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**A GRIPPING NEW STANDALONE SUSPENSE NOVEL FROM  
USA TODAY BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND EMMY-WINNING  
REPORTER HANK PHILLIPPI RYAN**

# THE FIRST TO LIE

## Hank Phillippi Ryan

"Stellar... Hank Phillippi Ryan could win a sixth Agatha with this one."

—★ *Publishers Weekly* Starred Review



"Hank Phillippi Ryan is one of my favorite authors of suspense. Her latest, featuring the colliding worlds of a cast of intriguing female characters, is tailor-made for readers who are drawn to taut, propulsive plots with twists that do more than just surprise - they take your breath away. Book clubs will gobble up *The First to Lie*."

—Sarah Pekkanen, internationally bestselling author of *YOU ARE NOT ALONE*

"From one of our top thriller writers—a chilling tale of deception and revenge. Filled with sharp insights, *The First to Lie* is a house of mirrors, taking us on a thrilling ride of dizzying twists and shocking revelations."

—Angie Kim, national bestselling author of *MIRACLE CREEK*

"Hank Phillippi Ryan is at the top of her game. *The First to Lie* is a masterfully twisty tale full of all my favorite things: interesting women, family secrets, and well-plotted revenge. Start reading early, because you will tear through the pages of this breathless, keep-you-up-all-night thriller."

—Jennifer Hillier, award-winning author of *JAR OF HEARTS* and *LITTLE SECRETS*

Bestselling and award-winning author and investigative reporter **Hank Phillippi Ryan** returns with a twisty cat and mouse novel of suspense that will have you guessing, and second-guessing, and then gasping with surprise. **THE FIRST TO LIE** (A Forge Hardcover, eBook, and Macmillan Audio; On-sale: August

4, 2020), will have readers wondering: How far would you go to get what you want--and how deeply would you betray your family to get it?

USA Today bestselling author Hank Phillippi Ryan is well known as the longtime on-camera investigative reporter for Boston's WHDH-TV, where she's won thirty-seven Emmys and dozens more journalism honors. But beyond her recognition for her television reporting, Ryan has countless fans across the country for her award-winning and critically-acclaimed bestselling suspense and thriller novels, including 2018's *Trust Me* (an Agatha Award nominee) and 2019's *The Murder List* (nominated for the Agatha, Anthony, Macavity and Mary Higgins Clark Awards). Combining her years of first-hand experience inside high-stakes trials and the psychological intrigue of the battle for justice, plus her prowess with crafting page-turning mysteries with compelling and relatable characters, **THE FIRST TO LIE** is a masterpiece of a suspense novel, perfect for fans of Lisa Scottoline and B.A. Paris.

*We all have our reasons for being who we are—but what if being someone else could get you what you want?*

After a devastating betrayal, a young woman sets off on an obsessive path to justice, no matter what dark family secrets are revealed. What she doesn't know—she isn't the only one plotting her revenge.

An affluent daughter of privilege. A glamorous manipulative wannabe. A determined reporter, in too deep. A grieving widow who must choose her new reality. Who will be the first to lie? And when the stakes are life and death, do a few lies really matter?

With **THE FIRST TO LIE**, Hank Phillippi Ryan has once again spun a stunning new psychological standalone that will be devoured by fans who'll rip through the pages—and be left to be gasping at the final twists. Only Ryan—who critics have dubbed “a master at crafting superb suspense”—could combine her award-winning reporting skills and story-telling talent to blend this compelling combination of suspense, a mystery of identity and trust, and the shifting versions of the truth.

**THE FIRST TO LIE**  
Hank Phillippi Ryan  
Forge Hardcover  
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eBook ISBN: 978-1-2502-5879-3  
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### Praise for Hank Phillippi Ryan

**“The First to Lie is a twisty, winding road of deception and secrets that starts with a bang and ends with an explosion. Put this one on your list because Hank Phillippi Ryan is at the top of her game.”**

**—Samantha Downing, USA Today bestselling author of MY LOVELY WIFE and HE STARTED IT**

**“With flawless pacing and impeccable character development, Hank Phillippi Ryan delivers yet another powerful, relevant story of deceit, betrayal, and the extent to which someone will go to right**

the wrongs they have suffered. *The First to Lie* is a magnificent, intricately plotted thriller that will have you questioning everyone's motives until the stunning ending."

—Samantha M. Bailey, bestselling author of *WOMAN ON THE EDGE*

"A must-read for thriller lovers—the compelling and twist-filled plot fearlessly delves into the intersections of revenge and family secrets."

—Vanessa Lillie, bestselling author of *LITTLE VOICES* and *FOR THE BEST*

"Ryan delivers a mystery plotting masterclass that had me guessing (incorrectly) right up until the end. Expert pacing, richly drawn characters, and seamless storytelling are just some of the ingredients that make this novel impossible to put down. Fabulous!"

—Hannah Mary McKinnon, internationally bestselling author of *SISTER DEAR*

"In *The First to Lie*, Hank Phillippi Ryan intricately weaves the past and the present into a compelling tale of deception. True to form, Ryan masterfully escalates the suspense in this smart, twisty thriller. With jaw-dropping discoveries, *The First to Lie* will shock even the savviest of suspense readers.

Ryan's best yet."

—Heather Gudenkauf, *New York Times* bestselling author of *THE WEIGHT OF SILENCE*

"A flawlessly written mystery with twists around every corner, *The First To Lie* is a timely story about deceit, justice and revenge, all centered around the devastation wrought by a large pharmaceutical company and the family that owns it. Addictive and utterly compelling, Ryan has crafted a story that is ferociously smart and tightly plotted. You won't want to put this one down until you've reached the final gasp-worthy conclusion!"

—Christina McDonald, *USA Today* bestselling author of *THE NIGHT OLIVIA FELL* and *BEHIND EVERY LIE*



Photo Credit: Iden Ford

HANK PHILLIPPI RYAN is a *USA Today* bestselling author of 12 thrillers, winning the most prestigious awards in the genre: five Agathas, three Anthonys, the Daphne, and for *THE OTHER WOMAN*, the coveted Mary Higgins Clark Award. She is also on-air investigative reporter for Boston's WHDH-TV, with 37 EMMYs and dozens more journalism honors. Book critics call her "a master of suspense," "a superb and gifted storyteller," and she's the only author to have won the Agatha in four different categories: Best First, Best Novel, Best Short Story and Best Non-Fiction. Her previous novel, *THE MURDER LIST*, is an Agatha, Anthony, Macavity and Mary Higgins Clark Award nominee. *NYT* bestsellers A.J. Finn says, "exciting, explosive, relentless," and B.A. Paris says it's "her best yet." **Hank's newest novel: the chilling psychological standalone *THE FIRST TO LIE*.** The *Publishers Weekly* starred review says "Stellar... Hank Phillippi Ryan could win a sixth Agatha with this one" and bestseller Sarah Pekkanen says "Book clubs will gobble it up."

Hank is a founder of MWA University and past president of National Sisters in Crime. Visit Hank online at [HankPhillippiRyan.com](http://HankPhillippiRyan.com), on Twitter [@HankPRyan](https://twitter.com/HankPRyan), on Instagram [@hankpryan](https://www.instagram.com/hankpryan) and on Facebook at [HankPhillippiRyanAuthor](https://www.facebook.com/HankPhillippiRyanAuthor).