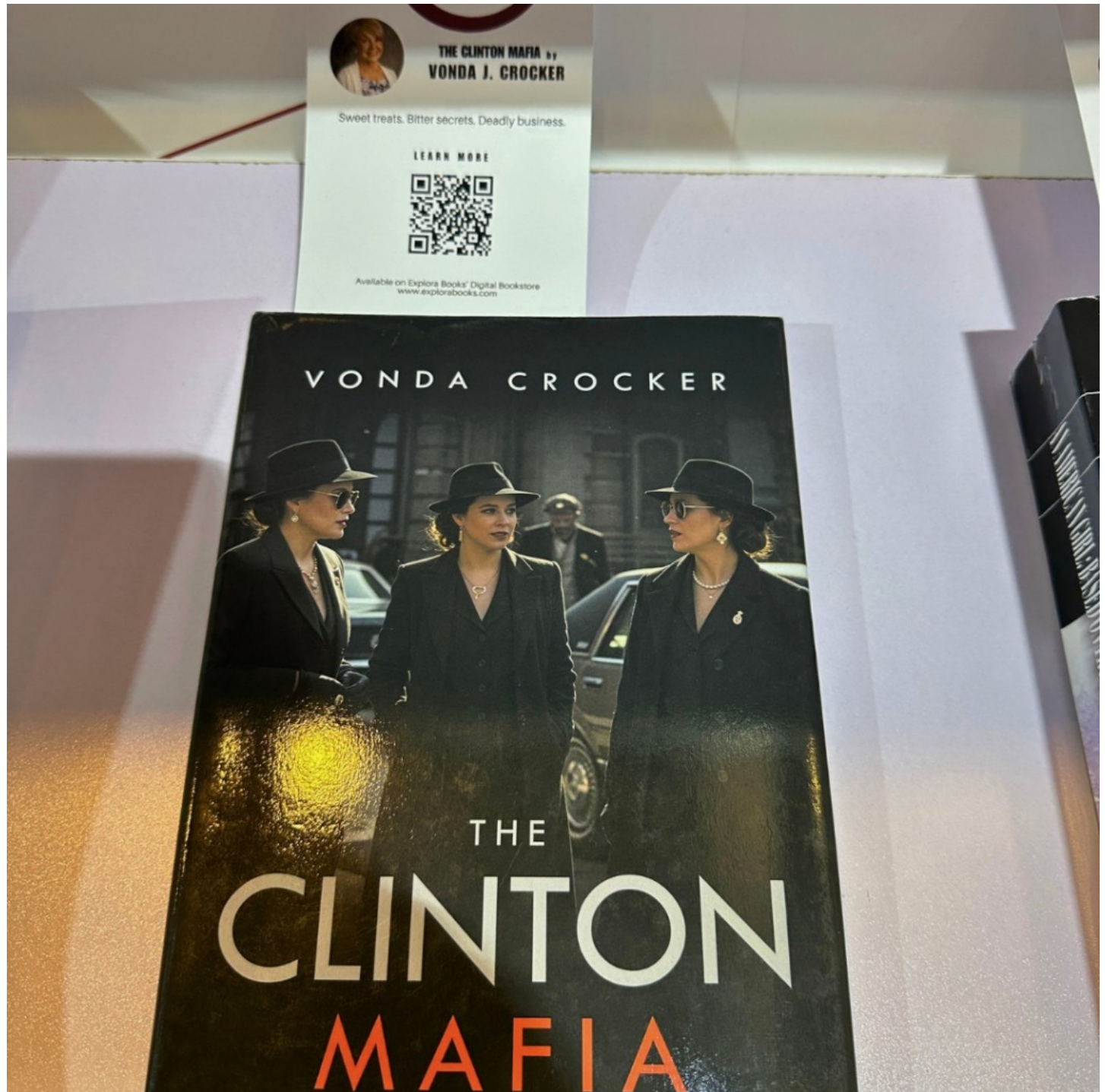


## Explora Books Showcases Southern Mystery Thriller by Vonda Crocker at BIBF 2026

Explora Books presented Vonda Crocker's Southern mystery thriller at the 32nd Beijing International Book Fair (BIBF), held June 17–21, 2026, at the China National Convention Center (CNCC) in Beijing.



**Vancouver, British Columbia Sep 14, 2026** ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Concluding its five-day run on June 21, the fair brought together 1,700 exhibitors from 82 countries and regions, with the featured novel showcased at Explora Books' booth as part of its international exhibition catalog—a suspense novel

shaped by hidden tensions, buried histories, and consequences that continue to unfold long after the past appears settled.

Celebrating its 40th year, the BIBF, the world's second-largest book fair and Asia's leading international publishing event, focused its programming on sharing global knowledge, diverse narratives, and the growing influence of fiction worldwide. Held under the theme "Using Books as a Medium to Facilitate Communication and Dialogue, Leading to Cooperative Success for All Parties Involved," the fair highlighted stories rooted in lived experience, local communities, and the ways ordinary places can hold extraordinary secrets.

The novel is set in the small town of Clinton, where the rhythm of daily life is shaped by familiar faces, a bustling coffee shop, and farmers selling their goods under the courthouse oaks. That closeness also makes the setting an effective backdrop for a conspiracy that has remained hidden in plain sight. At the center of the story is a circle of seven women whose friendship began after a memorable night at a local theatre production left them overdressed, underprepared, and permanently linked by an affectionate nickname. The nickname stayed. So did the friendship.

The group includes Belle, a Harvard-trained attorney who moved to Clinton after leaving behind a complicated life in New York; Tiffany Ann, an LSU-trained investment advisor with a sharp eye for inconsistencies; Savanna Sue, whose dress shop and tearoom anchor the town square; Valita, whose husband serves as a state trooper; Buffy, a food critic familiar with every restaurant in the state; Tammy, who owns half of Clinton; and Roz, who transformed her late mother's savings into a successful gift shop. Their distinct personalities and genuine affection for one another give the story much of its energy.

The mystery doesn't reveal itself all at once. Savanna Sue notices discrepancies between inventory and accounting records. A nervous housekeeper repeatedly prepares unusually large batches of dark chocolate fudge for a standing order. A tattooed man dies in a highway crash outside town, and investigators discover cocaine hidden in the vehicle. Later, Tiffany Ann overhears a tense conversation in a Mobile restaurant restroom concerning a missing shipment, and the separate details begin to align. Crocker allows the larger picture to emerge gradually, ensuring that tension grows through discovery rather than surprise alone.

What gives this Southern mystery thriller its warmth is also what gives it credibility: these women notice what is out of place because they know their town. Their observations grow from familiarity, trust, and attention to the routines of everyday life. When the situation becomes too large for friendship and intuition alone, they know where to turn and whom to trust. The novel becomes as much about the strength of community as it is about the conspiracy operating beneath it.

At its 40th edition, BIBF focused on character-driven fiction and stories that transcend borders. Within that setting, the featured novel contributed a story shaped not by solitary heroics but by the collective instincts, loyalty, and persistence of its seven central characters.

[Vonda Crocker's Southern mystery thriller](#) is available through Amazon and other major online bookstores.

#### *About Explora Books*

*Explora Books is a book marketing firm located in the heart of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The company specializes in self-publishing and marketing, taking pride in its exhaustive research and creative strategies that provide wider avenues for aspiring authors to gain recognition for their works.*

*Explora Books aims to guide authors through the complexities of self-publishing, offering convenient solutions to navigate this process. The firm fosters and redefines creativity and innovation, setting new industry standards. Explora Books is dedicated to empowering authors globally.*



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