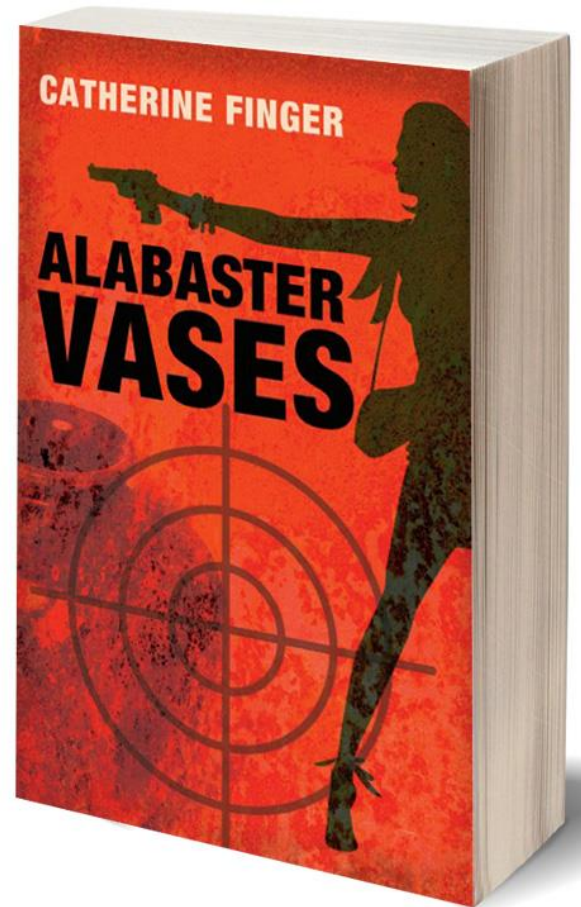


Alabaster Vases

By Catherine Finger

After suffering years of abuse at the hands of her vindictive husband, Police Chief Josie Oliver is finally ready to walk away. But he's bent on leaving her first and destroying everything she cares about on his way out. As if that weren't enough to deal with, she's been asked by the FBI to consult on the case of the Little Sister Serial Killer, with the help of her old flame Nick Vitarello. Tormented by an evil presence beyond her comprehension, she fights to make sense of the invisible, dark terrors that plague her, and to find her way back to hope.

As a cop, she's seen it all, so how can she trust there's a good God in such a cruel world? If He exists, can He restore her marriage? Just when she begins to trust Him, the manhunt for the killer turns personal when he sets his sights on Josie and kidnaps the foster child she hopes to adopt. Yet there's still another, more nefarious enemy stalking her, and this one is poised to consume her soul. Fighting for her marriage, her faith, and her fate, Chief Josie is confronted by an adversary who only God can conquer—if she decides to let Him in.





Dr. Catherine Finger- Grayslake, Illinois

Like her heroine Police Chief Jo Oliver, Dr. Catherine Finger is committed to protect and serve. But instead of handcuffs and handguns, she uses her wit and wisdom as a high school superintendent and a community volunteer in her hometown of Grayslake, Illinois. Catherine is passionate about sharing God's truth through her fiction. *Alabaster Vases* is her debut novel and the first in her *Murder with a Message* series.

Connect with Dr. Catherine Finger

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CatherineFingerAuthor>

Web: <http://www.catherinefinger.com>

Email: catherine@catherinefinger.com

Endorsements for *Alabaster Vases*:

Move over Kinsey Malone, Josie is in the house! This police chief is not only a local leader, but respected throughout her community of coworkers, friends, and good neighbors. She manages to overcome personal challenges while still putting the bad guy behind bars and reconciling her relationship with the "magnificent one." Cliffhanger ending makes you want more!

-Elizabeth Martin Stearns, Waukegan Public Library

As a pastor I rarely see characters in books or on screen who wrestle with God in a way that feels like what I see every day. *Alabaster Vases* is the rare exception, a world where spirituality is real but not easy, where the tragedies and triumphs of life work together to form a cohesive whole. I recommend it to anyone who has wrestled with God ... and loves a good mystery! **-Gary**

Ricci, pastor of New Hope Christian Community in Round Lake Heights, IL

The Glock-toting, heel-wearing, justice-driven heroine in *Alabaster Vases* had me from the start. Unrelenting action and witty dialogue kept me loving this ride-along, until the very last page. I strongly recommend this book.

-Joseph Sugarman, chairman of BluBlocker Sunglass Corporation

Suggested Interview Questions for Catherine Finger, author of *Alabaster Vases*:

1. Why *Alabaster Vases*? Where did the title come from and why did you write this book?

Watchman Nee wrote a book called “The Release of the Spirit”. He described man as having three parts: the outer man—the mask one presents to the world; the inner man—one’s thoughts and personality; and the innermost man—the garden where only God Himself may tread.

In the book, he tells the story of a wealthy emperor whose prized possession was a precious alabaster vase. People would come from miles around to come and gaze about the beauty of the vase. Until one day, a poor family came to enjoy the vase and their little boy accidentally tripped, fell into the vase, shattering it completely. The emperor had him arrested, but before he was able to take action against the little boy, he noticed the most beautiful fragrance wafting throughout his empire. Thus he realized that the true beauty of the gift was in the precious ointment locked within, which never would have been released, had it not first been broken.

I want my readers to feel the tension of the experience of my characters’ struggle with brokenness, and to wonder whether it will make the characters better, or bitter.

2. What drives Jo Oliver?

Jo Oliver seeks to make sense of her rapidly changing life and to find a place in a world that has transformed around her. As she struggles through challenges, she experiences personal renewal and restoration. Embracing the loving community she has built in her life ultimately leads her to a vibrant life of faith and adventure.

3. You’ve created a tension between your characters and how they experience brokenness in this world. What conditions cause one to become better, and another to become embittered by similar circumstances?

We get to choose our response to our lives and to decide who and what will shape our attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors. My story presents exaggerated external realities that give my characters an opportunity to choose to become better, more loving people—or not.

4. What is your primary message conveyed in your story?

Renewal-restoration-redemption. It’s really the message of The Cross—with a few twists thrown in!

5. Why is Josie struggling with her marriage? Isn’t it more realistic for her to be done already? As a reader, I want the marriage to be over. Yet Josie seems to cling to an unrealistic hope for a marriage that never really was. Why?

Relationships are more complicated and harder to put down than we like to admit. And, I personally believe that marriage is another way to tell the story of The Cross—offering numerous opportunities for redemption. Even though a marriage might look impossible to someone on the outside looking in, and even though people may have brought their worst to the table—there is still room for restoration and redemption. But not everyone chooses it. And even



when a marriage needs to die-it's never that easy. People look over their shoulders and mourn when they least expect it.

6. Josie seems to be faced with some overwhelming odds. Who is her main enemy and what is her primary struggle?

Part of Josie's struggle is with herself. She has to grow enough to shed some distorted thinking that holds her back from becoming the woman she was uniquely created to be. The difficulty of the journey serves to strengthen her to be able to walk into the renewed version of herself as her personal transformation progresses. While her flesh and blood enemies include a serial killer, she also faces periods of intense spiritual warfare.

7. Who is going to really love this book? Is there a primary audience? Multiple audiences, why?

I think anyone who loves a good thriller with a spiritual kick will really love this book. My characters are gritty, imperfect, human beings grappling with the vagaries of life. I write with a soft spot for anyone who has faced loss and found beauty in the new growth left behind as the old grass withers away.

