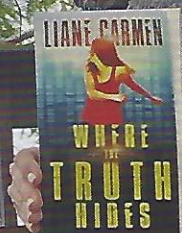


NORTH CREEK

Neighbors



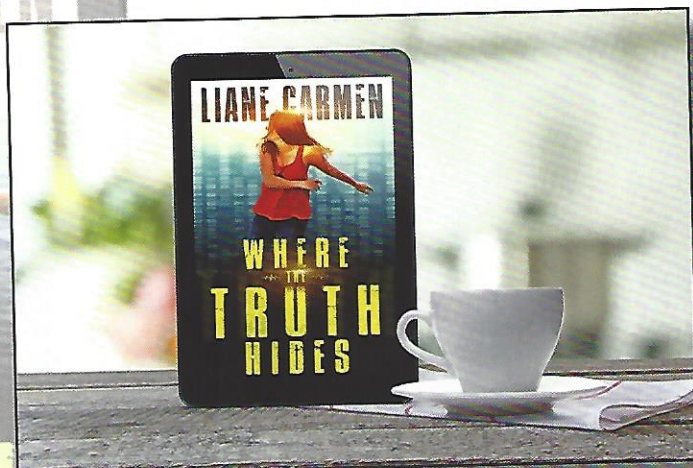
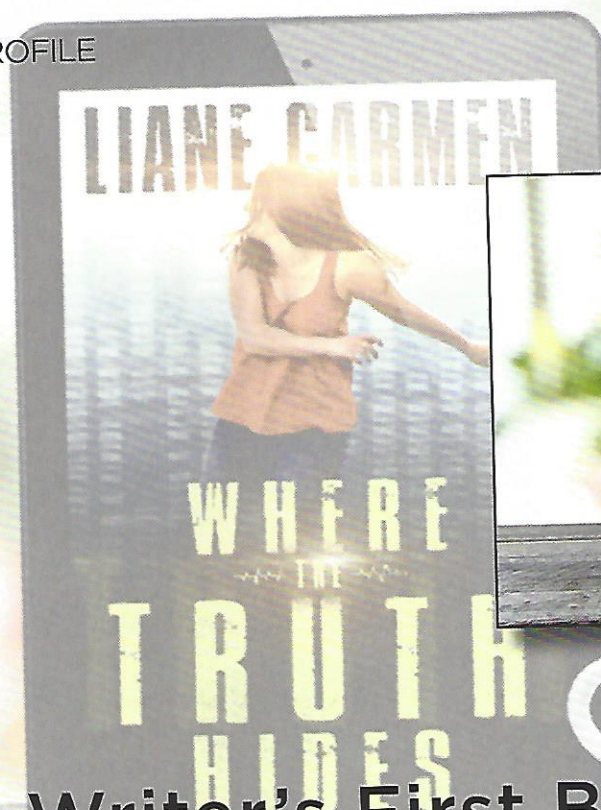
Local Writer's First Book

Has Just Hit the Shelves!



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Local Writer's First Book Has Just Hit the Shelves!

By Jessica Hewitt, guest writer

WHEN LIANE CARMEN WAS A LITTLE GIRL GROWING UP IN NEW JERSEY, THE FAMILY OUTINGS SHE REMEMBERS MOST WERE TRIPS TO THE BOOKSTORE. HER WHOLE FAMILY WERE AVID READERS AND SHE COULD OFTEN BE FOUND UNDER THE COVERS WITH HER LATEST BOOK AFTER SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ASLEEP.

When it came time for college, Liane went to Rutgers University. Although she'd always had a penchant for writing, she considered it more of a hobby. She never had a desire to be on stage but found the other side of the business fascinating. After graduating with a major in Communication and a minor in Theatre Arts, she went into the entertainment business working for a talent agency.

In her late twenties, she reconnected with a schoolmate and they started dating. He had already planned to move to Florida, but they continued the relationship long distance. Then came the blizzards of 1996. She'd had enough of the snow and headed south to join him.

In a new state without a job, she started temping. Her first assignment was at Blockbuster's headquarters in downtown Ft. Lauderdale. When that was over, the agency sent her to Coca-Cola. She liked the job at Coke but really wanted to get hired full-time at Blockbuster. She laughs about it now. "Look at how that would have turned out for me!" Coke did bring her on permanently, and twenty-four years later, she's still there, handling marketing assets in Florida such as NASCAR races, pro sports teams, colleges, and theme parks.

The relationship that brought her to Florida led to marriage. When they started house-hunting, they loved the small-town feel and accessibility of Coconut Creek. They bought what they thought would be their starter home.



...These stories rattle around in my head, begging to be written. Finally, one idea just wouldn't let me go.



They welcomed their son Ben in 2003, and she remembers New Year's Eve block parties with him racing around in his electric car, followed by marshmallow roasting over a bonfire. "Our neighborhood was everything you could have ever wanted," she says. "Easter egg hunts and bingo night. We even did a hayride through the neighborhood at Halloween. Can you imagine looking out your window and watching this horse clopping by your house? The kids loved it."

When her marriage unfortunately ended in divorce, Liane was determined to figure out a way to stay right where she was. Having lived in her house since 1997, it didn't quite turn out to be just a starter home, and she's fine with that. She loves living in the Butterfly Capital of the World, and with a boyfriend who's a landscaper, she's amassed quite the butterfly garden in her backyard.

Her son played recreational sports in Coconut Creek as a young child. T-ball, flag football, indoor soccer, outdoor soccer – you name it, they tried it. Now that he's a teenager, his interests lie in gaming with his friends and trips to the gym. He's hoping to attend Full Sail in Orlando for a degree in Game Design. He's had a great experience at all the schools he attended in Creek, and they're finally in the home stretch. He'll be a senior at Monarch next year.

"I love that they require service hours to graduate. It's such a great chance to give back," Liane says of Ben's high school. We're both animal lovers, so he decided to foster kittens through a non-profit that is based in Coconut Creek. I ask her about the experience. "Well..." she says, "we're still doing it a year and a half later. We've had about fifty kittens come through our doors. A few have stayed. I probably need to stop saying, 'oh, what's one more'". Add a rambunctious golden-retriever puppy to the mix, and it's clear she's got her hands full.

So, how did she find time to write a book? "It wasn't easy. I was a single mom, working full-time, but being an author has always been a dream of mine. These stories rattle around in my head, begging to be written. Finally, one idea just wouldn't let me go."

She reveals the story behind the idea stemmed from a personal event that affected both her and her son. Her son's father, her ex-husband, passed away in 2013. He'd been adopted as a newborn and had always wanted to find his birth mother. "I tried to help him when we were married. Back then, it wasn't easy. But then DNA came along."

She and her son did at-home DNA testing. The hopes were that her son's matches would lead to his father's biological family. And that they did. It took about five months and testing at two different companies, but Liane put the puzzle pieces together and found both sides of his birth family (even relatives that lived ten minutes away!). →

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Where the Truth Hides beautifully weaves together issues related to infertility, adoption, and friendship ...

She admits to becoming obsessed with genealogy as a whole and has helped numerous friends solve their own family mystery. She excitedly asks me if I've seen the new show, *The Genetic Detective*. Now they're using DNA not only to find family members but to track down criminals and solve cold cases. Would she put her skills to the test if asked to help solve a cold case? No hesitation—absolutely!

What Liane learned in all her searching was that DNA was uncovering secrets people thought would never see the light of day. Her novelist wheels started spinning. "DNA tests should come with a warning to spit at your own risk," she admits. "They can result in wonderful reunions, but they can also reveal the unexpected." It seemed to her that there were stories that could be told.

Her book, *Where the Truth Hides*, released on May 15th. So, what's the book about? At its core, it's about best friends, both at life-defining crossroads. Becky is married and wants a baby and has her hopes pinned on IVF. Jules, her best friend, is adopted and using DNA testing to find her birth parents. When Becky's involved in a car accident, she insists she's fine, but quickly her life begins to unravel. Why? Well, there's the mystery. It seems Jules knows something she hasn't told Becky. A secret's been uncovered. Becky feels like she's being hunted, but how can you hide from a past you know nothing about?

Liane felt it important to tackle important of-the-moment issues affecting women in her book. She's wrapped them in a suspense novel that is garnering excellent reviews. As one reviewer put it, "*Where the Truth Hides beautifully weaves together issues related to infertility, adoption, and friendship in a gripping, fast-paced, suspenseful novel.*" In fact, if you're a reader that loves that big twist at the end, pages of reviews promise you won't see it coming. These are the kinds of books Liane likes to read, so her goal was to write something she herself would love. She also couldn't resist a little nod to her city: Becky lives in "Creekside" on Winston Park Lane.

You can get Liane's debut novel through Amazon. It's available in paperback, as an e-book, or through their Kindle Unlimited program. *Where the Truth Hides* will kick off the DNA Duo Mystery Series. The second book in the series, *The Inheritance*, is due out early in 2021. •

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