

# BOOKS WORTH READING

## Suspense And Sizzle On The Upper East Side

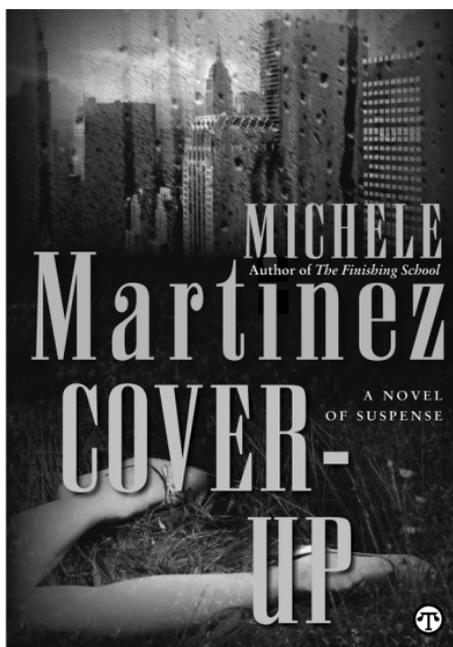
(NAPSA)—In the darkest recesses of Central Park on a rain-swept night, a tabloid TV reporter lies stabbed and violated, her blood soaking into the wet earth. The murder has all the hallmarks of a random sex crime. But Suzanne Shepard was a beautiful and ruthless celebrity scandal-monger with so many enemies that her death seems a grisly form of payback, rather than a random act of violence.

Federal prosecutor Melanie Vargas—whose romantic evening with FBI agent Dan O'Reilly comes to an abrupt end when she is called to the crime scene—knows she must stop the killer immediately. Anyone capable of such savagery is likely to strike again soon.

That's just the beginning of "Cover-Up" (William Morrow), the latest tale of suspense and sizzling romance from Michele Martinez, herself a former federal prosecutor. Drawn from Martinez's extensive experience with the criminal justice system, the book is fueled with the authenticity of a real-life expert and has been garnering glowing reviews from the critics.

In "Cover-Up," the third novel in the series featuring Vargas, she races to solve an unfolding crime that appears to involve a high-society scandal, a personal trainer who's selling recreational drugs to his clients, and a sinister Park Avenue plastic surgeon. Meanwhile, she's fallen hard for her partner in crime-fighting, agent O'Reilly.

Yet on Manhattan's Upper East Side, where a glittering surface hides a multitude of sins lying just out of sight, there's more at risk than Vargas's heart. She's been receiving chilling e-mails



from an anonymous "admirer" who knows way too much about the brutal crime she's investigating—as well as intimate details of her own movements. As Vargas draws closer to the truth, the terrifying stranger lurks even closer to her and she finds herself fighting for her life against a truly psychotic killer.

Martinez's novels have been widely praised for combining the elements of intense legal thrillers, police procedurals and inside looks at the treachery of the workplace, with a bit of romantic suspense added for good measure. A review in *Justice Magazine* raves, "Take a top-drawer episode of 'Law & Order,' mix in a little 'Sex and the City' and garnish with some Carl Hiaasen, and you'll see why Martinez is considered an up-and-comer in the mystery biz."

"Cover-Up" is available at retail and online bookstores. More information about Michele Martinez and her books is available at her Web site, [www.michelemartinez.com](http://www.michelemartinez.com).