



Jana Bommersbach

Cattle Kate

A Novel

Media Kit

Cattle Kate is the only woman ever lynched as a cattle rustler. History called it “range land justice” when she was strung up in Wyoming Territory on July 20, 1889, tarring her as a dirty thief and a filthy whore.

But history was wrong. It was all a lie.

Her real name was Ella Watson. She wasn't a rustler. She wasn't a whore. And she'd never been called Cattle Kate until she was dead and they needed an excuse. She was really a 29-year-old immigrant homesteader, lynched with her husband by her rich and powerful cattle-baron neighbors who wanted her land and its precious water rights.

Some people knew the truth from the start. Their voices were drowned out by the all-powerful Wyoming Stock Growers Association. And those who dared speak out—including the eyewitnesses to the hangings—either disappeared or mysteriously died. There was no one left to testify against the vigilantes when the case eventually came to trial. Her six killers walked away scot-free.

But the legend was stronger than the truth. For over a century, newspapers, magazines, books—movies, too—spread her ugly legacy.

Now, on the 125th anniversary of her murder, the real Ella comes alive in Cattle Kate to tell her heartbreaking story. Jana Bommersbach's debut novel bares a legend central to the western experience.



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[Jana Bommersbach](#) is one of Arizona's most respected and acclaimed journalists. She has earned numerous national, state and regional awards, including the prestigious Don Bolles Award for investigative reporting for the newspaper series on Winnie Ruth Judd that led to the eponymous book. She lives in Phoenix.



Poisoned Pen Press

Founded in 1997 by Robert Rosenwald (President and Publisher), Barbara Peters (Editor-in-Chief), and their daughter Susan Malling, Poisoned Pen Press is an independent publisher that delights in bringing you new mysteries several times a month. Based in Scottsdale, Arizona, Poisoned Pen Press is one of the largest publishers of hardcover mysteries in the world. Our authors and staff of devoted mystery readers are what make us different.

We all love finding and publishing new authors and books so that our readers can Discover Mystery!™

We're proud that books from Poisoned Pen Press consistently receive positive and starred reviews from trade publications and the general press. Our books have won or been nominated for every major award in the mystery genre.

In recognition of Barbara Peters' and Robert Rosenwald's contribution to the publishing industry, they received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2008 Bouchercon Crime and Mystery conference. Robert and Barbara were also given the Ellery Queen Award at the 2010 Mystery Writers of America's annual dinner honoring "writing teams and outstanding people in the mystery-publishing industry."

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