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Cheril THOMAS

EASTERN SHORE MYSTERIES

Newsletter!

Welcome!

Hope all is well with each of you as we *slowly* make our way from Winter into a blustery Spring. Here's what's happening today in Mallard Bay:

📖 Each month until the release of ***In the Absence of Truth***, I'm giving you a sneak peek at a few lines from Chapter 1. While the excerpts are short, they'll bring you right into the opening action. I just can't wait any longer to share AOT with you, so keep reading for the first post!

📖 Many of you follow the Eastern Shore Mysteries/Cheril Thomas Facebook page, and I love "talking" with you there. The page recently got a makeover and you can see the new header below.

📖 For those who haven't found my website yet, there's a link in a new information section at the end of this letter. Check out the website and claim your free short story!

📖 **Got Books?** is now ***So Many Books, So Little Time***. That's how I feel when I look at my To Be Read pile! This month, I have recommendations for **two great mystery series** you can enjoy while you're waiting for *ITAOT*.

But first—a look at a real Eastern Shore mystery taking place right outside my back door. It all started with this devious duo . . .



Here's what happens in our backyard every year: a bird's nest appears in an inappropriate and potentially dangerous place. Last year, a determined pair of robins built a huge (for them) cockeyed nest on the very end of a branch of a small Cypress tree. I moved it to a level spot closer to the trunk.

Yes, I know you're not supposed to touch a bird's nest, but I'm a worrier, so I did, and it made no difference whatsoever. The robins rebuilt in the original location. As Ron and I pondered this little mystery, the daredevil birds kept adding to the dangling nest. We told ourselves they knew what they were doing right up until the day the eggs appeared . . . and rolled out onto the ground.

Did I mention this tree and the ill-fated nest were in Ellie's part of the yard? She was beside herself. For weeks. Because the robins didn't give up. They came back to the cockeyed nest and tried again with the same results.

Yes, Dear Reader, apparently this is the case of the . . .

Relentless Reckless Robins

This year (I swear it's the same birds) made a nest on the gear box for the patio awning. We, of course, didn't notice until the first day we needed shade over the sliding glass doors. So, we will sit in bright sunshine until the babies fly away.

At least Ellie can't see them.

But you know who can? The neighbor's cat.

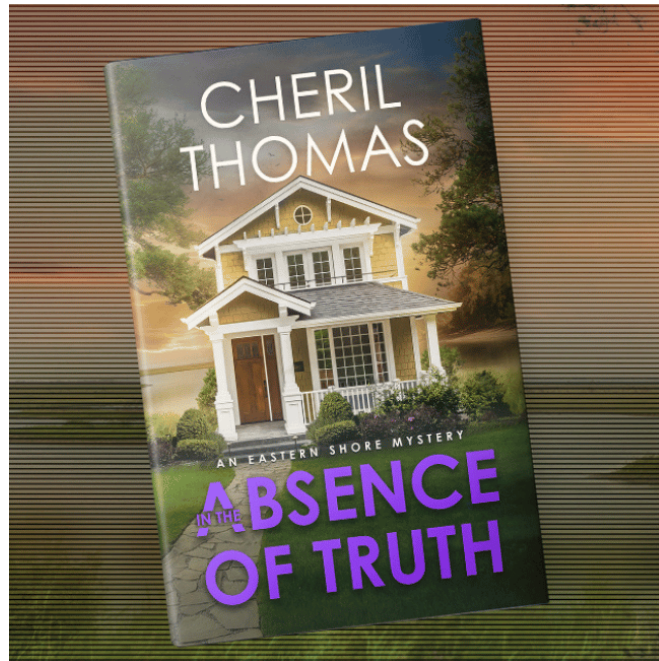
Earlier this week I thought a bird hit the window under the awning. I ran in from the dining room to see a large, dark form behind a stained-glass panel that covers the window. It was an odd shape for a bird, though.

That's because it was a twenty-plus pound tabby who'd launched himself five feet in the air and had his claws caught in the window screen. (The cat is fine. Our window screen, not so much.)

Ellie was beside herself. Still is.

But the birds are laughing. Nobody can reach them and their nest is level.
Maybe they learned something last year after all.

And readers ask where I get my ideas. Guess what will be in the next book? 🤔 A good mystery needs a giggle now and then, right?



From Chapter 1

Sneak Peek #1

One look at his face told her there was trouble.

"Are you okay?" Grace asked, reaching for Mosley's elbow.

"No, m'dear. No, I am not." He batted her hand away, then just as quickly grabbed it back.

"What's wrong, Cy?" she asked gently as she knelt beside him. "We'll get help—"

There was a gleam of preparation on Mosley's bald head, and his eyes were moist. "I don't need medical help but I have some bad news. Very bad . . . Stark is dead. The police say the circumstances aren't clear, but they believe your uncle was murdered."

From: ***In the Absence of Truth***, Book 6 in the Eastern Shore Mysteries!



Our Facebook Page Gets a Makeover!

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I've been reading two great series and wanted to share them with you.

I met Kate Gable last year at the Killer Nashville International Writer's Conference where she won the 2022 Killer Nashville Silver Falchion Award Best Book of 2021 for *Girl Missing*, Book 1 in her Detective Kaitlyn Carr series (5 books). I've read books 1 and 2, enjoyed them a lot and have the rest on my TBR list.

For a change of pace, try Carmen Amato's Galliano Club series. Prohibition Book 1 is *Murder at the Galliano Club* followed by *Blackmail at the Galliano Club*, and *Revenge at the Galliano Club*. These fast-paced thrillers are set in the Italian immigrant community in upstate New York during the years of prohibition. To quote an Amazon review, "I feel like I'm a voyeur, standing alongside Luca to solve the murder. I can smell the garlic, the red sauce; I can taste the wine and beer." Highly recommended!



Do you want more of the Eastern Shore Mysteries?

The entire Eastern Shore Mysteries series is available to read **FREE** in **Kindle Unlimited**. [Click here](#) to go to the series page!

[Amazon Author Page](#) "Follow" me here and you'll be notified when I release a new book, or when there is a sales promotion.

[Eastern Shore Mysteries / Cheril Thomas Website](#) for series info and newsletter sign up, including back issues. If a friend forwarded this newsletter to you, you can get your own subscription here, *and* you'll get a **FREE** short story.

[The Eastern Shore Mysteries Facebook Page](#) "Follow" me here for (almost) daily updates from the Eastern Shore as well as related topics, photographs, and things that make me smile.

Did you know?

You can buy the Eastern Shore Mysteries at Barnes and Noble (paperback and large print paperback only.)

Click here: [Barnes & Noble](#).

All books in the series are available worldwide through major retailers and your local bookstores in paperback and large print paperback formats. If you don't see them, just ask the store to order for you. I support my local bookstores – hope you do, too!



Until next month—Happy Reading!

Cheril and Ellie

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