

March 21, 2025

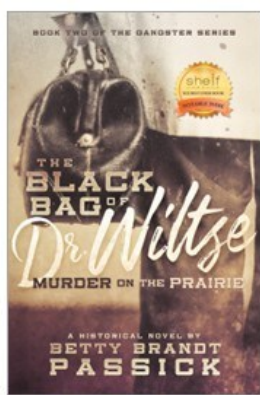
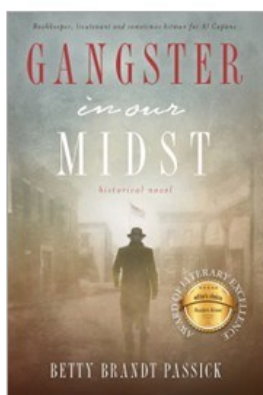
Gangster Series—available through: [Amazon](#), [Indie Book Stores](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), [Walmart](#)
Customer Reviews: [Amazon Author](#), [Goodreads](#)
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Gangster Blog

Anatomy of a Death, Booze and Dope Addiction are at the Center of the Story



Book 3 in the *Gangster Series*, **Anatomy of a Death**, set in ‘Oxbow’ (similar to Fairbank, Iowa) will be available soon. The launch date is *tentatively* set for **April 18th, 9-11 am** at the **Farmer’s Kitchen, 111 East Main St., in Fairbank**. Watch my website for an update: BettyBrandtPassick.com. The historical novel will be available wherever you purchase books.

(short description) Booze and dope addiction are right smack-dab in the middle of everything in the small town of Oxbow after the American Civil War. The Hospital for the Insane was built to handle the growing need for mental health care and addiction. At the center of the story are a physician and his wife, a sharp-witted, high-strung woman and pillar in the community, and a young boy who works at her hotel, where notorious outlaws and odd ducks come to lay low now and then. It’s a story of addiction, love, sacrifice and murder.

Jim Mazziotti, who wrote the forward, said: “In *Anatomy of a Death*, Betty Brandt Passick delivers far more than historical fiction... Beneath the criminal intrigue lies something far more relevant to today: the cost of untreated mental illness, the corrosive power of addiction, and the crushing weight of reputation in a tight-knit community.”



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Gangster Series



Hospital for the Insane, Northeast Iowa



At the heart of **book 3 in the *Gangster Series*** is the **Iowa Hospital for the Insane** in Independence, Iowa, built after the American Civil War, its construction driven by the increasing number of veterans in northeast Iowa who experienced psychiatric disorders from shell shock and combat fatigue, especially after horrific battles like Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, and Cold Harbor.

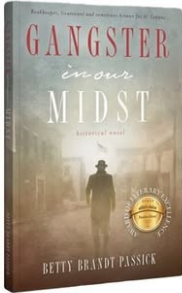
These hospitals were founded on the principle of moral treatment,

that people with psychiatric disabilities could be nurtured back to psychic health by being cared for in home-like settings with spacious, parklike grounds.





A shoutout to **Mike Cook**, operations manager, for providing a tour of the institution, where Dr. Edwin Wiltse, a main character of the historical novel, was treated for alcohol and drug addiction in the 1890s. Also, thank you to **Robert Wiltse** who helped procure Dr. Wiltse's hospital records to write the novel with greater detail.

Iowa Motion Picture Awards—GIOM Reading

Iowa Motion Picture Awards (IMPA)



IMPA Board

 Jim Brockhahn President	 Eric Dean Freese IMPA Vice President	 Deb Griffith Treasurer	 Terry Dally Program Director
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Topic: Open Script Night
Time: March 17, 2026, 6:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
Reading: *Gangster in our Midst* (selection, 14 pages)

www.BettyBrandtPassick.com

I set a goal for myself in 2026 to find organizations who might be willing to adapt **Gangster in our Midst** into a stage play or motion picture.

I'd taken a class from Ron Peluso, retired artistic direc-

tor, St. Paul Historic Theatre, and wrote a 14-page GIOM "treatment," a tool for pitching to prospective producers. On Mar. 17th, the treatment was read by actors during the monthly **Iowa Motion Picture Association** zoom call. About a dozen actors were on the call, one from as far away as Tokyo. More dates to follow.

Author Events

(March-May)

— **Thurs., Mar. 26, 3 pm**, "GIOM-The Untold Story" (author talk),

[Eagle Crest Presbyterian Homes](#), 2845 Hamline Ave N, Roseville, MN

— **Fri, Mar. 27** (guest author), Angie Wagner's Talented and Gifted Writing Classes, [Wapsie Valley Community School District](#), Fairbank, IA

— **Sat, Mar. 28, 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm**, "2026 Midwest Media Production Mixer," 101 N. Court St. Fairfield, IA

— **Tues, April 7, 1 pm** (book club), [Valora Senior Living](#), 2635 Kelley Pkwy, Orono, MN

— (tentative) **Sat., Apr. 18, 9-11 am**, BOOK LAUNCH, [Farmer's Kitchen](#), Fairbank, IA

— **Sat, May 2, noon**, BOOK LAUNCH, [Janesville Public Library](#), 319 Main St., Janesville, IA

— **Sat, May 9, 11-1** creative writing class), [Three Bells Books](#), 14 S Commercial Alley, Mason City, IA

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