

Media Packet

The Regulars of Amanda Lexie

J. J. Hanna



Releasing August 11, 2026



Publicity Contact:
Jori Hanna
publicist@torchflamebooks.com



About the Book

How well do you know your barista?

How well does your barista know you?

Following a string of high-profile digital robberies, FBI agent Lucielle and Cybercrimes Analyst Olivia work to chase down the hackers responsible. But they have no idea those criminals are sitting in the cars ahead of them in the drive-through.

Only one person may be able to link them all together and fill in the missing gaps: Amanda Lexie, the barista who knows them all by name and remembers their “usual” orders on sight.

But as the mob works to cover their tracks, Amanda’s involvement with the police puts a target on her back. When robberies escalate to missing persons and murder, Lucielle and Olivia must work together before it’s too late for their favorite barista.

Target Audience

The Regulars of Amanda Lexie is for readers 18-45 who enjoy twisty crime fiction about organized crime and are looking for a unique twist on well-known plotlines, as well as a less intense, but still highly bingeable, read. This story will resonate with readers who prefer coffee to tea, books by Harlan Coben, and fast-paced plots. Readers of crime fiction who enjoy seeing the other side of crime—criminals as a focus instead of the police procedure—and fans of TV shows like *White Collar* and *Leverage* will also enjoy *The Regulars of Amanda Lexie*.

Due to the cozier and lighter nature of this book (no graphic violence or cursing), *The Regulars of Amanda Lexie* is also accessible to older teens dipping their toes into adult crime fiction. It would be a good fit for readers of cozy mysteries who are looking for a book that is more intense than their usual reads without going as far as some thrillers.

About the Author



J. J. Hanna is a long-time lover of suspense and crime fiction, interested in stories of criminals and con men since she was a teen. She started writing in seventh grade, graduated with a B.S. in Professional Writing in 2019, and joined the publishing industry in many ways soon after. She has been published by *Writers Digest* and often travels to writers conferences to teach on book marketing and personal brands. She loves a good adrenaline rush at the hands of a book. In her free time she can be found reading, writing, cuddling with a cat, or jumping into the latest and greatest crime show. Connect with her online @authorjjhanna and www.authorjjhanna.com.

Connect with J. J.:

Instagram: @authorjjhanna

Facebook: @AuthorJJHanna

TikTok: @authorjjhanna

YouTube: @AuthorJJHanna

Bluesky: @authorjjhanna.bsky.social

www.authorjjhanna.com

www.torchflamebooks.com/authors/jj-hanna

J. J. can also be found on Goodreads, BookBub, and Amazon.

Publishing and Ordering Information

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For print ready photos, please contact publicist@torchflamebooks.com.

Suggested Interview Questions

1. What do you hope readers take away from your book? What was your goal in writing it?
2. What kind of reader would love *The Regulars of Amanda Lexie*?
3. Which character was easiest to write? Which was the hardest?
4. What draws you to the crime/thriller genre? Do you usually write “cozy” books?
5. How did you come up with the idea for a crime story set largely in a coffee shop and drive through?
6. The book is dedicated to baristas– can you explain more about that?
7. *The Regulars of Amanada Lexie* has several point of view narrators - how did you differentiate each character’s voice?
8. What made you choose Amanda Lexie as the main character?
9. Tell me about the process of converting *The Regulars of Amanda Lexie* from serialized blog posts into a published novella?
10. How long did it take you to write *The Regulars of Amanda Lexie*?
11. Were there any moments from the process of writing and publishing the story that surprised you?
12. What’s your go-to coffee order?

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Coffee Takes Center Stage in this Denver-Based Cozy Mystery

Vista, CA, August 11, 2026—Torchflame Books is pleased to announce the release of *The Regulars of Amanda Lexie*, a cozy coffee shop crime thriller by debut author J. J. Hanna, now available for purchase in paperback, eBook, and large print.

Following a string of high-profile digital robberies, FBI agent Lucielle and Cyber Crimes Analyst Olivia work to chase down the hackers responsible. But they have no idea those criminals are sitting in the cars ahead of them in the drive-through. Only one person may be able to link them all together and fill in the missing gaps: Amanda Lexie, the barista who knows them all by name and remembers their “usual” orders on sight.

If you enjoy cozy mysteries/thrillers and crime fiction told through a series of ordinary interactions that turn out to be more significant than anyone expects, *The Regulars of Amanda Lexie* is for you. This novella is narrated from multiple points of view: criminals, cops, and of course, the barista at the center of it all, exploring themes like community and connection alongside a fast-paced, thrilling mystery.

“I can’t wait for you to get your hands on a copy! It’s designed to be binged. This is my fun little coffee shop thriller with a barista who gets in a little bit too deep with all sorts of people—of mobs, of FBI, of police, of hackers,” Hanna said when asked about her debut.

J. J. Hanna is a long-time lover of suspense and crime fiction, interested in stories of criminals and con men since she was a teen. She started writing in seventh grade, graduated with a B.S. in Professional Writing in 2019, and joined the publishing industry in many ways soon after. She has been published by Writers Digest and often travels to writers conferences to teach on book marketing and personal brands. She loves a good adrenaline rush at the hands of a book. In her free time she can be found reading, writing, cuddling with a cat, or jumping into the latest and greatest crime show. Connect with her online @authorjjhanna and www.authorjjhanna.com

To request a review copy or to request J. J. Hanna at your venue for author events (virtual or live), contact Torchflame Books at publicist@torchflamebooks.com.

Torchflame Books is an imprint of Top Reads Publishing, a small general trade publisher located in Vista, California. We pride ourselves in producing meaningful books by emerging and award-winning authors. We are excited about the launch of our new imprint, Torchflame Books Large

Print, in 2025. For more information about Top Reads Publishing and Torchflame Books, please visit torchflamebooks.com.

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Early Reviews and Endorsements

In J. J. Hanna's **quirky mystery novel** *The Regulars of Amanda Lexie*, a coffee shop's customers are tied to a cybercrime sting. ... **Humor is generated through people's reluctance to make too much small talk**; most prefer to evade direct questions by shifting focus to Amanda, remarking on her ever-changing, dyed hairstyles. The fact that **everyone in the lane is connected to the case**, without their immediate knowledge, dials up the absurdity. ... **A lighthearted, entertaining mystery novel, *The Regulars of Amanda Lexie* fuels its cat-and-mouse caper with routine coffee-shop stops.** —*Foreword Reviews*

Librarians and readers will want to place *The Regulars of Amanda Lexie* at the top of their reading lists. —*Midwest Book Review*

The Regulars of Amanda Lexie by J. J. Hanna is **a fast-paced, intrigue-filled cozy thriller that kept me hooked from beginning to end and made it impossible to put the book down.**

Despite being told from multiple perspectives, the story was incredibly easy to follow with each character feeling distinct and memorable. J. J. Hanna does a fantastic job weaving together suspense and action in a way that keeps the pages turning. **If you love cozy thrillers packed with momentum and engaging characters, this is definitely a book you'll want to add to your reading list.** —Lisa Pevey, author of the Honeysuckle Bend Cozy Mystery Series

The title of J.J. Hanna's novel, *The Regulars of Amanda Lexie*, implies that little disturbs this young barista's serene days. Nothing could be further from the truth! **The author blends a mix of characters whose secret lives draw Amanda into fascinating, terrifying intrigue guaranteed to keep readers glued to the pages—and anticipating more excellent stories from Hanna in the future.** —Rachael Phillips, author of the Scottish Bakehouse Mysteries

A great and fun book that reminds the caffeine addicted that anything can be forgiven if there is a good cup of coffee involved. **A terrific read from a young, promising author.** The characters were likable regardless of which side of legal they fell on. —Ellie McDowell, Author of The Rings of Alleysiande

What Readers Are Saying

“Interesting concept, satisfying execution... An expertly written debut.” *Shreela Sen, Goodreads user*

“A delightful cozy mystery that kept me engaged from beginning to end.” *Betty Turnbull, Goodreads user*

“I binged it in one sitting and couldn't put it down until I knew what happened next. Fast-paced, engaging, and thrilling, the perfect blend of high stakes and cozy mystery.” *Ali, Goodreads user*

“A great read that was both engaging and thought-provoking.” *TheBookOfMicah_, Goodreads user*

“You really get to know the characters as the story unfolds, and the small clues linking people together throughout were fun to pick up on. It made me feel a little bit like a detective myself!” *Victoria Cheng, Goodreads user*

“What begins with Amanda serving coffee to her familiar daily customers gradually unfolds into a layered mystery filled with secrets, hidden connections, and unexpected twists... Character-driven, engaging, and full of surprises, this is a great read for anyone who enjoys cozy mysteries with heart, strong relationships, and a mystery that keeps you guessing until the end.” *Abella, Goodreads user*

“Fun, smart and witty.” *Lori Peterson, Goodreads user*

“This one is definitely making my best of 2026 reads list. You know how they always tell writers that if you do character voice well, readers will be able to pick up on things such as the age and vibes of your characters, without you ever telling them so? This book actually does that! It blew me away.” *Rachel Leitch, Goodreads user*

“*The Regulars of Amanda Lexie* by J. J. Hanna is an inventive crime thriller that transforms one of the most ordinary places in everyday life into the unlikely center of a dangerous criminal investigation. Blending cybercrime, organized crime, and character-driven storytelling, the novel offers a refreshing premise that immediately captures the reader's curiosity... *The Regulars of Amanda Lexie* explores themes of trust, observation, community, and the hidden lives people lead behind everyday encounters. The result is a thriller that offers both engaging mystery and relatable human connections.” *Michael Drew, Goodreads user*

Excerpt from Chapter 1: Lucielle

I pulled into the drive-through of Morning Brew coffee shop like I did every morning, sliding my hands up and down my soft pink steering wheel cover. I stopped in front of the speaker box, waiting for one of the baristas. All the best investigations began with good coffee, and my assignment was no different.

“Good morning! How are you today?” A pause. “Is that Lucielle?”

I smiled. I couldn't help it. My favorite barista was working. “Hi Amanda. I'm doing well! How are you?”

I could hear the smile in her voice as she responded, “I'm also doing well! Are you doing your usual?”

“Yes, I am.”

“Great! Large?”

“Yep.” My phone pinged and I glanced at the screen. A text from my boss flicked across the screen too quickly to read. Really? Now?

“Anything else?”

“Nope, that's it.”

“Alrighty Lucielle, we'll see you down here at the window.”

“Sounds good.”

As the cars in front of me inched forward, I took my phone off its stand on my dashboard. I know you're not supposed to look at it or text while in the driver's seat, but everyone bends the rules at stoplights and drive-throughs. Plus, I'd been trained for multitasking behind the wheel.

Can you come in early? We're running a new training exercise this afternoon.

I wanted to groan as I saw those words. I should have been happy. A “training exercise” meant they had a new lead I could pursue to get closer to my target. If I was completely honest, the leads had dried up. It would be good to have a fresh perspective. But today I wanted my coffee and a quiet start, which clashed with a “training exercise.”

The cars ahead of me inched forward. I texted my boss back.

Yes, I'll be there.

Finally, it was my turn. I rolled down my window, watching the morning dew clump into water drops as the glass descended.

Amanda was bright and chipper as she said, "Good morning, Lucielle. Your total today is \$7.05."

I handed her my card and took a moment to fully observe her. It was an occupational hazard, but it had become a habit of mine to notice small things about the people around me. That habit had saved my life a few times in the field, and I didn't want to fight it now. "Did you dye your hair?"

The answer was yes—the last time I'd seen her, she had blue-tipped hair. Now it was pink, almost as pink as my steering wheel cover. But it was worth asking a question with an obvious answer if it meant I could avoid the question she always asked. Small talk was better than no interaction, but sometimes I really wished I didn't have to engage in it. Then again, seeing how her face lit up as she smiled, I was glad I asked.

"I did! It was time for a change," she said, flipping her ponytail over her shoulder so I could see it better.

"It looks good!"

"Thanks!" She glanced over her shoulder toward the espresso bar. "We'll get that White Chocolate Mocha out in just a second. Got anything exciting going on?"

There it was. The inevitable question.

I smiled. "No. Just work." At least it wasn't a lie. Not exactly.

The barista at the bar handed her my drink. In a practiced motion, she slid the sleeve on the cup and handed it out the window to me. "It's good to see you, Lucielle. Have a good one!"

"Thanks! You too." I pulled away from the window and took a sip of my mocha. I'd tried everything else on the menu at some point—but I always came back to this. There was nothing like it, and it was becoming clear I'd need that boost today. This would be quite the day at work.

After pulling into a parking space, I turned my analytic eye onto the coffee shop. A bright neon sign along the back wall blared out "Espresso Yourself." I could imagine the Instagram posts now. Otherwise the shop was bright and welcoming, cozy with mismatched furniture and an assortment of viny plants.

One of these days I may go inside. But for now, sitting in the parking lot for a little while felt like the better move. After all, this cozy coffee shop was the last place I expected to find the gang I was looking for. But it did serve the important purpose of helping me create and maintain a cover persona, with the bonus of not having to drink the burnt sludge at the black site I called home base.

Over the last six months, a string of cyber robberies had led me to this part of town. The gang I was hunting was incredibly gifted at covering their tracks. Our best option at the moment was for me to try to identify them and go under cover with them to gather evidence. But it had been slow going, and with the false starts we'd had, I wasn't feeling as certain that it was the best route.

Content that things in the shop seemed normal, I pulled out of the parking lot and drove the short distance to the base. For a moment, I amused myself with the knowledge that Amanda had no idea this place even existed. Black sites like this on US soil were rare but useful.

Security on base was understandably tight. I scanned my badge at the front gate where I spoke briefly with the guard. Then I parked, grabbed my briefcase, and headed inside where I had to lean forward for the retinal scan at the door.

Lizzy, the guard at the door, greeted me. “Good morning, Lucielle. How were your baristas today?”

I lifted my coffee in a sort of salute. “Fabulous as always.”

She shook her head. “How do you justify it? Spending that much money on coffee every month?”

I shrugged. “We all have to maintain our covers, right? I may as well enjoy coffee and companionship—even if it’s shallow and repetitive. Anything I should know before I go in there?”

Lizzy shrugged. “Just that the boss is in a mood.”

“Oh boy.” I couldn’t keep the sardonic tone from my voice as I moved through the security bars. What a day this would be.