

# MEET CHRYSTEEN BRAUN



This month we are thrilled to introduce another talented author who resides here in our community. Meet Chrysteen Braun, who has lived in Coto since 2020 with her husband, Larry. Chrysteen had always wanted to write the great American novel, but life, family and business got in the way, so for years,

she wrote about remodeling and decorating for her local newspapers in Los Alamitos, CA. Chrysteen shares a bit about her books and the inspiration behind them.

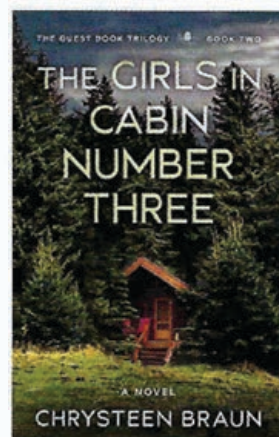
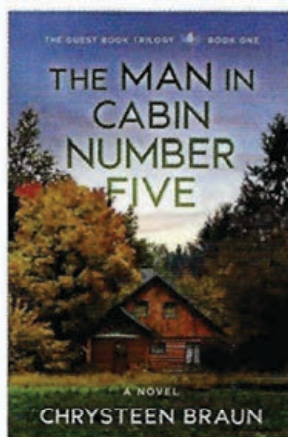
## What inspired your books?

We had a second home in Lake Arrowhead for many years. After realizing I only had a few good summers left (I was about 68 years old at the time), I knew I needed to get on the ball if I was ever going to publish a book! The mountains were my inspiration—the peacefulness, clean air and the fragrance of wind blowing through the pine trees. I decided to write about a woman who comes to the mountains after discovering her husband has been unfaithful. She decides to stay, and she buys a set of cabins. Spoiler alert — she has an interior design background, and once she's restored the cabins, she discovers each one has a story to tell.

## What are your books about?

The first book in *The Guest Book Trilogy*, *The Man in Cabin Number*

*Five*, parallels two women, Annie and Alyce, who meet when Alyce comes up to the cabins to see where her father committed suicide. In book two, Annie meets



the daughter of a woman whose mother stayed in one of the cabins. She became a madam at The Tudor House (an actual speakeasy in the 1930s) — the story even includes Bugsy Siegel. The last book is about the son of a starlet who stayed in the cabins while filming a movie and had an affair with the leading actor.

## Who is the intended audience of your book?

I have a hard time “staying in my lane” with my writing. I don't write a specific genre, like romance or thriller — it's contemporary fiction. So, if I had to describe my reader, generally speaking, I'd say women from 40 to 75 who like a combination of a good story first, human relationships, a little mystery and then a little romance (behind closed doors). Wow, that could be anyone, right? Men have told me they enjoyed the book too, so we don't want to leave them out!

## You look so glamorous with your hat and scarf!

Last November, I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer when a mass was found on my left ovary during an ultrasound. I had it removed in December and it was cancer; however, my oncologist said the surrounding areas were clear. I had chemo and a hysterectomy, followed by the balance of my treatments. The great news was there was no spread; the bad news was that I'd lost all my gray curly hair! Because I wore my hair in a ponytail, I decided against wearing a wig and instead started wearing scarves. I think I have every color imaginable now, and I get so many compliments on them. Ovarian cancer often goes undetected until it has spread. If you're a woman and you still have your lady parts, ask your doctor for an ultrasound. The moral of this story is that having an ultrasound saved my life!

## How can our residents get more information on you and your books?

You can order the books (*The Man in Cabin Number Five* and *The Girls in Cabin Number Three*) on Amazon, and if you do that, I'd love it if you could leave me a review. My email is [chrysteenbraun@gmail.com](mailto:chrysteenbraun@gmail.com), and my website is [chrysteenbraun.com](http://chrysteenbraun.com), where I have photos of the cabins. I'd love to have a book club read my books, so if you're in one, I would love to connect!