

MEDIA AND PRESS KIT

The Good Dead of Partridge

A novel by M.E. Hollis



THE PITCH

Two killers arrive in a small Missouri town and discover every victim returns from the dead, determined to repair the harm they caused while alive.

Author. M.E. Hollis

Genre. Darkly funny supernatural mystery

Setting. Partridge, Missouri

Status. Forthcoming

Publisher. To be announced

Publication date. To be announced

ISBN, price, pages. To be announced

Short Synopsis

Roxanne Mercer keeps a list of people who make the world worse. Her boyfriend, Jerry Voss, keeps following her, even when the list turns deadly. When their car strands them in Partridge, Missouri, Roxanne chooses a cruel landlord as her next target. By morning, he is back, gray skinned, carrying a red toolbox, and repairing every home he neglected. Then a dishonest banker returns and starts canceling foreclosures. As the dead make Partridge kinder, Roxanne and Jerry realize their murders have awakened something beneath the town. The zombies do not want revenge. They want to help, and Roxanne might be the person who needs it most.

POSITIONING

For readers who like morally complicated protagonists, small town secrets, supernatural rules, dry humor, and redemption stories with teeth.

STORY INFORMATION

Synopsis and Themes

Spoiler light copy suitable for pitches and coverage

Extended Synopsis

Roxanne Mercer believes some people make the world worse, and she keeps their names in a black notebook. Jerry Voss, her charming and increasingly uneasy boyfriend, drives the faded green Buick that carries them from one grim correction to the next. When the Buick overheats outside Partridge, Missouri, Roxanne notices Earl Pickett, an abusive landlord willing to leave a mother and child in a freezing house. Earl becomes the first name on her Partridge list. He also becomes the first man they kill who refuses to remain dead.

Earl returns from the quarry with gray skin, a red toolbox, and an overwhelming need to repair every unsafe home he ignored. A predatory banker soon follows him back from death and starts canceling foreclosures. Their acts of service make them stronger, while selfish choices weaken them. Sheriff Nadine Bell knows Roxanne and Jerry are responsible, but her case becomes difficult when the victims walk into town and find themselves unable to identify their killers.

As Partridge turns its impossible dead into a tourist attraction, an old humming rises beneath the limestone quarry. The returned are drawn toward unfinished promises, buried guilt, and a secret the town has protected for more than a century. Roxanne expected punishment. Instead, she has created a compulsory redemption program, and its newest volunteers are following her.

Primary Themes

- Punishment compared with repair.
- The difference between remorse and absolution.
- Love, complicity, and the cost of following.
- Small town loyalty, public image, and buried harm.
- Who receives a second chance, and who decides.

Audience

Adult readers of supernatural mysteries, dark comedy, offbeat horror, small town fiction, community centered mysteries, and speculative stories about moral responsibility.

AUTHOR INFORMATION

M.E. Hollis

Biography copy and portrait usage



M.E. Hollis writes darkly comic mysteries about small towns, bad choices, and the stubborn possibility of redemption. She grew up in the Missouri Ozarks, where family stories often arrived in three conflicting versions and at least one person warned her not to repeat them. Before turning to fiction, Hollis worked in community newspapers and nonprofit communications. Both taught her how quickly a town's public story can separate from its private truth. She now lives outside St. Louis with a senior rescue dog, a collection of diner mugs, and enough notebooks to make any investigator nervous. *The Good Dead of Partridge* is her debut novel.

Short Bio

M.E. Hollis writes darkly comic mysteries about small towns, bad choices, and redemption. She lives outside St. Louis with a senior rescue dog and a suspicious number of notebooks. *The Good Dead of Partridge* is her debut novel.

IMAGE CREDIT

Author portrait courtesy of M.E. Hollis. High resolution JPG and PNG files are included in this kit.

COVERAGE IDEAS

Angles for Journalists, Bloggers, and Podcasters

Ready-made starting points for features and interviews

What if redemption were mandatory

How a supernatural rule turns repair into the story's central source of conflict.

Writing killers readers keep following

Building tension around Roxanne's certainty and Jerry's complicity without excusing either one.

The small town as moral pressure cooker

Why Partridge needs a diner, a sheriff, old secrets, and residents who remember everything.

Making zombies useful instead of hungry

Reversing familiar zombie expectations while preserving danger, mystery, and physical rules.

Humor beside harm

Using dry comedy to deepen character and discomfort without treating suffering as a punch line.

Repair is not forgiveness

Why service changes the returned but does not erase what they did while alive.

Suggested Interview Questions

- Which arrived first, Roxanne's list, Earl's red toolbox, or the rule that the dead must repair their harm?
- How did you decide what the zombies remember and what they lose?
- What makes Jerry responsible even when Roxanne makes the final decision?
- Why did Partridge need to be funny as well as frightening?
- Which character surprised you most during the writing process?
- What do you hope readers argue about after finishing the novel?

READY TO QUOTE

Promotional Copy

These lines are publisher supplied copy, not review endorsements

“Nobody stays dead, and somehow that is the least complicated part.”

“The dead do not want revenge. They want to help.”

“Welcome to Partridge, where redemption is mandatory and coffee is still optional.”

“Their murders are improving the community.”

“A darkly funny mystery about guilt, repair, and the people who refuse to remain who they were.”

“Some towns bury their secrets. Partridge puts them to work.”

Twenty Five Word Description

Two killers awaken a town's helpful dead and learn every murder now creates another witness, volunteer, and reason they might never escape Partridge.

Fifty Word Description

Roxanne and Jerry kill people they believe make the world worse. In Partridge, Missouri, every victim returns kinder, stronger, and determined to repair the harm they caused. Their murders begin improving the town, exposing old secrets, and attracting the attention of dead people who insist Roxanne needs help too.

Social Copy

Nobody stays dead in Partridge. The victims return with gray skin, unfinished business, and an urgent need to make things right. The Good Dead of Partridge is a darkly funny supernatural mystery about guilt, community, and redemption with a red toolbox.

PRESS USE

Assets and Contact

Everything included in the downloadable package

Asset	Included File
Cover	High resolution JPG and PNG, 1800 by 2700 pixels, 300 DPI.
Author portrait	High resolution JPG and PNG, 2400 by 3000 pixels, 300 DPI.
Author biography	Short, medium, long, and one line versions.
Sample chapters	Chapters 1 through 3 in DOCX and PDF formats.
Book club kit	Discussion questions, activities, host guide, and group order invitation copy.
Quote ready blurbs	Pull quotes and descriptions supplied as text and DOCX.

Complete Before Public Release

- Publication date, publisher, ISBN, format, page count, and retail price.
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