

[ART & CULTURE]
BOOKS

RIVER BOUND

KAREN WHITE'S NEW DELTA-DRAWN NARRATIVE IS GOTHIC GOLD.

By Kelly Skinner | Photography by Jamie Hopper

In a particularly prolific year, *The New York Times* best-selling author Karen White is releasing her second page-turner of 2014 with *A Long Time Gone* on June 3 (\$26, NAL Hardcover). *Return to Tradd Street* came out in January, and the anthology *Grand Central* is out next month. Here, the Alpharetta-based wordsmith dishes on inspiration, the South and getting her stories on the small screen.

What was the inspiration for *A Long Time Gone*?

I love multigenerational books, and I especially love books that explore the mother-daughter relationship.



I'm also a huge history buff, so I wanted to explore the great Mississippi River flood of 1927.

Do you have a personal connection to the Mississippi Delta?

My mother was born and raised in the Delta, and I spent summers as a child at my grandmother's house in Indianola, Miss. The Delta is called the 'most Southern place on Earth' and is so special. I can't believe it took me this long to make it the setting for a book!

We're glad you did! You've written 18 books to date.**Where do you typically write?**

I live about 35 miles north of Atlanta in Milton horse country. My favorite writing spot is on my screened porch that overlooks our backyard and the pasture behind it.

When you need to get away, where do you go?

We have a beach house on the Gulf Coast of Florida. I go there as often as I can (only my dog is allowed), and I'm so productive. We've got three porches—all of which I call my 'writing porches,' just in case anybody else has the nerve to try and claim them.

Can fans expect to see your books on the big or small screen?

The TV serial rights have been optioned for the *Tradd Street* series. I won't know if it makes it to the next level until the end of summer, but my fingers are crossed! June 6, book signing, Barnes & Noble, 7131 N. Point Parkway, Alpharetta, karen-white.com



THE WRITE STUFF
OTF author Karen White is publishing three books this year.

BOOK LOOK

Southern-Spun Embrace the lure of the Lowcountry with two Savannah-based novels out this month by Atlanta authors. Beach-read queen **Mary Kay Andrews** frames her latest romantic escape around a wedding gone awry in *Save the Date* (\$27, St. Martin's Press) out June 3. Snag **Patti Callahan Henry's** fast-paced *The Stories We Tell* (\$26, St. Martin's Press) on June 24, for a delicious dose of deception, mystery and suspense. Henry will join fellow Southern writer Mary Alice Monroe for a co-book release and lecture at Margaret Mitchell House on June 25.

