

SHE'S GOT HIS BACK.

Hannah Brooks looks more like a kindergarten teacher than somebody who could kill you with a corkscrew. Or a ballpoint pen. Or a dinner napkin. But the truth is, she's an Executive Protection Agent (aka "bodyguard"), and she just got hired to protect superstar actor Jack Stapleton from his middle-aged, corgi-breeding stalker.

HE'S GOT HER HEART.

Jack Stapleton's a household name—he's captured by paparazzi on beaches the world over and famous for, among other things, rising out of the waves in all manner of clingy board shorts and glistening like a Roman deity. But a few years back, in the wake of a family tragedy, he dropped from the public eye and went off the grid.

THEY'VE GOT A SECRET.

When Jack's mom gets sick, he goes home to the family's Texas ranch to help out. Only one catch: He doesn't want his family to know about his stalker. Or the bodyguard thing. And so Hannah—against her will and better judgment—finds herself pretending to be Jack's girlfriend as a cover. Even though her ex says no one will believe it.

WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG?

Hannah hardly believes it herself, but the more time she spends with Jack, the more real it all starts to seem. And therein lies the heartbreak. Because it's easy for Hannah to protect Jack. But protecting her own long-neglected heart? That's the hardest thing she's ever done.

KATHERINE CENTER is the *New York Times* bestselling author of laugh-and-cry novels about love and family, including *How to Walk Away*, *Things You Save in a Fire*, and *Happiness for Beginners*. The movie adaptation of her novel *The Lost Husband* hit #1 on Netflix, and her books have made many best-of lists. She's been compared to both Jane Austen and Nora Ephron. *The Dallas Morning News* calls her stories "satisfying in the most soul-nourishing way," and *BookPage* calls her "the reigning queen of comfort reads." Katherine lives in Houston with her husband and two kids. Visit her website—and join her mailing list—at katherinecenter.com.

READ BY PATTI MURIN
AUTHOR'S NOTE READ BY THE AUTHOR



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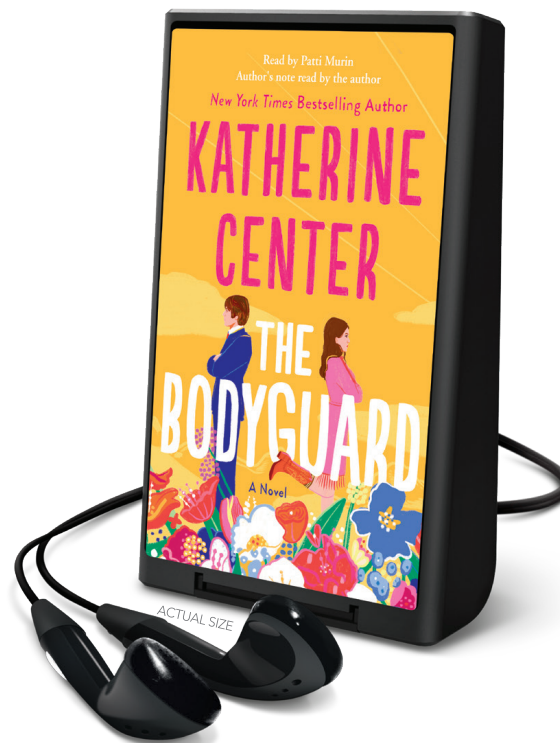
THE BODYGUARD

KATHERINE CENTER



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