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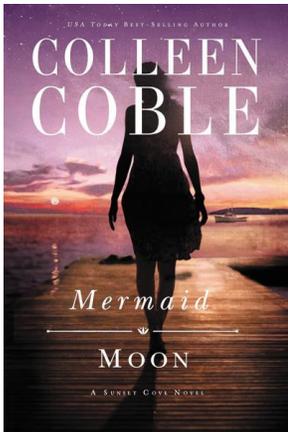


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PRESS RELEASE

Running from your past can be dangerous

Colleen Coble writes mystery with themes of returning home, forgiving and healing broken relationships



Seattle: Shame can cause people to make drastic, sometimes life-altering decisions. When they experience the consequences of failure, whether at their own hands or at the hands of others, their instinct can be to retreat to avoid experiencing hurt again. That knee-jerk reaction can strain relationships and lead to isolation. This is one of the themes award-winning author Colleen Coble chose to examine in the second book in her Sunset Cove series, **Mermaid Moon** (Thomas Nelson/January 12, 2016/ISBN: 978-1401690281/\$15.99).

Remorse and confusion has kept single mom Mallory Davis from her hometown of sleepy Down East, Maine, for the last 15 years. When her father mysteriously dies, though, she's forced to return. Her relationship with her father had been tense since she left, but she was the one he called in his final moments. His last words echo in her heart: "Find . . . mother." Yet her mother has been dead for fifteen years. What could he have possibly meant?

Mallory comes to believe her father was murdered, and her childhood sweetheart, Down East game warden Kevin O'Connor, confirms her suspicions. Mallory trampled Kevin's heart when she left without a word all those years ago, and he is wary of helping Mallory in her search. Everything changes when Mallory begins receiving threats on her life and the life of her teenage daughter, Haylie. As their search intensifies, they find a tangled web of mystery and deceit whose sticky threads reach deep into Mallory's past. As answers begin to fall into place, Mallory realizes her search is about much more than finding her father's killer; it's about the hope of finding herself again — and maybe even another chance at love. She just has to stay alive long enough to put the pieces together.

The twists and turns of *Mermaid Moon* will keep readers engaged in its fast-paced story, but beyond entertainment, Coble hopes all will walk away knowing where to turn when they're ready to find healing and freedom from regret. "Personal shame strikes at our core because we feel we can never make up for that failure. We fear the relationship can never be mended," Coble explains. "God doesn't want us to carry around that burden of guilt. We can be free of it if we realize He forgave it along ago. We're the ones still lugging it around."

Coble is currently working on the third installment in the Sunset Cove series, *Twilight at Blueberry Barrens*. Coble says readers will definitely pick up on a specific theme as they read each book. "I wanted these books to examine the various ways we all come to family," she reveals. "Some are born into a family, some are adopted, and some create their own family with friends."

For more information about Colleen Coble, visit www.colleencoble.com, become a fan on [Facebook](#) ([colleencoblebooks](#)) or follow her on [Twitter](#) ([@colleencoble](#)).

Praise for Colleen Coble

"Second chances, old flames and startling new revelations combine to form a story filled with faith, trial, forgiveness and redemption. Crack the cover and step in, but beware — *Mermaid Moon* is harboring secrets that will keep you guessing."

~ Lisa Wingate, bestselling author of *The Sea Keeper's Daughters* on *Mermaid Moon*

"Coble truly shines when she's penning a mystery, and this tale will really keep the reader guessing. . . . Mystery lovers will definitely want to put this book on their purchase list."

~ *Romantic Times* Book Reviews on *The Inn at Ocean's Edge*



About the Author

Best-selling author Colleen Coble's novels have won or finished in awards ranging from the Best Books of Indiana, the ACFW Carol Award, the Romance Writers of America RITA, the Holt Medallion, the Daphne du Maurier, National Readers' Choice and the Booksellers Best.

She has more than three million books in print and writes romantic mysteries because she loves to see justice prevail. Coble is CEO of American Christian Fiction Writers. She lives with her husband, Dave, in Indiana.

To keep up with Colleen Coble, visit www.colleencoble.com, become a fan on [Facebook \(colleencoblebooks\)](https://www.facebook.com/colleencoblebooks) or follow her on [Twitter \(@colleencoble\)](https://twitter.com/colleencoble).

Suggested interview questions

- *Mermaid Moon* is the second book in the Sunset Cove series. How is the series tied together? Is there a specific theme that runs throughout?
- Did something personal inspire the storyline of *Mermaid Moon*?
- What do you love so much about Down East, Maine, where *Mermaid Moon* is based? Why is going there a little bit like stepping back in time?
- Despite its sleepy setting, *Mermaid Moon's* plot is packed with action and intrigue. Why did you choose to juxtapose those two characteristics?
- What are some of the challenges involved with writing a mystery?
- Your main character, Mallory, left behind her small hometown and a string of strained relationships after her mother died. Why does our struggle with personal shame have such a strong impact on our relationships?
- Family relationships can be the trickiest relationships of all. Why do you think that is?
- Why do you think women, particularly single mothers, will find a kinship with Mallory?
- What is so bad about being a perfectionist? Isn't striving for your best a good thing?
- When Mallory finds herself in distress more than a decade after leaving home, her first instinct is to reach out to her first love. Why does our first love often have such a lasting impact on our hearts?
- When is it appropriate to give others who have hurt us a second chance, and when should we leave them in the past?
- The death of a loved one often leaves us thinking about how to live without regrets. In what ways can we take that sentiment too far?
- Without giving away too much, at one point in *Mermaid Moon*, Mallory cuts her hair off, even though she'd been growing it out for 20 years. What was the symbolism in that act? Have you ever done anything similar to mark a big decision?
- What is the main impression you want to make on readers of *Mermaid Moon*?
- What do you have planned next for the Sunset Cove series?

Colleen Coble is available for interviews to promote the release of *Mermaid Moon*. To request a review copy, to schedule an interview or for more information, please contact Audra Jennings, audra@liffusegroup.com.

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