

ROCKET GIRL: A Kick Johnson Mystery

A Historical Mystery Set in 1961 at the Dawn of the Space Race



ABOUT THE BOOK:

A plucky, recently widowed mathematician takes a job with a new NASA-funded research center, but when a fellow employee turns up dead, things add up to murder...

Set in 1961 at the height of Cold War tension, *Rocket Girl* blends a traditional mystery with the story of women behind the scenes of the Space Race where ambition, secrecy, and survival collide.

"If you loved the smart women of *Lessons in Chemistry* and *Hidden Figures* then this is for you."

—**Rhys Bowen**, *New York Times* bestselling author

"Superbly researched...*Rocket Girl* is an engrossing read not to be missed."
—**James W. Ziskin**, Anthony, Barry, and Macavity award-winning author

"*Rocket Girl* captures the excitement of the early space race...
Fans of historical mysteries and the early space program won't be able to put this book down."

—**Jennifer Ross-Nazzari**, Space Historian
and author of *Making Space for Women*

"It's a roaring good mystery...Diane Vallere's engaging book underscores aspiration as the enduring thread in our long engagement with the unknown."
—**Roger D. Launius**, Former NASA Chief Historian

STORY ANGLES

- Women behind the early Space Race
- Cold War America through the lens of mystery
- The forgotten STEM careers open to women in 1961
- Fiction at the intersection of women's history and space history

QUICK FACTS

- Genre: Historical Mystery
- Setting: Dallas, Texas, 1961
- Protagonist: Math aide
- Themes: equality, Cold War, ambition
- Series: Book 1 of a decade-spanning series
- Release: February 23, 2027
- ISBN: 9798951039002 (pb)
- 336 pages

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

National bestselling author Diane Vallere writes mysteries where ordinary women stumble into extraordinary situations...and murder is never far behind. From the dawn of the Space Race to contemporary America, her character-driven novels pair unforgettable heroines with intriguing mysteries, humor, and heart.

A past president of Sisters in Crime Worldwide, Diane edited the Agatha Award-winning essay collection *Promophobia: Taking the Mystery out of Promoting Crime Fiction*. She studied art history at the College of William and Mary and spent years in luxury retail before trading fashion accessories for accessories to murder. She lives in Pennsylvania.

INTERVIEW TOPICS

- What inspired *Rocket Girl*
- Why Dallas? Why Space?
- Researching NASA in 1961
- Turning real history into fictional mystery
- From fashion buyer to historical novelist

CONTACT

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