

The Minnesota Star Tribune

4 novels of murder, set in the picturesque beauty of national parks

Fiction: From Alaska to Hawaii, backpacking characters must watch their backs in mysteries from Nicole Maggie, C.J. Box and more.

By **Carole E. Barrowman**
For the Minnesota Star Tribune



Cold Burn

Our next stop isn't on shelves until April 29, from Jon Land and Jeff Ayres, who collaborate under the pseudonym A.J. Landau. In "Cold Burn," Michael Walker, another ISB investigator, and Gina Delgado, an FBI agent, investigate from the "heart of the United States's ecosystem" in Florida's Everglades to the massive ice caves and frozen plateaus of Alaska's Glacier Bay National Park.

Landau's high-concept mystery (Minotaur Books) leaps like lightning from one seemingly disparate crime to another, involving stolen native artifacts, a sunken Virginia-class submarine, a U.S. Geological team buried in an avalanche, a murdered environmental intern drowned in a bayou and an angry (rightfully) Native community, once again coerced into assisting the U.S. government.

The novel takes on BIG global issues like climate change and energy depletion, native land and civil rights – oh, and a wealthy, corrupt oligarch – without ever losing intimacy with its main characters. Are there monsters in this thriller? More than one.