

LYNNE HANDY

Poet, Novelist, Mystery Series Writer

The eldest child in a farm family, Handy grew up in western Indiana where the tall corn drove her inward to create fantasy worlds. Books were her salvation. She was drawn to poetry in the beginning. Wordsworth and others taught her that metaphor, sound, and cadence made a good poem. From authors like Dickens, she learned that rhythmic sentences advanced plot. Hemingway taught her about verbs. Upon graduating from library school, she worked as a librarian in Illinois, Texas, and Michigan. In retirement, she co-founded Open Sky Poets, a collaboration of poets in Chicago's western suburbs, and published poems and short stories in literary journals. She has independently published four novels—three are mysteries in the Maria Pell series. Current projects involve a new mystery series with main character author Jake Westin, who, like Christie's Miss Marple, somehow lands in the middle of murder investigations. Handy now lives in a blue, yellow, and brown house with a yucca plant out front and two wonderful rescue dogs.



Like Christie's Hercule Poirot, poet Maria Pell happens upon crimes, which she feels compelled to solve due to a strong sense of moral duty. She is psychic, but as a Kirkus reviewer noted, "...spirits guide her, but Maria works her way toward a solution primarily with gumption and intuition."

POSSIBLE INTERVIEW TOPICS

- » How I used a traumatic childhood experience to inspire scenes in my latest novel, "Old Sins."
- » Why I've chosen a different setting for each of my Maria Pell novels, and how setting can become a character.
- » The similarities and differences between creating and publishing books of poetry and writing mysteries.
- » Why mysteries are so appealing to write (and read.)
- » What I wished I could go back and tell my pre-published self about my writing.



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