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"Snappy repartee, tauntingly written, drum tight in its execution."  
—*New York Times* bestselling author Steve Berry

# KILLING KATE

**A Novel**

**BY: JULIE KRAMER**

Praise for **KILLING KATE**:

"A read full of superstition shrouded in mysterious myths that only Kramer can write, creating not only believability in her characters, but making the reader question the validity or existence of guardian angels as well. This is a well-written, very enjoyable novel that Kramer's readers have come to expect."

— *Suspense Magazine*

"Kramer tells the tale from both Riley's and the killer's points of view, and this strategy, combined with short chapters and some clever plot twist, keeps the pages turning."

— *Booklist*

"Best-selling author Kramer surpasses her previous three Riley Spartz titles with this feverishly suspenseful, nail-biting thriller with a gutsy heroine."

— *Library Journal*

"Julie Kramer's *Killing Kate* offers everything a novel should—a most engaging protagonist, page-turning thrills, plot twists, and a host of characters that jump off the page. I loved it!"

—*New York Times* bestselling author Heather Graham

Award-winning author Julie Kramer continues weaving real life into fiction as she takes on Iowa City's infamous Black Angel. The nearly century-old graveyard statue is considered one of the state's most haunted sites because of its mysterious change in color from golden bronze to eerie black and its strange posture - wings and head facing downward instead of tilted up to heaven.

Now in Kramer's latest thriller, **KILLING KATE (Atria Books; July 26, 2011; \$23.99)**, across the

midwest a murderer is drawing angel-shaped chalk outlines around the bodies of his victims. As TV reporter Riley Spartz investigates, she unearths a disturbing legend dating back nearly a century and finds herself pitted against a delusional young man who believes a cemetery statue is urging him to kill.

"Iowa's Black Angel is so rich in superstition, I couldn't resist making it the center of fresh controversy," Kramer said. "Maybe, deep down, I'm hoping angels will be the next vampires."

Kramer writes a bestselling series (STALKING SUSAN, MISSING MARK, SILENCING SAM) set in the desperate world of TV news. A journalist turned novelist, Kramer is a career television news producer who ran the acclaimed I-Team at WCCO-TV in Minneapolis and now works as a freelance news producer for NBC and CBS networks.

"People always have lots of questions about how the media works," she said. "And I think that's one of the strengths of my books. I take people inside how newsrooms make decisions such as which missing people get publicity and which don't. And that can get ugly. But it makes for provocative storytelling especially in this time of media meltdown."

Kramer is a winner of the Minnesota Book Award and the RT Reviewers Award for Best First Mystery. She has also been a finalist for the Anthony, Barry, Shamus, Mary Higgins Clark and Daphne du Maurier Awards.

"KILLING KATE is a little scarier than my other books. I was even scared writing it. That might be taking a risk, but when my editor told me she thought it had great shock value, I felt it was the right path for my series."

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

Julie Kramer grew up on a corn and cattle farm along the Minnesota-Iowa state that has been in her family for more than 130 years. She lives with her family in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. For more about the author, check her website at [www.juliekramerbooks.com](http://www.juliekramerbooks.com)

#### **KILLING KATE**

**By Julie Kramer**

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## **PRAISE FOR SILENCING SAM:**

"Julie Kramer combines real life experience with just the right amount of humor layered on a great plot to deliver a book that is grade A steak in a world that loves to give us cheap burgers"

**—Crimespree Magazine**

"The latest super-fun beach read from our favorite local mystery writer"

**—METRO Magazine**

"When reading Julie Kramer's third book, "Silencing Sam," it finally hit me — Kramer is a Minnesota Agatha Christie"

**—Rochester Post Bulletin**

"*Silencing Sam* has a sexy protagonist, a sinister plot, and delivers another delightful read in this smart series."

**—Linda Fairstein**

"Best-selling author Kramer has delivered her finest Spartz novel to date; fiction readers will love this riveting, action-packed journey into television news investigations."

**—Library Journal, starred review**

"This brisk mystery, in which homicide is leavened with deadpan humor, makes a worthy entry in a winning series."

**—Booklist**

"The plot zips along... the dialogue is right on."

**—St. Paul Pioneer Press**

"The third Riley Spartz book has a smart, independent heroine, clever dialogue, a well-paced plot and an ending that wraps everything up without feeling too pat or clichéd. A perfect summer vacation read, whether readers are familiar with the first two books or not (if not, be sure to rectify that as soon as possible)."

**—Romantic Times**