

## New Books

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Back-up Mali Anders can't keep her nose out of trouble. As she attempts to finish her master's in social work, she finds herself knee-deep in another Harlem homicide case. But this time Mali can't resist the pleas of help from her dear friend and hairdresser Bert, whose brother, Kendrick, is the lead suspect in a local murder.

On a busy Saturday night outside Harlem's popular Half-Moon Bar, gunshots pierce the air and the heart of a popular barmaid and part-time actress named Thea. Bar owner Henderson Laws finds Thea's boyfriend, Kendrick, cradling her body, and immediately implicates Kendrick with the girl's murder. In come the cops and arrest Kendrick without chance for bail.

With a goal to find the truth and uncover Thea's past and reputation. As she begins to unravel this young woman's "dirty laundry," she discovers there are few who knew

Thea well. The girl had no immediate family, but only a devoted music teacher, an old friend, an estranged husband, and few extracurricular boyfriends (aside from Kendrick), including the infamous Henderson Laws as well as Senator Edson Michaels, who could speak on her behalf.

As Mali saunters through the colorful back alleys of Harlem to find Thea's murderer, her own tranquil life slips farther away as two other characters end up murdered. And she's yet to discover why a young heiress wishes to pay for Kendrick's legal fees. A determined detective, Mali fits the pieces together and even comes close to her own demise in order to free Kendrick and expose the real murderer. Grace Edwards' brilliance for mystery writing continues with *A Toast Before Dying*—an exciting whodunit certain to keep readers guessing up until the story's very end.

### About the author:

Grace F. Edwards was born and reared in Harlem and currently lives in Brooklyn. She writes about what she calls the "3 B's of Harlem commerce": beauty shops, barber shops and bars.

## EASY LIVING

### Relaxing Getaways

(NAPS)—Don't let the trip, no matter how long, get in the way of your fun. Those who travel to the most scenic spots in the



Leisurely trips can help deliver peaceful, easy feelings.

- **Don't push it.** Rushing from place to place limits rest stops and creates a stressful atmosphere. Allow extra time, not just for rest stops, but for adventuresome trips off the beaten path as well.

- **Take the long way home.** A slower travel pace can be more relaxing. Many smaller roads offer ample opportunities for families to take "play breaks"—brief stops to stretch muscles and burn off pent-up energy.

- **America the Beautiful.** Try trading fast food and gas mart stops for visits to county museums, drug store soda fountains, small-town cafes, and roadside bits of Americana.

- **Helpful diversions.** Pack an activity kit for each child that includes a variety of small, inexpensive items like crayons, paper and games that help pass the time while traveling and after reaching the vacation destination.

- **Stop when you need to.** To stay alert, the driver should stop about every two hours, get out of the vehicle, stretch, walk around, and get the circulation going again.

To start planning your vacation, pick up a free copy of the KOA Directory, Road Atlas and Camping Guide, available at any KOA Kampground location, or send \$3 to: KOA Directory, Dept NPS, PO Box 30558, Billings, MT 59114-0558.

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