

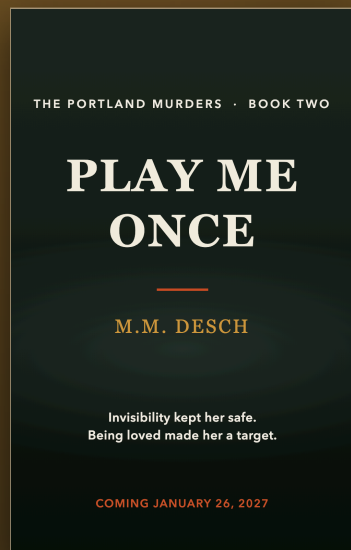
THE PORTLAND MURDERS

PLAY ME ONCE

A Psychological Thriller · by **M.M. DESCH**

COMING
1/26/2027
preorders 12/15

"Invisibility kept her safe. Being loved made her a target."



Grace MacKenzie learned to go quiet as a girl, and she has kept the practice for decades. Not broken quiet. Strategic quiet. The kind that keeps the most important things hidden and whole. Living in drought-stricken Durango, Colorado, she buried her grief, her desires, and her identity behind a life she'd tailored to someone else's pattern. Then Kate Nichols walked into her life. Sharp, magnetic, tender. And Grace, fifty now, opened the door she'd spent decades locking.

It was the most dangerous thing she ever did.

When Grace finds a dead reporter's business card hidden in Kate's belongings, the mask begins to crack. Not hers, but Kate's. A reporter is dead. Grace's Nebraska farm sale is being sabotaged. Her farm manager has fled. Someone with a key has been inside her office. Every thread leads back to the woman sleeping beside her.

Grace knows exactly how to fold herself back into silence. She's done it a thousand times. Now she faces a choice she never imagined: retreat into the shadows that always kept her safe. Or she can stop folding.

The quiet ones don't stay quiet forever.

For fans of Freida McFadden (The Boyfriend), Jeneva Rose (The Perfect Marriage), and Isha Raya (You'll Never Forget Me).

PLAY ME ONCE

by M.M. Desch

Fiction / Psychological Thriller

The Portland Murders, Book 2

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MM Desch brings over three decades as a practicing psychiatrist to The Portland Murders, her psychological-thriller universe. Her debut, TANGLED DARKNESS (Rowan Prose Publishing), was shortlisted for the Chanticleer Clue Awards and named a Readers' Favorite finalist; the novellas IF I GO QUIET and LETHAL LOYALTY carry the universe forward. PLAY ME ONCE is her second full-length novel. She and her wife live in Portland, Oregon.



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Cover reveal coming November 2026. · Start the story early: LETHAL LOYALTY, the prequel novella introducing Kate Nichols, is available now on Amazon – free in Kindle Unlimited. · Advance reader copies: marydesch.com/arc