

Eight women—eight motives to kill a lecherous photographer.



Too Many
WOMEN
in the Room



JOANNE
GUIDOCCIO

ABOUT THE BOOK

Publisher: The Wild Rose Press
Genre: Cozy Mystery
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Blurb

When Gilda Greco invites her closest friends to a VIP dinner, she plans to share David Korba's signature dishes and launch their joint venture— Xenia, an innovative Greek restaurant near Sudbury, Ontario. Unknown to Gilda, David has also invited Michael Taylor, a lecherous photographer who has throughout the past three decades managed to annoy all the women in the room. One woman follows Michael to a deserted field for his midnight run and stabs him in the jugular. Next day, the body of one of the dinner servers is discovered in the alleyway behind Gilda's office.

Gilda's life is awash with complications as she wrestles with a certain detective's commitment issues and growing doubts about her risky investment in Xenia. Frustrated, Gilda launches her own investigation and uncovers decades-old secrets and resentments that festered until they exploded into two untimely deaths. Can Gilda outwit a killer bent on killing again?

Reviews

"A tale which far exceeds the bare bones of storytelling convention, offering the reader well-rounded characters and a narrative that doesn't skimp on the details." InD'Tale Magazine

"Too Many Women in the Room is the perfect blend of mystery, suspense, romance, and humor. The premise is intriguing and kept me guessing." Jane Reads Blog

"The plot moves along at a steady pace with subplots adding to the tension." Christa Reads and Writes Blog

"Filled with delicious cuisine, complex characters, and a murder mystery, this story will leave you guessing until the very end!" Jacquie Biggar

"Guidoccio masterly pulls the reader in with her finely detailed scenes, a strong and very likable female lead, and an intriguing plot." Jo-Ann Carson

"This story is so well written; love the first person narrative and the nicely layered plot. This is cozy mystery writing at its best." Beth Dale

"What's not to love? Spicy food and an even spicier mystery. The book is peppered with both intrigue and recipes!" Nancy Fraser

"Once again, Joanne Guidoccio has given her readers a plumb good mystery. I can usually figure out who the killer is in most mysteries, but this one had me guessing and guessing again until the killer was revealed." Margaret-Mary Jaeger



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

In high school, Joanne Guidoccio dabbled in poetry, but it would be over three decades before she entertained the idea of writing as a career. She listened to her practical Italian side and earned degrees in mathematics and education. She experienced many fulfilling moments as she watched her students develop an appreciation (and sometimes, love) of mathematics. Later, she obtained a post-graduate diploma as a career development practitioner and put that skill set to use in the co-operative education classroom. She welcomed this opportunity to help her students experience personal growth and acquire career direction through their placements.

In 2008, she took advantage of early retirement and decided to launch a second career that would tap into her creative side and utilize her well-honed organizational skills. Slowly, a writing practice emerged. Her articles and book reviews were published in newspapers, magazines, and online. When she tried her hand at fiction, she made reinvention a recurring theme in her novels and short stories. A member of Sisters in Crime, Crime Writers of Canada, and Romance Writers of America, Joanne writes paranormal romance, cozy mysteries, and inspirational literature from her home base of Guelph, Ontario.

Links

Website: <http://joanneguidoccio.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/joanneguidoccio>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/authorjoanneguidoccio>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/joanneguidoccio>

Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/jguidoccio/>

Goodreads: https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7277706.Joanne_Guidoccio

Q & A WITH JOANNE GUIDOCCIO

Tell us about your series.

Too Many Women in the Room is the second book in the Gilda Greco Mystery Series. Based in Northern Ontario, these books feature a fifty-something Italian woman, her relatives, deserving and undeserving men, food, and murder. In June 2015, The Wild Rose Press released *A Season for Killing Blondes*, Book 1 in the series. Several ideas are percolating for Books 3 and 4: *A Different Kind of Reunion* and *The Missing Gigolo*.

What sparked the idea for this series?

While undergoing cancer treatments, I gravitated toward cozy mysteries. After devouring over fifty books in that genre, I imagined the following scenarios: What if a lottery winner moves back to her hometown and finds herself involved in a murder investigation? And what if all the victims are blondes? I put pen to paper and started the first draft of *A Season for Killing Blondes*.

What are cozy mysteries?

These are mysteries that contain bloodless crimes that usually happen offstage. There is also a lack of profanity and little sexual content. An amateur sleuth, usually female, is involved directly and must solve the crime. The reasons behind her involvement are often personal. She has had dealings with the victim and sometimes even heated arguments. Some well-known examples of amateur sleuths include Agatha Christie's Miss Marple and Jessica Fletcher in *Murder She Wrote*.

Tell us about the protagonist.

While imagining the protagonist of the Gilda Greco Mystery Series, I realized she could easily be my literary twin. In fact, I like to tell people that Gilda Greco is 70 percent of me. As to how I came up with that particular number, let's just say my well-honed left brain did all the work. Our similarities...Italian Canadian, born and raised in Sudbury, relocated to Southern Ontario, mathematics teachers, career development practitioners, yoga enthusiasts, non-foodies.

One major difference – Gilda won a \$19 million lottery. I'm still hoping!

If *Too Many Women in the Room* was selected to be made into a film; who would you like to play your protagonist and why?

I would want Lorraine Bracco to play the part of Gilda Greco. A long-time fan, I enjoyed watching her play Dr. Jennifer Melfi in *The Sopranos*, a role she had to actually request. The producers had originally asked her to audition for the role of Carmela, but Lorraine felt compelled to stretch herself in the role of the psychiatrist.

Are any of the other characters inspired by real people?

Having lived and taught in different cities throughout the province of Ontario, I felt free to "borrow" characteristics from former colleagues and students to create composite characters. While Gilda is approximately 70% me, the same can't be said of the other characters. I would be very surprised if anyone recognized himself/herself in the novel.

With so many agents and editors warning writers away from prologues, why did you use one?

I struggled with this decision but decided to follow the advice given by a workshop facilitator: *Use a prologue only if it adds an interesting and integral layer to the narrative.* Starting with the victim's POV fits both of these requirements and provides the reader with insight into the character's motivations and thoughts during his final hour.

Reinvention is a recurring theme in your novels and short stories. Why this particular theme?

Reinvention is a core theme of my own life. A cancer diagnosis at age 49 and a decision to retire at age 53 prompted me to reassess my life goals. An avid reader, I searched for fiction and nonfiction literature that would help me navigate these uncertain waters. And then I decided to write the books I wanted to read.

What do you like best about being an author?

After spending over three decades in a very structured environment, I welcomed the opportunity to set "flexible" creative goals and experiment with different genres. Right now, I'm alternating between cozy mysteries and paranormal romance. I also have a collection of angel stories and a cancer memoir on the back burner.

What's your idea of a perfect writing day?

On a perfect "writing" day, I wake up between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. (I'm retired and like to sleep in), have a leisurely breakfast, and drink my second cup of coffee while checking email and social media. At 9:30, I begin to write and complete 1,000 words of my novel, short story, or essay by 11:30. The rest of the day, I'm free to meet friends for lunch, practice yoga, attend readings, see movies, take day trips, or go on artist dates.

What sources do you use for inspiration?

I take online courses and attend writing workshops. I also enjoy reading craft books. Two recent favorites: *Big Magic* by Elizabeth Gilbert and *Writing with Quiet Hands* by Paula Munier.

As an author, how do you pay it forward?

I often find myself reaching for the teacher hat. I like to share what I've learned on my writing journey: the triumphs, challenges, and disappointments. On my blog, I have featured spotlights and reinvention stories of 100+ authors. I am particularly proud of my ability to embrace Twitter and devote many of my tweets to promoting authors and other creatives.

If you had *one* take away piece of advice for authors, what would it be?

Experiment until you find your own unique voice and a warm, supportive environment where your words can flow freely. Sign up for creative writing courses—online or offline—that expose you to short stories, children's and adult writing, creative nonfiction, and poetry. And, most important of all, enjoy the journey.