



## LONG BIO VALERIE BURNS

Valerie Burns is the author of multiple mystery series with different pennames.

Writing as V. M. Burns, Valerie has written three mystery series and one short story. *THE PLOT IS MURDER*, first book in her Mystery Bookshop Mystery series was released by Kensington Publishing in November 2017. It received a positive review from *Publisher's Weekly*, a starred review from *Library Journal* and was nominated for the Agatha Award for Best First Novel.

Since then, she has published eight other books in the Mystery Bookshop series which have appeared in *Crime Scene Magazine*, *Suspense Magazine*, *Crime Riot*, *Hope Magazine*, and on numerous blogs and best of lists. She has also published five books in her Dog Club Mystery Series, by Kensington's Lyrical imprint.

*TRAVELLIN' SHOES*, the first book in her RJ Franklin Mystery Series, published by Camel Press, received a starred review from *Library Journal* and was a finalist in the Next Generation Indie Book Awards in two categories in 2018. She was interviewed by Callie Crossley for *Under the Radar* on NPR to discuss the second book in the series, *MOTHERLESS CHILD*, along with culinary cozy authors, Maddie Day and Joanne Fluke.

Valerie's short story, "The Vermeer Conspiracy" was published in *Midnight Hour: A chilling anthology of crime fiction from 20 authors of color*, which was published by Crooked Lane Press in November 2021. Her short story was a finalist for the 2022 Anthony and Edgar Awards.

Writing as Valerie Burns, she has written the Baker Street Mystery series, which was published by Kensington Publishing in August 2022. It received a positive review from the NY Times, who said, “Snappy dialogue, a well-drawn supporting cast and an irresistible canine companion all add delicious flavor. Gulp this book down or savor it, but consuming it will guarantee a sustained sugar high.”(NYTimes, August 22, 2022).

In December 2023, writing as Kallie E. Benjamin, Valerie will release the first book in the Bailey the Bloodhound Mystery Series with Berkley Prime Crime, a division of Penguin Random House. The first book, SNIFFING OUT MURDER will release on December 5, 2023.

Valerie holds a Bachelor’s degree from Northwestern University, a Master of Science in Administration from the University of Notre Dame’s Mendoza College of Business, and a Master of Fine Arts in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University. TRAVELLIN’ SHOES was her thesis project.

In addition to writing, Valerie is a member of Sisters In Crime (SinC), Crime Writers of Color (CWoC), Dog Writers of America, International Thriller Writers, Mystery Writers of America, and The Crime Writers Association (CWA).

Valerie spent twelve years working as a trainer and manager at a CPA firm in Northwestern Indiana. She currently works as a manager at a call center for an appliance manufacturer in Eastern Tennessee where she lives with her two toy poodles.

## **MEDIUM BIO VALERIE BURNS**

Valerie (V. M.) Burns is an Agatha, Anthony, Edgar, and Next Generation Award Finalist. She is the author of the Mystery Bookshop, Dog Club, RJ Franklin, Baker Street Mystery,

and Bailey the Bloodhound Mystery series. Valerie is a member of Crime Writers of Color, Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, Dog Writers of America, Thriller Writers International, and The Crime Writers Association. Valerie has a Bachelor's Degree from Northwestern University, a Master's Degree in Business from the University of Notre Dame, and a Master of Fine Arts from Seton Hill University. In addition to writing, Valerie works as a manager at a call center, and is also a mentor in the Writing Popular Fiction MFA Program at Seton Hill University in Greensburg, PA. Born and raised in northwest Indiana, Valerie now lives in Northern Georgia with her two poodles.

## SHORT BIO VALERIE BURNS

Valerie (V. M.) Burns is an Agatha, Anthony, Edgar, and Next Generation Award finalist. She is the author of five cozy mystery series, and is an adjunct professor in the Writing Popular Fiction MFA Program at Seton Hill University. Valerie lives in Northern Georgia.

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