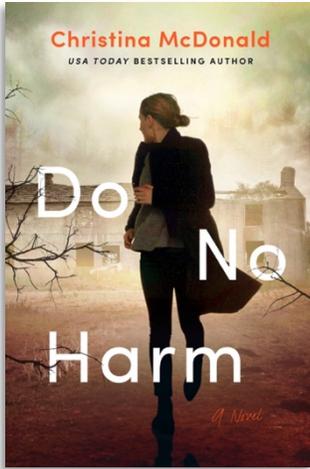




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*“Jaw-dropping...”—Booklist*

# DO NO HARM

By *USA TODAY* Bestselling Author  
**CHRISTINA MCDONALD**

On sale **February 16, 2021**

**GOODREADS**, Most Anticipated Mysteries & Thrillers of 2021

**POPSUGAR**, Must Read Thrillers for Fans of *The Undoing*

**THE NERD DAILY**, Most Anticipated Books of 2021

**THE BIBLIOFILE**, Best Mystery Books of 2021

**PUBLISHERS WEEKLY**, Maternal Instinct: Mysteries/Thrillers of 2021

**MYTERY AND SUSPENSE**, Most Anticipated Mystery Books of 2021

“McDonald offers a painful look at two hot-button topics: the desperate opioid crisis, and a system that allows the cost of cancer pharmaceuticals to extend far beyond the reach of so many.”

—**BOOKLIST**

"*Do No Harm* is a pulse-pounding deep dive into the dark heart of addiction. The stakes couldn't be higher in this smart, breathlessly-paced and emotional novel about love, family, and how far we'll go when our child's life hangs in the balance. **Riveting, ripped from the headlines, and not to be missed.**"

—**LISA UNGER**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Confessions on the 7:45*

"**Gripping and unflinching**, *Do No Harm* explores the ferocity of a mother's love—and shows, in heartbreaking detail, how she'll risk everything to save her child."

—**SARAH PEKKANEN**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Wife Between Us* and *You Are Not Alone*

"*Do No Harm* is a **riveting, thought-provoking novel that keeps you reading even as it breaks your heart.** This might be my favorite book by McDonald yet."

— **SAMANTHA DOWNING**, *USA Today* bestselling author of *My Lovely Wife* and *He Started It*

*An unforgettable exploration of what happens when  
“do no harm” becomes “do whatever it takes”\*...*

USA Today bestselling author **Christina McDonald** writes “complex, emotionally intense” (*Publishers Weekly*) domestic suspense that center around motherhood and secrets with “gasp worthy twists and turns” (*Booklist*, starred review). Her debut, *The Night Olivia Fell* drew comparisons to *Big Little Lies* and *Reconstructing Amelia* and has been optioned for television. Her second novel, *Behind Every Lie*, was a Barnes & Noble bestseller, an *Entertainment Weekly* “Most Anticipated Read” and a *Parade Magazine* “Best Book of 2020.”

With **DO NO HARM** (Gallery Books; February 16, 2021), McDonald returns with a timely and moving exploration of a town gripped by the opioid epidemic as a mother and doctor, desperate to save her son’s life, goes to unthinkable lengths to fund his life-saving cancer treatments by illegally selling opioid prescriptions. A gut-wrenching story drawn from a tragedy in her own family, **DO NO HARM** is about motherhood, morality, and sacrifice that questions whether the ends ever justify the means, even for a distraught mother.

Emma loves her life. She’s the mother of a precocious kindergartener, married to her soulmate—a loyal and loving police detective—and has a rewarding career as a doctor at the local hospital. But everything comes crashing down when her son, Josh, is diagnosed with a rare form of cancer.

Determined to save him, Emma makes the risky decision to sell opioids to fund the life-saving treatment he needs. But when somebody ends up dead, a lethal game of cat and mouse ensues, her own husband leading the chase. With her son’s life hanging in the balance, Emma is dragged into the dark world of drugs, lies, and murder. Will the truth catch up to her before she can save Josh?

The opioid epidemic continues to be one of the worst public health crises the U.S. has ever seen. Most people know someone whose life has been impacted by this disease. Christina McDonald is one of the many who’s had to watch a loved one suffer and struggle in the grips of this addiction, her brother.

“Watching someone you love go to war with themselves is a special level of hell,” explains McDonald. “The experience profoundly changed me and changed my view of addiction and opioids. I wanted to explore the many sides of the opioid epidemic, from the individual people who are addicted, to the people who inadvertently (or otherwise) get them addicted. I wanted to get people talking about the opioid epidemic, discussing the driving factors behind it. What would drive a person to addiction, maybe not even to drugs, but to something else, something more nebulous. Like love. We all are capable of going to extreme lengths for love. Would a mother start selling drugs in order to save her child’s life? Would a doctor?”

“As a doctor's vow of 'do no harm' twists into 'do whatever it takes,' you’ll be riveted by this thought-provoking and tragically believable story” (\*Hank Phillippi Ryan, USA Today bestselling author of *The Murder List*). With **DO NO HARM**, Christina McDonald solidifies her spot as a must-read author of domestic suspense, leaving readers asking just how far they’d be willing to go to save their child’s life.



**ABOUT CHRISTINA MCDONALD**

Christina McDonald is the USA Today bestselling author of *Behind Every Lie* and *The Night Olivia Fell* (Simon & Schuster/Gallery Books), which has been optioned for television by a major Hollywood studio. Her third book, *Do No Harm*, is available February 2021. Her writing has been featured in The Sunday Times, Dublin, USAToday.com, and Expedia. Originally from Seattle, WA, she has an MA in Journalism from the National University of Ireland Galway, and now lives in London, England with her husband, two sons, and their dog, Tango. She’s currently working on her next novel. Learn more at <https://christina-mcdonald.com/>.

**DO NO HARM by Christina McDonald | Gallery Books | On-sale February 16, 2021**  
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## **MORE SELECT PRAISE FOR DO NO HARM**

**BOOKCLUB CHAT**, Must Read Books of 2021  
**OFF THE SHELF**, New Books We're Looking forward to in 2021  
**BOOK ENTERTAINMENT NEWS**, Must Read Fiction Thrillers Now Through Spring 2021

“This raw and emotional story echoes fear that would result when denied necessary available health treatment due to lack of funds. And it brings into question of how far a parent can morally go to save their child.”

—**AUTHORLINK**

“With her trademark emotionally gripping, outstanding writing, Christina McDonald tackles the moral and ethical lines crossed by a doctor desperate to save her child. A stunning gut-punch of a suspense novel, *Do No Harm* expertly merges the dangers of the opioid crisis with a mother’s love, leaving readers gasping for more. A breathtaking read.”

—**Samantha M. Bailey**, #1 bestselling author of *Woman on the Edge*

“Christina McDonald has a real talent for bringing suburban domestic suspense to life, and showcases it to great effect in *Do No Harm*. Tense, taut, and absolutely unmissable, you’ll find yourself wondering how far YOU would go to save your child’s life.”

—**J.T. Ellison**, *New York Times* bestselling author

“McDonald takes the heart-wrenching premise that has become her trademark and ratchets it up a notch in *Do No Harm*, blurring the lines between good and evil in a doctor desperate to save her sick child. A gripping, emotional roller coaster with a sting in the tail.”

—**Kimberly Belle**, internationally bestselling Author

"Devastating, heartbreaking, and incredibly timely—this risky and brilliant examination of when the ends justify the means will captivate you from moment one. The talented Christina McDonald dissects the crumbling marriage of two good people, and reveals how love and obsession can combine to destroy even the most perfect family. As a doctor's vow of 'do no harm' twists into 'do whatever it takes,' you'll be riveted by this thought-provoking and tragically believable story.”

—**Hank Phillippi Ryan**, *USA Today* bestselling author of *The Murder List*

“A gripping page-turner with a heartwrenching moral quandary at its core. *Do No Harm* is tense, moving, and disturbingly relevant.”

—**Robyn Harding**, internationally bestselling author of *The Swap* and *The Party*

"*Do No Harm* is a gripping and unflinching novel. Christina McDonald demands an answer to the ultimate question: How far would you go to save your child? One thing is for sure: your heart will be ripped out as you whip through each page to discover the answer. Highly recommend!”

—**Liz Fenton & Lisa Steinke**, authors of *How To Save a Life*

“Nobody writes motherhood like Christina McDonald. Her third novel, *Do No Harm*, is a riveting thriller which braids the complexities of modern parenting with the pressures of finding a moral center in a devastating opioid crisis. Heartrending, heart-pounding and fearless to the last word.”

—**Amber Cowie**, author of *Loss Lake*

## **BEHIND THE BOOK: DO NO HARM**

Many years ago, when opioids first became a ‘thing’, I received a phone call telling me my brother had overdosed on oxy. I didn’t understand. Overdoses were for addicts. For people who did illegal drugs. But everything my brother took had been prescribed.

Oxycontin was perfectly legal.

As the years passed, opioid use became an epidemic. Addiction, homelessness and deaths skyrocketed. Everybody knew somebody who had been affected. Even now, while the world is consumed by a global pandemic, the opioid crisis is escalating, with overdoses still climbing.

Like many others, my brother began taking oxy after an injury. His doctors readily prescribed drugs but his tolerance quickly grew. In response, the doctors simply increased his dosage. One day, after a few years on pain management, his pill count came up wrong. He was cut off with no help and no access to addiction services. After that he turned to the streets and was quickly introduced to methamphetamines.

Watching someone you love go to war with themselves is a special level of hell. The experience profoundly changed me and changed my view of addiction and opioids.

I wanted to explore the many sides of the opioid epidemic, from the individual people who are addicted, to the people who inadvertently (or otherwise) get them addicted. I wanted to get people talking about the opioid epidemic, discussing the driving factors behind it. What would drive a person to addiction, maybe not even to drugs, but to something else, something more nebulous. Like love. We all are capable of going to extreme lengths for love. Would a mother start selling drugs in order to save her child’s life? Would a doctor?

My worldview of the opioid epidemic is pretty negative. I don’t think enough has been done at any level to help addicts, from societal to medical to political. When I sat down to write this book, I wanted to show that people still can and do take advantage of the system for their own personal gain. Their own personal addictions.

While ***Do No Harm*** is a dark thriller, there are many moments of love and laughter as well. At its root, it is the story of a mother’s love and a father’s dedication. It is the story of a family just trying to do what’s right while living in a town gripped by the opioid epidemic. And it examines whether the ends ever justify the means, even for a desperate mother.

I hope this book gets people asking important questions around the opioid crisis, addiction, blame, and the way forward.