

# Polis Books



# Agora Books



## 2023 Catalog

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# HEAD CLEANER

## David James Keaton

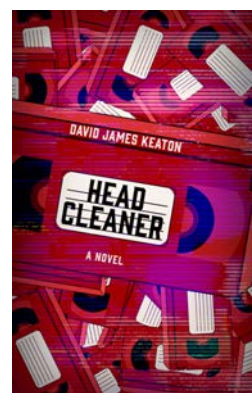
Fiction/Horror/Speculative

Publication Date: January 11, 2023

\$17.95 / \$23.99 CAN • Trade Paperback • 336 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 978-951709-94-5

Rights Available: World



### Praise for *Head Cleaner*

"A nonstop thrill ride blending science fiction, horror, and a lot of humor. For readers who enjoy Chuck Palahniuk and Lauren Beukes." -*Library Journal*

"I felt like this fun, fast, crazy sci-fi romp around the VHS industry was made to be injected directly into my Gen X veins. Keaton has written a true and original page turner, and I recommend it to everyone" -**Amber Sparks**, author of *And I Do Not Forgive You*, named a Best Book of 2020 by *The Washington Post* and NPR

**A hugely original blend of thriller, science fiction, and horror that takes our love of nostalgia to task for its morbid obsessions with dead media and dead-end jobs: *Clerks* meets *Black Mirror* (with a little *Groundhog Day* and *Russian Doll* thrown in for good measure**

The last Blockbuster video store in the United States is hanging on by a thread. And after a crazy night attempting to track down a lost VCR rental to collect the record-setting and internet-famous late fee, three employees, idealistic Eva, cinephile Jerry, and their tyrannical manager Randy, discover that this machine may actually have the power to change the endings of popular films, which, depending on the historical basis of the film, might also be changing the real world around them.

Or could this just be an elaborate, increasingly deadly prank?

When they begin receiving videotapes and voicemails seemingly depicting their deaths, Eva, Jerry, and Randy scramble to keep the VCR from falling into the wrong hands. And as one action-packed evening begins to seemingly repeat itself (or does it?), scores are settled and unwanted confessions begin to fly, until a Final Girl finally unravels a grand psychological experiment orchestrated at the highest levels of a crumbling social media empire.

David James Keaton is the author of three collections of short stories, including *FISH BITES COP! Stories to Bash Authorities*, which was named the 2013 Short Story Collection of the Year by *This Is Horror*, and *Stealing Propeller Hats from the Dead*, which received a Starred Review from *Publishers Weekly*. He is also the author of three novels, *The Last Projector*, *Pig Iron*, and *She Was Found in a Guitar Case*. He is the co-editor, along with Joe Clifford, of *Hard Sentences: Crime Fiction Inspired by Alcatraz*, and the editor of *Dirty Boulevard: Crime Fiction Inspired by the Songs of Lou Reed*. He teaches composition and creative writing at Santa Clara University in California and can be found on Twitter @spiderfrogged.

# LOTERÍA

## Cynthia Pelayo

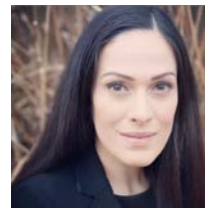
Fiction/Horror (World English, Audio): February 21, 2023

\$17.99 / \$23.99 CAN

Trade Paperback • 335 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 978-1-957957-06-7

Rights available: World English, audio



### PRAISE FOR CYNTHIA PELAYO'S CHILDREN OF CHICAGO

ONE OF THE "SUMMER READS GUARANTEED TO MAKE YOUR HEART THUMP AND SKIN CRAWL" — *The New York Times*

ONE OF THE "MUST-READ BOOKS FOR SUMMER 2021" — *The Chicago Tribune*

NOTABLE MENTION "THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR; CRIME FICTION 2021" — *CrimeReads*

**Back in print! Award-winning author of *Children of Chicago* Cynthia Pelayo's acclaimed short story collection *Lotería*, now with added illustrations and new bonus stories!**

The Mexican board game of Lotería is a game of chance – similar to bingo. However, in Lotería instead of matching up numbers on a game board, players match up images.

There are 54 cards in the Lotería game, and for this short story collection you will find one unique story per card based on a Latin American myth, folklore, superstition, or belief – with a slant towards the paranormal and horrific. In this deck of cards you will find murderers, ghosts, goblins and ghouls. This collection features creatures and monsters, vampires, werewolves and more.

Many of these legends existed long before their European counterparts – passed throughout the Americas via word of mouth, collected just like the tales the Brothers Grimm. These are indeed fairy tales – Latin American fairy tales – but with a horrifying slant.

**Cynthia "Cina" Pelayo** is an two-time Bram Stoker Award and Elgin Award nominated poet and author of CHILDREN OF CHICAGO. She is the author of Lotería, Santa Muerte, The Missing, Poems of My Night, and Into The Forest And All The Way Through. She is a Doctoral Candidate in Business Psychology at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Cina was raised in inner city Chicago, where she lives with her husband and children. Find her online at [www.cinapelayo.com](http://www.cinapelayo.com) and on Twitter @cinapelayo.

# THE SHOEMAKER'S MAGICIAN

Cynthia Pelayo

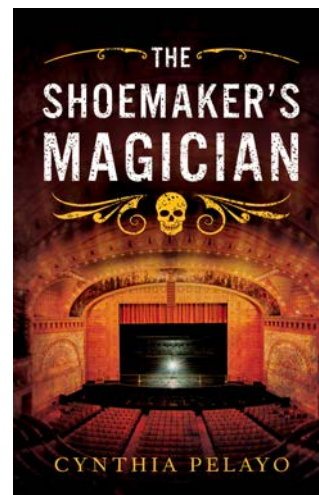
Fiction/Thriller

Publication Date: March 21, 2023

\$27.99/\$36.99 CAN

Hardcover • 350 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 1-978-1-957957-10-4



## PRAISE FOR CHILDREN OF CHICAGO

ONE OF THE "SUMMER READS GUARANTEED TO MAKE YOUR HEART THUMP AND SKIN CRAWL" — *The New York Times*

WINNER OF THE INTERNATIONAL LATINO BOOK AWARD GOLD MEDAL

BRAM STOKER NOMINEE FOR BEST NOVEL

"Wonderfully eerie...has ambition to spare." — *The Chicago Tribune*

"Pelayo masterfully ratchets up the tension and the scares. Robert McCammon fans will be pleased."  
— *Publishers Weekly (Starred Review)*

"With superior worldbuilding, a relentless pace, a complex heroine, and a harrowing story that preys off of current events as much as its well-developed monster, this is a stellar horror novel that fires on all cylinders, from the first page through to its horrible conclusion." — *Library Journal (Starred Review)*

Paloma has been watching the Grand Vespertilio Show her entire life. Grand, America's most beloved horror host showcases classic, low-budget and cult horror movies with a flourish, wearing his black tuxedo and hat, but Paloma has noticed something strange about Grand, stranger than his dark make-up and Gothic television set.

After Paloma's husband, a homicide detective, discovers an obscure movie poster pinned on a mutilated corpse on stage at the Chicago Theater, she knows that the only person that can help solve this mystery is Grand. When another body appears at an abandoned historic movie palace the deaths prove to be connected to a silent film, lost to the ages, but somehow at the center of countless tragedies in Chicago.

The closer Paloma gets to Grand she discovers that his reach is far greater than her first love, horror movies, and even this film. And she soon becomes trapped between protecting a silent movie that's contributed to so much death in her city and the life of her young son.

Cynthia "Cina" Pelayo is an International Latino Book Award winning and three-time Bram Stoker Awards® nominated poet and author of CHILDREN OF CHICAGO, LOTERIA, SANTA MUERTE, THE MISSING, and POEMS OF MY NIGHT, which was also nominated for an Elgin Award. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from Columbia College, a Master of Science in Marketing from Roosevelt University, a Master of Fine Arts in Writing from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and is a Doctoral Candidate in Business Psychology at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. Cina was raised in inner city Chicago, where she lives with her husband and children. Find her online at [www.cinapelayo.com](http://www.cinapelayo.com) and on Twitter @cinapelayo

# BREAKFALL

Zhanna Slor

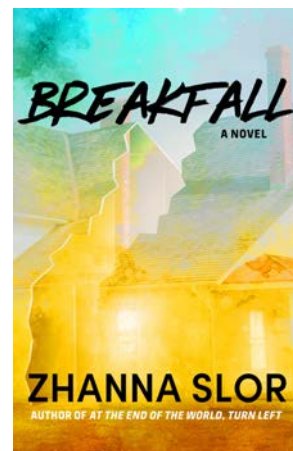
Fiction/Suspense

Publication Date: April 4, 2023

\$27.99 / \$36.99 CAN • Hardcover • 336 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 9781957957-05-0

Rights Available: World, audio



## Praise for AT THE END OF THE WORLD, TURN LEFT

"It's rare to find a debut mystery crafted with such elegance and authenticity."—NPR

"This wonderful debut is a match for patrons who enjoyed Zadie Smith's *White Teeth* or Rachel Zhong's *Goodbye, Vitamin*. It's also a must for anyone who has ever had a needy Grandma who anticipates death every morning (this character alone is worth the read)."—Booklist (Starred Review)

**From the acclaimed author of AT THE END OF THE WORLD, TURN LEFT comes a novel that is part unlikely romance and part murder mystery, set inside a subculture of martial arts, and an exploration of sexual desire, motherhood, and marriage in modern times.**

**One wrong decision. One death. One missing person. One clear suspect.**

Mina Banksy, a 32-year-old crime writer and mother of a rambunctious three-year-old, is still reeling from a recent divorce and what she calls an "early midlife crisis" when two Chicago detectives show up at her door looking for her friend, Dylan. Or, more accurately, the van that she allowed him to register in her name, because Dylan, a friend from her former Jiu Jitsu gym, Open Guard, is a recently recovered addict and convicted felon. Turns out, according to the cops, Dylan is not so reformed after all: the van has been under some suspicion for criminal activities, and she may be in trouble for it. Flustered by the stressful meeting, calls Matthew, a married cop who she'd had an affair with six months earlier, causing a scandal at their close-knit gym as well as instigating her divorce. Matthew—who she believed was still in Arizona with his wife and daughter—lets it slip he's back in Chicago and separated from his wife, thus allowing them to restart their tumultuous sexual relationship.

When Mina tries to track down Dylan at the rehab where he lives, she finds him dead, the nature of his injuries making it clear that the murderer is someone well-versed in Jiu Jitsu. When Mina's ex-husband also turns up missing, every member of the gym, current and past, becomes a suspect, bringing to surface yet again the scandal of Mina's affair the previous summer. Turns out the detectives were right all along... all roads lead back to Mina.

Zhanna Slor was born in the former Soviet Union and moved to the Midwest in the early 1990s. She has been published in many literary magazines, including *Ninth Letter*, *Another Chicago Magazine*, and *Michigan Quarterly Review*, as well as contributing to the popular news publication *The Forward*. Her debut novel, *At the End of the World, Turn Left*, was named by *Booklist* as one of the "Top Ten Crime Debuts" of the last year, and by *CrimeReads* as one of the "Ten Great Novels to Read This April." She and her husband, saxophonist for Jazz-Rock fusion band *Marbin*, live in Milwaukee with their young daughter. Find her online at [zhannaslor.com](http://zhannaslor.com) and on Twitter at [@SlorZhanna](https://twitter.com/SlorZhanna)

# TENKILL

## Shannon Kirk

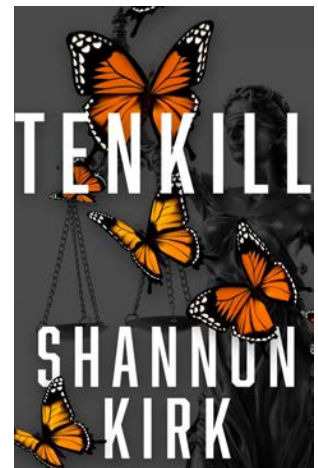
Fiction/Thriller

Publication Date: April 11, 2023

\$27.99/\$35.99 CAN • Hardcover • 352 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 1-978-951709-91-4

Rights Available: World, audio



“TENKILL is dazzling in its voice, its pace, its setting, and its determination to use the law as a force for good. I hope Kirk is already working on a sequel.”

—Joseph Finder, *New York Times* bestselling author of *House on Fire*

"(An) intriguing legal thriller...fast pacing and plot twist...Greta and crew are capable of sustaining a sequel."

—*Publishers Weekly*

**A surrealist and captivating legal thriller which finds an e-discovery lawyer on the run from her own firm after uncovering proof of corruption that has shaped generations.**

Greta Vinet Seville, E-Discovery Counsel and Deputy General Counsel at the international law firm of Coarse & Cotton, finds herself on the run from her own firm. Using a thin argument that she is authorized to investigate suspected corruption and possible high crimes amongst the named partners, Greta absconds with firm data to conduct her investigation—holing up at a former client’s off-the grid farm to figure out her next move—that is until the firm tracks her down, claiming to have only her safety in mind, forcing her to flee again, this time enlisting a diverse cast of characters to help her comb through the mountains of data she’s taken from the firm.

This off-the-books, rag-tag legal team includes a genius litigation technology professional, a possibly psychopathic (but effective) summer associate, an AP investigative reporter, a classical painting art restorer, Greta’s philosophy professor brother, and Greta’s love interest, a compliance attorney at Tenkill. Romance, action, technology law, corruption are all explored, and married with Greta’s personal backstory about a renegade, vigilante aunt who’s been on the run for decades and fighting her own politically-charged battles.

They create a make-shift war room in a historic Salem, Massachusetts home, and their pursuit of more evidence leads them in action-packed chases around Boston...and a massive hospital—Tenkill—that is at the center of the corruption. But this investigation is like no other Greta has ever conducted, as people who have millions to lose and careers to ruin have and will kill to keep what she seeks to uncover secret. For fans of early John Grisham, but with an all-female-led cast, and a stunning final twist that shakes political ideology.

Shannon Kirk is the multiple award-winning, international bestselling author of *METHOD 15/33*, which was optioned for film, sold in over 20 languages, and garnered critical acclaim, including three starred reviews and the coveted placement on *School Library Journal*’s 2017 “Best Adult Books for Teens,” as well as *VIEBURY GROVE*, *GRETCHEN, IN THE VINES*, and *THE EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY OF VIVIENNE MARSHALL*. Find her online at [shannonkirkbooks.com](http://shannonkirkbooks.com).

# NO MAN'S GHOST

Jason Powell

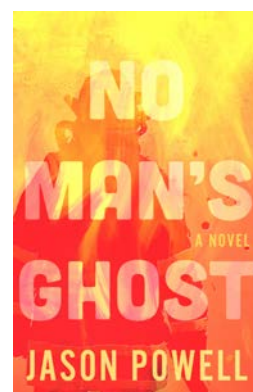
Fiction/Thriller

Publication Date: April 18, 2023

\$27.99 / \$36.99 CAN • Hardcover • 320 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 9781957957081

Rights Available: World, audio



**It's a FDNY firefighter's first—and possibly last—week on the job. A riveting and authentic debut thriller set in the world of firefighting—from an author who has lived the life.**

Charles Davids is a probationary firefighter working his first week out of the academy. For Charles, quietly battling his lack of confidence is a daily challenge as his new officers coach him on life as a New York City firefighter. The men love to tease and prank the new guy, but when it comes to drilling and training, they're clear that the job is no joke. As is said in the fire service: "let no man's ghost return to say my training let me down."

Unfortunately for Charles, his first week is the same week that Alan Johnson, an unstable and soon-to-be-ex husband, gets kicked out and comes up with the idea to report fake fires at his wife's apartment every night. Alan laughs at the thought of her being awakened nightly by sirens and horns—if he can't sleep in their apartment, why the hell should she? But after days of crying wolf, Alan decides that fake fires aren't enough...

Set on the hot summer streets of NYC and building to a fiery conclusion, *No Man's Ghost* is a vibrant and thrilling look at the people who keep a city safe—and the ones who want to watch it burn.

**Jason Powell** is an NYC firefighter and author whose work has been published in *Slate*, and numerous online writing outlets. When he isn't at the firehouse or at a desk, he can be found cooking his famous steak Alfredo linguini as featured on *Rachel Ray Everyday*, or lost in the pages of a novel. *No Man's Ghost* is his first novel. Find him online at [authorjasonpowell.com](http://authorjasonpowell.com) and on Twitter @JayPowell1625.



# THE GIRL IN THE MIST

## Vinaya Bhagat

Fiction/Suspense

Publication Date: May 2, 2023

\$16.95/\$22.99 CAN • Trade Paperback • 320 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 978-951709-90-7

Rights Available: World (excl. India), audio



**"MOST ANTICIPATED CRIME BOOKS OF THE YEAR" — *CrimeReads***

**"A fun and engaging plot, with a stimulating and gratifying read, and looks to be on the way to be a bestseller." — *The Free Press Journal***

**"Takes readers on ride between realms of known, and unknown, merging myth with folklore and reality and crime." — *Deccan Chronicle***

**"A chilling ride into a world where folklore merges with crime fiction." — *Times of India***

**It lurks in the shadows. It lives in your worst nightmares.  
It feeds on your deepest fears.  
And it's coming to get you.**

When she loses her parents in a car accident in Boston, Diya Mathur's world collapses around her. As far as she knows, she's a young woman alone in the world now, her parents having been her only living relatives. Until a mysterious letter arrives from India, claiming to be from her extended family that she'd never heard of. Suddenly, Diya has a chance at being part of a family again. She decides to take time out of school and go to India to meet her newfound family. But soon after Diya arrives there is a spate of what appear to be animal attacks around her and her family.

As bodies and tragedies pile up around her, Diya finds out more about the secrets her family is hiding, including the curse of the Chakwa—a shapeshifting trickster with the feet of a large beast—which legend has it, has been responsible for tragedies in her family for centuries. Diya's no longer sure that her parents' car crash was an accident. Will the monster that ruined her parents' life now destroy her happiness? Or will she manage to defeat it at its own game? With the help of her newly discovered friends and family, Diya must fight not just the monster from her nightmares, but also make sense of a fast-unravelling web of lies that makes up her life.

Vinaya pursued a career in IT, until a fateful winter day in Dallas, Texas when she met with a near-fatal car crash. During her lengthy recovery, from wounds of body and mind, she once again found solace in writing and picked up the pen with renewed focus. Her short stories have been published in anthologies and have been short-listed in national and international writing competitions. She lives in Bengaluru, India. Find her at @VinayaBhaghat1.

# KILLING IT

Mike Bockoven

Fiction/Horror

Publication Date: May 23, 2023

\$28.00 / \$36.99 CAN • Hardcover • 336 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 978-1-957957-19-7

Rights available: World, audio



## Praise for *Fantasticland*

"In clear, conversational prose, *Fantasticland* creates its world--and then carefully, horribly dismantles it. Mike Bockoven has made something at once merciless, terrifying, and curiously humane; but you should probably not go there after dark." —**Zack Handlen, the AV Club**

"FantasticLand [is] totally up our alley. And with its setting of a theme park that's been ravaged by a hurricane, it couldn't be more timely." —**Dread Central**

**For a comedian, “killing it” used to mean you had the audience in the palm of your hand. Now, it has an altogether different—and far darker—meaning...**

From the twisted and imaginative mind of Mike Bockoven, author of the cult classic FANTASTICLAND, comes a wholly original and witty new novel of terror, perfect for fans of FROM DUSK TIL DAWN and SHAUN OF THE DEAD.

Since the late 1980's, The Square had been one of the most important clubs in New York for the alt-comedy scene. But before that it was something much darker and is now a place where evil lingers, waiting for a chance to spill blood.

After a night of *killing* on stage, four comics find themselves in a desperate situation as the spirits of the past come out to play, and a fight for laughs becomes a fight for survival in the most unlikely of places.

Mike Bockoven writes thriller/horror novels while his kids are in gymnastics class or at piano lessons. He lives with his wife, Sarah, two daughters, Emaline and Tessa and an exceptionally dumb wiener dog names Sherlock. You can find him at his website, [mikebockoven.com](http://mikebockoven.com), on Facebook ([facebook.com/Bockovenbooks](https://facebook.com/Bockovenbooks)) and on Twitter @mikebockoven. He is the author of FANTASTICLAND. He lives in Grand Island, Nebraska.

# THE HOUSEMATE

Sarah Bailey

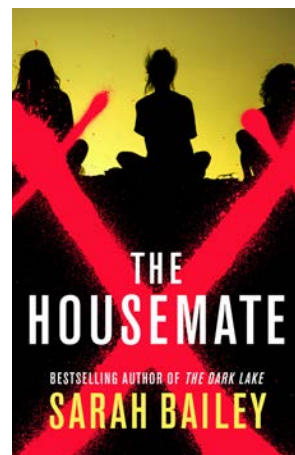
Fiction/Suspense

Publication Date: February 28, 2023

\$26.99/\$35.99 CAN • Hardcover • 336 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 1-978-951709-96-9

Rights Available: NA, audio (NA)



"Australian crime at its best." —**J.P. POMARE, author of *Call Me Evie***

"Each new twist in the story skillfully balances bombshell revelations and believability, in a crime that feels achingly familiar, yet shocking at the same time."

—**JACQUELINE BUBLITZ, author of *Before You Knew My Name***

**The first standalone thriller from the award-winning writer of the bestselling Gemma Woodstock trilogy.**

Three housemates. One dead, one missing and one accused of murder. Dubbed the Housemate Homicide, it's a mystery that has baffled Australians for almost a decade. Melbourne-based journalist Olive Groves worked on the story as a junior reporter and became obsessed by the case. Now, nine years later, the missing housemate turns up dead on a remote property. Olive is once again assigned to the story, this time reluctantly paired with precocious millennial podcaster Cooper Ng.

As Oli and Cooper unearth new facts about the three housemates, a dark web of secrets is uncovered. The revelations catapult Oli back to the death of the first housemate, forcing her to confront past traumas and insecurities that have risen to the surface again.

What really happened between the three housemates that night? Will Oli's relentless search for the murderer put her new family in danger? And could her suspicion that the truth lies closer to home threaten her happiness and even her sanity? A riveting, provocative thriller from the bestselling author of *The Dark Lake*, *Into the Night* and *Where the Dead Go*.

Sarah Bailey is a Melbourne-based writer with a background in advertising and communications. She has two young children and is currently the Managing Partner of advertising agency VMLY&R in Melbourne. Her internationally award-winning Gemma Woodstock trilogy includes *The Dark Lake*, winner of the Ned Kelly Award for Best First Fiction and the Davitt Award for Best Debut, followed by *Into the Night* and *Where the Dead Go*. Follow her at @SarahBailey1982.

# THE WITCH TREE

Wayne Johnson

Fiction/Suspense

Publication Date: June 20, 2023

\$16.95 / \$22.99 CAN

Trade Paperback • 352 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 9781957957-07-4

Rights Available: World, audio



## Praise for THE RED CANOE

“A powerful story of brutal violence and righteous vengeance.” —**William Kent Krueger**

“Heart-warming and gut-wrenching. A nuanced, superbly written justice thriller laced with unflinching grit and social commentary.” —**Booklist (Starred Review)**

"A powerful story of Indigenous people who are abused but also determined to battle brutality and corruption themselves when they can't rely on the authorities." —**Library Journal (Starred Review)**

**Pulitzer Prize nominee Wayne Johnson crafts a gripping action story with a vein of star-crossed romance, in this riveting standalone prequel to his acclaimed novel THE RED CANOE**

In this prequel to 2022's THE RED CANOE, Buck, aka Michael Fineday, aka Red Deer is on his way to track down his wayward brother in the Twin Cities, when he's trapped in a snowstorm and rescued by Sally, a girl who is fighting her own demons. Though intrigued by Sally, most of Buck's time is spent trying to unravel his family's involvement with an elaborate racket which has recently gotten his cousin Ruben and his half-brother Bear killed.

Eli, Buck's surviving brother, is up to his neck in the racket that involves insurance fraud and stolen vehicles, and unwilling to tell Buck the truth. The racketeer's kingpin thinks Eli has something they want—which is both his death warrant and his salvation. The problem is, Eli doesn't know exactly what the something is or how to find it; his only clue is a phrase in Anishinaabe language Ruben scrawled on the wall of his room before he was killed, and it's up to Buck to track it down.

Meanwhile, Sally and Buck grow closer through the shared wounds of their difficult pasts; and Buck teaches her some Ashinaabe language and cultural practices. Strangely, all roads—both Sally's and Buck's—lead to the Witch Tree, an important spiritual reservoir in Native American religion, and where he is forced to face the many facets of his own identity and find a way for them both to heal.

**Wayne Johnson** is the multiple Pulitzer Prize-nominated author of THE RED CANOE, the acclaimed Paul Two Persons Mysteries DON'T THINK TWICE and SIX CROOKED HIGHWAYS, a thriller, THE DEVIL YOU KNOW, and many other works of fiction and nonfiction. Of mixed Native and European descent, he grew up in southern Minneapolis, and in the north lakes region of Minnesota on the White Earth and Red Lake Reservations. He currently resides in Salt Lake City. Find him online at [waynejohnsonauthor.com](http://waynejohnsonauthor.com)

# A PRAYING MANTIS

RV Raman

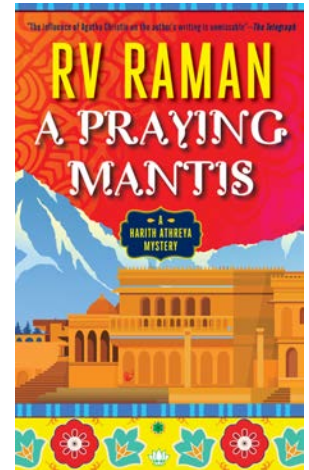
Fiction/Traditional/Mystery

Publication Date: June 27, 2023

ISBN: 978-1-957957-00-5

\$26.00 / \$33.99 CAN • Hardcover • 320 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

Rights: World, excl. UK, audio



## PRAISE FOR THE HARITH ATHREYA SERIES by RV RAMAN

**"A modern-day take on the classic locked-room murder mystery, transported to a remote mansion high in the hills of southern India." —*The New York Times***

**"Raman continues to channel Agatha Christie in book two of his India-based Harith Athreya series. For fans of Golden Age mysteries, as well as those who love the venerated Inspector Ghote series by H.M.F. Keating." —*Booklist***

**"Enjoyable...Raman does a good job weaving in the mystery with a possibility of the supernatural, all while juggling a large cast of characters. Armchair travelers and fans of traditional mysteries should take note." —*Publishers Weekly***

**"Reminiscent of Agatha Christie mysteries, this first in the Harith Athreya series is a sure hit for readers who love a taste of foreign intrigue and a solid whodunit." —*Library Journal***

The idyllic Peter Dann Castle is a picture of tranquility as summer blooms in the Himalayan foothills. The heritage hotel has a reputation of being blessed – whatever happens here is said to happen for the good. Harith Athreya is invited here by his friend Javed, a retired police psychologist, to solve what appears to be an ominous riddle. Five friends have checked into the hotel, pretending to be mutual strangers. All other guests who were to check in have inexplicably cancel their bookings at the last moment, leaving the five as the only guests at the hotel. Suspicious, Athreya and Javed investigate and find that all the other bookings were spurious. What devious plot are the five guests hatching?

But all five seem to be typical millennials in their late twenties: an angel investor (Sarosh), an interior designer (Ipshita), a popular singer (Dhavak), a religious girl (Linda) and a freelancer (Purbhi). Would such a group really be plotting something nefarious? Meanwhile, marks of a bloodied hand appear overnight. A woman staying in a nearby homestay (Mrinal) is seen secretly burning papers. And to top it all, Javed's daughter (Asma) is attacked by a knife-wielding man.

When one of them plummets to their death off the rooftop terrace, Athreya and Javed investigate. Evidence and lies quickly pile up, and it becomes apparent that all the five guests had known Mrinal despite their claims to the contrary. Will Athreya be able to unmask the killer before the hotel claims another victim?

After a corporate career spanning three decades and four continents, RV Raman has moved away from full time roles to pursue his interest in teaching and writing. He now teaches business strategy at an IIM, mentor young entrepreneurs, advise select clients and write. In an earlier avatar, he led KPMG's Consulting Practice, and was a partner with A.T. Kearney and Arthur Andersen. He writes crime fiction set in India. The first four books are about white-collar crime and murder in corporate India. The fifth is a domestic whodunit. [www.rvrman.com](http://www.rvrman.com)

# THE KHAN

Saima Mir

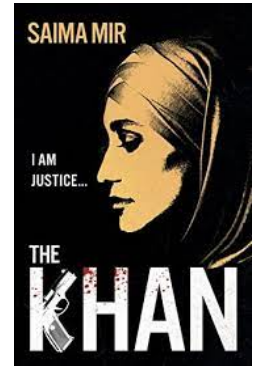
Fiction/Thriller

Publication Date: June 27, 2023

\$28.00 / \$36.99 CAN • Hardcover • 336 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 978-1-957957-20-3

Rights available: U.S., audio



## Praise for *The Khan*

“A fascinating glimpse into a world rarely portrayed in fiction.”

—*The Guardian*, best crime and thrillers

“Compelling and gritty” —*Cosmopolitan*

“This impressive debut is not only about crime, justice, race and prejudice, but also about self-deception, disillusion and how the people you love most can be those you can bear least.”

—*Times and Sunday Times Book of the Year*

A Times UK Bestseller

A Times & Sunday Times UK Best Crime Books of 2021

A Waterstones Best Crime & Thriller of 2021

**Be twice as good as men and four times as good as white men.**

**Jia Khan has always lived like this.**

Successful London lawyer Jia Khan is a long way from the grubby Northern streets she knew as a child, where her father, Akbar Khan, led the Pakistani community and ran the local organized crime syndicate. Often his Jirga rule – the old way – was violent and bloody, but it was always justice of a kind.

Now, with her father murdered, Jia must return to take his place. The police have always relied on the Khan to maintain the fragile order of the streets. But a bloody power struggle has broken out among warring communities and nobody is safe.

Justice needs to be restored, and Jia is about to discover that justice always comes at a cost.

**Saima Mir** is an award-winning journalist. She started her career at the *Telegraph & Argus* and went on to work for the BBC. She is a recipient of the Commonwealth Broadcast Association's World View Award, and has written for numerous publications including *The Times* and *The Independent*. Saima's essay for the Picador book *It's Not About The Burqa* appeared in Guardian Weekend and received over 250,000 hits in two days. She lives in London with her husband and three sons. *The Khan* is her debut novel. Find her at [saimamir.com](http://saimamir.com) and @SaimaMir.

# MULTO

## Cindy Fazzi

Fiction/Thriller

Publication Date: July 11, 2023

\$16.95 / \$22.99 CAN • Trade Paperback • 320 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 978-1-957957-09-8

Rights available: World English, audio



### HIS LATEST JOB IS TO CATCH THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY ...THREE TIMES

Filipino-American bounty hunter Domingo has made a career of catching criminal undocumented immigrants. He's the best in the business—and it isn't lost on him that he's so good because of his similarities to his targets. Despite Domingo's claims that he is unsympathetic to their plight, yet spends his spare moments on stakeouts and in between jobs writing a book of advice for aspiring immigrants. Brash, funny, and candid, he compiles the names of all the people he's apprehended, documenting the hazards of his profession, and imparting advice to foreigners who dare to dream of life in America.

Domingo's latest job is finding biracial Filipino woman Monica Reed—for the third time. Monica is the only fugitive who has ever escaped him, and the only one he's ever released, against orders. As he embarks on a third and final hunt for her, Domingo uncovers a dangerous truth that Monica was determined to publicize—even though it put her life in danger. And as he chases her around the country, despite his agreement to arrest people like Monica, Domingo finds himself taking her side. Flushing out immigrants whose biggest crime was clinging to the American Dream pales in comparison to getting justice for a woman who he discovers was living in the shadows, but was only ever searching for the truth.

Full of action and humor, *MULTO* is also a meditation on what it means to be unwelcome and unwanted in a country you love and the sacrifices such love requires.

**Cindy Fazzi** is a Filipino-American writer and former Associated Press reporter. She has worked as a journalist in the Philippines, Taiwan, and the United States. Her writing has been published in *Snake Nation Review*, *Copperfield Review*, and most recently, [Electric Literature](#). She has published a romance novel under a pen name and a historical novel with the micro-indie Sand Hill Press, *My MacArthur*, which was a quarter finalist in the 2018 ScreenCraft Cinematic Book contest. *MULTO* is the first in a planned series. She lives in Sacramento, CA. Find her online at [www.cindyfazzi.com](http://www.cindyfazzi.com) and on Twitter @CindyFazzi.

# LUNATIC CARNIVAL

D.W. Buffa

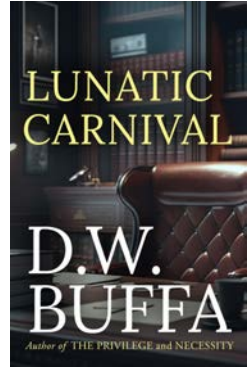
Fiction/Thriller

Publication Date: July 18, 2023

\$28.99/\$26.99 CAN • Hardcover • 352 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 978-951709-83-9

Rights Available: World, audio



## Praise for the novels of D.W. Buffa

"Buffa's characters are compelling; the dialogue authentic and well crafted. Highly recommended for lovers of legal and political thrillers." —Library Journal (Starred Review)

"Expect NECESSITY to appear on numerous "Best of" lists, both because of and in spite of what it is. One cannot walk away from a Buffa novel without feeling educated to at least some extent and entertained to the fullest."  
—Bookreporter

"In the grand tradition of courtroom thrillers, there's a whopper of a reveal as the last witness is called. Fans of political thrillers and courtroom dramas, as well as those who can't get enough of the latest headlines, will race through this one." —Booklist

"An accomplished first novel... it ends with a couple of twists that are really shocking. And it leaves you wanting to go back to the beginning and read it again." —The New York Times on *The Defense*

"Buffa's spare observation, crackling dialogue, and shadowy circle of criminals, lawyers, and lovers keep you riveted." —Entertainment Weekly

"A Dan Brown read-alike tailor-made for an election year." —Booklist on *Hillary*

"The Who in the Whodunit rolls out tantalizingly....Bottom line: Add it to your docket."  
—People Magazine on *The Legacy*

"An excellent legal thriller with a well thought-out plot and believable characters. But it also scores as a novel of cold, calculating revenge perpetrated by an intelligence so formidable it goes unrecognized until too late."  
—USA Today

D.W. Buffa is the Edgar-nominated author of the Joseph Antonelli books. A former criminal-defense attorney, he uses his formal education in law and political science as well as his own work experience in the legal field to inform his writing. Born and raised in the Bay Area, he currently lives in northern California. For more information, visit [www.dwbuffa.net](http://www.dwbuffa.net).



# THE GOLDEN MOUNTAIN

**J.D. Rhoades**

Fiction/Historical Thriller

Publication Date: August 22, 2023

\$28.00 / \$36.99 CAN • Hardcover • 336 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 978-1-957957-33-3

Rights available: World, Audio



### Praise for *The Killing Look*

"(An) assured thriller...Rhoades does a good job illuminating the racial and ethnic tensions of the period. With any luck, this is the start of a series." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Rhoades displays a sensitive touch with the historical material here, building strong characters from the people of color in his cast without downplaying the very real racial hatred of the era. Plenty of action, too." —*Booklist*

In 1870s San Francisco, new partners L.D. Cade and Samuel Clayborne are trying to make a go of both their new business and their unlikely friendship. When they're asked by Cade's lover, beautiful widow Marjorie Hamrick, to investigate the attempted murder of her friend Athena Givens during a Spiritualist seance, the partners are initially dubious. Givens isn't popular with the local powers that be, not just because of her Spiritualist work, but because of her fiery Suffragist speeches. But Cade doesn't have much use for anyone who'd stab a woman in the back, so Cade and Clayborne take up the challenge of not only solving the mystery of the attack, but keeping Givens safe in a city ruled from the shadows by powerful men who want to destroy her by any means necessary.

Meanwhile, crime boss Lee Kwan's charming but conniving brother Fang is preparing to make his move against his brother for control of the powerful Green Dragon Tong. Fang is unhappy with Kwan's plans to move into more legitimate businesses, especially ones that involve dealing with the "White Devils." Kwan's beautiful and deadly female assassin, known as The White Orchid, knows the danger. She also knows she'll lose her patron's support if she kills his brother, so with the reluctant help of her new friend Mei, she tries to enlist Cade to eliminate the threat. Cade swore he'd never repay Kwan's help by killing for him, but The White Orchid didn't get where she is without mastering the arts of manipulation in addition to her other skills. In the end, though, it's Cade's honor and sense of duty that draws him into a brutal and bloody gang war that threatens his life and the life of everyone he cares for.

Born and raised in North Carolina, J.D. Rhoades has worked as a radio news reporter, club DJ, television cameraman, ad salesman, waiter, attorney, and newspaper columnist. His weekly column in North Carolina's *The Pilot* was twice named best column of the year in its division. He is the author of six novels in his acclaimed Jack Keller series: *The Devil's Right Hand*, *Good Day in Hell*, *Safe and Sound*, *Devils and Dust*, *Hellhound on My Trail*, and *Won't Back Down*, as well as *Ice Chest*, *Breaking Cover*, and *Broken Shield*. He lives, writes, and practices law in Carthage, NC.

# DEEP ROOTS

Sung J. Woo

Fiction/Mystery/Detective

Publication Date: September 5, 2023

\$17.99 / \$22.99 CAN • Trade Paperback • 352 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 978-1-957957-37-1

Rights available: World, Audio



## Praise for *SKIN DEEP*

"With just the right mix of clever twists, endearing charm, looming threats, and contemporary issues, Woo debuts quite the absorbing new mystery series."—*Library Journal, Starred Review*

"This winning series launch from Woo...perceptively explores the theme of image and personal identity throughout. Readers will look forward to seeing more of the beguiling Siobhan."—*Publishers Weekly*

"A heroine who's by turns wide-eyed, gravely amused, susceptible, and plenty cool enough for an encore." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"This first in a series holds promise, given Woo's punchy prose style [and] diverse milieu. A series to watch." —*Booklist*

After solving her first case in *Skin Deep*, Siobhan O'Brien faces her biggest challenge yet – Thanksgiving! With her lawyer boyfriend Craig in tow, Siobhan travels to Minneapolis to endure small talk with the extended O'Brien clan and chow down on some seriously delicious turkey and dressing. Everything's swell until her sister-in-law Gwen tells her about her brother Sven's frequent late-night meetings with his co-workers. Since Siobhan's next case is just a ferry ride from their house in Washington state, she asks for Siobhan's help.

Big sister is happy to oblige, though she's got her hands full. Hired by Phillip Ahn, a Korean artificial intelligence genius with his own personal island in the Pacific Northwest, Siobhan enters the strange, sequestered world of the uber rich, where Ahn, his wife, his two ex-wives, and his five children all live under the same gilded roof.

Ahn brings Siobhan to his estate because he swears that Duke, his youngest child and only son, is an impostor. Is Ahn crazy, or is Duke really someone else? And could it be possible that Sven's troubles are somehow linked to Ahn's? As Siobhan digs into these dangerous mysteries, she learns that family secrets have some very *Deep Roots*.

Sung J. Woo's short stories and essays have appeared in The New York Times, Guernica/PEN, and Vox. He is the author of *Love Love and Everything Asian*, which won the 2010 Asian Pacific American Librarians Association Literature Award (Youth category). His first Siobhan O'Brien novel, *Skin Deep*, is available now from Polis Books. He lives in Washington, New Jersey.

# THE NINJA'S OATH

Tori Eldridge

Fiction/Thriller

Publication Date: September 12, 2023

\$27.99 / \$36.99 CAN • Hardcover • 352 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 978-1-957957-31-9

Rights available: World, Audio



Praise for Tori Eldridge's bestselling Lily Wong series

"Lily Wong is my kind of kick ass heroine. Love this series. Fast-paced and adrenaline-packed!" —**Lisa Gardner, #1 Bestselling Author of *BEFORE SHE DISAPPEARED***

"Eldridge's series just keeps getting better." —*Library Journal* (Starred Review)

"If you love a heroine who's tough, brilliant, and never runs from a fight, look no further. Tori Eldridge introduces the warrior-sleuth you'll want fighting by your side." —**Tess Gerritsen, bestselling author of *THE SHAPE OF NIGHT***

**THE NINJA'S OATH** takes Chinese-Norwegian modern-day ninja, Lily Wong, to Shanghai in an explosive joint mission with her father's former-triad cook and the assassin J Tran. Get ready for the riveting next book in Tori Eldridge's bestselling Lily Wong series!

International action adventure ensues when Lily Wong—a Chinese-Norwegian modern-day ninja—travels from Shanghai to Japan to help family friend and former triad enforcer, Lee Chang, locate and rescue his kidnapped twelve-year-old niece while, back home in Los Angeles, her father's health wanes. Their mission is aided and complicated by an enigmatic assassin with a discomfiting fascination for Lily. When the hunt for the niece leads to another missing relative, the trio of dangerous heroes—ninja, triad, and assassin—are pitted against an even greater foe. Meanwhile, Chang's family must be moved from the shikumen house in Old Shanghai before the government tears it down. This would be simpler if not for the feud between brothers and the old resentments and intrigues entwined with the stunning history of the city itself.

Lily is pushed to her limits as she faces potentially insurmountable odds and worries about her father's undiagnosed disease. At the same time, she is shocked by the true identity of her ninja teacher—known only Sensei—and the truth behind why he left Japan. **THE NINJA'S OATH** is the thrilling new novel in Tori Eldridge's acclaimed, multi-award nominated Lily Wong series, sure to leave readers breathing and riveted until the last page is turned!

Tori Eldridge is the national bestselling author and Anthony, Lefty, and Macavity Awards finalist of the Lily Wong mystery thriller series—**THE NINJA DAUGHTER**, **THE NINJA'S BLADE**, and **THE NINJA BETRAYED**. Her shorter works appear in the inaugural reboot of **WEIRD TALES** magazine and horror, dystopian, and other literary anthologies. Her horror screenplay **THE GIFT**—which inspired **DANCE AMONG THE FLAMES**—earned a semi-finalist spot for the Academy Nicholl Fellowship. She lives in Los Angeles. Follow her at @torieldridge.

# DEAD BEFORE THE END OF THE ROAD

**Christy Oslund**

Fiction/Mystery

Publication Date: September 19, 2023

\$16.99 / \$22.99 CAN • Trade Paperback • 320 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 978-1-957957-21-0

Rights available: World, Audio

Life in small-town Michigan is quiet. Despite the calm, no one hears the blow that strikes a man dead. A riveting novel for fans of Chris Whitaker that will stick with you after the last page is turned.

Kara Heikkinen finds the murdered man while inspecting a farm for potential cattle-poaching evidence. She is immediately determined to solve the crime because as both a sheriff's sergeant and an autistic woman, she requires a level of order in her world. Allowing the villagers in her Finnish-American town to kill each other and dump the bodies in cow ponds isn't orderly.

Unfortunately, the job of solving the crime technically belongs to the State Detective. Not that any of the locals will communicate with him—they barely speak to each other. But she can use her connections to do what the detective cannot—talk to locals like the dead man's mother, a suspect's neighbor, and her own well-informed cousin who happened to employ the dead man. She learns of a well-hidden affair, a missing engagement ring, the victim's anger over drugs given to his cousin, and envy among 'friends' over the victim's girlfriend.

Can Kara solve the murder and put her world back in order before the murderer flees the small town on the shores of Lake Superior and is lost forever?

Dyslexic, autistic, and good with animals, **Dr. Christy Oslund** wasn't expected to go far in the academic world or writing. She started killing people (on the page) during a COVID-induced layoff and decided writing was her new side-hustle. Now back at Michigan Tech University, she coordinates services for disabled students. Dr. Oslund has also taught at Northern Michigan University, Michigan State, and at MTU. She holds an MFA in writing and has published extensive non-fiction on disability. She lives with dogs and cats (and refuses to pick a side in that debate) in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. **DEAD BEFORE THE END OF THE ROAD** is her debut novel. Find her at [christyoslund.blog](http://christyoslund.blog) and [@ChristyOslund](https://twitter.com/ChristyOslund)

# THE BLACK MOTH

## Carolyne Topdjian

Fiction/Thriller

Publication Date: October 3, 2023

\$27.99 / \$35.99 CAN • Hardcover • 336 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 978-1-957957-36-4

Rights available: World English, Audio



### Praise for *The Hitman's Daughter*

"A fast-paced haunting novel of survival." —*Library Journal* (Starred Review)

"Topdjian's debut thriller is intense with foreboding and an eerie sense of place. The past and present perspectives captivate the reader and connect brilliantly to reveal a shocking conclusion. Fans of Jen Williams, Karin Slaughter, and Alex North will enjoy this one!" —*Booklist*

### **The riveting new Mave Michael novel from the acclaimed author of *The Hitman's Daughter*!**

Ever since the hitman's daughter, Mave Michael Francis learned she is the owner of a crumbling grand hotel, life has been upside-down. Not only is she struggling to fit into her new role and to reconcile with her incarcerated father, but a string of bizarre burglaries is plaguing the nearby village. Meanwhile, the hotel director is running ghost tours to drum up desperately-needed revenue, and Mave's staff is scrambling to host an over-the-top goth wedding. Mave needs to ensure the event is a success to rescue the hotel from bankruptcy. But when she discovers the mask of the Château du Ciel's rumored ghost in the defunct greenhouse where the wedding ceremony is booked, her priorities fracture.

Months ago, the supposed ghost, Holden Frost saved Mave's life, then vanished into thin air. It's an enigma and debt she can't forget. As she plans for the big wedding by day, Mave secretly digs into Holden's true identity and disappearance by night. Her search takes her to the most sinister place: the darknet. And instead of answers to decode Holden's whereabouts, she attracts a stranger online who also wants Holden Frost found—and who will kill Mave's father in prison unless Mave delivers Holden's location, dead or alive. Tick tock.

As the clock winds down to the wedding and her father's potential murder, Mave becomes increasingly ensnarled in Holden's troubled past. And while she's being used as bait to raise Holden from the dead, the stranger online may be closing in for the kill—and may be closer to her at the hotel, than her father in prison.

Carolyne Topdjian is a suspense writer with publications in PRISM International, Dreamers Magazine and Firewords Quarterly. She has an interdisciplinary PHD from York University and is a professor in the Faculty of Media and Creative Arts at Humber College in Toronto. She is a two-time Pitch Wars mentor and lives in a 112-year-old haunted house. She is the author of the acclaimed novel *The Hitman's Daughter*. She lives in Ontario. Find her at [carolynetopdjian.com](http://carolynetopdjian.com) and on Twitter @TopdjianC.

# TO CONJURE A KILLER

**Clea Simon**

Fiction/Mystery/Cozy

Publication Date: October 3, 2023

\$27.99 / \$35.99 CAN • Hardcover • 320 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 978-1-957957-34-0

Rights available: World, Audio



## Spellbinding Praise for Clea Simon's Witch Cats of Cambridge series!

"Pleasing...Fans of feline cozies will be charmed." —Publishers Weekly on *A Cat on the Case*

"Cat-loving cozy fans with a taste for the paranormal will find a lot to like." —*Booklist* on *A Cat on the Case*

"Simon expertly casts suspicion on one member of her tiny human cast after another." —*Kirkus Reviews* on *An Incantation of Cats*

"An otherworldly fun trip.." —Mystery Scene

## **The new book in Clea Simon's bewitching Witch Cats of Cambridge series!**

It's kitten season in Cambridge, and the results can be murder. Becca is coming home from her job at Charm and Cherish when she sees a kitten dodging cars on Mass Ave. She follows, only to see the kitten run down an alley. Becca follows when suddenly a bright light illuminates what turns out to be a dead-end. Before her, a strangely familiar body is on the ground--her ex boyfriend, Jeff. And right beside Jeff, the kitten is staring back at her. Becca scoops up the kitten and shoves her into her bag, before turning to face the police.

The police received a call about a man and a woman arguing viciously, including threats of violence. Since the body is that of Becca's ex, she comes under suspicion. But more motives than jealousy emerge: Jeff was working on software designed to record and transmit personal data – a new form of spyware that would be of interest to everyone from the police and security agencies to cybercriminals. Even as the police investigation appears to have moved on, Becca realizes she is under surveillance. And when Jeff's former friends and colleagues approach her, Becca finds the police aren't the only ones watching her. When a particularly secretive tech guru clumsily approaches, apparently trying to romance her, she enlists the aid of a contact from the local hacker group. Through him, she comes to realize that Jeff may have installed an early version of his software on her computer – and that it contains enough information for a knowledgeable IT geek to reproduce the finished result.

Meanwhile, Becca is sheltering the little tortie – and her three magical cats are horrified. The tortie isn't of their lineage or their family. And yet she seems to have some powers of her own, which may help Becca discern friend from foe, solve Jeff's murder, and clear her name - with the help of her mystical feline friends.

Before turning to a life of crime (fiction), Clea Simon was a journalist. Starting as a rock critic, she ended up writing about books and other arts. A native of New York, she came to Massachusetts to attend Harvard University, from which she graduated with high honors, and never left. The author of three nonfiction books and seven mysteries, she lives in Somerville, MA and is the author of three previous Witch Cats of Cambridge mysteries: *A Spell of Murder*, *An Incantation of Cats* and *A Cat on the Case*.

# MURDER BEYOND THE PALE

**Wendy Church**

Fiction/Mystery/Thriller

Publication Date: November 13, 2023

\$27.99 / \$35.99 CAN • Hardcover • 336 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 978-1-957957-39-5

Rights available: North America, Audio



## Praise for MURDER ON THE SPANISH SEAS

"Clever, transportive, and laugh-out-loud funny."

—Andrea Bartz, *New York Times* bestselling author of *WE WERE NEVER HERE*

"Fans of Janet Evanovich will enjoy meeting the freewheeling Jesse, and this debut gives an enticing hint of more adventures to come. Armchair travelers and foodies, rejoice. Go, Jesse!" —*Booklist* (Starred Review)

"Church has penned a whip-smart, sarcastic, amateur sleuth and a tightly plotted story that's perfect for fans of Ruth Ware, Catriona McPherson, and Darynda Jones. Readers will want to see Jesse again." —*Library Journal*

The new Jesse O'Hara mystery, from the author of the acclaimed debut *MURDER ON THE SPANISH SEAS*, perfect for fans of Ruth Ware and Janet Evanovich!

Jesse O'Hara is unemployed. "A million dollar brain and a ten-cent personality," her last employer said. With nothing better to do, Jesse accepts a request to go to Ireland to help a relative find his missing daughter. She expects to find the young woman quickly, and is looking forward to spending her trip touring and drinking, not necessarily in that order.

Once in Ireland, it's clear to Jesse that the missing woman has met with foul play. In the course of her investigation she goes to greater and greater lengths to get to the truth, causing her to antagonize Ireland's most dangerous drug kingpin, not to mention the IRA and the local gardai.

Aided by her near-photographic memory and dogged perseverance, Jesse is close to uncovering the truth, even as other people start to turn up dead. But she's warned away from the investigation, and when she doesn't back off, she's threatened, attacked, and kidnapped. And when she is accused of murder, Jesse must use every ounce of wit and brainpower she has (left) to find a killer and not end up six feet under.

Wendy Church has been a bartender, tennis instructor, semiconductor engineer, group facilitator, nonprofit CEO, teacher, PhD researcher, and dive bar cleaner. She is the author of *Murder on the Spanish Seas*, which is set on a luxury cruise in the Iberian peninsula, and introduces smart-mouthed amateur sleuth Jesse O'Hara, whose adventures are partly informed by Wendy's expertise and international travels. She lives in Seattle, WA.

# THE FOLLY

## Gemma Amor

Fiction/Gothic/Suspense

Publication Date: December 5, 2023

\$21.99 / \$30.99 CAN • Hardcover • 240 pages • 5.5 x 8.5

ISBN: 978-1-957957-35-7

Rights available: World, Audio



### Praise for Gemma Amor

Gemma Amor writes so fearlessly that it feels as if she were baring her soul.”  
—Eric LaRocca, author of *Things Have Gotten Worse Since We Last Spoke*

“A bleak but powerful portrait of survival at any cost.” —*Publishers Weekly on Full Immersion*

“A banger of a story... it is raw, full of emotion, and incredibly honest... This a novel that will stay with you. Recommended.” —*SFF World on Full Immersion*

**An ex-con and his daughter move into an abandoned decorative folly on the cornish coastline to escape their past, but a stranger bearing secrets—and an important message—soon catches up with them.**

Morgan has spent the last six years campaigning for her father, Owens’s release from prison after being wrongly convicted of his wife’s murder. After a retrial, Owen is set free, and both need to leave the home where Morgan’s mother died. Salvation comes in the form of a tall, dark and somewhat notorious decorative granite tower on the Cornish coastline known only as ‘The Folly’. The owner offers them new life, in exchange for taking care of The Folly. It’s an offer that is too good to refuse.

At first the Folly is idyllic, but soon a stranger arrives who seems obsessed with Morgan’s dead mother. The stranger acts like her mother, talks like her mother, and wears her dead mother’s clothes. And with each new encounter, Morgan becomes increasingly unsure as to whether this is merely a deranged stranger hell-bent on vengeance, or her restless Mother’s spirit itself.

As the stranger continues to haunt and taunt them, questions pile up: who exactly is this stranger? Why must he speak, act and dress like her deceased mother? Is her father as innocent as she always thought? And, most importantly, what happened the night her mother died? An atmospheric blend of the *The Lighthouse*, with hints of Du Maurier’s *Rebecca*, played out on a lonely, Cornish backdrop, THE FOLLY is visceral mystery and family drama, a dark examination of love, loyalty, guilt and possession that draws on the very real horror of betrayal by those closest to us, by those we love the best.

Gemma Amor is the Bram Stoker Award nominated author of *Dear Laura*, *Six Rooms*, *White Pines* and *Full Immersion*. She is the co-creator of *Calling Darkness*, a comedy-horror podcast starring Kate Seigel (Haunting of Hill House, Midnight Mass) and many of her works have been adapted into audio drama format by the multi-million download horror anthology show *The NoSleep Podcast*, who she has also toured with. She is also a voice actor and illustrator, and is based in Bristol, in the U.K.



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