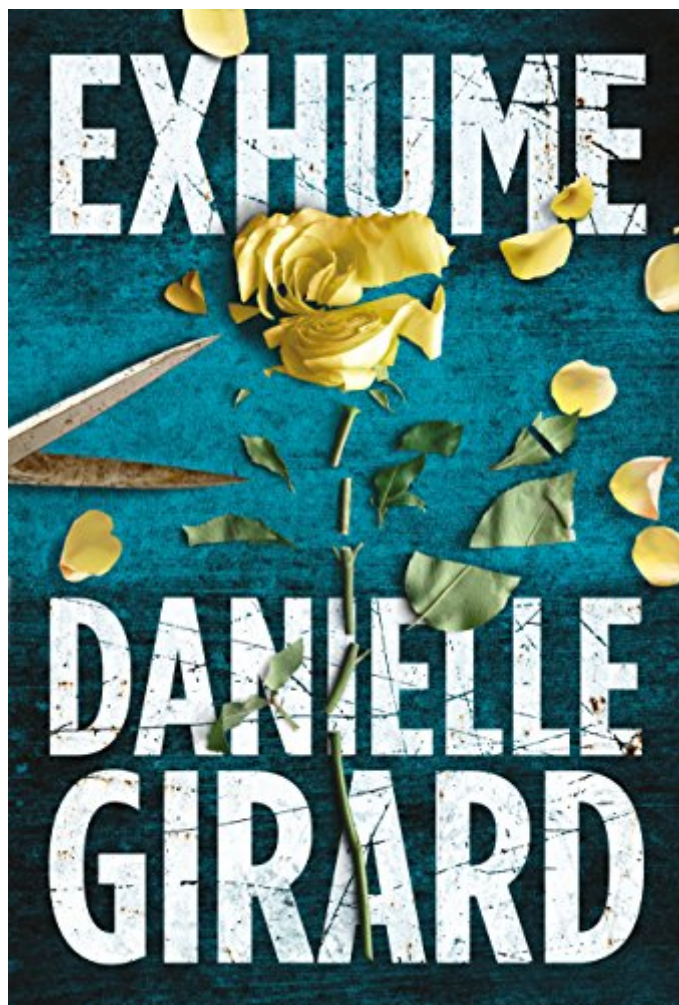


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# Exhume (Dr. Schwartzman Series Book 1)



## Synopsis

Dr. Annabelle Schwartzman has finally found a place to belong. As the medical examiner for the San Francisco Police Department, working alongside homicide detective Hal Harris, she uncovers the tales the dead can't tell about their final moments. It is a job that gives her purpose and a safe haven from her former life at the hands of an abusive husband. Although it's been seven years since she escaped that ordeal, she still checks over her shoulder to make sure no one is behind her. Schwartzman's latest case is deeply troubling: the victim bears an eerie resemblance to herself. What's more, a shocking piece of evidence suggests that the killer's business is far from over and that Schwartzman may be in danger. In this pulse-pounding thriller from award-winning writer Danielle Girard, a woman must face her worst nightmare to catch a killer.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Once again I was not that impressed with the Kindle First choices this month. Wasn't in the least interested in the two historical books, but even among the remaining four choices this was the only selection that had any appeal at all. Although it isn't my favorite Kindle First selection to date, I DID enjoy it - so much so that I read it in one day. Although the book starts with one autopsy being

completed, the real story begins with Dr. Annabelle Schwartzman examining a body in her (the dead woman's) own bed. However, SHE wasn't the one to point out how much the dead woman looked like her: it was Homicide Inspector Hailey Wyatt who noticed the resemblance. As it turns out, Anna (she hates being called Annabelle) has her own suspicions as to why this woman would look so much like her. AND she immediately noticed the flowers: YELLOW flowers. While not exactly the same as a bouquet placed outside her OWN door - in her security protected building - she has very strong suspicions regarding the sender. However, rule one for the medical examiner is to never make assumptions and then try to make your findings support those assumptions. No, one must let the body and the scene where the body is found (whether it is a crime or death by natural causes) tell the story. Even so - flowers or no flowers, there IS something about this body that causes Anna to collapse to the floor. Something for which (in her mind) there could be only one explanation. Just the night before, Anna had shared her own history with Hailey. She seldom spoke of herself or her past. Never knowing who was trustworthy, it was easier (and safer) to keep to herself. However, she had taken a chance last night, and she was glad she did. Dr.

Danielle Girard may not be a household name but she has developed a considerable following in the genre of police procedurals. This book, 'Exhume', is further justification of her status as a fine writer, even though no such justification is really needed. For those who don't know, Ms. Girard has published several novels over the past fifteen plus years, a point which was not lost on me. She has published another series (The Rookie Club..) which consisted of five novels in sequence, the first one of which is 'Dead Center' which you can find at this link: [Danielle Girard](#). I was lucky enough to read three of the five in that series... and the remaining two are still on my reading list. I never follow series' to their conclusion unless the writing is well done and interesting. These were, so I fully intend to complete it by reading those last two books. This book, 'EXHUME' is the start of another series. While the first series featured a beat cop, this book (and I suspect the entire series..) features a ME (medical examiner..) who has a history that follows her. She is constantly watching her back... waiting. When I selected this book, I did so for two reasons. First, having read some of her earlier work, I felt certain that it would be a good read. Second, and perhaps just as importantly, I am a fan of Patricia Cornwell's character, Kay Scarpetta, who is also a Medical Examiner and who is a very complete and complex character. A third reason was the general paucity of good titles in the First selections over the past few months. So, with an open mind, I chose this one. And I'm glad I did!! No Spoilers here...

In writing the story of Dr. Annabelle Schwartzman, a medical examiner for the San Francisco Police Department, author Danielle Girard does a superlative job, masterfully developing both the character and the story, delving into the past in order to bring the story to the present and paint the scenes with suspense and mystery as the main protagonist fights for survival. *Exhume* by Danielle Girard is the first book in the Dr. Schwartzman series, with the second book *Excise* tentatively scheduled for August 2017 release. Though I'm new to author Danielle Girard, I could immediately connect with her as her writing stands out among the many other books in its genre that has inundated the market. Danielle's masterful strokes and creativity lift her above the rest, and I'm confident that this particular book will be well received. In this edge of the seat suspense thriller, thirty-six years old Dr. Annabelle Schwartzman's story begins years earlier when she was married to Spencer MacDonald. What promises to be an exciting union soon turned sour when Spencer's true character was revealed. Schwartzman had to endure an endless nightmare, ultimately forcing her to flee thousands of miles away. Years later when her work brought her to the scene of a murder, Schwartzman realised that danger was much closer than she had anticipated. She had received a bouquet of yellow flowers - a color she despised. Schwartzman also had to deal with the death of two women in Charleston, including her aunt Ava, and another woman in San Francisco. She must determine if it was merely a terrible coincidence or the action of one mad killer. While I'm inclined to opine that the ending was a bit tame, *Exhume* by Danielle Girard is an absorbing read thriller lovers will enjoy.

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