



Desperate Deeds

Patricia Gligor

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As Ann Kern starts her new business as an interior decorator, the temperatures have risen, tulips and daffodils are in bloom and there's a feeling of endless possibilities in the air. She has no idea that her world is about to be turned upside down.

When Janis Riley, a woman for whom money is no object, contacts Ann to redecorate her house, Ann is elated. But her initial visit with her first client leaves her with mixed emotions. Why did Janis react so strangely to seeing a photo of Ann's six-year-old son, Davey?

But Ann has bigger problems. Her husband, David, a recovering alcoholic, has lost both his mother and his job and Ann worries that he'll start drinking again. To add to her concerns, their next-door-neighbor, Dorothy Baker, is severely depressed but Ann's efforts to help her are rebuffed.

Ann is terrified when she wakes up the day before Easter to find Davey gone. Another child, Kelly Kramer, has been missing since December. Does some pervert have both children and what, if anything, can Ann do to get her son back?

PRAISE FOR THE MALONE MYSTERY SERIES

"Fans of Mary Higgins Clark will greet [Mixed Messages] with enthusiasm. Like Clark in her early classic mystery/suspense novel A Stranger Is Watching, Gligor creates a frightening world for a sympathetic protagonist. Ann Kern, loving wife and mother, is surrounded by threats. Her husband, an alcoholic and a gambler, is emotionally unstable. There is also a serial killer on the prowl on the west side of Cincinnati and it appears that Ann is intended to be his next victim. There are a number of possible suspects. Author Gligor thoroughly develops each character in the novel, going into back stories, thoughts, behavior and actions. But this does not slow the plot which develops at a fast pace. Definitely a novel the reader will not put down until the final words are read."

- Jacqueline Seewald, author of Death Legacy

"As a "cozy" mystery writer--and reader--I tend to shy away from suspense/terror. You might say I've become sissified over the years. However . . . I do make exceptions, and Unfinished Business is one of those. While many suspense authors indulge in a shock fest of over the top violence, Gligor takes the time to build the suspense, psychological rather than gut-wrenching. Like a classic Hitchcock film, the fear-turned-to terror mounts. All the while we empathize with the main character's plight. In the midst of this cozily familiar holiday, something is very wrong. Despite my trepidation, I braved on, reading to the end because I had to

know what happened to Ann. Although I kept the lights on that night, it was worth it!"

- Sharon L. Cook, author of A Nose for Hanky Panky

Other books in the MALONE MYSTERY SERIES

- **MIXED MESSAGES**

- **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Desperate Deeds Details

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From Reader Review Desperate Deeds for online ebook

J.R. says

Few things can be more frightening to a parent than to have a child go missing.

Ann Kern lives in a Cincinnati neighborhood where people care about one another and she is among the most compassionate. While struggling to rebuild a life for her own family beset with troubles she also worries about others.

While working one job and trying to start a decorating business, she worries her husband, an alcoholic who has recently lost his job and his mother, will relapse. She frets about her children. She's concerned about a depressed neighbor. And then her six-year-old son goes missing.

In this third in her Malone mystery series, Gligor ramps up the suspense and offers a host of suspects to keep the reader flipping pages to see what will happen next.

Evelyn says

The worst possible thing anyone could image, happened to Ann Kern, the protagonist in Desperate Deeds, the third in the Malone Mystery series. Her child went missing. Ms. Gligor kept me reading well into the night to find out what happened. Her character development is so true to life, that I could feel everything Ann did as she searched for her son. The suspense kept me tense and guessing throughout the novel, until I finally let out a breath at the end. I highly recommend this novel to any cozy mystery reader.

Anna Burke says

Desperate Deeds is a cozy mystery full of sweetness with a touch of suspense, some romance, and a lot of humanity. The story conjured up nostalgia for me. Perhaps because I spent so many years in Ohio and visited Cincinnati, where this story unfolds, many, many times. It wasn't just about the physical setting but the sense of place conveyed in a neighborhood and family where people know and care about each other. Plenty of struggles, some troubled people, and even some pretty bad ones, like any good mystery, but a lot of hope and just plain decency. I think that's a good part of what makes this cozy mystery feel so cozy!

Marja McGraw says

Desperate Deeds by Patricia Gligor had me on the edge of my seat almost from the beginning of the book. Suspects stacked up for a future event and character development kept me reading.

A young girl is missing. Ann Kern is starting a new business, and her husband, David, is struggling with alcoholism. A neighbor seems to be struggling to get through each day. People are acting strangely. And then the unthinkable happens. The Kerns' son disappears without a trace. The suspects are numerous.

Ms. Gligor created suspense throughout the story, even when small incidents are touched on. The book will keep you guessing.

I highly recommend this story for those who love to solve a puzzle and who love a good mystery. Significant issues are touched upon and I found myself nodding during parts of the story, agreeing with the characters' opinions.

I'll be waiting for the next Malone Mystery.

Helen Haught Fanick says

This is another excellent book by Patricia Gligor. I recommend it to anyone who likes cozies.

Julie Wittekind says

An Exciting Read

Continuing the story of Ann Malone and her family, we are once again emotionally involved in her family and neighbors' lives. There are many twists and turns from someone getting engaged to someone lost, and family intrigues sprinkled within! I enjoyed this 3rd novel by Patricia Gligor!

Jacqueline Seewald says

Desperate Deeds centers on the Kern family. Ann is a genuinely kind and giving woman struggling to provide a secure home life for her small children, Dani and Davey. Her husband, David, is a recovering alcoholic who recently lost his job and in addition is suffering grief over his mother's death. The novel starts with a strong narrative hook and continues to hold the reader's interest and attention straight through. Two significant themes run through the novel: alcoholism and child abduction.

The author handles characterization well, shifting point of view from one well-developed character to another. The suspense builds and there are some surprising twists and turns.

A very satisfying read.
