

When the magnificent home of entrepreneur Brian Malloy mysteriously goes up in flames, Maine game warden Mike Bowditch tries to pull Malloy's burning body from the fire but is too late. Malloy was suspected of murdering his young, illegitimate son. Now it looks like someone else has delivered a verdict.

Miles away, on a lonely stretch of icy railroad track, the body of Axl Deming, once accused of a brutal rape, is found literally cut in half. Though the two murders seem unrelated, a cryptic text from an unknown number draws Bowditch to the scene—and hints at a chilling connection. He believes someone is orchestrating the executions of criminals who escaped justice, and for reasons he can't explain, his own name is on the list, but the state police aren't convinced. His search for the truth takes him through frozen harbors, trackless forests, and remote islands, far from rescue.

Meanwhile, Bowditch is facing a disciplinary hearing that could end his career. His wife, Stacey, just weeks from giving birth, is being stalked by a stranger in a white van. And when he realizes someone has also been watching their home, the case turns increasingly personal.

To protect his family, Bowditch must work alone to uncover who's behind the killings—and stop them before he becomes their next victim.

PAUL DOIRON, a native of Maine and bestselling author, attended Yale University, where he graduated with a degree in English. *The Poacher's Son*, the first book in the Mike Bowditch Mysteries, won the Barry Award and the Strand Critics Award for Best First Novel, and has been nominated for the Edgar, Anthony, and Macavity Awards in the same category. He is a registered Maine guide specializing in fly-fishing and lives on a trout stream in coastal Maine with his wife, Kristen Lindquist.

READ BY HENRY LEYVA



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