**AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY (short):  
Joan Merriam**

***A Just Reckoning*** is Joan Merriam’s first book in the Tess Alexander mystery series. She is a freelance writer, communications consultant, and college instructor, and author of the full-length nonfiction book, *Little Girl Lost: A True Story of Shattered Innocence & Murder*, which sold over 400,000 copies worldwide.

Over the years, she has also authored a number of feature articles, commentaries, profiles, and columns which have appeared in dozens of national and regional magazines and newspapers. Among them are *AARP Magazine*, *Sacramento Magazine*, *Sierra Heritage magazine*, the *Sacramento Bee* newspaper, and *Vidura: The Press Institute of India Mass Media Magazine*.

​​Today, she also writes a column on companion animals which is syndicated in several California and Colorado newspapers.

Joan has been honored for her work by the Society of Professional Journalists, *Writer's Digest* magazine, and most recently, the New Millennium Awards.

She lives in the low mountains of the Sierra Nevada range, in northern California’s historic Gold Country.

Visit her website at www.joanmerriam.com, or on Facebook at ww.facebook.com/JoanMerriamAuthor