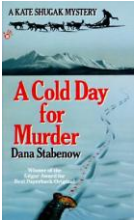


# The Kate Shugak mystery series

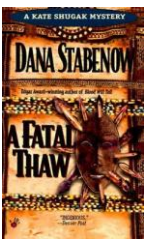
## By Dana Stabenow



### **A Cold Day for Murder** [1992]

Kate Shugak returns to her roots in the far Alaskan north, after leaving the Anchorage D.A.'s office. Her deductive powers are definitely needed when a ranger disappears.

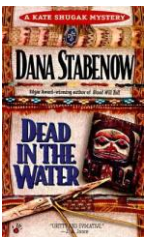
Looking for clues among the Aleutian pipeliners, she begins to realize the fine line between lies and loyalties--between justice served and cold murder.



### **A Fatal Thaw** [1993]

On the first day of spring a man went berserk, killing eight of his neighbors. Only there were nine bodies lying in the snow. The last victim was a golden blonde with a tarnished past--and her killer was still at large. It's up to Kate

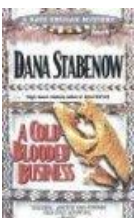
Shugak and her husky, Mutt, to track down the suspects--before the murderer melts back into the snowscape. But the guilty party could be anyone, because in the Alaskan spring, old hatreds warm up quickly...



### **Dead in the Water** [1993]

There's something fishy about the disappearance of two crew members from an Alaskan fishing boat. Investigator Kate Shugak goes undercover and starts casting her net for clues among the toughest crew on the Bering

Sea. And if she doesn't watch her back, she could end up being forced to walk the plank.



### **A Cold-Blooded Business** [1994]

Alaskan P.I. Kate Shugak goes undercover to get to the bottom of illicit drug trading on the TransAlaska pipeline. But while Kate's combing the oil fields for clues, the dealers unmask her

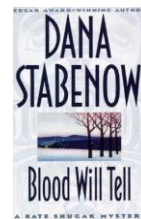
cover.



### **Play With Fire** [1995]

Formerly the star investigator in the Anchorage D.A.'s office, Kate Shugak now tracks down criminals from her Aleut homestead. But she and her wolf-dog Mutt

are taking a June break to pick wild morel mushrooms among the charred trees left by a devastating forest fire. In the ashes Kate also uncovers the mysterious corpse of a naked man. And when she is "hired" by a ten-year-old to locate his missing dad, she fears she has already found him. The reason how and why he died, however, is buried deeper than his body. Finding it will lead Kate to the remains of a woolly mammoth in a Fairbanks museum, back to her old lover Jack Morgan, and far afield to an isolated settlement of religious fundamentalists . . . as she follows a twisted road toward a smoldering evil and the flash point for a macabre murder.



### **Blood Will Tell** [1996]

At the request of her grandmother, a matriarch of her Aleut clan, Kate Shugak travels to Anchorage to investigate the mysterious deaths of several Council members

just before a crucial meeting to determine the fate of some disputed tribal lands.



### **Breakup** [1997]

April in Alaska is the period of spring thaw, what the locals call *breakup*. For Kate, this year's meltdown brings nothing but mayhem.

First, the snow uncovers a dead body near Kate's home. Then a woman is killed in a suspicious bear attack. Kate is drawn further into the destruction of breakup - and into the path of a murderer...

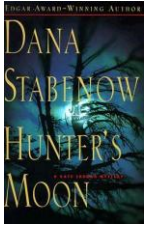


### **Killing Grounds** [1998]

Kate finds that commercial fishing can be a deadly business. Deckhanding for Old Sam Dementieff on board the fishing tender Freya, Kate helps haul in salmon, halibut, and the body of a widely disliked fisherman, whose

apparent murder is greeted with such boisterous rejoicing that she's unsure whether to arrest the killer or give him a medal. Drafted by State Trooper Jim Chopin to assist in the investigation, Kate draws up a list of suspects that includes the dead man's troubled teenaged son and daughter, his not-so-grief-stricken widow, and half the skippers of the fishing fleet. At the same time, Kate's Aleut aunties, attending a fish

camp on Amartuq Creek, are mixed up in some fishy dealings of their own, which Kate must prove do not include murder.



### **Hunter's Moon [1999]**

It's September and the height of hunting season in the bush. Experienced hunter Kate and her boyfriend, Jack, volunteer to help out their friend and big-game outfitter George Perry with a hunting trip. But while they kill to pack their freezers, this wealthy group of German computer executives wants trophies to hang on their walls. The conflict of interest doesn't end there; used to pampering, the group has a style that clashes with Kate's self-sufficient ways. After successfully bagging a moose with two of her charges, Kate returns to camp to learn that a hunter has been shot. It appears to be an accident, until the body of a second hunter is discovered in even more gruesome circumstances. With no shortage of potential suspects, Kate realizes the moose and the bears aren't the only animals being hunted in the bush.



### **Midnight Come Again [2000]**

Kate, a former investigator for the Anchorage D.A. and now a P.I. for hire, is missing after a winter spent in mourning. Alaska State Trooper Jim Chopin, Kate's best friend, needs her to help him work a new case. He discovers her hiding out in Bering, a small fishing village on Alaska's western coast, living and working under an assumed name-working hard, as 18-hour workdays seem to be her only justification for getting up in the morning. But before they can even discuss Kate's last several months, or what Jim is doing looking for her in Bering, they're up to their eyes in Jim's case, which is suddenly more complicated-and more dangerous-than they suspect.



### **The Singing of the Dead [2001]**

Kate hires onto the staff of a political campaign to work security for a Native woman running for state senator. The candidate has been receiving anonymous threats, and Kate, who went to college with two of the staffers, is to become her shadow, watching the crowds at rallies and fundraisers. But just as she's getting started the campaign is rocked by the murder of their staff researcher. In order to track the killer, Kate will have to retrace the researcher's steps and delve into the past, in particular the grisly murder of a "good-time girl" during the Klondike Gold Rush in 1915. Little can she guess the impact a ninety-year-old unsolved case could have on a modern-day killer.



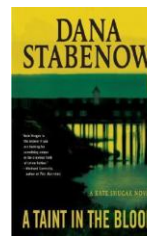
### **A Fine and Bitter Snow [2002]**

In a tense battle between conservationists and developers of Alaska's pristine wilderness, P.I. Kate Shugak finds herself in a murderous environment. Set in Alaska, Edgar Award-winner Dana Stabenow's novels combine a lush and evocative portrait of life in the frozen north with taut suspense and top-notch characters, especially the dynamic Aleutian P.I. Kate Shugak. A perennial bestseller regionally, Stabenow's national profile is on the rise, and with *A Fine and Bitter Snow*, she delivers the novel that can catapult her into the forefront of crime fiction today. In this latest installment, the possibility of drilling for oil in a wildlife preserve near Kate's home has battle lines drawn, even in Kate's small community. Things heat up when a ranger at the preserve loses his job for political reasons, but when a passionate conservation spokesperson is found poisoned, the war begins in earnest. A gripping story both entertaining and tense not to mention timely Dana Stabenow brings to life the beauty and the danger of living and dying in Alaska.



### **A Grave Denied [2003]**

Everyone knew Len Dreyer, a town handyman, but no one knew anything about him. This omission becomes glaringly obvious when his body turns up, frozen for months, in the path of a receding glacier with the hole from a shotgun blast in his chest. No one even knew he was missing. Alaska State Trooper Jim Chopin asks Kate to help him dig into Dreyer's background, in the hope of finding some reason for his murder. She takes the case, mindful of the need for gainful employment as she copes with the teenage boy now in her care, a constant re-minder of his father, her dead lover. Little does she imagine that in trying to provide for him she may well be putting him directly in the path of danger.



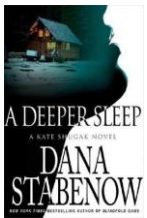
### **A Taint in the Blood [2004]**

Thirty-one years ago in Anchorage, Alaska, Victoria Pilz Bannister Muravieff was convicted of murdering her seventeen-year-old son William. The jury returned a quick verdict of guilty, believing the prosecutor's claims that she had set fire to her own home with both her sons inside; William died and the other, Oliver, narrowly escaped. Victoria was sentenced to life in prison without parole, and though she pled not guilty at the trial, she never again denied her guilt. Now her daughter, Charlotte Muravieff, has hired Kate Shugak to clear her mother's name.

Her daughter has always believed in her innocence, and now that Victoria has been diagnosed with terminal cancer, Charlotte wants her free. Kate is the only P.I. Charlotte can find who's willing to take such a long-shot case. Kate, on the other hand, is only willing because she's suddenly a single parent to a teenager, a teenager she hopes will decide to go to college. Besides, it can't be bad to do a favor for the Bannister family, one of the wealthiest and most prominent families in Alaska's short history. As Kate begins an investigation, Victoria protests, refusing to cooperate. But soon it seems she isn't the only one who wants to leave the past in the past.

divided the Niniltna Native Association—the aunties are to a woman selling out—and a hostile environmental activist organization has embraced the Suulutaq Mine as their reason for being. It's almost a relief when Kate finds a body. This she can handle. Until the identity of the body vanishes, too.

### *Anthologies containing Kate Shugak stories*



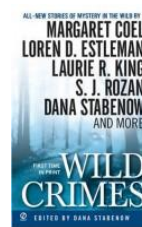
#### **A Deeper Sleep [2007]**

P.I. Kate Shugak has been working on a case for the Anchorage D.A. involving the murder of a woman by her husband. Louis Deem has been the subject of investigations before, and he's never been convicted. But Kate and state trooper Jim Chopin are convinced that this time he'll be punished for his actions. When he's found not guilty, Kate and Jim and the rest of Niniltna, Alaska, are certain that a man has gotten away with murder and that it's only a matter of time before he tries again. Sure enough, a few weeks later a woman and her son are shot, the victims of an apparent robbery. But this time, Kate and Jim have a witness, and they're not going to let Deem get away again. Or will he?



#### **The Mysterious West [1994]**

Includes the Shugak story "Nooses Give".



#### **Wild Crimes [2004]**

Includes the Shugak story "Wreck Rights".



#### **Whisper to the Blood [2009]**

Between two suspicious murders and a series of attacks on snowmobilers up the Kanuyaq River, part-time P.I. and newly elected chairman of the Niniltna Native Association Kate Shugak has her hands full. Also, a world-class gold mine is discovered in the Park.



#### **A Night Too Dark [2010]**

In Alaska, people disappear every day. In Aleut detective Kate Shugak's Park, they've been disappearing a lot lately. Hikers head into the wilderness unprepared and get lost. Miners quit without notice at the busy Suulutaq Mine. Suicides leave farewell notes and vanish.

Not only are Park rats disappearing at an alarming rate, but so is life in the Park as Kate knows it. Alaska state trooper Jim Chopin's workload has increased to where he doesn't make it home three nights out of four, the controversial mine has seduced Johnny and his classmates with summer jobs and