

DARK LAKE

Press Kit

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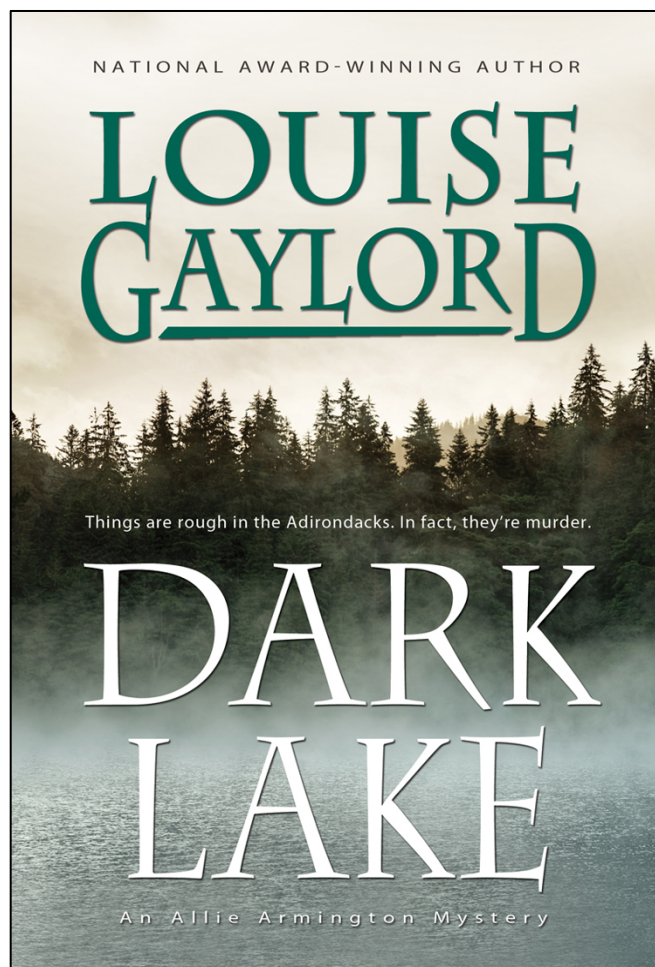
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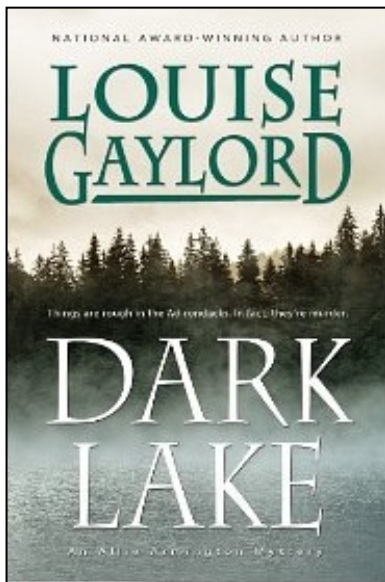
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Publication Date: October 1, 2011
Available wherever books are sold and downloaded

Synopsis of *Dark Lake*, 4th book in the Allie Armington mystery series

LouiseGaylord.com



Summer at the Lake just isn't what it used to be. This year, it's murder.

After 15 years, Allie Armington returns to her aunt Sallie's idyllic cottage retreat in the Adirondacks where she spent most of her childhood summers. Until the accident, that is. But instead of the happy reunion she's anticipating, she finds Sallie's mangled body.

The close-knit community of July 4th to Labor Day residents at the Hotanawa compound tries to portray the tragedy as a suicide to keep things out of the news. Allie knows better. There's been foul play, yet the cops have all but closed the case.

To clear her aunt's reputation, Allie's got to navigate her way around a compromised police department, wealthy neighbors with agendas, a cousin who's turned into a meth head, and a drug conspiracy that just gets stranger and stranger—especially since the handsome drug cop is an ally in one moment and a suspected conspirator the next.

Populated with neighbors you love to hate, childhood ex-crushes you'd hate to love, and family and friends who promote more problems than solutions, *Dark Lake* brings us an up close look at summer life in the Adirondacks and Allie at her best.

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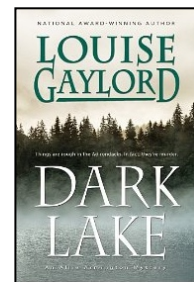
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Author Biography



Louise Gaylord is an acclaimed national award-winning author who established herself with her very first book, a suspenseful murder mystery centering around a young, sharp female Assistant District Attorney. This was the cornerstone of what has become her popular Allie Armington mystery series, the idea for it sparked when Louise herself spent three months on a grand jury panel.

The series has grown to four novels, with stories ranging from the Southwest (*Anacacho* and *Spa Deadly*) to New York (*Xs*), to the most recent (*Dark Lake*) featuring her beloved Adirondacks. Her next Allie Armington mystery will be set on a cruise ship.



In the middle of establishing her mystery writer credentials, she expanded out of the genre with an insightful character study novel, *Julia Fairchild*, and then the delightful *Recipes from Camp Trillium*. The cookbook features worldwide recipes from Louise's family and guests during years they visited her in New York's Adirondack Mountains.

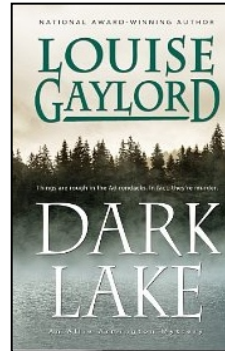
Also a published short story writer and playwright, Louise discovered her love of storytelling during her days at Saint Mary's Hall, an Episcopal girls' boarding school in San Antonio, Texas. But it was painting, not writing, that her teachers encouraged, so her writing was put on hold. She studied art history and sociology at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, and later at The University of Houston where she met and married Ted Gaylord, a promising entrepreneur from Upstate New York.

Though her grandfather was one of the founding members of the Houston Symphony, opera is Louise's real passion. After designing several covers for *Opera Cues*, the Houston Grand Opera Guild's magazine, she took over the editorship, eventually becoming President of the Guild and later President of Opera Guilds International. Louise is currently a member of the OPERA America board of directors.

Louise was invited to join the Writers Consortium founded by Guida Jackson and Ida Luttrell. Her first Allie Armington Mystery, *Anacacho*, won the 2003 National Benjamin Franklin Award for Best Mystery/Suspense sponsored by Publisher's Marketing Association in Los Angeles. The San Francisco Book Festival awarded Louise with best audio book in 2010 for *Spa Deadly*. And most recently *Recipes from Camp Trillium* won the Dan Poynter's Global eBook Awards, in which *Julia Fairchild* and *Spa Deadly* were also finalists.

A world traveler, Louise divides her time between her homes in Houston; Santa Barbara, California; and Old Forge, New York in the Adirondacks.

LOUISE GAYLORD RELEASES FOURTH BOOK IN
NATIONAL
AWARD-WINNING ALLIE ARMINGTON MYSTERY
SERIES



With previous novels set across the country, *Dark Lake* takes readers to the Adirondacks

September 2011 – Known for her unexpected twists and impeccably researched storylines, Louise Gaylord does it again with *Dark Lake*, the fourth installment of her nationally acclaimed Allie Armington mystery series.

In the new book out October 1, 2011, the brave and intelligent Allie Armington returns after 15 years to her aunt’s cottage retreat in the Adirondack Mountains where she spent most of her childhood summers. She anticipates a happy reunion, but instead finds her Aunt Sallie dead, and a close-knit community trying to portray the tragedy as suicide to keep it out of the news. Allie must clear her aunt’s reputation, navigating her way around a compromised police department, wealthy neighbors with agendas, and a drug conspiracy that gets wackier every second.

Populated with neighbors you love to hate, childhood ex-crushes you’d hate to love, and family and friends who promote more problems than solutions, *Dark Lake* shows Allie at her best.

Gaylord got the idea for the murder mystery series after spending three months on a grand jury panel in Texas. The series includes three prior novels to *Dark Lake*, with stories ranging from the Southwest (*Anacacho* and *Spa Deadly*) to New York (*Xs*).

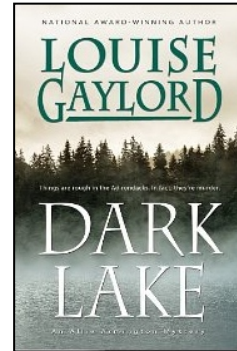
“Walker, Texas Ranger” writer/producer Tom Blomquist calls Gaylord’s writing “ingenious” and “irresistible.” And William Link, Emmy and Golden Globe award-winning co-creator of “Columbo” and “Murder, She Wrote” said, “Do not be disarmed by Allie Armington. Like my old friend, Lieutenant Columbo, she tends to know a great many things.”

A versatile writer, Gaylord has expanded out of the mystery genre with an insightful character study novel, *Julia Fairchild*, and the delightful *Recipes from Camp Trillium*. She served as editor of *Opera Cues*, the Houston Grand Opera Guild’s magazine, and eventually became President of Opera Guilds International. A member of the Writers Consortium, her first Allie Armington Mystery, *Anacacho*, won the National Benjamin Franklin Award for Best Mystery/Suspense and many other awards. Most recently *Recipes from Camp Trillium* won the Dan Poynter’s Global eBook Awards, in which *Julia Fairchild* and *Spa Deadly* were also finalists. Gaylord divides her time between homes in Houston; Santa Barbara, California; and Old Forge, New York.

Q&A with Louise Gaylord,



author of the Allie Armington mystery series, including her newest release ...



Tell us about your newest Allie Armington mystery novel *Dark Lake* and what readers can expect the beloved protagonist to encounter in the book.

Answer: *Dark Lake* is set in the Adirondacks, where Allie finds her aunt has been murdered. The people in the small compound want to believe it was a suicide, as do the police, to keep it out of the press. Frustrated by the lack of police involvement, Allie sets out to solve the crime on her own.

Allie inherits her aunt's cottage, much to her drug-addicted cousin's dismay, and sparks a new romance with a guy working with the county drug enforcement. She remembers him from when she visited the camp as a little girl. He's cute ... but she's just not sure about him.

How did you create Allie's character?

Answer: I served on a grand jury panel in Houston and the Assistant District Attorney was so lazy. I decided that a woman could do a much better job.

Your mystery novels have brought us to the Southwest (*Anacacho* and *Spa Deadly*) to New York (*Xs*) and now with *Dark Lake* to the Adirondack Mountains, where you also spend a lot of time at your camp. Why is the area so special to you?

Answer: The first time I came up here I hated it. My husband's brother said we were going to the club. A club to me meant a place for a dress and heels. They took us out to a camp with no electricity or running water for five days. It was quite a shock and I didn't want to come back. But then I came back again and again and again, for over 40 years. It became my heart's home.

As a successful, award-winning mystery writer, you stepped out of the genre to work on a few other books, including *Recipes from Camp Trillium*. What's your favorite dish to stir up in the kitchen?

Answer: Grandma Betsy's Chicken. My mother put Lawry's seasoning and Worcester sauce on everything. This made a nice, simple one-dish meal to serve all.

To make it, you just need chicken, Worcestershire sauce and Lawry's® Seasoned Salt. Then add any vegetable of your choice. Cut up potatoes, mushrooms, onions or red bell pepper, carrots, almost anything except greens. Preheat your oven to 425 degrees.

Quarter the chicken or cut it into single-serving pieces. Place the chicken skin side up in an aluminum foil-lined pan. Throw the vegetables all around it. Douse it with Worcestershire sauce and sprinkle with seasoned salt. Bake that for 25 to 40 minutes, or until the juices run clear.

Now it might be impossible, but if you had to choose *one* place from everywhere you have traveled or lived, where is the best food?

Answer: I love Paris and I also really love Venice, but those are so obvious. You can't beat Santa Barbara. They have many different kinds of fine restaurants – and lots of Italian.

You studied art history in college after your grade-school teachers encouraged you to do something with your painting skills. How has painting helped you write?

Answer: I'm a very visual person. So I can imagine a scene as if I'm painting it and portray that in words on page. A lot of people who write also paint. I noticed though that I never had a problem dropping the paintbrush to go play tennis or golf. But once I start writing I can't leave.

Your mystery novels are known for having very unexpected twists and surprise endings. How do you keep readers on their toes?

Answer: I don't outline so sometimes I even surprise myself! I really write to amuse myself. One of my writing instructors said I should have fun when writing. I have a friend who writes a chapter here and then a chapter there. I can't do that. I write in a linear fashion.

There is a fifth Allie Armington mystery in the works. Can you give us a sneak peek as to what we might find?

Answer: Another murder! My husband and I took several cruises together, and I recently took my whole family on a cruise. It was so much fun, so I thought, "Why not? It's still fresh in my mind." This next book will be set on a cruise ship leaving Venice and going to Rome.

LouiseGaylord.com