

# James Bond, Move Over

*Globe-spanning PI gives superhero a run for his money*

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## *Suspended Sentences*

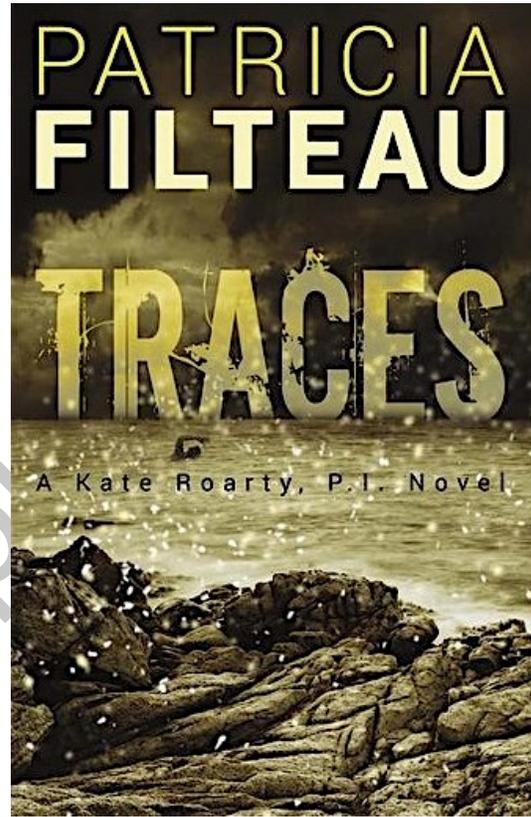
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by Jim Napier

Canadian Kate Roarty is a thirty-something PI visiting South Africa while working a case. But mindful that all work and no play makes Jill a dull girl, she's making time for a solo swim off the coast of Cape Town. A veteran competitor, Kate is indulging her passion for long-distance swimming when she finds herself in a life-threatening situation. The wind – and the waves – have picked up. Bad enough, but things are about to get a whole lot worse. What seems to be a small, high-powered motorboat is heading directly toward her and her escort zodiac, the driver ignoring all warnings to stay away. Sensing a collision is imminent, Kate dives beneath the waves for safety. A moment later there is an horrific explosion, and when Kate surfaces there is no sign of any survivors. To make matters worse, the blood in the water means that sharks will be on the scene within moments.

Midway between her departure point and her destination, Kate is wondering which way to strike out when a search-and-rescue helicopter appears on the scene and divers drop down to rescue her. For the moment, at least, Kate Roarty is safe.

Tracing her roots to the Iroquois peoples, Kate is a marathon swimmer



and an accomplished PI with a proven track record, but her fierce independence often leads her into trouble. Originally hired by a consortium of companies to resolve the theft of intellectual property rights involving a patented process to extract valuable minerals from mining tailings, when a wealthy businessman who wants to buy Kate's PI firm is killed she wonders whether his death is tied to her current case. Fast forward to Paris, where Kate is stalked and abducted in broad daylight.

Much to her relief her captors turn out to be friendly forces trying to protect her, and before long Kate finds herself on her way to Kazakhstan to check on that country's use of technology used to extract rare earth minerals. Could someone there be behind the intellectual-property theft?

So begins a fast-paced, engrossing thriller set in 2031. It is a tale that literally spans the globe, moving from Ottawa to South Africa and back to Canada, Paris, London, Kazakhstan, and England before returning to Canada once again for its action-packed climax.

Building on the layered, far-ranging and fast-paced formula made famous

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in Ian Fleming's iconic James Bond thrillers, *Traces* is an ambitious novel, and Filteau has marked out a distinctive niche in the action-adventure field. Although she could occasionally benefit from a firmer editorial hand, the story moves along at breakneck speed, and readers in search of a gripping tale rooted in corporate intrigue and featuring a plot full of twists and turns will be well satisfied. Fans will find themselves rooting for the headstrong Kate while lamenting the predicaments in which she often finds herself. A sure cure for the weekend doldrums, *Traces* will provide hours of entertaining escapism.

Since 2005 more than 500 of Jim Napier's reviews and interviews have appeared in several Canadian newspapers and on such websites as *Spinetingler*, *The Rap Sheet*, *Shots Magazine*, *Crime Time*, *Reviewing The Evidence*, *January* magazine, the *Montreal Review of Books*, the *Ottawa Review of Books*, and *Amazon.com*, as well as on his own award-winning crime fiction site, *Deadly Diversions*. His own crime novel, *Legacy*, was published in April of 2017. He can be reached at [jnapier@deadlydiversions.com](mailto:jnapier@deadlydiversions.com)

