

# Media Kit

## James Polkinghorn

Author of  
**Liquid Shades of Blue**  
**A Mystery Novel**

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# Announcing

## *Liquid Shades of Blue: A Debut Mystery Novel*

“**Liquid Shades of Blue** is a ride on the lethal waves of corruption and murder in a place that shimmers like diamonds in the sun. James Polkinghorn knows these South Florida courtrooms and waterways like the back of his hand. This one sticks to you like the humidity of a summer night in Key West.”

—Michael Connelly, New York Times best-selling author

“Smart, sophisticated, slow-burn suspense that builds to a final scene you won't expect —don't miss this.”

—Lee Child, New York Times best-selling author

Debut author James Polkinghorn is set to release his new mystery novel, ***Liquid Shades of Blue***, on May 16, 2023 (Oceanview Publishing; Hardcover; 978-1608095506).

The book follows ex-Miami lawyer and Key West bar owner Jack Girard as he returns to his childhood home in Miami to investigate the death of his mother, which may have been a murder. As Jack delves deeper into the mystery, he uncovers a shocking secret that could change everything and finds himself in danger.

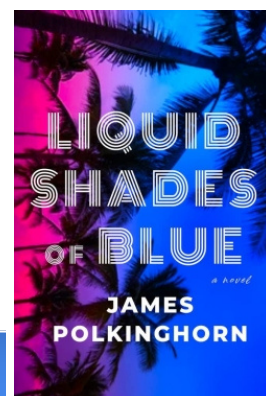
"I'm thrilled to be releasing ***Liquid Shades of Blue***," said Polkinghorn. "This book has been a labor of love for me, and I can't wait for readers to dive into the complex world of Jack Girard and his family. It's a thrilling mystery that keeps you guessing until the end."

“Rarely are debut novels this original, taut, and polished. *Liquid Shades of Blue* is an intoxicating cocktail of equal parts John Grisham, *Miami Vice*, and Ernest Hemingway, served stiff and chilled. Like a dead body. Hollywood, take note.”

—Larry Loftis, New York Times best-selling author

Please let me know if you are interested in a review copy, a guest post or excerpt, and/or an interview with Jim.

Thank you,  
Fauzia Burke



# James Polkinghorn

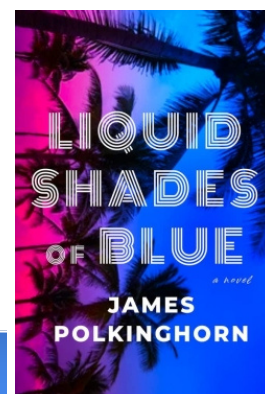
**James Polkinghorn** is a lawyer and partner in a national law firm specializing in labor and employment law. He has extensive trial and litigation experience in multiple jurisdictions throughout the country. A Pittsburgh native, Polkinghorn moved with his family to Florida in high school, where he has since stayed. He has a degree in political science and a law degree from the University of Florida. He now lives in Key West with his wife, Becki, and their dog, Major Tom. ***Liquid Shades of Blue*** is his first novel.

Visit Jim's [Website](#)

[Grab the e-galley, book Jacket, and author photo](#)

## Interview Intro

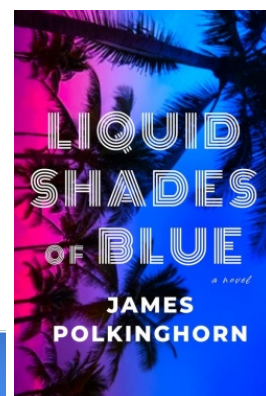
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# Suggested Questions

**James prefers to go by Jim. Jim is available to discuss:**

1. Can you tell us a bit about your background and how you became a writer?
2. What inspired you to write "Liquid Shades of Blue"?
3. What sets this book apart from others in the mystery genre?
4. Can you tell us a little about the main character, Jack Girard?
5. The themes of family and loss are prominent in the book. Can you talk about how these themes influenced the story?
6. Can you tell us about the setting in Miami and why you chose it as the backdrop for the story?
7. There are several twists and turns in the plot. How did you approach balancing the suspense and mystery elements of the story?
8. Your writing style has been described as captivating. How do you approach the writing process to create such an engaging experience for readers?
9. How did you develop the other characters in the book, such as Jack's father and the other members of the Girard family?
10. The story touches on themes of corruption and murder. Can you talk about how you approached these themes in your writing?
11. How did you research the various legal and police procedures depicted in the book?
12. Are there any real-life events or people that inspired the story?
13. Can you give us a sneak peek into what you're working on next?



# Chapter One

The day began badly but the worst was coming. This is the way of many stories, although I hadn't thought of it in a comparative way until I began piecing this together. It's been a while since it all happened. You wonder about the effect of traumatic events on already imperfect memory and about perceived connections that may not even be real. You, at least, understand that I'm alive to tell this tale, if that's what it turns out to be. But what of the damage done? What's the result of all that?

There I was, opening my eyes uncertainly, head throbbing and lips dry; definitely a hangover—nothing new. A shaft of light from a nearby window revealed the murky outline of furniture I recognized as my own. Safe in my own bed at least, I fleetingly thought. But then I heard the soft breathing that was clearly not mine. Turning slowly—agonizingly—to my left, I encountered the bare shoulder and silky black hair of Anna Markova, a high-end Key West sex worker I knew casually from her sporadic visits to my bar.

“Good Lord, Jack! What have you done?” I whispered.

I was dully transfixed by a small heart tattoo on her shoulder blade, wondering why she put it there where she would never see it. I noticed a light dusting of freckles on her otherwise alabaster skin, offering proof that she did sometimes venture out in the tropical Key West sun, although I had only seen her in artificial light. I pondered these things while my mind otherwise raced to fill the void that was last night. Needing answers, I lightly squeezed her right shoulder and watched as she slowly but fluidly rolled over to face me. Her startling cornflower blue eyes settled on me. I tried to hold her gaze but peripherally saw that she was naked, at least from the waist up. As she reached forward to touch my cheek with the back of her hand, she made no effort to adjust the sheet that partially covered us.

“Good morning, Jack. How are you feeling?”

“Never better, Anna. Why are we here?”

