

The Secret Scribe

AN *AS THE WORLD TURNS* FAN AND BEST-SELLING AUTHOR ASSUMES THE IDENTITY OF SOME OF HER FAVORITE CHARACTERS

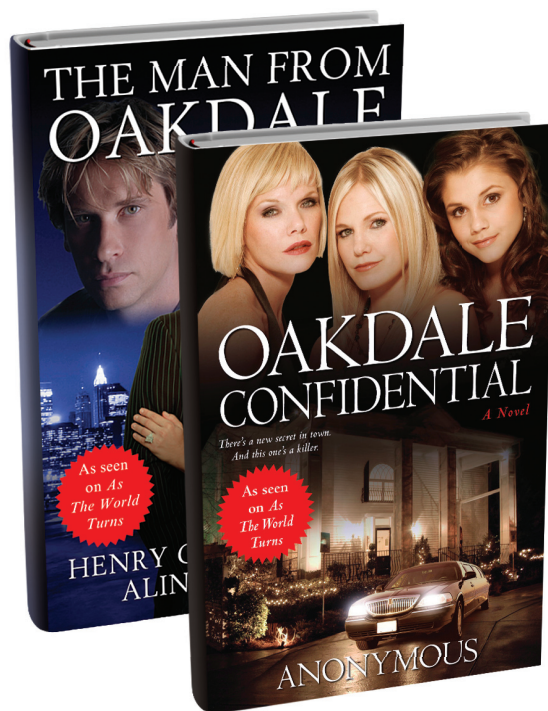
★ In 2006, Katie Snyder (formerly Peretti) co-wrote a novel that stayed for four weeks on the *New York Times*' hardcover best-seller list. But no paparazzi ever caught the first-time author out celebrating her success. That's because outside of CBS daytime, Katie doesn't actually exist.

Her "co-author," however, does. Alina Adams had penned a popular series of *Figure Skating Mysteries* before conceiving the *As The World Turns* tie-in book *Oakdale Confidential*, writing with/as the show's character Katie. An avid *ATWT* viewer since 1982—"Anyone who likes romance novels should be watching soap operas!" Adams says—the author worked closely with executive producer Chris Goutman and head writer Jean Passanante to devise a plotline true to the spirit of the venerable daytime drama. "I was writing from the standpoint of a fan," she says.

Initially credited to "Anonymous," *Oakdale Confidential* was released simultaneously both in real life and as a storyline on the soap—and caused a stir in both worlds. After the book's on-air launch party, attended by real-life mystery-writing master and avowed *ATWT* fan Jeffery Deaver, every Snyder, Hughes and Stewart in Oakdale became embroiled in what Adams remembers as "a big guessing game," trying to unmask the town's secret scribe. When Katie finally owned up to her work, publisher Simon & Schuster put out a second, updated edition of the book.

THE STORY CONTINUES

This January, Adams and *ATWT* were at it again with *The Man From Oakdale*, co-authored by its titular hero, Henry Coleman. A milquetoast of a man, Trent Dawson's character, Henry, might at first seem an unlikely protagonist for a novel of kidnapping and intrigue. But written from the point of view of his own Walter Mitty-esque musings, *The Man From Oakdale* brings us a dashing different Henry. "It was a tricky way to write," Adams says. "I had to write as the Henry he fantasizes about being, but still make him recognizable."



In the wake of *Oakdale Confidential*, Adams remembers, a number of longtime viewers had expressed disappointment in some minor elements the author had invented from outside the *World*-ly realm. So this time, Adams avows that every one of Henry Coleman's characters and locations has come straight out of the show's rich 52-year history. "There were characters I loved being able to bring back from the past, and you can do that in a book," Adams says. "I can mention Frannie Hughes and Sabrina [her British, identical half-sister, naturally] and not worry that Julianne Moore isn't available to come back and play them. I ended up enjoying more freedom than the real writers get."

As much as *The Man From Oakdale* is steeped in *ATWT*, Adams stresses that her book is designed to satisfy any mystery lover—viewer or not. (Her non-*World*-watching editors, she notes, have seen to that.) It's just that her fellow fans may simply be faster to pick up on certain clues. "I was thinking," she says of planting her insider references, "what would be fun for me? And I realized that as a fan, I want to be rewarded for my intelligence and loyalty. I want to be winked at, 'We know that you know, so now let's have some fun together.'" — Jim Colucci

AS THE WORLD TURNS AIRS WEEK-DAYS FROM 2-3 P.M. ET/PT ON CBS.