

# Something Wicked

this way comes... 2022 • Vol 3 • Issue 1



## Upcoming Events

### June 15 - 18

#### Father's Day Special - In-Store Only.

Join us for a special deal to celebrate the fathers in our lives. Purchase one used book at 50% off. No coupon needed.

### June 22 - 25

**Enjoy a peek into our December Holiday Event...Count the Snowmen.** We'll have a bunch of them scattered throughout the shop. Can you guess how many there are and submit the winning entry?

### July 6 - 9

**Happy Birthday Otto Penzler.** Otto Penzler turns 80 on July 8. He is an editor, publisher, and proprietor of The Mysterious Bookshop in New York City. He is regarded as the world's foremost authority on crime, mystery and suspense fiction. And, he's a really nice guy! To celebrate we're giving 20% off on books he's edited or published.

### July 23...12 noon until 5:00

#### Craft/Yard/Book Sale.

Craft/Yard Sale 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Book Sale 12 noon to 5:00 pm

We will be bringing back the Craft/Yard Sale that will be hosted outside of our shop while our annual Book Sale will be returning inside our shop. Just like before, customers can fill up a bag that we provide for \$5.30 from boxes of books arranged on tables.

If you are interested in having a space to sell at our Craft/Yard Sale, please contact us through our registration page for more details.

### August 13

**Shop closed.** We apologize for the inconvenience, but our shop will be closed today.

### August 18

#### Mystery Author Meet and Greet.

Book Signing 5 to 6 pm - Free

Tea Party 6 to 8 pm - \$45

Join us in the gardens with Author Joyce Tremel, a.k.a. Joyce St. Anthony, and her newest cozy mystery series focused on a gutsy and likeable sleuth in a WWII Homefront News Mystery.

This event is hosted by The Rosemary House and all registration, and/or questions, should go through them. Please click on the link below to be taken to their website for more information.

### September 23-24...9 am til 4 pm

#### PA Tea Festival

Come and visit our booth that will be selling the visiting Authors' books. For registration and more details, please go to <https://www.teafestpa.com/> to be taken to the website for this event hosted by The Rosemary House.

## Save October 8 — CozyCon East!

Join Kensington Publishing and Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop for an afternoon celebrating all things Cozy Mystery!

More details to follow in the coming months. Visit our calendar at [MysteryBookOnline.com](http://MysteryBookOnline.com) as details develop.

### 17 authors and counting including:

Gabby Allan/Misty Simon	J.D. Griffo
Christin Brecher	Darci Hannah
Mollie Cox Bryan	Sherry Harris
Lynn Cahoon	Julia Henry
Maya Corrigan	Tina Kashian
Vicki Delany	Libby Klein
Peggy Ehrhart	Suzanne Trauth
Alex Erickson	Darcie Wilde
Amanda Flower	

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Newsletter of the

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MECHANICSBURG  
**MYSTERY**  
bookshop

We know where the bodies are buried...

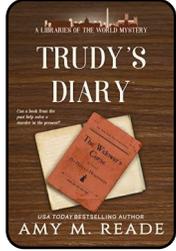
## Book Reviews

These books are available for sale on our website or by stopping in at the shop.

### Trudy's Diary - Libraries of the World 1

by Amy M. Reade

Type: Historical Mystery - \$15.95



Anthropologist Daisy Carruthers finds herself entangled in two murder investigations when her boss and her best friend come under suspicion for killing two adulterous lovers. And when she comes across a diary and an old dime novel with suspiciously similar stories and unknown origins, she knows all the mysteries are somehow connected.

This book immediately draws the reader in and holds the reader's interest by continually introducing new questions and possibilities regarding the two murders. Author Amy Reade has done a superb job of weaving together a story from an 1800's diary with two modern day murders.

As the characters develop, the reader empathizes with each as he determines the identity of the murderer. The protagonist, Daisy, is pulled into solving the murders. An underlying storyline emerges about why Daisy is unable to move forward in romance as she continues to recover from her lost love who met a suspicious death. Daisy works with Jude who is head-over-heels in love with her editor-in-chief, Mark John, whose wife was murdered. Although Jude initially sees Daisy as a threat, by the book's conclusion the relationship has changed dramatically. Daisy's good friend owns a catering business. His latest client has also been murdered. The two murders have a definite connection. With clues from an 1865 diary, the story in a 1910 dime novel, and Daisy's persistence in her genealogical research, the murderer is finally revealed. Genealogy plays a major role in the discovery, and author Amy Reade takes the reader through the different steps in following someone's family tree including the challenges that every genealogist runs into. DNA helps to explain the reason for the murderer's actions.

There is a lot going on in *Trudy's Diary* which motivates the reader to continue reading. The inclusion of several sideline

### Mabel Gets the Ax - Mysteries of Medicine Springs 1

by Susan Kimmel Wright

Type: Cozy - \$13.99



*Mabel Gets the Ax* is a delightfully exciting read that takes place in today's world. Be sure to have time set aside for reading this because you won't want to put it down. I could really identify with Mabel, who is an ordinary person with one major quirk: she gets on the wrong side of most people when she doesn't mean to. This leads to some difficult but entertaining situations.

Mabel joins a Historical Society housed where unsolved ax murders occurred in 1939. She gets involved with trying to solve the old murders and thinks she's found the killer's identity. She feels that there's a connection to similar present-day murders and gets into trouble trying to figure it out. The suspect list is small, but both the past and the present killers might surprise you.

Mabel faces murders, threats, and lots of action in this book. Her grandmother's dog, Barnacle, figures into the plot as one of three rescuers keeping her from harm.

I can't wait until *Mabel Goes to the Dogs* comes out next year.

...Reviewed by Marcia

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stories adds to this motivation. The ending of each chapter flows nicely into the start of the next and the reader wants to keep turning the pages.

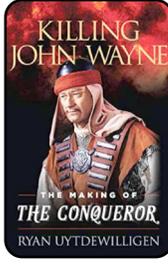
The book is classified as historical fiction. It was a learning experience for this reviewer who spent much time researching 1865 history, dime novels, and DNA. The research was both fascinating and educational. This entertaining book is definitely a worthwhile read.

...Reviewed by Sherry

### Killing John Wayne - The Making of The Conqueror

by Ryan Uytendewilligen

Type: Non-Fiction - \$25.00



This is the history of a film so scandalous, outrageous and explosive it disappeared from print for over a quarter century. A film so dangerous, half its cast and crew met their demise bringing eccentric billionaire Howard Hughes's final cinematic vision to life. Starring John Wayne in Fu Manchu make-up as Mongol madman Genghis Khan. This is the true story of "The Conqueror" (1956); the worst movie ever made. Filmed during the 1950s—the Cold War—when nuclear testing in desolate southwestern landscapes was a must for survival, the very same landscapes were where exotic stories set in faraway lands could be made. Just 153 miles from the St. George, Utah set, nuclear bombs were detonated regularly at Yucca Flat and Frenchman Flat in Nevada, providing a bizarre and possibly deadly background to an already surreal moment in cinema history. This book tells the full story of the making of "The Conqueror," its ignominious aftermath, and the radiation induced cancer that may have killed John Wayne and many others.

I grew up watching John Wayne movies. No one ever imagined a big, tough guy like "the Duke" being brought down by cancer.

This book reveals some history of the big movie studios, how they acquired the stars they wanted to play the parts, and brief biographies of people like Howard Hughes, John Wayne, Susan Hayward, and Dick Powell to name a few. The author also tells about the atomic testing that was going on in the area where filming was done and the effects of these tests not only had on the movie crew but the general public living near the sites.

Well written with photos including Wayne in Genghis Khan make up. This movie was filmed in an era when "black face" and "yellow face" techniques were used so white actors could portray another race.

A good read for movie buffs, especially fans of Wayne, Hayward, and the rest of the cast.

...Reviewed by Sandy

## Book Reviews • continued

**Before She Was Helen**  
 by **Caroline B. Cooney**  
 Type: **Mystery/Detective - \$15.99**



Her life didn't turn out the way she expected—so she made herself a new one. But the bland, quiet life Clemmie has built for herself in her quiet South Carolina retirement community comes crashing down as her

dark past surges into the present.

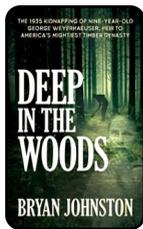
*This book is far more than just one mystery. It seems that no sooner is one mystery solved and the reader is into another. At times, the mysteries overlap. Right from the beginning the reader puzzles over why the main character is called "Helen," but the author calls her "Clemmie". Her nephews call her "Aunt Clemmie" but her neighbors call her "Helen" Within the first few pages the reader follows Helen as she checks one neighbor's well-being only to find out that he has disappeared. In her search for him in his home she discovers a door that connects his house to the neighboring house where she discovers a beautiful and unusual glass sculpture, or so she thinks. She takes a picture of this sculpture and sends it to her nephews who then posted it on social media. The sculpture had been stolen and so her nephew contacts the supposed owner. And...now the reader is immersed in a big mystery that grows into a murder mystery. The stolen sculpture turns out to be an oil rig for smoking marijuana. Its owner will do anything to get it back. Helen will do anything to keep Clemmie a secret and Helen's address unknown.*

*The author has written this fictional story in a light-hearted way so that the reader is thoroughly entertained by her use of humor through Clemmie. Her neighbors are all very friendly with each other and downright nosy. This makes for some very memorable personalities. Nothing goes as Helen plans due to her curious neighbors who are concerned about the police being on the scene.*

*I recommend this book to the reader who likes fast moving action, humor, and a good mystery (or should I say "mysteries"). This is a fun and entertaining book to read.*

...Reviewed by Sherry

**Deep in the Woods**  
 by **Brian Johnston**  
 Type: **True Crime - \$18.99**



In 1935, nine-year-old George Weyerhaeuser, heir to one of the wealthiest families in America, is snatched off the streets two blocks from his home. The boy is kept manacled in a pit, chained to a tree, and locked in

a closet. The perps—a career bank robber, a petty thief, and his nineteen-year-old never-been-in-trouble Mormon wife—quickly become the targets of the biggest manhunt in Northwest history. The caper plays out like a Hollywood thriller with countless twists and improbable developments.

*This true crime story is incredible! George Weyerhaeuser (pronounced warehouse) was kidnapped on his way home from school by two men. The book follows his captivity, the ransom, and George's relationship with his abductors. He goes into the capture, trials, and punishments of the three people who committed the crime.*

*There are photos of George and his family and of the "bad guys". Followed by a truly surprise ending. It is well written and researched. A great read for true crime buffs.*

...Reviewed by Sandy

### Work:

**Being forced to put your BOOK down to reenter society.**

**Death in a Desert Garden - Bea Rivers 1**  
 by **Marty Eberhardt**  
 Type: **Amateur Sleuth- \$15.95**



Bea Rivers's new job at Shandley Gardens seems to be idyllic; a stimulating career at a desert garden full of botanical wonders. But a slow rot has spread within Shandley Gardens as financial woes add stress to the

small board of directors, putting Bea's job at risk. When one of the Gardens's founders, Liz Shandley, is killed in what appears to be a tragic accident, the immediate worry is the survival of the Gardens. But then the police determine that Liz was murdered, and suddenly Bea's job is less than idyllic. The tangled web of relationships is almost as confusing as the enigmatic botanical clues someone keeps dropping. Bea struggles to balance her life as a committed single parent dating a struggling writer while she's drawn further into the investigation of Liz's death. As Bea tries to decipher the strange clues to find the murderer, she uncovers deep secrets and surprises among the staff and board that will forever change the Gardens.

*Death in a Desert Garden is an interesting read. I found it very intriguing to read about the differences in climate between Arizona and here. Also, setting the murder scene in the public desert garden is a unique twist. The number of suspects having reasons to commit murder, plus a series of strange events, keeps you guessing about who's the real culprit. The murderer's identity comes as a real surprise in an unexpected revelation at the end of the story. I'm curious to see what the next adventure will be for Bea Rivers.*

...Reviewed by Marcia

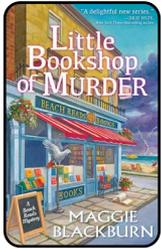
## Shop Hours

Wednesday and Thursday	12:30 pm til 6:00 pm
Friday	12:30 pm til 5:30 pm
Saturday	12:00 pm til 5:30 pm
Sunday through Tuesday	Closed except for special events

**Little Bookshop of Murder - Beach Reads 1**

by **Maggie Blackburn**

Type: Cozy - \$16.99



A Shakespearean scholar inherits a beachside bookstore—and a murder mystery—in this new cozy series.

Summer Merriweather's career as a Shakespeare professor hangs by a bookbinder's thread. Academic life at her Virginia university is a viper's pit, so Summer spends her summer in England, researching a scholarly paper that, with any luck, will finally get her published, impress the Dean, and save her job. But her English idyll ends when her mother, Hildy, shuffles off her mortal coil from an apparent heart attack.

Returning to Brigid's Island, North Carolina, for the funeral, Summer is impatient to settle the estate, sell Beach Reads—her mom's embarrassingly romance-themed bookstore—and go home. But as she drops by Beach Reads, Summer finds threatening notes addressed to Hildy: "Sell the bookstore or die."

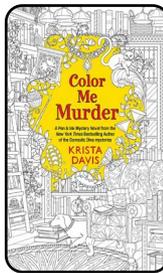
*Clearly, something is rotten on Brigid's Island. What method is behind the madness? Was Hildy murdered? The police insist there's not enough evidence to launch a murder investigation. Instead, Summer and her Aunt Agatha screw their courage to the sticking place and start sleuthing, with the help of Hildy's beloved book club. But there are more suspects on Brigid's Island than are dreamt of in the Bard's darkest philosophizing. And if Summer can't find the villain, the town will be littered with a Shakespearean tragedy's worth of corpses—including her own. **Little Bookshop of Murder** is a fantastic read. Maggie Blackburn has a charming blend of emotion and suspenseful action, making this book a real page turner. It's hard to predict what will happen next. Will Summer or her aunt be the next victim? Even if you can guess the killer from the list of suspects, you're still anxious to find out how the culprit is caught. I'm looking forward to the next book, **Once Upon A Seaside Murder**, in the Beach Reads Mystery series.*

...Reviewed by Marcia

**Color Me Murder - Pen & Ink 1**

by **Krista Davis**

Type: Cozy - \$18.00



By day, Florrie Fox manages Color Me Read bookstore in Georgetown, Washington D.C. By night, she creates her own intricately detailed coloring books for adults, filling the pages with objects that catch her eye. There's plenty of inspiration in her new apartment—a beautiful carriage house belonging to Professor John Maxwell, Florrie's boss. He offers the property to Florrie rent-free with one condition—she must move in immediately to prevent his covetous sister and nephew from trying to claim it.

When the professor's nephew, Delbert, arrives, he proves just as sketchy as Florrie feared. But the following morning, Delbert has vanished. It's not until she visits the third floor of the store that Florrie makes a tragic discovery—there's a trap door in the landing, and a dead Delbert inside. The esteemed Professor Maxwell is an obvious suspect, but Florrie is certain this case isn't so black and white. Doodling clues, she begins to consider other colorful characters on the scene, all with a motive for murder. With a killer drawing closer, Florrie will need to think outside the lines...before death makes his mark again.

**Color Me Murder** is a delightful and entertaining read. Krista Davis captures your attention from the beginning with an outstanding blend of emotion, excitement, and suspense in this page turner. I couldn't put it down! Florrie has to deal with a series of threats being made against her and others while trying to find the murderer. Throughout she's consoled by her pet cat, Peaches, and her parents' dog, Fodo. Her list of suspects grows over time and she doesn't solve the murder until the climatic ending. Davis thoughtfully supplies a list identifying the characters in the front of the book, which helps refresh your memory if you can't finish the book in one or two sittings. A few recipes are included at the end of the book as a bonus. I certainly can't wait to read the next book, **The Coloring Crook**.

...Reviewed by Marcia

**Pretty Evil Pennsylvania - True Stories of Mobster Molls, Violent Vixens, and Murderous Matriarchs**

by **Stephanie Hoover**

Type: True Crime - \$19.95



Pennsylvania may have been founded by peaceful Quakers, but the sect's pacifist ways didn't dampen the state's enthusiasm for violent scandals—or capital punishment. In **Pretty Evil Pennsylvania**, historical true crime author

Stephanie Hoover recounts the crimes of some of the Keystone State's most violent female criminals from the 1850s through the 1930s. The stories of these law-breaking ladies are complex and nuanced. On occasion you may find yourself wondering if the crimes—matricide, kidnapping, horse theft—were justified. In other cases, there can be no doubt of the presence of mens rea—a guilty mind. Many of these women were dismissed as luckless lonely hearts or homely housewives—right up until the time that their cases proved interesting enough to sell newspapers. They then magically transformed into heartless, alluring she-devils who knew how to handle a gun or manipulate men into all manner of evil deeds.

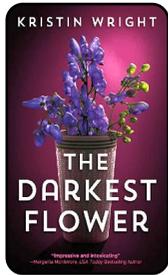
*Stephanie Hoover is another true crime writer who has spoken to groups here at the bookshop. I've read several of her books. All are well-research and fast reading.*

*Some of the women in this book are fairly well known. Hattie Good made a dramatic death bed confession, but, did she admit everything? Mrs. Soffle's love affair that turned bad. What happened to her afterward? These are two of the female criminals Hoover tells us about.*

*Included are photos of the characters involved and background information on them and their various crimes. Pennsylvania seems to have as many "bad girls" as we have "bad boys".*

...Reviewed by Sandy

**The Darkest Flower - Allison Barton 1**  
 by Kristin Wright  
 Type: Mystery - \$15.95



You'll never believe the terrible things being said about the perfect president of the PTA. Attempted murder? Inexplicable accident? Either way, a PTA mom struggled for her life in an elementary school cafeteria, poisoned by a wolfsbane-laced smoothie at the fifth-grade graduation party. Now all eyes are on the accused, the victim, and a woman hired to look deeper.

Ambitious defense attorney and single mother Allison Barton is anxious to escape the shadow of the low-down dog of a marquee partner carrying their renowned Virginia law firm. A win for her high-profile new client will give Allison the career she deserves. And PTA president Kira Grant certainly appears innocent—except for the toxic bloom in her backyard and perhaps a bit of a malicious streak. But no one said the innocent had to be likable—or entirely honest. Besides, with an image as carefully cultivated as her garden, Kira would be insane to risk everything on something as outrageous as the attempted murder of one of her closest friends.

Cozies lack language, sex, violence... like *Murder She Wrote* or anything by Agatha Christie. I have noticed that some of the cozies are starting to have a bit of language but not coarse language.

I thought *The Darkest Flower* was going to be a cozy and it really surprised me as it was anything but. I don't mind reading non-cozies...I was just surprised. One of the main characters really had awful language and descriptions of people...she was rich, spoiled, arrogant and a bunch of other adjectives. I think she was the only character using really nasty language. So, I looked it up after I read it and it said "mystery, detective, thriller" ... the description of the book said it had to do with PTA moms...that almost always means cozy. So, I learned from this one to not assume. First time something like that has happened to me and a book. The book was good, even though that one character is disgusting.

...Reviewed by Marcia

**Hello, Martin - A Supernatural Romance...Until it's Not**  
 by p. j. burgy  
 Type: Horror - \$15.00



When Lizzie Clay holds her first art exhibit, a charming stranger takes an interest. At first, Lizzie is thrilled at the man's proposal to fill his new home with her paintings, but it quickly turns strange after he offers to pay her full time. As she begins to work with him, odd and bloody events start occurring in the town of Puhtipstie.

*This book was a lot of fun. The tagline for Hello, Martin is "A supernatural romance...until it's not." That kind of says it all. I hate to call it "horror" because it isn't scary in the "pull the covers up over your head" sense of the word. But it does include vampires, and some other horror creatures. Although it has some zombies, and I really despise those creatures, I enjoyed the main characters so much that the zombies got a pass from me. The author has done a good job of making the vampire "hers" with some updated vampire lore.*

*Most of the characters are likable and a couple of them are horrible. Kate owns the bookshop where Lizzie works and displays her art. Lizzie's boyfriend, Tommy, is worthless. He's 30, can't hold a steady job (he's full of excuses), sponges off of Lizzie and is the jealous type. To quote Kate... "I'd throw him to the wolves." There is a brother and sister who are experts in the supernatural—particularly when it comes to vampires. If you've seen the original movie (not the remake) "The Lost Boys," this pair reminds me of the Frog brothers. They are very funny and matter-of-fact about the supernatural goings on in Puhtipstie. And, they know how to handle them. They have said all along that the strange murders happening in and around Puhtipstie are the work of vampires. And, of course, nobody believes them.*

*Martin is so suave and debonaire that you can't help but like him...until you can't any more. Lizzie can be on Easy Street if she'll paint for Martin full time. He is very wealthy and wants her to paint only for him. She agrees but insists that it be on her terms. But, will her terms work?*

...Reviewed by Deb

**Saint-Germain, The Immortal Count**



Count Saint-Germain's date of birth goes back to the 1600s. Although there are those who believe his existence goes back to the time of Christ. Many of the most famous persons in European History knew of him including Casanova, Voltaire, Catherine the Great, George Washington and others.

He has supposedly shown up many times through history, even as recently as the 1970s. But, he always looked like he was about 45 years of age.

Who was he and was his immortality actual or folklore? He was supposedly born the son of Francis Racoczi, II...the Prince of Transylvania in 1690. He was an accomplished alchemist and could literally turn piles of metal into gold. He claimed he had discovered the secret of eternal life. He was a huge celebrity and traveled throughout Europe between 1740 and 1780 but never seemed to age.

His many abilities and oddities included that he spoke 12 languages, was an expert painter, and a highly skilled violinist. He appeared to be wealthy. When dining out with friends he was rarely seen eating food in public. He supposedly ate a diet of oatmeal.

He loved precious gems and had them on his shoes and clothing. And he perfected a technique for painting jewels.

Saint-Germain has been linked to secret societies including the Illuminati, Knights of Light, Freemasons, Rosicrucians, Order of the Templars and others.

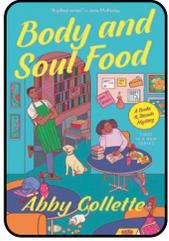
In 1795 he was seen with Anton Mesmer in Germany. Mesmer was a hypnotist. Official records of Freemasonry show that Mesmer selected Saint-Germain as their representative for a convention in 1785.

He "officially" died in 1784 but continued to be seen throughout the 1800s and 1900s. Richard Chanfray claimed to be the count. In the 1970s he appeared on TV and supposedly changed lead to gold. He committed suicide in 1983 in St. Tropez but claims have been made that no body was found...only a suicide note.

Chelsea Quinn Yarbro's series on the Count changed the "standard" vampire character to that of a hero rather than a villain. Yarbro has won numerous awards and was the first woman to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Horror Writers Association. Her books are mostly out of print but I couldn't mention Saint-Germain without mentioning her.

## Book Reviews • continued

**Body and Soul Food - Books & Biscuits 1**  
by Abby Collette  
Type: Cozy - \$8.99



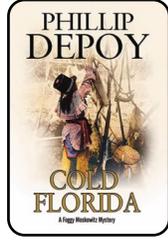
When Koby Hill and Keaton Rutledge were orphaned at age two, they were separated, but their unbreakable connection lingered. Years later, they reunite and decide to make up for lost time and capitalize on their shared interests by opening up a well-stocked bookstore and cozy soul-food café in the quaint Pacific Northwest town of Timber Lake. But this new chapter of their lives could end on a cliffhanger after Koby's foster brother is found murdered. The murder, which occurred in public between light-rail stops, seems impossible for the police to solve. But as Keaton and Koby know, two heads are always better than one, especially when it comes to mysteries. With just a week to go before the grand opening of their new café, the twins will use their revitalized connection with each other to make sure this is the killer's final page.

Collette writes another cozy mystery series I absolutely adore, the Ice Cream Parlor mystery series. This is the start of another winning series for me! Keaton and Koby have a back story that they begin to piece together in this book, and I hope Collette continues this exploration in future additions to this series. The combination of bookstore and soul food restaurant is very unique, and I could completely smell the amazing foods coming from the kitchen as Collette described Koby and his foster mom and others cook and grill and bake (there are recipes in the back, so you can try some of these at home!). As a former librarian, Keaton's knowledge and love for books shines through in the bookstore, and Collette adds book titles throughout the story, so prepare to add more titles to your to-read list. There is even an homage to Agatha Christie and *The Murder on the Orient Express* in the storyline!

A 4-star read for me! I enjoyed the characters, the setting, and the overall cozy mystery featuring BIPOC characters. Collette has become a must-buy author for me, and I cannot wait for the next in this series to be published.

...Reviewed by Jessica

**Cold Florida - Foggy Moskowitz 1**  
by Phillip Depoy  
Type: Detective - \$17.95



Foggy Moskowitz, former car thief from Brooklyn, evades the police by escaping to Florida, changing his name, and getting a job with the Florida Child Protective Services. In Feb. 1974, in the line of duty, Foggy becomes involved with a heroin addicted mother and baby. Also interested in the mother and child are the Seminole Nation, the local hit man, several junkies, and an evil billionaire intent on a land grab. In his efforts to secure the safety of mother and child, Foggy is taken to the swamp, escapes, is re-captured, and realizes that he has no idea what is really going on. Foggy's confusion is compounded by a Seminole mystic who takes him on a "trip" that turns out to be a trip of self-discovery.

Colorful, unusual, and just plain odd characters and locations populate this book that has the authentic feel of 1974. I will look forward to the further adventures of Foggy.

...Reviewed by Jay

When I was in my early 20s, my dream was to write mystery novels. I wanted to do what my favourite crime writer, Ross Macdonald, did - crank out a book a year. The only problem - and it was a considerable one - was that I stank.

Linwood Barclay

**Deadly Summer Nights - Catskill Summer Resort 1**  
by Vicki Delany  
Type: Cozy - \$7.99



In the summer of 1953 at Haggerman's Catskills Resort, daring young widow Elizabeth must solve the mystery surrounding the death of a reclusive guest whose body was found in the lake on the grounds in order to save the business from going under.

**Confession:** Everything I read by Vicki Delany I thoroughly enjoy. From her Constable Molly Smith series (not a cozy read) to her cozy Lighthouse Library series she writes under the name Eva Gates, her characters and her sense of place really engage readers and keep them coming back for more. When I learned that she set her latest series in the 1950s Catskills, I had to read it. And while this is set ten years prior to Patrick Swayze dirty dancing at a different Catskills resort, **Deadly Summer Nights** certainly captures the spirit of the family resort vacations of that era. Delany has crafted another winning series.

As the main character, Elizabeth Grady represents a strong, independent woman, who is not afraid of hard work and getting to the bottom of bothersome problems, including murder. I love how Delany sprinkles the biggest concerns of the era into the story - this is the height of the McCarthy Era, so of course the Red Scare plays a role in the book. While I had suspicions as to the killer, the way Delany weaves the story, along with the red herrings, is quite an enjoyable ride. And Olivia, Elizabeth's starlit mother who technically owns the resort, is purely fun, and a character I'd love to learn more about and see develop further in the series. I eagerly anticipate my next visit to the Catskills in the next Catskill Summer Resort series entry.

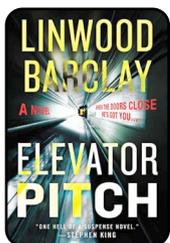
...Reviewed by Jessica

## Book Reviews • continued

### Elevator Pitch

by Linwood Barclay

Type: Thriller - \$16.99



*“WOW!” is the best description for this suspenseful action-packed mystery! The suspense starts immediately when the reader enters a malfunctioning elevator and gets acquainted with the four people on the elevator, and then...*

*the elevator plummets to the bottom of 48 floors. That was just the prologue! NYC elevators seem to be out of control.*

*The story takes place in five days. It is fast moving and filled with all sorts of twists, turns, and surprises. The main character is Mayor Headley of New York. His assistant, Chris Vallins, has been with him for years, and is concerned that the elevator tragedies will hurt the mayor's image. The reader learns much about Mayor Headley's life, but without ruining the story. Although the emphasis is on the mayor, he isn't the one who has sabotaged the elevators of the city. The reader needs to dig deeper. Detectives Delgado and Bourque are doing their best to find the “elevator executioner” but to no avail. They are continually tricked by his/her actions. The mystery only deepens when an elevator service pro is found dead with his head and fingertips cut off.*

*While the elevator tragedies continue, the reader sees a complicated relationship between a single mother and daughter change due to the week's events. The mother, Barbara, is a journalist who leaves no stone unturned. Her daughter, Arla, takes a job with Mayor Headley, much to her mother's alarm. Arla and Glover, the mayor's son, become fast friends, which raises her mother's alarm even further. But it's not why you think.*

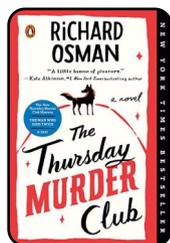
*The author has done an outstanding job of meshing the activities of all the characters together so that it reads very smoothly. This is a book the reader will not want to put down.*

...Reviewed by Sherry

### The Thursday Murder Club - Thursday Murder Club 1

by Richard Osman

Type: Mystery / Detective - \$17.00



Four septuagenarians with a few tricks up their sleeves. A cop with her first big case. A murder. Welcome to... **THE THURSDAY MURDER CLUB**

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves the Thursday Murder Club.

*Coopers Chase Retirement Village is a perfectly normal senior citizen's home, in a perfectly normal country setting, and is populated by perfectly normal, older, British citizens. Well...perhaps not all of them are "normal". At least four of them are extraordinary. These four are the sole membership of the Thursday Murder Club. "Thursday" because that's the only day the meeting room is available and "Murder Club" because these friends meet each week to discuss and hopefully solve old, unsolved murder cases. Each of the four club members have their own special expertise and life experiences that contribute to solving crimes.*

*Suddenly there is a real murder to solve when a local contractor is killed, quickly followed by the murder of the shady real estate developer who had recently fired him. Could it be that one of the other seemingly "normal" seniors could be a killer?*

*The local constabulary can't resist the charms of the senior sleuths and so, somewhat against their will, join forces with the Thursday Murder Club for the investigation.*

*Humor abounds in this well paced and interesting cozy mystery which I believe will appeal to any mystery lover. Coopers Chase sounds like an excellent place to retire and author Richard Osman has populated it with intriguing characters who accurately portray some pretty sharp seniors. Osman makes you want to read more about the club which is easily done as the second book is already available. Highly recommended.*

...Reviewed by Jay

### The Last Flight

by Julie Clark

Type: Mystery / Detective - \$16.99



*Clair has a problem—an abusive husband who is powerful in both personal connections and financial holdings. Clair has all the material comforts any woman would want. She is willing to give it all up so that she can have control of her own life without her husband's abuse.*

*Eva also has a problem—a drug partner who does not want to lose his “meal ticket”, his “meal ticket” being Eva. Eva has a life filled with danger. She wants out of this life.*

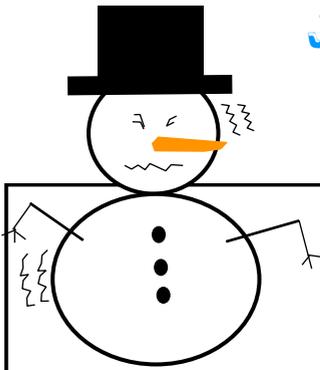
*Events occur that place these two women, who live in opposite parts of the country, in the same airport. They meet and decide to trade lives, each going to the other's destination. Their futures would be free of their demons. However, there is a plane crash, and all plans are washed away with the downed plane. Clair's body is not retrieved, and the authorities are puzzled. An unidentified body is found, and the reader is puzzled.*

*Clair soon realizes that she knows nothing about Eva's life other than where she lives. She soon realizes that perhaps her life as Eva is in danger. To make matters worse, she knows that Eva has disappeared in the plane crash. There is no going home for Clair, but she also cannot stay at Eva's house. Her life continues to be more endangered as she seeks to find out what Eva is involved in. As Clair's husband continues to piece the missing parts together, Clair's life inches closer and closer to her demise. What will she do?*

*The author takes us back and forth between the life Clair is living as Eva and Eva's prior life, the life that put her into the position that Clair now finds herself in. This book is a page-turner. It is filled with twists and turns. The reader has knowledge of Clair's life, but Eva's life is a mystery, and as her life unfolds more and more questions arise.*

*This reader thoroughly enjoyed this work of fiction. It was fast moving and filled with unexpected events and realizations. It keeps the reader wanting to find out what is in the next page.*

...Reviewed by Sherry



Join us June 22 - 25 for a Peek into Our  
Shiver Me Snowman Christmas

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G A N N R V N R M Q Q Z  
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BREAKTHROUGH

CASE

CHARACTERS

CONUNDRUM

COZY

CROOK

DEFAMATION

DETECTIVE

EVIDENCE

HUNCH

MYSTERIOUS

MYSTIFIED

OTTO

PENZLER

PLOT

PROBLEM

SECRET

SOLUTION

THRILLER

TROPES

TWIST