

# NORTH CAROLINA NOVELS

## Mountains

***Angel Whispered Danger: An Augusta Goodnight Mystery*** (2003)

Ballard, Mignon F

Kate McBride expected to spend her family reunion in the fictional mountain town of Bishop's Bridge, NC. When the host's housekeeper falls and whispers, before she dies, that she was pushed, Kate sets out with help from the friendly ghost Augusta Goodnight and her trainee angel, Penelope, to find the killer.

***A Darker Justice*** (2002)

Bissell, Sallie

Mary Crow, an Atlanta prosecutor of Cherokee ancestry, is called into action when a violent killer turns his sights on one of her friends. Mary's investigation takes her back to her hometown of Little Jump Off, NC.

***Legacy of Masks*** (2005)

Bissell, Sallie

Mary Crow has returned home to NC and opens her own practice and sets her thoughts toward a possible romance with an old flame.

***In the Forest of Harm*** (2001)

Bissell, Sallie

Recovering from a long and tough trial, young prosecutor Mary Crow joins two friends on a trek into the wilderness of North Carolina, unaware that an enemy seeking retaliation for her recent court victory is stalking her.

***Wild Orchids*** (2003)

Deveraux, Jude

Ford Newcombe, a successful mystery writer, has moved to the fictional town of Cole Creek, NC to investigate a series of mysterious deaths.

***Moon Women*** (2001)

Duncan, Pamela

The Moon Women are three generations of the Moon family in western NC. Ruth Ann Moon's life changes when her daughter and mother move in with her. The

book deals with the changing roles in the family and how the women adjust to life together.

***Jim the Boy*** (2000)

Earley, Tony

Jim is a ten-year old boy who lives with his mother and her brothers in the fictional town, Aliceville, NC in the 1930's. The story follows Jim through his everyday events as he struggles to understand his family, friends and himself.

***Love and a Bad Hair Day*** (2003)

Flannigan, Annie

The Hadley's and the O'Malleys had been feuding for years in Verbena, NC (a small fictional town in the mountains). Ryman O'Malley moves back to town to take over the family business, the South Winds Trav'O'Tel. Jolene Hadley Corbett, whose beauty parlor is located just across the street, is determined to continue the feud. But, as she gets to know Ryman better her feelings change.

***Me & Emma*** (2005)

Flock, Elizabeth

Carrie Parker, the eight-year-old narrator of this novel, lives with her sister Emma in a poor family in Toast, NC. Their father has recently passed away and their new stepfather is abusive to both girls. Although their mother sees the problems, she can't afford to leave and the girls are left with seemingly nowhere else to turn.

***Cold Mountain*** (1997)

Frazier, Charles

*Cold Mountain* is the story of Inman, a deserter from the Confederate Army and his long journey home to the mountains of NC during the last year of the Civil War.

***Evensong*** (1999)

Godwin, Gail

*Evensong*, a sequel to *Father Melancholy's Daughter*, continues the story of Margaret Gower, an Episcopal rector in High Balsam, NC, a fictional town in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Set in a four-week period in 1999, this novel chronicles a time in Gower's life when she questions both her marriage and her faith.

***Forests of the Night*** (2005)

Hall, James W.

Miami detective Charlotte Monroe takes off for the mountains of Western North Carolina in pursuit of her daughter, who has run off with the man at number eight on the FBI's most wanted list.

***The Last Odd Day*** (2004)

Hinton, Lynne

In the opening section, Jean Witherspoon is struggling to cope with the death of her husband. The novel alternates between Jean's past and present.

***Hunting Fear*** (2004)

Hooper, Kay

Lucas Jorday is a successful profiler for the FBI, using psychic abilities to track down missing people. When a string of grisly murders hit Golden, NC, a fictional mountain town, Lucas is called to the case.

***The Mitford Novels***

Karon, Jan

The small village of Mitford, NC (a fictional town based on Blowing Rock) is the setting for these novels. Father Tim Kavanagh, the village rector and aging protagonist of these books, encounters quirky residents of the town. The underlying theme of the series is appreciation for the simple pleasures of small town life.

*At Home in Mitford* (1994)

*A Light in the Window* (1995)

*These High, Green Hills* (1996)

*Out to Canaan* (1997)

*A New Song* (1999)

*A Common Life* (2001)

*In this Mountain* (2002)

*Shepherds Abiding* (2003)

***The Valley of Light*** (2003)

Kay, Terry

Noah Locke wandered from town to town, fishing, doing occasional work, and reflecting on the horrors he had seen throughout the war. When he arrived in the fictional town of Bowersville, NC (based on the area around Hayesville) he

was taken by the slow small-town pace and friendly residents. Noah begins to date a young widow and enters a local fishing contest.

***Even Now*** (2001)

Kelly, Susan S.

Hanna Marsh is excited to move to fictional Rural Ridge, NC, near Asheville. She is surprised to find Daintry, a close friend from childhood is also living in the area. Hannah and Daintry had a complicated relationship growing up and these complications only continue in adulthood series.

***Last One Down*** (2004)

Lavene, Joyce and Jim

Sharyn Howard is the sheriff in fictional Diamond Springs, NC, a picturesque town in the Uwharrie Mountains. She is on the case of a local murder that bears an eerie resemblance to, and proves to be connected to, a long unsolved crime.

***Ghost Rider*** (2003)

McCrumb, Sharyn

Set primarily in the North Carolina mountains, *Ghost Riders* tells three distinct stories. The interwoven tales involve Rattler, a current-day recluse and eccentric who socializes with Civil war re-enactors. Mixing past and present, McCrumb examines the Civil War and its legacy in the mountains of North Carolina.

***The Song Catcher*** (2001)

McCrumb, Sharyn

Lark McCoury, a popular country singer in Tennessee, is searching for a traditional song to record for her new album. Her search for the origins of the ballad is interwoven with scenes from the past, as the song passes from one generation to the next before finally reaching her.

***Covington novels***

Medicott, Joan A.

Grace Singleton, Hannah Parrish and Amelia Declose, described as women "of a certain age," were finding life a little listless in the Pennsylvania boarding house where they lived. When one of them inherited a run-down farmhouse in Covington, NC, the three women jumped at the chance for change and adventure.

*The Ladies of Covington Send Their Love* (2000)

*The Gardens of Covington* (2001)

*From the Heart of Covington (2002)*  
*The Spirit of Covington (2003)*  
*At Home in Covington (2004)*

***Gap Creek*** (2000)

Morgan, Robert

*Gap Creek* follows a newlywed couple in Appalachian North and South Carolina in the early 1900's.

***This Rock*** (2002)

Morgan, Robert

Set in the mountains in the 1920's, this book continues to explore the themes and setting used in *Gap Creek*. The story follows the young brothers Muir and Moody Powell as one is committed to becoming a preacher and the other to running moonshine and gambling.

***The Red Church*** (2002)

Nicholson, Scott

The old red church in Whispering Pines, NC, a fictional town in the Appalachian Mountains, has stood empty for twenty years, said to be haunted by the ghost of the preacher who was hung from its rafters by his own angry congregation. Now that the church has been purchased by a minister whose fiery fundamentalism echoes that of this long-ago predecessor, strange things begin to happen in the town.

***Freedom's Altar*** (1999)

Price, Charles

Judge Curtis of North Carolina begins to rebuild his life after the devastation of the Civil War and finds himself taking on that challenge side-by-side with one of his former slaves.

***Miss Julia novels***

Ross, Ann B.

Miss Julia is a proper Southern lady with an independent streak and does not hesitate to speak her mind. Each book finds Miss Julia in some new adventure.

*Miss Julia Speaks Her Mind (1999)*

*Miss Julia Takes Over (2001)*

*Miss Julia Throws a Wedding (2002)*

*Miss Julia Hits the Road (2003)*

*Miss Julia Meets Her Match (2004)*  
*Miss Julia's School of Beauty (2005)*

***The Past is Never Dead*** (2004)

Schulman, David

Gritz Goldberg is a psychiatrist in his hometown of Asheville, NC, and working the same mental hospital where he once spent time as a child. He becomes involved in an old murder case. As he searches for facts in the case, he learns a great deal about Asheville's Jewish community in the 1930's.

***Professor Simon Shaw Mysteries***

Shaber, Sarah

Simon Shaw is a professor of history at fictional Kenan College in downtown Raleigh. His specialty is historical anthropology so he is often called upon to help with long unsolved crimes in other parts of North Carolina.

*Simon Said (1997)*

*Simon Hunt (2000)*

*The Fugitive King (2002)*

*The Bug Funeral (2004)*

***God's Fool*** (2002)

Slouka, Mark

Chang and Eng Bunker, the famous 19<sup>th</sup> –century conjoined twins from Siam (hence, Siamese twins) are the subject of this novel. They travel all around the world before settling down in to a quiet life in rural NC. The story is told by the point of view of Chang.

***Saving Grace*** (1995)

Smith, Lee

Florida Grace Shepherd had a rough childhood being raised by a snake-handling preacher and abused by her half brother, she escaped by marrying at seventeen. The story follows her into adulthood and the many people who were in her life.

***True Believer*** (2005)

Sparks, Nicholas

Jeremy Marsh comes to town to investigate what looks like ghosts who are haunting a cemetery in Boone Creek, NC.

***Maggie Sweet*** (2004)

Stacy, Judith Minhorn

Maggie Sweet discovers that her husband has spent the family vacation money on cemetery plots and she is not happy. She decides that with her twin daughters nearly grown and her husband on autopilot, she will do something on her own. When an old high-school boyfriend shows up in town, Maggie finds old flames renewed.

***The Piano Teacher*** (2004)

York, Lynn

Miss Wilma, the longtime piano teacher, lives a life of quiet routine until her rebellious daughter, Sarah, shows up. The excitement is just beginning as Sarah's ex-husband and current boyfriend show up.

***Salt*** (2002)

Zuber, Isabel

Set in the fictional mountain town of Faith, NC in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Anna Stockton, an independent young woman, dreams of a better life away from home and her husband.