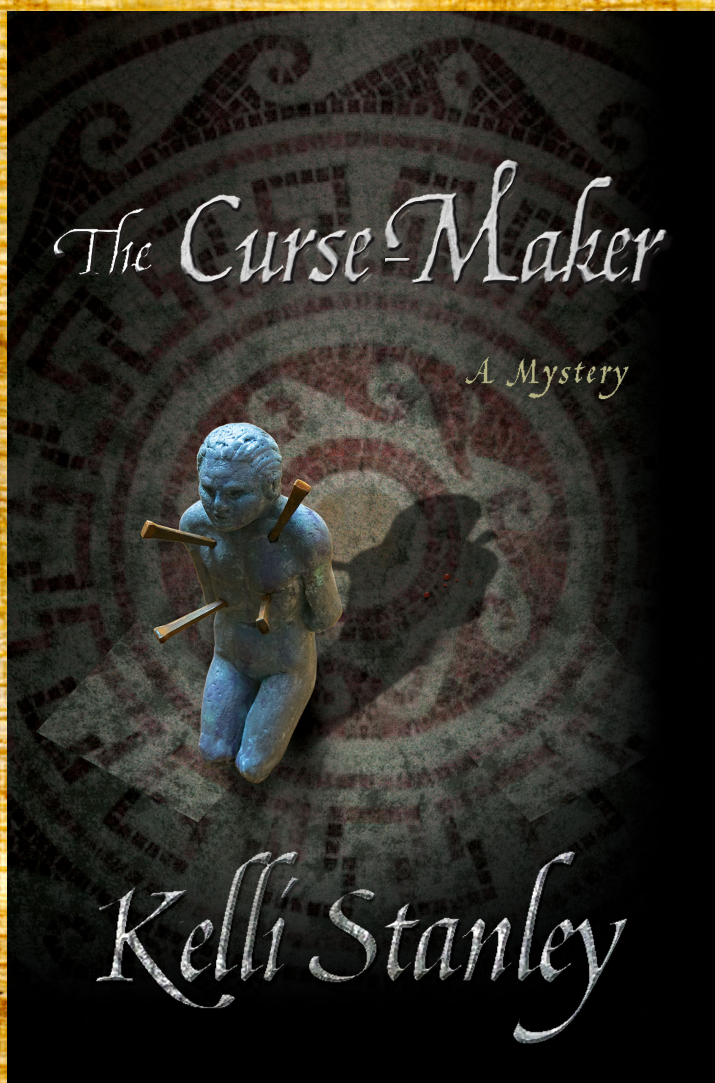


THE NEXT IN THE CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED
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“Kelli Stanley writes with a unique voice and tone, creating an all-absorbing historical mystery. Her love for and knowledge of her subjects project a visual magic, and you are there. Ms. Stanley has gone where few others ever go, and with excellence.”

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CRITICALLY-ACCLAIMED CITY OF DRAGONS

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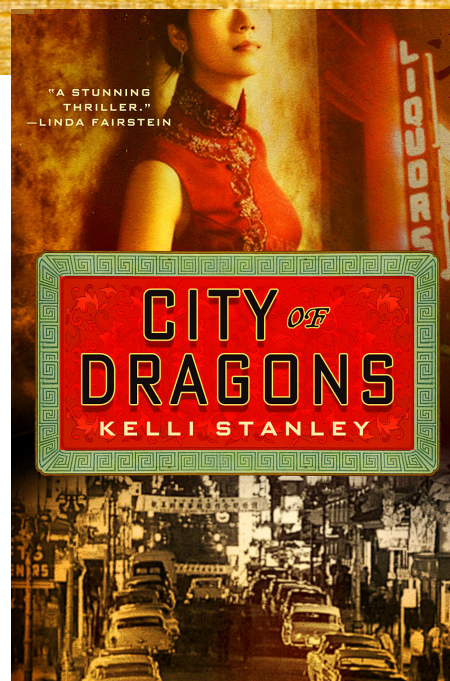
No. 2 IMBA Bestseller

IndieNext Pick of the Month

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SYNOPSIS AND EXCERPT FROM THE CURSE-MAKER

When Roman physician Arcturus and his stunning wife Gwyna arrive at Aquae Sulis (Bath) for a holiday, a dead body is floating in the sacred spring. The murdered man is a curse-maker whose curses actually come true, and as murder follows murder, it looks like there's now a curse on Arcturus.

An exciting and exotic look at the sideshow world of fake healers, ghost-raisers and medicine men, *THE CURSE-MAKER* is the story of a spa town where people go to heal ... only to wind up dead. And it takes the doctor-protagonist on a dark road—into Roman cemeteries, silver mines, underground water tunnels, and the twisted mind of a killer bent on revenge.

Don't go near the water ...

From Chapter One

The man was floating, serene, tunic swirling in the undulating waves like clouds against a blue sky. His mouth was open. He was dead.

I looked back toward Gwyna. She was kneeling in the saddle like a circus acrobat, struggling to see what was going on. At least she seemed focused. Not the aimless woman, the lost wife I'd brought here, hoping to find the woman I loved.

Voices rose from the crowd, agitated.

"Pollution! In our town! The council must—"

"Why doesn't someone do something? Where's Papirius?"

"How dare he do this to the goddess? To us?"

They shoved forward, scrambling for a closer look, taking me with them. Another voice, calmer than the rest.

"Can someone help me pull him up?"

The crowd was stiff with excitement, and I pushed my way through. I was stiff, and not so excited, but I was there, even if it was early in the morning after a long trip, and I was just trying to get some goddamn directions.

PRAISE FOR THE ARCTURUS SERIES

"I loved *THE CURSE-MAKER* - a compelling, engrossing tale from Kelli Stanley who's carved out her own unique genre of Roman noir. Don't miss this one."

Cara Black, bestselling author of the *Aimee Leduc Series* and *MURDER IN PASSY*

"No one blends authentic period detail with hardboiled crime like Kelli Stanley. This is Sam Spade in a toga!"

Rhys Bowen, Agatha and Anthony-winning author of the *Molly Murphy* and *Royal Spyness* series

"*NOX DORMIENDA (A LONG NIGHT FOR SLEEPING)* nigh cost me a night's sleep! A Roman noir ... and with a depth of scholarship that should be off-putting but works beautifully. The language is a sheer treasure.

From classical to sheer class, and for a book that is so meticulously researched, it has a wild and wondrous sense of humour. What a series this is going to be! Imagine Ellis Peters re-written by Elmore Leonard and you'll have some notion of this gem of a novel—it moves like a gladiator on speed."

Ken Bruen, Shamus Award-winning author of *CROSS* and *ONCE WERE COPS*

"... chock full of chills, thrills, and breath-taking adventure. Fueled by fascinating characters and rich details from Londinium in 83 A.D., this unforgettable tale brings the past eerily alive while leaving you hungering for the next book in what surely will be an exciting series. Stanley is a terrific writer."

Gayle Lynds, *New York Times* Bestselling Author



Mystery

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5-1/2" x 8-1/4" / 320 pages

Hardcover



Kelli Stanley reinvented the golden era of noir fiction with her bestselling and critically acclaimed historical suspense thriller *CITY OF DRAGONS*, set in 1940 San Francisco, and featuring the unforgettable series heroine, Miranda Corbie.

Now, with *THE CURSE-MAKER*, she returns to the "Roman noir" series that began with *NOX DORMIENDA (A Long Night for Sleeping)*, won the Bruce Alexander Award for Best Historical Mystery and was nominated for a Macavity Award. Stanley holds a Master's degree in Classics and lives in San Francisco. For more information about Kelli or her books and stories, visit her at www.kellistanley.com.

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