**Kirkus Review:**

*“The author’s experience as a rescue volunteer gives an air of authenticity to her descriptions of shelter work and the sensitive attention given to animals in a well-run no-kill facility. And, of course, readers will find the pups entertaining. A Whodunit with a promising premise and likeable characters.”*

A dog on a book cover

Description automatically generated with low confidence

A picture containing human face, person, necklace, smile

Description automatically generated

**A Note From Darlene:**

I am a lifelong reader and lover of mysteries. As a dog lover, I volunteer at the shelter where I adopted two rescues: a beagle, Bassett hound mix I named Tugger and a terrier mix I named Billie.

Thirty years ago, a group of librarians invited me to join a mystery book group, opening my mind to a world of books I had never imagined and introducing me to Mystery Fan Conferences.

At Bouchercon, the largest mystery fan conference in the world, I realized that I had never read a mystery in which the protagonist worked at an animal shelter. In a crazy instant, I decided to write that story.

I had a very tall mountain to climb in learning to write a book. It took many years of trial and error, much advice from other writers and librarians, and a great deal of courage. However, in 2022 I self-published *Clues From The Canines*.

Since publication, I have served on panels at both Bouchercon and Malice Domestic.

I am eager to share my volunteer experience at the Animal Welfare Association and my path to publication with readers. Please accept this media kit which includes discussion questions and cute photos of Billie and Tugger.

Thank you.

**Author Information**

**Interviews:**

https://amypendino.com/blog/f/looking-for-a-great-summer-read

<https://lynnslaughter.com/2023/03/10/combining-her-love-of-mysteries-and-dogs-meet-author-darlene-dziomba/>

<https://joanneguidoccio.com/2023/01/30/follow-the-clues-to-act-2/>

<https://gdcramer.com/2022/04/25/darlene-dziomba/>

**Podcasts:**

<https://sites.libsyn.com/458199/special-guest-darlene-dziomba>

**Social Media:**

[www.ReadDarlene.com](http://www.ReadDarlene.com)

@ReadDarlene1

facebook.com/read.darlene.7

[ReadDarlene@hotmail.com](mailto:ReadDarlene@hotmail.com)

**Buy Link:**

https://www.amazon.com/stores/Darlene-Dziomba/author

**Discussion Questions**

1. What roles did you perform as a volunteer at the Animal Welfare Association?
2. How did you acquire the level of detail related to the operations of an animal shelter?
3. Which of the characters in *Clues From The Canines* are modeled after people who worked at the Animal Welfare Association? Why did you choose those people as characters?
4. Lily has to control her emotions while working in very close proximity to many people. How would you handle a situation like this?
5. Quinn faces a large dilemma as a teenaged boy. Would you have made the same choice?
6. Clarissa’s backstory delves into a reality that a lot of Americans face, but that isn’t often discussed. What was your intent in building this story?
7. Is there a character in *Clues From The Canines* modeled after you? Why did you choose that character for yourself?
8. *Clues From The Canines* makes many references to flowers and gardening. Are you an avid gardener? Why was it important to you to use these descriptors in your books?
9. Do the people in your life, who you have chosen to model into characters, recognize themselves? Do they like how you created them?
10. Why is your protagonist named Lily?
11. How many books do you have planned for the series?

**The Inspiration:**

Animal Welfare Association

AWANJ.org

A person holding a dog

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceA dog lying on the floor with a stuffed animal

Description automatically generated with medium confidence A person standing next to a dog

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceA dog standing on a leash

Description automatically generated with medium confidence A dog lying on a couch

Description automatically generatedA dog lying on the floor

Description automatically generated with medium confidence