

Schaffhausen's 'All the Best Lies' is fast-paced

Twists career throughout Kathleen Kent's 'The Burn'

By Oline H. Cogdill

'The Burn,' Mullholland, by Kathleen Kent

A labyrinth of a police procedural punctuated by non-stop action fuels Kathleen Kent's second gripping novel about Dallas narcotics Detective Betty Rhyzyk.

In addition to a detailed look at police work, "The Burn" is a solid exploration of how a cop who keeps her emotions in check recovers from a near-death experience. Betty desperately needs the support of her patient, devoted girlfriend, Jackie, and that of her police partner, Seth Dutton, but her default is to push away those she most needs.

The novel opens three months after Betty is back on the job after recovering from being tortured by a family of meth dealers in this sequel to Kent's Edgar-nominated "The Dime." Betty throws herself into work, desperately wanting to finding Alfonso Ruiz Zena, known as "the Knife," head of the secu-

rity force for Sinaloa cartel leader Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzman. But her sexist boss has another plan for the detective, mandating Betty to desk duty and ordering her to see a therapist.

But Betty doesn't easily follow the rules and begins to work her own confidential informants. The evidence that piles up indicates that a cop may be responsible for the recent murders of several drug dealers. Betty wonders whom she can trust in her squad, including Seth, in whom she once had complete faith.

Briskly paced, "The Burn" barely allows the reader to take a breath as believable twists career throughout. Caustic and prickly, Betty has a propensity for confrontation and is fearless when cornered. She may not make a good friend — or life partner, just ask Jackie — but her bravery makes her the kind of cop you want on your side.

As "The Burn" shows, Kent is just beginning to explore Betty's many

layers.

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"All the Best Lies," Minotaur Books, by Joanna Schaffhausen

Forty years ago in Las Vegas, Reed Markham's biological mother was stabbed to death as he lay nearby in his crib. The case was never solved.

Now, Reed and his adopted sisters agree to take DNA tests to learn more about their ancestry. What begins as a fun family project results in a shock. Their father, powerful Virginia politician Angus Markham, turns out to be Reed's biological parent.

How could that be? How did Angus meet Reed's mother and what was the nature of their relationship? Why did he keep his paternity secret? Does he know something about the murder? Might he even be the killer?

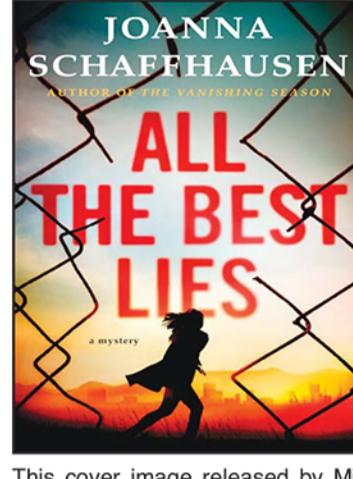
Reed heads for Nevada to find out. Along the way, he enlists his friend Ellery Hathaway, a suspended Massachusetts cop with a troubled



This cover image released by Little, Brown shows 'The Burn' by Kathleen Kent. (AP)

history and her own daddy problems.

"All the Best Lies" marks the third time author Joanna Schaffhausen has teamed them up, but their history goes back farther than that. As



This cover image released by Minotaur shows 'All the Best Lies' by Joanna Schaffhausen. (AP)

a teenager, Ellery was kidnapped and tortured by a serial killer. Her dramatic rescue by an FBI agent was big national news. That agent was Reed. After Ellery became a

police officer, she and Reed worked together on murder investigations in Schaffhausen's first two crime novels, "The Vanishing Season" and "No Mercy."

Now, as they pursue the murder of Reed's mother, the emotional stakes are high, the suspect list grows and someone out there wants to make sure they don't succeed. The writing is crisp, the suspense is intense and the fast-paced tale ends with a twist no one is likely to see coming.

Even so, the most appealing thing about this fine series is the complex, evolving relationship between the protagonists. Ellery is a damaged young woman who understandably shuns romantic entanglements. Reed, a divorced father, is protective of the girl he once saved but is increasingly drawn to her courage and beauty.

With each novel, they circle each other, drawing ever closer before partially pulling back. The author handles their emotional dance with keen insight and sensitivity. (AP)

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Drinking problem? Friends of Bill W. are available to help. Totally confidential. Email: rohsecretary@gmail.com

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Narcotics Anonymous: NA can help with addiction problems. Totally confidential: 94087800 English/Arabic.

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Cancer online support group: If you are a Cancer patient or family member fighting with this deadly disease, come join our online support group. Best way of dealing with this disease is providing support and share our experience with each other. There are lot of things which even doctors can't tell so be member of this website and start sharing your experiences which may help others. October is recognized as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM). The primary purpose is to promote self examination and screening mammography as the most effective way to save lives by detecting breast cancer at early stage. For more information visit: <http://fightingwithcancer.webs.com/>

Latest

March 6

Register online with NORKA: For those who have not yet been able to register for Kerala Govt's NORKA insurance identity card and become a member of the Non-Resident Welfare Pension Scheme, Online Spot Registration is being offered. The office bearers of the Global Kerala Pravasi Association (GKPA) have arranged this service for expatriates on March 6, March 13, and on March 20 in connection with various area meetings of GKPA in Kuwait.

Registration will be open on March 6 at MangafIndraprastha Hall, March 13 at Sarathi Hall, near Abbasiya Choice Restaurant and on March 20 at Farwaniya Metro Clinic Hall from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. This is an opportunity for those who are not familiar with NORKA registration and welfare fund registration through online portals.

Organizers are advised that applicants to the NORKA/ Welfare Pension scheme must come in person with a self-signed (attested) passport, civil ID copies and passport size photo.

Mahboula- 50636691- 69080568- 97251910-51167888

Mangaf: 66985656- 66675665-

69638951-60357933-96968983

Abbasiya: 50751131-65594279-

66653904-99721860-66278546

Farwaniya: 65877083-66587610-

66445023-65646273-55583179

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Dr Maha Bali conducting the workshop.

AUK's CTE inaugurates its first workshop

The Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) at AUK held its first workshop for the University's faculty entitled, Classroom Assessment Techniques: Quick Strategies for Checking the Cognitive and Emotional Pulse of Your Class, conducted by Dr Maha Bali, Associate Professor of Practice at the Center for Teaching and Learning at the American University in Cairo (AUC).

The premise of the workshop centered on

classroom assessment techniques (CATs) which are simple techniques that provide feedback on how well students are learning, which faculty members can easily collect and quickly act upon. Different CATs can give the faculty member insight on how well students are absorbing course-related knowledge and skills, students' attitudes, values and self-awareness, and their feedback and reactions to teaching methods. The workshop

discussed the benefits and challenges of using CATs and discussed the merits in light of particular teaching goals.

Commenting on the diversity of CATs, Dr Bali said, "There is always value in hearing about another faculty member's lived experiences in teaching, and how their students responded to their approach. These practical tips can be so much more useful than anything you read about in a book about teach-

ing."

Meanwhile, CTE Director, Basema Dana emphasized the role of the Center to serve faculty's purpose in the University, "The heart of CTE is its relationships with faculty. I truly believe that faculty members can define their own notion of excellence. CTE is 'A Space for Faculty' that enables them to realize their potential and provide them with the instruments and resources to make it possible."

'We want to give our adult readers a literal escape'

Bestselling young adult authors aiming at older readers

By Hillel Italie

After gaining millions of young readers for her "Divergent" fantasy series, Veronica Roth decided she and her characters were ready for the next phase — a novel for adults.

"I grew up on stories like 'Dune' and 'Harry Potter,' and 'Ender's Game' about people who shoulder burdens when they're too young to bear them," says Roth, who tells the story of Sloane Andrews and her fellow fighters against the havoc of the Dark One in "Chosen Ones,"

scheduled for April. "So the question of what comes after those stories just kept nagging me. 'Chosen Ones' is about that 'after' — about a group of 30-somethings who saved the world when they were younger, and they're still dealing with the repercussions of it."

Roth, Tochi Onyebuchi and Sarah J. Maas are among several writers popular with young people who have books out this year intended for older readers. Some have never written for adults, while others move freely among teens and older readers. All are navigating one of the more complicated paths in publishing — how

to consciously appeal to different audiences for different books, from the use or absence of profanity to the choice of subject matter and how to present it. The history is mixed: Judy Blume and Neil Gaiman are among those who have succeeded well, while others, including Daniel Handler and Stephanie Meyer, never fully caught on with adults.

Roth's first "Divergent" book came out in 2011, and she reasons that enough of her original readers have reached an age that they'll be open to a mature approach. She considers her new work a "pretty natural" moment in her career, when you "get curious about other genres, other types of writing."

Fantasy

Onyebuchi had published "Beasts Made of Night" and "Crown of Thunder" before completing his first book for adults, "Riot Baby." It is set in part around the 1992 Los Angeles riots following the acquittal of police officers who beat Rodney King. "Riot Baby" is a dystopian fantasy about Kev, who has been jailed in Rikers Island, and his sister Ella, who holds the power and the horror of seeing the future.

A graduate of Yale University and Columbia Law School, among other schools, Onyebuchi has worked in private and government law and thought a long time about a book that could draw upon his education and background. He considers adult books his first passion, but he found that writing for young people strengthened his storytelling, forcing him to write clearly and not to "obfuscate." For "Riot Baby," he was able to expand upon that discipline.

"I could be straightforward and short and concise, and I could have a lyrical style that abounded in subjunctive clauses," he said. "I didn't just have to be Hemingway. I didn't just have to be Faulkner. I could be both."

Maas, whose bestsellers for young people include the "Throne of Glass" fantasy series, has her debut adult book out in March. Her "Crescent City" series begins with "House of Earth and Blood," in which protagonist Bryce Quinlan — with the help of a fallen angel — seeks to track down the killers of her closest friends.

Maas told the AP that the new series had been a secret "passion project" for years, an idea came to her when she was on a plane during a

book tour, listening to the soundtrack from "Gravity." The "epic scene" that came to her became the ending of "House of Earth and Blood." Bryce's mom compelled Maas to think about a different readership.

"The moment Bryce Quinlan walked into my head, I knew she was in her early to mid-20s — an age that placed her story firmly in the adult range," says Maas, adding that the main difference between writing for younger and older people is in the language. "I will admit that I can now get away with quite a bit more swearing!"

Forgotten

V.E. Schwab, who writes adult and young adult novels, says she doesn't change her style or vocabulary: The difference is in her mindset. For her "Monsters of Verity" duology, she inhabits her 17-year-old self, a "pretty angry teenager." For "The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue," an adult story coming in October about a woman who endures and is forgotten for centuries, she is closer to the person she is now.

"One of the primary themes in the book is this concept of 30 as a threshold for true adulthood, the feeling like you look down for a moment,

and when you look back up, everyone else has raced ahead, and you're still trying to get your bearings," she said. "I wrote it essentially for a version of myself who never found writing. If I hadn't become an author, these are the questions I'd be facing, this is how lost I would feel."

Over the past decade, Christina Hobbs and Lauren Billings have combined to write best-selling adult and young adult novels under the name "Christina Lauren." They started out with romance books, among them such very adult stories as "Beautiful Bombshell," "Wicked Sexy Liar" and the upcoming "The Honey-Don't List." Meanwhile, for young adult novels such as "Autobiography" and "The House," they adapt the themes of love and desire for a more impressionable and sensitive audience.

"We want to give our adult readers a literal escape, like when they turn on a Netflix show," Billings says. "When we are writing of teens, we are trying to be entertaining, yes, but we also want to be more careful that they feel seen and understood. You want to make sure you're writing a story for them and that it doesn't feel like a grownup talking down to them."

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Free guided tours are available all year round on official working days between (9-11 am) and (5-7 pm), within a special tour program designed to cater to the needs of different age groups. The program is as follows:

• Reception; Auditorium show; (according to age group); Touring the Mosque; Q & A; Art workshops; (according to age group — between 5 and 18 years old); Snack break; Distribution of the Grand Mosque publications and souvenirs; End of tour.

According to these age groups:

Age group: 5 to 9 years old: Morning: 60 visitors max; Evening: 20; 10 to 15

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The winners of the Sastra Pratibha title are Reine Mary John (Class 4), Sahassra Gataamanani (Class 4), Madhav Prasanth (Class 5), Aditya Arun Kartha (Class 5), Jaladulene Akbar (Class 5), Shuvangi Das (Class 5), Manha Anees Shina (Class 6), Mathew George (Class 6), Riddhijit Kumar (Class 7), Angeli Elizabeth Poulous (Class 7), Isam Thalhath (Class 7), Ashwin Sajjan Pillai (Class 8), Taha Rafik Chikite (Class 9), Gokul Sreenivasan (Class 9), Vaishnavi Rajesh Pai (Class 10), Prakhar Gupta (Class 10), Shreya Lizzy Thomas (Class 10).

The prestigious 'Acharya J.C. Bose Puraskar' for the best school is secured by Indian Education School,

(Bhavans). The awards for winners and outstanding performers will be distributed at the grand honoring function, which is scheduled to be held on March 27, at Indian Central School, Abbasiya. Winners of Sastra Pratibha title will get the opportunity to visit prestigious research laboratories in India and also get the opportunity for personal interaction with top scientists in India. For further updates on SPC Season VI, please follow www.facebook.com/sifkuwait/, or email at info@sifkuwait.com.

April 3

KMS to mark 4th anniversary:

Kuwait Malayali Samajam (KMS) is cel-

brating its 4th anniversary on April 3, 2020 at Poppins Auditorium in Abbasiya from 5 pm onward. Various cultural programs will be staged in this occasion. C.S. Bathar is nominated as the program convener for the anniversary celebration.

General

AWL registration: If you were inter-

ested in joining the American Women's League (AWL) please check out their website, www.awlkkuwait.org, or email them at awl@awlkkuwait.org. American women over the age of 17 or wives of Americans are able to join. All other nationalities are welcome as associate

members.

Q8BBall Season 13: Q8BBall is beginning our 13th season with Boys U13 (ages 10-13) and U17 (ages 14-17). We train three times a week and play regular games throughout the year with schools and clubs. Contact Coach T 9712884 for information.

General

Invitation to Grand Mosque: The

Visits Department is pleased to invite you to visit the Grand Mosque, which is one of Kuwait's most treasured religious and cultural landmarks to discover the beauty of Islamic arts and architecture.