



# The Feathers

*Cynthia Lott*

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## **The Feathers** Cynthia Lott

When thirty-five-year-old New Orleans detective Brenda Shapira discovers a murder victim in the historic Garden District, she realizes it is no ordinary case. The stakes are higher and the mystery is more thrilling.

As more bodies pile up, the evidence points to a seemingly impossible conclusion: the killer may be Thomas Carpenter -- who died in 1878, a full century before the murders were committed.

Could Carpenter really have found a way to return and seek vengeance against those he feels wronged him?

But as Shapira and her partner unravel the long-ago mystery steeped in New Orleans history and the yellow fever epidemic, Brenda discovers she may be Carpenter's next target.

## **The Feathers Details**

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Author : Cynthia Lott

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## From Reader Review The Feathers for online ebook

### Eugene Wermuth says

Upon reading the first word of Cynthia Lott's debut novel, "The Feathers", the reader is mesmerized by this beautifully written thriller. Just as the victims are enthralled by the stories antagonist, Thomas Carpenter, you are powerless to resist this intoxicating tale of love, murder, and regret. This novel is well thought out in every minor detail, nothing is left unanswered.

I love the fact that the events, which set the story in motion over 100 years ago, are completely plausible and mirror the events of present day on the African continent. The Ebola epidemic is having a similar chaotic affect to those across the Atlantic as yellow fever did a century ago, causing people to behave irrationally as those described in this tragic tale.

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### Suzanne says

Spellbinding!!! Lott had me on the edge of my seat as I feverishly turned pages. You fast readers should be able to fly through this one in a long afternoon. This mystery will take you on quite the CSI ride. Prepare to have the CHILLS until the VERY LAST PAGE. Lott's vivid imagination and sophisticated prose guides you effortlessly through her dark, edgy, exhilarating style. I cannot wait for her next release! This debut is a triumph.

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### Carol Cassada says

A supernatural/crime story set in New Orleans during the 70s, The Feathers follows detectives Brenda Shapira and her partner Roy Agnew as they try to solve the case of Thomas Carpenter and keep him from claiming another victim in his quest for revenge.

I loved that New Orleans was the setting for the story because the city is filled with lots of supernatural activity and throughout the book you sense the spookiness. The author gives very vivid descriptions of the city and of the nightlife of the 70s; you'll feel yourself being transported back to that time.

Brenda is the lead character in the book, she puts on this persona that she's a strong woman, yet deep down the loss of her mother and her father have left her in an emotional state. Even though it's been years since their deaths, she's still haunted by the memories of them. The author does a wonderful job of conveying Brenda's emotions, you can feel the sadness, fear, and hurt she experiences. Roy Agnew is her partner/lover and unlike Brenda, he's got more of a tough exterior and rational approach when it comes to dealing with the case. However, like Brenda, Roy suffered a tragic loss in his life with the death of his fiancée.

The writer does a good job of tying in the supernatural elements to the story, and even though Thomas Carpenter is portrayed as the bad guy in the novel and you feel hatred towards him, you'll feel sympathy towards him when you learn of history and how his friends betrayed him.

As for the ending, I had mixed feelings about it. I knew what was coming, yet I wasn't prepared for the actual outcome.

If you're looking for a supernatural thriller with well-developed characters and lots of plot twists I suggest you check out Feathers.

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### **Gunter Kaesdorf says**

In Cynthia Lott's extraordinary debut paranormal thriller, Brenda Shapira and her partner and paramour, Roy Agnew, chase down leads to uncover and foil strange and mysterious murders in 1978 New Orleans. Lott's heroine is a thoughtful, intelligent, and deep individual whose inner strength is often overshadowed by a fragile vulnerability that stems from the memories of her deceased parents. She leans on the always pragmatic and sensible Roy to not only help her find solutions, but as a protector and lover. As they investigate the murder scenes and interview the victims' families they find a rather eerie common denominator: the killer wore a bird mask and never left physical evidence other than a feather. Lott's characters are well defined and complex, and her settings are eloquently described. As the story progresses she is able to mix the pace of the story as needed, always keeping the reader wondering what will happen next and why the bird masked man, Thomas Carpenter, commits such gruesome murders. It is suspense at its best. The writer's painstaking research of the times and places of the story and the intricacies of the spiritual folkways of New Orleans is quite evident and impressive in its detail.

The Feathers is a most entertaining read and tells a haunting story that will stay with you long after you have finished. I highly recommend it.

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### **Alisha Torres says**

Well written and executed storyline. Characters are both complex and relatable. Absolutely exciting, fascinating, and captivating. Story pulled me in and kept me there from start to finish. I only wish it hadn't ended so soon. I look forward to reading more by Miss. Lott.

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### **Mary Edwards says**

This book was well-written and fast paced. A real page turner. The story sucked me in on page one. I'm looking forward to the next book.

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### **D.K. Cassidy says**

Exquisite!

This debut mystery novel is beautifully written. The combination of tight prose and intriguing plot lines combines together for an incredible read. An example of her prose: "...her long black skirt looked like a heavy weight, pulling her down to the earth." The characters are fully fleshed out, which helped me as the reader care about the outcome of each event.

This mystery takes place in 1978 New Orleans. Here's an example of how the authors puts you in that time:

“...a teen magazine featuring a shirtless Andy Gibb on the cover and a pair of red roller skates.”

Author Cynthia Lott has a gift for writing. I eagerly look forward to more from this talented author.

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### **Sandra Manning says**

Smoky, and sensual New Orleans atmosphere, a sexy murderous ghost, a handsome senior detective, and a Jewish female detective still mourning her father all come together to create an irresistible supernatural mystery/thriller. Truly an enjoyable read. Looking forward to the next one.

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### **Linda Baker says**

We all know that October is the time for "ghoulies and ghosties and things that go bump in the night" so I got the month off to a good start with *The Feathers*. Set in New Orleans in the first few days of 1978, Detectives Brenda Shapira and Roy Agnew are faced with a horrific murder scene. A talented teenager living in the Garden District has been discovered, murdered and dismembered, in her own bedroom. In fact, the family let the murderer into the home; a man wearing one of the fantastical feathered masks so common at Mardi Gras time. He seemed to have some sort of hypnotic effect on the family, making them trust him completely. As the days go on, the bodies are piling up and the Detectives scramble to discover what links there are between the victims. Everything points to a man who has been dead for a hundred years.

*The Feathers* is a unique twist on the traditional ghost story coupled with a police procedural. Both Brenda and Roy are people who have dealt with loss and grief and we get to know them intimately in the course of the book. Brenda is much more open to a supernatural solution than Roy, but even he eventually can see no other explanation. The suspense builds steadily to an ending that I never saw coming; one that is far from a traditional "happy ever after". There are more stories here and I am looking forward to them. I especially liked the 1978 setting, back when the police actually had to use libraries and cross-directories for research. DNA and cell phones were not even on the radar. I remember those days!

Courtney Patterson does a very nice job with the narration. It is well-paced and consistent. The New Orleans accent is very distinct, so I was glad that she did not attempt it. Better no accent than a badly done one and this was a pleasant experience. *The Feathers* won't scare you silly or keep you awake, but it's a very good ghost story for the ghostliest month of the year.

"This audiobook was provided by the author, narrator, or publisher at no cost in exchange for an unbiased review courtesy of AudiobookBlast dot com."

RATING-4 Stars

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### **Dawn Frazier says**

Great book! I loved the setting of New Orleans, and the characters are great. The perfect book for a cold

Winter day. I look forward to the next one!

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### **Angie says**

I really enjoyed this novel. Great character building, I was attached to each person. The story is told so descriptively, I could picture the places of my beloved New Orleans, envision the artful furniture and even smell the mask. The author explained things in a thought provoking way "she sucked on his words like hard candy". The twists keep you on your toes and wanting more. The shocking end craves a sequel. Excellent debut! (Honored to have been mentioned in the acknowledgements.)

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### **Katreader says**

The Feathers by Cynthia Lott  
The First in the Southern Spectral Series

In The Feathers we follow police detectives Brenda Shapira and Roy Agnew as they search for a killer in 1978 New Orleans. The book opens with the scene of a brutal murder; the kind of scene even the most hardened homicide detectives find difficult. Graphic in detail, the innocence of the victim makes the method of murder even more disturbing. Add to that the actions of the housekeeper and the victim's siblings seem irrational. The murderer didn't hide his identity and the family welcomed him in. What held them in his thrall? The crime itself almost impossible-how could he have left without a trace? How could so violent a crime be so tidy?

Brenda and Roy are soon left to follow a trail they never saw coming and can scarcely believe. Given clues, it seems as if the murderer wants to be found. Appearing to Brenda, is he taunting her or giving her a dark promise of what's to come?

My favorite aspect of the book is what Lott provides in the chapters after each murder. As readers we meet the victims after their murders, but in these chapters Lott takes the first three victims and writes the moments leading up to their deaths. We see them full of life and talent and watch as they ultimately realize their fate.

The Feathers is a paranormal thriller that really has you on the edge of your seat. Lott sets us up. We know from the beginning how many murders are to come and we read, waiting for the shoe to drop. Our beliefs are also put to the test. Is it truly possible that the murderer is not of this world? Why is he here, how is he here, and why these seemingly unconnected victims? Lott makes the impossible, not only possible, but reasonable. At the end we are left with a possible solution, but can fate be tempered?

The Feathers is a captivating thrill fest that left me stunned. From the start Lott grabs her readers by the throat, shocking us, creating a need to read on to make sense of these seemingly senseless crimes.

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### **Teresa Pugh says**

Cynthia Lott weaves a tale of mystery and intrigue. Just when you think you might have figured it out, she

takes you down an unknown alley that leaves you shocked, yet very satisfied. You won't see it coming...

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### **David says**

Cynthia Lott's The Feathers is wicked wind in a literary vessel, violence with reason, exquisite terror in 1970's New Orleans, masqueraded as a settled score from a century hence. Written in a fluid march of verse and prose, The Feathers transforms our ideas of horror, and spins us to such evil, the next page is turned with baited breath, but make no mistake, you will turn that page, you must. What astounding stage is set, what purpose to the kill, what rich and deliberate relationship between characters in their obsessive quest to unfold clues and discovery. Go with them as they find feathers at the scenes of each grisly murder. You will know the local cops intimately, you'll desire their desires; know their loves, their losses, their anguish, and you will know them well. Nestled within the framework of fear, is faith, music, dance, religion and southern culture. This is a must read, and to those who think they have read it all, opened their imaginations to terror and fright, you haven't seen a thing until you open the binding to this book and get acquainted with a little girl and her family, a dancer and his passions, an artist and her sketches, and more, all somehow transfixed by an elegant man in a mask ~ meet Thomas Carpenter; see his masks, understand his intent, his evil, and just try to recognize purpose in his deeds, and you will be transported to the agony of his experience; you will understand the virtues of his quest for vengeance through seduction and murder. This is no safe read, nothing to coddle your comfort zones; get ready, take hold, grab a hand and keep the lights on, you are in for a ride unlike any you've ever experienced.

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### **Kimy says**

Could not put this down! Great debut novel my friend!

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