

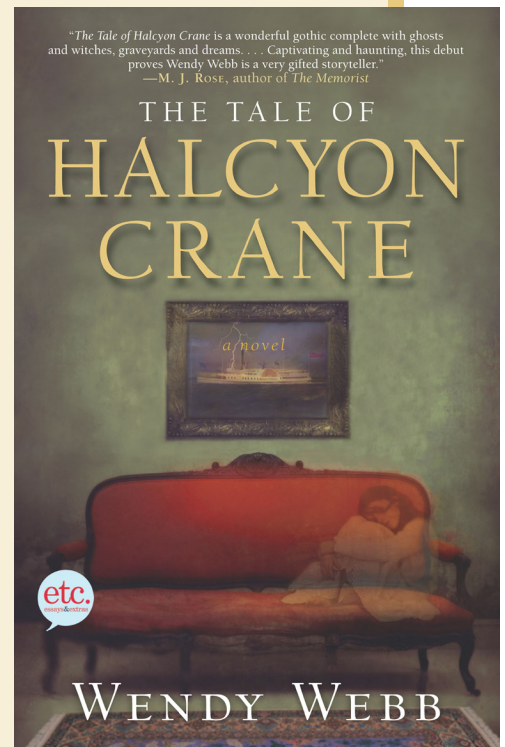
A MIDWEST CONNECTIONS PICK

“*The Tale of Halcyon Crane* is a wonderful gothic complete with ghosts and witches, graveyards and dreams. . . Captivating and haunting, this debut proves Wendy Webb is a very gifted storyteller.”

—M. J. ROSE, author of *The Memorist*

“Set on a mysterious time-warped island in Lake Superior, *The Tale of Halcyon Crane* is a delicious ghost story, by turns chilling and heartwarming. The perfect cozy read.”

—MARY SHARRATT, author of *The Vanishing Point* and *Daughters of the Witching Hill*



I decided to set the story on Mackinac Island because the Great Lakes hold a magic and mystery unlike anyplace else. Many people think the lakes are actually living things, with moods ranging from benevolent to murderous.

I fictionalized Mackinac’s name—calling it Grand Manitou Island instead—so I could be free when writing about the specific places, happenings and people there, but readers who have been to Mackinac will recognize it right away. When you go there, you really feel like you’ve traveled back in time—I think it has to do with the fact that there is no motorized traffic and everyone gets around by horse-drawn carriage. It’s a place filled with beautiful Victorian homes, grand hotels, great restaurants, fudge shops, wine bars... and a very creepy old cemetery. It seems to me that the whole island is teeming with spirits—if anyplace in the world is haunted, it’s Mackinac Island.

WHEN A MYSTERIOUS LETTER lands in Hallie James’s mailbox, her life is upended. Hallie was raised by her loving father, having been told her mother died in a fire decades earlier. But it turns out her mother, Madlyn, was alive until very recently. Why would Hallie’s father have taken her away from Madlyn? What *really* happened to her family thirty years ago?



WENDY WEBB is editor in chief of *Duluth-Superior* magazine. A journalist with two decades of experience, she lives in Minnesota. This is her first novel.



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