

June 6, 2026

Gangster Series—available through: [Amazon](#), [Indie Book Stores](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), [Walmart](#)
Customer Reviews: [Amazon Author](#), [Goodreads](#)
Website: www.bettybrandtpassick.com
[Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Linkedin](#), [Bluesky](#)



Contact: bbpassick@comcast.net

Gangster Blog

Anatomy of a Death, Book Launches (2)

The Farmers Kitchen,
Fairbank, IA
April 18



Janesville
Public
Library,
Janesville,
IA, May 2

THANK YOU fellow ‘gangsters’ for attending the launches of **Anatomy of a Death**, book 3 in the Gangster Series, in Fairbank and Janesville, Iowa! Enjoy the t-shirts, gangster mugs, and bags (prize drawings).



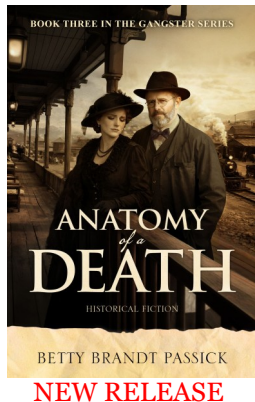
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Anatomy of a Death, Book Launches (2)1
- Anatomy of a Death — Northfield, MN Booksignings2
- 2026 Wapsie Writing Contest Winners2
- Author Events2

Gangster Series



Anatomy of a Death—Northfield, MN Booksignings



A lot of **Anatomy of a Death** booksignings are planned for Northfield, MN, primarily because a main character in the historical novel is **Frank James** (older brother of Jesse James), the site where the townspeople defeated the James-Younger gang on Sept. 7th, 1876. Watch for other venues to be added soon!

- **Jul 18, Aug 8 & 15, Sept 5 & 19, Oct. 10, 9-1**, [Riverwalk Market Fair Summer Market](#), Bridge Square, Division & 4th St, Northfield;
- **September 9-13**, “[The Defeat of Jesse James Days](#),” 408 Division St. S, Northfield.



Winners Announced — 2026 Wapsie Writing Contest

Entries Posted: www.BettyBrandtPassick.com



Short Story:
"Beauty Standards
(that consume me)"
Piper Hayden,11
(Child)
Waterloo, IA



Short Story:
"The Hamster"
Michael Avina,17
(Youth)
Waterloo, IA



Short Story:
"The Time is Here"
Vicki Starks
(Adult)
West Union, IA

Congratulations to the winners of this years Wapsie Writing Contest! I invite you to read the winning entries at www.BettyBrandtPassick.com. **Below are comments from the winners:**

(CHILD) Piper Hayden, "Beauty Standards (that consume me)."

(YOUTH) Michael Avina, "The Hamster": *The Hamster was an idea I've had for a while based on experiences in my life. The story follows a father who choses to live in a cage for his whole life which symbolizes emotional unavailability. I think it's interesting how someone you love and interact with everyday can feel so distant at the same time. I want the reader to feel uncomfortable but also a little amused at how bizarre the situation is.*

(ADULT) Vicki Starks, "The Time is Here": "I actually wrote parts of this story a few years ago during an annual fall trip up north. I was enjoying the quiet peaceful days and watching the wildlife when something inside compelled me to start journaling my daily observations. I have always loved to write, and I dreamed of being a writer when I was younger. When I saw the posting in our local newspaper about the Wapsie Writing Contest, I knew I needed to enter and complete that goal for myself. So, I found those journaled notes I had written up north, created my short story, and submitted my first ever written piece. I am extremely honored to be chosen as the winner in the adult category of the 2026 Wapsie Writing Contest."

Author Events

(July-November)

- **Jul 18, Aug 8 & 15, Sept 5 & 19, Oct. 10, 9-1**, [Riverwalk Market Fair Summer Market](#), Bridge Square, Division & 4th St, Northfield MN
- **September 9-13**, “[The Defeat of Jesse James Days](#),” 408 Division St. S, Northfield, MN
- **Sat, Oct. 3, 10-4**, Deep Valley Book Festival (Kate DiCamillo, keynote speaker), Courtyard Mankato Hotel, 901 Raintree Rd, Mankato
- **Wed-Sun, Oct. 21-25**, (booksigning) [Bouchercon 2026](#), Calgary, Canada
- **Thurs, Nov. 19, 6-7:30 pm** (author talk), "The Bookish Buzz (was BOOZE & BOOKS)," [Black Rooster Bistro](#), sponsored by [Chapter 2 Books](#), 516 2nd St.- lower level., Hudson, WI
- **Sat-Sun, Nov 28-29, 2026 (10am – 5pm/10am – 3pm)**, [Twin Rivers Arts Festival/GSR](#), Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center, 1 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato, MN

Follow Me:

Read more about **Fairbank, Iowa**, Fairbank Islander, [City Newspaper \(fairbank-ia.org\)](http://CityNewspaper(fairbank-ia.org))

Read More:

Read more about [Historical Fairbank, Iowa](#), www.BettyBrandtPassick.com