

Buried Road

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By: Katie Tallo

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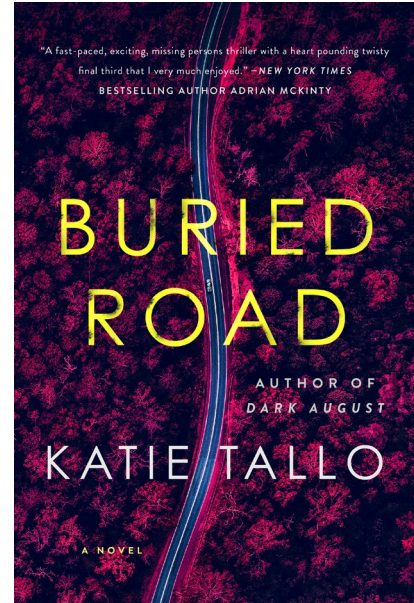
Introduction

In this edge-of-your-seat thriller—the follow-up to the international bestselling *Dark August* and *Poison Lilies*—Gus Monet and her daughter embark on a perilous road trip to find a missing person.

When the love of her life disappeared on a camping trip, Gus Monet was devastated. Her daughter was only nine at the time, but young Bly still remembers the heartbreak vividly. Howard had been like a father to her. He was a journalist working on a story that took a dark and dangerous turn. The last time they saw him, he was going to meet a source he believed could blow the story wide open.

Three years later, shocked to see Howard's obituary in the paper, Gus and Bly are drawn back to Prince Edward County where he was last seen and where the camper Howard was driving has been found. Sneaking into the camper, mother and daughter find what investigators missed. Hidden behind a secret panel are Howard's notebook, cell phone, and a video message recorded right before he vanished, evidence that turns the cold case red hot. Searching for answers, Gus and Bly vow to follow the story Howard was pursuing and to expose whoever went to deadly lengths to stop him from revealing the truth.

Told in the compelling, thoughtful voice of young Bly, this edge-of-your-seat thriller ratchets up the tension, culminating in a heart-pounding, soul crushing, shocking finale. Infused with vivid summer imagery, set among eerie abandoned places, and steeped with sinister small-town secrets, *Buried Road* is the story of a young girl and a mother whose reckless resolve leads them ever closer to lethal danger—but ultimately might be what ensures their survival.



Questions for Discussion

1. How did you feel about the story being narrated by a young girl? If you've read the first two books in the trilogy, you'll know this is quite a dramatic shift in perspective?
2. *Buried Road* is part of a trilogy including *Dark August* (book one) and *Poison Lilies* (book two). Do you like to read series in order, even if each can be read as a standalone novel?
3. Gus is flawed and complicated. Do you feel her actions are justified or at least understandable?
4. Did you like the mother-daughter dynamic?

5. In what ways does young Bly evolve over the course of the novel?
6. Did you enjoy how the chapters were named for objects or places? Was this an effective way to frame the story and/or further the plot?
7. Gus and Bly meet a lot of people along the way, some who help, some who hinder their progress. Who did you like most and least?
8. What did you think of Patience Perley, the other flawed mother character in the novel?
9. Did the flashbacks of Howard help shape your understanding of his relationships with Bly and Gus? Did they deepen the emotional landscape of the novel for you?
10. The author was a screenwriter. Does this come across in the imagery of the novel?
11. Do you think the novel would be suitable for young adult readers?
12. There are many unusual settings in the novel—the abandoned mansion, the oil drum house, the enchanted treehouse. Did these settings add a layer of magic or eeriness?