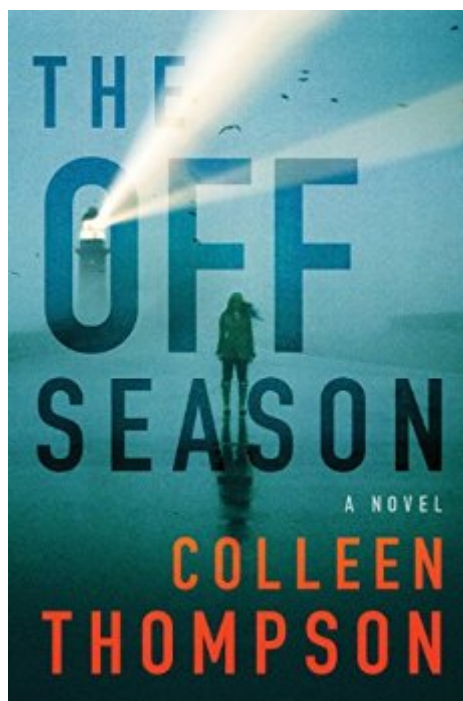


The book was found

# The Off Season



## Synopsis

Winter winds off the Atlantic have turned the tourist mecca of Seaside Creek, New Jersey, into a ghost town. Dr. Christina Paxton, however, is growing accustomed to living with ghosts. Recently widowed, the emergency room physician has returned to the shore with her young daughter, house-sitting a sprawling beachside Victorian home. One night, her two-year-old calls her by a name that makes Christina's blood run cold and sends her thoughts spiraling back thirty years. Deeply unnerved, and certain someone else is in the house, she flees with her child into the cold night, only to come face-to-face with Chief Harris Bowers, a former classmate with whom Christina has a complicated history. Now divorced, Harris hopes to mend their past, but Christina is wary of being played for a fool again. As threats emerge, Christina and her small family find themselves in grave danger. It seems there is no one she can put her trust in—least of all herself.

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## Customer Reviews

Christina Paxton, an emergency room physician and a recent widow, left behind Dallas, Texas to return to the New Jersey shores town she grew up in, the only place she really knows as home, to recuperate and start over. She's housesitting an empty vacation home during the winter months,

the area is quiet, perhaps too deserted for her state of mind. When her daughter Lilly, at the age of two years, mutters things she shouldn't know from a past that's deeply buried Christina's thrown into a panic. Where did this child hear the words that she's repeating? Did she really say those words? Christina can't help but wonder if what she heard was a hallucination brought on by the trauma of the tragedy she's just been through or the exhaustion of the move and raising a young child alone. It isn't long before the latter question is answered and more questions arise. Sensing sounds within the house that are unnatural she seeks to flee with her daughter and runs into the one man she had been avoiding since she returned to town, the Chief of Police and a former lover from her youth. Chief Harris Bowers, investigating recent thefts of empty vacation homes stakes out the area involved one night, parking his car not far from where the woman he was once involved with, and callously hurt when they were young, is staying. Thoughts of her have been in his mind since she arrived and when he senses that something isn't right he approaches almost being injured by the frightened woman who's wielding a golf club as she tries to flee the house with her daughter.

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