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“I always knew I wanted to write — even as a kid. I wrote on my own, poetry and in journals, and I felt like I was a writer,” says Meredith **Doench**. “But though I took creative writing classes as an undergraduate, I didn’t start pursuing creative writing until I was out of college!” Meredith, of **Centerville**, is the **author** of “Crossed,” her debut thriller published August 2015 by Bold Strokes Books. The next title in her Luce Hansen series is “Forsaken Trust,” set to come out in early 2017 by Bold Strokes.

Detective Hansen works at the Ohio BCI and, in the debut title, returns to her home town to pursue a killer who is targeting young women. While solving the case could be Luce’s ticket to joining the FBI, it also forces her to recall the unsolved murder of her first girlfriend and the former ex-gay ministry that haunted her youth.

“The novel actually started in a very different form,” Meredith explains, “as my dissertation for my PhD in creative writing. In that iteration, it was a literary novel. But my adviser, Stephen Jones, encouraged me to take the material and rewrite it in the way it made the most sense to me.”

Meredith realized her character’s story would work well as a thriller.

After graduating from **Centerville** High School, Meredith attended Ball State University for her undergraduate degree in Special Education. Though she explains she enjoyed working in this field, she knew she needed to pursue her creative writing. She attended University of Dayton, where she received her Master of Arts in English, and then Texas Tech University for her PhD in English with an emphasis in creative writing. Then, she returned to University of Dayton as an adjunct instructor and is now a full-time lecturer in the English Department.

“I continue to write literary fiction and am working on some creative nonfiction, in addition to writing my thriller series,” Meredith says. “The literary side of my writing informs my thriller writing, though. I’ve been told I have strong thematic elements in both of my Luce novels. The first examines violence and art, and the second the issue of loyalty.”

Meredith’s **short** fiction and creative nonfiction have been published in literary journals such as “Hayden’s Ferry Review,” “Women’s Studies Quarterly” and “Gertrude.”

Meredith says that while she was with an agent for a while, she felt there was a pressure to complete her novel more quickly than she was comfortable with. So, she decided to pursue smaller presses who published work she was reading, and in that way made a connection to Bold Strokes. She’s been happy with the company.

Meredith advises writers to read, read, read works they love and pay attention to the pieces that are in the same genre they would like to write. She loves, among others, the works of writers Tana French, Jeannette

Winter-son and Lidia Yuknavitch.

“It’s also important, at least for me, to spend some time every day writing, even if that amount varies from day to day,” Meredith says. “Get your story down on paper and then revise!”

## UPCOMING LITERARY EVENTS

! Today, 2-3:30 p.m., Books & Co. at The Greene — Award-winning poet Grace Curtis leads a free poetry-writing mini-workshop sponsored by Antioch Writers’ Workshop.

! Today, 2-4 p.m., Wright Library (1776 Far Hills Ave., Oakwood) — Trudy Krisher, **author** of “Fanny Seward: A Life,” is giving a talk on “The Other Assassination Attempt — Fanny Seward and the Night of Horrors.”

! Thursday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Booksellers at Austin Landing (3649 Rigby Road, Miamisburg) — Popular **author** and instructor Katrina Kittle will lead a class on developing characters for fiction. For more information or to register, visit [www.wordsworthdayton.com](http://www.wordsworthdayton.com)

! Friday, 7 p.m., Books & Co. at The Greene — Members of the Western Ohio Writers Association (WOWA) will present “No Fear of Scars,” a live reading event. For more information, visit [www.westernohiowriters.org](http://www.westernohiowriters.org).

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