

ON-SALE: February 23, 2027

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“Tense, twisty, and endlessly surprising, with a cast of characters that will both charm you and break your heart. I loved this book!”

—Karen Dionne, #1 international bestselling author of *The Marsh King's Daughter*

“My favorite mysteries go beyond the whodunnit genre to a place of authenticity and truth, and *The Midnight Game* is exactly that kind of read—a crime novel with characters so endearing and complex they could be walking among us.”

—Adam White, national bestselling author of *The Midcoast*

THE MIDNIGHT GAME

by **MATTHEW SULLIVAN**



Matthew Sullivan is a former bookseller and the author of the beloved debut novel *Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore*, which was an Indie Next Pick, B&N Discover pick, a GoodReads Choice Award finalist and winner of the Colorado Book Award.

On February 23, 2027, he returns with his third novel, **THE MIDNIGHT GAME (HarperCollins/Hanover Square Press)** which is at once an immersive, page-turning mystery and a profound meditation on class, community, and the morally gray area between right and wrong.

The book follows Denver detective Harry Moberg who must confront the best and worst of his tight-knit community when a body is discovered after a Catholic parish's Bingo Night. Bingo night at St. Bonaventure's gymnasium is a bright spot for the parish members in a working-class neighborhood in 1980s Denver. Late at night, after Bingo, a select few gather in the gym for a secret midnight basketball game, lovingly referred to as Sacred Hoops. All of that is threatened when a body is found in the walk-in freezer.

Was the death an accident? Maybe. But when Detective Moberg arrives at the parish, he begins to suspect that something more sinister is afoot. As the investigation unfolds, a fatal secret from Moberg's own childhood threatens to tip the fragile balance of his life.

THE MIDNIGHT GAME is deeply personal to Matthew Sullivan as it's set in his native Colorado and inspired in part by his childhood, including cleaning up after jam-packed Bingo games at his working-class parochial school and late night basketball games in the gym followed by snooping hallways and pushing the limits of independence and imagination. He explains, “I wanted to capture those feelings of magic and fear, as well as some colorful settings of 1980s Denver. Most important to me was inviting readers to feel invested in

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this community of quirky characters as they unearth the solution to the crime. Mysteries can be fun and thrilling, but they can also make us *feel*."

THE MIDNIGHT GAME is part of Sullivan's "Midnight Cycle," which is not a series, but rather three books (*Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookshop*, *Midnight in Soap Lake*, and *The Midnight Game*) that are connected to each other more by themes than a unified, chronological, ongoing story. It is a colorful and unforgettable novel, perfect for fans of Tana French, Dennis Lehane and Stephen King.



Matthew Sullivan is the author of *Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore* and *Midnight in Soap Lake*, which was praised by the *New York Times*: "Sullivan is channeling 'Twin Peaks' in his latest novel... Sullivan evokes the richness of a small-town community as well as the secrets-filled uneasiness simmering just below its placid surface." His writing has appeared in *Poets & Writers*, *The New York Times*, *CrimeReads*, *LitHub*, *SeattleMet*, and elsewhere, and his short stories have won numerous awards. He grew up in Aurora, Colorado and went to college in San Francisco and grad school in Idaho. He worked as an indie bookseller in Denver and Boston and taught writing and literature for 20 years at a rural community college in the Pacific Northwest. He lives near Seattle, Washington. Learn more: <https://matthewjsullivan.com/>

Additional Praise for *The Midnight Game*

"Heartbreaking, heartwarming, and heartfelt all at once, Sullivan presents us with an unforgettable, endearing cast of characters caught up in a riveting, shocking mystery. Read it for the intricately woven, page-turning plot, but also for the poignant, achingly relatable portraits of good, hard working people doing their best and loving their hardest. This is an emotional read as much as it is an addictive one. Detective Moberg is a total legend."

—**Ilona Bannister**, national bestselling author of *Five*

"Gas station donuts. Bingo nights. Priests and basketball and, yep, a killer working the neighborhood. Matthew Sullivan gives us a Catholic community so complete I smell the coffee urn. A terrifically realized, steel-trap of a mystery with mischief and heart. It's also a dialectical riddle, a study of the whimsical and dire details that give life meaning. Home here is a shelter and a danger both."

—**Margot Douaihy**, *USA Today* bestselling author of *Scorched Grace*

"*The Midnight Game* is hands-down my new favorite book. I devoured this suspenseful mystery with its deftly drawn characters that became real as friends, each with their own secret motivations, quirks and charms. There's truth about the human condition at the center of this story, which combines all the delights of a page-turning mystery with the soul-searching of what it means to truly be in community with the people around you. This is a book with heart, authentically propelled by an inexplicable crime—is it murder or an accident?—that leads readers on a twisty journey and then culminates in a fascinating and satisfying ending."

— **Laurie L. Dove**, *USA Today* bestselling author of *Mask of the Deer Woman*