



REQUIEM for INNOCENCE

by

BV Lawson

When crime consultant Scott Drayco is lured back to the Eastern Shore of Virginia to investigate an attack on a disabled girl, he's thrown into a sea of secrets and lies he must navigate in order to keep the girl safe and stop a murderer from killing again.

About the Author

BV Lawson's stories have won the Dillydoun fiction prize, Short Mystery Fiction Society Derringer Award, *Noir Nation* Golden Fedora, and *Gemini Magazine* Awards. She's also been longlisted for *New Writers Flash*, *Fractured Lit* Elsewhere Prize, Bath Flash Contest, and Fish Publishing Short Story prizes; shortlisted for *Flash 500 Quarterly* and *Anthology Magazine* awards; and a finalist for the *Pulpfictional* Flash Contest, *Hammond Review* International Prize and Tucson Festival of Books Literary Competitions. BV's Scott Drayco novels have been a featured *Library Journal* pick and finalists for Shamus, Silver Falchion, Daphne, and *Foreword Book Reviews* Awards.

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Crime consultant Scott Drayco is in the middle of a thorny case in Washington, D.C. involving murder victims who were all wheelchair-bound. Then, out of the blue, he gets a worried call from a friend on Virginia's Eastern Shore about an attack on an innocent disabled girl.

Working once again with Sheriff Sailor and Deputy Nelia Tyler, Drayco discovers almost everyone believes the girl's attack was an accident. But he begins to suspect otherwise when he crosses paths with a badly disfigured man and the man's enigmatic Goth son, as well as one of the smoothest and most dangerous figures Drayco has encountered in his career.

Meanwhile, his conflicted feelings toward the soon-to-be-divorced town councilman's wife, Darcie Squier, continue to simmer under the surface and threaten to undermine his focus and cloud his judgment. But he's well aware he needs to keep his faculties razor-sharp if he's to solve the riddle of whether the cases in D.C. and the Eastern Shore are linked—or is he dealing with not one monster, but two?

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Praise for the Scott Drayco Series:

"The small town setting is ideal, the lead character engaging, and the supporting cast interesting and diverse. Overall, a solid start to this series." - Omnimystery News

"Lawson uses the gothic features of the abandoned Opera House to great effect, creating an atmospheric background for the crimes and the solving of them, all of it accompanied with music that's almost like another character. The pace never sagged and it kept me enthralled." - Long and Short Reviews

"Lawson's book was so good, I read it twice from beginning to end." - Reader's Favorite Reviews