

Manzanita author debuts new crime novel

In 'A Desperate Place,' two friends solve a string of murders

BY ZOË BUCHLI

Just north of the Oregon and California border lies Medford.

In Manzanita author Jennifer Greer's debut novel, "A Desperate Place," the town is home to leading characters Whit McKenna, a journalist, and Katie Riggs, a medical examiner and detective.

The plot follows the murder of three Medford residents, starting with a famous actress whose body is found under suspicious circumstances. Together, McKenna and Riggs work to solve the case by trading information where they see fit.

McKenna and Riggs share a solid friendship prior to the case, having met in a book club and bonded through a shared love of reading.

"They're friends first," Greer said. "They decide that they're going to stay friends and (work on the case) quid pro quo."

The two are an unlikely pairing. McKenna works as a crime reporter for the Medford Daily Chronicle, after having left her post as a war correspondent for the Los Angeles Times months prior. Greer



Author Jennifer Greer.

describes her as "reckless and dare-devily, whereas Riggs is much more reserved and quiet."

"I wanted (Riggs) to be in contrast to Whit. They really shouldn't be friends, but they are," Greer said.

As the case grows increasingly complex and more victims turn up, McKenna rushes to piece together the grisly, complicated mystery and find the culprit.

'A Desperate Place'

Available as an audio book, e-book and in print

Crooked Lane Books — \$26.99

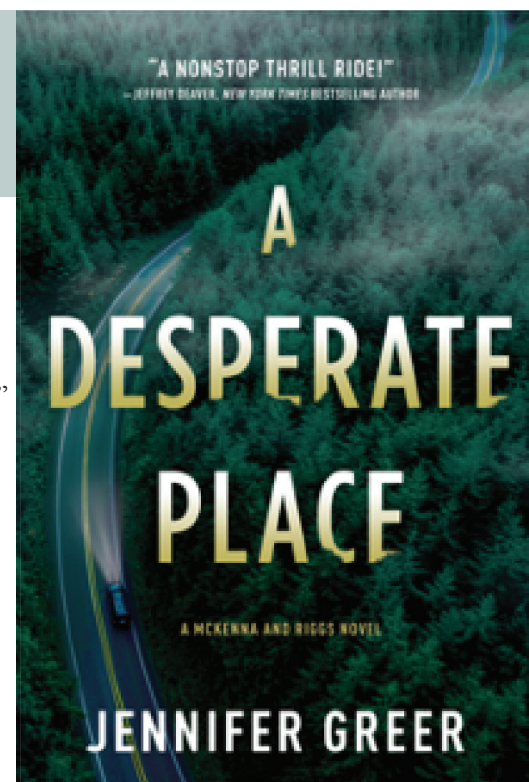
Crime Writing

Crime writing has always intrigued Greer. She first aspired to write novels as a teen after reading mystery series like "Nancy Drew," "Sherlock Holmes" and "The Charlie Chan Mystery Book Series."

In college, she earned degrees in English literature and journalism. After graduating, she worked as a crime reporter at The Fresno Bee.

"I actually always intended to be a war correspondent. That was what I was thinking I would do, war or crime or something like that, when I was in college," Greer said.

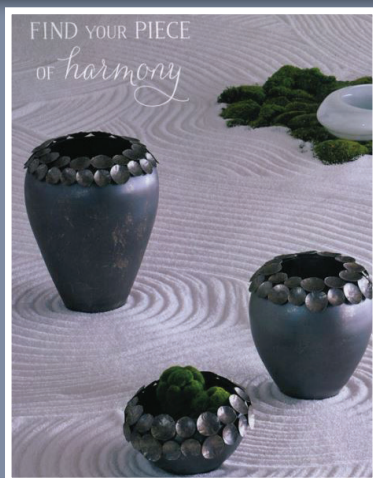
During her last year as an undergraduate at California State University, Fresno, Greer traveled to Berlin for a two-week foreign correspondent seminar. She later went to Croatia after learning about the war taking place at the time.



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