

OCTOBER MUSINGS

SHARON VIRTS



Countdown to the Release of *The Grays of Truth*

12<sub>D</sub>:00<sub>H</sub>:24<sub>M</sub>:40<sub>S</sub>

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## **A Halloween Reflection**

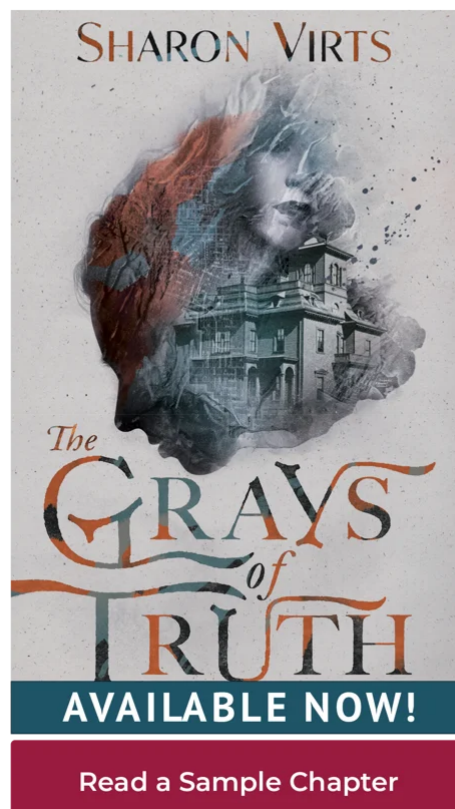
### **The Haunting Voice of Edgar Allan Poe**

Edgar Allan Poe, master of the macabre, once wrote, “The boundaries which divide Life from Death are at best shadowy and vague.” It’s a quote that resonates deeply with the themes explored in my upcoming novel, *The Grays of Truth*—a historical tale steeped in suspense, secrecy, and shadowy truths.

Set in Reconstruction-era Baltimore, where death seems to stalk the city’s elite, those boundaries become dangerously thin, and the ghosts of the past are not so easily laid to rest. When I learned that one of the characters in my book was, in real

life, a cadet at West Point the same year that Edgar Allan Poe attended the academy, I couldn't resist the urge to include Poe's work as part of the story.

In *The Grays of Truth*, Jane Gray Wharton's orderly world quickly begins to unravel. What begins as an unexpected tragedy spirals into something far more sinister. As the mysterious deaths continue, Jane is left questioning everything—her family, her past, and her own sanity—much like Poe's Montresor in *The Cask of Amontillado* or the narrator of *The Tell-Tale Heart*. The tension between the seen and unseen, the known and the unknown, is reminiscent of many of Poe's gothic stories.

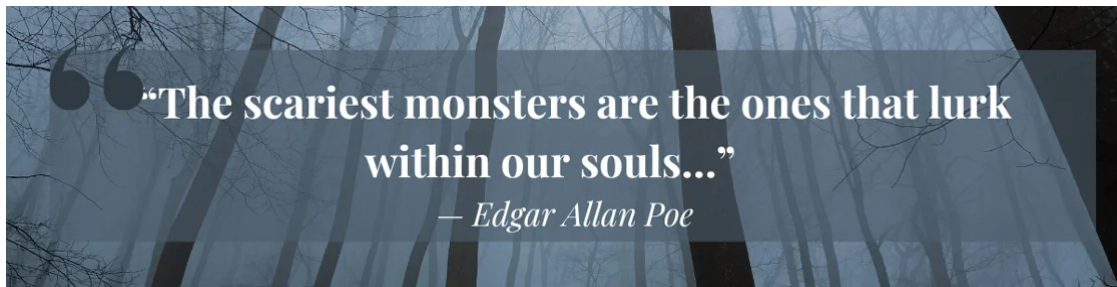


[Click Here to Read a Chapter](#)

Inspired by true events involving one of Baltimore's most powerful families, *The Grays of Truth* paints a vivid portrait of a woman fighting for redemption in a world where appearances are everything, and where the truth, much like the boundaries between life and death, is often cloaked in shadows. The novel is not only a gripping tale of suspense but also a meditation on the fragility of the human mind and the lengths to which we go to protect those we love.

As the winds howl and the nights grow longer, there's no better time to lose yourself in a story that captures the very essence of mystery and intrigue (with a little Edgar Allan Poe thrown in for good measure!)

*The Grays of Truth* invites readers into a world where the past and present intertwine, and where the most dangerous truths are the ones we hide from ourselves.



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## Pre-order *The Grays of Truth* Now!

 <https://amzn.com/dp/B0CTMSK8L6>

 <https://amzn.com/dp/1959411764>

 <https://amzn.com/dp/1959411721>

If you order the book before the release and register your purchase, you will qualify to receive some amazing perks. An invitation to the Launch Party at Selma. A personalized bookplate. An in-depth look at the real life characters of the story. A small group discussion with me about the book once you've read it. And a chance to win an all-expense paid trip to Virginia for the Launch Party on November 2.

[Learn More about Perks](#)

[Register Your Preorder](#)

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## Your Invited to Launch Party at Selma ...

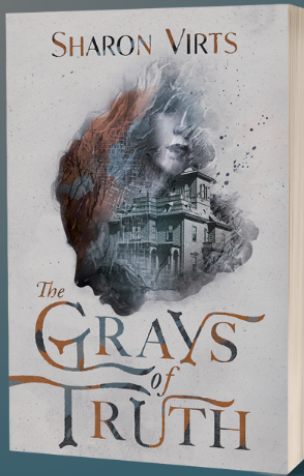


If you pre-ordered *The Grays of Truth*, you're invited to attend the launch party at Selma Mansion on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm.

Please use the link below to RSVP.

Please RSVP Here

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# Book SIGNINGS

## Meet Sharon Virts

**01**  
NOV

FRIDAY

**Birch Tree Bookstore**

11 W Market Street  
Leesburg, VA

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

**07**  
NOV

THURSDAY

**Schuler Books**

2660 28th Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

**09**  
NOV

SATURDAY

**Winchester Book Gallery**

7 N Loudoun Street  
Winchester, VA

Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**16**  
NOV

SATURDAY

**Book People**

10464 Ridgefield Pkwy  
Henrico, VA

Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

**07**  
MAY

WEDNESDAY

**The Poe Museum**

1914 E Main Street  
Richmond, VA

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Register Now to Meet Me in One of These Cities.

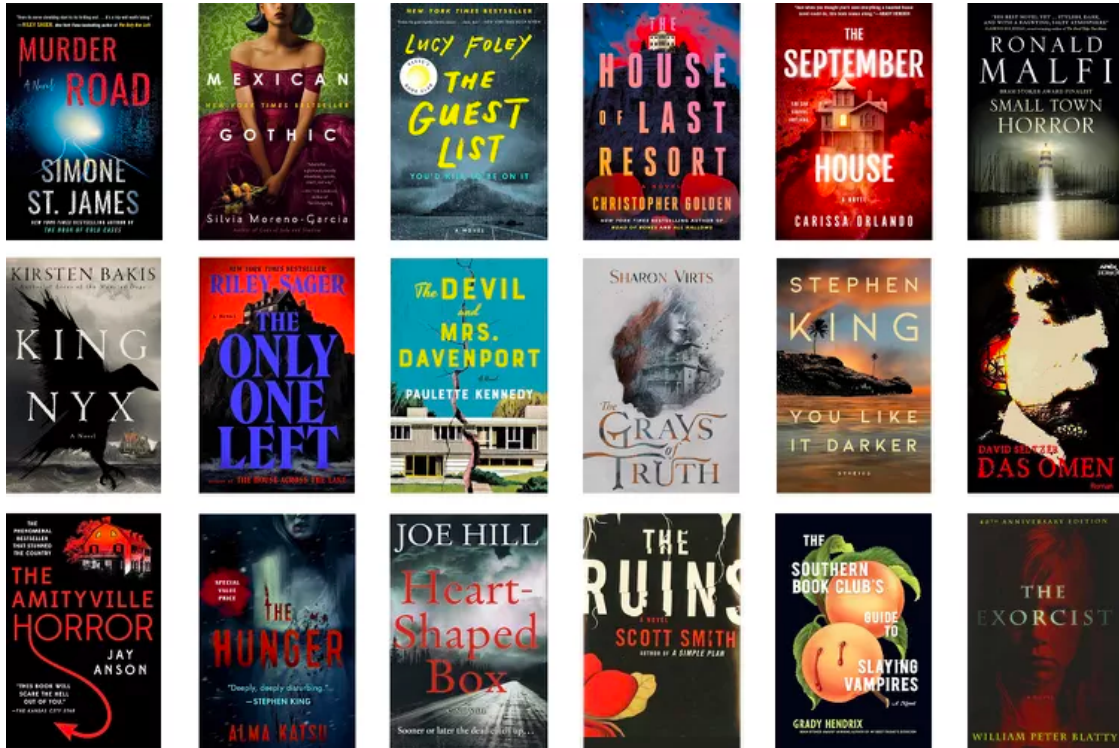
## 20 Scary Books to Read This Halloween — Just Don't Turn Off the Lights!

*With Halloween just around the corner, who can resist a good scare? So, forget streaming. Pick up one of these haunted tales that's sure to keep you turning pages and thinking twice about turning off the lights!*

This month I wrote an article for **People Magazine** on my favorite scary books to read this Halloween. From timeless classics to new favorites, I provided **People** with a bumper crop of creepy suspense, scary thrillers and ghoulish ghost stories.



Click here to read the full article and my review of all these books



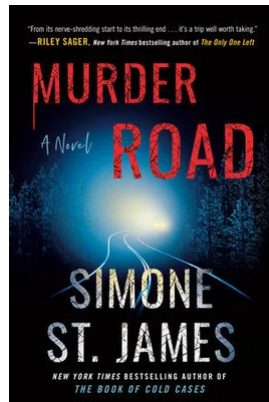
As the nights get longer and colder, there is no better time to curl up in your favorite chair with a cup of mulled cider and a spooky book. While I'm not an "all-out horror" kind of gal, I do love a really scary story that makes me jump at every plot twist — or at every creak of my 200-year-old home.... [CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



**#ReadWithSharon**

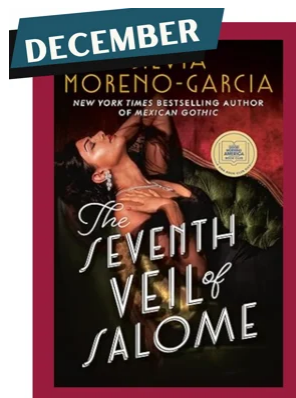
**Historical Fiction Book Club**

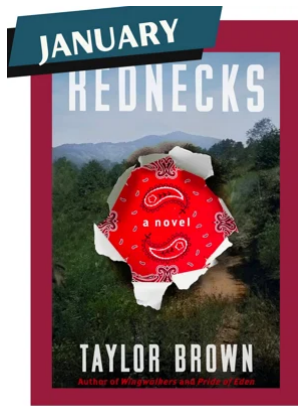
Get ready for an awesome line up in my [#ReadWithSharon](#) book club. On Thursday, October 24th at 7pm eastern, we will discuss our October read, *Murder Road* by author Simone St. James.



The #ReadWithSharon book club only reads current release (within the last year) historical fiction and I do my best to pre-read every selection before making the pick. Most months, the author joins us via zoom and you are able to ask questions during the discussion. Meetings are the fourth Thursday of the month at 7pm eastern, and never go longer than an hour. For meetings you miss, you can access our zoom discussions with the authors on my [YouTube Channel](#).

If you love stories from the past, this club is for you. You can sign up for free [HERE](#)





Have you see *Beetlejuice Beetlejuice* yet? Let me know what you think!



[WWW.SHARONVIRTS.COM](http://WWW.SHARONVIRTS.COM)



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