



Louisiana Lament: A Talba Wallis Novel (Talba Wallis Novels)

By Julie Smith



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Allyson Brown---the Girl Gatsby, they called her. A woman of wealth, hostess of fabled parties, patron of the arts, especially of poets. Found floating in her own swimming pool, shot to death.

Poet and fledgling detective Talba Wallis gets an urgent call from the sister she barely knows, Janessa. The Girl Gatsby was Janessa's close friend. But this call isn't an invitation to an elegant literary salon. Janessa wants off the hook as the principal murder suspect.

Investigating, Talba and her perpetually irascible boss, Eddie, find the reality behind the Gatsby glamour. Allyson Brown was widely hated, a con artist who neglected her children, failed to pay her bills, and lied to everyone. The one person she loved may have ushered her to her death.

The case takes Talba and Eddie from literary parties to Gulf Coast bait shops, from biker bars to abandoned wharves, and finally to the story of another Gatsby, which may yield answers, or greater mysteries.

Louisiana Lament is Talba's journey through the not-so-genteel Southern literary scene, where backbiting and petty jealousies abound and mint juleps are served with canapés of carnage.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Edgar Award-winning Smith writes two mystery series set in the New Orleans era starring female sleuths, Talba Wallis and Skip Langdon, respectively. Her latest in the Wallis series takes on the dog-eat-dog world of New Orleans society as it wraps itself around the southern literary scene. A call from Wallis' half sister, Janessa (whom Wallis discovered in a previous mystery), catapults the multitalented PI, computer expert, and poet into a double-homicide investigation. A mother and daughter are found murdered in their stately home: the mother is floating in the swimming pool, a bullet in her head; the daughter has died from multiple stab wounds. The mother is known as a modern-day female Gatsby. She came from nowhere, hosted elaborate parties, and now has ended up dead in her pool. Driving Wallis' interest in the case is the fact that her sister, a painter of decorative murals at the house, is a prime suspect. Wallis ranges throughout the state in the course of her investigation, giving the reader great lashings of Louisiana atmosphere. Vibrant. *Connie Fletcher*

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Review

"Vibrant."

--*Booklist on Louisiana Lament*

"If you haven't read Smith before, this is the time to start. If you're a fan, you're in for yet another treat."

--Marcia Muller, bestselling author of *Dead Midnight*

"Can't wait for the next Evanovich? Check out *Louisiana Hotshot*. It's Stephanie Plum with Tabasco, dawlin'."

--*The Clarion Ledger*, Jackson, MS

"Smith has launched Talba Wallis on a welcome series of her own. Wallis is fine fun to get to know . . . a consistently interesting and likable woman of depth and complexity."

--*The Washington Post*

Vibrant. (*Booklist*)

About the Author

Julie Smith currently lives and writes in the Faubourg Marigny district of New Orleans, a neighborhood of nightclubs, restaurants and coffee shops where shady characters mix with artists. The author of nineteen novels, she was born and raised in Savannah before escaping to the University of Mississippi. After graduation, Smith became a reporter, first for the *New Orleans Times-Picayune* and later the *San Francisco Chronicle*. She lived in the San Francisco Bay Area for many years before returning to New Orleans.

Smith abandoned reporting for writing mysteries in the early 1980s, writing a series featuring attorney Rebecca Schwartz and a second series starring Paul McDonald, a reporter turned mystery writer whose fate you wouldn't wish on a dog. A few years later, she launched a third series featuring New Orleans police

detective Skip Langdon with *New Orleans Mourning*, which won the Edgar Award for Best Mystery Novel in 1991. She currently alternates between writing about Skip Langdon and Talba Wallis, an African-American poet/private eye who debuted in *Louisiana Hotshot*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Patricia Clay:

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone at everywhere. The information can be a information or any news even a huge concern. What people must be consider whenever those information which is inside the former life are hard to be find than now is taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one typically the resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you have it as your main information we will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen within you if you take Louisiana Lament: A Talba Wallis Novel (Talba Wallis Novels) as the daily resource information.

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Louisiana Lament: A Talba Wallis Novel (Talba Wallis Novels) can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort to put every word into joy arrangement in writing Louisiana Lament: A Talba Wallis Novel (Talba Wallis Novels) yet doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource info that maybe you can be among it. This great information can certainly drawn you into completely new stage of crucial considering.

Terry Hollis:

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Elizabeth Maez:

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