Bio

American British author Jacalyn S. Burke is a multi-genre writer. Her fiction works are imaginative, populated with characters drawn from over 30 years working in diverse industries and environments.

A graduate of Middlesex University, the Morris School of Journalism and the School of Visual Arts, Jacalyn worked as a nanny for the Manhattan's 1% elite, while self-sponsoring US citizenship as an artist of extraordinary ability. She also founded and sold a tech start-up, and worked a year as a literary agent, meeting editors at the Top 5 Publishing Houses.

During the Pandemic Jacalyn relocated from NYC to SW France and settled into writing fulltime. Through her fiction and nonfiction, she brings a rare and varied appreciation for the human experience into book form.

Contact

Jacalynsburke.com

instagram.com/jacalynsburke1

facebook.com/jacalynsburke

twitter.com/JacalynSBurke

YouTube

whats app: 917 497 9906

Book

Author: Jacalyn S Burke

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Synopsis

A British couple, Catherine and Tom Grayston are on their way to a much-needed vacation in France. Catherine feels alienated from her husband. Tom has a secret he's been hiding for months. Neither has any idea what waits for them in Rousinac. In days of arriving, they'll be fighting for their lives not their marriage.

Despite being a sleepy castle town in the middle of nowhere, Rousinac has a rich history spanning centuries. connected to the royal dynasties of Europe. The primordial woods that encircle it have kept its inhabitants' bloodlines pure. A group of ruling families, run the town like a fortress, protecting Rousinac's dark secret.

When the Graystons fail to return to England, Tom's work colleague and forensics specialist, David Frankel, sets off to France to find out what happened. He brings along eccentric and well-known criminal profiler James Harrison who can spot telltale patterns in criminal activity with savant-like brilliance and is sure to be invaluable to the case-as long as he keeps his promise to stay on his meds.

What should be a routine investigation gets hampered at every turn by locals hell-bent on covering up the facts. How far down the rabbit hole (castle tunnels) will David and James have to go to solve the couple's disappearance?

Excerpt ...

HER (1)
Somewhere in Southwest France, time unknown

It was blackout dark.
She preferred the darkness.

Every now and then, candle light fingered along the walls towards her. But that light brought a horror beyond words. Something that could not be seen and survived.

So she had learned from the beginning to close her eyes, and to think of a moment from her past. Until the pain and the stench made her pass out.
How could it have come to this?

Just a short time ago she had been on holiday with ...
Her husband. Yes, she has a husband.

Had a husband.
Dead.

She had wiped the details of his death from her mind but one image remained. Imprinted on the backs of her eyelids. A bloodied corpse strung up like a pig gutted in an abattoir. Entrails and shattered rib bones, quivering muscles but nothing that spoke to the man she had loved.

A carcass that was bled and devoured.

Socials, Posts,Teasers ...

"*Monsters do exist and they are one vacation away***"** Read The Custodians on holiday, I dare you.

The Custodians taps into our collective fears around monsters, secret societies, Nazis and being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

A slow burn thriller that keeps you in a state of claustrophobic suspense. You may never want to holiday off-the-beaten track again.

What happens when a dream holiday becomes your worst nightmare? Jacalyn S Burke takes us on a deep dive into a picturesque Hell. Where the locals serve you up to monsters in the woods.

Worthy of a Stephen King plot, Rousinac is a small town with a dark secret that has cast its shadow for centuries across Europe. Ringed by a thick primordial forest and isolated from the outside world, a secret society of closely related families is in charge. A ghost town by day, Rousinac comes alive at night. Locals know to stay in and lock their shutters at sundown. Only a foreigner would wander out after dark - or a sacrificial lamb.

In World War Two the Nazis headed down to a backwater town called Rousinac. Their top scientist Klaus Moritz spent most of the war headquartered there. His research would end up in the USA under Project Paperclip - along with the Nazi doctor. The Custodians weaves a dark history into a present-day horror. A diabolical evil that was unleashed eighty years before, continues to stalk in Rousinac's shadows.

The Custodians is inspired by real historical events that turned the tide of the Second World War. A retired British Grandmother living in France, intuited the story and retold it as a creepy children's bedtime tale. Years later, her daughter, Jacalyn S Burke would build it into a novel horror series.

Conversation Topics

The Custodians began 20-years ago as a scary story told by a grandmother to frighten her grandchildren.

Intrigued, the author took her mother's story (the grandmother) and researched it. She discovered a lot of truth behind the fiction. This inspired her to develop it as a novel.

The Custodians took 10-years to complete and underwent many changes.

Rousinac is based on a real spa town called Jonzac that WAS occupied by the Nazis in WW2.

There are ancient tunnels underneath Jonzac (Rousinac) that finger out from beneath the 14th castle out into the surrounding countryside and villages.

The forest surrounding Jonzac (Rousinac) is primordial. It was once part of a huge hunting estate belonging to Queen Eleanor (married to King Henry V). It still contains wild boar. The sounds they make at night are eerie and sound like werewolves.

The French resistance (the Maquis) fought a relentless guerilla war against the occupying Nazis forces in Jonzac (Rousinac) ultimately defeating them. Their heroism included blowing up a munitions mine. An event that struck a fatal blow to the German military leaving it vulnerable to a multipronged Allied advance.

The Custodians book 1 ends on a cliffhanger. It is the first in a series that will take the reader to London and into the murky world of Black Ops.