

Part of the Solution

a Counterculture Whodunit
Elana Michelson

Sassy and soulful ... *Part of the Solution* is a gem of a mystery novel with an effusive cast, feisty language, sharp cultural insights, and a moving love story that transcends tragedy and time.

— Foreword Clarion Reviews, 5 Stars

Agatha Christie meets Woodstock in this witty, whip-smart mystery.

It's 1978, and Jennifer Morgan, a sharp-tongued New Yorker on the run from graduate school, has traded a dissertation on Emily Brontë for lava lamps, craft shops, and boysenberry muffins in Flanders, Massachusetts, a countercultural haven that smells faintly of patchouli and revolution. Then a body turns up, and Jennifer's hard-won idyll cracks wide open.

Egged on by her Tarot-reading housemate and stonewalled by the hippie-hating police chief, Jennifer takes it upon herself to solve the murder, trading theories (and sparks) with Ford McDermot, the young cop whose quiet intelligence might make him the unlikeliest ally, or something more. The suspects are all here: a gentle woodworker, a Yeats-wannabe poet, an anti-war hero, a peace-loving minister, and an organic farmer who knows how to hold a grudge.

With Dylan on the stereo and a joint making the rounds, *Part of the Solution* is a sharp, funny, unexpectedly moving trip back to the 1970s. It's a mystery for fans of *The Thursday Murder Club* and *Only Murders in the Building* who wish they knew those characters back in the day and like their mysteries flavored with snappy dialogue, classic oldies, and boho cultural panache.

More than a mystery, *Part of the Solution* brings us back to a living, breathing world whose offbeat charm and literary soulfulness can't stop the past from intruding on the present or stop time from moving on.

Michelson will keep readers guessing ... [she] defies expectations and invites contemplation about the nature of justice, and what it means to leave something in the past.

—Booklife Reviews, Editors Pick

Michelson's strengths lie ... in her ability to re-create a specific cultural moment ... The Café Galadriel and its eccentric patrons feel luminous and alive ... Michelson captures both the intimacy and the corrosive weight of long-held secrets.

—Kirkus Reviews

Delightful, compelling, and unexpected.

—Midwest Book Review

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About the Author

Elana Michelson is a New York City native who has encamped with her wife Penny to the Hudson Valley, where she writes, reads, gardens, and volunteers with local social justice organizations. After thirty-five years as a professor, she has put down a beloved career of academic writing (and student papers) in favor of writing murder mysteries. She earned a PhD in English from Columbia University, but gained her knowledge of the life and times of Part of the Solution from, well, having been there.

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Fun Fact

As an academic and educator, Elana was lucky enough to find herself teaching adult students around the world, from New York nurses' aides to South African mineworkers. Like her character Jennifer, however, she has never lost her love of the Victorian novel.

Author Events

Elana is available for readings, signings, and speaking engagements. She is also happy to connect with book clubs, conferences and educators, either in person or via video call.

To schedule author readings, signings, or other events (virtual or live), please contact her publisher via email at publicist@torchflamebooks.com or by calling 720-507-6244.

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