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v.1.5

MEJ NEWSLETTER

*I can't write five words
but that I change
seven.*

Dorothy Parker



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Peculiar Activities update

We've forwarded the manuscript to the proofreaders at [The Wild Rose Press](#). Fingers crossed for few mistakes, and the editing process will be complete.

This month, a selection from Chapter Three.

Nika leaned forward and grabbed my hands. "Come on, Henry. Where are you from? Why are you in Alexandria? You don't sound like you're from here. You mentioned Blacksburg the other night ... siblings, etcetera."

"Okay. My parents' farm is near Rocky Gap, northwest of Blacksburg. My dad served in the army for twenty years, and then he managed our farm and tried his hand at part-time coal mining before he died. My mom was a substitute teacher. She miscarried several times, so I don't have any siblings."

"Only one Henry Ike Pierce?"

"Guess so. I attended Virginia Tech—I was never far from home. I graduated with a criminology degree and earned an MBA in computational modeling and data analytics. I was the first one in my family to graduate from college, much less from graduate school. My father passed two years ago. Heart attack, they said, although he had no previous heart issues, and it broke my mother's heart, too. My grandmother lives with her now, and they're the ones who call me Ike. They both get their pensions, and I help if they need anything."

"Aren't you the sweet one? My degree is in Journalism from American University. I'd like to be a senator someday. And my mother doesn't have to worry about money, at least. My dad took off but left a trust for her ... for us."

"What did your dad do?" My question surprised her, judging by her widening eyelids. She wiped her mouth with the white cloth napkin, leaving red lipstick smeared across it.

"Let's talk about something else, Henry, Ike, whatever."



Check out the updated book trailer on the homepage of my website: mejbookslc.com

All photos used in the video and elsewhere are mine or purchased through available resources.

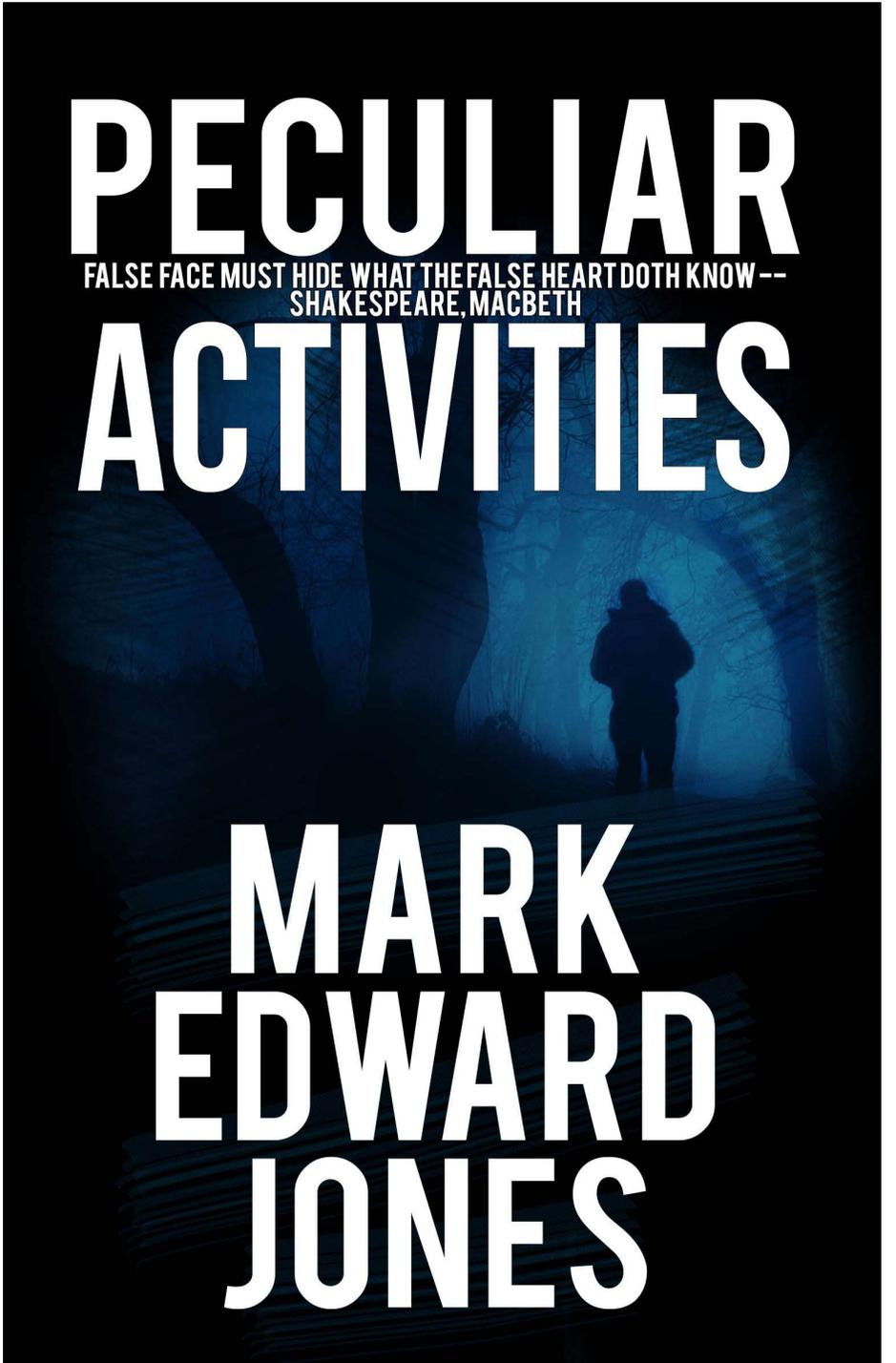
A Cover!
Exactly what I had in mind.

Many thanks to [The Wild Rose Press](#) and Cover Artist, **Tina Lynn Stout**. Very close to the look I had originally wanted to portray. Great job.

PECULIAR

FALSE FACE MUST HIDE WHAT THE FALSE HEART DOETH KNOW --
SHAKESPEARE, MACBETH

ACTIVITIES



**MARK
EDWARD
JONES**