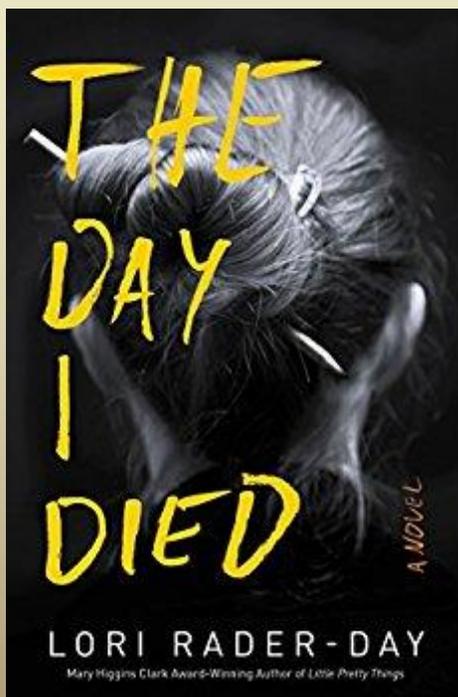


# The Day I Died

Anna Winger can know people better than they know themselves with only a glance—at their handwriting. Hired out by companies wanting to land trustworthy employees and by the lovelorn hoping to find happiness, Anna likes to keep the real-life mess of other people at arm's length and on paper. But when she is called to use her expertise on a note left behind at a murder scene in the small town she and her son have recently moved to, the crime gets under Anna's skin and rips open her narrow life for all to see. To save her son—and herself—once and for all, Anna will face her every fear, her every mistake, and the past she thought she'd rewritten.

*Book summary from The Day I Died reading guide through Harper Collins Publishing.*



**Lori Rader-Day**, author of *The Day I Died*, *The Black Hour* and *Little Pretty Things*, is the recipient of the 2016 Mary Higgins Clark Award and the 2015 Anthony Award for Best First Novel. Originally from Thorntown, Indiana, Lori studied journalism at Ball State University. Lori now lives with her husband Greg in Chicago, where she is the current president of the Mystery Writers of America Midwest Chapter.

Lori  
Rader-Day



The Eugene  
& Marilyn Glick  
★ INDIANA  
*Authors*  
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Public Library Foundation AWARD ★

## Useful Links

Additional *The Day I Died* reading guide questions:

<http://bit.ly/2t7PHNN>

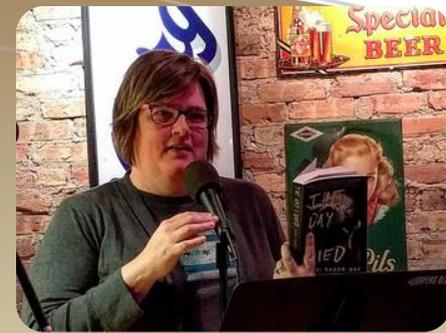
Chicago Review of Books,  
"Homicide and Handwriting: An Interview with Lori Rader-Day"  
<https://chireviewofbooks.com/2017/04/12/lori-rader-day-the-day-i-died-interview/>

Eugene & Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award:  
[www.indianaauthorsaward.org](http://www.indianaauthorsaward.org)

# The Indiana Authors Award

The Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Award was established when **The Indianapolis Public Library Foundation** received a generous grant from **The Glick Fund, a fund of Central Indiana Community Foundation**. This program seeks to recognize the contributions of Indiana authors to the literary landscape in Indiana and across the nation. The Award is divided into four categories: Emerging, for new writers of one or two books that show great promise; Genre Excellence, for writers who excel in a specific literary genre; Regional, for writers well known and respected especially in Indiana and the Midwest; and National, for writers of widespread acclaim. Each winning author receives a cash prize and a \$2,500 grant for the Indiana public library of his or her choice.

## Discussion Questions



1. Dostoyevsky wrote in *The Brothers Karamazov* that "there's nothing...more useful in life than some good memory, especially when it goes back to the days of your childhood." Anna's memories are not often good, but how are they useful to her?
2. How does Anna's past color her current relationships with men – Sheriff Keller, Kent, Bo Ransey, Joe Jeffries, Joshua and Aidan?
3. Anna reflects that "The mistake had been in believing that there was anywhere I could go that would change me from one kind of person to another." How does Anna's journey from Parks to Sweetheart change her?
4. How does the Ransey family's history in Parks influence Sheriff Keller's ability to investigate the case? How does the media coverage include the investigation?
5. The Dairy Bar is a touchstone location for Anna. What childhood places are like that for you? Have you tried, like Anna, to get a child of the next generation to appreciate that place as you do?
6. Anna makes her living doing handwriting analysis. If she analyzed your handwriting what do you think she could determine about you, or do you believe that it is a pseudo-science?

*Some questions adapted from the Harper Collins Readers' Guide.*