

Kim Taylor Blakemore

Beware of dangerous women.

Historical Mystery & Suspense  
[www.kimtaylorblakemore.com](http://www.kimtaylorblakemore.com)

## Happy April!

I hope you are enjoying spring in the northern hemisphere and autumn in the southern. Our Oregon weather is being very...Oregony. Morning frost to warm sun to hail to pouring rain to scorching beautiful sunsets all within a single day.

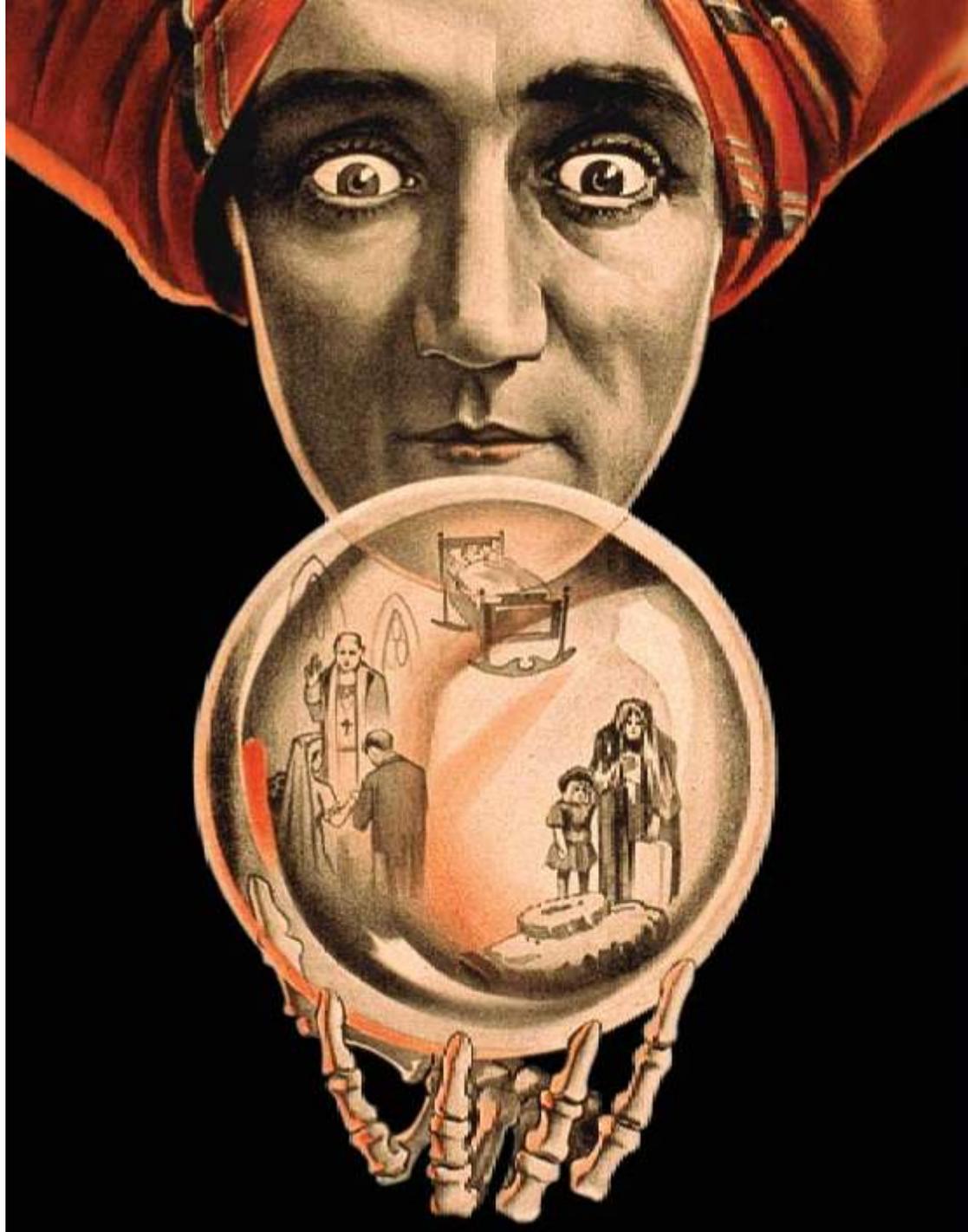
Such fun news in this newsletter: Giveaway Winner Announced; What inspired me to write "The Deception"; and an author interview with historical mystery author Lydia Kang. Just so you know how much I love her book - I blurred it!

**Congrats** to Shelley Beachy, winner of a signed advanced reader copy of Diane McPhail's "The Seamstress of New Orleans" has been chosen and emailed. (And is super happy to get a copy of this most excellent novel).

**A publishing update: The Deception has a release date!** The book officially publishes September 27th - no cover yet - but you'll be the first to see it. We're in draft stages with the designer and I can tell you it's shaping up to be spectacular. AND even more fun than the cover? **You can pre-order the book now.** The button is located at the end of the following article. :)

[How the Dead and Not So Dead Inspired Me to Write THE DECEPTION](#)

## Conjuring the Dead



Here's the deal. I don't believe in ghosts. At least, I don't believe in them until I see them, which I have certainly done. Maybe it's that I *believe* in them enough that I don't want to see them and have them hanging around. Or maybe it's that I *don't believe* in them and what I see and feel with bits of abject terror and morbid curiosity are merely products of a REALLY OVERACTIVE IMAGINATION. Which calms me down, but there still may or may not be a spirit floating about.

And seances. Let's talk seances. I will never ever ever attend one, because you just don't know. The medium might be the real deal and that icy finger on the back of your neck might be a touch from the Otherworld. Which I am sure would give me a heart attack. And if it's rigged...well, I might still have that heart attack because REALLY OVERACTIVE IMAGINATION.

My guess is there's more rigmarole and rigging than the real thing. And the rigmarole is as much an art as the art of speaking to the dead. And I wondered what would happen should said genuine medium find her spirit guide departed and thus her livelihood threatened? In the 19th century, mediumship was a road to independence for women; most mediums were female, due it was said, to

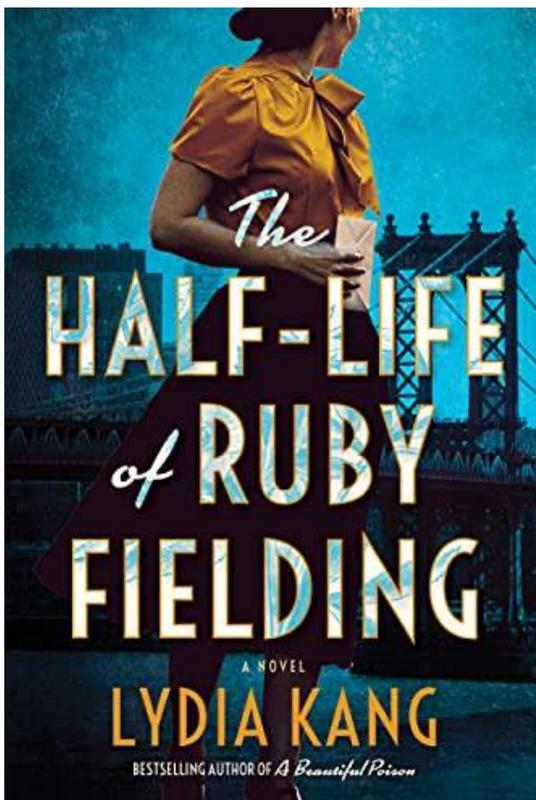
their softer more empathetic qualities. The founders of the entire Spiritualist movement in New England were two young girls, the Fox sisters, who translated various spirits' raps and taps. They traveled the world and were for a time more famous than Queen Victoria. Until one of them gave up the goods – and showed how the tricks worked. More on that, and my own interviews with mediums real and otherwise, next month.

For now, we're talking about what in the world inspired me to write "The Deception", which is indeed about a medium who's lost her mojo and the fraud she hires to save her reputation and bank balance. And I was really intrigued by the ethics of it all. As one character in the book says to another – what does it matter if it's illusion or real, if the solace and comfort are much the same? I was inspired by that question, to see how that played out, and what illusions cost the people who played them. That led to really fun research – meeting mediums and historical conjurers and a shaman who gave me advice about the ghost in my house that may or may not have been flipping the covers on my bed and running down the hall in broad daylight because REALLY OVERACTIVE...well, you know.

By the way, I promised a pre-order button, so here it is:

[Pre-order The Deception Now](#)

## Author Interview: Lydia Kang



I am beyond honored to have Lydia Kang join us for an interview and to talk about her recent BEST SELLING novel **The Half-Life of Ruby Fielding**. I fell in love with Lydia's work when I read **A Beautiful Poison**, and then I grabbed up her nonfiction **Quackery**. Then I fell in love with Lydia herself when I (virtually) met her. We share the same publisher, Lake Union Publishing, and I have been lucky enough to be on panels with her talking all about strong women and historical mysteries. In addition to writing fabulous fiction, she writes nonfiction books on medicine and snake oil and who was patient zero in different outbreaks over the centuries. Did I mention she's also a physician? Or

that she's funny, kind, generous, talented, accomplished and...oh heck, I just want to be her...

Without further ado, here is Lydia:

**Tell us about your latest book and when it releases.**

*The Half-Life of Ruby Fielding* releases May 1, 2022. It's an historical mystery that takes place in Brooklyn, NY in 1942 during World War II, about hidden identities, wartime paranoia, and that tantalizing power of deceit. I've mixed in the Manhattan Project, the female workers at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and a touch of poison. ;)

**What's your writing process?**

Usually, I get a cluster of ideas for a book and then I blurt them out to a few friends who are either readers and/or writers. If they are fascinated, then I start making a rough plot in my head. If I'm still excited, I run it by my agent, and if he thinks it's a good idea, I'll start writing up a few chapters and a synopsis in earnest.

**Are there themes you like to explore in your books?**

Every character is a big tangle of emotions, thoughts, and past experiences that makes them a really complex human. I like to explore those intricacies and see how they react to the life changing events I throw at them.

**Do you listen to music while you write?**

Almost always! Part of my writing process is making a playlist on YouTube and then boring the hell out of my family by listening to it constantly as I write the book for the next several months.

**What's your favorite genre to read?**

A little bit of everything. Nonfiction, adult thrillers, YA, including fantasy, contemporary, and sci-fi.

**What are you reading right now?**

I'm reading *Nightbitch* by Rachel Yoder.

**What's the next project and when can we expect it?**

I'm actually working on a Star Wars novel with LucasFilm Ltd and Del Rey Books! I can't say more than that right now.

[Buy Now](#)

Lydia Kang is a practicing physician and the author of the adult medical mysteries *A BEAUTIFUL POISON*, *THE IMPOSSIBLE GIRL*, *OPIUM AND ABSINTHE*, and *THE HALF-LIFE OF RUBY FIELDING*. She is also the author of the young adult novels *CONTROL*, *CATALYST*, *TOXIC*, and *THE NOVEMBER GIRL*, as well as the co-writer of the nonfiction book *QUACKERY: A Brief History of the Worst Ways to Cure Everything* and



PATIENT ZERO: A Curious History of the World's Worst Diseases. Lydia graduated from Columbia University and the New York University School of Medicine. She completed her residency and chief residency in internal medicine at New York University and Bellevue Hospital in New York. She lives in the midwest with her family and two extremely co-dependent dogs.

Links:

<https://lydiakang.com/>

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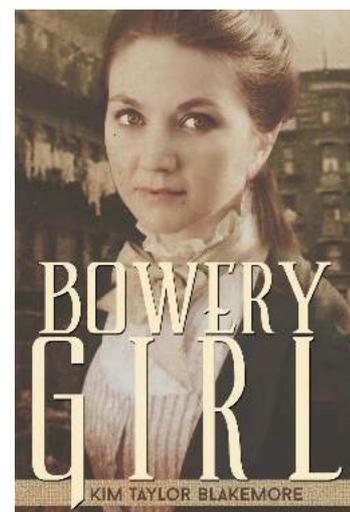
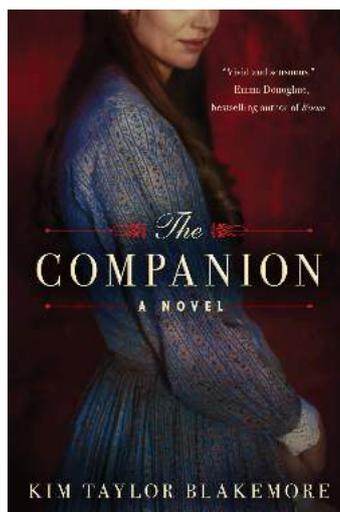
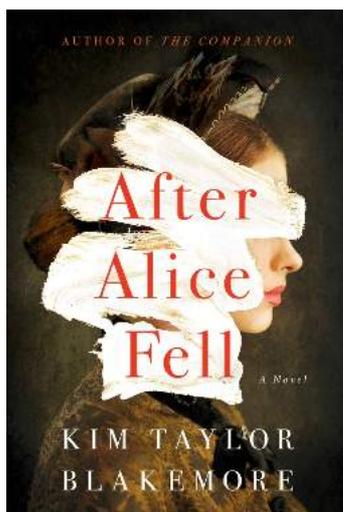
That's it for now. Next month you'll be the first to see the cover and I'll talk about the research behind THE DECEPTION. I might have another bonus for you, too!

I hope you enjoyed the newsletter. Please feel free to share it!

Happy Reading and Writing -

Kim

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