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**USA Today Bestselling Author Serena B. Miller Launches New Cozy Mystery Series
"Secrets of Sugarcreek"**

**"A Stranger for Christmas" Introduces Manhattan Writer to Ohio's Amish Country in
Series That Proves Mysteries Don't Always Need Murder**

MINFORD, Ohio --- USA Today bestselling author Serena B. Miller ventures into new territory with the launch of her "Secrets of Sugarcreek" series, beginning with "A Stranger for Christmas," a cozy mystery that proves the most compelling puzzles often involve the secrets we keep rather than crimes we commit. Set in the beloved Ohio community that has captured readers' hearts through Miller's acclaimed "Love's Journey in Sugarcreek" series, this new collection explores the darker corners of peaceful Sugarcreek through the lens of antique treasures and hidden stories.

When Manhattan ghostwriter Amy Stanton inherits her ex-stepfather's farm and three-story antique store in Sugarcreek, Ohio, she discovers a world far from the city life she knows. With the help of Lucas Hershberger, her late stepfather's devoted Amish farm manager, Amy must navigate small-town mysteries hidden within Rick's Attic while confronting her growing feelings for a man whose faith and culture seem to make any relationship impossible.

"As a lover of cozy mysteries myself, I've often wondered why our genre seems to require a body count," Miller reflects. "After all, life's most compelling mysteries often revolve around the secrets we keep, the treasures we hide, and the stories behind everyday objects."

Miller's inspiration for "A Stranger for Christmas" came from an unexpected source—a real story shared by a close Amish friend about a practically homeless English teenager who tried to blend into her community.

"This young man showed up dressed in Amish clothing, trying to fit in with my friend's four teenage sons," Miller explains. "But there were telltale signs that something wasn't quite right. He wore an Old Order hat with New Order suspenders—mismatched pieces from different Amish sects that anyone from the community would immediately notice. Even more revealing was the language barrier. He knew several Amish phrases, but when others spoke to him in Pennsylvania Dutch, he could barely understand."

Despite knowing he wasn't truly Amish, Miller's friend and her family welcomed the boy into their home for several months, recognizing that something in his personal life made survival difficult and that he desperately needed a place to stay and be fed.

"That story of quiet compassion and the lengths someone would go to find belonging really stayed with me," Miller reflects. "It became the heart of my character's journey in the antique shop."

The research process took Miller into unexpected territory when her UCLA music graduate granddaughter read an early draft and challenged her perspectives. "She told me I needed to take a closer look at rap lyrics and the level of poetry and skill some of these artists possess," Miller recalls. "I thought I knew what I was talking about, but she sent me down several rabbit holes that left me in complete awe."

Miller found herself immersed in discovering high-caliber poets within the rap world, learning about the impressive number of records and awards they'd earned. "It completely changed how I approached writing certain scenes and understanding different forms of artistic expression. Sometimes the best research comes from the most unexpected sources—like having a granddaughter who can school you on subjects you thought you understood."

The concept for Rick's Attic—the three-story antique store at the heart of the series—emerged from Miller's fascination with the stories behind everyday objects. "I imagined a place where each item on its dusty shelves might hold a story waiting to be discovered," Miller explains. "As a former Sotheby's appraiser, Rick Downey had an eye for the extraordinary hiding in plain sight. Now his stepdaughter Amy, along with her Amish farm manager Lucas, will uncover these stories one by one."

"A Stranger for Christmas" marks Miller's return to the geographic setting that launched her career, while introducing readers to a fresh mystery format that maintains the authentic Amish-English cultural dynamics her fans have come to cherish. The novel serves as both a standalone story and the foundation for future explorations of Sugarcreek's colorful residents and the treasures hidden within Rick's Attic.

Miller is a USA Today bestselling author and winner of the Romance Writers of America "RITA," the American Christian Fiction Writers "CAROL," and a finalist for the "CHRISTY." Her signature storytelling has leaped from page to screen multiple times, with "The Sugar

Haus Inn" becoming the award-winning UPTV movie "Love Finds You in Sugarcreek," which captured the coveted "Templeton Epiphany Award." Her mastery of heartfelt narratives has since inspired acclaimed Hallmark Channel features "An Uncommon Grace" (2017) and "Moriah's Lighthouse" (2022).

"A Stranger for Christmas: A Secrets of Sugarcreek Novel" is published by L. J. Emory Publishing and is available in print and digital formats through major retailers.

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