

THE AUTHORS SHOW – Mystery/Suspense/Thriller

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The Land's End Series

<https://www.amazon.com/Lands-End-3-Book/dp/B071GLCM4N/>

I was raised in a mid-sized town in East Tennessee to a family of hard working mountain people. People that had no time, money, or use for education. My maternal grandfather was a sharecropper and my paternal grandfather was a carpenter and a preacher. As a boy, he worked in the mica mines driving a mule that pulled the cars from the mine.

Fortunately for me my parents wanted more. While my dad worked, my mom took the time to read to me. My love of books was instilled at an early age, and I was reading at the age of four. I'm the first in my family to graduate from college.

When I was twelve, my parents bought me a manual typewriter for Christmas in 1974, and I decided to write a novel. Of course, I didn't finish-there were too many distractions for a twelve-year-old. I enjoyed writing in school and just recently I found several stories that I wrote in a mythology class that I took in high school; some poems and the novel that I began in 1974. I never imagined that I would be writing books forty years later. Thankfully, I don't have to use a manual typewriter anymore.

Several years ago my very good friend and fellow author, Cheryl R. Lane, published her first novel. She knew that I had a story in mind, and she encouraged me to get started. That was 2013. I started, worked on it for a few months, and life got in the way. I put it aside, started writing again in 2014 and wrote quite a bit. This time I didn't like the direction the plot was taking, so I stopped again. I told myself that I needed to step back and regroup. I put it from my mind for a whole year. At the first of 2016, I started again, with a new plot and managed to get almost finished.

That was when my husband asked me, "I thought you were writing a book?" I answered with various excuses and he said, "I bet you can't finish it. You can't do it."

My husband knows how competitive I am and I ran with his challenge and finished the book and published *When the Morning Comes* in April 2016.

So, thank you to Cheryl for her positive encouragement, and thanks to Rusty for knowing how to push my buttons.

When the Morning Comes, *Don't Look Back*, and *Closer than Yesterday* are the books that make up the Land's End Series. My main characters are Samantha and Sheriff Andy Patrick. The foundation for *When the Morning Comes* and the rest of the books are based on a series of events that happen to Samantha in 1978. Her father is a mean-spirited redneck that owns a bar and grill in Macon, Georgia. He also sells moonshine, drugs, and women at his establishment. When he interferes with wealthy Mexican gang leader Manny Ruiz's business and family, Samantha suffers the consequences. Andy is an undercover cop in Macon. He rescues Samantha, and they marry. Samantha hates Macon and they move to a small, idyllic island off the coast of North Carolina where Andy gets a job in the Land's End Sheriff's Department.

The years go by and suddenly Samantha is forced to relive the horror of that day in 1978. Things turn out better this time, but there is a shadow that hangs over Land's End. It continues into the next two books, where I introduce new characters with stories of their own.

Don't Look Back, book two, introduces Kellyn Grindstaff. She is enlisted by Samantha's daughter, Delaney, to come from her home in Florida to Land's End to help Samantha recover from the traumatic events from *When the Morning Comes*. Kellyn has ties to Land's End. Her grandfather, Carl Grindstaff was the sheriff of Land's End for forty years, and her father, Dalton, is Andy's right-hand man in the department now that Andy is the sheriff. Kellyn's love interest is Blake Trent, 30 year veteran of the FBI. Kellyn must deal with a villain that threatens her life, family, and her relationship with Blake while helping Samantha.

The main characters in book three, *Closer Than Yesterday*, are Sarah Cooper and Grae Ramsey. Sarah is an abused wife that finally has the courage to leave. She goes to Land's End to find refuge with her cousin, Samantha. Grae Ramsey is an FBI agent based in Chicago that

comes to Land's End to investigate a case that is very similar to cases in Chicago. They have an instant attraction, but their relationship is hindered by the fact that Sarah is not yet divorced and is always looking over her shoulder; terribly afraid the abusive husband will find her. The case that Grae has in Chicago that is like the ones in Land's End involve a serial killer that kidnaps and brutally murders couples. As always, the shadow of the Ruiz family is hovering over Land's End in this book as well as the other two.

While I was writing book three, I discovered that I had a theme in all my books. It wasn't intentional, but all the women in my books are strong, middle-aged women that are faced with adversities that they are forced to deal with and despite the uncomfortableness and horror, they manage to overcome those adversities and continue with their lives. My books are stories of second chances and the titles are relevant phrases that I have used throughout each book.

When I began writing these books, I really had no expectations. I just wanted to write and get the story that had been floating around in my head out and in print. Soon into the process, I realized I was writing the kind of books that I love to read. Then I experienced the thrill of holding the book in my hand, knowing that I took the picture for the cover, and the words inside were mine. I want people to read my stories and love my characters as much as I do. I want people to read the books and not be able to put them down. When someone finishes reading one of my books, I want them to want more.