

Welcome to Mongin Island, the South Carolina Lowcountry home of Carr Jepson and the cozy Books & Brew bookstore, where hot and cold tea are not the only things brewing.

Book #1 of The Island Mysteries series finds Carr Jepson arriving alone on Mongin Island, ready to start the next chapter of her life. Accessible only by boat, Mongin Island has very few cars, no busy roads, no crowds, no traffic lights, no bridge, but boasts gloriously oak-lined roads, beaches of powdery white sand, marshes with tall beach grasses and an empty storefront that speaks to an unanswered dream in Carr's heart: creating a gathering spot that happens to sell books.

Recognizing that the Books & Brew's bare walls could use some "island life," Carr decides to photograph the glorious island scenery. Promising a truly unique sunrise photo, Carr's friend Barb takes her to Governor's Point, an abandoned property that was supposed to be an exclusive waterfront neighborhood. The now neglected property is overgrown and is Barb's secret hideaway for enjoying some of the island's most spectacular water views. But what the two women find in the water that morning sets off a mystery that crisscrosses the island and surfaces the many reasons, some of them deeply rooted in the island's once-turbulent history, that families have come to love this spot in the Atlantic for many generations.

If you love cozy mysteries, you'll find this page-turner riveting. Be prepared to be swept into Carr's journey as an amateur sleuth.

TITLE: All Is Now Lost

SUBTITLE: A cozy mystery rooted in the South Carolina Lowcountry

AUTHOR: Laura Elizabeth

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MYSTERY
FRONTEDGE PUBLISHING.COM 

THE ISLAND MYSTERIES
BOOK 1
**ALL
IS NOW
LOST**

**LAURA
ELIZABETH**

ALL IS NOW LOST

LAURA ELIZABETH



My journey of writing island mysteries began one April day, many years ago, as I waited to board the ferry to Daufuskie Island, South Carolina, for the very first time. My son assured me, in a knowing voice, we would be back at that exact spot many more times. He felt what I felt: the wonder, the pull that only this special place offered us. We were captivated as a family. Through all of our vacations and adventures, we always left energized, restored, and whole again.

Daufuskie is its own magic. There is something immediately compelling about a place that can speak to you with its quiet, can inspire you with its beauty, can encourage you to dream by sharing its natural bounty, and can welcome you with possibility tucked into its mystery.

As one of the Atlantic coastal islands, Daufuskie has been marked by centuries of American history and was made famous by novelist Pat Conroy's memoir *The Water Is Wide* in which he imagined the island in his unique way. From our family's years of long beach walks on Daufuskie with our dogs, exploration, treasure hunts, and incredible family memories—Mongin Island was imagined and became the basis of my mystery series. After moving from Richmond, Virginia, to Atlanta, Georgia, my husband and both our children still enjoy time together on "our" island.

Visit Laura Elizabeth at www.TheIslandMysteries.com.



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BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS

1. Why does Carr agree to help Julie with the Governor's Point case? What is her motivation?
2. Barb describes Carr as "fearless," but is she actually fearless in reality?
3. The island community is strong and depends on each other. For this reason they are a tightly-knit community. Why do you think they accept Carr so quickly?
4. Do you believe Theresa shares the opinion that Mongin Island is a special place or do you think she sees it as a viable business market? Or perhaps, does she believe it to be both?
5. If you could visit Books & Brew, what would you look forward to most?
6. Tripp seems to have a change of heart near the end of the book. What do you think caused this?
7. Do you consider Mongin Island a character in the story in its own right? Why or why not?
8. If you moved to Mongin Island, which character would you most want to meet? Why did you select this person?
9. What would have been Paul's research plan if Books & Brew had not opened?
10. Why do you think Tripp, Carr, and Barb's friendships work so well? Do you have a relationship like this in your own life? If so, how do you nurture, maintain and grow this?

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AUTHOR INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Laura, you are a first-time author. What inspired you to write "All Is Now Lost"?
2. Your book is called a "cozy mystery." What sets cozy mysteries apart from other sub-genres of mysteries?
3. How did you balance the mystery within your story with the challenge of creating cozy characters readers will enjoy and care about?
4. Was the plot or any of the characters in "All Is Now Lost" inspired by your personal life? You've chosen to set your book on Daufuskie Island, which is a real island off the coast of South Carolina, but in your book, it's called Mongin Island. Why did you choose Daufuskie Island for the location of your book and why change the name?
5. If your readers want to visit the island, what tips can you give them about planning an enjoyable visit?
6. Some of the locations in your novel are fond reflections of real places on the island. Can you tell us about one of them?
7. What is your writing process like? Did you plot everything out in advance or did you just start writing and let the story take you down its own path?
8. The Books & Brew bookstore is a key location in your story. Tell us about the bookstore and what makes it unique.
9. Carr Jepson, a recent widow, moves to Mongin Island to restart her life. How do her personal challenges shape the new relationships she forms on the island?
10. Do you have a favorite character from your book? What makes them special to you?
11. How did you handle the challenge of writing a mystery that is both engaging and solvable for the reader?
12. How do you handle pacing and revealing clues to the reader?
13. Friendships are a key component of your story. How have your own friendships made you the writer that you are?
14. What was your favorite part of writing the book and getting it to publication?
15. Can you give us a sneak peek into what's next for the Island Mysteries Series?

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