PRESS KIT

ELLE JAUFFRET

Award-winning mystery author · Former California criminal attorney

Author of the Suddenly French Mysteries

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BIOGRAPHY

ONE-LINER

Elle Jauffret is a former California criminal attorney and the award-winning author of the Suddenly French Mysteries and speculative fiction.

VERY SHORT BIO (50 words)

Elle Jauffret is an award-winning mystery author whose work explores identity, perception, and hidden power structures. A French native and former California criminal attorney, she brings legal insight, cultural nuance, and sharp psychological tension to contemporary mysteries and speculative fiction.

SHORT BIO (100–150 words)

Elle Jauffret is an award-winning mystery author and former California criminal attorney whose work explores identity, perception, and the quiet power structures shaping our lives. A native of France and bilingual lawyer, she draws on her legal background and cross-cultural experience to craft character-driven mysteries that blend psychological depth with social insight. Her *Suddenly French Mysteries* series follows a former criminal attorney-turned private chef and sleuth navigating questions of language, belonging, and truth. Jauffret is a frequent panelist and moderator at writers' conferences, bookstores, and festivals, where she speaks about writing craft, identity, and using genre fiction — from mystery to speculative fiction — as a lens to examine how power operates beneath the surface of everyday life.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook · facebook.com/elle.jauffret

Instagram · @ellejauffret

Threads · @ellejauffret

Goodreads · goodreads.com/author/show/2355615.Elle_Jauffret

BookBub · bookbub.com/profile/elle-jauffret

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2025	Agatha Award Finalist — Best First Novel (mystery)
2025	Bouchercon Debut Breakfast, Featured Debut Author (mystery)
2025	PenCraft Award Winner (mystery)
2025	San Diego Public Library Short Story Contest Finalist (speculative fiction)
2024	Killer Nashville Claymore Award Finalist (middle grade thriller)
2023	New York International Women Festival Award Winner (speculative fiction)

AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS

Writing as a former attorney · French Foreign Accent Syndrome · Identity and belonging in the US · Women writers crafting psychological mystery · Traditional and cozy mysteries vs. literary crime fiction · Combining genres

BOOK

THREADS OF DECEPTION

Suddenly French, Book 1

Publisher	Level Best Books
Publication Date	November 12, 2024
Formats & Pricing	Paperback ($16.95) · eBook ($5.99)
ISBN	978-1-68512-751-0 (paperback, 252 pages)
	978-1-68512-752-7 (e-book)

ONE-LINE SYNOPSIS

A traditional mystery in which a criminal attorney-turned-private chef returns to California after a bomb destroyed her firm and left her with French Foreign Accent Syndrome, stumbles into a murder, and clashes with the detective who happens to be her new roommate.

SYNOPSIS

High-profile D.C. criminal attorney Claire Fontaine is leaving the legal world behind to become a private chef after a criminal explosion destroyed her law firm and left her with (French) Foreign Accent Syndrome. In order to heal and reassess her life, she returns to Caper Cove, California to cater for a fashion TV show at the request of a rising designer friend, only to find said friend dead. Determined to prove it's not a suicide but a murder, Claire teams up with childhood best friend Suggie Oh, and clashes with Detective Ben Torres — who happens to be her new roommate. This debut novel blends classic mystery, crime, and character-driven drama. It presents an intriguing, multifaceted murder case that keeps readers guessing, while offering insider glimpses into the fashion industry, political campaigns, and the legal world. It also explores the experience of navigating life with an accent, challenging conventional notions of Americanness.

PRAISE

> *"Elle Jauffret spins a powerful, complex, and compelling mystery! THREADS OF DECEPTION dives deep into the human experience and does so with elegance and insight. Highly recommended!"*
>
> — Jonathan Maberry, NY Times bestselling author of NecroTek and The Dragon in Winter

> *"A charming traditional mystery with a unique French twist — a captivating mix of fashion, food, and fascinating characters! Elle Jauffret is a smart and fresh new voice, and this chic, cinematic, and unpredictable story will keep you turning the pages as fast as you can."*
>
> — Hank Phillippi Ryan, USA Today Bestselling author of ONE WRONG WORD

> *"With a charming and confident heroine, a sexy police detective, and dripping with Hollywood intrigue, Threads of Deception is a must-read for mystery lovers, a fierce debut for author Elle Jauffret!"*
>
> — Gretchen McNeil, author of Ten and the #murdertrending series

> *"A delectable debut novel in which Jauffret stitches together a mouth-watering mystery that will leave readers hungry for more!"*
>
> — Daphne Silver, Agatha Award winning author of Crime and Parchment

> *"When it comes to serving up an intriguing, unique and satisfying mystery, Jauffret is the crème de la crème."*
>
> — Wendy Toliver, best-selling author of Regina Rising and Red's Untold Tale

BOOK

COSPLAYED TO DEATH

Suddenly French, Book 2

Publisher	Level Best Books
Publication Date	November 11, 2025
Formats & Pricing	Paperback ($16.95) · eBook ($5.99)
ISBN	979-8-89820-037-4 (paperback, 282 pages)
	979-8-89820-038-1 (e-book)

SYNOPSIS

When former DC attorney Claire Fontaine returns to her California beach town to heal from a deadly law firm explosion, she expects peace, ocean breezes, and a fresh start as a private chef. Instead, she finds herself investigating two murders during an international surfing competition — where cosplayers, Olympic hopefuls, and old grudges collide in deadly ways. With her neurological French accent constantly questioned, an online troll sabotaging her catering business, and her retired-cop father becoming a prime suspect, Claire must navigate surf culture, extreme body modification, and buried secrets to catch a killer. But as she gets closer to the truth, she discovers that some transformations hide darker motives — and that choosing between her legal past and culinary future might not be the real question at all. A contemporary mystery with California sunshine, complex characters, and a heroine who refuses to pick just one lane.

PRAISE

"Extreme cosplayers, champion surfers, and professional rivals abound in Cosplayed to Death. This cozy mystery brims with quirky charm, clever plotting, and a heroine you can't help but root for. A fun, modern take on citizen detectives."

— M.C. Vaughan, author of Romancing Miss Stone and Code Name Gorgeous

"Full of surfside vibes and delicious food drama, Cosplayed to Death kept me guessing until the end! A perfect summer read."

— M.K. England, author of All Fired Up

"Jauffret delivers an absolute riptide of a mystery in COSPLAYED TO DEATH! A clever plot, charming heroine, and sparkling humor take center stage."

— Jenny Adams, Agatha Award Nominated Author of the Deadly Twenties Mysteries

"A solidly crafty multi-plot storyline where the mystery was skillfully accomplished with the right amount of intrigue, tension, suspense, and apprehension."

— Dru Ann Love, winner of the Agatha, Anthony, Macavity, and Raven Awards

"If you're looking for a cozy murder mystery that will feed your curiosity and your appetite, look no further. Cosplayed to Death has it all."

— Janina Scarlet, author of Superhero Therapy and Dark Agents

BOOK

SPIRITS OF THE LAW

Suddenly French, Book 3

Publisher	Level Best Books
Publication Date	November 10, 2026
Formats & Pricing	Paperback ($16.95) · eBook ($5.99)
ISBN	ISBN forthcoming
	ISBN forthcoming

SYNOPSIS

A fall festival. An old mansion. And a death that's anything but accidental. When a car plunges off a cliff during Caper Cove's beloved harvest celebration, former criminal attorney turned caterer Claire Fontaine assumes it's a tragic accident — until the medical examiner reveals the victim, a local psychic, was already dead. Now Claire investigates beneath the looming shadow of LaMaison, a storied cliffside mansion rumored to be cursed. As she prepares to cater its extravagant Halloween Ball, Claire uncovers a century-old injustice tied to stolen land, silenced women, and a ghost who may not be ready to rest. Things turn personal when Claire spots a woman who looks exactly like her sister Aurora, missing for twenty years, on the mansion grounds. An atmospheric, modern mystery filled with small-town secrets, historic intrigue, and fall vibes.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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High-resolution author portraits and book cover images available at **ellejauffret.com/Photos**
Media coverage archive at **ellejauffret.com/Press-Coverage**

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