

A TROUBLE OF FOOLS



MAIN CHARACTER

Look: I can give you references. I mean, if you really wanna know about me, I'm not the one to ask. I've had my successes, my failures, same as anybody. Check it out; I do my best. You hire me for a job; I'm on it. Once I get my teeth in, I don't let go.

Oh, now I get it. You want to know personal stuff like when was I born. Well, when I was a cop, this hooker I arrested more than once always used to tell me, "For DOB list NOB." That's "date of birth" and "none of your business," and it pretty much sums up how I feel about stuff like that, too. Knowledge is power, so I hoard it like I stockpile Doritos.

I've got the credentials for the job. I did college. First in my family to graduate. Sure, Mass-Boston's a commuter school, but it's a good one, and I learned a hell of a lot about the city driving a cab part-time while I got the degree. Gloria, at the cab company, will say kind words about me, if you want a character witness. I was a Boston cop for six years. Got my gold detective's shield the year I quit. Mooney's the one to talk to there; we keep in touch. I work for myself now and call my outfit Carlyle Investigations. It's just me, with a little help from Roz, my post-punk weirdo tenant.

What am I proud of: My diploma. My gold detective shield. My Little Sister, Paolina. I "adopted" her when I was a cop, through the Big Sisters Association. She's the best. She deserves the best. Oh, yeah, and I'm damn proud of my ability to spike a volleyball.

My Dreams To keep on doing what I'm doing. Get enough solid PI work that I can keep my cab driving to a minimum, even retire from hacking altogether, although I'd miss those late-night streets. Hell, I'd play blues guitar like Rory Block, maybe write a few tunes for my ex to record. Meet a guy who'd make me forget my ex that would be good. But don't get me wrong; I'm not desperate to marry again not eager, not even interested which is just as well since the guys who turn me on are never the marrying kind.

ABOUT THE BOOKS

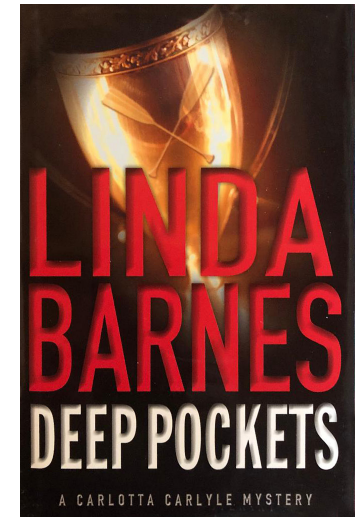
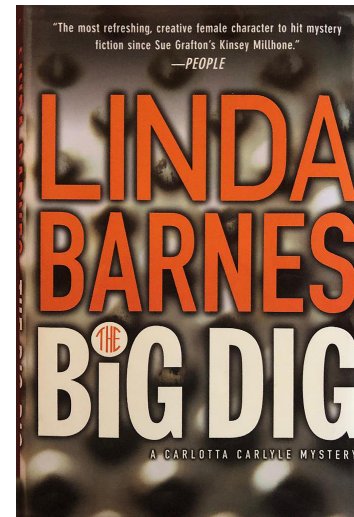
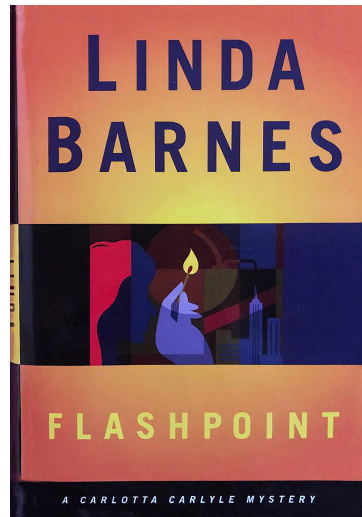
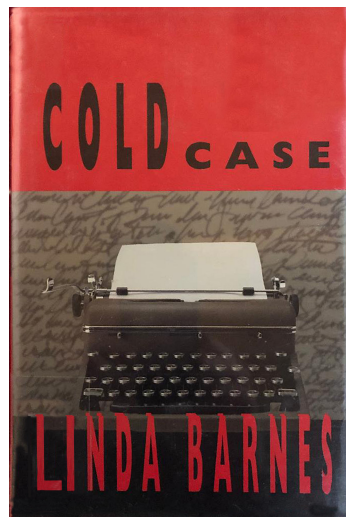
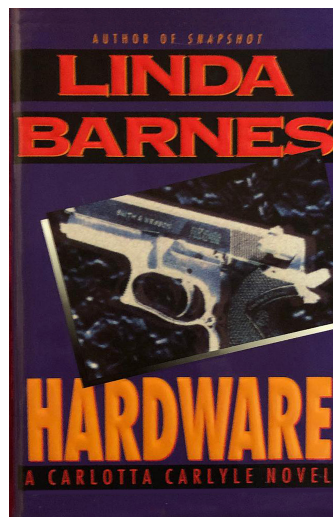
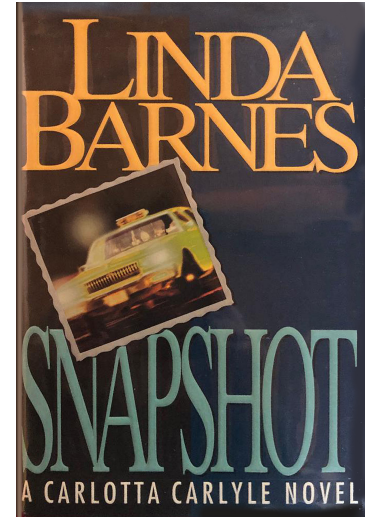
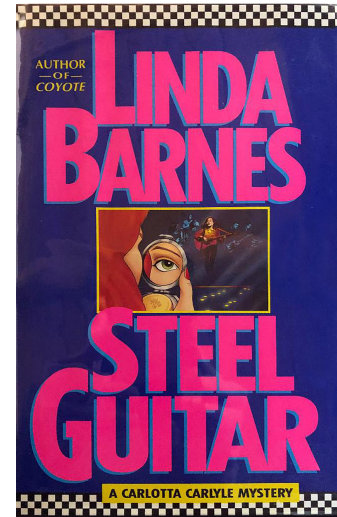
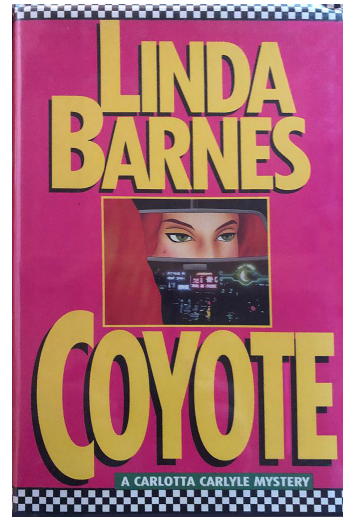
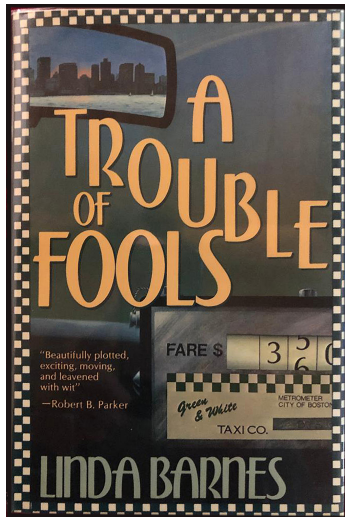
A TROUBLE OF FOOLS Reviews:

The Village Voice **Vi age V i e**

"The novel's real strength is its humanist, unpretentious voice. There is a sensitivity to crime and its victims that is absent from harder-boiled works."

Publisher's Weekly

"In the ever-increasing crowd of admirable female PIs, Boston-based Carlotta Carlyle is a stand-out and not just for her red hair and 6'1" frame. Self-possessed and confident, she's also short-tempered, restless and skeptical."



THE CITY

There's no better guide to Boston than Carlotta Carlyle, ex-cop, former cab driver. She's knows the city well and she knows how to work in the grime of settings. She's smart, intuitive, and fearless. She is our protagonist. She deftly navigates a world both seen and beneath the surface. She's a headstrong woman; she's led a tough life as a child and an adult and much of that has taught her who she can really trust and whose trust she has to gain. She is the nucleus from which we meet all our interesting and rich characters. Her loyalty is not won easily, but those who do have it, whether that's Mooney or Paolina, know how unwavering and loving it can be.



With Carlotta's deep knowledge and history with the city, she can easily weave us in and out many levels of the city. Living in the home of her since passed aunt, Carlotta doesn't live a glamorous life, but she certainly makes up for it in excitement. Carlotta shows us a different Boston however, not the Boston you'll be recommended by friends or by word of mouth, but the working-class Boston, a city of union workers, disparate neighborhoods, and stubborn history. She reveals to us the seedier side of the city, where transactions and favors have no receipts and participants would rather you not know.

With Carlotta's history though, it's hard not find yourself in sticky situations, even while on a job. Her taste for men might not be the most stable, but she'd be the first to agree. Despite that she's never naive enough to get in too deep and she always seems to get her way in the long run.

Most importantly, she's supportive of the women in her life, more than anything, despite some of their quirks. Her devout independence and strength in her own life is something she admires and instills in those she cares for the most.



In many ways the city of Boston is a character itself, and the colorful cast of people Carlotta invites to the forefront are all vital to establishing that character. Spanning several generations of people from different classes and ethnicities, Carlotta and her work reveals a robust Boston, and yet at times a treacherous Boston, but in her line of work it comes with the territory

THE STORY: TROUBLE OF FOOLS



Carlotta Carlyle, dressed in comfy attire, unexpectedly receives a visit from Margaret Devens, an emblem of Old Boston. Open to opportunities, Carlotta listens as Margaret describes her missing brother, Eugene, a cabbie for Green & White. Carlotta, familiar with the cab company, once drove for them. With limited leads, she accepts the job, enticed by the pay and her knowledge of the business.

Carlotta's past as a former Boston cop and current role as a PI provides insights into the tight-lipped Irish cabbies. Even Sam Gianelli, linked to the Italian mob and co-owner of the cab company, offers no solutions. Carlotta's complex history with Sam complicates matters. But perhaps the only trustworthy person is Sam's partner, Gloria, who hints about the Irish drivers' hangout.

Sitting discreetly at a pub, Carlotta observes the Irish cabbies but finds no trace of Eugene. Unexpectedly, Mooney, a recognizable and respected cop, enters. Engaging in playful conversation, Carlotta seeks an escape by involving Mooney in a fictitious sweepstakes scenario. She leaves without divulging her true purpose.

Struggling to locate Eugene, Carlotta checks on Paolina, her "Little Sister," and stumbles upon a suspicious man peddling drugs. She keeps tabs on him. Visiting Margaret's home later, Carlotta discovers Margaret battered and bleeding. Rushing her to the hospital, Carlotta ensures Margaret's safety.

Margaret's cryptic words lead Carlotta to the attic, where she discovers a stash of cash labeled with "GBA" initials. The Irish cabbies' connection to Gaelic Brotherhood Association, a defunct group tied to IRA, puzzles Carlotta. She investigates further by driving for Green & White, renewing contact with Sam and uncovering John Flaherty's criminal involvement.

Margaret helps Carlotta gain the Irish cabbies' trust, revealing that Flaherty coerced them into unwittingly trafficking drugs, using Irish pride as leverage. Eugene likely discovered the scheme and paid with his life. Carlotta and Mooney debunk the IRA arms link, exposing the drug trade's true nature.

Utilizing a sweepstakes scam, Carlotta and Mooney orchestrate a sting operation to nab Flaherty. Amid the chaos, Carlotta confronts Flaherty, but a mysterious gunman intervenes, killing Flaherty and escaping. The depot descends into turmoil.

Following the ordeal, Carlotta's life slowly settles. She donates the tainted money to various causes, concealing some for Paolina's future. The intricacies of Irish loyalty, mob connections, and deceitful dealings reaffirm Carlotta's expertise in navigating Boston's underbelly.



MAIN CHARACTERS



Carlotta Carlyle

Carlotta is a red-haired private investigator known for her fierce volleyball skills at the local YWCA. Raised in Detroit by a cop father and a Jewish mother, her tough upbringing cultivated her intuition, resourcefulness, and self-reliance. After her parents' tumultuous divorce and eventual deaths, Carlotta embraced her independence. Her ex-husband's addiction issues reinforced her self-reliance, and now she's cautious about whom she trusts.

Starting as a cab driver, she later joined the Boston Police force but left to become a PI, valuing the freedom it grants her over the constraints of law enforcement. Carlotta's affinity for blues and jazz soothes her, and playing her guitar provides solace in the midst of her dynamic life.

Mooney

A handsome Irish detective, Mooney is a high-ranking BPD homicide officer who leads his unit. He has been a close friend and mentor to Carlotta during her time on the police force. Their partnership was marked by mutual respect and a deep understanding of each other's likes and dislikes. Despite harboring romantic feelings for Carlotta, Mooney never crossed any boundaries during their partnership due to his sense of duty and respect for her. Now that Carlotta is a private investigator, Mooney's flirtatious and teasing side emerges as their paths intersect once again.

Sam Gianelli

The youngest son of Boston's mafia family, Sam is a partner and owner of the Green & White Cab Company. Despite his mafia background, Sam focuses on legitimate businesses, although his ventures have often struggled. He relies on his partner Gloria to manage day-to-day operations at G&W. Sam's charismatic, clean-cut appearance stands out, and he's still attracted to Carlotta, with whom he had a past romantic relationship. Though Carlotta has reservations about Sam's presence, their connection remains undeniable.

Gloria

Gloria, a former driver and close friend of Carlotta during their time at the Green & White Cab Company, is now a dispatcher and partner alongside Sam. Despite being wheelchair-bound due to a past accident, Gloria remains strong-willed and perceptive. Using her insurance payout, she helped Sam rescue the company from debt and became a co-owner of the same cab company where she once worked as a driver.

Roz

Roz, a young and eccentric "artist," resides in Carlotta's home at a reduced rent in exchange for sporadic and ineffective housekeeping. Despite her shortcomings in cleaning, Carlotta doesn't mind. Roz offers assistance to Carlotta without prying into details, functioning almost like a casual assistant, unconcerned about the tasks at hand and focused on enjoying herself.

Paolina

Paolina, 10 years old, is Carlotta's Little Sister through the Big Sister Program. Despite Carlotta's retirement from the BPD, she remains a significant figure in Paolina's life. The young girl greatly admires Carlotta, expressing concern for her and her actions. Although Paolina may not fully understand Carlotta's work, she's perceptive enough to notice her sister's tendency to neglect self-care.

ADDITIONAL CASES

THE SNAKE TATTOO

Carlotta Carlyle can't refuse any case, even when two walk in at once. First, her ex-partner Lieutenant Mooney seeks help—charged unfairly, his key witness, a vanished snake tattooed hooker, is missing. Then, a battered teenager asks for help finding his runaway girlfriend. Despite doubts, Carlotta dives into Boston's underbelly, facing the darkness within humanity. As she confronts the evils men commit, she must decide how to tackle it head-on.

COYOTE

A woman seeks Carlotta's help to find her missing immigration card. But things take a turn when the woman vanishes, and the card is found with a deceased woman. Intrigued, Carlotta continues, discovering a link to her inner-city "little sister" Paolina. Teaming up with a secretive immigration agent, she delves into the perilous realm of illegal immigrants and their predators. In this lawless world, only her wits matter, as innocence and life hold no sanctity.

STEEL GUITAR

Boston P.I. Carlotta Carlyle encounters all sorts of characters as a taxi driver. Unexpectedly, her ex-friend and singer, Dee Willis, hops in. Dee, who stole Carlotta's man and rose to fame, needs help finding a struggling friend. But trouble follows, as blackmail and a mysterious death emerge. Amid the turmoil, Carlotta's past resurfaces, bringing vengeance in its wake.

SNAPSHOT

Mysterious child photos arrive at P.I. Carlotta Carlyle's office each Friday. Ignoring them might have prevented her from stumbling into murder. Investigating the child's past entangles Carlotta in a web of shattered lives and a deadly conspiracy connecting New England to the Third World. Amid this chaos, her "little sister" faces danger, driving Carlotta to seek justice in a world of killers and innocence.

HARDWARE

Boston P.I. Carlotta Carlyle is drawn into the shadowy world of computer technology, blurring privacy's boundaries. With mafia-linked Sam Gianelli, she embraces modern investigation tools. While probing brutal cabbie robberies, Carlotta's hardware aids her. Amid escalating violence, G&W Cab faces attacks, sparking questions of vendettas and mob involvement. A cryptic expert aids Carlotta, revealing hidden transactions. Delving into Sam's past, she unearths long-concealed truths. As the case crescendos, Carlotta realizes the mob might be a diversion in a more personal crime.

COLD CASE

Twenty-four years ago, teen prodigy Thea Janis vanished from her elite Boston prep school. Initially a runaway, she's later linked to a serial killer's victims. Now, a manuscript in her voice arrives, spurring P.I. Carlotta Carlyle into action. A new client seeks Carlotta's aid in uncovering the sender, even if it's Thea herself. The trail leads to a wealthy, influential Boston family determined to bury the past. When a hitman intervenes, the cold case intensifies, putting Carlotta at risk of being consumed by the flames.

ADDITIONAL CASES

FLASHPOINT

Carlotta agrees to secure an elderly recluse's apartment as a favor, but her world shifts when the recluse is found dead in her ransacked home. Amid pressure from entertainment moguls and real estate tycoons, Carlotta navigates complex questions. What's the true value of the vacant apartment to a greedy developer? What cherished item did the woman guard? The mystery deepens with a contested will and an old robbery. As an innocent faces conviction and arson threatens, Carlotta races to solve the puzzle.

BIG DIG

Carlotta Carlyle's undercover role investigating fraud on Boston's Big Dig proves less thrilling than anticipated. Disguised as a secretary, she yearns for more excitement. Juggling her Big Dig duties, she takes on a missing-person case, but the hunt for Veronica James leads to dead ends. As her fraud investigations and personal case stall, a break-in at Veronica's and a construction worker's mysterious death shake things up. Now, Carlotta finds herself overwhelmed, tangled in a storm of intrigue.

DEEP POCKETS

Harvard professor Wilson Chaney seeks help from PI Carlotta Carlyle after being blackmailed for his affair with a deceased student. Suspecting the student's boyfriend, Benjy Dowling, Carlotta uncovers the torrid letters. When Benjy dies in a hit-and-run involving Chaney's car, the case deepens. A web of drug trials, fraud, lawsuits, and murder emerges, linking Chaney to his wife, a security firm, and the university. The case intensifies unexpectedly, leaving Carlotta to unravel the intricate threads with bold, shattering consequences.

HEART OF THE WORLD

Girls who vanish are often found, but some remain lost, their bones uncovered in remote places. P.I. Carlotta Carlyle's mission, seeking her adopted sister Paolina, could reshape her destiny. Did Paolina flee or get abducted? How much is her estranged drug lord father involved? Carlotta's quest leads her across Boston, Miami, and Colombian mountains. A journey from darkness to discovery awaits in this gripping tale.

LIE DOWN WITH THE DEVIL

Carlotta delves into a complex web involving her loved ones, Boston's backstreets, and more. She's determined to uncover why her boyfriend, Sam Gianelli, faces a secret murder indictment abroad. Despite her efforts, neither Sam nor the police share answers. Carlotta's journey, from a cheating spouse case to unexpected death, unveils layers of deception.

AUTHOR BIO



LINDA BARNES

Before writing her first stand-alone novel, *The Perfect Ghost*, which Publisher's Weekly calls "a captivating story of love, rivalry, and revenge," Linda Barnes wrote 16 mystery novels, 12 featuring her six-foot-one redheaded private eye Carlotta Carlyle, and four featuring actor/detective Michael Spraggue, an amateur sleuth. In addition to best-selling mysteries, she has also written award-winning plays and short stories.

Linda Barnes's celebrated Carlotta Carlyle first appeared in 1985 in the award-winning short story "Lucky Penny." Since then, Barnes has written twelve Carlotta Carlyle novels: *A Trouble of Fools* (1987), *The Snake Tattoo* (1989), the Boston Globe bestsellers *Coyote* (1991), *Steel Guitar* (1993), *Snapshot* (1994), *Hardware* (1995) and *Cold Case* (1997), which also appeared on The Boston Globe bestseller list. *Flashpoint* came out in 1999. *The Big Dig* was published in 2002, followed by *Deep Pockets* in 2004 and *Heart of the World*, in 2006 and *Lie Down With the Devil* (2008).

Among her many honors, Barnes won the Anthony Award for Best Short Story ("Lucky Penny," 1986) and the American Mystery Award for Best Private Eye Novel (*A Trouble of Fools* 1987). She has been nominated for both the Shamus and the Edgar. *The Snake Tattoo* was named one of the outstanding books of 1990 by The London Times and *Lie Down With the Devil* was named one of the Best Mysteries of 2008 by Publisher's Weekly.

She lives near Boston with her husband.

PRODUCTION



PENNY PERRY

Penny Perry has an extensive background in the film and entertainment industry, with over forty years as a casting director. She is considered one of Hollywood's top "A-list" casting directors having cast hundreds of films and television roles during her career. Ms. Perry's projects have been nominated for and have won many professional awards: an Academy Award for *Midnight Express*, *Cocoon* and *Ordinary People*. Ms. Perry is a member of the Motion Picture Academy, Television Academy and Women in Film.

In her forty years in the film industry, Ms. Perry has held several high-profile executive positions; she has served as Vice President for Sony/Columbia Pictures, Vice President of Talent for HBO/Silver Screen, Vice President of Marble Arch under Sir Lew Grade and Vice President for Larry Levinson Productions. During her tenure as VP for LLP, Ms. Perry oversaw over two hundred movies-of-the-week.

Ms. Perry is now Senior Vice President of Original Programming at Crown Media/Hallmark Channel where she negotiates and oversees casting and talent for all film productions. These include: original series, mystery wheels, made for television movies, as well as the highly regarded franchise, the Hallmark Hall of Fame.

Ms. Perry's years working in film have enabled her to establish strong relationships with top agents and managers in the entertainment industry. She has a keen eye for young talent and is responsible for discovering and giving many "A-list" actors their first film roles. A small sample of her talent roster includes but is not limited to: Michelle Pfeiffer, Cuba Gooding Jr., Dennis Quaid, Diane Lane, Robin Wright, Timothy Hutton, Peter Gallagher, Patrick Dempsey, Brad Davis, Dermot Mulroney, Debra Winger, Fred Savage, Rob Lowe, Patrick Swayze, Steve Martin, Emilio Estevez, Kristin Bell, Alfred Woodard, Kelly McGinnis, Lou Diamond Phillips, Laura Dern and Cathy Bates.

A number of the of the feature films Ms. Perry is responsible for casting include: *Midnight Express* and *Foxes* for Sir David Putnam and Alan Parker, *Young Guns* for Joe Roth, *Cocoon* for Ron Howard, *Ordinary People* for Robert Redford, *The Jerk* for Carl Reiner, *Time Cop* for Peter Hyams, *Tap* for Nick Castle and Gregory Hines, *The NeverEnding Story* for Wolfgang Peterson and *Idolmaker* for Taylor Hackford.



EUGENE DAVIS

Eugene Davis is an established actor with more than forty years of experience in the entertainment industry. He started his acting career on stage in New York. He attended the Neighborhood Playhouse and studied with Sandy Meisner. On stage he worked with Robert Duvall in Lyle Kessler's play *Burning Bright* and later co-starred with Bobby and Glen Close in *Stone Boy*. Eugene's first play was directed by Barbara Loden. Eugene and Mickey Rourke starred together in the staged reading. Barbara was married to Elia Kazan and created the starring role in Arthur Miller's *After The Fall* at Lincoln Center. Eugene went on to co-star in Albert Innaurato's *Earthworms* at Playwrights Horizon. Albert was best known for his Broadway play *Gemini*.

Mr. Davis has starred in several motion pictures. His first film was Roger Vadim's feature film *Night Games*. Eugene co-starred in William Friedkin's *Cruising* starring Al Pacino. Eugene played the character of DaVinci an informant transvestite. Eugene considers the role of DaVinci to be his finest work on film. Eugene next met David Chase on an episode of *Rockford Files*. David wrote a pilot for Eugene about the character Eugene created on the episode *The Jersey Bounce*. Meta Rosenberg produced the pilot for Cherokee Productions, James Garner's production company. Eugene followed the pilot starring as the psychotic killer in *Ten to Midnight* with Charlie Bronson, directed by J. Lee Thompson. Next came *The Hitcher* starring Rutger Hauer. Eugene co-starred in Nicolas Winding Refn's *Fear X* with John Turturro.

Eugene developed a project for Barbra Streisand and Robert Deniro for Barwood Pictures and Sony Pictures on Jackson Pollack. Eugene then partnered with Daniel Wilson on several books to film. Daniel produced the original *Handmaid's Tale* Harold Pinter wrote the original screenplay. He recently executive produced *Enchanted Christmas* for the Hallmark Channel for Alexa and Carlos Pena Vega.

Eugene has four children with Penny Perry and lives in Sherman Oaks with his four dogs and Penny. He can be found walking his dogs at any given hour of the day. Together with Penny Perry they formed Rocking Horse Productions with the purpose of finding character driven projects.

FYI

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