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**a.k.a.**

**Murder**

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**A Jake Ward Mystery/Thriller**

**By Gene Cryer**

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a.k.a. Murder (Jake Ward Mysteries)

Also by Gene Cryer:

*Follow the Dollar*

*Just a Slow News Day*

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## CHAPTER ONE

FLASHING RED, blue and amber lights created a visual siren's song. The irresistible flickering tugged at a.k.a. Murder (Jake Ward Mysteries) Jake Ward as he drove into the landscaped parking area of the high-rise condominium he a.k.a. Murder (Jake Ward Mysteries) called a.k.a. Murder (Jake Ward Mysteries) home.

He nosed abruptly into an available spot, unfolded himself from the Austin Healy 3000 and surrendered to the lights a hundred feet away on the river bank. His passenger, a woman in a a.k.a. Murder (Jake Ward Mysteries) fur jacket, climbed more gracefully than should have been possible from the low bucket seat and trotted towards the portico protecting the front a.k.a. Murder (Jake Ward Mysteries) entrance. Jake tossed her the keys to his apartment. The feeble heater in the sports car was overmatched against the muscular winds of early March.

It had been several years since the flashing Technicolor and muted activity of a midnight tragedy had lured him. City editors eschewed such activities. They assigned reporters and photographers as their surrogates.

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But this one was, literally, in his backyard. Jake noticed a missing section of railing on the north side--his side--of the Highland a.k.a. Murder (Jake Ward Mysteries) Street Bridge. Beneath it, the black

waters of the Sinnissippi River slid quietly past, rushing to reach that point a hundred miles or so to the southwest where they would join those of the Mississippi in a mutual search for the warmth of the Gulf of Mexico.

The revolving amber globe atop a tow truck backed up to the river bank added to the light show from a.k.a. Murder (Jake Ward Mysteries) the emergency vehicles. A steel cable from the wrecker's boom snaked across the river bank and disappeared into the surging water. The truck driver stood near the levers which controlled the boom, smoking and chatting with a uniformed sergeant.

Jake recognized the officer as Del Anderson. "Hi, Del. What's happening?"

Anderson turned from the driver, identified Jake as someone who could be permitted to stay and nodded. "We got a car in the water. Crashed through the railing."

"How did that a.k.a. Murder (Jake Ward Mysteries) happen?" a.k.a. Murder (Jake Ward Mysteries) Jake hunched his shoulders inside his trench coat in a futile attempt to resist the chill.

"Beats me. One of my squads found the a.k.a. Murder (Jake Ward Mysteries) busted railing and called me. I called for some fire department divers to check it. They found a car down there."

"Nobody saw it happen?"

Anderson shrugged. "Not as far as I know."

"Anybody inside?"

Another shrug. "Divers located the car by touch. They can't see anything in that mess, even with underwater lights. They're trying to attach the a.k.a. Murder (Jake Ward Mysteries) tow cable now."

Jake thanked the sergeant and edged nearer the water. He stopped when the tow truck driver called, "That your Healy?"

Jake nodded. "Yep."

"Great cars, but I thought they stopped making them in the late 60s." The driver looked comfortable in a greasy snowmobile coverall. Jake envied him.

"They did. That's a '68, the last one a.k.a. Murder (Jake Ward Mysteries) made. It's

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more than forty years old."

"Looks new. How do you manage that? All that road salt and crap?"

Jake smiled. "I only drive it in good weather. It stays in the garage the rest of the time. This is first time I've had it out since last fall. Most of the time I drive a pickup."

The driver nodded. "Makes sense. I'd do the same thing."

Jake waved and moved closer to the water. Spotlights from the a.k.a. Murder (Jake Ward Mysteries) emergency vehicles created a blue-white circle on the swirling blackness of the stream. The only evidence of underwater activity were twin a.k.a. Murder (Jake Ward Mysteries) geysers of bubbles from the divers.

Jake searched for his cell phone before remembering he'd left it in his office. He debated whether to go to his penthouse apartment atop the fifteen-story building and call the city desk. He knew they were monitoring the call but were waiting to see if the incident deserved a response. He checked his watch. The first edition was closed, and the desk probably was close to finishing. In a few minutes, they would be struggling with the final a.k.a. Murder (Jake Ward Mysteries) edition, the a.k.a. Murder (Jake Ward Mysteries) home edition, the largest edition. With only two reporters and one photographer still available, no one would be particularly interested in an accident where very little was happening.

## **A K A Murder Jake Ward Mysteries**

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