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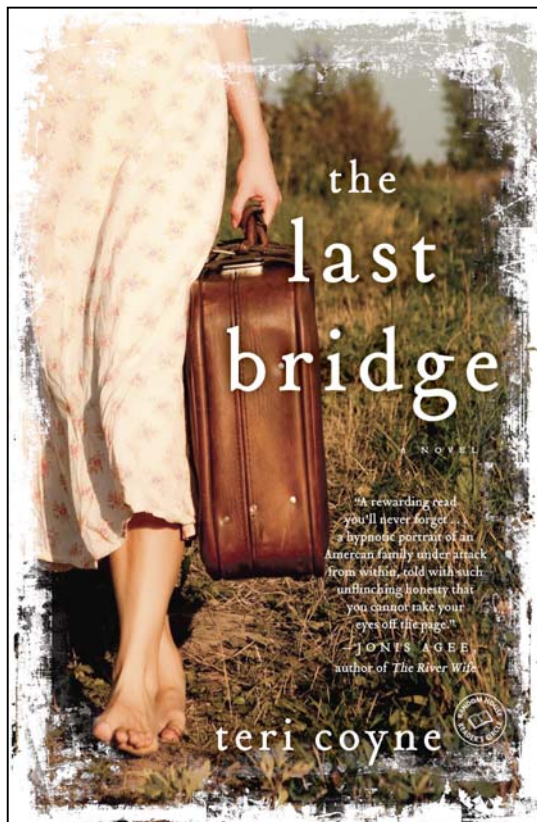
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Now in Paperback for the First Time!

THE LAST BRIDGE

A debut novel by
Teri Coyne



Praise for *THE LAST BRIDGE*

“Coyne weaves a compelling and twisting plot ...
a sophisticated tale of how family members
cope with abuse.”
—*The Daily Beast*

“Intense, emotionally wrenching.”
—*BookPage*

“Wonderful...stunning...the debut novel of the year . . .
evokes the power of [Joyce Carol] Oates.”
—*Huntington News*

“Exhilarating...Coyne held me captivated in an anticipation
that wouldn't allow me to put
[**THE LAST BRIDGE**] down.”
—*The Decatur Daily*

“[A] compelling debut... Coyne's prose effortlessly carries
the reader through a thorny history and into possible
redemption.”
—*Publishers Weekly*

“Thrumming with a desperate, malevolent intensity, Coyne's debut novel is a psychological tour de force, a
disturbing yet ultimately redemptive tale of the burden of secrets and the tenacity of love.”
—*Booklist*

“Terri Coyne grabbed me from the first page and never let me go. I read through the night until I came to
the last lovely chapter. **THE LAST BRIDGE** is a whirlwind of a book.
—Amanda Eyre Ward, *Forgive Me*

“Cat is an unforgettable character, and **THE LAST BRIDGE** is at once searing and authentic. Teri
Coyne has created a compelling mystery, a family drama and a literary delight.”
—Masha Hamilton, author of *The Camel Bookmobile* and *The Distance Between Us*

(over)

“Teri Coyne has created a hypnotic portrait of an American family under attack from within, told with such unflinching honesty that you cannot take your eyes off the page. Not since *Bastard Out of Carolina* have we seen the breathtaking courage it takes to survive and triumph after paying the price of dark secrets corroding the heart of a family. Cat stings you with her caustic tongue, makes you laugh out loud with her wild humor, brings you to tears with the revelation of her trials, and finally lifts you to your feet as she fights her way free to love again. This is a tough, rewarding read you’ll never forget.”

—Jonis Agee, *The River Wife*

Now available in paperback for the first time, Teri Coyne’s debut novel **THE LAST BRIDGE** (Ballantine Books; May 25, 2010) is a dark, edgy portrayal of one family’s ongoing cycle of repression and rage.

After a ten-year absence, Alex “Cat” Rucker returns to her Ohio hometown because of a letter left on her mother’s kitchen table—a suicide note, carefully preserved in a Ziploc® bag, that reads, “He isn’t who you think he is. Love, Mom.”

Thus opens this gripping debut novel from author Teri Coyne, who, with wry humor and sharp wit, follows Alex’s journey through the traumatic experiences of her youth and the haze of her adult life.

While Alex tries to repress the memories of her brutal childhood—an abusive father, her estranged (and possibly illegitimate) brother, and the first love who would do anything to save her—she must face just how shattered she still is. At each step Alex confronts her biggest fears, realizes the impact of her choices, and inches closer to redemption. Can she embrace her vulnerabilities, talents, and desire for love, or will the revelations of her mother’s cryptic note prove too overwhelming for her to bear?

THE LAST BRIDGE is a perfect blend of suspense, despair, and romance—and at its heart lies the question: are we a product of our experiences or our choices?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

TERI COYNE studied writing at the Iowa Summer Writers Workshop and at New York’s Gotham Writers’ Workshop. An alumna of New York University, Teri wrote and performed stand-up comedy and wrote short films that were produced by NYU. **THE LAST BRIDGE** is her first novel. Visit her at www.tericoyne.com.

THE LAST BRIDGE by Teri Coyne
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