

# THE LARK GROUP

***The Net Beneath Us* by Carol Dunbar**  
Forge/Macmillan (anticipated Fall 2022)

In the vein of Delia Owens, Brit Bennett, and Leif Enger, *The Net Beneath Us* is a novel about being haunted by the choices we make—and don't make—in our lives.

Silas is dead. Or he's almost dead, felled by the trees he was felling and now brought home, comatose, to die in his unfinished, off-the-grid house at the edge of the forest he loved.

His wife, Elsa, doesn't know much about living in the country, about running the generator or chopping enough wood to survive the winter. Raising their children here, in this dwelling carved into the side of a hill, had been Silas's dream, not hers. She doesn't know how she'll ease his final days with no heat and no running water. But she knows that he would want to stay here, in his bed, on his land, as his breath shudders to a whisper.

Silas's aunt and uncle think she's crazy. Elsa's father thinks she ought to leave, go find an apartment in the city. Her young children think she'll be able to bring their daddy back. But Elsa thinks staying is the right choice. She just has to remain focused, learn how to keep the house running, and ignore the way the trees outside seem to call to one another, how the walls seem to come alive at night, how nearly dead Silas seems to be haunting her, already, from his windowless room.

Staying is the right choice. Isn't it?

Told over the course of a year, *The Net Beneath Us* is a lyrical exploration of loss, marriage, motherhood, and self-reliance, a tale of how the natural world—without and within us—offers a kind of healing available to us all, if we can learn where to look.



Carol Dunbar is a ghostwriter of over 50 nonfiction titles, and for the last 15 years she has lived in the house that is the setting for *The Net Beneath Us*. Her essays about living off the grid air on Wisconsin Public Radio and her work has been published or is forthcoming in *The South Carolina Review*, *Midwestern Gothic*, *The Midwest Review*, *Literary Mama*, *Great Lakes Review*, and others. In 2018 she won the Hal Prize for fiction and an earlier draft of this novel was a 2013 finalist for the Dana Award.

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## The *Madison Kelly Mystery Series* by Elizabeth Breck

The page-turning *Madison Kelly* series introduces Madison Kelly, a Kinsey-Millhone-meets-Harry-Bosch female P.I. who loves subverting expectations to leave her mark on a case.

"A brave heart that deserves a sequel."

—Kirkus Reviews

"[A] captivating debut... Readers will look forward to seeing more of this tough, competent detective."

—Publishers Weekly

"A new author destined for great things..." *Anonymous* takes a similarly refreshing approach to the means and manner of Kelly's investigation into the terrifying truth behind the disappearances and the perpetrator behind them. A major debut that is not to be missed."

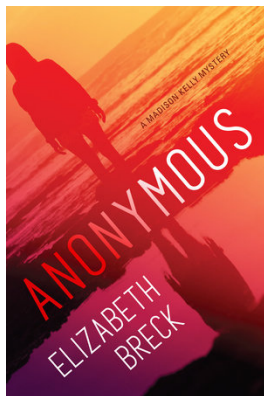
—Jon Land, *Providence Journal*

"A smart, tough female protagonist, a unique plot, fast-moving prose written with a steady hand and a startling conclusion make this superb debut novel from real-life PI Elizabeth Breck a must read."

—David Housewright, *Edgar Award-winning author of From the Grave*

"*Anonymous* has suspense, action, and investigation that's believable, carried out by an appealing and very human female investigator in one of the most beautiful towns in the country. This will be the start of a terrific series."

—Thomas Perry, *bestselling author of the Jane Whitefield series*



**Anonymous** (Book 1 *Madison Kelly Mystery Series*, **Crooked Lane Books, Fall 2020**) Madison Kelly, a San Diego private investigator, arrives home to a note stabbed to her front door: *Stop investigating me, or I will hunt you down and kill you.* The only problem? The only investigating she's been doing is listening, as a fan, to a true crime podcast. She'll have to remove the threat by doing exactly what the note is telling her not to do: investigate to see who left it. As she explores what could have brought her to the attention of the anonymous note-leaver, she quickly finds herself at the center of a horrible crime. Soon the hunter becomes the hunted—and Madison is running for her life.

**Double Take** (Book 2 *Madison Kelly Mystery Series*, **Crooked Lane Books, Fall 2021**) A woman ran away. That's what the police and the media and the family say. But Madison Kelly, back in the role of investigator, knows different. The woman was looking into something—something big. She's in trouble. And when a stranger reaches out with a series of baffling clues about the woman's whereabouts, Madison tumbles right into the middle of an explosive case that could mean she's the next one to disappear.



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Elizabeth Breck is the pen name of a state of California licensed private investigator. While running her own investigation business, Breck returned to school and graduated summa cum laude from UC San Diego with a BA in writing in 2015.



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## ***The House of Bradbury* by Nicole Meier**

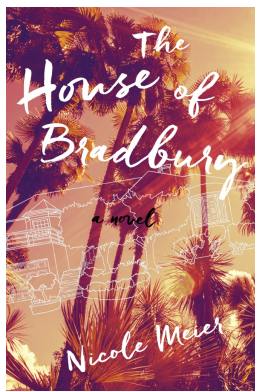
Named a "Best Book of 2016" by Refinery29 and a "Spring & Summer Book Pick" by \* Redbook Magazine \* Refinery29 \* Coastal Living \* Brit + Co \* SheKnows \* The Reading Room \* FabFitFun \* YourTango \* LEVO \* Chick Lit Central \* Rue La La \* The Berry

"In her charming, wry debut, Nicole Meier brings together a frustrated writer, a Hollywood ingénue, and the weathered home of a literary great. Through a winsome protagonist and a perfectly painted Los Angeles backdrop, Meier reminds us that although we're built on history, a wide open path still lies ahead."

—**Michelle Gable**, international bestselling author of *A Paris Apartment* and *I'll See You in Paris*

"Full of friendship, family, charm, and a touch of mystery, Nicole Meier's debut makes you wish you could move into the house of Bradbury, too. Pour yourself a cup of chamomile tea and enjoy!"

—**Amy E. Reichert**, author of *The Coincidence of Coconut Cake*



Mia Gladwell's life is going nowhere. The media has skewered her debut novel, her fiancé Carson, a successful Hollywood producer, has jumped ship, and now she's living in her sister's carriage house—unattached, unemployed, and uninspired. Then she learns that the Los Angeles estate of iconic author Ray Bradbury is up for sale, and she feels an immediate urge to buy the wonky old house, convinced that moving into the late author's home will inspire her to create her best work yet. Life in the Bradbury house is not what Mia imagined, however. Soon after moving in, to fulfill a debt she owes to Carson, she agrees to take in a pill-popping young actress as a tenant, and suddenly she finds herself in a balancing act between her needy ex, an unpredictable starlet, and her disapproving sister, who's keeping a close eye on her. Add to this a series of mysterious sketches left at her doorstep by a stranger, and Mia's life is more complicated than ever. As she searches for clues, though, Mia discovers insights into her own life. Maybe moving into Bradbury's house was a big mistake—but maybe not. (SparkPress, May 2016)

Nicole Meier is a veteran women's fiction author of three novels with sales of over 35,000 copies. A native Southern Californian who pulled up roots and moved to the Pacific Northwest, she lives with her husband, three children, and one very nosey Aussie-doodle. Nicole's work has been published in *The Oregonian*, *Cascade Journal*, *Southern Oregon Magazine*, *Women Writers Women's Books*, *Brazen Woman*, and more. Find her online at [nicolemeierauthor.com](http://nicolemeierauthor.com), @nmeierwrites on Twitter, and @nicolemeierwrites on Instagram.



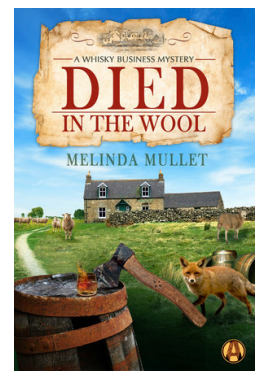
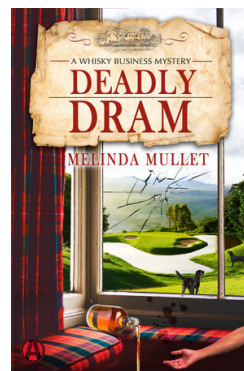
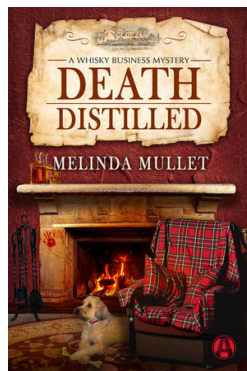
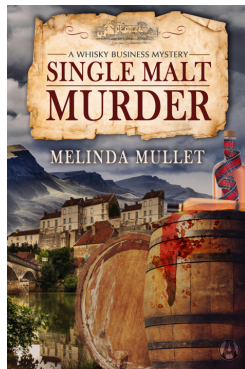
# THE LARK GROUP

## **Whisky Business Mystery Series** by Melinda Mullet Over 60,000 copies sold!

Abigail Logan never expected to inherit a whisky distillery in the Scottish Highlands. But in this engaging series blending fine spirits with chilling mystery, Abi finds that there are secrets lurking in the misty glens that some will go to any lengths to protect...even murder.

With Scottish charm, lovable characters, and page-turning mysteries in both of these novels, readers love this series. A selection of 5-star reader reviews say:

- "Absolutely delicious! I'm speaking of the book, not the booze. I enjoyed every word of this one from beginning to end."
- "One of my Best Reads this year."
- "This is a series that has quickly become one I look forward to reading."
- "She has created wonderful characters, some fun animal antics, a budding romance fraught with complexities, loads of suspects with motives, humor, peril, and a satisfying conclusion."
- "This was a wonderfully crafted story that had the twists and turns you anticipate from a good mystery, and I for one certainly didn't expect the twist at the end!"
- "I loved this book!"



**Single Malt Murder** (Book 1, Whisky Business Mystery Series, Random House/Alibi, March 2017; Audible audiobook, March 2017; Germany/Aufbau, 2018)

When Abi inherits her uncle's quaint and storied single malt distillery, she finds herself immersed in a competitive high-stakes business that elicits deep passions and prejudices. An award-winning photojournalist, Abi has no trouble capturing the perfect shot—but making the perfect shot is another matter. When she starts to receive disturbing, anonymous threats, it's clear that someone wants her out of the picture. Arriving on the scene with her whisky-loving best friend, Patrick, and an oversized wheaten terrier named Liam, Abi seems to put everyone in the bucolic village on edge—especially her dour but disturbingly attractive head distiller. Acts of sabotage and increasingly personal threats against Abi make it clear that she is not welcome. When one of Abi's new employees is found floating facedown in a vat of whisky, Abi is determined to use her skills as an investigative journalist to identify the cold-blooded killer and dispense a dram of justice before he strikes again.

## THE LARK GROUP

**Death Distilled** (Book 2, Whisky Business Mystery Series, Random House/Alibi, September 2017; Audible audiobook, September 2017; Germany/Aufbau, 2019)

With her oversize wheaten terrier, Liam, by her side, Abi returns to the quaint Scottish village of Balfour. But her relaxing Highland homecoming takes a stressful turn when she unearths an unseemly bit of village history, welcomes a group of Japanese whisky enthusiasts, and becomes shepherdess to an unexpected flock of sheep—all within the first twenty-four hours. Still, nothing's more stressful than murder...Local celebrity Rory Hendricks is the hotheaded, hard-rocking former frontman of the Rebels—and Abi's girlhood crush. After meeting him in person, Abi can't say no to anything he asks, like figuring out who's trying to kill him. Turns out someone's been bumping off his old bandmates, with the drummer dead under mysterious circumstances and the keyboardist in a coma following a hit-and-run. And the band has a devil's share of broken hearts and bitter disputes in their past, leaving Abi a huge batch of suspects to sift through—all before the killer takes another shot.

**Deadly Dram** (Book 3, Whisky Business Mystery Series, Random House/Alibi, September 2018; Audible audiobook, September 2018, Germany/Aufbau, 2020)

It's been a year since globe-trotting photojournalist Abi Logan inherited Abbey Glen, a whisky distillery in the heart of the Scottish countryside. To her surprise, the village of Balfour already feels like home, and her new business partner, Grant MacEwan, continues to be too charming to resist. But Abi has a history of relationship disasters, so she struggles to avoid an ill-fated romance with Grant. Steering clear is hard enough on a day-to-day basis, but when the two head off to a whisky industry competition together, Abi panics. Five-star resort, four glorious days of nonstop whisky tasting, and a fatally attractive Scotsman—what could possibly go wrong? The night before the award presentations, with foreign and domestic whisky makers at one another's throats, two judges are found dead under mysterious circumstances. What started with three dream-come-true nominations for Abbey Glen's whisky soon turns into a nightmare for Abi. With a killer on the loose, she must call on her investigative skills to stop another murder—before she gets taken out of the running herself.

**Died in the Wool** (Book 4 Whisky Business Mystery Series, Random House/Alibi, April 2019; Audible audiobook, April 2019, Germany/Aufbau, 2020)

Abi Logan is finally ready to put her hectic career on hold and set down roots in the heart of the Scottish countryside. Studying the business and art of distilling whisky at Abbey Glen and volunteering at the Shepherd's Rest women's shelter in her spare time seem a surefire way to find the peace and stability she craves. It's also the logical way to take her mind off her personal life. Abi's business partner, Grant MacEwan, is facing a career-threatening disability, and as much as Abi longs to be there for him, he seems to prefer the company of a rival. But as Abi becomes more involved with Shepherd's Rest, she discovers that their refuge is elusive. When the shelter is rocked by a murder/suicide, Abi is outraged by the police's lack of attention to these already marginalized women. Increasingly confident in her own skills as an investigator, Abi steps in to find out what the police will not: who left one young woman dead and another missing. But when more deadly deeds come to light, Abi must race to unravel the connections between the shelter's benefactors and the women they have pledged to protect—and expose the killer before he strikes again.



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**Melinda Mullet** was born in the United States to two British parents. After many years in the legal trenches she is happy to be known as a former lawyer, a travel junkie, and a lifelong advocate for children's literacy causes, both domestic and international. Melinda lives just outside of Washington, D.C., with her whisky-collecting husband, two extraordinary young women she is proud to call her daughters, and an obedience school dropout named MacAllen.

