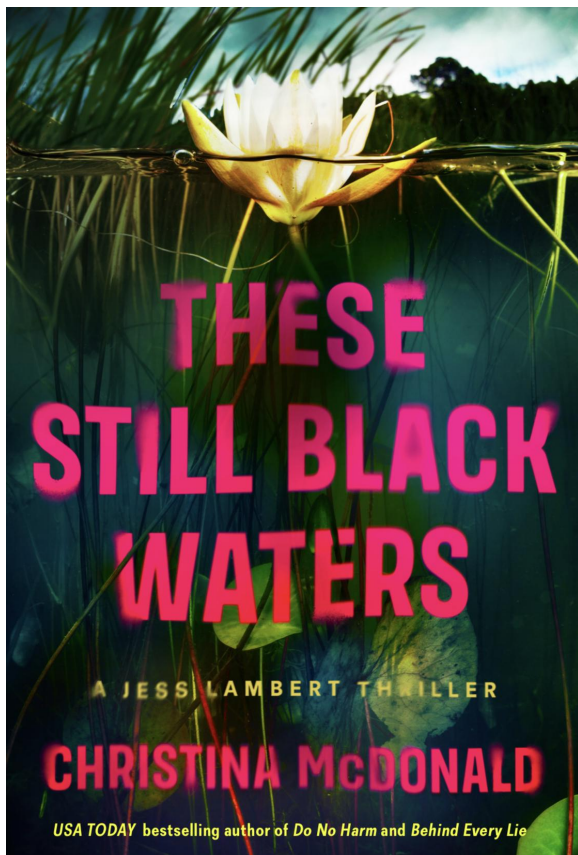


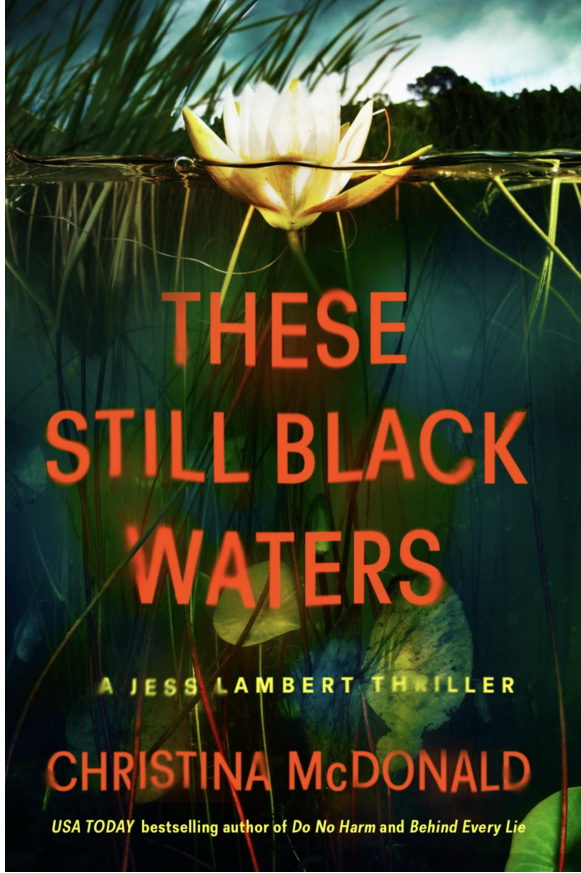
**These Still Black Waters**  
**By Christina McDonald**

**Alternate cover choices**

Choosing a cover for a book is ultimately a marketing decision, but it's also a collaborative process between the art department marketing, editorial, and the author. My editor asked me what sort of elements I'd love to see in the book, to which I replied very vaguely: lake, house, reeds, bright text.

From there, it was handed over to the art department, and they mocked up a few ideas. They sent me four options to look at:



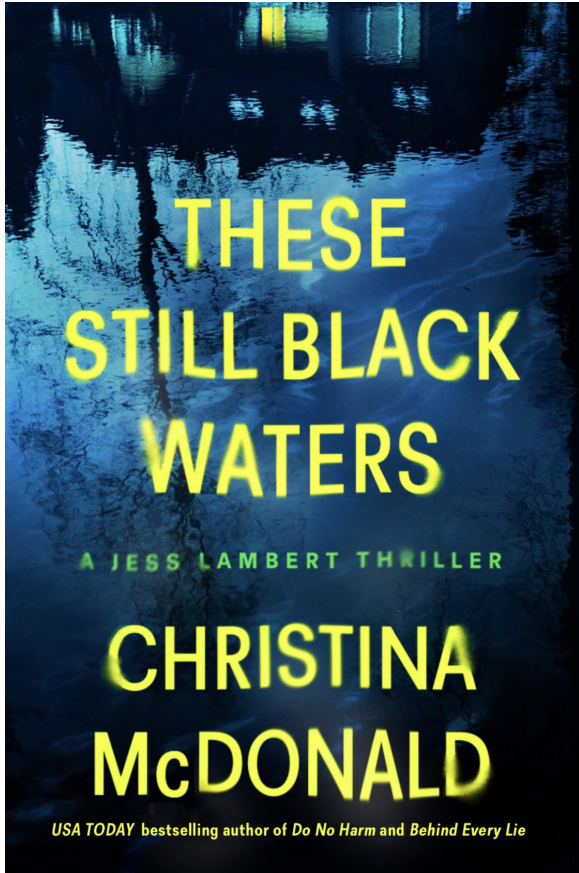


**THESE  
STILL BLACK  
WATERS**

A JESS LAMBERT THRILLER

**CHRISTINA McDONALD**

*USA TODAY* bestselling author of *Do No Harm* and *Behind Every Lie*

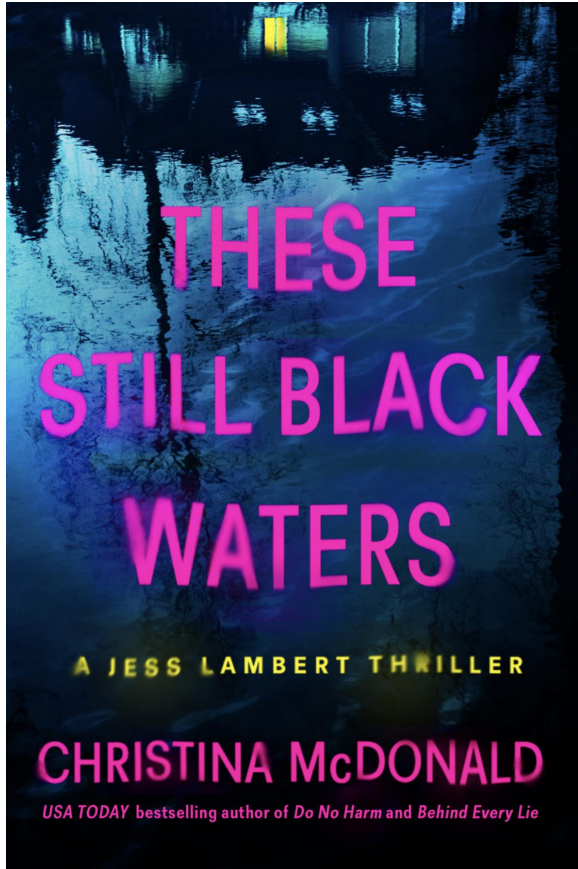


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My initial favorite was the third one, but with the pink text from the first one. However, once the art department mocked that up, we decided on the first one, with the lotus flower. And I think it's a great final choice.

What do you think? Feel free to email me and let me know! [christina@christina-mcdonald.com](mailto:christina@christina-mcdonald.com). I always think we can take elements of cover designs (the creepy house, the color of the text, the font, etc) to the next book, so I value your opinion!