

# Rendezvous by Evan Marshall



“Ellen?”  
“David. So nice to meet you at last.”  
“I feel like we’ve already met. Between Facebook, LinkedIn . . . Your hand is cold.”  
“Sorry. Martini. Would you like one?”  
“Sure. . . . Man, that is some view.”  
“I love it up here. It could only be New York. Oh—yes, he’d like a martini, please.”  
“But you’re not from New York, am I right, Ellen? I’m hearing, what, Boston?”  
“Ooh, you’re good. I thought I’d gotten rid of it. Close. Providence. Ever been?”  
“Been! I was born there. But I *did* get rid of the accent. Amazing coincidence.”  
“I’m convinced there are no coincidences. Everything happens for a reason.”  
“Interesting. . . . Ah, thank you. No, just the drink is fine for me. Ellen, something to eat for you?”  
“No, I’m fine. So. Providence. When’d you leave?”  
“Oh, years ago. You?”  
“Same.”  
“In one of your posts you mentioned you had a daughter. Is she here in New York?”  
“My daughter is dead. She killed herself.”  
“Oh my God. I’m so sorry, Ellen.”

“She hanged herself after her daughter died. My granddaughter. No mother should ever have to bury a child. . . . God, listen to me. Some first date. Sorry.”  
“No need to be. I *want* to know about you.”  
“Well, now you know more than enough. Tell me about you, David.”  
“Not much to tell, really.”  
“You said you left Providence a long time ago. What have you been doing since?”  
“Hey, look—a helicopter. We’re nearly as high up.”  
“Let’s go look.”  
“All right.”  
“. . . Amazing, isn’t it? Great big city, all those people, and here we are.”  
“I don’t follow you. Watch out, Ellen—the railing’s low.”  
“I’m just glad you and I were able to connect. We’ve got a lot in common. The Internet’s a wondrous thing.”  
“We do have a lot in common, don’t we? Same Facebook lists!”  
“More than what’s on the lists.”  
“Hm?”  
“Hannah Fremont.”  
“What did you say?”  
“That was my granddaughter who died. She was raped and murdered. That’s why my daughter killed herself. But you know that, don’t you, David?”  
“What is this?”  
“I’ve waited a long time.”  
“For what?”  
“For the day you might get out of prison. For this moment.”  
“This moment?”  
“To end my pain. I’m taking you with me. Good-bye, David.”  
“Ellen, what are you doing? Let go of me! *Ellen*, NO . . . !”

Evan Marshall is an internationally recognized expert on fiction writing and author of the “Jane Stuart and Winky” and “Hidden Manhattan” mystery series. A former book editor, for 23 years he has been a leading literary agent specializing in fiction. His *Marshall Plan® Novel Writing Software* (with Martha Jewett) is an adaptation of his bestselling Marshall Plan® series.

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