

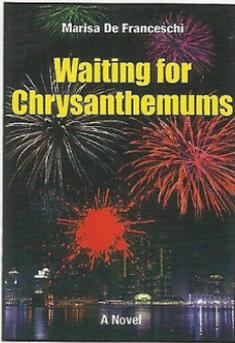
# Mystery Novels To Curl Up With By The Fire

By Marlene Markham-Gay



**M**arisa De Franceschi is a local author who has written an intriguing new mystery novel, "Waiting for Chrysanthemums" published by **Longbridge Books**. She previously has written prose poetry "Random Thoughts", a short story collection "Family Matters" and a novel titled "Surface Tension." De Franceschi has twice been the recipient of the "Okanagan Short Story" Award.

Readers from this area will be able to identify with watching the magnificent fireworks display each summer on the Detroit River and will recognize several buildings and geographical



locations in this novel. The timeline is the 1980s, a man is murdered at the Freedom Festival pyrotechnical display, while everyone's eyes are focused on the sky. The body is discovered to the horror of the upscale guest on the terrace of a fashionable hotel. Champagne glasses are forgotten as the guests move past the murder scene and are filled with fear.

The suspense builds chapter after chapter as Lily's husband becomes a suspect, she continues to unravel the clues and the possible suspects, who are responsible for the crime.

A sub plot is interjected into the story when Lily's beloved grandmother becomes a victim of a serial rapist.

De Franceschi has worked her expertise with plot and characters to produce an intriguing story that will keep you in suspense. Long winter nights, and a glowing fire are the perfect backdrop for reading "Waiting for Chrysanthemums."

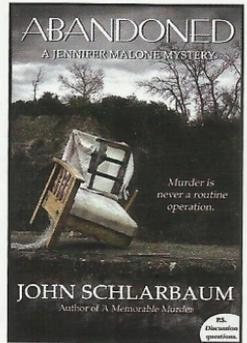
You may purchase this novel in Windsor at: **Juniper Books**, 1990 Ottawa Street; **Coles Bookstore**, Tecumseh Mall and **Chapters**, Devonshire Mall.

Next up, **John Schlarbaum's** latest murder mystery "Abandoned: A Jennifer Malone Mystery," will keep you reading late into the night.

A local novelist, Schlarbaum has co-owned a bookstore, written for television and penned novels as well as working as a private investigator. Newspaper reporter Jennifer Malone is a favourite character of fans of his mystery novels.

"Don't let me die" are the last words of an elderly patient at the local hospital as she is wheeled into surgery. These last words are repeated through out the novel to uncover a killer in this mystery.

Malone is very intrigued by the story that Luke, the patient transfer attendant, tells her of Helga Klemens and her strange last words on the way to the operating room.



A John Doe in the morgue, a suspicious coroner, and family secrets all lead to a web of lies and murder.

Malone solves the mystery as to why Mrs. Klemens was dead one hour after she entered the operating room, but not without twists and turns along the way that are very entertaining. Treat yourself to a good murder mystery this winter as you enjoy the longer evenings and snow days.

"Abandoned" can be purchased in Windsor at **Biblioasis**, 1520 Wyandotte Street East; **Story Tellers**, 1473 Ottawa Street; **PB Books** 3947 Tecumseh Road East and **Juniper Bookstore**, 1990 Ottawa Street. X

*Marlene Markham-Gay is the former host of CFTV's "Storyteller." She promotes local authors through the book corner at the Essex Railway Station, inviting them to display and sell books. Marlene is an avid reader and encourages her eight grandchildren to read.*