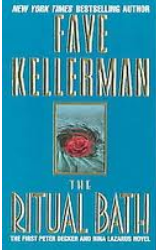


# The Peter Decker/Rina Lazarus series

## By Faye Kellerman



### **Ritual Bath** [1986]

Sergeant Decker is called to investigate a rape charge in an isolated Orthodox Jewish Community. Rina Lazarus, a young widow who found the victim, guides Decker through her suspicious community as all the signs point to the rapist's first crime

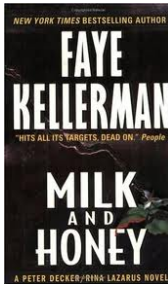
not being their last.



### **Sacred and Profane** [1987]

While on a camping trip, Detective Peter Decker and his two young charges come across the charred remains of two teenage girls. Embroiled in a disturbing case, Decker's only unifying thread in a network of violence and corruption is the deaths of

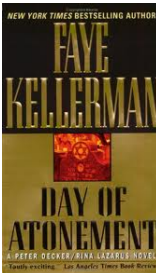
the two apparently very different young girls.



### **Milk and Honey** [1990]

Late one night, Sergeant Pete Decker discovers an abandoned toddler wearing blood-stained pajamas and covered in bee-stings. Decker and his partner Marge Dunn resolve to find her parents, but nothing prepares them for the gruesome mystery

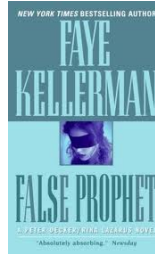
they find themselves stirring up.



### **Day of Atonement** [1991]

When Police Sergeant Peter Decker agreed to spend his honeymoon with his wife's former in-laws in Brooklyn, the worst he thought it could be was dull. He was wrong. For when Noam, the teenage son of a close family friend, goes missing

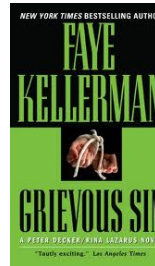
Decker finds his honeymoon is suddenly over.



### **False Prophet** [1992]

Lilah Brecht, daughter of Hollywood movie queen, is brutally raped. Blindfolded during the attack, her description of the attacker comes from her gift of second sight and she proclaims that Detective

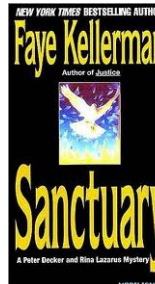
Sergeant Pete Decker is the only policeman who can truly understand and help her.



### **Grievous Sin** [1993]

Minutes after Sergeant Peter Decker's witnesses his wife giving birth, he realizes something is wrong at the hospital. There is something the doctors are not telling him and the early signs look bad: a missing nurse's burnt out car and a whole

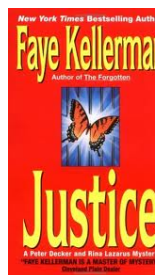
network of family tragedy and betrayal.



### **Sanctuary** [1994]

In the comfortable suburbs of Los Angeles an affluent Jewish family disappears. The father's trade is diamonds, a risky international business. Sergeant Pete Decker senses danger - a danger that stems from a network of ruthless international politics that threatens to

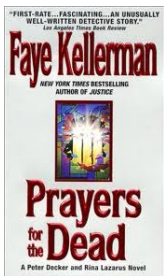
spill on his own doorstep.



### **Justice** [1995]

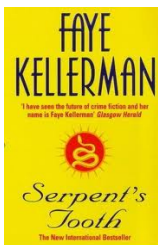
A Californian high-school student is murdered, and the obvious suspect is her fellow student, Chris Whitman. But Sergeant Pete Decker knows that the case has not been exhaustively investigated, even when Whitman confesses to the

crime.



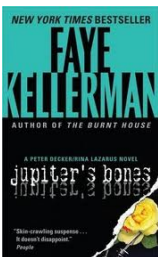
**Prayers for the Dead [1996]**  
 Dr Azor Sparks's genius saves lives; he is also a pillar of the local evangelical church and a committed family man. So who would want to murder him? The answer, Lieutenant Peter Decker soon concludes, is a lot of people.

**Serpent's Tooth [1997]**

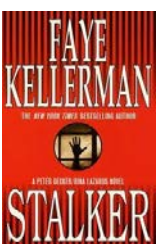


A busy night at an elegant restaurant. Minutes later a gunman opens fire. Thirteen people are killed and dozens more wounded. At least the culprit seems clear. But Lieutenant Decker, in charge of the investigation, needs to understand what motivated the act. And some things

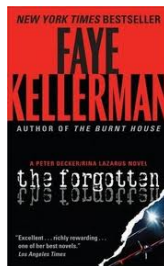
don't quite add up.



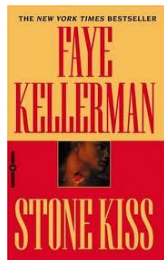
**Jupiter's Bones [1998]**  
 Emil Ganz was always extraordinary. Child genius. Prize-winning astrophysicist. Then, missing person. A decade later he re-emerges as Jupiter, guru of an apocalyptic cult, bringing shame on his family and worrying parents. But when he's found dead, the consequences are more extraordinary.



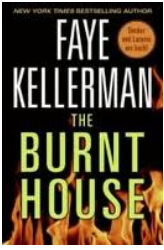
**Stalker [2000]**  
 Cindy Decker's decision to follow in the footsteps of her police lieutenant father was never an easy one. For Pete Decker is, to say the least, overprotective of his only daughter. So when Cindy begins to wonder if she is being followed - maybe even stalked - her father is the last person she can confide in. Frantically trying to contend with her own raw, gnawing fear whilst balancing her work and a clandestine relationship with one of Decker's colleagues, she allows her father access to the horrific facts only when their cases seem to be on a collision course. Together they find themselves in uncharted criminal territory, where snapsecond decisions can make the difference between the life and death of those you love...



**The Forgotten [2000]**  
 A place of worship is vandalised, daubed swastikas testifying to a hatred that, for a time at least, defies understanding. But the Deckers, Rina and her detective husband Peter, soon realise the violence done to their synagogue can be traced to one deeply disturbed adolescent. Ernesto Golding, Born into privilege but obsessed by the past, he is eventually charged, his case closed. But Peter Decker still worries that others were involved. And six months later Ernesto is found murdered. Suddenly Decker and his family are plunged into a ghastly world, of damaged youth, ruthless parents and of secrets, their roots in the horrors of the last generation, that seem to demand ultimate retribution...



**Stone Kiss [2002]**  
 One Dead. One Missing. One Man Who can't Look Away...  
 In Los Angeles Lt. Peter Decker gets a frantic phone call from his family. A distant relative has been found naked and murdered in a seedy Manhattan hotel room and the man's niece, the last person who may have seen the victim alive, has disappeared. Crazed with worry, the girl's parents plead for Decker's help and soon he's racing across the continent to a city he hasn't seen in ten years. With few leads and less time, he plunges into New York's underbelly, a world where vile deeds, unregenerate evil, and sinister secrets pit brother against brother. And where Decker will question the very essence of his faith and fight for everything and everyone he holds dear - including his wife, Rina.



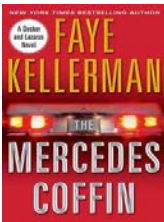
### **The Burnt House [2007]**

At 8:15 in the morning, a small commuter plane carrying forty-seven passengers crashes into an apartment building in Granada Hills, California. Shock waves ripple through Los Angeles as L.A.P.D.

Lieutenant Peter Decker works overtime to calm rampant fears of a 9/11-type terror attack. But a grisly mystery lives inside the plane's charred and twisted wreckage.

The fate of an unaccounted-for flight attendant—twenty-eight-year-old Roseanne Dresden—remains a question mark more than a month after the horrific event, when the young woman's irate stepfather calls, insisting that she was never onboard the doomed plane. Instead, he claims, she was most likely murdered by her abusive, unfaithful husband. But why, then, was Roseanne's name included on the passenger list?

As the jagged pieces slowly fall into place, a frightening picture begins to form: a mind-searing portrait of unimaginable evil that will challenge Decker's and Rina's own beliefs about guilt and innocence and justice.



### **The Mercedes Coffin [2008]**

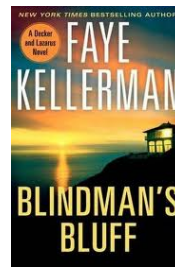
Billionaire genius Genoa Greeves never got over the shocking death of her favorite teacher, Bennett "Dr. Ben" Alston Little, murdered execution-style and

stuffed into the trunk of his Mercedes-Benz. No arrests were ever made, no killer charged for the brutal crime. Fifteen years later, the high-tech CEO reads about another execution-style murder; this time the victim is a Hollywood music producer named Primo Ekerling. There is no obvious connection, but the case is eerily similar to Little's and Genoa feels the time is right to close Dr. Ben's case once and for all - offering the L.A.P.D. a substantial financial "incentive" if justice is finally served for Little.

Lieutenant Peter Decker resents having to commit valuable manpower to a fifteen-year-old open case simply because a rich woman says "Jump!" Still, the recent murder of Primo Ekerling does bear a disturbing resemblance to Little's case, even though two thug suspects are currently behind bars for the Ekerling murder. Decker can't help but wonder about a connection. His first phone calls are to the two primary investigators in the Little case, retired detectives Calvin

Vitton and Arnie Lamar. Lamar is cooperative, but Vitton is not only reluctant to talk, he winds up dead of a suspicious suicide twelve hours later. Plunging into this long-buried murder, Decker discovers that even though the two slayings are separated by a decade and a half, there is still plenty of greed, lust, and evil to connect the dots.

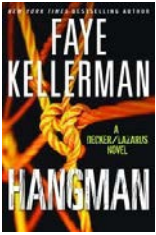
Decker's team of top investigators not only includes his favorite homicide detectives, Scott Oliver and Marge Dunn, but also his newly minted Hollywood detective daughter, Cindy Kutiel, whose help proves to be invaluable. His wife, Rina Lazarus, continues to be his backbone of support, offering a cool, rational outlook despite her growing concern for her husband's welfare and safety. Rina's worries and fears begin to build at a fevered pitch as past and present collide with a vengeance, catapulting an unsuspecting Peter Decker closer and closer to the edge of an infinite dark abyss.



### **Blind Man's Bluff [2009]**

*"They say dead men don't talk, but if you listen, they do."*

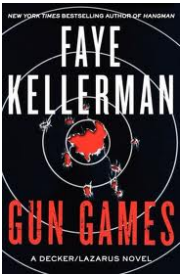
Guy Kaffey thought his wealth could acquire anything- including the best security money can buy. When his family are gunned to death on their vast Butterfly Ranch estate, it's clear that he was tragically wrong. Lieutenant Peter Decker of the LAPD is given the task of piecing together what happened. From the start, he suspects an inside job and that the answer lies with Kaffey's fortune. The daunting scale of Kaffey's business empire produces no shortage of suspects: from members of his bodyguard, to business partners, rival tycoons, even family members. But as LA's ferocious street gangs hire themselves out to unknown paymasters in a cycle of revenge and death, Decker's own family is threatened. And if a billionaire like Kaffey can't protect his own, what hope does Decker have?



### **Hangman [2010]**

High school senior Chris Whitman confessed to murdering his girlfriend to spare beautiful, vulnerable Terry McLaughlin from having to testify at his trial (in *Justice* [1995]). Years later, when the truth set Chris free, he married Terry, changed his name to Donatti . . . and became a professional killer. Now Terry's missing, Donatti's disappeared—and their teenage son, Gabe, has no one to turn to except his mother's friend, LAPD Detective Peter Decker, and Decker's wife, Rina Lazarus.

The last thing Decker wants is Terry's sociopathic husband back in his world. And the hunt for Terry must share center stage with another case when a young nurse's body is found hanging from the rafters at a construction site. Caught between two troubling investigations and an increasingly precarious home life, Decker and Rina must make a difficult decision about sheltering Terry's son . . . even as the shadow of a serial killer falls across their own imperiled family.



### **Gun Games [2011]**

LAPD lieutenant detective Decker and his wife, Rina, have willingly welcomed fifteen-year-old Gabriel Whitman, the son of a troubled former friend, into their home. While the enigmatic teen seems to be adapting easily, Decker knows only too well the secrets adolescents keep—witnessed by the tragic suicide of another teen, Gregory Hesse, a student at Bell and Wakefield, one of the city's most exclusive prep schools.

Gregory's mother, Wendy, refuses to believe her son shot himself and convinces Decker to look deeper. What he finds disturbs him. The gun used in the tragedy was stolen—evidence that propels him to launch a full investigation with his trusted team, Sergeant Marge Dunn and Detective Scott Oliver. But the case becomes darkly complicated by the suicide of another Bell and Wakefield student—a death that leads them to uncover an especially nasty group of rich and privileged students with a predilection for guns and violence. Decker thought he understood kids, yet the closer he and his team get to the truth, the clearer it becomes that he knows very little about them, including his own charge, Gabe. The son of a gangster and an absent parent, the boy has had a life filled with too much free time, too many unexplained absences, and too little adult supervision.

Before it's over, the case and all its terrifying ramifications will take Decker and his detectives down a dark alley of twisted allegiances and unholy alliances, culminating at a heart-stopping point of no return.

**Prepared for the members of the  
Just Desserts mystery fiction discussion group**

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