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COMING LATE OCTOBER 2019

Karen White's First Holiday Novel,
THE CHRISTMAS SPIRITS ON TRADD STREET

"Karen White is a queen of atmospheric Southern fiction, and nowhere is that more apparent than in her Tradd Street series." —Bustle

Dear Colleague,

A long-anticipated gift to her fans, this holiday season Karen White will release her first ever Christmas novel: the newest installment in her beloved Charleston-set Tradd Street series, **THE CHRISTMAS SPIRITS ON TRADD STREET** (Berkley Hardcover; October 22, 2019).

Two years after *The Guests on South Battery* became a *New York Times* hardcover bestseller, the quirky, doughnut-loving, schedule-obsessed heroine Melanie Trenholm returns. Finally married to true-crime bestselling author Jack Trenholm, they are living in Melanie's historic home with their 18-month old twins and Jack's fifteen-year-old daughter. But domestic bliss can't last for long. A new passel of spirits have also taken up residence at Fifty-Five Tradd, and they need Melanie's help to right old wrongs and solve a mystery.

Masterfully blending women's fiction, romance, mystery, and historical fiction, **THE CHRISTMAS SPIRITS ON TRADD STREET** finds Melanie once again forced to confront the hidden secrets of her city and its residents who came before. And it's also the first installment in the series centered around Charleston during the American Revolution.

White, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was inspired to explore this time period by the recent discovery that she had several ancestors in the Carolinas (including Charleston) who fought during the Revolution: a fascinating, thrilling, and terrifying time to be alive in the colonies.

In **THE CHRISTMAS SPIRITS ON TRADD STREET**, Melanie Trenholm should be anticipating the holidays with nothing but joy. But then she discovers that a long-lost Revolutionary War treasure may be somewhere on her property. A gift from the French King—brought to Charleston by the Marquis de Lafayette himself to help finance the Colonial war effort—it's whispered that many have already killed, and died to possess the treasure. When it resurfaces in present day, someone will once again stop at nothing to possess it . . . even if that means destroying everything Melanie holds dear.

Christmas is the perfect time to fall in love with the residents of Tradd Street, both living and otherwise. Certain to delight long-time fans and easy to jump into for newcomers, **THE CHRISTMAS SPIRITS ON TRADD STREET** is enclosed here. Karen White is available for interviews

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Karen White is the *New York Times* bestselling author of more than twenty novels, including the Tradd Street series, *Dreams of Falling*, *The Night the Lights Went Out*, *Flight Patterns*, *The Sound of Glass*, *A Long Time Gone*, and *The Time Between*. She is the coauthor of *The Forgotten Room* and *The Glass Ocean* with *New York Times* bestselling authors Beatriz Williams and Lauren Willig. She grew up in London but now lives with her husband and two children near Atlanta, Georgia. Visit her online at karen-white.com.

ADDITIONAL PRAISE FOR KAREN WHITE

On The Guests on South Battery

“From the beginning of this page-turner to the spine-tingling, breath-stealing battle ending, White’s master storytelling and sophisticated dialogue will ensnare readers. . . . The side characters are brilliant in their own right, each one playing an intricate role in the tale. But as with each novel in this series, it’s the compulsive, insecure but constantly self-improving protagonist Melanie who is the show-stealer—although now she shares the stage with her ever-growing family.” —**RT Book Reviews**

“One of the most highly anticipated books of the new year. . . . White’s writing just gets better and better.”
—**The Huffington Post**

“Readers will be kept enthralled with the scenes of historic Southern houses and spooky happenings.... [White] never disappoints with her spellbinding plot and cast of characters.” —**Crimespree Magazine**

On Dreams of Falling

“White’s lovely tale of enduring friendships brings coastal South Carolina to life and examines the redemptive powers of love and loss.” —**Publishers Weekly**

“Another perfectly crafted gem of a novel by an author with a genuine flair for originality and narrative storytelling, Karen White’s *Dreams of Falling* is extraordinarily entertaining and highly recommended.”
—**Midwest Book Review**

“[T]his is Southern fiction at its best. A novel about dreams, friendship, and family, *Dreams of Falling* will make you long for home.” —**Popsugar**

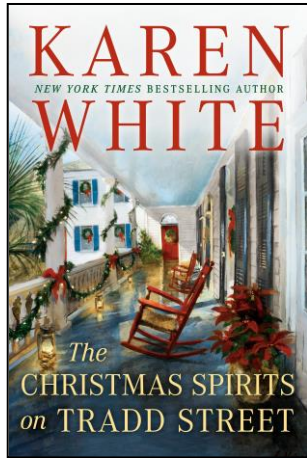
“A recipe for a summer chick-lit best-seller.” —**Wilmington Star-News**

“*Dreams of Falling* is a delicious stew of memorable characters, superb prose, evocative settings both present and past, thoughtful insights, and a plot that slowly simmers its way to a surprising and satisfying ending.”
—**Historical Novel Review**

“Atmospheric and rich, White’s writing is an indulgent pleasure to read. She is certainly no stranger to crafting fast-paced, emotionally charged women’s fiction . . . she has mastered the compulsively readable rhythm that makes for compelling storytelling. She’s also an expert at interweaving time periods, perspectives and genres. . . . Her keen emotional insights and warm authorial voice invite the reader into her stories the way one might welcome home a long-lost daughter.” —**Shelf Awareness**

A Conversation with Karen White

Author of THE CHRISTMAS SPIRITS ON TRADD STREET



In *THE CHRISTMAS SPIRITS ON TRADD STREET*, Melanie's newest paranormal visitors are from the American Revolution. What inspired the time period choice?

I've recently become a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. My daughter did all of the genealogical research and, being a huge history buff, was thrilled to find we had several ancestors in North Carolina and South Carolina (including Charleston!) who fought during the Revolution. It was a fascinating, thrilling, and terrifying time to be alive in the colonies, and I'm honored to be related to those who sacrificed to make this wonderful country. I'd included a Hessian soldier from the Revolution in a previous book in the series, but hadn't really delved too deeply into this history of the period. Doing research for the book was a great excuse to learn more. The hardest part was not using everything I learned!

Melanie's husband, Jack, is a writer (like you!). Has your career informed the way you've written Jack into the series? Do you find that you have a lot in common?

Jack has had a lot of bad luck recently in his career. Thankfully, my career has not mirrored his, but all of his foibles have come from true-life horror stories from authors I know so none of it is very far from fact. Being writers is the only thing Jack and I have in common. He's a lot more relaxed than I am, and has parents, in-laws, a wife, teenaged daughter, and nanny to help with everything else while he's writing. I don't. I apparently need to try and be more like him.

Are there any historical facts that you learned in your research that didn't make it into the book?

Yes—but I think I'm going to save it for the next book. My daughter was a docent at the Aiken-Rhett house (where Melanie and Sophie have the Christmas wreath making workshop). Very recently, while restoring the old slave quarters, they found writing on the bricks—possibly from former occupants. They're still researching the origins, but I was fascinated and will definitely have to use in the future.

What’s your favorite part about the Tradd Street Series? Is it challenging to return to the series between writing other standalone books?

My favorite part of the series is the characters. I’ve been with them now for over a decade and they are like family to me, and starting a new Tradd Street book is like coming home. Because these books are a lot lighter in tone than my standalones (although they certainly deal with deep subject matter, too), I consider them a nice palate cleanser. I will really miss writing them after I pen the final book.

Are any of the characters in this book based on people you know in real life? Which character is most fun to write?

My brother-in-law, Rich Kobylt (to whom this book is dedicated) appears in every book in the series as the plumber/handyman who wears his pants too low in the back. It’s become a family joke and he looks forward to finding out what his literary alter-ego has been up to in each installment. I’ve also included a graduate student of historic preservation, Meghan Black, who very closely resembles my daughter, Meghan White, who just so happens to have said degree from the College of Charleston. Meghan Black is more of a caricature of my daughter, but so incredibly fun to write. I have a good feeling that she will appear in the seventh (and final) book of the series, too.

What has Melanie been up to since the previous book in the series?

In typical Melanie fashion, she’s working hard to be less controlling and more trusting. In each book she takes three steps forward and two steps backwards in this regard, but she keeps trying. She’s juggling motherhood to toddler twins and a teenaged daughter as well as working full-time while trying to oversee the constant renovations on her historic house on Tradd Street without bankrupting them. And, of course, there seem to be a passel of spirits wanting her help to right old wrongs and to solve a mystery—and at least one who threatens her and those she holds dear.

This particular chapter of Melanie’s story is set as the holidays are quickly approaching. Is there a reason why you chose to set the book at this time of year?

This is the sixth book in the series and I’ve never covered the Christmas season in any of the previous books. I have spent time in Charleston during the holidays and it’s my favorite time of year to visit. It really is magical and even more beautiful than usual (if that’s even possible!) so it was an easy decision to set this installment at the most wonderful time of the year.

There’s a cliff-hanger at the end of THE CHRISTMAS SPIRITS ON TRADD STREET (spoiler alert!). What’s next for Melanie and her family?

I don’t plot my books in advance so I won’t know until I start typing. I always wait for the characters to guide me. Just know that Melanie is much stronger and wiser in book seven than she was in book one and will certainly find her way out of the pickle she’s in at the end of book six. And, as always, I promise my readers an ending that will (hopefully) make them smile and sigh with satisfaction.

For additional information, contact:

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