



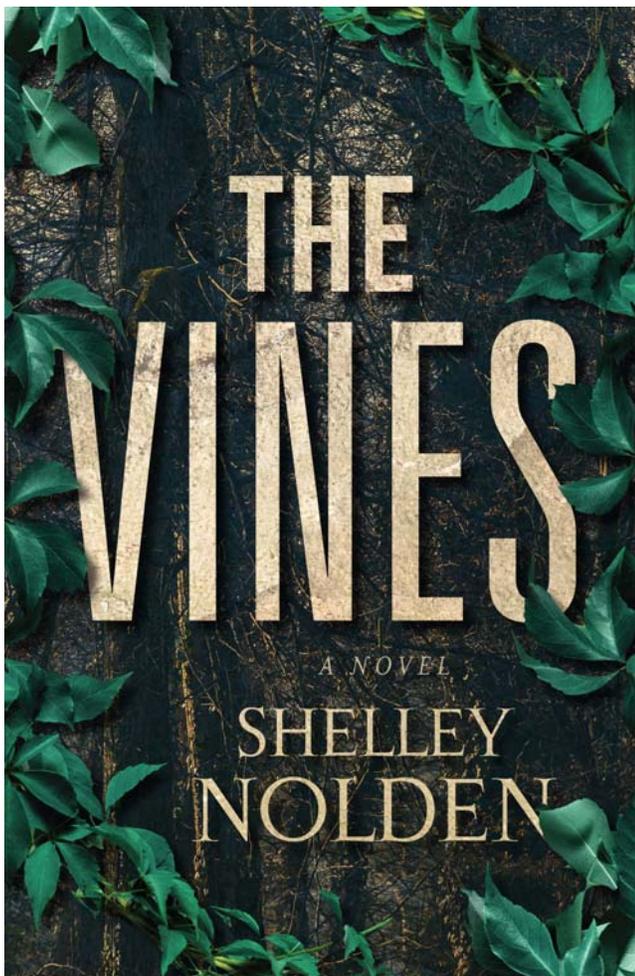
# OVER THE RIVER PUBLIC RELATIONS, LLC

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**Award-Winner of the Cross Genre category and Award-Winning Finalist of the  
Mystery/Suspense, Historical Fiction, and General Fiction categories of the  
2021 International Book Awards**



“**THE VINES** weaves beautiful writing around an unsettling mystery: Who is the strange, scarred woman living on a seemingly uninhabitable island? Shelley Nolden's debut seems not just prescient - given the world's current focus on virology and immunizations - but also timeless, as it illustrates in painful detail how mankind seems destined to repeat our cruelest mistakes.”

— Sarah Pekkanen, #1 NYT bestselling co-author of *You Are Not Alone*

“Highly original and richly drawn, Shelley Nolden’s **THE VINES** features one of the most fascinating central characters you’ll ever meet. Drawing on both the dark history of North Brother Island and today’s painfully immediate worries about immunity and transmission of deadly disease, this debut transcends genre to combine history, thrills, obsession, medical ethics, and more into the compelling story of three generations of doctors and one remarkable woman.” — Greer Macallister, bestselling author of *The Magician’s Lie* and *The Arctic Fury*

“Eerily timely and profoundly compelling, **THE VINES** is an unputdownable, unforgettable saga, the journey of a seemingly helpless, persecuted American woman who survives and battles back, against all odds; this first in what promises to be an explosive series signals the arrival of Shelley Nolden's masterful new voice in hybrid fiction.”  
— May Cobb, author of *The Hunting Wives*

**THE VINES** by Shelley Nolden (Freiling Publishing Hardcover; March 23, 2021) is historical fiction and suspense at its best. It’s both a breathtaking novel that explores a long-forgotten place and an ominous thriller that keeps you on the edge of your seat as the story unravels. In this debut—the first book in a

planned series—Nolden skillfully weaves together a page turner, spanning over a hundred years, that’s set on New York City’s abandoned North Brother Island.

“It took me over four years to write **THE VINES**, and I’m excited for its debut,” said Nolden. “I’m not a full-time author, though I’d like to move in that direction. My writing career initially began with my cancer blog after I was diagnosed with leukemia. It focused on the themes of disease, fear of death, isolation, loss of a child, and infertility, but also of survival, courage, healing, and hope. Through that process, the heroine of **THE VINES**—and her foil—were born. And shortly after reading Christopher Payne’s photography book, *North Brother Island: The Last Unknown Place in New York City*, I had the perfect setting for my epic tale.”

In the shadows of New York City lies North Brother Island, where the remains of a shuttered hospital hide the haunting memories of century-old quarantines and human experiments. The ruins conceal the scarred and beautiful Cora, imprisoned there by contagions and the doctors who torment her. When Finn, a young urban explorer, arrives on the island and glimpses this enigmatic woman through the foliage, intrigue turns to obsession as he seeks to uncover her past—and his own family's dark secrets. By unraveling these mysteries, will he be able to save Cora? Or will she meet the same tragic ending as the thousands who have already perished on the island?

**THE VINES** intertwines North Brother Island's horrific and elusive history with a captivating tale of love, betrayal, survival, and loss.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Shelley Nolden is an entrepreneur and writer, now residing in Wisconsin. Previously, she lived in the New York City area, where she first learned of North Brother Island. At the age of 31, Shelley was diagnosed with leukemia and completed treatment three years later. The sense of isolation and fear she experienced during her cancer ordeal influenced her debut novel, **THE VINES**.

**ABOUT THE EDITOR:**

Benee Knauer was the developmental editor for **THE VINES**. Her other projects include editing Sarah Pekkanen's and Greer Hendrick's *New York Times* bestsellers, *The Wife Between Us* and *An Anonymous Girl* (a #1 *New York Times* bestseller) and writing and adapting the just released and critically acclaimed *When They Call You A Terrorist* (the YA version).

**For more information, review copy requests,  
or to schedule an interview with Shelley Nolden:**  
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**THE VINES**

By Shelley Nolden

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[www.freilingpublishing.com](http://www.freilingpublishing.com)

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