Gil Hodges, aka Hodge, has a thorny past he can't shake: a string of sordid, failed relationships, outrageous wrongs never put right, and a gut-wrenching trade-off made years ago with a stone-cold killer who slips in and out of his life at will—taunting him, haunting his dreams. And back with a vengeance now, it seems. Question is why.

The timing couldn't be worse. At an all-time personal low after almost losing his life during a harrowing week on remote Mistake Island, Hodge is overwhelmed with regret, paralyzed by self-doubt, and beset by personal demons he can no longer keep at bay.

When a chance encounter offers the promise of new love, he tempts fate by taking on his murderous foe. Desperate to cut this grisly tie once and for all, he risks everything by going back to where it all started—back to Matinicus.