



'The First Murder'

By Carol Goodman Kaufman

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318 pages

\$16.99

West Stockbridge author Carol Goodman Kaufman, better known as children's author [Carolinda Goodman](#), has published her first novel, "[The First Murder](#)," a mystery set in the fictional Berkshire village of Queensbridge. The story begins with the death of Mary Jane Bennett. She's found dead in her bed. Most believe it's an open-and-shut case — after all, Mary Jane was found alone, strangled by her own scarf. The

doors of the house are locked. The medical examiner rules her death accidental. When the state police close the case, Queensbridge Police Chief Caleb Crane steps in.

Crane isn't convinced Mary Jane's death was accidental and begins his own investigation, into what he believes is the first murder to ever take place in this sleepy, pastoral village. His investigation is not welcomed by anyone. The town councilors are afraid of bad publicity. Complicating things even further is his growing list of suspects, — which includes his wife.