael Walker returns when multiple deaths at Glacier Bay National Park are just the first steps in a potential global disaster.

Summary

In Alaska's Glacier Bay National Park, a frozen woolly mammoth is uncovered by a geological survey team. When all of them are found dead at the site of the thawed-out carcass, National Park Service ISB special agent Michael Walker is called in to investigate.

In Florida's Everglades National Park, FBI special investigator Gina Delgado traces the murder of an environmental science intern back to another U.S. Geological Survey team's ongoing experiments that are decimating the fragile ecosystem.

Beneath the icy waters of Alaska's Elfin Cove, the crew of a stranded Los Angeles class attack submarine is wiped out by a mysterious contagion, inexplicably causing their lungs to freeze.

The link between these apparently disparate events lies in a deadly, prehistoric microbe that killed the mammoth the same way it did the USGS survey team in Glacier Bay and the crew members of the submarine. A microbe that a rogue billionaire is desperate to attain, and a Russian strongman will do anything to weaponize to achieve even greater, wide-ranging power. Fighting a battle on several fronts—militarily, intellectually, and biologically—Walker and Delgado are running out of time to stop a devastating attack that would reshape the entire world.

Contributor Bio

A. J. LANDAU is the pseudonym for two authors, Jon Land, the award-winning, bestselling author and co-author of more than fifty books, and Jeff Ayers, reviewer, former-librarian, and author. Land lives in Providence, Rhode Island, and Jeff Ayers lives in Seattle, Washington.

Quotes

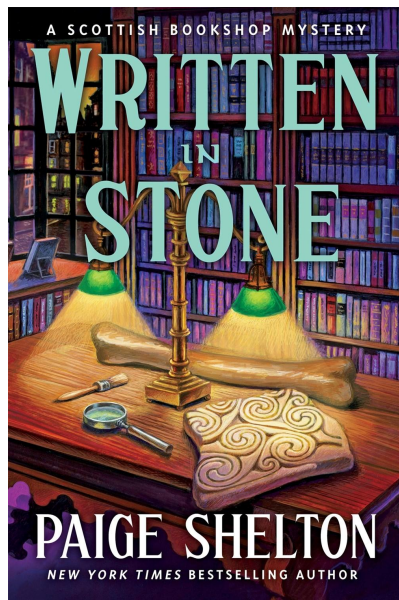
Praise for *Leave No Trace*

"*Leave No Trace* is an expertly crafted gut-punch thriller. The action leaves you aghast, always guessing and very glad you read it. A.J. Landau takes no prisoners when it comes to high octane, fast moving storytelling." —Michael Connelly, creator of *Bosch* and *The Lincoln Lawyer*

"A terrific thriller that includes fascinating research about our magnificent U.S. National Parks. Fact and fiction combined to make an excellent read." —Karin Slaughter, *New York Times* and #1 international bestselling author

"I barely had a chance to breathe while reading *Leave No Trace*, it was that exciting. The pacing is lightning speed and the expertise of the characters fascinating and completely believable. Bravo to A. J. Landau for pulling off a timely, pulse-pounding thriller!" —Tess Gerritsen

"An action-packed, coast-to-coast thrill ride, *Leave No Trace* will leave you breathless." —Brad Meltzer, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author



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Written in Stone

A Scottish Bookshop Mystery

Paige Shelton

The tenth installment in the cozy mystery series featuring amateur sleuth Delaney Nichols, set in a specialty bookshop in Edinburgh called The Cracked Spine

Summary

When Delaney wins a special Hidden Door Festival invitation to artist Ryory Bennigan's studio, she isn't sure quite what to expect. What she finds is an elusive fellow obsessed with the Picts—complete with his own versions of their blue tattoos and vibrant red hair—recreating the stones they left behind. She also meets a visiting paleontologist, Dr. Adam Pace, from the University of Kansas attempting to sell an artifact that might just explain what the Picts' language really sounded like.

Or at least that's what he claimed the artifact was for. Before the deal can close and Ryory can get a closer look at it, Dr. Pace is found dead.

With the police dragging their feet in the investigation, Delaney takes it upon herself to dig into Dr. Pace's past. Her research goes murky as she quickly discovers Pace's shady background—selling fake dinosaur bones and running into some 3D-printing trouble back in Kansas. Could his past have come back to bite him in Edinburgh? And what does his questionable background mean for the mysterious Pictish artifact he was trying to sell to Ryory? Delaney will have to dust off her magnifying glass to uncover the truth behind this case... or risk becoming a pile of bones herself.

Contributor Bio

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

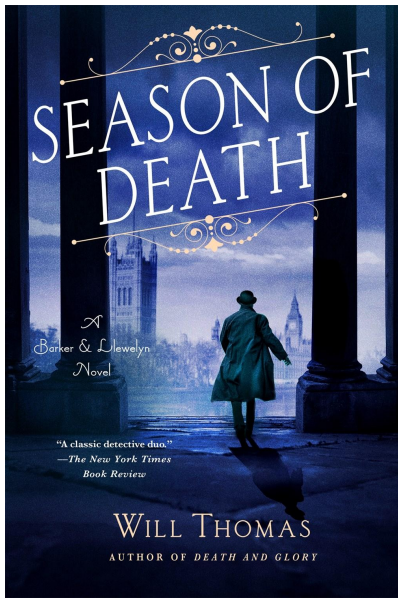
Quotes

"Suspenseful....Shelton easily keeps us turning pages." —*New York Journal of Books* on *The Burning Pages*

"Danger, intrigue, and adventure combine in this quirky-fun whodunit!" —*Woman's World* (best new books) on *The Burning Pages*

"Historical Burns references add spice to a complex series of intertwined mysteries." —*Kirkus Reviews* on *The Burning Pages*

"Engrossing....Cozy fans will be enchanted." —*Publishers Weekly* on *The Burning Pages*



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Season of Death

Will Thomas

In late Victorian England, private enquiry agents Cyrus Barker and Thomas Llewelyn find themselves in the middle of the deadly chaos when powerful forces align to take over London's criminal underworld.

Summary

Private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker, along with his partner Thomas Llewelyn, has a long, accomplished history - he's worked with all aspects of society, from the highest (including the Crown and the government) to the lowest (various forces in London's underworld). He's been the target of murder attempts, character assassination, bombings and attacks upon his closest associates but never has he and his agency partner Thomas Llewelyn faced such destruction and potential disaster.

The sudden collapse of a railway tunnel in the East End of London kills dozens and shuts down services all over the city. Meanwhile, a mysterious beggar calling herself "Dutch" guides Barker and Llewelyn to an attempt by a powerful aristocrat to take over London's criminal underworld. With a missing heiress and a riot at a women's shelter acting as distractions designed to stop the duo from getting to the truth, Barker must relentlessly fight to reach the trust while Llewelyn wonders how a simple beggar woman can be the catalyst for such destruction.

Contributor Bio

WILL THOMAS is the author of the critically acclaimed Cyrus Barker and Thomas Llewelyn series, including *Some Danger Involved*, *Fatal Enquiry*, *Lethal Pursuit*, *Fierce Poison*, *Heart of the Nile*, and most recently, *Death and Glory*. He lives in Oklahoma.

Quotes

Praise for *Heart of the Nile*

"Steadfast, brave, resourceful, witty (Llewelyn is, anyway)—these two are fascinating to watch and great fun to be with. For guts and honor, they can hold their own with any team of Victorian detectives." —*Wall Street Journal*

"An engaging immersion in a colorful era, plus a mystery!" —*Kirkus Reviews*

"An exceptionally entertaining series, jumpacked with Victorian arcana and 19th-century London history, anchored by the quick wit and pithy observations of narrator Llewelyn." —*Bookpage*

"With a sharp eye for detail, author Will Thomas adds background colour by weaving strategically placed irony through Thomas Llewelyn's whimsical narration...a rewarding, fast-paced mystery where the unravelling is anything but transparent." —*Historical Novels Review*