

Tucsonan G. Davies Jandrey adroitly blends three cold cases in this third police procedural featuring Tucson Police Department's homicide detective, Marie Stransky. One case involves a 14-year-old girl; the second, an elderly, homeless Yaqui woman; the third, that of a man long buried under a concrete slab in an Armory Park backyard. As acting head of the homicide department, Stransky makes assignments. She's put her old partner, Det. Torrence Stedman, in charge of cold cases. He needs a partner, so — over Stedman's protests — she assigns to him novice detective Ed Johnson.

That sticky partnership is one of several interpersonal issues Jandrey plays out in the novel. At the forefront are Stransky's, who, already the mother of four, finds herself pregnant again, much to the irritation of her husband, and, probably, the delight of their too-available, sexy neighbor. There's the private investigator Coco Labatt, who previously saved Stransky's bacon, struggling to pass one final physical test in the police academy. And these coalesce when Stransky and her family become targets of revenge-driven former homicide division head Carl Lingrin.

To her considerable credit, Jandrey successfully juggles investigative and personal threads, with their multiple characters, through the book. Her main characters are distinctive and nicely developed; Tucson settings are authentically gritty; and action is tight and suspenseful. It's an engaging read.

— *Christine Wald-Hopkins*
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Detective Mary Stransky is back in G. Davies Jandrey's latest, *Cold, Colder, Coldest*. Along with familiar characters like fellow detective Torrance Stedman and the ever-driven Abby Bannister, Jandrey introduces the reader to a plethora of new ones. As always, her characters are a combination of eccentricities, resolve, and relatability. There are murders to investigate, and mysteries to solve. Jandrey's novels contain human characters that you can't help but connect with and root for. Even if you're not a mystery buff, this novel is well worth your time.

— Debra Eliot of eliotseats.com,
a book review blog
with a culinary twist