

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: C. HOPE CLARK

MEET THE AUTHOR

I am the author of three mystery series, one of which is The Edisto Island Mysteries. My books are nationally known, and I make appearances often at The Edisto Bookstore to sign copies and speak to readers, fans, locals, and visitors.

THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE WRITING

While I have enjoyed writing my entire life, in my 40s, I decided I needed to take it seriously and began writing for a living. What inspired me was a need to enjoy life on my terms instead of working a job that didn't fulfill me. A day doesn't pass that I do not work on a story, and I hope to spin tales to the end of my days.

I started writing mysteries after having participated in a bribery investigation while working with the federal government. After wiring the office and setting up a sting or two, we were unable to catch the bad guy. However, I married the federal agent. Gary is often with me at signings, and he serves as my technical advisor and biggest cheerleader. I have 14 books published with two more in the works. I never cease thinking of ideas, of which I am both proud and blessed.



THE ROAD TO EDISTO

I've been going to Edisto Beach since I was a kid. I grew up in Summerville right up the road. I'm proud of the fact that each book's plot still surprises people and that they adore my characters like they are real people. They walk the streets of Edisto Beach trying to imagine where the crimes actually took place.

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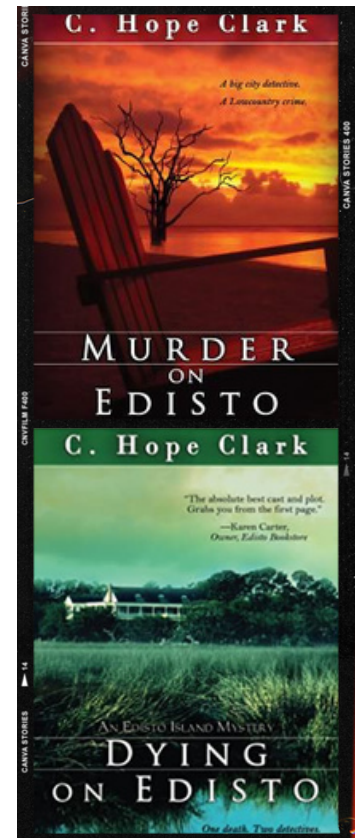
THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY

I have always adored Edisto, and I hope and pray that it never changes. It serves as such a strong backdrop to my stories that I feel it is a part of my heart and soul, which is probably why the characters feel so real to the readers. The community is incredible. There's a cliché-ishness that serves as glue to hold it together and maintain its personality. Keeping true to mom-and-pop and individualistic entrepreneurial enterprises keeps Edisto special.

My future goals are to just keep producing my stories. I do have a producer in Nashville seeking a spot in cable or network television for one of my series. That would be a dream come true, though I do recognize the incredible odds.

STAY IN TOUCH

To keep up with me, visit www.chopeclark.com and Karen Carter at The Edisto Bookstore and my newsletter for writers at www.fundsforwriters.com



ADVICE FOR ASPIRING WRITERS

You have to commit to the long haul. There is ample opportunity for disappointment in the first year or two, even three, but if this business is in your blood, stick with it. You will be a better person for it, because the happiest people are those working in a field they love.