

The Vanishing at Castle Moreau
by Jaime Jo Wright

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Media Contact:

Anne Van Solkema, Fiction Publicist

(616) 676-9185 ext. 152

avansolkema@bakerpublishinggroup.com



Atmospheric Dual-Time Suspense from an Award-Winning Writer

“A hair-raising thriller.

This will delight Wright’s fans and earn her some new ones.”

—*Publishers Weekly* on *The Premonition at Withers Farm*

Minneapolis, Minn.—Christy and Carol Award-winning author Jaime Jo Wright has captured audiences with her numerous thrilling and mysterious novels, including *The Premonition at Withers Farm* (Oct. 2022), *The Souls of Lost Lake* (Apr. 2022), and *On the Cliffs of Foxglove Manor* (2021). Featuring rich characterization and an intricate plot with just the right amount of spookiness, Wright’s latest stand-alone spotlights the curse of a dilapidated French castle. Readers will cling to every word of this fast-paced mystery as old secrets take on new life in *The Vanishing at Castle Moreau*.

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In 1870, orphaned Daisy François takes a position as housemaid at a Midwestern Wisconsin castle and finds that the reclusive and eccentric Gothic authoress inside hides more than the harrowing tales in her novels. With women disappearing from the area and a legend that seems to parallel these eerie circumstances, Daisy is thrust into a web that may threaten to steal her sanity, if not her life.

In the present day, Cleo Clemmons is hired by the grandson of American aristocratic family the Tremblays to help his matriarchal grandmother face her hoarding in the dilapidated Castle Moreau. But when Cleo uncovers more than just the woman’s stashes of collectibles, a century-old mystery of disappearance, insanity, and the dust of the old castle’s curse threaten to rise again, and this time, leave no one alive to tell the sordid tale.

Fan-favorite Jaime Jo Wright draws readers into a seamlessly woven dual-time tale of suspense, mystery, romance, and redemption.



About the Author

Jaime Jo Wright is the author of seven novels, including Christy Award winner *The House on Foster Hill* and Carol Award winner *The Reckoning at Gossamer Pond*. She's also the *Publishers Weekly* and ECPA bestselling author of two novellas. Jaime lives in Wisconsin with her husband. Learn more at jaimewrightbooks.com.

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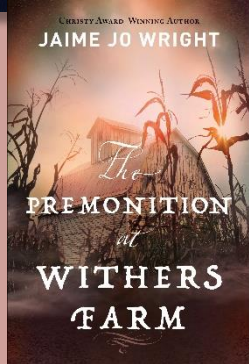
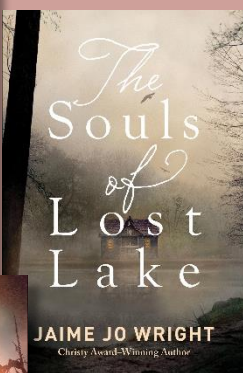
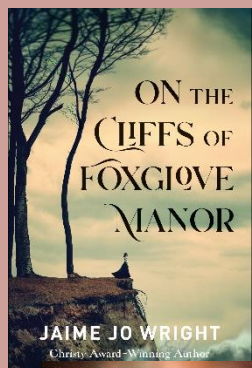
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www.JaimeWrightBooks.com



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Available wherever books and ebooks are sold.

PRAISE for Wright's Previous Novels

"It's rare when a book carries me so deep inside its world that I forget I'm reading. Buy this book. Now. You'll absolutely love it."

—**James L. Rubart**, Christy Hall of Fame author
on *The Premonition at Withers Farm*

"Dark, suspenseful, and decadently atmospheric, *The Premonition at Withers Farm* is an exceptionally satisfying read that weaves together past and present, light and dark, love and death."

—**Hester Fox**, author of *A Lullaby for Witches*

"A hair-raising thriller. Wright excels at wringing the eeriness out of her premise and elegantly weaving the thoughtful meditations on what happens after death into the fast-paced murder mystery. This will delight Wright's fans and earn her some new ones."

—**Publishers Weekly** on *The Premonition at Withers Farm*



"Wright has proven time and again with her masterful storytelling in exceptionally crafted novels that she is a trailblazer extraordinaire in the niche genre combining horror, intrigue, and spirituality. A tale of intoxicating menace, eerie elegance, and satisfying suspense."

—**Booklist starred review** of *The Souls of Lost Lake*



Sample Interview Questions for Jaime Jo Wright *The Vanishing at Castle Moreau*

Can you tell us a little bit about your new novel *The Vanishing at Castle Moreau*?

The story of Castle Moreau spans a century and a half, its mystery surrounding the vanishing of many women through the course of these years. As the past and present come together to uncover the castle's secrets, the remnants of legacy left by the women who have disappeared there begin to haunt the current day. All of it culminates in a twisting, mind-bending end, and the true nature of Castle Moreau is not at all what it claims to be.

One of the main characters in the story is the castle itself. What gave you the idea to center this story on a castle shrouded in mystery?

There are stories of American castles, built on a smaller scale, that are supposedly haunted. Couple that research with the legendary biography of Elizabeth Bathory, who is known as one of the world's earliest female serial killers, and the women who vanished behind her castle walls, I was inspired to come up with my own twist for the sake of spooky fiction. And who doesn't love a haunted castle and the dark shadows that lie within it?

What was your favorite timeline to write, the historical or the contemporary, and why?

It's always a toss-up for me. Once I think I've discovered I prefer one timeline, then the story evolves and I develop a penchant for the other. Although, in this novel, there's a first-person element set in the early 1800s, and I will admit that I enjoyed writing those scenes the most.

What inspired your love for all things Gothic?

Considering I was quite the fraidy-cat as a child, I'm not entirely sure! But I loved the secrets around old antiques, abandoned buildings, and forgotten things. I believed they always had a story just aching to be told. After reading classic literature like *Jane Eyre*, it became evident to me that romance and history merging with the bleakness of soul and the hope of faith was going to be my perfect equation for bookish joy.

How do you approach crafting a spooky story that captivates readers without overwhelming them with fear?

I think it's a balancing act. What frightens me may be horrifying for some readers, and what I don't find scary at all, some readers have indicated were my most terrifying moments in the

books. So, most of it is learning the limits of how far I can take it before readers enter the *DNF* zone. I also want to wrap up my stories with elements of hope and faith rather than leave readers in the darkness, and I think this helps to offset the fright. That and knowing there's a Scooby-Doo explanation for everything as well.

What are some of the themes you hope readers pick up on in this story and why did you choose these to ground your novel?

This book's theme was overwhelmingly one of refuge. And without saying too much to give away the secrets too early, I found that the women in Castle Moreau were all in need of that sanctuary that is a harbor for a broken soul. I think as women we can be consumed by brokenness and abuse, and through it we long to catch sight of a refuge—have the hope of a refuge—and eventually find it.

Can you share what you're working on next?

Absolutely! I am currently working on my next release for October of 2023 titled *The Lost Boys of Barlowe Theater*. It's a story that is based loosely around the Al Ringling Theater in Wisconsin—of the renowned Ringling Brothers history—and ghost stories that have circulated there for years. Of course, I throw my own fictionalized elements and twists into the story, and Barlowe Theater definitely takes on a life of its own. But it's been so fun to write about early Vaudeville and delve into the schisms created by the economics of our systems, and how the downtrodden and the endowed interact throughout history.

How can readers connect with you?

My website is the best place to find me! All my social media links are there! www.jaimewrightbooks.com. I also host a weekly podcast, where I chat with other authors about their stories and the deep themes in their books. You can find all of my *MadLit Musings* podcast episodes on my website as well.