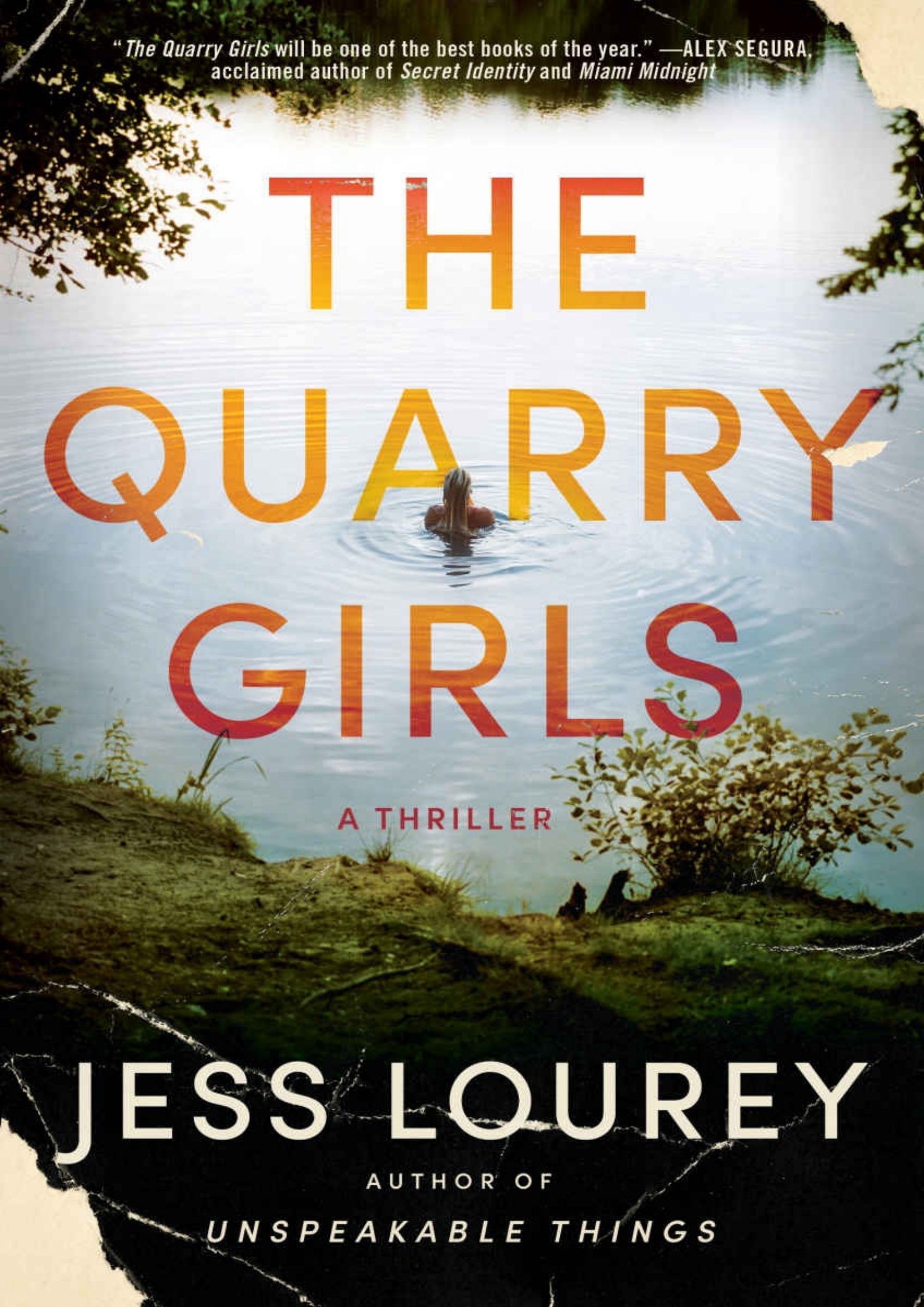


"The Quarry Girls will be one of the best books of the year." —ALEX SEGURA,
acclaimed author of *Secret Identity* and *Miami Midnight*

A person with long hair is swimming in a body of water, likely a quarry, with a grassy bank in the foreground. The water is calm with some ripples around the swimmer. The background shows trees and foliage.

THE QUARRY GIRLS

A THRILLER

JESS LOUREY

AUTHOR OF

UNSPEAKABLE THINGS

PRAISE FOR *THE QUARRY GIRLS*

“Few authors can blend the genuine fear generated by a sordid tale of true crime with evocative, three-dimensional characters and mesmerizing prose like Jess Lourey. Her fictional stories feel rooted in a world we all know but also fear. *The Quarry Girls* is a story of secrets gone to seed, and Lourey gives readers her best novel yet—which is quite the accomplishment. Calling it: *The Quarry Girls* will be one of the best books of the year.”

—Alex Segura, acclaimed author of *Secret Identity*, *Star Wars Poe Dameron: Free Fall*, and *Miami Midnight*

“Jess Lourey once more taps deep into her Midwest roots and childhood fears with *The Quarry Girls*, an absorbing, true crime–informed thriller narrated in the compelling voice of young drummer Heather Cash as she and her bandmates navigate the treacherous and confusing ground between girlhood and womanhood one simmering and deadly summer. Lourey conveys the edgy, hungry restlessness of teen girls with a touch of Megan Abbott, while steadily intensifying the claustrophobic atmosphere of a small 1977 Minnesota town where darkness snakes below the surface.”

—Loreth Anne White, *Washington Post* and Amazon Charts bestselling author of *The Patient’s Secret*

“Jess Lourey is a master of the coming-of-age thriller, and *The Quarry Girls* may be her best yet—as dark, twisty, and full of secrets as the tunnels that lurk beneath Pantown’s deceptively idyllic streets.”

—Chris Holm, Anthony Award–winning author of *The Killing Kind*

PRAISE FOR *LITANI*

“Lourey serves up another terrifying reality-based thriller . . . a tale of horror, grit, and, ultimately, hope.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Curious, perceptive Francesca, with her concern for others, makes an irresistible heroine. Psychological thriller fans will be satisfied.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“*Litani* shows that the real terror is not ghosts, but human monsters.”

—*St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“Lourey has accomplished quite a feat here with a coming-of-age novel buried inside a very dark psychological thriller.”

—Bookreporter

“A riveting and disturbing thriller. With *Litani*, Lourey truly cements her position as the queen of melding small-town suspense and coming-of-age stories that creep into your bones and refuse to leave. Lourey’s masterful pacing and prose create a captivatingly claustrophobic atmosphere that hooks you from the very first page and tightens the noose with every shockingly chilling reveal. While secrets and lies fester at the heart of the novel, it is Frankie, the engaging young protagonist, who becomes a reminder that humanity can exist even in the darkest of places. This is one that’s going to stick with you for a long time. An absolute must-read.”

—Brianna Labuskes, *Washington Post* bestselling author of *Girls of Glass*

“Writing about real monsters lurking in Minnesota’s small towns is Lourey’s specialty. The sinister, eerie feeling you get while reading this creepy story . . . well, that’s another unnerving tendency. In *Litani*, Lourey is at her terrifying best. A heart-pounding story of suspense.”

—Kaira Rouda, international and *USA Today* bestselling author

“Move over, Stephen King. Jess Lourey is a master at evoking the horror that lurks beneath the surface of a sleepy all-American small town. Vivid, consuming, and terrifying, *Litani* will haunt your dreams.”

—Michele Campbell, internationally bestselling author of *It’s Always the Husband*

PRAISE FOR *BLOODLINE*

Short-listed for the 2021 Goodreads Choice Awards

“Fans of *Rosemary’s Baby* will relish this.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“Based on a true story, this is a sinister, suspenseful thriller full of creeping horror.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Lourey ratchets up the fear in a novel that verges on horror.”

—*Library Journal*

“In *Bloodline*, Jess Lourey blends elements of mystery, suspense, and horror to stunning effect.”

—*BOLO Books*

“Inspired by a true story, it’s a creepy page-turner that has me eager to read more of Ms. Lourey’s works, especially if they’re all as incisive as this thought-provoking novel.”

—*Criminal Element*

“*Bloodline* by Jess Lourey is a psychological thriller that grabbed me from the beginning and didn’t let go.”

—*Mystery & Suspense Magazine*

“*Bloodline* blends page-turning storytelling with clever homages to such horror classics as *Rosemary’s Baby*, *The Stepford Wives*, and *Harvest Home*.”

—*Toronto Star*

“*Bloodline* is a terrific, creepy thriller, and Jess Lourey clearly knows how to get under your skin.”

—*Bookreporter*

“[A] tightly coiled domestic thriller that slowly but persuasively builds the suspense.”

—*South Florida Sun Sentinel*

“I should know better than to pick up a new Jess Lourey book thinking I’ll just peek at the first few pages and then get back to the book I was reading. Six hours later, it’s three in the morning and I’m racing through the last few chapters, unable to sleep until I know how it all ends. Set in an idyllic small town rooted in family history and horrific secrets, *Bloodline* is

Pleasantville meets *Rosemary's Baby*. A deeply unsettling, darkly unnerving, and utterly compelling novel, this book chilled me to the core, and I loved every bit of it.”

—Jennifer Hillier, author of *Little Secrets* and the award-winning *Jar of Hearts*

“Jess Lourey writes small-town Minnesota like Stephen King writes small-town Maine. *Bloodline* is a tremendous book with a heart and a hacksaw . . . and I loved every second of it.”

—Rachel Howzell Hall, author of the critically acclaimed novels *And Now She's Gone* and *They All Fall Down*

PRAISE FOR *UNSPEAKABLE THINGS*

Winner of the 2021 Anthony Award for Best
Paperback Original

Short-listed for the 2021 Edgar Awards and 2020
Goodreads Choice Awards

“The suspense never wavers in this page-turner.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“The atmospheric suspense novel is haunting because it’s narrated from the point of view of a thirteen-year-old, an age that should be more innocent but often isn’t. Even more chilling, it’s based on real-life incidents. Lourey may be known for comic capers (*March of Crimes*), but this tense novel combines the best of a coming-of-age story with suspense and an unforgettable young narrator.”

—*Library Journal* (starred review)

“Part suspense, part coming-of-age, Jess Lourey’s *Unspeakable Things* is a story of creeping dread, about childhood when you know the monster under your bed is real. A novel that clings to you long after the last page.”

—Lori Rader-Day, Edgar Award–nominated author of *Under a Dark Sky*

“A noose of a novel that tightens by inches. The squirming tension comes from every direction—including the ones that are supposed to be safe. I

felt complicit as I read, as if at any moment I stopped I would be abandoning Cassie, alone, in the dark, straining to listen and fearing to hear.”

—Marcus Sakey, bestselling author of *Brilliance*

“*Unspeakable Things* is an absolutely riveting novel about the poisonous secrets buried deep in towns and families. Jess Lourey has created a story that will chill you to the bone and a main character who will break your heart wide open.”

—Lou Berney, Edgar Award–winning author of *November Road*

“Inspired by a true story, *Unspeakable Things* crackles with authenticity, humanity, and humor. The novel reminded me of *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *The Marsh King’s Daughter*. Highly recommended.”

—Mark Sullivan, bestselling author of *Beneath a Scarlet Sky*

“Jess Lourey does a masterful job building tension and dread, but her greatest asset in *Unspeakable Things* is Cassie—an arresting narrator you identify with, root for, and desperately want to protect. This is a book that will stick with you long after you’ve torn through it.”

—Rob Hart, author of *The Warehouse*

“With *Unspeakable Things*, Jess Lourey has managed the near-impossible, crafting a mystery as harrowing as it is tender, as gut-wrenching as it is lyrical. There is real darkness here, a creeping, inescapable dread that more than once had me looking over my own shoulder. But at its heart beats the irrepressible—and irresistible—spirit of its . . . heroine, a young woman so bright and vital and brave she kept even the fiercest monsters at bay. This is a book that will stay with me for a long time.”

—Elizabeth Little, *Los Angeles Times* bestselling author of *Dear Daughter* and *Pretty as a Picture*

PRAISE FOR *THE CATALAIN BOOK OF SECRETS*

“Life-affirming, thought-provoking, heartwarming, it’s one of those books which—if you happen to read it exactly when you need to—will heal your wounds as you turn the pages.”

—Catriona McPherson, Agatha, Anthony, Macavity, and Bruce Alexander
Award-winning author

“Prolific mystery writer Lourey tells of a matriarchal clan of witches joining forces against age-old evil . . . The novel is tightly plotted, and Lourey shines when depicting relationships—romantic ones as well as tangled links between Catalains . . . Lourey emphasizes the ties that bind in spite of secrets and resentment.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Lourey expertly concocts a Gothic fusion of long-held secrets, melancholy, and resolve . . . Exquisitely written in naturally flowing, expressive language, the book delves into the special relationships between sisters, and mothers and daughters.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

PRAISE FOR *SALEM'S CIPHER*

“A fast-paced, sometimes brutal thriller reminiscent of Dan Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code*.”

—*Booklist* (starred review)

“A hair-raising thrill ride.”

—*Library Journal* (starred review)

“The fascinating historical information combined with a story line ripped from the headlines will hook conspiracy theorists and action addicts alike.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Fans of *The Da Vinci Code* are going to love this book . . . One of my favorite reads of 2016.”

—*Crimespree Magazine*

“This suspenseful tale has something for absolutely everyone to enjoy.”

—*Suspense Magazine*

PRAISE FOR *MERCY'S CHASE*

“An immersive voice, an intriguing story, a wonderful character—highly recommended!”

—Lee Child, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author

“Both a sweeping adventure and race-against-time thriller, *Mercy’s Chase* is fascinating, fierce, and brimming with heart—just like its heroine, Salem Wiley.”

—Meg Gardiner, author of *Into the Black Nowhere*

“Action-packed, great writing taut with suspense, an appealing main character to root for—who could ask for anything more?”

—Buried Under Books

PRAISE FOR *MAY DAY*

“Jess Lourey writes about a small-town assistant librarian, but this is no genteel traditional mystery. Mira James likes guys in a big way, likes booze, and isn’t afraid of motorcycles. She flees a dead-end job and a dead-end boyfriend in Minneapolis and ends up in Battle Lake, a little town with plenty of dirty secrets. The first-person narrative in *May Day* is fresh, the characters quirky. Minnesota has many fine crime writers, and Jess Lourey has just entered their ranks!”

—Ellen Hart, award-winning author of the Jane Lawless and Sophie Greenway series

“This trade paperback packed a punch . . . I loved it from the get-go!”

—*Tulsa World*

“What a romp this is! I found myself laughing out loud.”

—*Crimespree Magazine*

“Mira digs up a closetful of dirty secrets, including sex parties, cross-dressing, and blackmail, on her way to exposing the killer. Lourey’s debut has a likable heroine and surfeit of sass.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

PRAISE FOR *REWRITE YOUR LIFE:*

DISCOVER YOUR TRUTH THROUGH THE HEALING POWER OF FICTION

“Interweaving practical advice with stories and insights garnered in her own writing journey, Jessica Lourey offers a step-by-step guide for writers struggling to create fiction from their life experiences. But this book isn’t just about writing. It’s also about the power of stories to transform those who write them. I know of no other guide that delivers on its promise with such honesty, simplicity, and beauty.”

—William Kent Krueger, *New York Times* bestselling author of the Cork O’Connor series and *Ordinary Grace*

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THE QUARRY GIRLS

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OTHER TITLES BY JESS LOUREY

THRILLERS

Litani
Bloodline
Unspeakable Things
Mercy's Chase
Salem's Cipher

MAGICAL REALISM

The Catalain Book of Secrets
Seven Daughters

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Leave My Book Alone! Starring Claudette, a Dragon with Control Issues

YOUNG ADULT

The Toadhouse Trilogy: Book One

ROM-COM MYSTERIES

May Day
June Bug
Knee High by the Fourth of July
August Moon
September Mourn
October Fest
November Hunt
December Dread
January Thaw
February Fever
March of Crimes

April Fools

NONFICTION

*Rewrite Your Life: Discover Your Truth Through the Healing Power of
Fiction*

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**THE
QUARRY
GIRLS**

A THRILLER

JESS LOUREY

 **THOMAS & MERCER**

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This is a work of fiction. Names, characters, organizations, places, events, and incidents are either products of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, or actual events is purely coincidental.

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For Cindy, the perfect blend of fire and heart.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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AUTHOR'S NOTE

The FBI defines a serial killer as a person, usually male, who murders two or more people, usually female, in distinct events. While serial killers have always been around (I recommend researching Gilles de Rais if you're low on nightmare fuel), they didn't capture the public consciousness until the early 1970s. That's when the first wave of big-name monsters—John Wayne Gacy, the Zodiac Killer, Son of Sam—were active. Historian Peter Vronsky hypothesizes that while several factors must align to make a murderer (genetics and frontal lobe injuries being two common ones), World War II was responsible for this golden age of serial killers a generation later.

Specifically, according to Vronsky, while all American soldiers who fought in WWII were trained to kill, a small contingent used the cover of state-sanctioned violence to also rape, torture, and collect human body parts as trophies. Though most returning GIs successfully reintegrated into society, some brought the brutality of war into their homes, abusing their families behind closed doors. That abuse, occurring as it did in a culture openly promoting war, created the fertile ground from which the first major crop of American serial killers would spring.

I'm *hungry* for this information.

The luridness, certainly, attracts me.

There's also the truth that 70 percent of serial killer victims are female. You better believe that knowing you're prey heightens your interest in the predator. You find yourself desperate to make sense of largely random acts of serial murder, believing that if you can understand motivation and hunting patterns, you can protect yourself.

But my desire for this information is more than morbid interest or self-preservation.

There's something personal there, too.

I was born in Washington State on an army base, my dad fighting in Vietnam. After he was discharged in 1970, we moved to the north side of Saint Cloud, Minnesota. Perched on the Mississippi River, the small city was known for the Pan Motor Company, a car manufacturer that failed