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Jane K. Cleland



The Anatomy of Traditional Mysteries: Kill 'Em Tastefully

The term “traditional” is code in the world of mysteries. It informs and reassures readers about what to expect of this sub-genre—it implies certain qualities relating to Structure, Characters, Pacing, Plot, and the Resolution.

Join Jane as she discusses how a “traditional” mystery differs from all other sub-genres, including noir, hard-boiled, private eye, police procedural, cozies, and thrillers. Learn the structural imperatives of a traditional mystery:

- victims and killers who know one another
- a solution that depends on the deductive ability of the sleuth
- no blood & guts, cussin', or explicit sex
- credible red herrings
- suspense (but rarely, surprise)

Jane will be glad to answer all your questions about the writing process, where ideas come from, and what's it's like to spend so much time with the antiques appraiser, Josie Prescott.

Jane K. Cleland writes the multiple-award nominated and IMBA best-selling Josie Prescott Antiques Mystery series [St. Martin's Minotaur], often called an *Antiques Roadshow* for mystery fans. Jane chairs the Wolfe Pack's literary awards and is on the board of MWA/NY Chapter. “Josie” stories have appeared in *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*. “Killing Time” was an Agatha and Anthony Award finalist this year. *Killer Keepsakes*, the latest in the series, was reviewed by *Publishers Weekly* as “absorbing” and “ingenious.”