

As fascination turns to obsession, two women drag each other into an academic horror of forgery, murder, and rage.

Archivist Celia Kiel has spent her life on the remote campus of Basin College in the southern Ozarks. Once a jewel of women's higher education in the South, the school now molders on its mountaintop, its endowment thinly supported by the bequeathed estate of nineteenth-century writer Beatrice Donahue. Celia guards the legacy of this venerated yet scandalous author who has been the object of her illicit desire since childhood.

When the administration announces the college's imminent closure, Celia unearths a manuscript pickled in formaldehyde, and with it, a chance to save the only home she's ever known. But Beatrice's infamous lost work, a spellbinding horror written toward her life's tumultuous end, is incomplete. To finish it, Celia will need to forge the perfect ending. She is forced to recruit her professional rival, literature postdoc Joan Harriot, who has both an astounding talent for mimicry and a dark secret of her own. As their world closes in and the ghosts of the Victorian past encroach, their creative collaboration spirals into an obsession more twisted than even their beloved Beatrice could have penned.

QUINN CONNOR is one pen in two hands: Robyn Barrow and Alex Cronin. Both writers from a young age, Robyn and Alex met at Rhodes College in Memphis and together developed their unique cowriting voice. They are also the authors of *Cicadas Sing of Summer Graves* and *The Pecan Children*.

Read by Jess Nahikian and Natalie Naudus



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