

CARLA CONTI

True Crime Author · Award-Winning Indie Publisher
· Former Investigative Reporter

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TRUE CRIME UNCOVERED:

Writing with Purpose, Precision, Power, and Protection

VIDEO CLIPS & SAMPLE SLIDES
AVAILABLE AT:
CarlaJeanConti.com/speaking


ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

True crime is one of the fastest-growing categories in publishing, and one of the most legally and ethically complex to write. This field-tested workshop gives aspiring and working true crime authors a practical, journalist-tested roadmap for doing it right.

WHAT ATTENDEES WALK AWAY WITH

A framework organized around four Ps:

- **PURPOSE** — How to identify stories with built-in narrative tension, cultural significance, and a defensible reason to write.
- **PRECISION** — FOIA requests, court records, multi-source corroboration, call recording, consent laws, and documentation habits that double as legal protection.
- **POWER** — Scene reconstruction, dialogue conventions, pacing, cliffhangers, and portraying real people with dignity and nuance.
- **PROTECTION** — E&O insurance, LLC formation, release forms, literary attorney review, defamation and fair use basics, and pen name strategy.

 **CHECKLIST** — A True Crime Writer's Field Checklist & recap (PDF via QR code)

FORMAT

35-40 minute slide presentation + Q&A. For beginner through intermediate authors across all genres interested in nonfiction storytelling and self-publishing legal protection.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Carla Conti is an award-winning indie true crime author and former investigative journalist who covered the police beat and criminal courts. She is the author of *Chained Birds: A Crimemoir* and the forthcoming *The Jacklighter: Murder, Betrayal, and Justice in Pennsylvania's Endless Mountains* (Fall 2026).

She has appeared on over a dozen podcasts and radio shows, and publishes *Crimemoir Confidential*, a true crime newsletter with 5,000+ subscribers on Substack.

WORKSHOP RECEPTION

- **AMONG THE LARGEST AUDIENCES AT 39th ANNUAL PENNWRITERS CONFERENCE, LANCASTER, PA, MAY 2026** — ~ 1 in 4 conference registrants + 4 Pennwriters board members attended *True Crime Uncovered*.



"You've inspired me to write another true crime book."

— Jim Rada, Pennwriters author/board member, *Published Penns* program manager, and conference speaker coordinator

"What a really popular and fantastic workshop ... it obviously filled a need for true crime and other writers."

— Christina VandePol, author of the forthcoming memoir *Madam Coroner: A Memoir of Death and Politics in Suburbia*



1st Place Nellie Bly Journalism Award—Chanticleer CIBAs
1st Place True Crime—Next Generation Indie Book Awards
Silver True Crime—IPPY Awards
1st Place True Crime—IndieReader Discovery Awards

