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Goode's eyes followed the ivory feet up a pair of long legs to see it was not a mannequin, but the crumpled body of a raven-haired young woman, stunning even in death. Goode kneeled down to take a closer look. She was wearing a man's shirt, white with red pinstripes. And nothing else. Her lower abdomen was marked with purple blotches, as if two hands had grabbed her and squeezed. Her neck was bruised and patches of skin were ripped away, as if she'd been strangled. The red fingernails on one hand were ragged at the ends, like they'd been broken off during a struggle. The kid suddenly reached out to touch the girl's shirt, but Goode grabbed his wrist before he could make contact. "Don't touch anything," Goode said. "This is a crime scene now..."

NAKED ADDICTION

"With a journalist's eye for the telling details of life, Caitlin Rother is a keen architect of the most important part of storytelling: character," *says Michael Connelly, Edgar award-winner and best-selling crime novelist.* "The people in her prose grip you tightly with their truth."

"NAKED ADDICTION is a strong debut from a perceptive and unflinching writer," *says T. Jefferson Parker, Edgar award-winner and best-selling crime novelist.* "Detailed and tightly focused, the story unfolds on the sun-drenched but dangerous streets of San Diego."

"Caitlin Rother walked the walk as an award-winning journalist, and now she talks the talk in her debut novel NAKED ADDICTION," *says Alan Russell, author of Shame.* "Rother's honed reportorial eye gives us the five W's of murder set out on turf she knows so well."

"Caitlin Rother's first novel is an excellent police procedural," *says Genre Go Round Reviews.*

"Outcome of this suspense will keep you guessing," *says Fresh Fiction.* "The convolutions in NAKED ADDICTION will keep you uncertain of the end right until the final pages."

"Rother, a prize-winning journalist, showcases her fiction skills with multilayered characters, a skillfully conceived mystery and a narrative structure that allows readers to see parts of the action from different points of view," *says Romantic Times.* "Best of all, the ending leaves a fine set-up for the next episode."

NAKED ADDICTION by Caitlin Rother weaves a lethal confluence of sex, drugs and the murder in two San Diego beach communities.

Police detective Ken Goode is tired of working undercover narcotics and wants a transfer to homicide. When the Camus-reading surfer finds the body of a beautiful woman in an alley, he gets the go-ahead to head a team of relief detectives and wins the chance to prove he's homicide-worthy. As Goode explores the underbelly of the affluent coastal enclave of La Jolla and its neighbor, Pacific Beach, he clashes with the patrons and employees of a neighborhood bar: real estate agents and beauty school students who have possible ties to an escort service and a drug ring, and keep turning up dead. The untimely disappearance of Goode's sister proves a worrisome distraction as he is chasing suspects and a dogged cub reporter is chasing him.

In this intricately-layered plot, Rother's characters use substances or other people to try to fill the empty spaces within themselves, with addictions ranging from sex, alcohol, cocaine and cigarettes to Goode's own, caffeine and damaged women. Goode becomes obsessed with the first victim and is strangely drawn to a pretty but troubled witness while this suspenseful, taut procedural keeps readers turning pages and guessing to the very end.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Caitlin Rother is the author or co-author of eight books: *Dead Reckoning*, *Poisoned Love*, *Naked Addiction*, *Twisted Triangle*, *Body Parts*, *Where Hope Begins/Deadly Devotion*, *My Life*, *Deleted* and *Lost Girls*. A Pulitzer-nominated investigative journalist for nearly 20 years, Rother has also been published in *Cosmopolitan*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, *The Washington Post*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Daily News* of Los Angeles, and *The Daily Beast*. She has done dozens of TV and radio appearances as a crime expert, including E!'s *Women Who Kill*, the Oxygen Network's *Snapped* series, Greta Van Susteren's *On the Record: Who The Bleep Did I Marry?*, *On the Case With Paula Zahn*, *True Crime With Aphrodite Jones*, *Wicked Attraction*, and *Deadly Women* on Investigation Discovery; the nationally syndicated *America at Night*, the American Radio Network, various NPR and PBS affiliates, and *The Agenda* on XM radio. She is founder of the San Diego Writing Women blog, and teaches journalism and creative writing workshops at the University of California San Diego-Extension. An updated version of Rother's book, *Poisoned Love*, was just released in December. *Lost Girls*, about the rape and killing of teenagers Chelsea King and Amber Dubois by sexual predator John Gardner, will be out in July 2012.

For more information, visit her web site: <http://caitlinrother.com>. To contact her, write to crother@flash.net.

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By Caitlin Rother

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