



Author bio

Caitlin Rother, a former investigative reporter for *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, is the author of three non-fiction books, *Body Parts*, *Twisted Triangle*, and *Poisoned Love*, and the thriller *Naked Addiction*. A Pulitzer nominated journalist, Rother is also the co-author of *Where Hope Begins*, a memoir of co-author Alysia Sofios and surviving members of the Marcus Wesson family, which comes out in September.

She is currently working on her sixth book, *Undeserved*. This book tells the story behind the murder case of Tom and Jackie Hawks, who were tied to an anchor alive and thrown over the side of their yacht off Newport Beach by a clan of outlaws led by Skylar and Jennifer Deleon.

Her latest book, *Body Parts* (Kensington/Pinnacle, March 2009), takes a deep psychological look at the life of serial killer Wayne Adam Ford. A long-haul trucker, Ford picked up dozens of prostitutes and troubled women along California roads, tortured and choked them during sex, resuscitated them when they passed out, and went at it again. Only four, he claimed, didn't survive. After dismembering two of them, he dumped their four bodies in waterways in four California counties, then turned himself in

to authorities so he wouldn't kill again. During tearful confessions without an attorney, Ford admitted to killing the women, but later claimed their deaths were accidental.

Twisted Triangle: A Famous Crime Writer, A Lesbian Love Affair, and the FBI Husband's Violent Revenge (Wiley/Jossey-Bass, 2008 in hardcover) is coming out in paperback in April 2009. This is the crazy but factual account of a kidnapping, an attempted murder and a lesbian love triangle involving two married FBI agents, Margo and Gene Bennett, and famous novelist Patricia Cornwell. This story made international headlines when it first broke, but Rother is the first to tell Margo's exclusive story.

Where Hope Begins, One Family's Journey out of Tragedy and The Reporter Who Helped Them Make it (Simon & Schuster, September 2009 in hardcover) tells the story of how Fresno TV reporter and co-author Alysia Sofios risked her entire career to help several female members of the Marcus Wesson family recover from a cult-like life of polygamy, incest, abuse and the murder of nine children.

Poisoned Love is the definitive story of the Kristin Rossum murder case, which Rother covered from arrest to sentencing for the *Union-Tribune*, then did extensive research and new interviews. Rossum, an attractive young methamphetamine addict who worked as a toxicologist for the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office, poisoned her husband with the powerful narcotic fentanyl, then staged a suicide scene by sprinkling his body with red rose petals. The book is now in its fifth printing.

Naked Addiction, Rother's first novel, is a tale involving the lethal confluence of sex, murder and drugs in the two San Diego coastal communities of La Jolla and Pacific Beach, where beautiful beauty school students are being murdered. As police detective

Ken Goode investigates the killings, he confronts his own demons while tangling with a pretty witness and worrying that his missing sister will be the next victim.

Rother's work has been published in *Cosmopolitan*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Boston Globe*, and *Daily News* of Los Angeles. She has done dozens of media appearances on TV and radio, including "Women Who Kill" on E! Entertainment; several episodes of "Snapped," an ongoing crime series on Oprah Winfrey's Oxygen Network; FOX's "On the Record with Greta Van Susteren"; the nationally syndicated radio show, "America at Night," and HRC's "The Agenda" on XM radio. Rother is a regular contributor to *In Cold Blog*, and teaches feature writing, interviewing and creative writing at University of California San Diego Extension.

Throughout her 19-year newspaper career, Rother always kept an eye out for the more complex and dramatic stories – the most bizarre or tragic deaths and the public figures who committed questionable or criminal actions. Her Pulitzer Prize nomination came in 1998, for a story about a depressed teenager who died after lighting himself on fire behind a WalMart. She won five awards for an in-depth narrative that chronicled the lives of the families of five recipients who were given organs and tissues donated by a single donor.

Rother wrote about topics ranging from strippers' laundered political contributions to San Diego City Council members, to the secret lifestyle of Heaven's Gate cult members, Michael Jackson's original molestation charges and addiction to painkillers, and an award-winning series on the mentally ill in California's prisons and San Diego jails.

Through professional and personal family experience, Rother has become somewhat of an expert in addiction – alcohol and methamphetamine in particular, as well as suicide, mental illness and the family dynamics and pharmacology involved.

Born in Montreal, Canada, Rother immigrated as a toddler to the Santa Barbara area, and grew up in San Diego. She obtained a BA in psychology from the University of California, Berkeley, then an MSJ from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

For more information, visit Rother's Web site at <http://caitlinrother.com> or contact her at crother@flash.net.