

Thirsty

✖ By Tracey Bateman | WaterBrook Press | softcover | 384 pages | \$

Thirsty, the first thriller from romantic-fiction author Tracey Bateman, grabs readers with each turn of the page. It tells the story of newly recovering alcoholic Nina Hunt, who is forced to return to her hometown of Abbey Hills, Mo., even though she vowed 17 years before that she would never come back.

On the day Nina and her daughter, Meg, arrive with Nina's sister Jill, a body is found that has been cut with occult markings and drained of its blood. While her sister, who is the town's sheriff, is solving murders, Nina struggles each day with the temptation of alcohol and works on restoring her estranged relationships with Meg, her parents and her ex-husband.

Needing someone to talk to, Nina befriends Markus, the mysterious and handsome neighbor next door—who holds the secret to the unsolved murders and animal killings in Abbey Hills.

This well-written suspense tale will give readers an adrenaline rush that brings to life folklore and vampires that thirst for blood in the night.

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