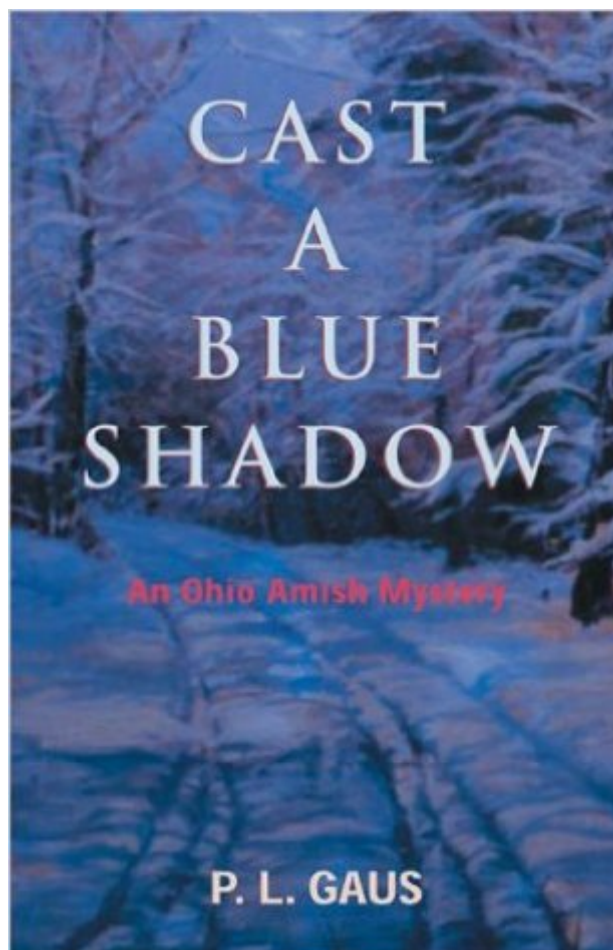


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# Cast A Blue Shadow (Ohio Amish Mystery Series #4)



## Synopsis

What is the relationship between history and fiction in a place with a contentious past? And of what concern is gender in the telling of stories about that past? After the first blizzard of an early winter, a Mennonite college girl with a troubled past appears curled up and bloodied outside the office of her childhood psychiatrist. Mute for many years as a child, Martha Lehman is again not talking. That same morning, the wealthy mother of Martha's boyfriend is found murdered in her mansion in the country west of Millersburg, Ohio. Professor Michael Branden and Sheriff Bruce Robertson begin an investigation that, in the space of a single weekend, implicates Martha, threatens to tear apart the fabric of Millersburg College, pits one professor against another, and brings Caroline Branden near to a breaking point over the girl she once tried so fervently to help and who now seems determined to let no one help her at all. As Martha struggles to understand her enigmatic past and as Professor Branden wrestles with the murder of the college's leading benefactor, the real story of Martha Lehman emerges--born Amish, converted to Mennonite, and drawn to the English world for the worst of reasons. In *Cast a Blue Shadow*, his fourth Ohio Amish Mystery, P. L. Gaus continues to explore the thresholds of culture and faith among the Amish sects and their English neighbors of northern Ohio. Through interwoven plots, Gaus portrays these ways of life at odds with one another despite their seeming harmony. Coupling those clashes with the petty and desperate scufflings of academic politics, Gaus spins a suspenseful tale of power, pride, and tested faith. With *Cast a Blue Shadow*, Professors Branden and Gaus have done it again.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is the 4th novel in the Amish-Country Mystery series by P.L.Gaus. I happened upon it by serendipity. My sister in law, Mary, asked me if I had any used large print mystery books to give away to her friend, Lynn, who has had to go into a nursing home and who also has vision problems. Mary specified used books because books in nursing homes are borrowed by other patients and disappear. Mary had checked local bookstores and used goods stores and found no new or used large print books at all. Mary called me because I am a source of books in my family and I do give used books to the Goodwill locally rather than reselling them. If you are looking at this Thorndike press title then you know why large print books are not easy to find: the market for these books is normally public libraries. Public libraries buy from different sources than regular folks. Because this title was one of the first I found in used large print at a reasonable price for used, because it was the first delivered and a title I had never read, I decided to read it. Normally I skip anything Amish because they are extremely religious and I am not. Yes, there is some religion in this book but it does not play an enormous part in the solution of the mystery. The part it plays is that some of the characters are Amish or Mennonites. So it is really just a regular type of cozy mystery that intersects with the Amish community. The main characters in the novel are "English" (which I learned is what the Amish call the non-Amish) and the Amish characters speak Pennsylvania Dutch in their homes (but many are apparently bilingual in English for contact with non-Amish).

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