

Film/TV Rights Catalogue



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**Sharlene Martin is attached in a producer capacity to MLM projects per contractual agreement with her clients.*



Sharlene Martin, President Martin Literary & Media Mgmt.

In 2003, Sharlene took her passion for great stories and the authors who create them and combined it with knowledge and insights gained from her years in the entertainment industry to form **Martin Literary & Media Management**. Her agency has experienced extraordinary success in sales and alliances. In the years since that time, her remarkable rise in the publishing industry is demonstrated by a rapidly growing list of non-fiction sales to such renowned major publishers as Random House, Rodale, Harper Collins, St. Martin's Press, Penguin Putnam, Hachette, Simon and Schuster, as well as to a host of boutique publishers for specialized genre books.

She has represented numerous *New York Times* bestselling nonfiction books, including: *Impossible Odds: The Kidnapping of Jessica Buchanan and Her Dramatic Rescue* by SEAL Team Six by Anthony Flacco; *Picture Perfect: The Jodi Arias Story* by Shanna Hogan; *Notes Left Behind* by Keith & Brooke Desserich; Raffaele Sollecito's book, *Honor Bound: My Journey to Hell and Back with Amanda Knox*; HLN's Jane Velez-Mitchell's memoir, *I Want*; Suzanne Hansen's *You'll Never Nanny in this Town Again*; MaryJo Buttafuocco's *Getting It Through My Thick Skull*; and The Goldman family's *If I Did It*, based on the OJ Simpson murders of Ron Goldman and Nicole Simpson.

Many of Sharlene's authors have had their books boosted as serial reprints in prestigious publications such as Readers' Digest, People Magazine, WHO, and the London Times, and five of her clients have appeared on Oprah. Other client appearances include 60 Minutes, The TODAY Show, The View, Fox and Friends, Good Morning America, The Early Show, 20/20, 48 Hours, Discovery Channel, Inside Edition, The 700 Club, ET, The Insider, ABC Nightline, Dr. Phil, Anderson Cooper 360, CNN, HLN, Discovery ID and Fox News.

Hallmark Hall of Fame's acclaimed TV movie of December 2008 was based on the book, *Front of the Class* by Sharlene's client Brad Cohen. *** She was Executive Producer of Lifetime's 2012 movie, *The Pregnancy Project*, which garnered the two top *Imagen Awards* in 2012 for *Best Primetime Movie/Special* and *Best Actress* (Alexa Vega). *** She is Co-Creator/Producer of the true crime reality series, *DEADLY SINS* for Discovery ID, which recently completed its sixth season. *** She was the Co-EP with Nancy Glass Productions for the 2015-16 season of specials, *EPIC MYSTERIES*, for Discovery ID. *** She will serve as Executive Producer on the Paramount TV/ Anonymous Content series, based on the Scholastic series *Hilde Cracks the Case*. *** She recently optioned *Impossible Odds* to Warner Bros. for Clint Eastwood to direct and Brian Helgeland adapting. *** She will also Executive Produce the feature, *Hidden Girl*, with the Egyptian production company, The Talkies. *** She recently served as the Executive Producer with Outpost Entertainment for A&E's documentary *OJ: Guilty in Vegas*. *** She is actively doing business with a host of film and TV companies for adaptations of her clients' books.

She is also the co-author, with Anthony Flacco, of *Publish Your Nonfiction Book* (Writer's Digest Books) and *Literary Fails: Totally (sic)!*.

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

Sharlene divides her time between her home near Seattle and Los Angeles.

ANTHONY FLACCO
Editorial Director/Head of Adaptation Development

MFA Screenwriting, American Film Institute

* Writers Guild of America/West *

www.AnthonyFlacco.com



Anthony Flacco is an author of seven nonfiction books and three historical novels, all released by major publishers.

He holds an MFA in screenwriting from the **American Film Institute**. He was selected for the Walt Disney Studios Screenwriting Fellowship, and spent a year writing for the Touchstone Pictures division.

His first nonfiction book, *A Checklist for Murder*, was acquired in auction by Dell Books and turned in solid sales. Anthony adapted his book into a TV movie screenplay and sold it to NBC Studios.



He completed his nonfiction book *Tiny Dancer* for St. Martin's Press, and the advance copy was selected by Reader's Digest as their *Editor's Choice for August 2005* -- their 1,000th Commemorative Issue. The Kansas City Star named *Tiny Dancer* "one of the 100 Most Noteworthy Books of 2005."



That book is an international bestseller in Italy (Piemme) with sales to date of over 350,000 in that country alone.



His debut novel, *The Last Nightingale (Ballantine)* was released to acclaimed reviews including a NYT rave, and was **nominated by the International Thriller Writers (ITW)** as one of the top five original paperback thrillers for 2007.



WINNER of the USA Books News Awards: Best True Crime 2009

THE ROAD OUT OF HELL: Sanford Clark and the True Story of the Wineville Murders (Union Square/Sterling, Nov. 2009) is based on one of the most heinous serial killers of the 20th Century, Gordon Stewart Northcott, which is the crime inspiration for the film *CHANGELING*.

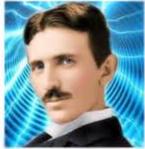
* *2011 - Publish Your Nonfiction Book (Commissioned by Writer's Digest Books) and Literary Fails* were co-authored with Sharlene Martin of Martin Literary Management with endorsements by major publishers and editors alike.



WINNER of the USA Book News Awards: Best Autobiography of 2013

The New York Times
Best Sellers 

IMPOSSIBLE ODDS: The Kidnapping of Jessica Buchanan and Her Dramatic Rescue by SEAL Team Six was published by Atria/Simon & Schuster in May 2013 and debuted on the **NY Times Bestseller** List. The book is currently in development at Warner Brothers Studios for Clint Eastwood at **Malpaso Productions** to direct.



IN THE MATTER OF NIKOLA TESLA: A Romance of the Mind - published in 2013 by Diversion Books as both an E-book and Trade paperback, by Audible in audio form, and by Edizone Piemme in Italy, as well as in Russia and Estonia. Rave review NY Journal of Books.



TAKING MY LIFE BACK: My Story of Faith, Determination, and Surviving the Boston Marathon Bombing was written for survivor Rebekah Gregory and published to acclaim by Revell Books in 2017 and received a starred review by Publishers Weekly.

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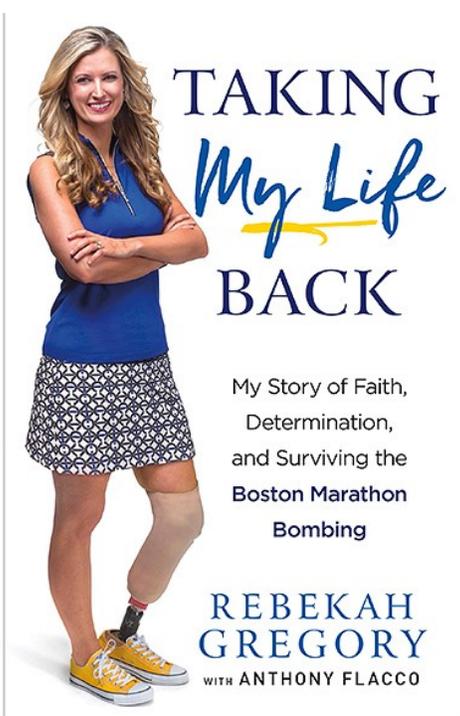
Part One: Scripted Film/TV

Part Two: True Crime

Part Three: Unscripted/Reality

Part Four: Young Adult/Children's

Scripted Film/TV



Taking My Life Back:

My Story of Faith, Determination, and Surviving the Boston Marathon Bombing

Revell/Baker Publishing April 4, 2017

"It is impossible to remain unmoved by Gregory's emotional, open memoir of surviving the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013. This is a truly feel-good book that doesn't stint on the challenges that life throws at us."

--*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

Ripped from news headlines around the world, Rebekah Gregory's book Taking My Life Back is the riveting story of a survivor of the Boston Marathon terrorist attack. It's transparent. It's compelling. It's hopeful. But Rebekah is not only a survivor, She's an overcomer! And she has the scars on the inside and outside to show for her journey to a new normal. Taking My Life Back is a rollercoaster triumph of faith over, depression, defeat and evil. -Don Piper, 90 Minutes in Heaven

Rebekah Gregory, 29, survived the Boston Marathon bombing of 2013 along with her son Noah, now 8, and then-boyfriend Pete DiMartino. The three were at the finish line, waiting for DiMartino's mom to cross, when the explosions happened.

Months of physical therapy – not to mention emotional healing – followed for all three, and Gregory was ultimately fitted with a prosthetic leg.

This is a faith-based story, and much of it follows the feelings of emotional isolation and occasional spiritual panic. She wrestles with the traumatic life events and insults to her existence that keep her from sensing her connection to God. She experiences a terrible inner aloneness which she can hide from most other people, but it constantly torments her.

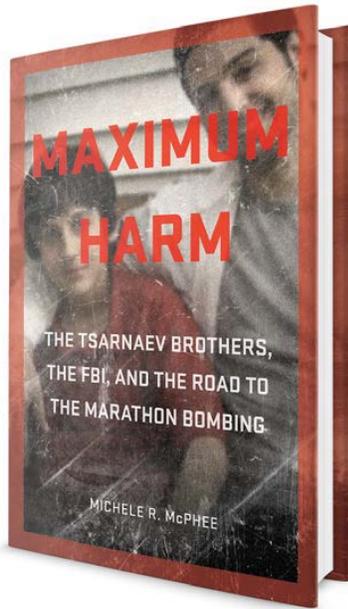
The goal of her story is to help troubled people pull back from the edge of despair. "If I've learned one lesson, it's that each of the hardest chapters in your life brings you to the most beautiful ones of all. You just have to keep going long enough to get there." The thoughts she offers in her book and her speaking engagements provide an avenue to hope.

She is now happily married to Chris Varney, and although new daughter Ryleigh arrived in a very premature delivery, their little girl is now healthy and living at home.

Gregory received Boston City permission to run the final mile of the 2015 Boston Marathon on her brand-new artificial leg. She made it to the finish line, but admits she still has PTSD and ongoing difficulties with her injured leg.

Her message is especially strong with those who are struggling with despair. "There's nothing I wouldn't give to go back to life before I ever went to the Boston Marathon, but I can't," she shares. "What I can do is appreciate every new moment I'm given. If I have that ability when I wake up every day, what more could I ask for? I just want to be a mom that one day my kids will be proud of."

www.RebekahMGregory.com



Maximum Harm

By Michele McPhee

Univ. Press of New England/Fore Edge

April 4, 2017

In Maximum Harm, Michele McPhee uncovers shocking new truths about the Boston Marathon Bombers and those in government, law enforcement and inside their own community who gave them free reign to plot and execute one of the most vicious terror attacks ever carried out on American soil. This book will grab you, shake you and will not let you go!"

---Casey Sherman, New York Times Bestselling Author of THE FINEST HOURS and BOSTON STRONG

"No single reporter has covered the Boston bombing as thoroughly as Michele McPhee. She knows Boston -- its streets, its cops and its corridors of power. Maximum Harm is riveting -- a tribute to the first responders, and, even more startling, a troubling expose of the FBI's botched handling of the Tsarnaev brothers. You may think you know this story, but until you read this book, you don't."-- T.J. English, New York Times best-selling author of Where the Bodies Were Buried and The Westies

In **Maximum Harm**, veteran investigative journalist Michele R. McPhee unravels the complex story behind the public facts of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing. She examines the bomber's roots in Dagestan and Chechnya, the struggle of the Tsarnaevs to assimilate in America, and their growing hatred of the United States—A deepening antagonism that led Dzhokhar Tsarnaev to “follow his brother down Boylston Street,” as prosecutors charged in court. Circumstances less widely known, which McPhee reveals in the book, are the FBI's recruitment of Tamerlan Tsarnaev as a “mosque crawler” to inform on radical separatists here and in Chechnya; the six months he spent in Russia, leaving behind a string of dead jihadis; the FBI's botched deals and broken promises with regard to his citizenship and the disenchantment, rage, and growing radicalization of Tamerlan and Dzhokhar, along with their mother sisters, and Tamerlan's wife, Katherine. **Maximum Harm** untangles the many threads of circumstance, coincidence, collusion, motive, and opportunity that resulted in the deadliest attack on the city of Boston to date.

While the Government quietly closed their case against the lone terrorist brought to trial in the Marathon bombing, Michele McPhee continued to work behind the scenes developing investigative leads through her cadre of sources. Maximum Harm is the latest example of McPhee's investigative excellence and exposes many of the details kept secret from the public, leaving the reader questioning if justice was truly served. -- Thomas Pasquarello, Former Somerville, MA Police Chief and Retired Special Agent in Charge/Area Police Director of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration

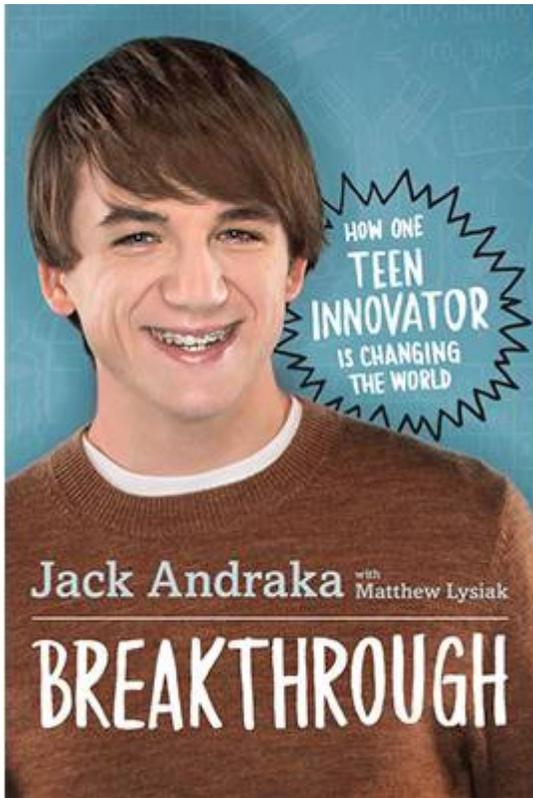
The journalistic integrity and investigative skills of Michele R. McPhee have once again proven to be a rare commodity. Her reporting in Maximum Harm clearly proves the government at best lied or covered up, at worse falsified, the facts of a terrorist attack on American soil. Yet McPhee not only dug up the truth through her innumerable law enforcement sources, she exploited the fact that justice has yet to be served. A great read for those of us who are fascinated with the truth. -- Jerry Flynn, Executive Director, New England PBA & retired Lowell, MA Police Officer.

Michele McPhee's 'MAXIMUM HARM' is a riveting and eye-opening page turner that takes you into the real world of international terrorism, the difficulties for local, state and federal law enforcement; and the reality that the attack isn't if, but when; and raises the question: Are we prepared? --Bernard B. Kerik, Police Commissioner (Retired) City of New York

*On a routine gorgeous Spring Day, terror strikes Boston again. Similar to tragic events of the past, every person remembers what they were doing when the cowardly terrorists struck the symbolic event of the Boston Marathon. As she has done with her previous writings, author Michele McPhee nails it. Happiness, fear, tragedy, anger, heroism, hope are all on display in this riveting new book about terror in Boston. A must read, so we never forget and learn from the lessons of that historic day.--- former Massachusetts US Senator Scott Brown, author of **Against All Odds: My Life of Hard Times, Fast Breaks, and Second Chances.***

www.MicheleMcPhee.com

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4853680/Chilling-smiles-Boston-Marathon-Bombers-years-revealed.html>



Breakthrough

How One Teen Innovator Is Changing the World

***By Jack Andraka with
Matthew Lysiak***

HarperCollins

***“The Youth of Doogie Howser meets the
Tormented Genius of Alan Turing”***

Available for scripted series or film

At the age of fifteen, following the death from pancreatic cancer of a family friend, Jack recognized the need for inexpensive early detection methods, and came up with a detection test. This test has the ability to detect pancreatic, ovarian, and lung cancer in its earliest stages. It costs only three cents to run, and has an accuracy rate higher than 90 percent.

Growing up in a house where his parents encouraged and nurtured their children to conduct scientific experiments, Jack grew up taking his abilities seriously. The scientific world was hesitant at first. In his quest to devise the cancer detection test, he had contacted 200 research professionals with a detailed plan, budget, timeline, and request to use their laboratory. Jack only received one acceptance letter—but one was all he needed. Dr. Anirban Maitra, Professor of Pathology, Oncology and Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at John Hopkins School of Medicine granted him lab privileges based upon Jack’s proposal.

The groundbreaking results earned him international recognition, most notably earning the \$75,000 Intel Gordon E. Moore Award for 2012, plus the Smithsonian American Ingenuity Award. He was the First Lady’s personal guest at the State of the Union Address, and has conducted over a dozen TED talks. Jack has been featured on CNN, BBC, FOX, 60 Minutes, The Colbert Report, and ABC World News with Diane Sawyer.

Now in his upcoming memoir, the boy wonder sets his sights on shattering educational myths and biases by bringing his inspirational story to bear in proving that in order to make a positive change in this world, you don’t need a PhD or even to be old enough to drive a car. “It’s just your ideas that count. It’s all about looking at learning itself, including a deeper understanding of how to use the internet for research. “There’s so much more to it than just posting duck-face pictures of yourself online. You could be changing the world.”

Jack’s message of education reform is one sorely needed because in today’s classrooms, student proficiency in reading, math, and science continues to drop.

“Currently, science classes typically consist of banal consumption and regurgitation of facts. However, that model is simply not effective because it skews students’ perception of what science truly is. Science is something you do, not something you learn from a text book.”

Jack’s memoir chronicles his efforts in proving his abilities and innovative ideas, despite his young age. Targeted toward a teenage readership, Jack’s story encourages his generation to approach their pursuits, whatever they may be, with an attitude of determination and gumption.

“If a 15-year-old who didn’t even know what a pancreas was could find a new way to detect pancreatic cancer, just imagine what you could do...”



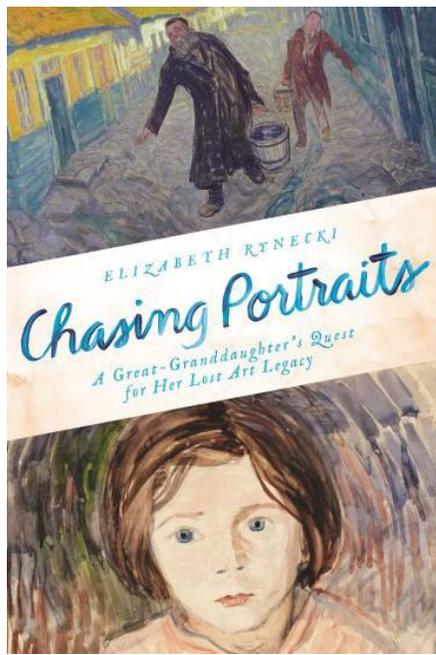
60 Minutes: <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/boy-wonder-jack-andraka>

One of Jack’s TED talks:

www.ted.com/talks/jack_andraka_a_promising_test_for_pancreatic_cancer_from_a_teenager.html

“You Don’t Know Jack” Micro Documentary by Morgan Spurlock:

www.focusforwardfilms.com/films/78/you-don-t-know-jack



Chasing Portraits

A Great-Granddaughter's Quest for Her Lost Art Legacy

By Elizabeth Rynecki

Penguin Random House, Sept. 2016

Before the life of artist Moshe Rynecki came to a tragic end, his body of work reached close to eight hundred paintings and sculptures. When his great-granddaughter Elizabeth sought to rediscover his legacy, she found herself on a journey to seek out what was lost but never forgotten.

For Elizabeth, the everyday lives of the Polish-Jewish community depicted in Moshe Rynecki's paintings were such a common sight that they simply blended into the background while she was growing up. But she realized the art transformed from familiar to extraordinary in her eyes after her grandfather, Moshe's son George, left behind journals detailing the loss her ancestors had endured during World War II, including Moshe's art. Knowing that her family had only found a small portion of Moshe's art, and that many more pieces remained to be found, Elizabeth set out to find them.

Before Moshe was deported to the ghetto, he entrusted his work to friends who would keep it safe. After he was killed in the Majdanek concentration camp, the art was dispersed all over the world. With the help of historians, curators, and admirers of Moshe's work, Elizabeth began the incredible and difficult task of rebuilding his collection.

Spanning three decades of Elizabeth's life and three generations of her family, this touching memoir is a compelling narrative of the richness of one man's art, the devastation of war, and one woman's unexpected path to healing.

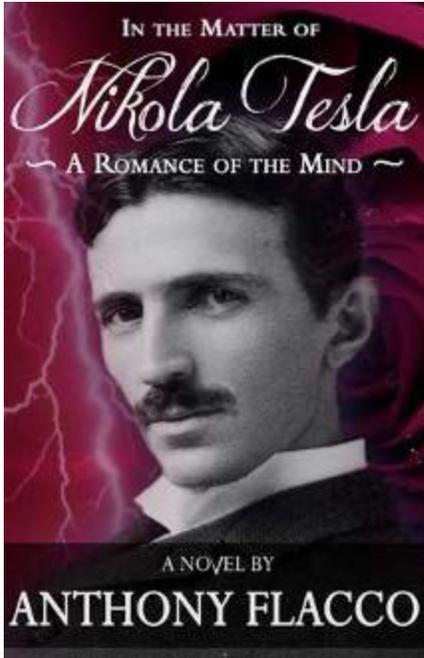
KIRKUS REVIEW  June 21, 2016

A page-turning personal history of Rynecki's search for her great-grandfather's legacy.

Moshe Rynecki (1881-1943) was a Polish artist whose work "detailed the everyday lives of Polish Jews in the 1920s and 1930s." His singular *oeuvre* shows the culture and quotidian activities of his people, and his very identity was intimately tied to his Jewish heritage, even to the point of following them into the Warsaw ghetto. He was an ethnographically inspired painter and thought abstract styles would detract from the world he was portraying. He and his wife, Perla, operated an art supply store—or she did while he painted. By the time of the Nazi invasion in 1939, he had 800 works that needed to be protected. With his son George's help, he took paintings out of frames, rolled them up, and put them into piles. Moshe also made a list of which pieces went into each pile, but, unfortunately, the list was lost. The works were entrusted to friends to be retrieved after the war. When the Nazis moved the Jews into the ghetto, George refused to take his family, hiding their Jewishness with new identities. Because Moshe would not deny his heritage, he and Perla entered the ghetto. In 1942, George got his mother out, but his father felt that he had to go "where brothers and sisters go. And if it's death, so be it." The last they heard was that he was on his way to a death camp. After the war, Perla found a bundle of more than 100 paintings and gave them to her son, who moved to the U.S with his wife. That much of the story is fascinating, but it's only the beginning, as the author discovers her grandfather's memoir and begins her search for his paintings.

A wonderful story beautifully told. Rynecki's years long search, successes, frustrations, and failures are a study in perseverance.

For more about Elizabeth, see www.rynecki.org



In the Matter of Nikola Tesla: A Romance of the Mind

***By NY Times Bestselling Author
Anthony Flacco, wga/w***

Diversions Books

From the 1890s through 1942, this true story follows genius NIKOLA TESLA, arguably the most influential inventor in history and certainly the most unfairly ignored— his powerful work even exceeded that of the venerated Thomas Edison. The portrayal of this tall, handsome figure is historically accurate. There have been many failed attempts to tell the Nikola Tesla story, mainly because of the difficulty of humanizing this eccentric loner. So, in this new twist on a true story, that challenge is met by the underlying tale of that romantic life which is his finest secret of all.

The story's romantic element begins when Nikola is still very young, on the night that his MUSE comes to him in the form of a beautiful woman. This is not fantasy; Tesla himself tried on several occasions to tell others about his unseen Muse but was repeatedly rebuffed. The premise of this story merely takes the man at his own word.

The story tells how Tesla, though handsome and charming, lived a self-chosen life of isolation— a “monk” to his calling of electronic invention. Over time he is supported by George Westinghouse, betrayed by J. P. Morgan, befriended by Mark Twain, and repeatedly victimized by the Robber Barons of the day.

Throughout his life, Tesla’s secret Muse follows him, bringing him visions of miraculous inventions. She is invisible to others but exquisitely real to him. It is for her, for the life and the work that she shares with him, that this gallant, passionate gentleman maintains a loner's life even when he is working among others.

Tesla’s contemporaries could never understand his lifelong avoidance of truly personal relationships, but the reason is plain to us; although his Muse alternately blesses and curses him, she remains Tesla’s best secret— even when she is a fierce companion.

For more about Anthony, see www.AnthonyFlacco.com



Sizzle Reel: [*Tesla Trailer*](#)

Nikola Tesla –

6 Part Limited Dramatic Series

Adapted from the Novel by Anthony Flacco, wga/w

*** Full Treatment Available ***

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

WHY J.P. MORGAN?

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

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

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

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

HERE'S HOW THE POV CHANGES ARE USED:

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

But while Morgan listens to the famous author, the narrative switches to his POV and shows a decadent writer of trivial popular novels who is speaking up for a dangerously eccentric inventor.

George Westinghouse tells Morgan about his associations with Tesla. In financing the Niagara Falls power system for Tesla, using Morgan's money, he has come to see Tesla as an inventive man. But he sees Tesla's naivety as proving his genius to be over-rated.

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

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

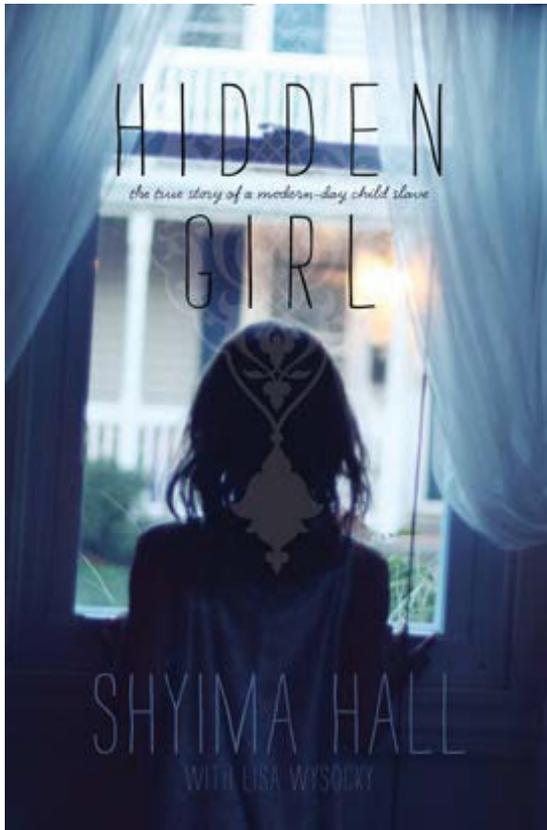
Scherff insists Tesla’s motives are pure. His POV shows Tesla as a passionate romantic with a vivid personal imagination. Scherff tells how he sometimes watches Tesla’s revels from the shadows, a guilty voyeur filled with admiration.

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

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

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

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



Hidden Girl

The True Story of a Modern-Day Child Slave

***By Shyima Hall
with Lisa Wysocky***

***Simon & Schuster Books
for Young Readers***

Scripted Treatment Available

When Shyima Hall was eight years old her poverty-stricken Egyptian parents, overwhelmed with close to a dozen children, sold her into slavery. The price? 17 dollars a month. The wealthy Cairo couple who bought Shyima moved to California two years later, and brought the little girl into the US illegally.

As a child slave, Shyima Hall had no friends or family, no emotional support whatsoever. She did not speak a word of English and, after moving to the US, was thousands of miles and an ocean away from everything that was familiar to her. On top of that, a terrorized Shyima was forced to toil 16 or more hours a day, seven days a week for her captor's family, which included five children—some of whom were near her age. At night, Shyima slept on a squalid mattress in a windowless garage. A bucket

and some water was all she had in which to wash herself and her clothes; and she was forbidden from going to school. Shyima never visited a doctor or dentist, even when she was ill with the flu. Additionally, her captors continually berated her and often slapped her.

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

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

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

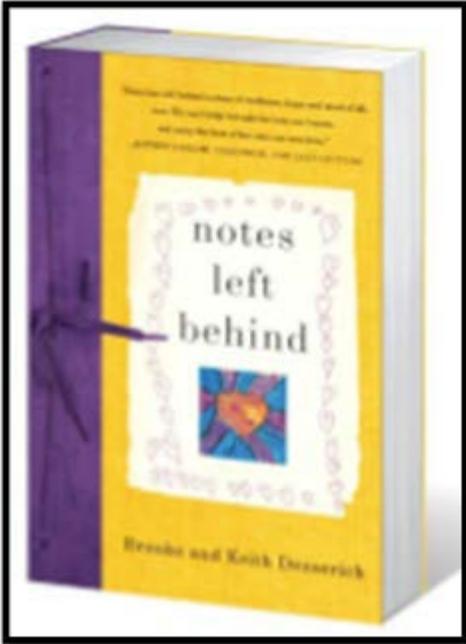


Hidden Girl empowers readers to step up when they believe a wrong is being committed. If not for a concerned neighbor, Shyima might still be ensnared in the web of slavery. This first-person, 65,000 word narrative details Shyima's difficult Egyptian childhood and her challenging years as a slave. Her assimilation into foster homes, school, eventual adoption, and request for legal emancipation is shown through the rare point of view of a young teen experiencing both freedom and the culture of the United States for the first time.

Shyima's many firsts are also shared. Imagine being 13 and never having seen the inside of a school, been to a movie or a store, eaten at a restaurant, or made a friend. These emotional firsts are told with honest humility and wonder, and come with their own unique set of challenges. The story culminates with Shyima triumphantly standing before a federal judge and being sworn in as a naturalized citizen of the United States.

Watch interview with Shyima on Tavis Smiley, March 2014 <http://video.pbs.org/video/2365210010/>

Watch AP story: [AP Video Story](#)



Notes Left Behind

By Keith and Brooke Desserich

William Morrow/HarperCollins

Translated in 24 languages

It started with just one girl and became a movement among millions that will change the way a world fights cancer. **Notes Left Behind** is a story that Elena's parents never wanted to tell; the story of love, compassion and six-year-old Elena's heroic fight against cancer. From cereal kisses in the morning to trying on wedding dresses far too early, and to the simplest action of holding hands with their daughters on the way to school, the Desserich's book has been called "The Last Lecture for parents."

It began with a series of notes left by Elena for her younger sister Gracie as a form of remembrance, and was soon followed by thousands of mothers and fathers who heard the story on the internet and were each inspired to appreciate and love their own children in more clear and present ways. Learning to value the smaller moments in life over the milestones, the Desserich family passed on the lessons of their children in touching journal entries that captured the joy and passion of a family who discovers the true value of life in drinking deeply of the day.

But it was after Elena's passing and the completion of the journal, that the Desserich's soon discovered the most important lesson their daughter was to leave behind. Finishing a remodeling project that began prior to her diagnosis, they began to find hundreds of notes hidden throughout the house from Elena – each with a simple message of love and compassion. And in doing so, Elena would leave her own notes and memories that would endure today. Within days of its initial release in the US, **Notes Left Behind** immediately became a New York Times Bestseller, receiving the attention of The Today Show, CNN, Good Morning America, People Magazine, AOL.com, Yahoo.com, Air America, Inside Edition and beyond. Soon it developed a worldwide following with over 20 different foreign language translations continuing into 2010.

Written as a celebration of Elena's life, the inspirational **Notes Left Behind** accomplishes the impossible through the charity created in her honor, The Cure Starts Now. Developed as a calling to fight those cancers that experts believe will offer us a cure for all cancers, it represents a revolutionary cancer strategy that has never before been proposed. And today this "homerun" cure strategy sweeps the world with over 20 chapters and thousands of sponsors. All US and Canadian author proceeds benefit www.TheCureStartsNow.org



"This is a stunning story that teaches us how precious children, family and life are, and that the sacrifices we make are worth it. I won't forget the Desserich family, and neither will you." —**James Patterson, Renowned Author**

For more on the story, see www.NotesLeftBehind.com



View the book trailer: [Notes Left Behind Book Trailer](#)

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/real-life-stories/inspiring-legacy-six-year-old-10529397>

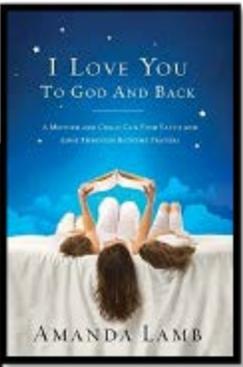
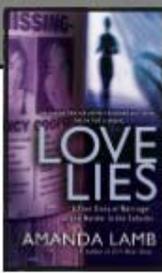
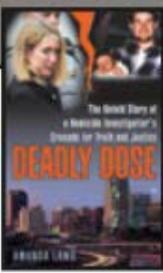


AMANDA LAMB

Smotherhood

by Amanda Lamb

(Skirt!/Globe Pequot, 2007)



Smotherhood™

Sitcom:

When the gritty world of a television crime reporter invades the daily life of a mother raising two little girls, there is an endless amount of humorous and dramatic material for a television sitcom. **Smotherhood™** is a collection of laugh-out-loud, tender, unfiltered anecdotes about balancing work and parenting. For hard-charging local television reporter Amanda Lamb, **Smotherhood™** is a way of life. She reads autopsy reports while her daughters sing Taylor Swift songs on their karaoke machine in the next room. She listens to her daughter's story of losing a tooth on her cell phone while waiting in the jail for a homicide suspect to be booked. She ducks out of a murder trial to see her daughter play a cirrus cloud in the school play.

Smotherhood™, a name which Lamb has registered as a federal trademark, is an ongoing balancing act as Lamb juggles the pressures of her high-profile stressful job with the mundane moments of parenting. The result for readers and would-be viewers of a sitcom is the hilarious melding of two disparate worlds. From talking to the district attorney on her phone in a bathroom stall while her daughter poops, to listening to her editor curse like a sailor on her Blue Tooth in the car with a carload of kids, parents everywhere will relate to Lamb's unlikely predicament as her two worlds continually collide. And the **Smotherhood™** journey continues...Lamb has also penned a follow-up, **Girls Gone Child**, with plenty of new humorous material. In addition, she writes the weekly blog: [Go Ask Mom](#).

Smotherhood One Hour:

Nothing is more poignant than the extremes of the two worlds colliding—one that focuses on death, the other that revolves around the living.



Smotherhood™ is a collection of tender, humorous essays that chronicle the disparate worlds of hard-charging local television crime reporter Amanda Lamb as she navigates between her job covering murder cases and her job at home as a mother to two little girls. In her high-stress, intense professional life Lamb covers grizzly murder cases with a competitive spirit and passion that often lead her down dangerous paths both literally and figuratively. But her role as a mother to two precious daughters is the anchor which grounds her in reality.

With the help of her good old boy husband, Grif, she somehow maintains her sanity amidst the daily chaos of her life.

Smotherhood™ is the perfect material to use as the background for a one-hour television drama.

It contains just the right blend of heartwarming, humorous moments juxtaposed against the gritty backdrop of the darkness witnessed by a television crime reporter. Viewers will relate to the challenges of balancing work and family, but at the same time be intrigued with how Lamb's world at work is so contradictory to her life at home. And there's plenty of material. Lamb has also written a follow-up to **Smotherhood™** titled **Girls Gone Child**, and continues to keep a diary of her most memorable moments in television news, and there are *many*.

For more about Amanda, see www.alambauthor.com

Marcel's Letters

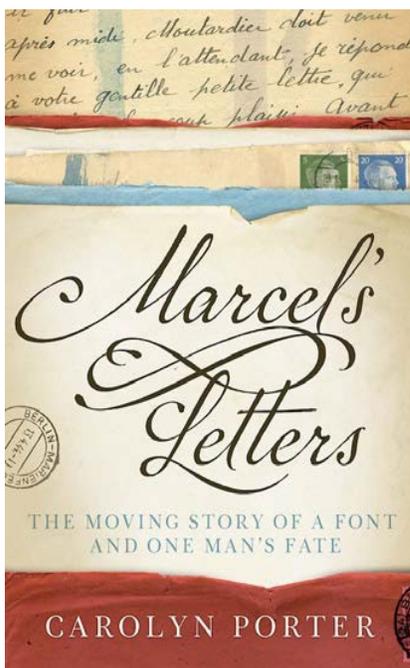
By Carolyn Porter

Skyhorse Publishing, June 2017

* **Booklist Starred Review**

“An absolutely engaging and inherently fascinating read from first page to last, ‘*Marcel's Letters: A Font and the Search for One Man's Fate*’ is an extraordinary story—one that will linger in the mind and memory long after the book is finished and set back upon the shelf. ... Unreservedly recommended, especially for community and academic library collections...” — **Midwest Book Review**

“In *Marcel's Letters*, Carolyn Porter has plucked a powerful story from the recesses of history. After purchasing a trove of letters because of their elegant script, Porter embarked on a quest to solve the mystery of their authorship and in doing so embarks on a historical awakening of her own.” -- **Cathryn J. Prince**, author of *American Daredevil: The Extraordinary Life of Richard Halliburton, the World's First Celebrity Travel Writer*



In 2002, graphic designer and aspiring font designer Carolyn Porter found a stack of beautiful handwritten letters at an antique store in the small town of Stillwater, Minnesota. She could not read them—they had been written in French, a language she did not speak—but she was immediately drawn to the expressive pen and ink handwriting, the swashed greetings, and the stripes of blue and red painted across the sheets of paper. She noticed all the letters had been signed by a man named Marcel and mailed from Berlin to France during the middle of World War II; while those details were interesting, her primary interest was in using the letters as a *specimen* for a font. She purchased five letters—though more were available—and in the years that followed, she methodically crafted a computer font based on Marcel's handwriting. She came to intimately know the shape of each loop, the swan-like curve of the letter 's,' and the length of the crossbar on the letter 't'—yet she remained oblivious to what was written *in* the letters.

The complex font design software caused innumerable frustrations and at times, Carolyn considered abandoning the project. In July 2011, nine years after purchasing Marcel's letters, Carolyn retrieved the originals from storage to reference a letter of the alphabet she struggled to perfect. As she looked at the sheets of paper, she was reminded of their beauty and decided to have one of Marcel's letters translated. Initially, it was no more than a whim and a curiosity. But, once she read the translated text, it was as if a portal to a different time opened. Carolyn needed to find out why the letter writer, Marcel Heuzé, had been in Berlin, why his letters had been for sale at an antique store halfway around the world, and mostly importantly, whether he returned to his wife and daughters after the war. She didn't have much to go on: she had Marcel's name, the names of his three girls, an address in Berlin, and the name of a street in a small French village where his wife and daughters lived—a street that no longer seemed to exist. Carolyn did not even know Marcel's wife's name, as he only ever called her “my darling” in his letters.

Carolyn eventually learned Marcel Heuzé had been deported to Berlin to work at a Daimler factory making Panther tanks in 1943. He had the misfortune to be one of hundreds of thousands of ordinary French citizens requisitioned by the Vichy regime to fill the Nazi's need for labor. Under *Service du Travail Obligatoire*, any Frenchman between the age of 18 and 50 could be summoned for obligatory work service. Those who evaded a summons faced prison, staggering fines, or the prospect of spending the duration of the war in hiding. Once in Germany, forced laborers like Marcel were housed in prison-like barracks surrounded by razor wire and guarded by SS. Thousands of forced laborers—French, Italian, Dutch, Belgian, Russian—perished from typhus, starvation, or bombing raids. Others were beaten to death or transferred to extermination camps. The average lifespan was three-and-a-half-months. The letters Marcel sent from the Daimler work camp include rare and detailed testimony of day-to-day survival. He described constant hunger, food procured on the black market, sheltering in a bunker during an air raid. His letters also describe moments of humanity, such as when a barrack-mate sang a Maurice Chevalier song. Marcel was separated from his little darlings, building tanks that fought the very people trying to liberate his homeland. If the Allies were going to succeed, they needed to obliterate the factory where he worked: a desperate, no-win situation.

Despite this reality, Marcel's letters were filled with hope and affection. Each letter began with the swashed greeting *Mes chères petites*, and included promises about *when* he returned, not *if* he lived.

As Carolyn pursued answers, in archives in Germany, France, and across the U.S., she encountered mistaken identities, learned Marcel had been sent to Spandau Prison for two-and-a-half months for “violating food rules,” discovered a hidden message in a swastika, and learned the blue and red stripes painted in the background were chemical censor swabs. She even tracked down the woman who owned the now-closed store in Stillwater. To Carolyn's astonishment, the woman still had twelve of Marcel's letters in her possession. Months went by and neither his death nor survival could be confirmed. It seemed as though Marcel had been erased from history.

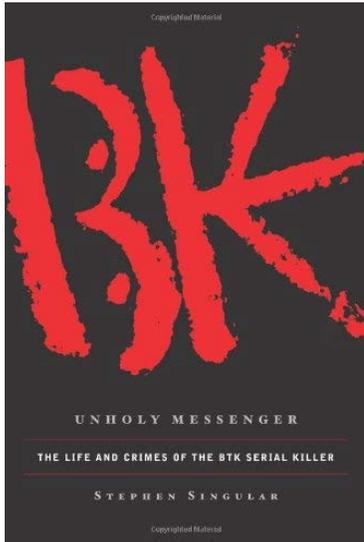
In mid-2012, Dixie, Carolyn's genealogy researcher, found a record that showed Marcel survived the labor camp and lived to be nearly 80 years old. At the time of his death, he and his wife, Renée, had been married 59 years. Carolyn learned two of Marcel's three daughters were still alive, and mailed a letter to Denise—the middle daughter—then a woman of 78. After establishing contact with the family, Carolyn heard the most remarkable claim: no one in the family recalled seeing these letters before. Months later, Carolyn and her husband Aaron traveled to Paris to meet four generations of Marcel's family. She viewed boxes of photos, and was entrusted with stories about Marcel's life. When Carolyn showed a sample of the font to the family and expressed her interest in naming it “Marcel,” the family was honored to provide their blessing. When Carolyn returned from Paris, she worked diligently to craft something of the highest quality and complete the font. *Marcel's Letters* concludes in January 2014, two weeks before the publication of the font when Carolyn learned the font won a prestigious international design award. P22 Marcel Script is now the recipient of four international design awards.

Marcel's Letters makes history fresh and relevant by weaving past with present, and makes history come alive with the never-before-published text of 17 letters (five reproduced in full; 12 excerpted) mailed from Barrack D4 West of the Daimler-Marienfelde labor camp. All will be touched by this unforgettable story of hope, tenacity, and the power of love.

www.Carolyn-Porter.com

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcq8JXwWZxI&t=5s> -Watch author tell the story of how the book was created.

TRUE CRIME



Unholy Messenger by Stephen Singular Scribner (Simon & Schuster)

Dennis Rader was a model citizen in the small town of Park City, Kansas, just north of Wichita – a good father and husband, a compliance officer working in local government, a Boy Scout leader, and the president of his Lutheran congregation. His pastor, Michael Clark, called him his “right-hand man and rock,” the person he constantly leaned on for help. Rader was also the man no one knew, no one in the world. Every time he elaborately stalked and sadistically killed one of his victims as BTK (“Bind, Torture, Kill”), he made a record of his deeds, with drawings, writings, and souvenirs from the crimes. He had photos, for example, of the night he’d strangled an elderly woman and then photographed her in bondage in the sanctuary of his church. He hid the mementos in his office file cabinet and throughout his modest home, where his wife and children never suspected a thing. They had no idea who was living in the next room, but someday, after

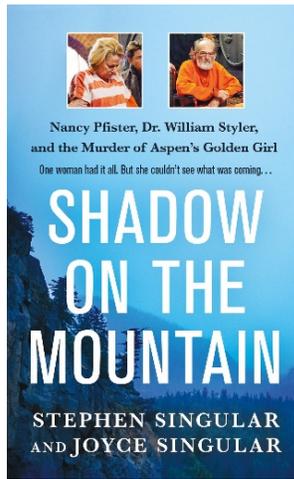
he was dead, all that would change. He’d leave behind instructions for them to find his stash, called “BTK Productions,” and they’d release it to the public. Then everyone would know his secret: he’d fooled the Wichita Police Department -- which had won the Grand Award from the National Safety Council for being the safest city in America in 1958, 1959, and 1960 -- for more than three decades.

The plan was perfect until one Sunday morning in February 2004, when the “Wichita Eagle” ran a front-page story suggesting that BTK was probably dead. The article left Rader resentful and agitated. He’d show them he was still alive, by mailing the “Eagle” a photocopy of the driver’s license of one of his victims. The paper passed the image along to the WPD and for the next year the game was on, with Rader sending cryptic messages to the police as they took 4,500 new DNA swabs and held stakeouts all over the city. They weren’t close to finding him, when he sent them a “clean” computer diskette. In fifteen minutes, cyber-cops discovered that the diskette held data connected to the president of the Lutheran Church in Park City. A few days later, Rader was arrested and suddenly the man who’d never spoken his truth to any human being could not stop talking. He confessed to the police for 32 straight hours, giving the fullest account of the crimes and psychology of a serial killer in American history. He spelled out his murders year by year and death by death, parts of this saga later coming out on live national television. No one had ever seen or heard anything like it.

“Betrayal” doesn’t begin to capture what Rader did to his victims, their families, his family, his friends, his church and community. Evil is never quite so intimate as when mingled with religion and for BTK they went hand in hand. Faith, deviant sex and torture, serial murder, police drama, and a journey into the depths of the criminal mind – all of it unfolding in a small, repressed Kansas town and around a Lutheran congregation. In becoming BTK, Rader studied previous serial killers to create his murderous persona. Now criminologists and forensic psychiatrists study him as one of the most cunning and complex minds in the annals of homicide.

Stephen Singular is the author or co-author of 22 non-fiction books, many of them about high-profile criminal cases. He’s also written sports and business biographies and social commentary. Two of the books have been “New York Times” bestsellers and four have been turned into films, mini-series or TV movies. Since the mid-1980s, Stephen has appeared on numerous media outlets, including the CBS “Morning Show,” NBC’s “Today,” ABC’s “Good Morning, America,” The Rachel Maddow Show, Chris Matthew’s “Hardball,” CNN’s “Larry King Live” and “Anderson Cooper 360,” TruTV, ESPN, and FOX.

For more see: www.StephenSingular.com



Shadow on the Mountain

by Stephen & Joyce Singular, St. Martin's Press

Nancy Pfister, heir to Buttermilk Mountain, the site of the world-renowned Winter X Games, was Aspen royalty. She partied with Hunter Thompson, dated Jack Nicolson and Michael Douglas, globetrotted with Anjelica Huston, and chauffeured the Dalai Lama around town. A philanthropist, Pfister claimed to be wealthy, but Kathy Carpenter, her personal banking assistant, drinking companion, dog caretaker, and occasional lover, knew better. Nancy's parents kept her on a tight monthly budget, even after they died, because they never trusted her with the family money. She'd flourished in the 1970s in Aspen, when the locals liked to say that "the fun button got stuck on hold." Nobody had more fun than Pfister or longed to keep the party going, but she always needed more and more cash. In the fall of 2013, she began interviewing renters for her \$4.5 million mountain home so she could winter in Australia, pursuing new business ventures and

new romance.

For decades, Dr. William Styler III and his wife, Nancy, had known the good life in Denver. He was Chief of Anesthesiology at St. Joseph's Hospital and she'd garnered national publicity as a master grower of oversized water lilies, nurturing them in a pond in her backyard. The Stylers had it all, until Trey (as William was called) contracted a mysterious, debilitating illness. His inability to keep practicing medicine, a costly lawsuit, and bad financial decisions, along with the crash of 2008, had left them down-and-out, but open to new ways to make money. By autumn 2013, they hoped to start over in the place of their dreams. If Trey was often confined to a wheelchair, his wife, a former nurse, would support them by providing Botox, eyelash extensions, and other beauty treatments for the women of Aspen.

They instantly fell for Nancy Pfister's home and Nancy herself. The location was ideal, the terms were right, and they seemed to mesh with their new landlady's gregarious personality. The trio sealed their rental agreement with hugs and champagne -- the couple unaware that Pfister had champagne *every* afternoon, usually to excess. As soon as they moved in, conflict began, intensifying with accusations and nasty e-mails Pfister sent them from Australia. The Stylers were bewildered and chagrined: Aspen's "Golden Girl" wasn't so golden, after all.

The couple turned to Kathy Carpenter, who helped them watch their landlady's dog, for advice and help. They gave Kathy December's \$6,000 rental payment, which never reached Pfister's bank account. By late February, Nancy had cut short her trip and would return to Aspen, evict the Stylers, and collect her money. Arriving on the 22nd, she was found beaten to death in her bedroom closet on the evening of the 26th. The crime made headlines in New York and London, but who'd killed her? It had to be her tenants, didn't it? Pfister's harshest conflict had been with Nancy Styler, who'd told people around Aspen that someone should get rid of their landlady. Trey looked too frail to have committed the crime alone, but not Kathy Carpenter. And what had she done with the \$6,000 that never reached her dead friend?

The Stylers and Carpenter were all arrested for conspiracy and first-degree murder. As the preliminary hearing approached, with the prosecution ready to lay out exactly who had done what to Pfister, Trey shockingly confessed to everything: he'd killed her by himself and then covered it up, insisting that his two co-defendants were totally innocent. Aspen, which is devoted to maintaining its global image, heaved a huge sigh of relief.

As Sheriff Joe DiSalvo said about the doctor's confession, "It works for me." The local legal system accepted Trey's version of events, which most people did not, and Kathy and Nancy Styler were set free. A year later, Trey hung himself in his cell and his wife collected his \$1 million life insurance policy. Case closed, but nobody felt the full truth had yet come out...

The resolution of the murder echoed Claudine Longet's 1976 shooting death of her lover, World Cup skier Spider Sabich. Longet got a small fine and 30 days in jail because then too Aspen wanted the case and the bad publicity gone. When Nancy Pfister's bludgeoning became a similar nuisance, it quickly vanished, but the mystery remains.

The husband and wife team of Stephen and Joyce Singular have collaborated on many other books. *Shadow On The Mountain* is Joyce's second true crime title. For more see: www.stephensingular.com.

Nicki Egan

Former PEOPLE Magazine Journalist

www.NickiEgan.com



MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

Nicki Egan is an award-winning journalist and former *People* magazine senior writer with a 25-plus year record of obtaining exclusive interviews on some of the nation's highest profile crime, human-interest and medical stories.

She has a unique talent for earning the trust of those who are reluctant to open up to others and telling their stories sensitively and compassionately, earning her the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's prestigious Hope Award and the Luce Award for public service. She is also an accomplished investigative journalist with a history of uncovering wrongdoing by public officials and exposing inadequate laws that lead to legal reforms and was the first reporter in the country to look into the Bill Cosby drugging and sexual assault scandal deeply in 2005 when others shied away. Ten years later, she broke the news of his arrest on People.com, beating her competitors yet again.

Nicki is adept at writing long-form narrative pieces as well as unearthing and writing compelling crime, human-interest and medical stories for digital media.



Greta Van Susteren 'On the Record'
February 10, 2005

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**"NICKI SEES A GOOD STORY
BEFORE MOST PEOPLE DO."**



KURT HEINE
THE HUFFINGTON POST
NEWS EDITOR



WILD ESCAPE:

The Prison Break from Dannemora and the Manhunt that Captured America

Under Option

By Chelsia Rose Marcius
Diversions Books, 2018



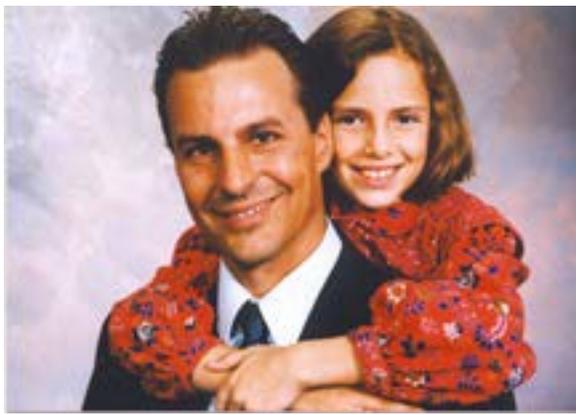
On June 6, 2015, inmates Richard Matt and David Sweat escaped from New York State's largest maximum-security prison, Clinton Correctional Facility. The media became instantly obsessed with the story: two convicted murderers sliced their way through the brick and steel wall of their cells, meandered through a maze of tunnels, popped out of a manhole, and walked off into the night. Only a handful of inmates had successfully broken out of Clinton since the facility opened in 1845, and not many have made the attempt. Barbed wire, concrete walls and the wilderness of the Adirondacks all serve as physical and psychological barriers to freedom. The seemingly impossible Shawshank-esque escape had the makings of a Hollywood film, and the public hung on to every twist and turn in the developing plot.

After nearly three weeks on the run, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agent Christopher Voss shot and killed Matt June 26, 2015. Two days later New York State Police Sgt. Jay Cook shot Sweat twice in the back. He survived. While we have come to learn *how* Matt and Sweat pulled off perhaps the most elaborate modern-day prison break, no reporter, **except Chelsia Rose Marcius**, has talked directly to Sweat to ask perhaps the most important question in the case: *Why?* Marcius has visited David Sweat over a dozen times at Five Points Correctional Facility in Romulus, New York, where he is currently serving out a life sentence. She has spent more than 35 hours discussing his childhood, his adolescence, his family, his time at Clinton, his plan to break out, and she will continue spend even more time with him in the coming months. Sweat has shared some of the most intimate details of his life with Ms. Marcius that have never been reported, including his time at various shelters, group homes, and the sexual abuse he suffered at the hands of his older sister, Tilly Tuttle. Ms. Marcius has conducted a number of interviews with other individuals from Sweat's past to corroborate his story. These include conversations with Tuttle — also a victim of sexual abuse at the hands of their father, Floyd Kenyon— his mother, Pamela Sweat, and Shawn Devaul, the key witness in the 2002 murder of Broome County Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Tarsia, the crime that landed Sweat behind bars for life. Like David Sweat, Tuttle and Devaul have yet to talk to a reporter until now.



Ms. Marcius is a staff reporter at the *New York Daily News* covering crime and national breaking news. She has been interviewed many times on radio and television, including MSNBC, BBC Radio, Fox 5 New York and Inside Edition, to discuss her work. Ms. Marcius has broken exclusive stories while covering some of the biggest national news events of the past four years, including the escape of inmates David Sweat and Richard Matt, the mass shooting in Orlando at Pulse nightclub, the massacre of 26 children and teachers in Newtown, CT, leaves her uniquely qualified to tell this story. In New York City, Ms. Marcius was the first reporter to interview Ramsey Orta, the man who filmed the death of Eric Garner. The video she helped to obtain went viral, leading to police training reforms within the NYPD. Ms. Marcius made several appearances on MSNBC and BBC Radio to discuss the case, and her reporting helped the paper win the Associated Press award for continuing coverage.

For more information on Ms. Marcius, visit www.chelsiarosemarcius.com.



Surviving with Klaas:

The Birth of a Reluctant Activist

by Marc Klaas

** On Submission*

In the decades leading up to the kidnapping of Marc Klaas' 12-year-old daughter Polly, the San Francisco Bay Area suffered an epidemic of abduction. At least once a year, the evening news would lead with the same nightmare scenario. A sobbing parent would stare into the unblinking lens of a television camera and tell the reporter that, "I'm waiting by my phone for the ransom demand; she would never run away; and I will never give up hope." Until that point in time, the ransom call never arrived and none of the cases were solved.

Polly Klaas was kidnapped from a slumber party she was hosting in the Petaluma, California home she shared with her mother. At 10:30 p.m. on October first of 1993, a butcher knife-wielding stranger entered Polly's bedroom. His threat to slit the girl's throats from ear to ear stifled their screams while he quickly tied, gagged, and blindfolded her girlfriends. Finally, he stole Polly into the night.

Early the next morning, Klaas faced a crime scene out of an episodic cop show when he arrived to find Polly's home cordoned off by yellow tape. He was approached by a television reporter who confirmed he was the little girl's father and then requested an interview. He declined, but she looked him in the eye and said, "I'm not your enemy," then gestured toward the fleet of television microwave trucks parked along Polly's street. "We cover too many of these cases and we want to help. I can generate more publicity with ten seconds on-air than you can nailing flyers on telephones for the next hundred years." Klaas took her at her word, and for the next two months conducted hundreds of interviews and helped to generate worldwide interest in his daughter. Polly Klaas became **the Internet's first missing child**.

Finally, the tragic events of that night were revealed: Uninformed and ill-conceived law enforcement blunders had allowed the kidnapper to slither through the grasp of two Sheriff's deputies within an hour of Polly's disappearance, thereby sealing her fate. Sixty-five days after the ordeal began, the astute observations of an alert citizen led to the capture and confession of her abductor, and ultimately revealed the location of Polly's remains. The crushing realization began in Marc Klaas's core, but quickly found primal voice. Polly was dead and he wanted to join her.

Still, knowing his daughter was beyond the touch of evil liberated him from the adrenalin-fueled fear and despair which had caused him to lose 35-pounds over the past sixty-five days. With a sense of great urgency, he vowed Polly's tragedy would represent more than a data point on a pie chart. He would find ways to help families avoid Polly's fate. She soon became a flashpoint for change and transported Klaas from a Hertz Rent-A-Car counter to news outlets across the country. An appearance on the Today Show led to a meeting in the Oval Office, which afforded him extraordinary access to America's political elite. The unassuming business man who dealt with curious tourists had quickly become a high-profile advocate with a clear vision and an angry determination to create meaning out of chaos. It's a job, he reflects, that nobody wants.

Within a year, he founded the non-profit KlaasKids Foundation, became a go-to Cable News crime analyst, an editorial page regular, and a newly married man, juggling life, love, and spiritual bankruptcy. His path forward was fraught with tears, anger, medications, and therapy. His spirit sank as his stature grew. On September 13, 1994, he stood next to President Clinton and surrounded by dignitaries in a Rose Garden ceremony while he dedicated the Violent Crime Control & Law Enforcement Act to my daughter. The bill put 100,000 cops on America's streets, provided funds for prison construction and billions of dollars for prevention funding for at-risk youth. After the ceremony, Klaas returned to his hotel room, his pride smothered in grief, and cried himself to sleep hoping to dream about Polly. Dreams are the only way he can visit her, and they don't happen often enough. Still, he has to gear himself up for every public appearance. He never knows if the next one will be the one that saves a child from going down to the evil that got Polly.

Join the author's decades-long journey as he overcomes legislative hurdles, social barriers, institutional betrayal, and personal defeat, to find that the angel he sought has been guiding him all along. www.KlaasKids.org

Crime Writers On.....

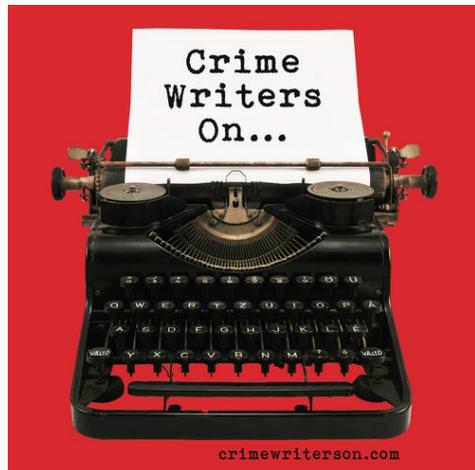
True Crime Podcast



Whenever a crime catches the public's imagination, two people are already on the case – bestselling true crime authors Kevin Flynn and Rebecca Lavoie. Partners in life as well as in crime, this husband and wife team have a unique perspective on stories that often begin – or end – with a body. The powerhouse writing team have produced multiple mass-market true crime titles and are the hosts of highly popular podcast, CRIME WRITERS ON, with over 100,000 listeners worldwide weekly.

With many television, radio, and print publications having relied on Flynn and Lavoie to talk about the cases they've written about, the pair have become seasoned pros at painting a colorful narrative of true events. Flynn, an Emmy-winning former television journalist, is driven by uncovering the backstories and fascinating details of crimes, from premeditation to criminal investigation to trial. Lavoie, a columnist and public radio producer, has a deep understanding of the very human motivations that drive people to commit crimes, and the impact those crimes have on the loved ones of victims. Together, they're able to discuss stories in a way that's compelling and audience-driven, with no shortage of chemistry between them as their very different takes on a case are expressed.

Now the pair is ready to partner in a new podcast built on their ability to uncover the fascinating details of real-life cases, bringing the listener into the process of weighing what's relevant, what's revealing, and what makes the story worth talking about. Consider it a cross between the much-loved genre of married investigators on the case and procedural and true crime favorites, a sort of *Hart to Hart* meets *Dateline* meets *CSI* in podcast form!



The iTunes Top 10 podcast hosted by Rebecca and featuring Kevin and a panel of crime writing experts. Listen to them breakdown the international sensation "Serial" seasons 1 and 2, and weigh in all things crime, writing, and pop culture. They're true crime authors. They're also married. So of course, they decided to start a podcast which now has over 100,000 listeners weekly.

The show is called *Crime Writers On...* and it all came together when they got some fellow writers together discuss the blockbuster podcast *Serial*. It's since morphed into a broader conversation about true crime, journalism, and pop culture.

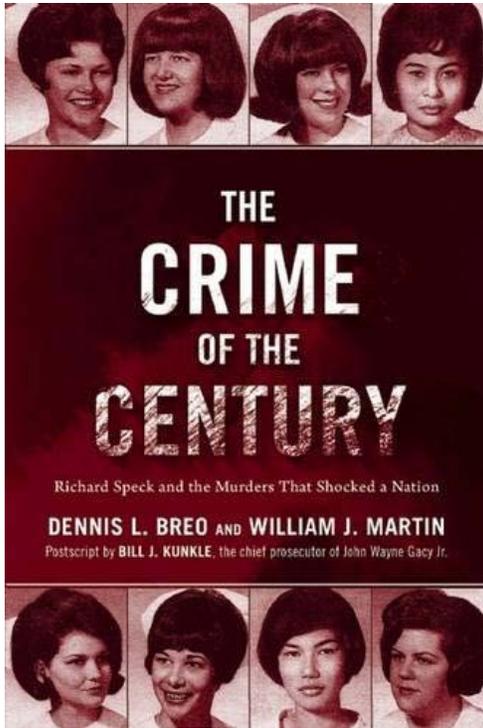
You can find their show on iTunes, on [Stitcher](#), or you can listen [right here](http://www.crimewriterson.com/) <http://www.crimewriterson.com/> They're also on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Crime Writers On... is hosted by Rebecca Lavoie, and features Kevin Flynn, Toby Ball, Lara Bricker, and occasional surprise guests.

www.AuthorKevinFlynn.com

The Crime of the Century: Richard Speck and the Murders That Shocked a Nation

By *Dennis L. Breo and William J. Martin*
Skyhorse, 2016



A detective cuts the police tape and five men enter the scene of the crime, a small, boxy, two-story townhouse on the south side of Chicago. Here, some 13 days earlier, Richard Franklin Speck, a drifter from Dallas, had broken into the townhouse, which served as a dorm for six American nursing students and three Filipino exchange nurses, and savagely stabbed, strangled, and killed eight young women in a violent sexual rampage. One nurse, the tiny Corazon Amurao, miraculously survived by hiding under a bed behind a hanging blanket. Cora's eyewitness description and a match of fingerprints left on a bedroom door had identified Speck as the killer.

Now, as the five men step around congealed blood on the floors of the upstairs bedrooms, Speck's killing fields, they vow to bring the killer to justice. Team Speck, as the prosecutors will come to be known, are led by Bill Martin, 29, the father of four, including two young daughters. Earlier this day, Martin had locked in his office safe a priceless piece of evidence – 22 pages of handwritten notes and townhouse diagrams provided by a Filipino translator who had interviewed Cora in her native Tagalog. It tells Martin exactly how Speck, who had been whiling away the hours in a seaman's hiring hall across the street from the townhouse, had carried out his barbaric attack.

Martin, charged with prosecuting Chicago's most-famous killer since Al Capone, hardens his heart and steels himself for the hard work ahead. He tells his colleagues: "If we win this case, nobody will ever remember us; if we lose it, nobody will ever forget us."

As the 14-hour days blur into months, the young prosecutor has one overriding concern—protecting the emotional and psychological health of his star witness. Only three months removed from a rural hamlet in the Philippines, Cora has survived a night of unimaginable evil and could easily repress her terrifying memories. While Speck was raping his final victim, the horrified Cora was only a few feet away, under a bunk bed, eyes closed and head pressed against the floor, furiously praying. After the killer had disappeared into the night, she slowly loosened the bindings on her ankles and wrists, crawled out of her hiding space, walked over the dead bodies of her friends, pushed open a bedroom window, climbed onto a townhouse ledge, and screamed for 20 minutes: "They are all dead! Oh, my God, they are all dead!"

Martin knows he must protect the fragile Cora, or his case may be lost. Reporters want interviews about her story of survival and major magazines are offering to pay a lot of money for that story, which would prejudice the State's case; the hospital wants her to return to work, but she is afraid she may make mistakes; the Philippine consulate wants to control her actions, but she wants to make her own decisions. Demonstrating remarkable integrity, Cora, who comes from a very poor family, turns down all offers of paid interviews and firmly states that she wants only "to honor the memory of my friends."

In the first of many bold moves, Martin decides he must "kidnap" Cora and her mother and cousin, who have been flown to Chicago from the Philippines by an American magazine, and place them in the witness protection program under 24/7 police protection at an undisclosed location. As the months pass, Cora puts her trust in her well-chosen police bodyguards, "Jacques" and "Jeem," as she calls Jack Wallenda and Jim Georgalas, and also in Martin, who brings his young children to splash around in a swimming pool with the Amurao clan.

Four months will pass before Martin begins to prepare Cora to testify. With pen and legal notepad before him, Martin is afraid he may blunder in his questioning and cause Cora to repress her memories. But with a Pepsi-Cola in hand (“I just drink Pepsi,” she says), Cora is composed and unflinching as she explains and diagrams how Speck moved the nurses about the townhouse bedrooms. She is determined to help Martin avenge the murder of her friends.

The painstaking preparation will pay off in April 1967, when Cora is reunited with Speck in a court of law. One veteran criminal reporter will describe her as “as a blend of steel and lace” and the “best trial witness I have ever seen.” Martin will have little need for his notes as he and Cora settle into a grooved routine in which Martin perfectly pitches a question and Cora perfectly throws back the answer. It is like a game of catch and both are throwing strikes. Before answering, Cora looks at Martin and then speaks directly to the jurors on her right. Using a scale model of the townhouse built by the FBI and figurines to represent the nurses, Cora explains and demonstrates to the astounded jurors precisely how the killer carried out his night of horrors. Asked by Martin if the killer is in the courtroom, Cora steps down from the witness chair, walks to within a foot of Speck, points at his pockmarked face and vacant stare, and declares in an unwavering voice: “This is the man!”

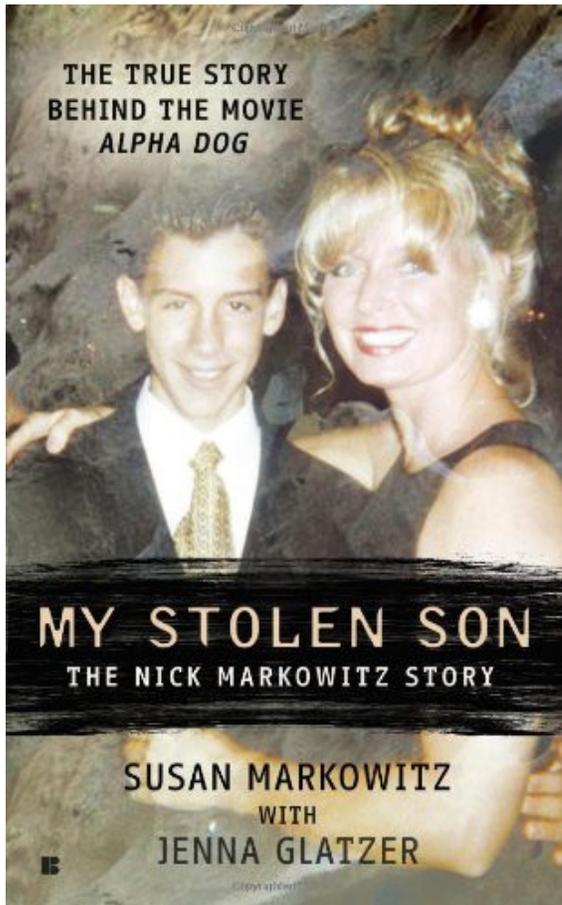
The jurors require only 49 minutes to return a death sentence.

My Stolen Son

The Nick Markowitz Story

Penguin Random House

* Starred Review from Publishers Weekly



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

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

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



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

Death and Dishonor

A Pregnant Marine Wife, Her Married Lover, and a Gruesome Murder

**By NY Times Bestselling Author Shanna Hogan
St. Martin's Press, 2017**

On the dirt floor of an abandoned mineshaft in the remote Southern California desert lay the lifeless body of a pregnant marine wife. **For seven weeks in 2014, the 140-foot deep pit entombed the remains of 19-year-old Erin Corwin.**



By the time searchers discovered Erin, her corpse was severely decomposed—her once pretty face, unrecognizable. Twisted around the rotting flesh of her neck, was a makeshift garrote, fashioned from nylon cord and rebar.

It was a horrific end to the life of kind and compassionate young woman who grew up riding horses in rural Tennessee before moving to California with her high school sweetheart. In the summer of 2014, Erin's disappearance had launched an intense police investigation, which attracted the local and national media to the military base in 29 Palms, California, where the young wife had lived with her marine husband, Cpl. Jonathan Corwin. Early on the morning of June 28—the last day she was seen alive—Erin departed her home in her blue Toyota Corolla, telling Jonathan she was headed to Joshua Tree National Park to scout potential new activities to do with her mother during an upcoming visit. That week, Erin also planned to reveal to her mom the thrilling news that she was two-months pregnant but unbeknownst to Jonathan, Erin

was hiding a dangerous secret. For six months, she had been cheating on her husband with one of his friend's, 25-year-old fellow marine and father of two, Christopher Lee. The Corwins and Lees had been neighbors and the two couples were initially close, before an attraction developed between Erin and Christopher, igniting a secret affair.

On the last day of her life, instead of exploring the park, Erin was meeting her lover. Despite the fact they were both married, Erin believed the desert excursion was part of Christopher's plan to propose. In a text message to her friend, Erin excitedly revealed she was expecting an engagement ring.

"The location is only half the surprise," Erin wrote. "He said he's honestly not sure how I'm going to react ... Seriously, I don't know why he would drag me to a very special place ... for a big dumb surprise."

Erin texts about Christopher were peppered with emoticons and "LOLs." Then, she mentioned something foreboding, stating Christopher had planned the desert trip as a romantic getaway, but that he also expected to hunt and was bringing a gun.

Police and prosecutors contend that Christopher's real surprise for Erin was monstrous and cruel. Believing he was the father of her baby, he lured his lover into the desert to murder her in desperate attempt to hide the affair, prosecutors say. Friends later told police that Christopher was concerned that his wife would divorce him if he knew he had gotten Erin pregnant



Following Erin's disappearance, after seven years in the Marines, Christopher was honorably discharged and moved his family to Alaska.

Soon after, Erin's abandoned vehicle was located about two miles from the military base off a road near her home. A single set of footprints led from the driver's side door and disappeared next to a set of vehicle tracks that matched the tires on Christopher's Jeep. Ten spent shell casings from a .40 caliber gun were located in Christopher's Jeep.

The search for Erin's body led to the high desert where more than 1,000 abandoned mineshafts blight the desert. Investigators combed about 100 of them before finding Erin. The day her body was recovered, Christopher Lee was arrested in Alaska and extradited to California where he stood trial in San Bernardino, CA in 2016. www.ShannaHogan.com

A Time for Pink Ribbons

A Small Town and the Murder of a Little Girl

by James Mitchell

WildBlue Press, 2017



April Millsap was as typical as a fourteen-year-old could be in Armada, Michigan, a small town on the edge of Detroit's sprawl known – if at all – for its quaint atmosphere and annual country fair: A quiet, pretty girl with few worries as she walked her dog along a recreational trail. An ordinary summer evening in July 2014 became the worst night ever in the little village's long history when April was brutally beaten and strangled to death.

The shocking crime brought an unprecedented invasion of police and media to the sleepy town. Helicopters scoured the area; FBI agents went door-to-door looking for answers; reporters breezed through for some drive-by journalism. Dozens of investigators worked around the clock for weeks, desperate to find a man who could commit such a savage murder. A "ticking clock" was amplified with the recognition that this could be among the hardest of all crimes to solve: less than one percent of random, "stranger murders" end with a conviction.

An extraordinary number of tips – eventually to exceed one thousand – challenged investigators to track down every possible lead. Attentions soon focused on James VanCallis Jr., a native son now living "off the grid" in a neighboring county. A volatile personality with a rocky history, VanCallis' troubled future may have been forecast when he'd attended Armada High School fifteen years earlier. The sins of the father now visited the son: James VanCallis Sr. had himself been convicted in the late 1990s for the sexual assault of a girl who had yet become a teenager.

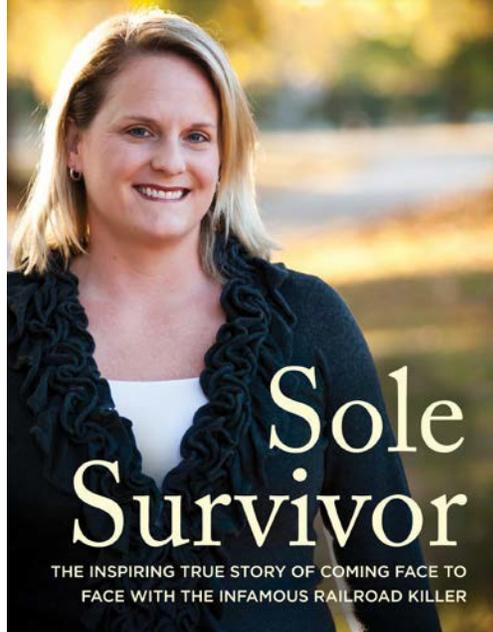


The case against VanCallis is built on both old-fashioned interviews and pavement pounding – given the rare opportunity to "canvas" an entire village – and high-tech detection that assembled a digital jigsaw puzzle from cell phones, tracker apps and video images. Defense cries of "circumstantial" evidence and the absence of DNA are countered by what a judge calls, "A lot of circumstance."

In *A Time for Pink Ribbons* author **James A. Mitchell** chronicles an exhaustive and multi-faceted investigation and prosecution that succeeds against all odds. The story of a young man with a troubled past is set against a landscape framed by a community portrait: lifelong residents and newcomers, old-timers and young couples, professionals and third-generation farmers who keep the area rural. The town's true colors were proudly shown, shaded in pink: "Justice for April" ribbons sprouted on every tree and remained in place for nearly two years. Now at the Village entrance stands "April's Garden," where a little girl is remembered the way streets and houses bear the names of those who came before. The tragedy will be survived, they say, even if a bit of innocence was lost along the way. Many in Armada have long worried about "outside" influences on a beloved way of life. Instead, a harsh lesson was learned when the worst thing to ever happen there was, in fact, a homegrown product. "You can't move away from evil," was among the realizations that year.

The environment is familiar to the author, who in the not-too-distant past of the late 1990s served as editor of the *Armada Times*, a modest "local paper" for a humble little town. Mitchell is a journalist and author of *The Walrus and the Elephants: John Lennon's Years of Revolution* (Seven Stories Press), which has been translated into Portuguese, German and Japanese; *But For the Grace: Profiles in Peace From a Nation at War* (Mansion Field), based on the author's work with an orphanage in Sri Lanka's war-torn north; *It Was All Right: Mitch Ryder's Life in Music* (Wayne State University Press); and *Applegate: Freedom of the Press in a Small Town* (University Press of America), a compilation of editorial misadventures in Armada, Michigan. The author's work has been published in dozens of newspapers and magazines including *The Humanist*, *HOOR Detroit*, *Ambassador*, *Crain's Detroit Business*, *The Detroiter* and *ForewordReviews*.

HOLLY K. DUNN
WITH HEATHER EBERT



SOLE SURVIVOR

By Holly K. Dunn and Heather Ebert

Diversion Books, 2017

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

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



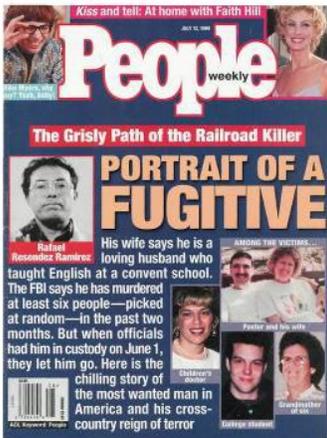
Holly and Chris offered him money, credit cards, even their car while begging the man not to hurt them. Disregarding their pleas, the stranger viciously attacked them both, tying their arms and feet and dragging them into a ditch on the side of the tracks. Holly watched helplessly as the assailant bludgeoned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

After a while, Holly regained consciousness and miraculously managed to walk barefoot and coated in blood to a nearby house for help. From there, Holly was rushed to the University of Kentucky Medical Center where she stayed for five days being treated for multiple cuts and gashes, a broken eye socket, and a fractured jaw. Much worse than the physical harm was the emotional and psychological devastation that Holly endured after the attack. Holly's memoir moves from a detailed

account of the night she and Chris were attacked by the tracks, through her heartbreaking journey of grief and healing as she comes to terms with what happened.

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

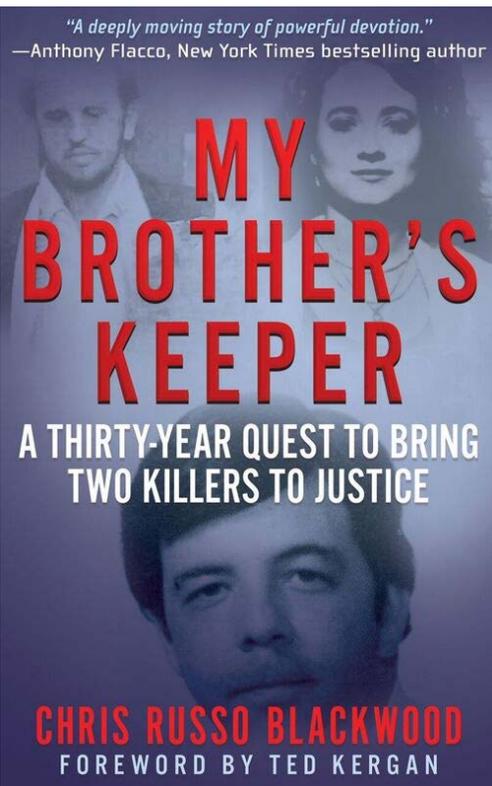
His best-known alias at the time was Rafael Resendez-Ramirez, an illegal immigrant from Mexico with a mile-long rap sheet dating back to when he was 16 years old. At the height of a national manhunt, Resendez-Ramirez is added to the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list, right between Osama Bin Laden and followed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



Holly's story doesn't end with Resendiz's death, however. Not long after her attacker's arrest, Holly begins speaking to various groups to tell her story, offer safety tips, train law enforcement, and much more. She also works with a local police detective for several years to establish **Holly's House** in her hometown, Evansville, Indiana. Holly's House offers a safe and nurturing space for forensic interviews, services and support for victims, and community outreach and education programs.

Her Christian faith brought her strength throughout the healing process, and she believes she was given a second chance at life for a reason. Since her ordeal, Holly has embraced every opportunity to serve others, especially those who have endured rape and other violent crimes. Holly's story is ultimately inspiring and redemptive as she demonstrates that even in the face of one's worst nightmare come true, life can still be good, meaningful, and joyous.

For more see: www.HollyKDunn.com and www.hollyshouse.org



My Brother's Keeper

By

Chris Russo Blackwood

WildBlue Press 2017

On the night of Gary Kergan's murder, he was a confidant, charismatic 4-year-old on the verge of a break-through business deal for himself and younger brother Ted. He had called Ted with the news that the funding they sought for their franchise partnership was granted; the brothers were soon going to own dozens of franchise locations. This was the level of success they had chased together for years. On the phone call, Gary told Ted he was on his way over, so the elated pair could celebrate this great news together. Ted settled on his sofa and waited for the sounds of his brother's steps on the front porch.

For so many years, the brothers had functioned as a duo in business ventures, beginning with mutual paper routes as teenagers. Ted was four years younger and looked up to his brother, while Gary, a big man at six feet, five inches tall, had always been Ted's protector. Everyone who knew the Kergan brothers realized they had a special closeness, even if people were unaware it was built on escaping the poverty of their childhoods together. When they spoke on the phone, they used a special kind of coded language that often made sense only to them. Ted fell asleep waiting. Gary never arrived.

It would later be learned the celebratory mood had caused Gary's good judgment to fail him. He drove to a North Baton Rouge strip bar to meet up with Leila Mulla, a young dancer there. They

later left the bar together and were seen entering her apartment just blocks away.

But Leila already had a boyfriend. He was hiding inside the apartment with a heavy blunt instrument in his hand, waiting for her to bring home a victim with a fat wallet. And with that, Gary disappeared into the memories of those who loved him.

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

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

Police investigated her and her boyfriend, but no solid evidence was found. And yet Ted did not doubt their guilt.

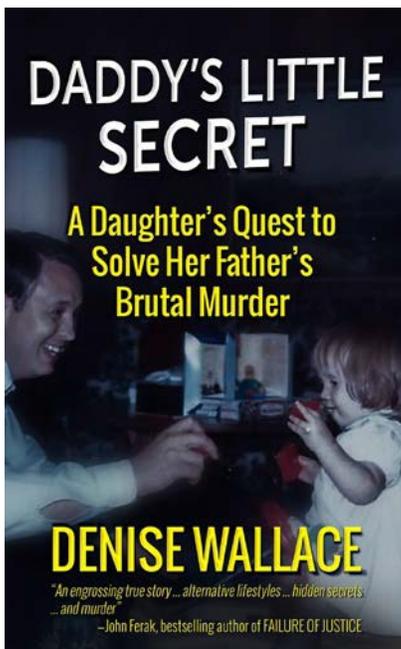
Leila chronicled her sex trade tricks and her earnings in several diaries, and one of them included this damning entry: "Hit Gary next time," and a reference to the fact that Gary owned a chain of South Louisiana Sonic restaurants. Ted didn't doubt their guilt. The question was one of proof.

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

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

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

www.mybrotherskeeperbook.com/



Daddy's Little Secret

A Closet Homosexual,

An Unsuspecting Daughter, and a Brutal Murder

by Denise Wallace

WildBlue Press, June 2016

Denise Wallace had spent years hiding deadly secrets about her enigmatic father, Wesley Wallace. Wes was a trusted security guard of the Ritz Carlton Palm Beach, who was supposed to protect those who found themselves in his care. But a closer look into his brutal murder revealed a split personality -- one that his daughter may have seen.

The detectives persuaded Denise to assist them in the capture of her father's killer by taking them on a series of outings that would be far from away from the glitz of Palm Beach. The trail would lead them to the murky streets of Dixie Highway, where it was discovered that Wes spent much of his free time. It was there that Wes picked up Travis Jones, an eighteen-year-old homeless man who was possibly addicted to crack cocaine. Wes had lured Travis into his car that night with the promise of money in exchange for homosexual favors, but never planned to make good on the deal.

Instead, he had tried to force Travis to be a participant in a violent sex game where Daddy was going to get what he wanted -- even if it killed him. A terrorized Travis had then engaged in a frenzied attempt to cover up the crime. The detectives would find an overflowing bathtub filled with bleach-smelling water, bloody sheets, and a gold lamp base along with items missing from Wes' apartment.

But where was the killer? Travis had gotten on a bus and left town until the one friend he told about the murder decided to turn on him. The details of the crime would be recanted by Travis himself on the stand, which would cause Denise to remember something that had happened long ago. Her father had a history of collecting sex slaves. Would telling his secret to the prosecutor be enough to save Travis from the death penalty? Even from the grave Wes' ominous weight could still be felt by his daughter and the killer.

For more about Denise see www.DeniseWallaceAuthor.com

<http://truecrimepage.com/denise-wallace-confronts-her-slain-fathers-double-life-in-daddys-little-secret/>



Death at God's Doorsteps

By John Foxjohn

Wild Blue Press (Dec. 2017)

This is a twisted true story of a father fighting with all he had to save his little girl, the wife who defied danger to stand beside him, a dysfunctional family, and how these horrendous murders came about.

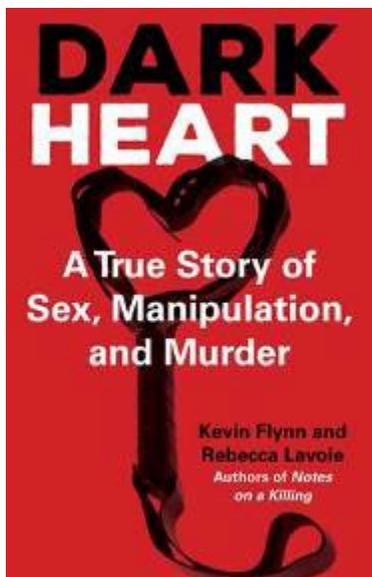
Excitement and fear swirled around Nathan "Brad" Maddox and his wife, Krystal, on Saturday, January 18th, 2014. The excitement came from Brad's upcoming visitation with his four-year-old daughter. He was also afraid of his ex-wife and her family. Early in the East Texas morning, Krystal told her four children she loved them, and the couple left for the

Mount Carmel Baptist Church close to Colmesneil, Texas. It was the last time the four young children saw their mother alive.

Nestled deep in the woods of East Texas, the church was a little brick building with a spire reaching to the heavens. Sitting close to the road, a marquee announced, "Jesus Loves You." This was the fourth visit to the church and the last. Awaiting them was an ambush that would leave both dead and send shock waves throughout East Texas.

The investigation into their deaths involved the Tyler County sheriff's department, the Texas Rangers, and the FBI, and they needed all of them for a murder in this little backwater county. Besides a looming custody battle, they had to look at a white supremacy group, possible paid killers, a former Navy Seal who could be a paid assassin, a religious cult, drugs, and a sex scandal.





Dark Heart

A True Story of Sex, Manipulation, and Murder

By **Kevin Flynn &
Rebecca Lavoie**

Penguin Random House

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

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

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



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

When Lizzi Marriott vanished, police traced her last known location to Seth and Kat's apartment. After hours of interrogation, Seth confessed Lizzi died during a BDSM session in which he accidentally choked her with a rope. He disposed of her naked body in a swift river which dumped into the Atlantic Ocean. Later, in an effort to free her arrested boyfriend, Kat told defense lawyers the girl accidentally died of smothering when she sat on Lizzi's face.

Authorities were never able to recover Lizzi's body, losing the most important piece of evidence in the case. Prosecutors desperately needed Kat's eyewitness account to convict Seth. After Kat was arrested on witness tampering charges, they cut a deal for her testimony.

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

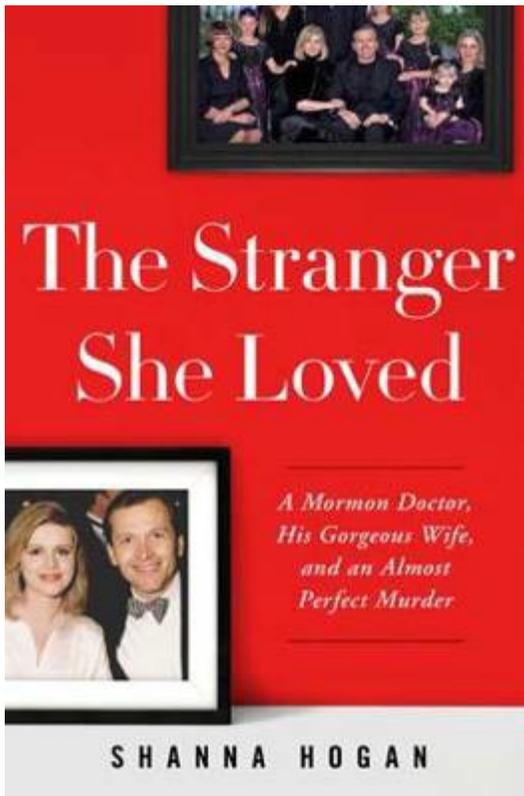
For more see: www.authorkevinflynn.com

The Stranger She Loved

*The Mormon Doctor,
His Gorgeous Wife,
and an Almost Perfect Murder*

by **Shanna Hogan**

St. Martin's Press



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

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

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

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



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

As Dr. MacNeill's children began to suspect their father of murder, they conducted their own investigations, revealing his multiple affairs, a criminal record for forgery and falsified transcripts proving he was never qualified as a doctor.

Toxicology tests later proved Michele was dosed with a combination of drugs that would have left her helpless to defend for her herself. In 2013, Dr. Martin MacNeill was convicted murdering his wife by pressing her to get plastic surgery, drugging her and drowning her in the bathtub.

As the prosecutor would say in court, "it was an almost perfect murder."

For more about Shanna, see www.ShannaHogan.com

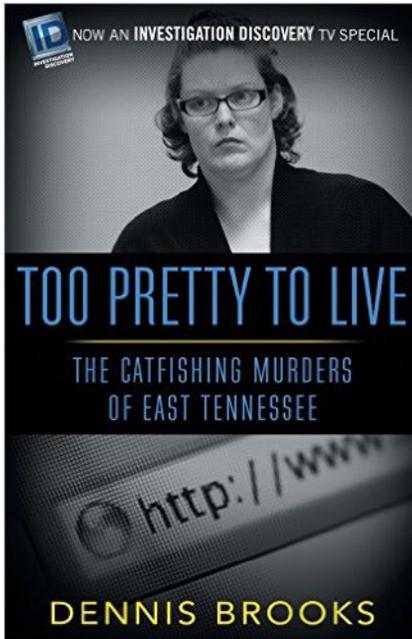


Too Pretty

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

by Dennis Brooks

Diversion Books, 2015



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

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

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

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

Through this correspondence, Jenelle was able to convince her mother that she was in danger and that the danger would only end with the victims' deaths. Barbara thus began encouraging her husband, Buddy Potter, to act. Chris promised CIA backing for the sordid deed.

Jenelle also assumed the Chris identity in writing to her secret boyfriend, Jamie Curd, who was also "catfished." Even though Barbara did not approve of Jamie dating Jenelle, the awkward couple discretely communicated to each other by texting and phone calls away from the dominating eyes of Jenelle's parents. As Chris, Jenelle was able to pit Jamie against his cousin, Bill, and manipulate him into assisting Buddy.

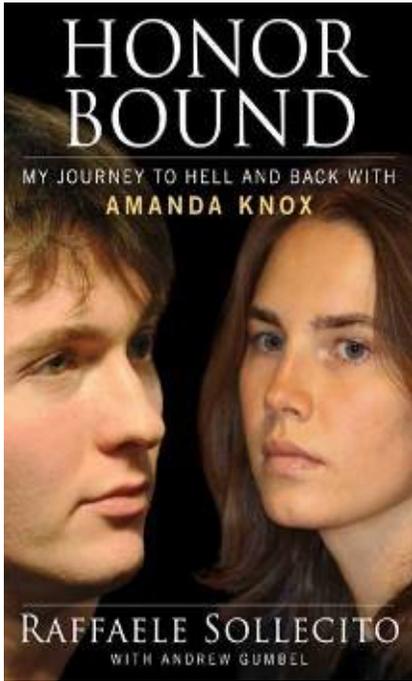
Too Pretty tells the story of this crime and its ensuing prosecution from the perspective of the lead prosecutor of the case. Dennis Brooks was a 17-year veteran Assistant District Attorney when the matter came to him with only the men being charged. Through a creative use of forensic linguistics and utilizing the theory of criminal responsibility, Brooks was able to weave together a case that ultimately convicted each of the Potters of two counts of first degree murder. Brooks details his prosecution while never neglecting to analyze the countless oddities of the Potter family. Their story will shock and amaze you.

Honor Bound: ***My Journey to Hell and Back with Amanda Knox***

By Raffaele Sollecito with Andrew Gumbel

Gallery Books/Simon and Schuster

Available treatment for six-part limited series



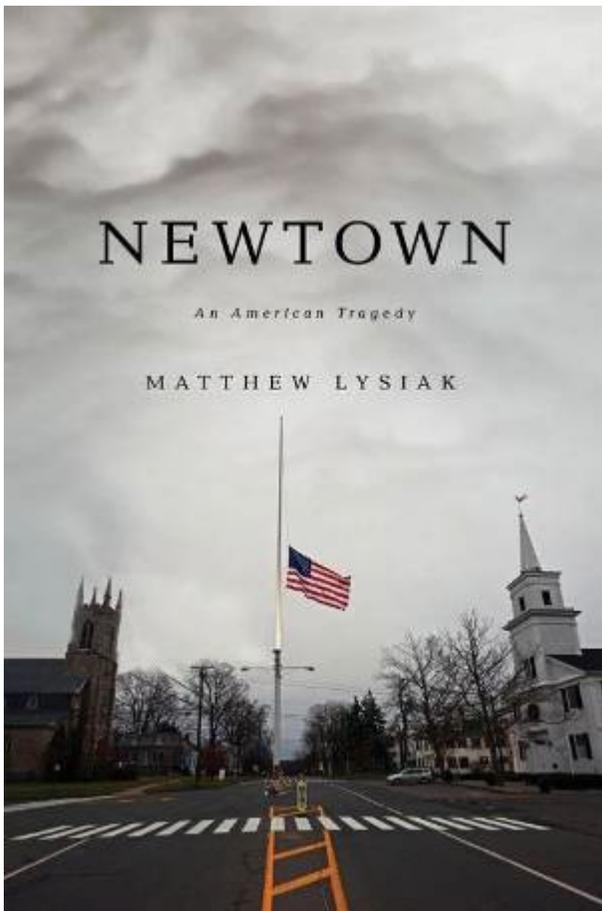
The story of Raffaele Sollecito is a natural for the movies. It is both a thriller and a love story. Its protagonists are young, attractive and innocent. Its antagonists are compelling, Machiavellian, and marvelously complex. It has a natural three-act structure: Raffaele and Amanda Knox meeting and falling in love; their arrest and incarceration; and their struggle— seemingly impossible at first, but ultimately successful— for vindication and freedom.

As in the best love stories, there is nothing static or simple about the relationship between the lovers. Raffaele would most likely have been dumped and left heartbroken if the murder of Meredith Kercher had not intervened. He and Amanda then formed an extraordinary bond, even though they had no physical contact during the four years of their incarceration. Over and over, Raffaele came under pressure from the prosecution, from his own lawyers and from his family to change his testimony and get himself off the hook. All he needed to say was that he didn't know whether Amanda left his house on the night of the murder. But he refused to say it, because that would have meant betraying Amanda and leaving her to swing in the wind. He knew she had not left his house, because she did not have his key and would have needed to be buzzed back in. He never wavered on this point. He had a keen sense of justice, but also a heart carried away by his infatuation with the carefree young American.

Beyond Raffaele's prison cell was a scheming and conniving public prosecutor determined to prove that the sexually uninhibited Amanda was some sort of witch or devil; a complex game of legal brinkmanship in which the prosecution and defense were both jockeying for maximum advantage; Raffaele's own family, who worked tirelessly to demolish the evidence against him but also fought bitterly with him because they felt he was gratuitously throwing his life away for an American exchange student who didn't care that much about him; and a ruthless media machine which feasted on every scandalous tidbit thrown out by the police and prosecution and sustained an unsustainable murder case for far too long.

A movie adaptation of this story would be fast-paced, full of surprises even for viewers who followed the case on television or in the newspapers, visually compelling (the beauties of Umbria and the Apulia coast contrasting with the cold gray of Raffaele's prison cell) and crammed with great characters:

- (1) Raffaele's passionate but overbearing father;
- (2) his sweet-natured sister, punished at every turn for the charges leveled at her brother;
- (3) the public prosecutor, Giacomo Mignini, who has all the makings of a memorable screen villain, plus:
- (4) the craven, weak lower court judge who convicted Raffaele and Amanda;
- (5) Raffaele's talented but realistic legal team, who tried to short-circuit the system but ended up working painstakingly to dismantle the case against him piece by piece;
- (6) a clutch of improbable and wildly unreliable eyewitnesses and expert consultants, each of whom could be a terrific cameo; and, of course,
- (7) Amanda and Raffaele themselves— appealing, mismatched, desperately unlucky and ultimately, if improbably, heroic.



Newtown

An American Tragedy

By Matthew Lysiak

Gallery Books/Simon & Schuster

Treatment available

The arc of this movie follows the dysfunctional relationship between Adam Lanza (age 18 to 20) and his divorced mother, Nancy Lanza (age 50-52), beginning in 2010 when Adam's already shaky and dysfunctional state of mind begins a sudden drop away from rational behavior and turns into obsessive-compulsive, irrational behaviors. As his mindset deteriorates, Nancy Lanza's enabling escalates. It proceeds to the moment two years later December 14, 2012, when he shoots his mother to death in her bed and sets out on his twisted mission, soon to kill 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. **The murders are not portrayed.**

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

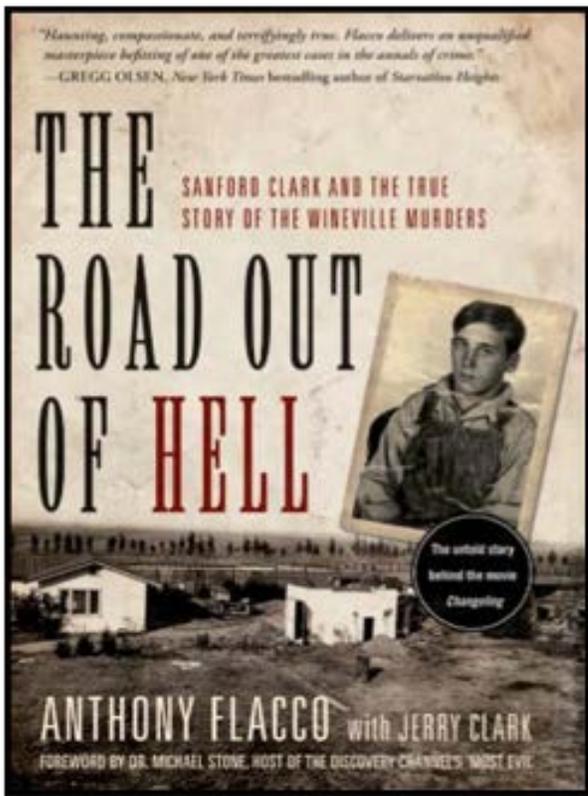
26 people dead; 20 of them schoolchildren between the ages of six and seven. The world mourned the devastating shooting at Sandy Hook elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut in December 2012. Now, here is the startling, comprehensive look at this tragedy, and into the mind of the unstable killer, Adam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

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



Matthew Lysiak was a staff writer for *The Daily News* (New York) who has received national recognition for his exclusive reporting on the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary and the Newtown killer Adam Lanza, the Aurora gunman James Holmes, the Tucson shooter Jared Loughner, the Fort Hood army psychiatrist Nidal Malik Hasan, and more. Lysiak currently lives in Connecticut with his wife and three daughters.

For more about Matthew, see www.MatthewLysiak.com



The Road Out of Hell ***Sanford Clark and the*** ***True Story of the Wineville Murders***

By Anthony Flacco
with Jerry Clark

Sterling Publishing

From 1926 to 1928, Gordon Stewart Northcott committed at least 20 murders on a chicken ranch outside of Los Angeles. His nephew, Sanford Clark, was held captive there from the age of 13 to 15, and was the sole surviving victim of the killing spree. Here, acclaimed crime writer Anthony Flacco — using never-before-heard information from Sanford's son Jerry Clark— tells the real story behind the case that riveted the nation.

Forced by Northcott to take part in the murders, Sanford carried tremendous guilt all his life. Yet, despite his youth and the trauma, he helped gain some justice for the dead and their families by testifying at Northcott's trial—which led to his conviction and sentence of death by hanging.

It was a shocking story, but perhaps the most shocking part of all is the extraordinarily ordinary life Clark went on to live as a decorated WWII vet, a devoted husband of 55 years, a loving father, and a productive citizen.

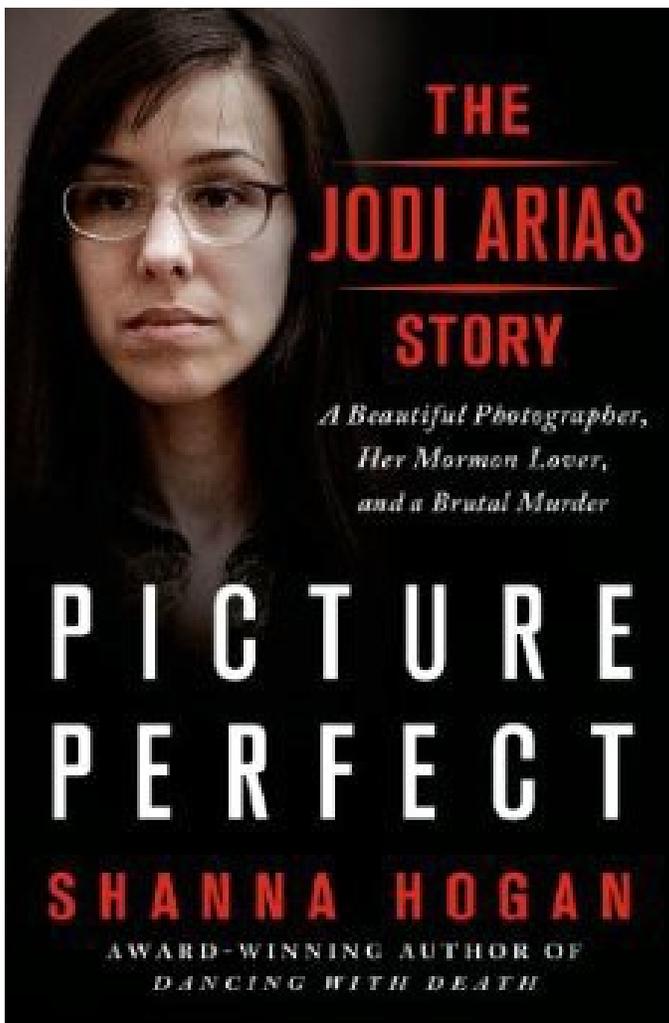
In dramatizing one of the darkest cases in American crime, Flacco constructs a riveting psychological drama about how Sanford was able to detoxify himself from the evil he'd encountered, offering a story which is ultimately redemptive, a tale of one man's remarkable ability to survive a nightmare and emerge intact.

For more about Anthony, see www.AnthonyFlacco.com



To See Book Trailer:

<http://www.anthonyflacco.com/booktrailer.htm>



Picture Perfect *A Beautiful Photographer, Her Mormon Lover, And a Brutal Murder*

By Shanna Hogan

St. Martin's Press

The New York Times

Best Seller 

Picture Perfect is the shocking true story of the death of Travis Alexander, a successful 30-year-old businessman, motivational speaker and devout Mormon, who was brutally murdered in his Mesa, Arizona, home in the summer of 2008. Travis' severely decomposed body was discovered days later inside his master bathroom shower. He had been shot in the face, stabbed 13 times and his throat had been slit from ear to ear.

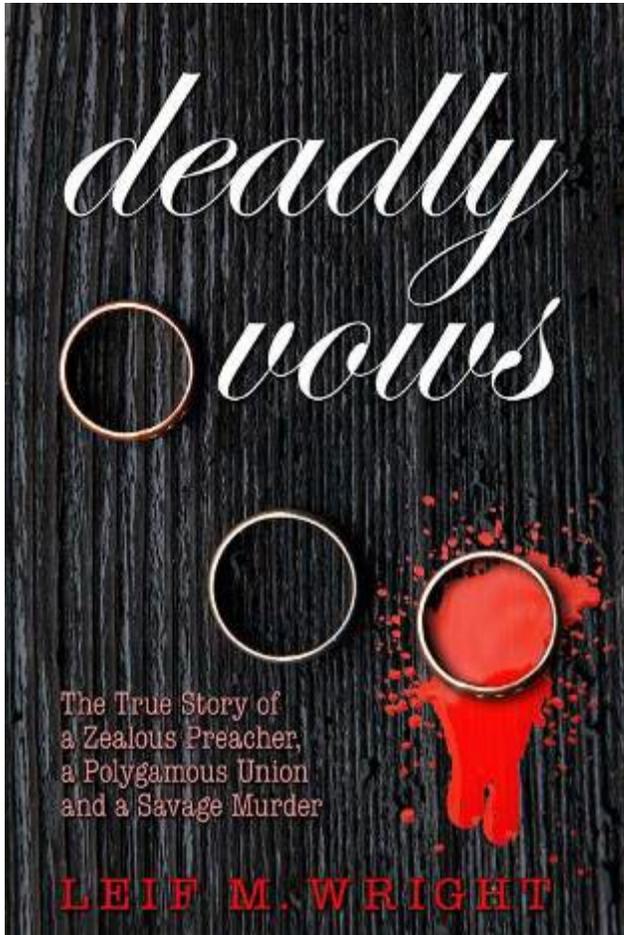
Soon police had a suspect—, a beautiful 29-year-old aspiring photographer. One year prior Travis and Jodi had dated and secretly engaged in a sordid sexual relationship. But their romance meant much more to Jodi than to Travis. Her jealously ultimately drove the couple apart and Travis ended their affair.

That's when Jodi's infatuation turned into an obsession. After their break-up, she moved just a few miles from Travis' house and began to stalk him. She slashed his tires, broke into his home, stole his journals and sent harassing e-mails to girls he was dating. Much of this drama played out on the social networking websites MySpace and Facebook, where Jodi often hacked into his account and posted vicious messages.

When questioned by detectives, Jodi claimed she was away in Utah at the time of the murder, but the evidence proved otherwise. Jodi's DNA, blood, hair and fingerprints were found throughout the crime scene. Inside the washing machine police also made an unusual discovery— a new digital camera. Even though the camera had been run through the wash and the memory card had been wiped clean, detectives were able to recover sexually provocative photos of Travis and Jodi taken on the last day he was seen alive. Most disturbingly, the last three photos depicted Travis in the shower as he was dying.

That evidence, and Jodi's changing story, was enough for her arrest. **Picture Perfect** is the suspenseful true crime account of the tumultuous relationship between Travis and Jodi, his gruesome murder and her trial. **Picture Perfect** is a story riddled with sex, lust, deceit and deadly obsession—a true crime best seller.

For more about Shanna, see www.ShannaHogan.com



**Deadly Vows:
The True Story of a Zealous Preacher,
a Polygamous Union and a Savage
Murder**

By Leif M. Wright

New Horizon Press

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

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

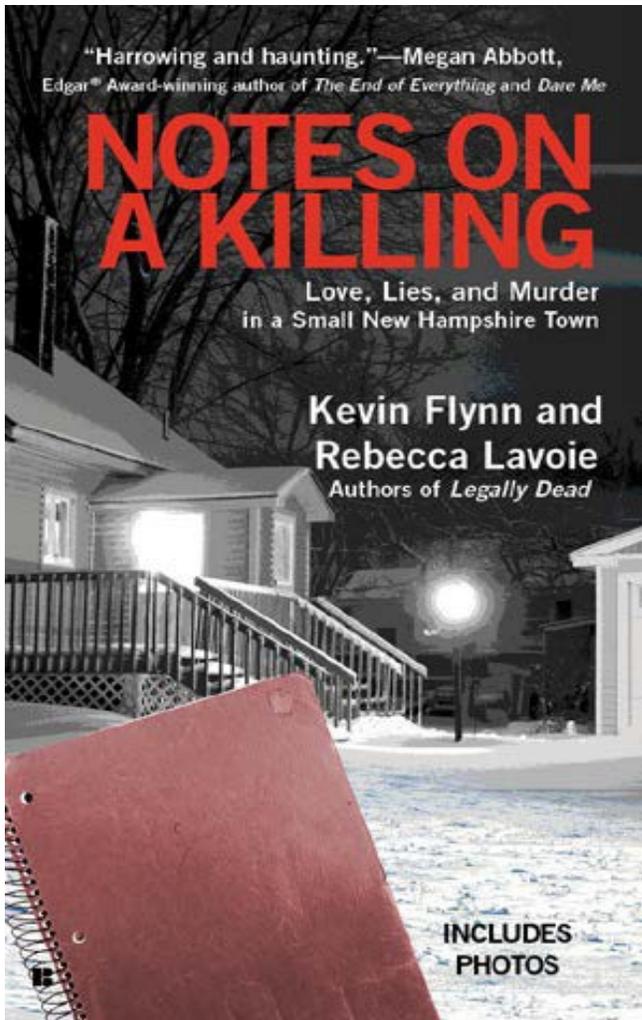
Joy’s friends keep pushing Sean for answers, until they start receiving emails from Joy telling them to chill out and leave her alone. Except the emails don’t really sound like the Joy they knew. And leaving her kids behind definitely doesn’t sound like her. So, they call police, who send a missing persons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

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

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

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

For more about Leif, see www.leifwright.com



Notes on a Killing

By *Kevin Flynn & Rebecca Lavoie*

Penguin Random House

Sandra Merritt was surprised to get a phone call at work from Edith “Pen” Meyer, her AA confidant. Pen urged Sandy to resume her affair with a married man, reversing the advice she’d given for months. After the call, Pen vanished. Investigators found Pen’s lakefront home empty except for her beloved dog, Fluff.

Sandy and Pen’s boyfriend suspected Ken Carpenter in the disappearance. When Sandy had called off the yearlong affair with the married man - filing a restraining order against him - Carpenter openly blamed her supportive friend Pen for coming between them. During the search, an anonymous caller told police Pen had flown to the islands with a secret lover. Investigators recognized the voice on the phone as Carpenter’s. The caller also suggested detectives check out the pay phone at the local country store. There, investigators discovered a key to Pen’s safe deposit box fastened to the phone with a piece of orange duct tape.

Already suspicious of Carpenter, police asked Sandy to record phone calls with her ex-lover. On the tape, Carpenter told Sandy he had “spoken to God” and what happened to Pen would be revealed in a few days.

When police searched Carpenter’s home they came across a fire pit smoldering in the backyard. Inside the ashes was a pair of eyeglasses missing from Pen’s home, keys to her house and PO Box, and more than a dozen human bone fragments. They also found a roll of orange duct tape, a garrote, and a .22 rifle wrapped in a raincoat. Under a chair, police discovered a notebook with plans for a murder and scripts for Pen to read over the phone to Sandy. After his arrest, Sandy received a contract in the mail turning over all of Pen’s property to her. Pen’s signature had been forged on the paper.

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

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

State police forensics teams made the most of what evidence they had. They matched the orange duct tape on the pay phone to the tape recovered in Carpenter’s truck. Gloves that matched imprints in the tape were taken from his home. They found the typewriter ribbon that created the forged property agreement in Carpenter’s word processor. Meanwhile, a yearlong effort to reconstruct the skeleton from the various pieces was underway in a forensic pathologist’s lab in neighboring Maine.

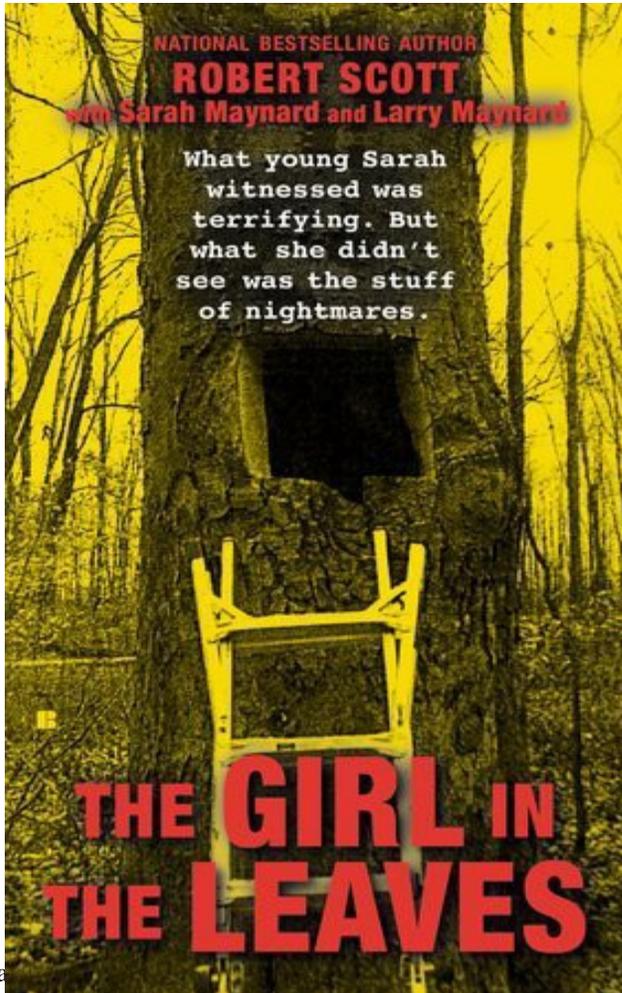
When Carpenter’s public defender withdrew because of a conflict, famed defense attorney Mark Sisti took the case. Sisti, whose reputation had stemmed from his defense of Pamela Smart, excelled at raising doubt about how and where the killing could have happened, or whether the charred remains were even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

For more see: www.AuthorKevinFlynn.com

The Girl in the Leaves

**By Robert Scott with the cooperation
of Sarah & Larry Maynard**

Penguin Random House



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

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

Taken to the man's residence, Sarah was forced into his basement and tied up on a bed of leaves in a dark corner. In fact, her assailant was absolutely fixated with trees and leaves. Every room in his house was stuffed with dry leaves. And in his bathroom, he'd drawn strange creatures and insane-looking people on his wall. Knowing that she was being held captive by a mad man, 13-year-old Sarah also knew she would have to stay alive by using her wits and her cunning.

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

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

Suddenly on November 14, 2010, a SWAT team burst into the man's house and arrested him. Then to their astonishment, they found Sarah alive in a dark corner of the basement, tied to a bed of leaves. Unfortunately for Tina, Kody and Tina's friend, Stephanie Sprang, Sarah was right about their demise. The perpetrator, 30-year-old Matthew Hoffman of Mount Vernon, Ohio, had killed them and stuffed their bodies into the trunk of a hollow tree. But for the courage and coolness under extreme pressure on Sarah's part and the excellent police work by the Knox County Sheriff's Office, she may well have ended up in the tree as well.

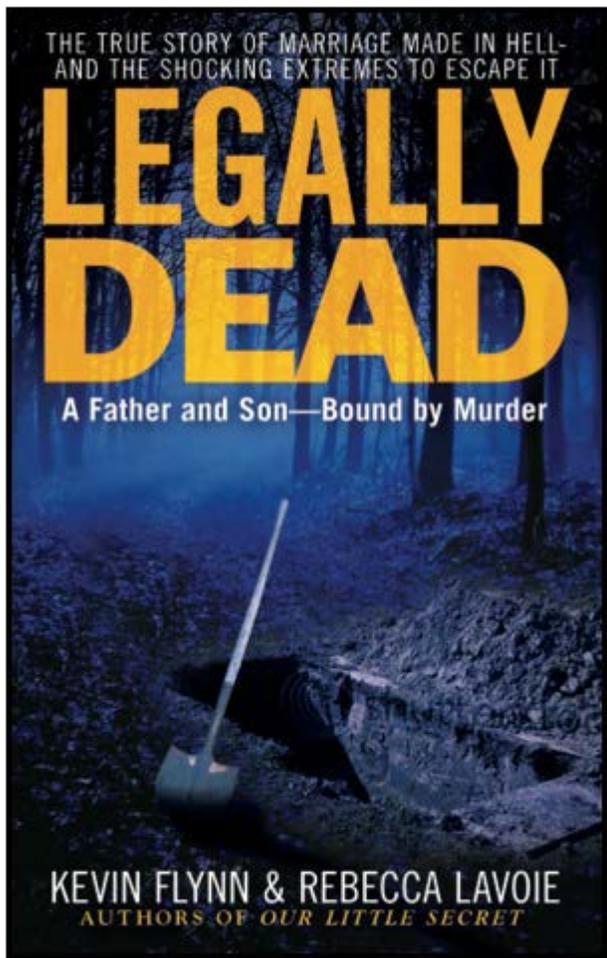
On the one-year anniversary memorial service for Kody, Tina and Stephanie, Sarah spotted Sheriff Barber in the crowd. She well knew who had saved her, and in an exuberance of gratitude, Sarah ran up and gave him a huge hug. This a story of Sarah's courage, Larry Maynard's anguish and the tireless work by the detectives of Knox County in saving Sarah. Both Sarah and Larry Maynard have been on the TODAY show.



For more about the story, see tinakodyandsarah.org



[Sarah and Larry Maynard Today Show Appearance](#)



Legally Dead ***A Father and Son Bound by Murder***

by Kevin Flynn & Rebecca Lavoie

Penguin Random House

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

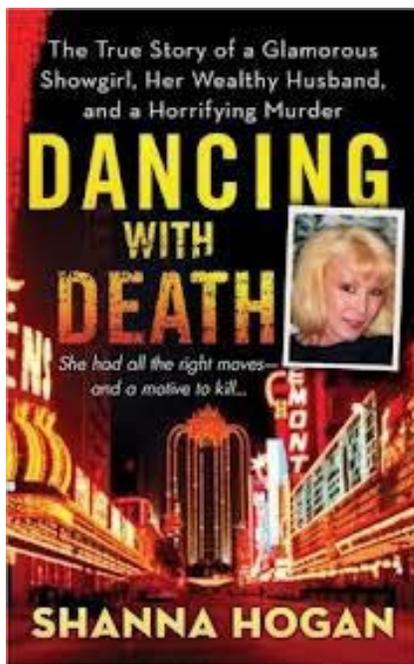
Each time she recovered, Bader would push her harder, unmercifully, driving her to the brink. Bader was living in a mansion, using all his legal tricks to keep the children away from their mother. Their oldest

boy, 13-year-old Joey, lived like a virtual slave in his house— cooking, cleaning, and caring for his brothers while Bader romanced his sexy new girlfriend, Mary Jean Martin. He lavished Mary Jean with expensive gifts, but it was never enough to secure her love. The money owed to his ex-wife became a wedge in their tumultuous relationship.

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

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

For more see: www.AuthorKevinFlynn.com



Dancing with Death

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

By Shanna Hogan

St. Martin's Press

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

Flash back to 20 years prior where a young Jay Orbin is sipping a beer at a strip club. Jay is a budding art dealer who travels two weeks a month on business trips. He is also a playboy with an affinity for strippers. When a beguiling blonde stripper named Marjorie Marqui sensually cavorts on stage, Jay falls head over heels. After weeks of seducing her with money and gifts they begin dating and Marjorie even moves to his house. After one embarrassing sexual encounter, Marjorie leaves Jay and returns to her home state of Florida.

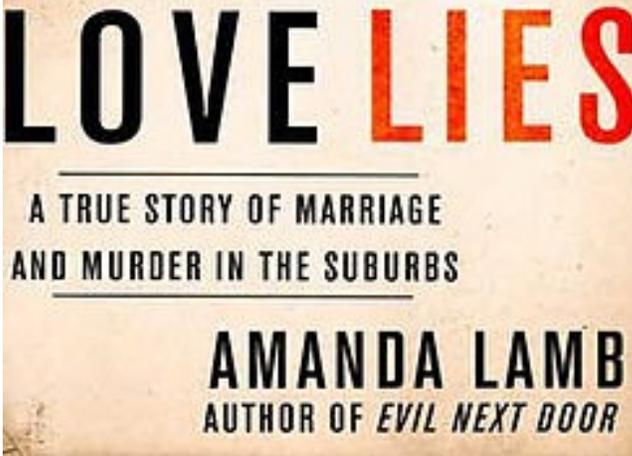
Eight years later, Jay has not forgotten about Marjorie and still refers to her as the “love of his life.” Then, in 1995, on a business trip to Las Vegas, Jay sees Marjorie’s face on a billboard advertising a topless dance show. Jay is in awe. He had been searching for her for years. He finds her number in the phone book and calls her. They meet for drinks where Marjorie tells Jay about her life over the past 10 years. After leaving Phoenix, Marjorie returned to her home state of Florida and hooked up with a multi-millionaire playboy named Michael J. Peter, who is known throughout Florida as the “strip club king.” While with Michael, Marjorie starred in his burlesque-style dance troupe called the “Platinum Dolls.” Michael and Marjorie had a romantic relationship and she was involved in many of his endeavors, starring in his movies and music videos including a cameo in the Motley Crue video “Girls, Girls, Girls.” Marjorie was even featured with Michael in an episode of Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous, about his life of opulence. When speaking with Jay, Marjorie does leave out many mysterious details about her past, which would be revealed later in the story.

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

During one phone call with Detective Jan Butcher, Marjorie refuses to take a lie detector test. In the background a male voice pipes up in the background telling Marjorie not to cooperate. Suspicious, Detective Butcher orders a search warrant on the house and discovers that Marjorie has been having an affair with a 60-year-old body builder named Larry Weisberg, who attacks SWAT officers and is Tasered inside Marjorie’s house. That night Jay’s brother Jake goes to the house to check on Noah and hears as Marjorie tells detectives a shocking secret—she and Jay are not actually married. They had divorced eight years prior because Marjorie had a tax lien in her name. No one, not even Jay’s parents, knew of the divorce. Because Marjorie was not Jay’s wife, she would not be entitled to his assets in a divorce. She is however, the main beneficiary on his millionaire dollar life insurance payouts.

Over the next month, Jake hires a private detective to learn more about Marjorie. He soon discovers that Marjorie is not who she has claimed to be. Marjorie had been married and divorced seven times and has a petty criminal record and links to mob ties through her ex Michael J. Peter. The family later learns that Marjorie had been suspected of egregious acts at her son’s karate studio, including harassing other parents. She had even been dying her eight-year-old son’s hair blonde to match hers since he was just a few months old. Then, on October 23, 2004, more than a month after he went missing, a dismembered chunk of Jay’s torso is discovered in the Phoenix desert. Homicide detectives quickly put together a case against Marjorie and her boyfriend Larry Weisberg. After discovering video of Marjorie buying the Rubbermaid tub is torso was discovered in, an arrest is made. No evidence is ever found on Larry Weisberg and he is later offered immunity. On September 21, 2009, Marjorie is convicted on first degree murder and sentenced in life without the possibility of parole.

For more about Shanna, see www.ShannaHogan.com



Love Lies

By Amanda Lamb

Penguin Random House

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

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

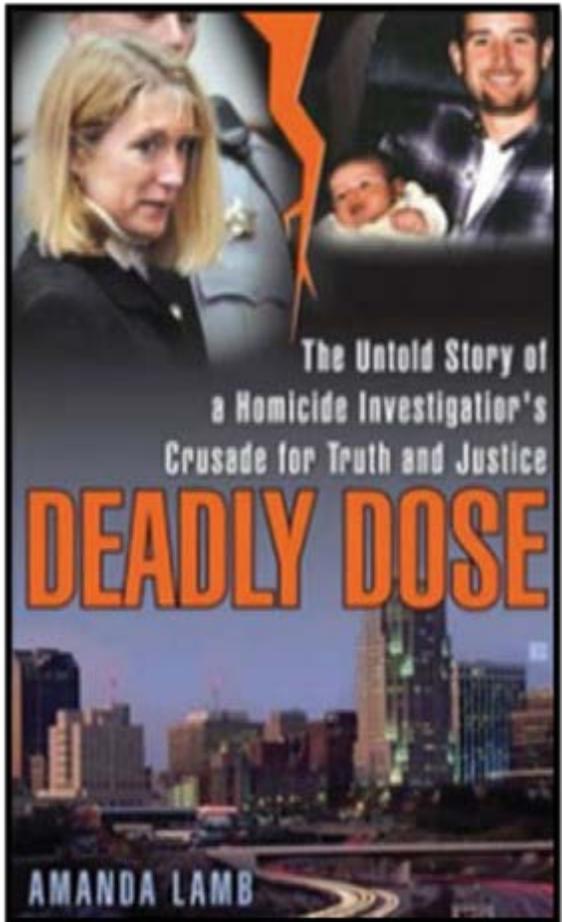
Despite Nancy's reputation as a saucy, strong-willed, gutsy woman, friends and family said Brad had been controlling Nancy's life—cutting her off from money, friends and relatives. It was obvious they were headed for divorce, but the couple had many dark secrets, as did their friends, that were yet to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

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

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

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

For more about Amanda, see www.ALambAuthor.com



Deadly Dose

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

By Amanda Lamb

Penguin Random House

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

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

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

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

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

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

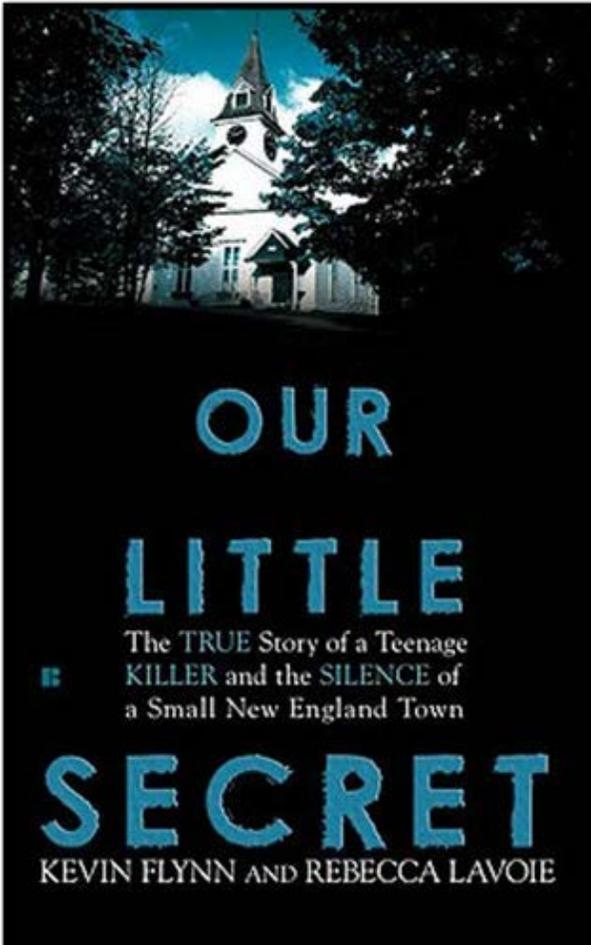
For more about Amanda, see www.ALambAuthor.com

Our Little Secret

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

By Kevin Flynn and Rebecca Lavoie

Penguin Random House



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

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

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

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

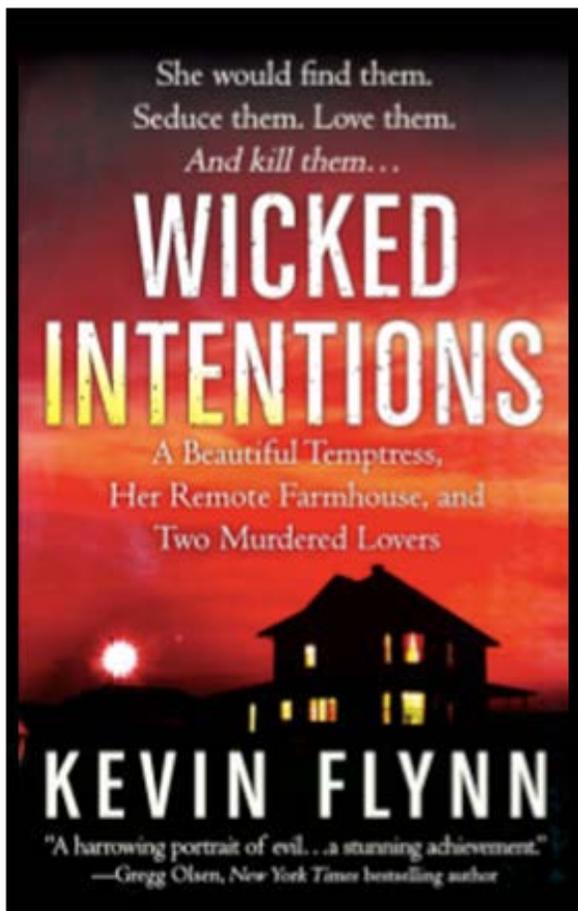
Windhurst’s actions are an open secret in town. Everyone knows; no one turns him in. They believe it was a justified killing. Authorities however find that grown-up Windhurst is a decent man haunted by his deadly action. As the case heads to trial, attorneys think no jury in the world will convict a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

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

For more see: www.AuthorKevinFlynn.com



To see book trailer: [Video Book Trailer](#)



Wicked Intentions ***The Sheila LaBarre Murders***

by Kevin Flynn

New Horizon Press; St. Martin's Press

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

Wicked Intentions follows the exploits of Sheila LaBarre, who spent years using her sexuality to allure men, and her anger to battle anyone who crossed her. Her home is filled with her “children,” hundreds of free-range rabbits. As police search her blood-splattered home and the 115 acres of pasture surrounding it, LaBarre eludes detectives. While

on the run (with three rabbits in tow), she charms and manipulates people into doing her bidding, giving her shelter, and proclaiming her innocence to the police and media.

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

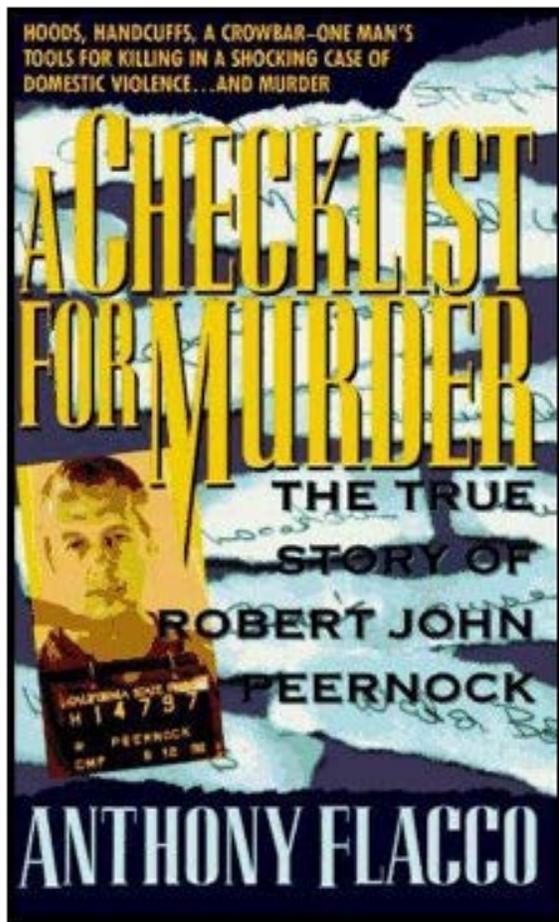
They were all beaten and battered by Sheila; virtual captives on the isolated farm. LaBarre is eventually captured and her attorneys mount an insanity defense. To the horror of all, it seems Kenny Countie isn’t the only man she killed, dismembered, and incinerated on her farm. To this day, authorities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

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

For more about Kevin, see www.AuthorKevinFlynn.com



To See Book Trailer: [Video Book Trailer](#)



A Checklist for Murder

The True Story of Robert John Peernock

By Anthony Flacco, wga

Penguin Random House/Diversion Books

Screenplay available

Stark reality and rampant paranoia blend and blur in this deep psychological thriller. The story opens as 18-year-old Natasha Peernock is found lying half dead in the wreckage of a burning car, only a few feet from her mother's body. Both women have been severely beaten with a tire iron, the only difference being that Natasha barely survives. In the hospital, we see from her POV while she tells a tale of being kidnapped by her own father, Robert Peernock, who blindfolded, bound, and tortured her for nearly 11 hours while Daddy waited for Mommy to come home. Natasha says that he then beat her mother to death and loaded both of them into the car and rigged it to crash.

Robert Peernock produces an alibi *and* a compelling alternate theory of this crime—he is a computer programmer working for the State of California, who claims to have discovered government corruption in the awarding of state contracts. He has been a victim of constant harassment because of his whistle-blowing activities. As a point of

proven fact, Peernock has already won numerous lawsuits against the organizations he has targeted, and he claims to be on the verge of releasing a detailed book that traces government corruption from office to office, all the way up to the Governor of State of California.

He protests that he is being framed. His daughter was drugged and brainwashed, and then the murder was set up to implicate him—all in order to destroy his credibility. His opponents would then be safe from the effects of his book, even if he ever got it published.

Police reject Robert Peernock's alibi. They want him to come in for another interview. He flees town.

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

Eventually, Detective Steve Fisk puts in enough overtime to track him down and Assistant District Attorney Craig Richman begins to look for holes in Peernock's alibi. But... when civil attorney Victoria Doom enters the case *pro bono* to help shattered Natasha get put her life back together, she discovers a host of contrasting details and helps to prove that Peernock has committed a near-perfect murder. The question regards motive. Before the crimes, he had already been granted his wife's permission for a divorce—and even after splitting their estate, they would both be very well off. So why would he attack his own daughter? Natasha herself talked about how she used to be the apple of her father's eye.

Young Natasha suffers violent recurring nightmares about the crime—at the same time, her jailed father suffers from

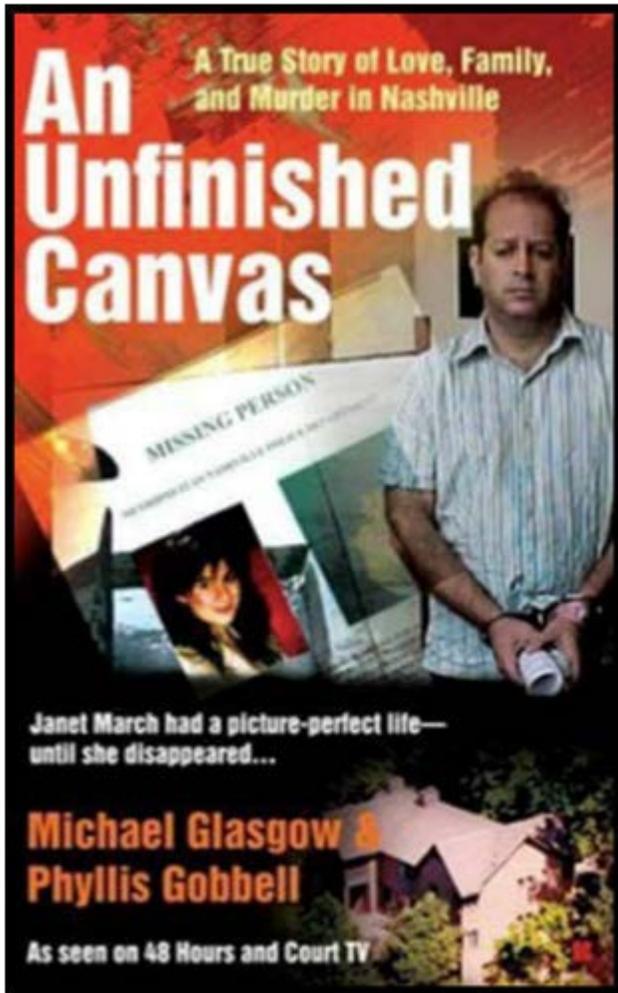
nightmares about being set up and convicted for murder. It is only because of Victoria Doom's after-hours passion for this case that the truth finally comes out: Robert Peernock indeed would have committed the perfect murder if only he had not been so obsessive about keeping his detailed checklist for murder.

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

Later, while Doom helps Natasha to quietly get on with her life in an out-of-state location, word comes from the police that Peernock is in jail trying to hire a killer to go after his daughter and finish the job on her. He is working at this task with the relentless patience of an obsessive madman.

The story ends with Peernock in his solitary cell, hand drawing the new home page for his website: It shows a picture of him bound and gagged in court during his trial. The caption cries: "Innocent whistle-blower!" For the text underneath, he writes: "This is the story of an innocent man..." and smiles as he reads back over his handiwork.

For more about Anthony, see www.AnthonyFlacco.com



An Unfinished Canvas ***A True Story of Love, Family,*** ***and Murder in Nashville***

By Michael Glasgow
and Phyllis Gobbell

Penguin Random House

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

Janet and Perry March are rising stars in Nashville, a city in the New South that is rising, as well. Larry Levine, an intimidating attorney, and his wife Carolyn will stop at nothing – even a secret mission in Mexico to retrieve their grandchildren– in the quest to find justice for their daughter. Perry's father, Arthur March, lures Perry to Mexico to begin a new life, but in the tradition of the best Shakespearean dramas, father turns against son,

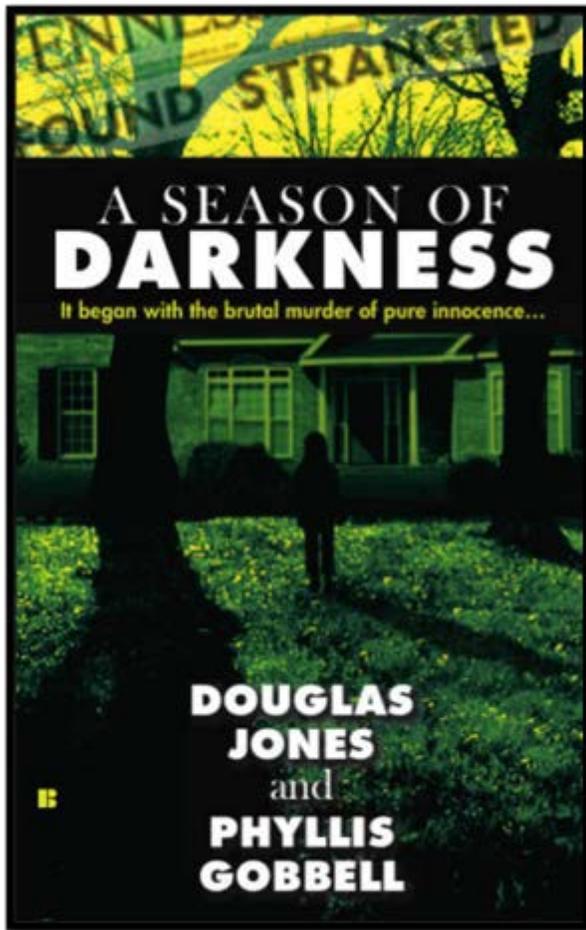
exposing their conspiracy to murder Janet's parents. Inmate Nathaniel Farris is a street-smart kid who cons the arrogant Perry March, working with police and the D.A. to expose a plot against Larry and Carolyn Levine.

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



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

For more about Phyllis, see www.phyllisgobbell.com



Season of Darkness *Marcia Trimble and the Coldest Cold Case Solved*

By Doug Jones and Phyllis Gobbell

Penguin Random House

Radio personality Teddy Bart, on the Marcia Trimble case:

“It had all the elements: a beautiful little girl, a murder, a bungled police operation, fundamentalist religion, and a neighborhood where things like this aren’t supposed to happen.”

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

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

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

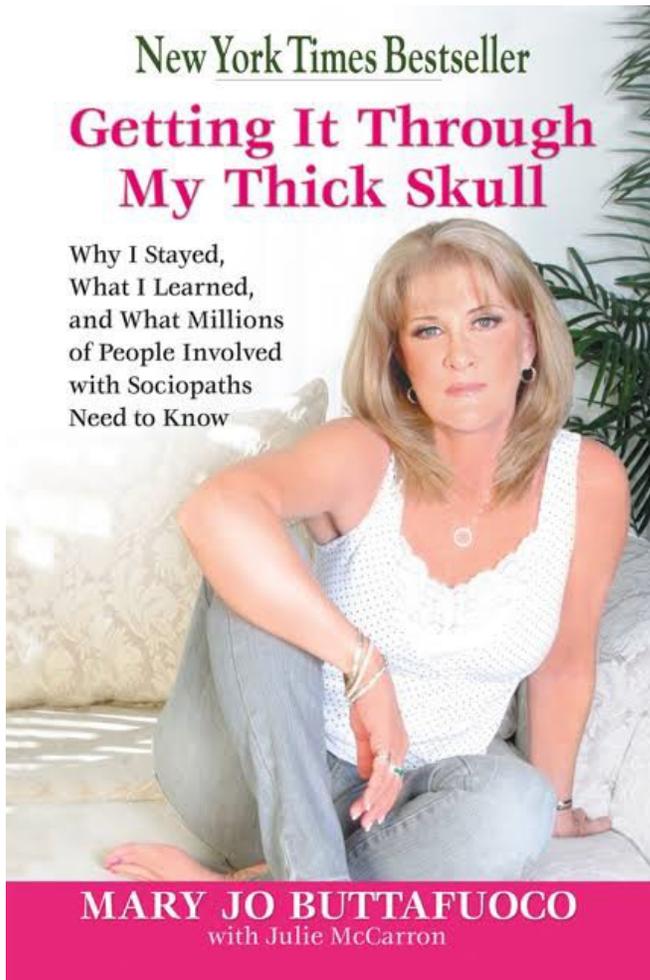
The police are under even more pressure to solve what is now a homicide. They focus their investigation on the boys in the neighborhood, with Jeffrey Womack as the prime suspect. In the wake of bizarre stories involving the children, many of the families move away. The Trimble murder and investigation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

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

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

For more about Phyllis, see www.phyllisgobbell.com

Getting It Through My Thick Skull



By Mary Jo Buttafuoco

HCI

Mary Jo Buttafuoco's anonymous life as a suburban wife and mother in sleepy Massapequa, New York, ended in May 1992, when she was shot in the head on her own front porch. The "Long Island Lolita" saga sparked a media frenzy that continues to this day. As the years passed Mary Jo steadfastly stood by her man, Joey Buttafuoco, and while he and Amy Fisher continued to make headlines, one question lingered in the minds of people everywhere: Why did she stay for *so* long?

In *Getting It Through My Thick Skull*, Mary Jo finally answers that question fully and convincingly. The answer is simple, yet it took almost three decades of turmoil to discover for herself—she was married to a sociopath.

Using her tragic and triumphant life lessons and never-before-told accounts of life with Joey, Mary Jo helps

readers understand sociopathic behavior and the emotional traps they spring on willing partners, and offers hope and help for the millions of people caught in the cycle of toxic relationships.

In addition, readers will meet a new-and-improved Mary Jo, confident and at peace with her new life and will be inspired by her comeback—a true reclamation and recreation of her life from the inside out. Through private details of the resiliency and rebuilding she has forged over the past seventeen years, Mary Jo shares for the first time: her addiction to painkillers, and her recovery through the Betty Ford Center; her overdue decision to leave Joey and start over again in California—3,000 miles from her support system; how she took control of her physical, spiritual, and emotional health, and learned to feel attractive and in control again; her highly controversial forgiveness of Amy Fisher; the letters she received from both Amy and Joey, and her reactions to both; how she found the courage to trust, believe, and find hope in a committed relationship once again; the details of the new love in her life and the joys and challenges of raising a Brady-Bunch-style family.

2017 is the 25-year anniversary of MaryJo's shooting. A whole generation will learn about this for the first time.

Young Adult

&

Children

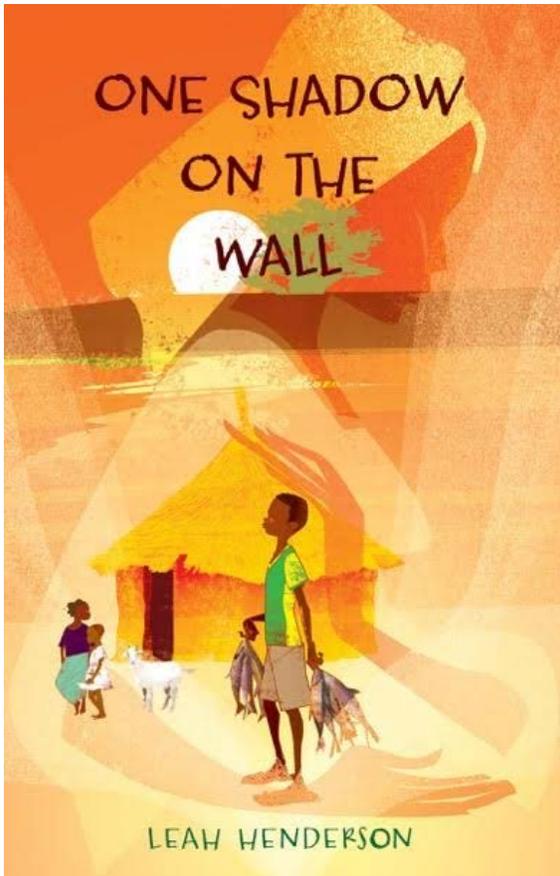
ONE SHADOW ON THE WALL

A middle grade novel

by Leah Henderson

Published by Atheneum, an imprint of Simon & Schuster

June 6, 2017



An orphaned boy in contemporary Senegal must decide between doing what is right and what is easy as he struggles to keep a promise he made to his dying father.

Eleven-year-old Mor was used to hearing his father's voice, even if no one else could since his father's death. It was comforting. It was also a reminder that Mor had made a promise to his father before he passed: *keep your sisters safe. Keep the family together.* But almost as soon as they are orphaned, that promise seems impossible to keep. With an aunt from the big city ready to separate him and his sisters as soon as she arrives, and a gang of boys from a nearby village wanting everything he has—including his spirit—Mor must find a way to

fulfill his father's wish, overcome his doubts, and survive.

One Shadow on the Wall is about love and loss, family and friendship, and creating your own future—even if it's hard to do.

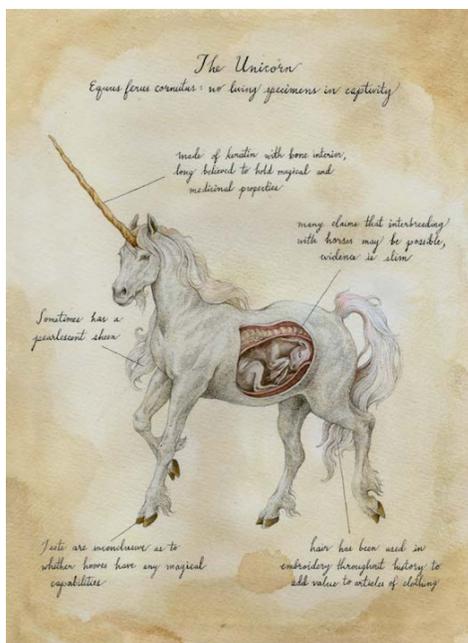
www.leahhendersonbooks.com

The Compendium of Magical Beasts

An Anatomical Study of Cryptozoology's Most Elusive Beings
By Dr. Veronica Wigberht-Blackwater

Written by Melissa Brinks
Illustrated by Lily Seika Jones

Running Press, Fall 2018



“When explaining a crashed ship and lost cargo, it is perhaps more acceptable to claim beautiful maidens tempted you to the shore rather than an overindulgence in alcohol or falling asleep at the mast.”

– From Dr. Veronica Wigberht-Blackwater’s findings on mermaids in **The Compendium of Magical Beasts**

THE COMPENDIUM OF MAGICAL BEASTS is available as a fictional (mockumentary) scripted docuseries which explores the pseudoscience behind the most beloved creatures found in fairytale storybooks.

Locked in a dusty attic for almost a century now, Dr. Veronica Wigberht-Blackwater’s controversial research journals have only recently been discovered by writer Melissa Brinks, who has spent the past few months transcribing the journals she found. Brinks has joined forces with artist Lily Seika Jones to digitize Dr. Veronica’s amazingly detailed anatomical diagrams in order to share these revolutionary findings with the world.

Dr. Veronica Wigberht-Blackwater, a fictional 20th century cryptozoologist, feminist and trailblazing explorer, combines biological fact with folklore and history. Her fantastical findings remain crucial to science both fringe and mainstream.

Her “research” is accompanied by gorgeous scientific illustrations of each specimen’s anatomy, providing a comprehensive view of creatures most often dismissed as pure fantasy.

Fan Film

By Kory Merritt

Currently on submission to major trade publishers

Scripted series



FAN FILM is middle grade graphic novel about a young filmmaker who just wants to make movies without his zany family and friends' opinions.

Twelve-year-old aspiring filmmaker Jayvi is excited to direct a biopic about Amelia Earhart for a school project until his cast and crew of family and friends get a bit too involved and take the film in their own direction. Since when did Amelia Earhart's story involve aliens and superheroes?!

With lush, wild, *Mad Magazine*-style art depicting the "fantasy" (how the film should look), contrasting to a simple cartoony style portraying "reality" (how the low-budget film actually turns out), FAN FILM is *Smile* meets *Calvin and Hobbes*.

About the author-illustrator: Kory Merritt is the illustrator for the bestselling graphic [POPTROPICA](#) series which is based on the video game created by Jeff Kinney, author of *DIARY OF A WIMPY KID*.



COUSTEAU EXPEDITION

Graphic Novel Series

By Fabien Cousteau & James Fraioli

Illustrated by Joe St. Pierre

Margaret McElderry/Simon & Schuster, Spring 2019

Scripted Series

In the COUSTEAU EXPEDITION four book graphic novel series, readers join famed explorer Fabien Cousteau, the grandson of Jacques Cousteau, and his team on exploratory expeditions around the world.

In the first four books of the series debuting in early 2019, readers become a member of Cousteau's crew and brave the depths of the Arctic Ocean and the Amazon Jungle, search the Pacific Ocean for Great White Sharks, and set out on a safari in the Serengeti, all the while learning about the wonders of nature and the human technology that helps us to understand it. This series was created to help bring awareness to climate change, endangered species, and other important environmental issues.

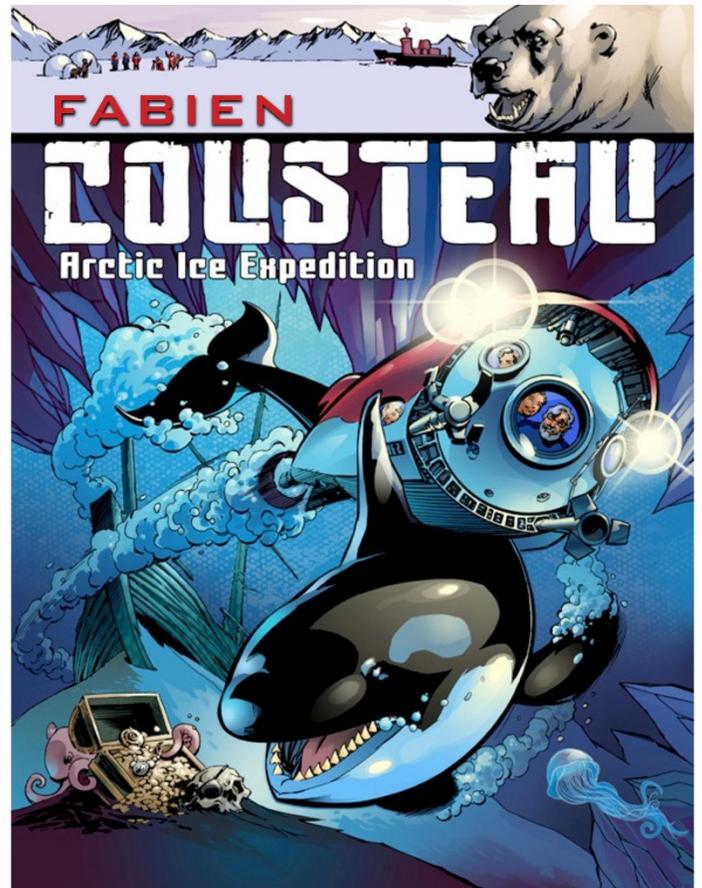
This exciting and educational series is co-authored by Fabien Cousteau and the award-winning author, James Fraioli. The awesome, detailed graphics are created by DC Comics and Marvel illustrator, Joe St. Pierre. The series will be heavily promoted by all three members of the team, who each have their own wide-reaching platform.

Learn more about Fabien Cousteau:

www.fabiencousteauolc.org/

Learn more about Joe St. Pierre:

www.popartproperties.com/



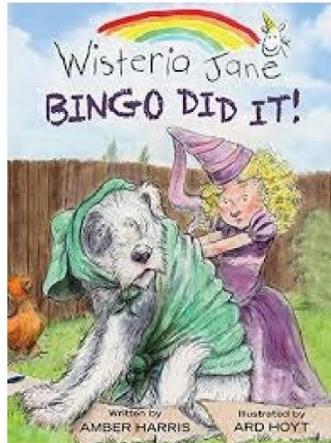
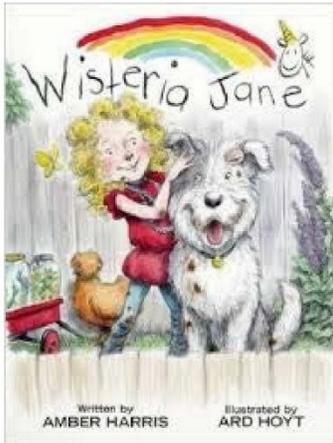
The Wisteria Jane Series

By Amber Harris

Illustrated by Ard Hoyt

Red Leaf Lane

Scripted series



Say hello to the mostly sweet, but sometimes sour, Wisteria Jane Hummell. Named after her mother's favorite flower, Wisteria Jane sees the world in her own special way. She tells her friends that her favorite color is "rainbow." She loves jumping in mud puddles and she desperately wants a pet unicorn.

Wisteria Jane's days are filled with adventures, giggles, bumps, bruises, and some important life lessons.

Wisteria already has two adventures out in the market, including the original [WISTERIA JANE](#) (October 2015) and [BINGO DID IT](#) (October 2016). These two books will be followed up by at least two more: SHARK DARK (October 2017) and an untitled 2018 adventure.

Through Wisteria Jane's experiences, children learn important lessons about honesty, friendship, and people's feelings. These books have been well-reviewed and are award winners.

- *School Library Journal* review of BINGO DID IT: “VERDICT: Young readers will fall in love with the mischievous Wisteria Jane.”
- *Kirkus* on WISTERIA JANE: “A valuable lesson about tact for any age.”
- BINGO DID IT is a Foreword INDIES award finalist and a Midwest Book Awards finalist

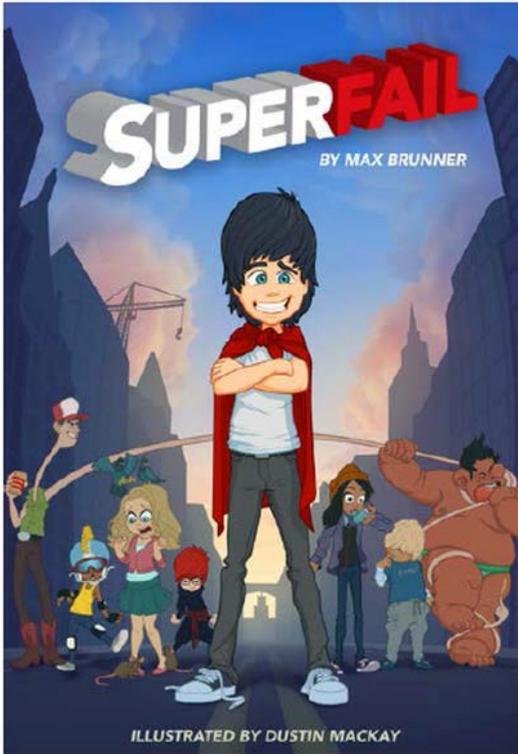
Amber: <http://amberbharris.com/>

Ard: <http://ardhoytbooks.com/>



SUPERFAIL

Written by *Max Brunner & Illustrated by Dustin Mackay*
RunningPress/Hachette for 2017
Repped by Mary Pender, UTA



Laser vision isn't so hot when you're cross-eyed. Supersonic flight's a downer when motion sickness keeps you grounded. Marshall Preston's a defective—a person with superhuman abilities that are counteracted by some very human setbacks.

While other kids are recruited into superhero teams, Marshall's stuck in seventh grade with a kid who can run at super speed but can't stop, another with a radioactive peanut allergy that turns him into a swollen Hulk, and a slow-witted telepath who reads everyone's thoughts outloud.

Like any kid with super powers, Marshall wants to save the city, get his picture in the paper, and win a congratulatory kiss or two from the cheerleaders at school. But when he and his friends jump in to stop a museum heist, they bring the place down on top of them and the bad guys get away scot-free.

Marshall decides to hang up his cape for good, until a washed-up crime fighter figures out the kids are behind the museum's unscheduled demolition. Now Marshall and his defective friends can spend the rest of Junior High in a jail cell or help the old man track down his elusive archenemy.

Defectives aren't exactly superhero material, but when the kids uncover a plot to destroy one of the greatest superhero teams of all time, Marshall and his less-than-super friends set out to prove that just because you're defective, doesn't mean you can't be a hero.

About Max: Max Brunner is a debut author. He began his professional career as lead writer for David World Press' most popular web comic, *Barbiespawn*, at the age of 17. Max is a now mild-mannered Claims Examiner by day and a hardcore fan boy by night, attending comic conventions, and reading superhero stories till the wee hours of the morning.

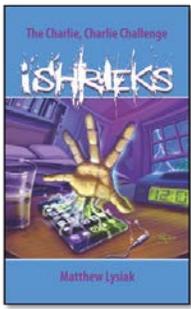
About Dustin: Dustin Mackay is an animator at Disney, developing animation for the films "Planes, Planes: Fire and Rescue" and "Tinkerbell: Legend of the Neverbeast."

www.DustinMackay.carbonmade.com

To access full manuscript/illustrations/pilot episode:

<http://www.martinlit.com/superfail>

Password: mlm



iShrieks

Tales of Terror for Tech-Savvy Tweens
By Matthew Lysiak

(Black Mirror Meets Goosebumps)

“Lysiak is a master of texture, at selecting precise, individualizing details.”— Salon

“iShrieks was written as a warning sign to this upcoming tech-savvy generation, that by staring into that glowing screen, the thin line separating horror from reality can grow into much more than a work of fiction — it can turn into a living nightmare.” --Newsweek

The real-life boogeyman might be closer than you think! Research now shows that long amounts of time focused on a screen can affect the brain’s frontal cortex in exactly the same way that cocaine does. These “digital drugs” are often so stimulating that they raise the dopamine levels — the feel-good neurotransmitter most commonly linked to addiction and can lead to depression, anxiety, aggression and even spur psychotic- like features.

As the world becomes increasingly inundated with new technologies, studies show that children’s fears and interests have adapted, too. iShrieks is the first series geared towards the middle grade audience that combines its love of scary stories with a growing fascination with smart phones, tablets, and any device that keeps kids plugged into the world of the Internet.

iShrieks seeks to redefine the genre for a new generation of horror fans by jumping right into the hyper-connected world of today’s youth audience. With a series of page-turning plots, no one is safe from what is lurking around the vast unknown corners of the Web.

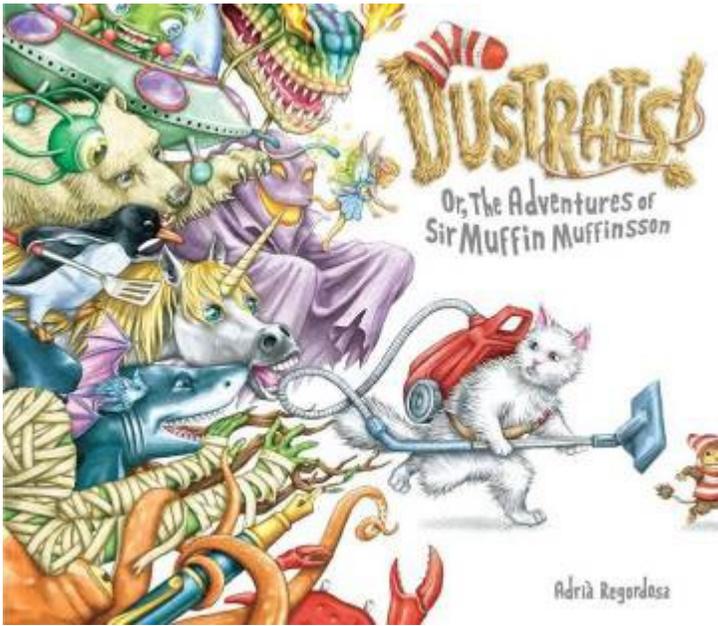
The first installment of the series introduces Elsa Wednesday, a ravenous fan of the video game Minecraft. One day, Elsa takes a wrong turn and stumbles upon a mysterious mansion that looks exactly like a building she created in her favorite video game. Is it a coincidence? Or is what is happening in the world of her video game somehow blurring the lines of reality? Elsa doesn’t know, but if she doesn’t figure it out soon it could be Game Over.

In the second book, *The Charlie, Charlie Challenge*, readers are introduced to Hannah Smart, an 11-year-old who just received her first smartphone. After being pressured by friends to play the new "spirit-summoning" game that is taking the Internet by storm, a series of startling events has her afraid to pick up her new phone — and has her questioning her own sanity. Is it possible that an innocent game could have attracted a spirit that is now possessing her smart phone? Or is it all another one of her older sister Lexie’s vicious pranks?

Tim Jacobus, the legendary illustrator who designed cover art for the now-famous *Goosebumps* series, has agreed to lend his talents to the iShrieks series and has already designed the first cover, revealed below.

iShrieks was written as a warning sign to this upcoming tech-savvy generation, that by staring into that glowing screen, the thin line separating horror from reality can grow into much more than a work of fiction — it can turn into a living nightmare.

Matthew Lysiak is a nationally recognized journalist and coauthor of the award winning young adult memoir of teen scientist Jack Andraga, *Breakthrough: How One Teen Innovator Is Changing the World* (Harper Collins, March 2015), and author of *Newtown: An American Tragedy* (Gallery/Simon & Schuster, December 2013) and co-author of the upcoming series *Hilde Cracks the Case* (Scholastic 2017), which was acquired for television by Paramount. A former reporter for the *New York Daily News*, Matthew has appeared as a contributor on *The Huffington Post*, *Today Show*, *MSNBC*, *Fox News*, *CNN*, and countless other national and local media outlets to discuss his work. Follow him on Twitter at [@matthewlysiak](https://twitter.com/matthewlysiak).



Dustrats!

Or, The Adventures of Sir Muffin Muffinsson

*Text and illustrations
by Adrià Regordosa*

**POW! Kids/Random House,
Spring 2017**

DUSTRATS! OR, THE ADVENTURES OF SIR MUFFIN MUFFINSON is a picture book that takes place in a dreamy world where cat Sir Muffin Muffinsson is charged with the important duties of protecting Baby Emma while she sleeps and keeping their room clean.

Sir Muffin proves to be not-so-good at the cleaning part and naughty, mischievous creatures called Dustrats escape from underneath Emma's crib and run amok through the house.

It is up to Sir Muffin to strap on his vacuum cleaner armor and chase the little cretins through the different rooms of the house—which have curiously transformed with the Dustrats' presence.

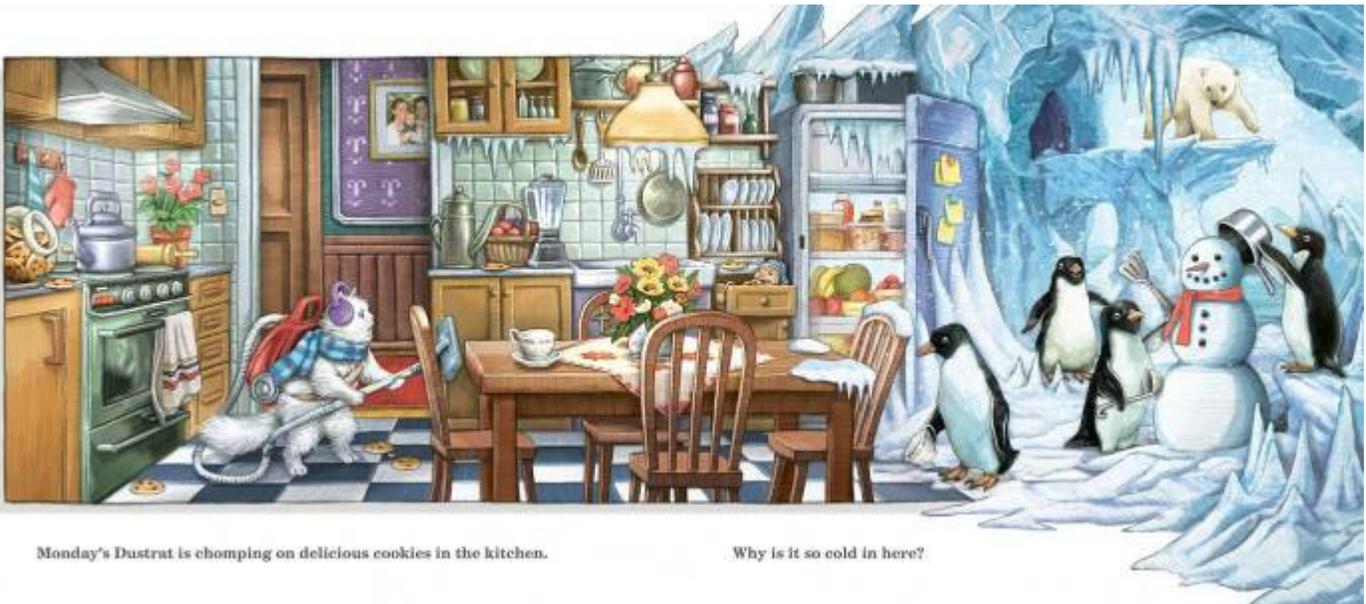
When Sir Muffin is gone too long, Baby Emma faces danger and he must do everything he can to protect her—even it means turning to some unlikely allies for help. Underlying this imaginative story is the question—is this all taking place in Emma's dreams?

DUSTRATS is a high-concept, delightfully fantastical adventure that would translate beautifully into animation.

Adrià Regordosa is a native of Spain, but currently lives in Sweden. He has had a successful career as a graphic artist, particularly in the video game industry.

For more about Adrià, see www.adriaregordosa.com.

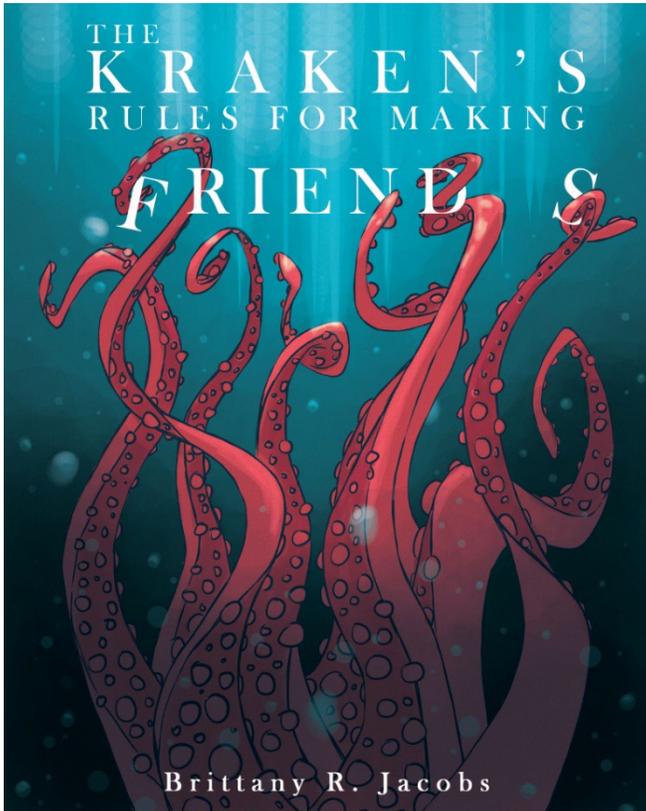
<https://cleliagore.com/2017/05/19/welcome-to-the-world-dustrats/>



Monday's Dustrat is chomping on delicious cookies in the kitchen.

Why is it so cold in here?

THE KRAKEN'S RULES FOR MAKING FRIENDS



**Picture book written and illustrated by
Brittany R. Jacobs**

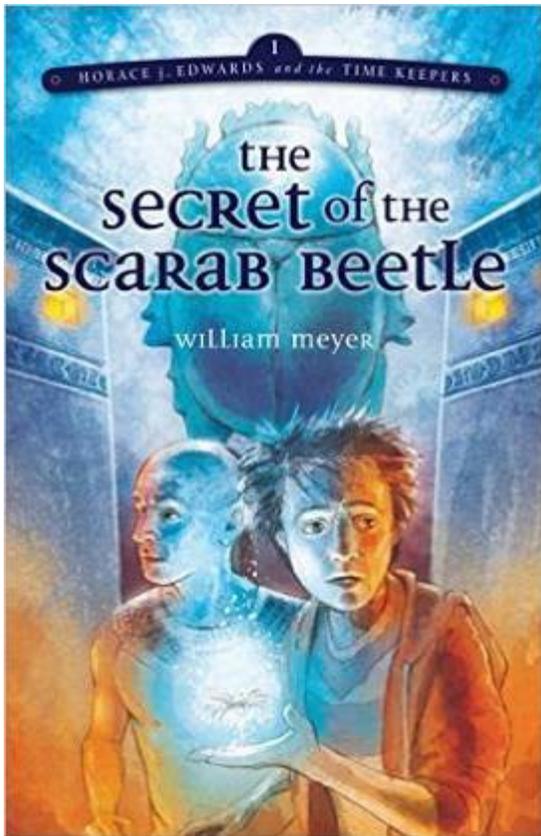
Published by POW! Books
(Distributed by Random House)
August 31, 2016

It's no big surprise that the Kraken has no friends, but he is TIRED OF IT. With a bad temper and a knack for destruction, his talent for meeting new fish is...not so seaworthy.

He finds hope when another monster of the deep, a great white shark, offers him some RULES FOR MAKING FRIENDS. Will these rules help the most terrifying monster of the deep make a new chum?

This hilarious, quirky picture book is written and illustrated by Brittany R. Jacobs, a debut author from Philadelphia.

Find out more about Brittany at www.brjacobsart.com.



The Secret of the Scarab Beetle

By William Meyer

Sleeping Bear Press

***Potential franchise—
first of four planned books***

The Secret of the Scarab Beetle is a middle grade adventure novel by debut author William Meyer. It is the first of a four-part time-travel series. The series will feature a group of kids led by 11-year-old Horace Edwards as they leap back and forth from ancient and not-so-ancient lands (Egypt, Rome, medieval France, 1920's Detroit) to present day Detroit and Niles, Michigan. The four-part adventure culminates when Horace helps the modern-day ailing city of Detroit rise from its ashes by uncovering its wild (and totally true!) connections to the past. It's a tween time-travel *Da Vinci Code* and *National Treasure*-esque adventure.

In the first book, *The Secret of the Scarab Beetle*, Horace Edwards is an ordinary boy who just moved to Niles, Michigan. Ordinary, that is, until the first day of sixth grade, when he not only learns of the mysterious death of his grandfather, but also becomes the recipient of a strange inherited gift—a stone beetle. In his efforts to uncover the truth about his grandfather's death and the secrets of his new inheritance, Horace finds himself transported back in time to the Ancient Egyptian city of Amarna. There he meets the future pharaoh, young King Tut, and together these two boys become engaged in a dramatic and action-filled fight to save the city from total destruction. In the process, Horace discovers that he is the heir to an order of guardians, known as the Keepers of Time.

With help from two new friends and an unlikely alliance made with the school bully, Horace and Tut attempt to save the ancient city, stop the sale of Horace's family farm, and protect a secret that lies at the very heart of Egypt's existence—the magical power of the Benben Stone. However, their task won't be easy. Tut's uncle, Smenk, in an attempt to become the most powerful pharaoh that ever lived, is trying to erase the memory of Tut's father from the pages of history and Tut with him.

There is only one small problem with Smenk's plan—he needs Horace's magical scarab beetle to do it.

One of the things that make this series so engaging is all the crazy historical connections that have been meticulously researched by William Meyer, who was born and raised in the Detroit suburbs. Bill is a high school history teacher in Bronxville, New York, who holds a B.A. in history from Dartmouth, an M.A. in education from Harvard, and is currently working on his PhD in the History of Education at NYU. In his research of the once booming metropolis of Detroit, Meyer discovered a vast array of strange coincidences connecting the city's founders with some of Egypt's greatest mysteries, which inspired many details of the series.

<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/ed/17/01/its-ancient-history>

Unscripted Docs/Reality

PhilanthroParties

A Party Planning Guide for Kids Who Want to Give Back

By Lulu Cerone

Aladdin/Beyond Words (S&S)

May 9, 2017

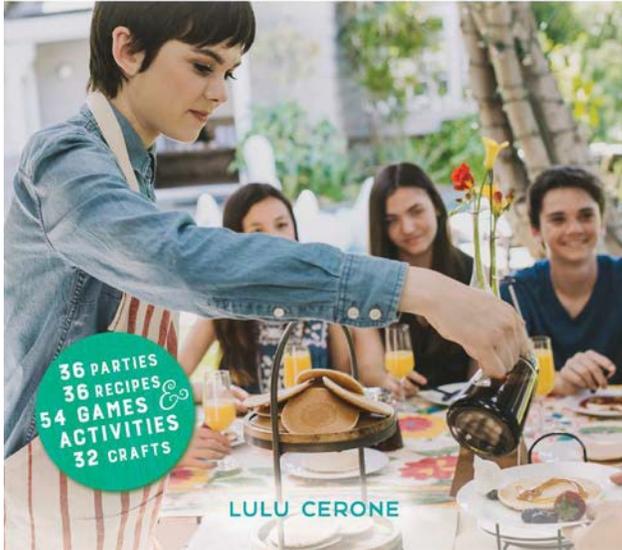
Unscripted Available

***Starred review from Booklist-** “...gorgeous, well organized, full-color book, which is brimming with ideas to inspire young philanthropists to be of service.”



PHILANTHROPARTIES!

A Party-Planning Guide for Kids Who Want to Give Back



18-year-old social activist Lulu Cerone has developed an incredible platform with a simple mission: Help kids make social activism part of their everyday social lives. Through her website, television appearances, speaking engagements, social media presence, corporate partnerships with major brands like Forever 21, Pottery Barn Teen and Mattel, and awards, including a [2014 Nickelodeon HALO award](#), which she received during a nationally televised awards shows in November 2014, Lulu has spread the word about [her PhilanthroParties –“parties with a purpose.”](#) Now, with **PhilanthroParties! A Party Planning Guide for the Social Activist**, Lulu has taken her action-plans, inspiration, tips, and turned them into a comprehensive DIY book.

PhilanthroParties! serves as a creative DIY guide for kids and parents who are interested in throwing Parties with a Purpose, like a Sweater Weather Holiday party where guests bring gently used sweaters to donate to shelters, or a beach picnic that includes a trash scavenger hunt to clean up the shorelines. It will also serve as inspiration for a way of life. Author and narrator Lulu Cerone’s positivity, generosity, and initiative are contagious, and are representative of a young generation that is empowered by what they can do to change the world.

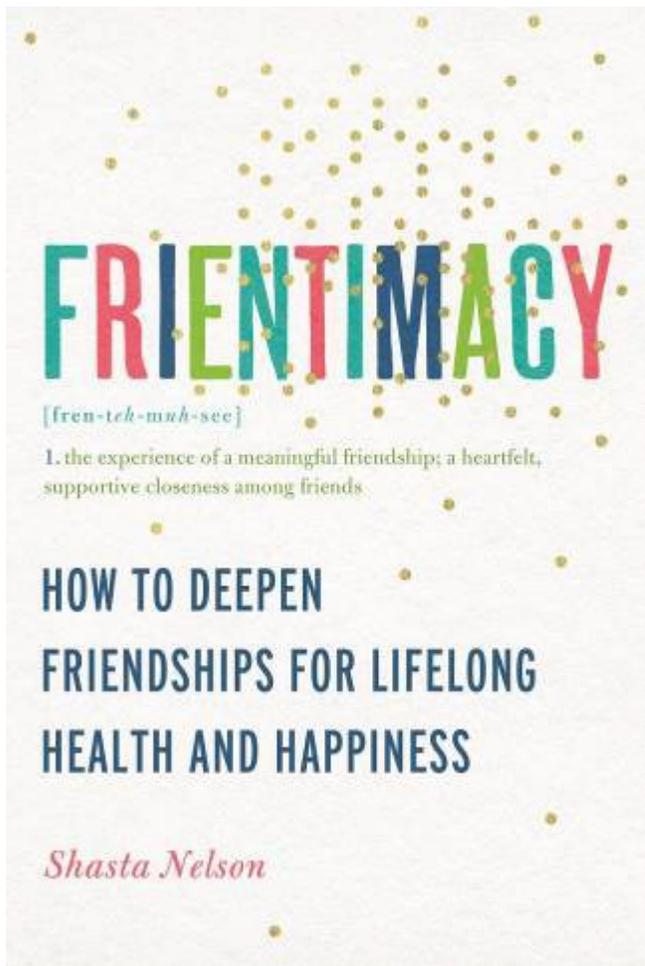
Lulu was inspired to create the PhilanthroParties concept when she was only 10 after she was so affected by the plight of the people of Haiti after a major earthquake hit the country in 2010. Lulu set up a boys v. girls lemonade war between her classmates to raise money for earthquake victims. It was a big success—and social highlight of the year! Lulu realized how a simple idea could lead to something really big. It was obvious that kids her age wanted to give back—but they wanted to initiate that change themselves. The biggest obstacle for kids and parents was finding the time and opportunity to fit social activism into their busy lives. So Lulu created a solution: PhilanthroParties. PhilanthroParties could turn any event that was already on the calendar, like a birthday or holiday or a Friday night sleepover, into a *Party with a Purpose*.

Lulu founded the organization, [LemonAID Warriors](#) to share her progress, parties and creative action plans to help others throw PhilanthroParties of their own and make a difference. In the last six years, Lulu’s cool personal style, charming personality, and fun DIY activities have established her as the Tavi Gevenson of social activism that has attracted the attention of national and local news outlets, the United Nations, Nickelodeon, Walmart, Mattel and DoSomething.org.

For more about Lulu, see www.lemonaidwarriors.com and her Instagram account @lulucerone.

Review: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/lulu-cerone/philanthroparties/>

Reality Deck available upon request. See video at: <http://tinyurl.com/yaz5g5x9>



Frientimacy™

**By Shasta Nelson
Seal Press/Hachette**

Unscripted available

At a time when our Facebook friend count is growing rapidly, so is our loneliness.

Our loneliness, largely unacknowledged, isn't so much from not knowing enough people as much as it is from not feeling known by a few people. With frequent moves, constant job changes, and significant life changes like marriage, motherhood, and divorce shifting our friendships, we are lacking the deep, meaningful, and intimate friendships we crave.

Frientimacy highlights the common experience of loneliness due to friendships lacking depth and establishes the metaphor of our relationships as the gyms for where we do our most significant personal growth for the purpose of having deeper and more fulfilling friendships. Exploring the ten most common complaints and conflicts

facing female friendships today, Shasta Nelson, invites women to move closer to each other instead of heeding the popular advice of pulling away from any friendship that isn't instantly and constantly gratifying. As we lean in, before pulling away, we do the personal growth that can only be done in relationship.

In her first book *Friendships Don't Just Happen!* the author taught women to become initiators to start new friendships as adults; now she teaches them how to transform the superficial into the intimate, the shallow into the deep, and the unhealthy into the healthy.



About the Author:

Shasta Nelson, M.Div., friendship expert and CEO of www.GirlFriendCircles.com (a female friendship matching site in 50 cities across the U.S and Canada), blogs weekly at Shasta's Friendship Blog to over 40,000 subscribers.

A few of the TV shows she's been on include *The Today Show*, *Katie Couric's Show*, *The Early Show*, and *Fox Business*. She's relied upon by writers and reporters from such magazines as *Cosmopolitan*, *Essence*, *Parents*, *More*, *Redbook*, *Good Housekeeping*, and *Glamour*, and has been highlighted in such newspapers as *The New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

The Green Reaper: Life in a One-Woman Mortuary in Boring, Oregon

By Elizabeth Fournier



*** All cast rights secured. Deck and Sizzle Reel available.**

Elizabeth spent a lot of time in funeral homes as a kid, not because her family was in the business, but because they were so frequently found in caskets. Her mother died when she was young; so did her grandparents. Elizabeth began to read about different cultures' death rituals in *National Geographic* magazine. She held a mock cemetery on her dresser, and when friends' pets died, she would perform the funeral.

Elizabeth stood out at her tiny suburban Catholic school and knew it. After her mother's death and the loss of her fond attentions, Elizabeth performed dance routines for anyone she could press into watching. Her family's garage was the scene of many an elaborate recital. The dancing put joy back in her life but did nothing to assuage her sense of wrongness. Grief had hurt Elizabeth in ways she couldn't put into words. Elizabeth felt starved for reassurance, and without it, an inner voice began to chant that she was pathetic. She wanted to crawl into a tire swing and die.

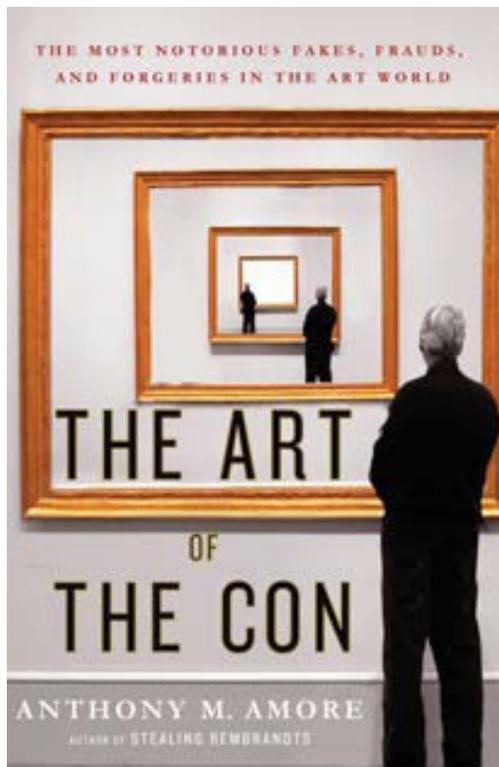
Elizabeth realized her life calling when she was offered the chance to be a live-in night keeper at a funeral home on a big hill. For Elizabeth, it was a casting call from Hollywood. She took the job and slept in a trailer on the spooky edge of the cemetery, with a shotgun under her bed. It was the scariest summer of her life, but it set things in motion. Elizabeth continued learning the ropes in the funeral world while living in the San Francisco Bay area, but her biological clock was ticking louder by the month while her dating life stalled at Dysfunction Junction. A move back to Oregon proved fruitful; in a mortuary version of romance, she found her husband after descending into the bowels of the corporate funeral home where they both were employed. (He worked there as a cremator). They soon married and together broke free from the corporate funeral home world and headed off to tiny Boring, Oregon, to make a fledging country funeral home their own. Daughter, Sofia (named after the Catholic Patron Saint of Widows) arrived the following year and Elizabeth brought her to the parlor every day. Sofia soon taught her that by lying in a grief-stricken widow's arms for a moment, and she could help the tension ease a bit. The baby held a natural gift of comforting the bereaved.

At the start of Elizabeth's career, it was truly an anomaly to walk into a funeral home and be greeted by a woman. Now Elizabeth runs a one-woman funeral service in the small town of Boring, a semi-rural community just outside of Portland. Elizabeth is the owner and operator of Cornerstone Funeral Services, the first green funeral home in the Portland Metropolitan area. She works as a green mortician and eco-educator, and is affectionately known as the Green Reaper because of her passion of home funerals and natural burials. Elizabeth is always ready to lend a hand (or a shovel) and she is renowned for burying her townsfolk in their backyards.

Her story weaves anecdotes linked by her "Green Reaper" philosophy of eschewing big profits and instead returning to old-school burial practices that are far kinder to humans and the Earth.

Elizabeth is inherently led toward helping others relate to death through taking care of their dead, and to preparing more meaningful burials. Through these experiences, she continues to reach more of her own healing and to reestablish inner connections. Some of us work for a better life; Elizabeth works for a better death.

www.ElizabethFournier.com
www.cornerstonefuneral.com



The Art of The Con

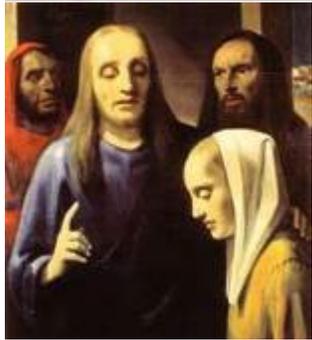
By Anthony M. Amore

St. Martin's Press

* 12-part Limited Series Proposal Available

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

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



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

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

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

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

For more about Anthony, see www.AnthonyAmore.com