

From the Stacks
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Each of these suspenseful thrillers centers on resilient protagonists who are forced to confront unexpected tragedy, dark local secrets, and high-stakes danger. Driven by deep loyalty to family, friends, or vulnerable individuals in need, the main characters step forward to untangle complex mysteries when official explanations fall short. As they probe deeper into their respective crises, they find themselves battling deceitful community forces, violent criminals, and escalating external threats. Ultimately, these narratives weave together tense investigations and personal drama to highlight how far ordinary people will go to uncover the truth and protect those they love.

In this riveting thriller, Lisa Scottoline delivers her latest novel, *This Changes Everything*, about a woman risks her life to help her best friend find justice for a tragic crime. Living a peaceful new life in Tuscany, Julia Pritzker is hit with a chilling premonition just as her U.S.-based best friend, Courtney, discovers her grandmother murdered in her Pennsylvania farmhouse. Julia rushes home to support Courtney, and together with Philadelphia lawyer Bennie Rosato, they reject the police's botched-burglary theory to hunt for a darker truth. Driven by Julia's unravelling psychic intuition, their investigation exposes explosive secrets within the small town. Soon, Julia finds herself trapped in a deadly conspiracy, forced to fight for her own survival against a relentless killer.

After her grandmother's death, Gabrielle Thorn returns to her hometown of Starling, hiding her connection to her father, the infamous "Starling Slayer", under the alias Ryan Shipley. Living with her aunt's family, she must carefully navigate a traumatized, vengeful community where a classmate even hosts a popular true-crime podcast about her father's brutal past. As dark memories of her strange, artist father are slowly revealed, a banter-filled romantic triangle with two local boys adds compelling personal tension. *Thornbird* by E. Kennedy is a creepy, dark thriller.

Following the sudden death of her husband, Ellen McKenna is fighting to keep her Texas farm afloat despite severe financial strain and pressure to sell to a local businessman. Her family's struggles escalate when a series of severe storms causes widespread flooding across their rural valley. While working to secure the property, Ellen's oldest son follows an injured dog to a critically wounded survivor of a home invasion. Meanwhile, her younger children check on a neighbor and unexpectedly step right into danger. As the storm intensifies, the children become trapped with no way to call for help. Ellen must battle both human threats and the elements to save her family

and preserve her land in this twisty suspense filled novel by Allison Brennan entitled, *Whisper Creek*.

Andy Carpenter is enmeshed in a puzzling case. In order to reunite a man and his dog, Andy will have to untangle it all and put his retirement dream on hold. In this 34th novel by David Rosenfelt, *Dead Men Don't Play Fetch*, an old friend asks him to defend a homeless veteran accused of first-degree murder. The client, Jason Maddox, is a brilliant physicist and war hero, whose life unraveled, leaving him on the streets with his dog whom Andy naturally takes in. Jason is charged with stabbing eccentric billionaire philanthropist Paul Vincent, a man who had befriended him and left him a fortune in his will. With Jason found at the crime scene carrying Vincent's wallet and holding a knife coated in his fingerprints, the police consider it an open-and-shut case. Desperate to uncover the truth behind the apparent setup, Andy steps in to clear the veteran's name.