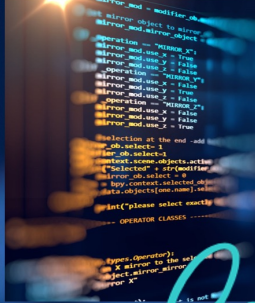


**BOOK CLUB
RESOURCE GUIDE**

**PSYCHOLOGICAL
THRILLER**



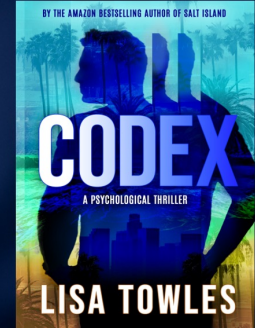
a psychological thriller

Codex

by Lisa Towles



"Absolutely compelling" – Midwest Book Review



Thank you for considering **CODEX** for your next Book Club read!

Synopsis

A whistleblower, a fatal car crash, and a ghastly coverup. Risk is nothing... when you have nothing left to lose.

FBI Agent Angus Mariner is off-grid after a tragic car accident kills his beloved wife. Out of nowhere, he's approached by an eccentric old man, a billionaire, who gives him a \$3M gift - and is discovered dead the next day. Mariner becomes a person of interest and later a suspect in the old man's death, as well as the death of a vagrant found on the beach a half mile from his residence. While investigating the dizzying turn of events, he is contacted by a journalist, who shares details of secret work his wife had been doing just before the fatal accident that killed her. Digging into what feels like unlikely allegations brings him to two unthinkable truths: his wife was a whistleblower about to expose a ring of corruption linked to the eccentric old man, and the fatal car crash that killed her was no accident. Out on a limb with no one left to trust, he must decide if he alone can expose the organization's terrifying agenda - and bring meaning to his wife's untimely death. Fans of Robert Ludlum's Jason Bourne series will love Lisa Towles' new fast-paced psychological thriller.

Editorial Reviews

"Absolutely compelling in how it breaks all the rules of predictability, then puts them back together in unexpected ways. Action-packed and thought provoking" - *Midwest Book Review*

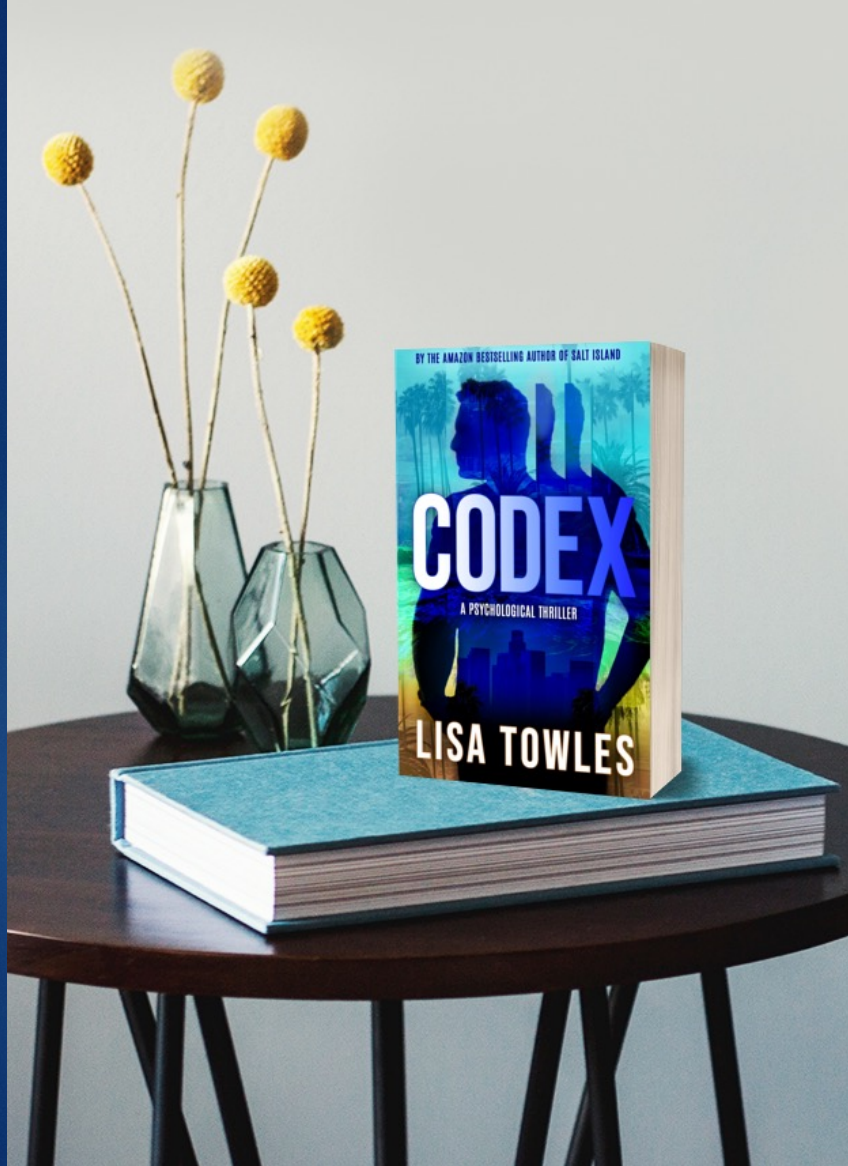
"A gripping murder mystery that keeps readers on the edge of their seats" - *RECOMMENDED, The US Review of Books*

"A genuine page turner. Fast-paced and ingenious." - *The Prairies Book Review*

"Comparable to works like *Gone Girl* and *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, this novel stands out with its unique blend of psychological depth and thrilling suspense" - *The Book Commentary*

"A finely crafted story that skillfully blends espionage elements with deep emotional undercurrents" - *Literary Titan*

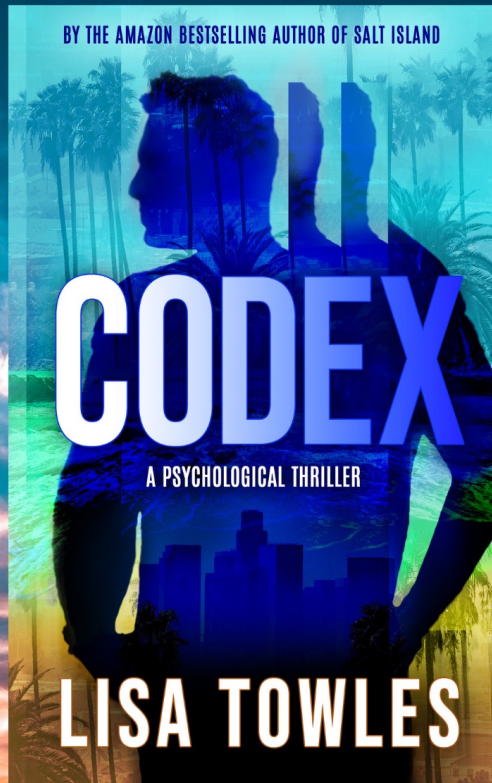
Discussion Questions



1. What did you think of the settings of this book? (California, Texas) Do you feel the author did enough research to provide regional flavor?
2. How do you think the author did handling the challenging topics of addiction and mental health in this book?
3. Who was your favorite minor character in Codex, and why?
4. Which character did you identify with the most in this book?
5. What did you think about the ending of this book? Do you think it lends itself to a sequel?
6. What feedback would you give the author about a sequel to Codex?
7. How would you describe the author's writing style? How important is this to your overall experience of reading a thriller?
8. Which character or characters were most memorable to you as a reader and why?

**"FAST-PACED AND
INGENIOUS"**

- The Prairies Book Review



June, 2024

Book Trivia Questions

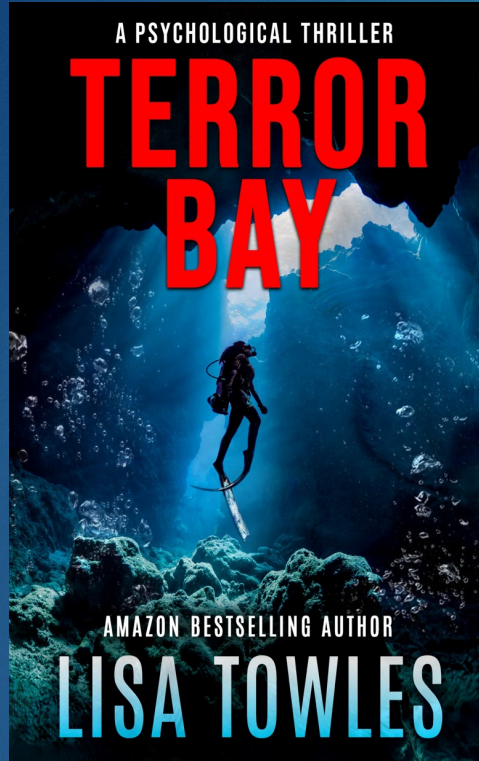
1. What brand of motorcycle does Angus ride?
2. What was the profession of Angus' wife, Jessica?
3. Where is Angus' sister Elaine from?
4. What was Angus' occupation before his accident?
5. What is the name of the diner in Half Moon Bay?
6. Which small town in Texas was the venue for a series of crimes?
7. Why was this town considered a strategic location?
8. Which board game is referenced several times in this book?
9. How does Angus' conception of the word family change in this book?
10. Why is a living room chair significant to the story's plot?

About the Author

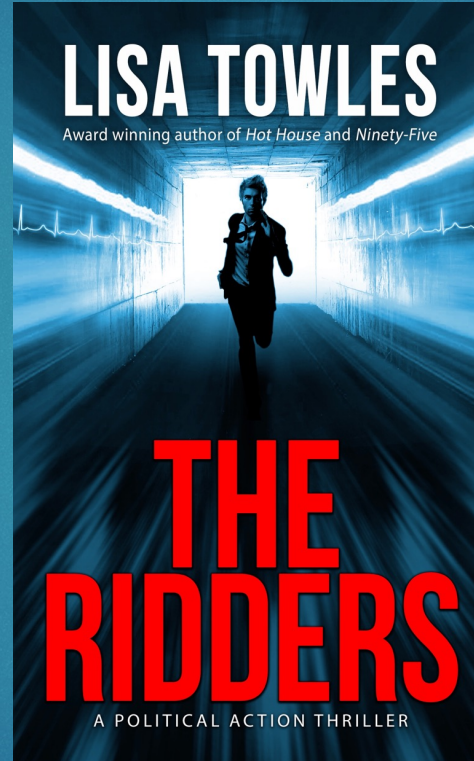


Lisa Towles is an Amazon bestselling and award-winning crime novelist and a passionate speaker on the topics of fiction writing, creativity, and self care. She has twelve crime thrillers in print with a new thriller, *Specimen*, forthcoming in November of 2024. Her 2023 thriller, *Terror Bay*, won a NYC Big Book Award, Literary Titan Award, and is a Crimson Quill Awardee from Book Viral. Her 2022 thriller *Salt Island* won five literary awards and is the second book in her E&A Investigations Series. Lisa's deep commitment to helping other authors led her to develop her [Author Spotlight blog](#) and her new YouTube author interview series, [Story Impact](#), which gives authors a powerful medium for promoting themselves as speakers and discussing the meaning and impact of their books to readers. Lisa has an MBA in IT Management, is a communications and marketing advisor, and is a member of Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, and International Thriller Writers.

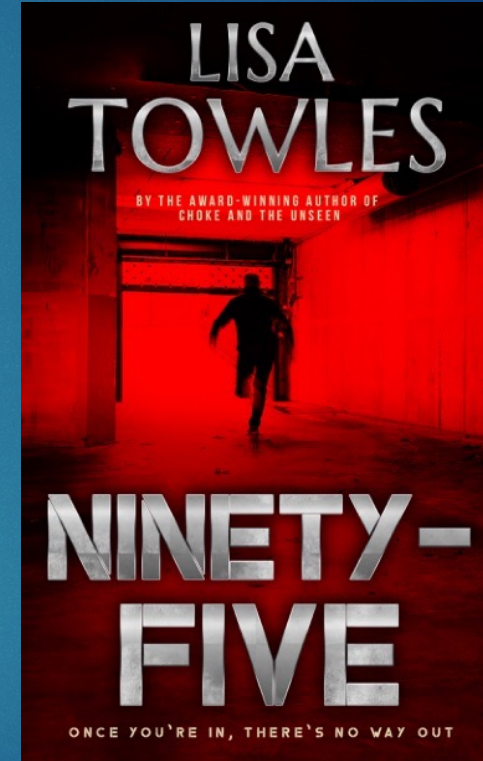
Other Standalone Thrillers



Psychological Thriller
2023



Political Thriller
2022



Technological Thriller
2021

Exclusive Behind-the-Scenes Details

Celebrity Tie-Ins for Codex

When I'm developing a new story, I often map my main characters to celebrities I've seen on TV and in films. This helps me leverage what I know about their personality nuances to craft realistic dialogue based on how they talk and behave. The following celebrities inspired the characters in this book.

Angus Mariner
Main character



Alex O'Loughlin

Jessica Mariner
His wife



Rachelle LeFevre

Rudy Richards
His best friend



Chi McBride

Elaine
His sister



Cate Blanchett

Michael Wise
Investigator



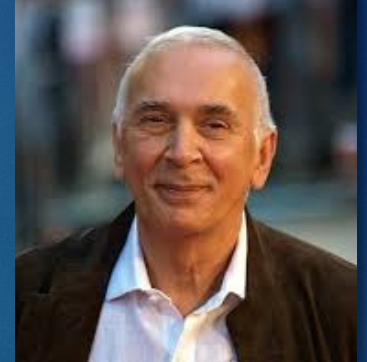
John Boyega

Walt Dekker
Police Detective



Timothy Hutton

Sylvan Mendoza
Antagonist



Frank Langella

Story Themes

- ❖ Trauma/Addiction/Loss: Angus's alcohol and tobacco addictions, and multiple losses
- ❖ Secrets and Survival: His determination to find the truth at any cost
- ❖ Recovery and Transformation: Angus' trials and tribulations reshape his conception of himself

**Trauma
Addiction
and Loss**

**Secrets
and
Survival**

**Recovery
and
Transforma
-tion**

Book Club Details

- ❖ Bulk Discount of 40% off retail cost (of 10+ books) if purchased from the author + free Bay Area delivery
- ❖ Free short story for all new email newsletter sign-ups: <https://tinyurl.com/378tj8rj>
- ❖ Author available via Zoom or in-person (Bay Area) to join book club meeting to answer questions, receive feedback, and swag giveaways

For follow-up questions, please contact Lisa Towles at lisamarietowles@gmail.com or (505) 263-9720.

Thank you for investing your time and energy in my books!

Best wishes,

Lisa Towles

Share

Now that you've read Codex, would you consider taking a moment to leave a short review online to share your feedback with other readers?

- ❖ Leave a review of Codex on Amazon
- ❖ Copy that review and post it on Goodreads
- ❖ And Barnes & Noble
- ❖ Or leave a video-review on Instagram or Tiktok

Thank you!

Connect

Stay in touch with Lisa Towles on social media:

- ❖ Subscribe to Newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/378tj8rj>
- ❖ Website: lisatowles.com
- ❖ Social Media: linktr.ee/authortowles
- ❖ Amazon Author Page: amazon.com/author/lisatowles