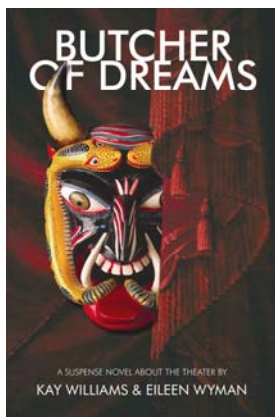


## Looking for a great thriller for your reading group?

***Butcher of Dreams*: "Unforgettable characters . . . first rate suspense . . . a very disturbing read . . ."**

**Lee Fairchild has realized every actor's dream, a theater of her own—in New York City's Hell's Kitchen. The dream is about to turn into a nightmare.**

**Who—or what—lives on the third floor?**



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"This 'who done it' mystery grips the reader from the start with its cast of possible villains, but beyond that, the authors have created a main character, Lee Fairchild, with whom everyone should be able to identify. Even as I worried over her physical safety, I related to the emotional stresses she faced, making her seem 'real' rather than a character in a novel. *Butcher of Dreams* offers insight into the world of theater that I never knew existed. Plus, the novel is simply good reading, one that's hard to put down. Just as the cover grabbed my eyes, the words grabbed my passion for reading. Don't miss this book!" **Leslie Snyder, Retired English Teacher, Faculty Hall of Fame Inductee**

"I had to stop 4 or 5 times, put it aside, and calm down, the tension got so great. I started to look at the end to see how it came out, but I said to myself, 'Get a grip. They are not going to kill her off in the middle of the book.' *Butcher of Dreams* cries out for a sequel. Naturally, I speculate on Lee's future. And of course, I LOVED the theatrical background. I'm recommending it to the libraries in my area. A class act throughout." **Jeannette Glynn, Retired Librarian**

"Williams and Wyman draw the reader in from the first page, and hold them with their vivid descriptions of ritualistic goings-on in this New York theater, even as Lee Fairchild is struggling to keep her dream afloat. This mystery is so character driven that it is easy to suspect any of the theater company...they all have something to hide. But it is Lee's ultimate struggle with loneliness and an overloaded professional struggle that brings the story to its shocking climax. Don't start this wonderful story if you have something else to do, because this fantastic plot will win the fight! A big thumbs up!! –**Shelley Glodowski, Senior Reviewer, Midwest Book Review**

"A daring attempt...[and] here it works. I was caught up in the plot and chilled by how it unfolded. A very disturbing read indeed."

**ArmchairInterviews.com**



**Kay (left) & Eileen, the Hudson River and a section of the gentrified "Hell's Kitchen" in the background.**

**Photo by Catbird Consultations**

*Butcher of Dreams* is based on the authors' experience in theater and film. The characters include Lee Fairchild, actress and administrator of the 42nd St. Repertory Theater, and her mercurial cast members and stage crew, who become suspects as events begin to spiral out of control: Alan Dunbar, Lee's Artistic Director, has troubling gaps in his resume; Ernst Kromer, her other director, is rigid and uncooperative. Other major characters include: Michael Day, Lee's sexy and mysterious assistant; Barry Blackwell, talented actor, compulsive practical joker; Harry O'Brien, company stage manager, who'd kill for a role; wraithlike Fleur Mahoney, whose first role is a dead girl—and she almost is. Characters from the "real" world include Alan's lover, Walter Kaplan, eccentric psychiatrist and medical anthropologist; Heather, Lee's 18-year-old daughter, who has a surprising secret life; pock-marked, cynical NYPD Detective Mordecai Green, who moonlights as an actor.

**"Thank you for the phone chat. You got our book club off to a great start this year. It was fascinating to hear the fact behind the fiction and we loved *Butcher of Dreams*." –Katelyn McNabb, Mystery Book Club**

**Sample Discussion Questions (please go to [www.CalliopePress.com](http://www.CalliopePress.com) for others):**

1. What characteristics make Lee Fairchild a sympathetic heroine? What life experiences & choices have added to her vulnerability?
2. . Lee faces several conflicts as she strives to create the repertory theater of her dreams. Personally, what is she trying to overcome? What worries does she have about the success of the theater as the season (and the book) begin? As the novel reaches crisis, her personal conflicts within herself and with those around her gradually mount—as well as her professional concerns in her role as executive officer of the theater. What random & disturbing events threaten the success of the theater? Discuss the growing personal conflicts she's experiencing. Do these personal concerns interfere with what she's hoping to accomplish with her repertory theater?
3. Many of the characters in *Butcher of Dreams* are unique. They exhibit personality quirks that may pique suspicion and distrust in the mind of the reader. Consider these characters: Ernst Kromer; Alan Dunbar; Barry Blackwell; Fleur Mahoney; Samantha Read; Michael Day, and Eric. What distinguishes each of these characters? Can you cite specific behaviors or personality quirks that aroused your suspicion or dislike? How do their actions affect Lee?
4. Did you find the setting of *Butcher of Dreams* interesting? Authentic? The mix of New York Off-Broadway theater types with the denizens of Hell's Kitchen created an erratic and threatening mood. What are some of the strange happenings and frightening events that threaten the success of the theater? Who seems most suspicious as the bizarre events and violence start to occur? As these events begin to threaten Lee personally, are your early suspicions confirmed or negated?
5. The suggestion of the occult and belief in the supernatural are intertwined with the action and the characters of the story: Lee's Aztec mask with the curse connected to it, the murders on the third floor, Walter's interest and research about Nagualism, the Cult of the Animal Protector. This focus intensifies as the action evolves. What additional "clues" suggest that an occult presence is involved?
6. Even minor characters add to plot development and increase tension at times. Consider the street bum, Eric, Carl, Harry, Walter. How do these characters complicate, cloud, or enhance the plot?
7. The sociopathic, psychopathic personality plays a role in the novel's action. Several characters display borderline characteristics that might make them a suspect. Who are these characters? What traits did you recognize as dangerous?

**Kay and/or Eileen WILL PARTICIPATE  
IN YOUR BOOK CLUB DISCUSSIONS  
BY PHONE.**

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arrange.**

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**Kay as Cybel in *Great God Brown*, one of the plays in the repertory of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Theater in *BUTCHER OF DREAMS***

**Eileen in one of her many incarnations as she pursued her comedy writing career.**

