



A Brilliant Death

By Robin Yocum



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Amanda Baron died in a boating accident on the Ohio River in 1953. Or, did she? While it was generally accepted that she had died when a coal barge rammed the pleasure boat she was sharing with her lover, her body was never found.

Travis Baron was an infant when his mother disappeared. After the accident and the subsequent publicity, Travis's father scoured the house of all evidence that Amanda Baron had ever lived, and her name was never to be uttered around him. Now in high school, Travis yearns to know more about his mother. With the help of his best friend, Mitch Malone, Travis begins a search for the truth about the mother he never knew. The two boys find an unlikely ally: an alcoholic former detective who served time for falsifying evidence. Although his reputation is in tatters, the information the detective provides about the death of Amanda Baron is indisputable—and dangerous.

Nearly two decades after her death, Travis and Mitch piece together a puzzle lost to the dark waters of the Ohio River. They know how Amanda Baron died, and why. Now what do they do with the information?



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A Brilliant Death By Robin Yocum Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

“Part coming-of-age story, part cold-case mystery, *A Brilliant Death* does an excellent job of depicting life in an Ohio steel town. Robin Yocum has a knack for nuanced characters and spot-on dialogue. The changing timeline as the story unfolds will keep the reader guessing about Amanda's fate until the end of the novel, and Yocum's deft portrayal of Travis and Mitch's friendship makes *A Brilliant Death* an altogether charming read, despite the dark story framing it.”

—*Shelf Awareness for Readers*

“[An] engaging coming-of-age mystery.... Travis is a fresh and lovely version of a familiar archetype—the poor kid with a smart mind, good heart, and the drive to stand up to injustice and make a better life for himself.... Yocum continues to write with great tenderness about small-town life in the Ohio River Valley.”

—*Booklist Online*

“Yocum...creates so much sympathy for his characters in this coming-of-age tale that you hope for an alternate theory to what appears to be the ineluctable facts of a tragedy.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Smooth, understated writing.... Yocum paints a vivid scene, and the full flavor of this era and place are pure Technicolor.”

—*New York Journal of Books*

“*A Brilliant Death*'s rural 1970s setting is vividly drawn and populated with interesting characters.... [Mitch and Travis's] personal experiences—family, home—are different, but their shared adolescence, with its inherent angst, creates a recognizable landscape and captures an alluring image of humanity. The story is powerful.”

—*Mystery Scene*

“The entire novel exists at the point where good crime fiction crosses well-executed young adult fiction and the result is a highly readable and altogether successful piece of writing.”

—*Toronto Star*

“[An] engrossing coming-of-age mystery.... Vivid local color and a satisfying portrait of boyhood friendship.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

About the Author

Robin Yocum is the author of the 2017 Edgar® Award-nominated *A Brilliant Death*. He is also the author of the critically acclaimed novels *Favorite Sons* and *The Essay* as well as *Dead Before Deadline . . . and*

Other Tales from the Police Beat and *Insured for Murder* (with Catherine Candisky). The president of Yocum Communications, a public relations and marketing firm in Westerville, Ohio, Yocum is well known for his work as a crime and investigative reporter with the *Columbus Dispatch* from 1980-1991. He was the recipient of more than thirty local, state, and national journalism awards in categories ranging from investigative reporting to feature writing.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Madge Stamps:

Do you one among people who can't read gratifying if the sentence chained in the straightway, hold on guys this aren't like that. This *A Brilliant Death* book is readable by you who hate those perfect word style. You will find the info here are arrange for enjoyable studying experience without leaving perhaps decrease the knowledge that want to deliver to you. The writer regarding *A Brilliant Death* content conveys prospect easily to understand by many people. The printed and e-book are not different in the information but it just different by means of it. So , do you even now thinking *A Brilliant Death* is not loveable to be your top collection reading book?

James Baker:

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Clifford Roselli:

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