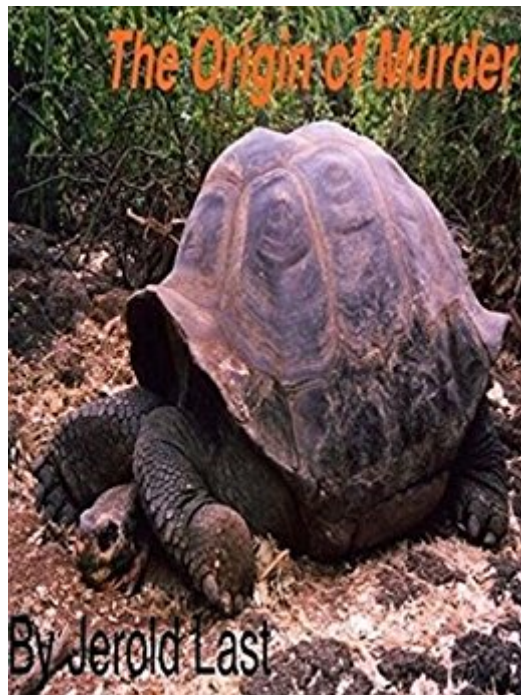




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The Origin Of Murder (Roger And Suzanne South American Mystery Series Book 8)



Synopsis

The Origin of Murder is a fast paced whodunit mystery that brings Roger and Suzanne back to South America. The couple are on a luxury cruise through the Galapagos Islands when Suzanne finds a woman's body with a couple of bullet holes in it floating in the Pacific Ocean. There's a ship full of suspects, including a shady DEA agent and two nubile sisters from San Francisco, with more dead bodies to come. The supporting cast includes their young son Robert, Bruce the nanny, and Paraguayan policeman Eduardo Garcia. Join our detectives on a visit to the Galapagos Islands as Charles Darwin might have seen them on his historical voyage on HMS Beagle, and visit the ancient Incan city and capital of Ecuador, Quito, high in South America's Andes Mountains. Series fans and new readers will enjoy this exciting mystery novel, which can be enjoyed as a standalone entry to the series.

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Customer Reviews

The latest offering in the Roger and Suzanne mystery series is two parts travelogue to one part murder mystery. It romps through the capital of Ecuador (did you know it was Quito?) as well as the Galapagos Islands and a run-down Mexican resort. The story, narrated by California private

detective Roger Bowman, includes a wonderfully diverse and charming cast of characters: Roger's brainy wife Suzanne, their gay ex-Seal nanny named Bruce, an Ecuadoran general, and a Paraguayan cop who moonlights as a Mossad spy. And those are just the good guys! As in Last's previous novel in the series, *THE DEADLY DOG SHOW*, the setting is the heart of the book. Both Quito's charms and slums are described and the reader gets a healthy dose of description of major historical locations. When the action moves to the Galapagos, the author spares no effort to put the reader right there, with exceptional descriptions of the islands' unique bird life, terrain, and access by boat. The mystery is woven throughout but the magnificent setting is what really drives the narrative. A favorite element of the book was the way each chapter begins with a relevant quote from Charles Darwin's *ORIGIN OF SPECIES*, written while Darwin was cruising the Galapagos on the HMS Beagle in the early 1800's. Last's choice of quotes is perfect in every case, so that the action is presaged and the reader understands the clarity of Darwin's observations as well. *THE ORIGIN OF MURDER* is a great book for armchair travelers, anyone interested in Ecuador, and is a must-read before your next expedition to the Galapagos either real or virtual!

This latest book in the "South American Mystery Series" also starts with a murder. Regardless of why Roger and Suzanne Bowman, the sleuths, are in any locale, they are called upon to help find the guilty person(s) involved. Their backgrounds and abilities qualify them as professionals, and their connections to powerful people embellish the storyline. Be sure to peek at the previous books and shorter stories.....jim

My favorite mystery books are not only page turners...but the ones that place me at the scene, I'm living it. Last doesn't just do the research and spin a great yarn, I'm always left believing he's had first-hand knowledge, frightening.

The Origin of Murder is a Roger and Suzanne Bowman mystery series story. It takes place in the Galápagos Islands from where Darwin wrote *The Origin of the Species*. At the beginning of each chapter is a quotation by Darwin from his book. Some of these quotes are linked to the web where the reader can find further information. The novel is rich with descriptions of the flora and fauna of the area, so much so that the reader can easily visualize the myriad variety of birds and other wildlife in the area. In some ways it almost reads like a documentary. But a documentary this book is not. *The Origin of Murder* is a complex twisted plot of a murder novel. In this novel we become better acquainted with the personality and talents of the Bowman's nanny Bruce and find a little

more about their son Robert as the Bowman's are on vacation in the Galápagos Islands. I like the way the Roger and Suzanne work together as a team solving their cases and how their abilities complement one another. There are enough twists and turns in this novel to keep your head spinning. Multiple murders, multiple suspects, multiple motives. You'll just have to try to keep up. If you like mysteries, you're sure to like this one. I'd recommend the Origin of Murder. I gave it 5 stars out of 5. Thank you to the author for providing a copy of this book in exchange for a fair and honest review. A positive opinion was not required. All thoughts are my own. This review was published on my blog Shelf Full of Books

<http://kathrynsshelffulofbooks.blogspot.com/2015/02/book-review-origin-of-murder-by-herold.html>

Cruise the Galapagos Islands, learn more about Darwin, and solve several crimes along the way. Reading a "travel mystery" is always so much fun. The reader gets introduced to exotic parts of the world, learns interesting facts, "sees" the wildlife, flora, and terrain through the eyes of the characters, while they solve complicated crimes. The private investigator (Roger) and his wife (Suzanne) have obviously worked together to thwart criminals in previous books, but this one stands on its own. Readers are given enough information about previous plots to encourage reading other books, but we're not left hanging or feel cheated in this one. It's like traveling with Agatha Christie's characters getting ready to jump into the middle of a mystery. We know they've solved other crimes but we have fun watching them work on this new one. It's easy to believe the main characters can accomplish the job at hand. I love the quick intellect of Suzanne and the fun way Roger "plays" the suspects along to get information. Their "nanny" Bruce is a macho man with a soft and cuddly side. They all work systematically to examine the possibilities and readers feel satisfied at the results they get. I won't give away too much of the plot and ruin the story for new readers, just be prepared for a complex crime and an intricate solution. Globe hopping takes on a new meaning for the heroes of this novel.

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