

THORN CITY

PAMELA STATZ

SALES HOOK

Suspected murder, eclectic food trucks, and artisanal cocaine: just another day in Thorn City

BOOK DESCRIPTION

It's the night of the Rose City Ripe for Disruption gala—a gathering of Portland's elite. Dressed to kill in sparkling minidresses, best friends Lisa and Jamie attend as “paid to party” girls. They plan an evening of fake flirtations, karaoke playlists, and of course, grazing the catering.

Past and present collide when Lisa stumbles across Ellen, a ruthless politician who also happens to be Lisa's estranged mother. Awkward... When Lisa was sixteen, Ellen had her kidnapped and taken to the Lost Lake Academy—a notorious boarding school for troubled youth.

To make matters worse, Lisa's boyfriend Patrick crashes the party to meet his new boss—Portland's food cart drug kingpin.

These unfortunate encounters spur Lisa into making a fateful choice that traps her, Jamie, and Patrick in Ellen's web.

As earth-shattering secrets are revealed, will they survive Ellen's schemes or be sacrificed to her blind ambition?

KEY SELLING POINTS

- **Blend of drama and humor.** *Thorn City* covers serious topics like drugs, crime, childhood trauma, and fraught family relationships in an entertaining but thoughtful way.
- **A fast-paced, compelling mystery.** Readers will be hooked by the questions surrounding Lost Lake Academy and each character's past. The continuous twists and turns in the story will surprise readers and keep them engaged.
- **Strong female friendship** between Lisa and Jamie. They are strong female characters with dimension, goals, and challenges to overcome together.
- **Vivid characterization.** Despite having multiple characters to juggle, Statz does an excellent job developing each character into genuinely relatable people you want to root for, or who you enjoy hating.
- **Unpacks social issues.** Crime, drugs, gentrification, environmental awareness, oppressive schooling, and corruption are all relevant issues that this book covers and brings awareness to.
- **Highlights Portland landmarks.** Readers will enjoy recognizing the well-loved Portland locations featured in the story as the characters fumble around the city.

THORN CITY

A NOVEL



PAMELA STATZ

FORMAT

Trade Paperback

TRIM SIZE

5.5" x 8.5"

PAGE COUNT

384 pages

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\$18.00

EDITION

First

BISAC CATEGORIES

FIC030000 Fiction / Thrillers / Suspense

FIC060000 Fiction / Humorous / Black Humor

FIC069000 Fiction / City Life

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PRESS



AUDIENCE

- **The primary audience** includes politically left-leaning women between the ages of twenty-five and thirty who enjoy city living, nightlife, and working to live rather than living to work. They likely live in the metropolitan areas and are drawn to fiction thrillers because they are fast-paced and engaging.
- **The secondary audience** includes adults between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five who read general literary fiction and mysteries. They are drawn to the social issues discussed in *Thorn City* and enjoy books with engaging, tangled, and complex plots and characters.

COMPARATIVE TITLES

- *Are You Sara?*, S. C. Lalli, 9780063226272, William Morrow & Company, 08/09/22, \$16.99, 3,445 RTD
- *Like Me*, Hayley Phelan, 9781542037785, Lake Union Publishing, 03/01/22, \$14.95, 289 RTD
- *Someone Else's Secret: A Novel*, Julia Spiro, 9781542022361, Lake Union Publishing, 07/01/20, \$14.95, 1,594 RTD
- *These Women*, Ivy Pochoda, 9780062656391, Ecco Press, 04/13/21, \$16.99, 4,472 RTD
- *The Girls Weekend*, Jody Gehrman, 9781643859576, Crooked Lane Books, 02/08/22, \$18.99, 3,763 RTD

MARKETING AND PUBLICITY HIGHLIGHTS

- Create a social media challenge/trend on November 19, "Have a Bad Day Day," that highlights Lisa's ill-fated adventure.
- Celebrate National Tattoo Day on July 17 with temporary "Lisa Forever" and/or "USA Forever" tattoos.
- Highlight the story's setting by collaborating with Screen Door, Jake's Famous Crawfish, and other local businesses mentioned in the manuscript.
- Table at local events such as the Portland Night Market or collaborate with local food carts to highlight the prominent role of food carts in the novel.
- Tie Mental Health Awareness Month (May) into the social media launch campaign.
- Pursue author interviews and book discussions with radio outlets and podcasts such as OPB, Portland Radio Project, and others chosen for their work helping individuals and families work through trauma, grief, substance abuse, and mental-health issues.
- Target reviews from major media outlets such as *Publishers Weekly*, *Shelf Awareness*, *Booklist*, *Library Journal*, Kirkus Reviews, BuzzFeed, HuffPost, book review magazines, local newspapers in the Pacific Northwest, and others chosen for their relevance dealing with themes relating to debut thrillers.

AUTHOR BIO

Pamela Statz grew up on a dairy farm in Wisconsin, the twelfth of thirteen children. She attended UW Madison earning degrees in Journalism and History. With four duffel bags and her goldfish Lucrezia swimming in a mason jar, Pamela flew to the West Coast at the cusp of the dot-com boom and never left. She's worked in media and advertising in San Francisco and Portland for Lucasfilm, *WIRED*, Nike, and Wieden+Kennedy. She currently splits her time between Portland and Manzanita, Oregon with her husband Justin Graham and their giant dog Hooper. *Thorn City* is her first novel. Connect with her at pamelastatz.com.

ABOUT OOLIGAN PRESS

Ooligan Press is a general trade publisher rooted in the literary tradition of the Pacific Northwest. A region widely recognized for its unique and innovative sensibilities, this small corner of America is one of the most diverse in the United States, comprising urban centers, small towns, and wilderness areas. Its residents range from ranchers, loggers, and small business owners to scientists, inventors, and corporate executives. From this wealth of culture, Ooligan Press aspires to discover works that reflect the values and attitudes that inspire so many to call the Northwest their home.

Founded in 2001, Ooligan is a teaching press dedicated to the art and craft of publishing. Affiliated with Portland State University, the press is staffed by students pursuing master's degrees in an apprenticeship program under the guidance of a core faculty of publishing professionals.