

LOCAL WRITER RELEASES SIXTH NOVEL

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ST. ALBANS— Local writer J.P. Choquette's sixth novel comes out Sunday.

As with her previous novels, *Let the Dead Rest* is a thriller. The book is set in Franklin and Chittenden counties and features two interconnected storylines, one set in the present day and one set in the 1940s.

It was her first time writing two time periods. "I really loved it," said Choquette. "I had to rein myself in from the research because it was really interesting."

The book will launch with a Great Book Hunt. Choquette will give away ten free copies of *Let the Dead Rest* between Sunday and Aug. 31. Each copy will be hidden in either St. Albans, Sheldon, Swanton, Highgate or Enosburg.

The first copy will be placed somewhere in St. Albans with a clue on Choquette's Facebook page.

The first reader to find the book is asked to snap a photo and share it on social media, tagging Choquette. She will then place a new book in a new location for another lucky reader to find.

The books will be placed in mostly indoor locations. Choquette said she hopes the hunt will bring people into local businesses and non-profit organizations.

Those who aren't lucky enough to find a book, will be able to purchase *Let the Dead Rest* at the Eloquent Page in downtown St. Albans.

Asked where she gets her ideas, Choquette answered, "For me, it comes from asking 'what if?' I'm really fascinated by how our reality is so shaped by sometimes really small decisions."

She also tends to gather and "tuck away" observations about people and locations, such as the feel of a room, "sometimes without even realizing it," Choquette said.

Let the Dead Rest began when she wondered what would happen if someone received a gift they didn't like from someone they loved "and then all these creepy things began to happen."

In the case of *Let the Dead Rest*, the unwanted gift is a doll named Gerta.



Let the Dead Rest by J.P. Choquette

Asked if she had based the doll on one she owned, Choquette said the doll had come from her cover designer. "I wouldn't want it in my house."

Choquette said she is attracted to stories that are creepy and unsettling, but not explicitly violent. Her tag line is "suspense that turns pages, not stomachs."

She described *Let the Dead Rest* as Gothic-inspired. "It's creepy and suspenseful, not creepy and deranged."

Choquette doesn't work from detailed outlines, instead letting the story take her where it will. "I don't want to know the ending of the book," she said, adding she loses interest if she knows how the story turns out.

True to form, she didn't know the ending of this book until she wrote it.

When the story is going well, "I feel almost like I'm a transcriptionist. I can see it all in my head." But that doesn't happen every time she sits down to write. To be a writer, "You have to be there at your desk even at the grueling time when nothing is working," said Choquette.

In *Let the Dead Rest*, a Franklin County artist receives Gerta, the doll, anonymously.

Gerta was originally owned by Etta Hayes, who worked at a mill in Winooski and received the doll from her fiancé, who brought it back with him after fighting in World War II.

Creepy things begin to happen to both of them once Gerta enters their lives.

Asked if there were any surprises while writing this book, Choquette said, "The ending."



J.P. Choquette, Author