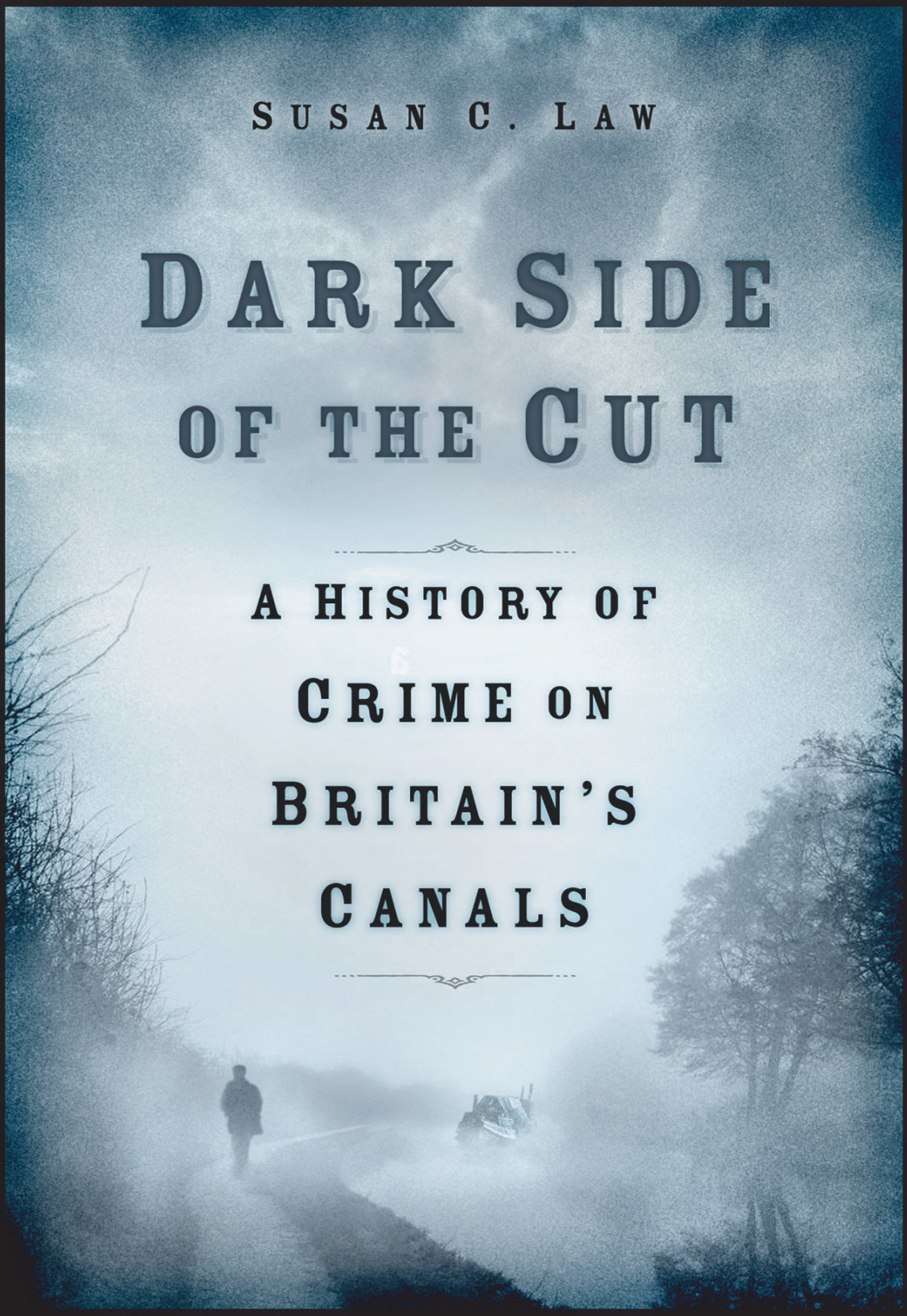

SUSAN C. LAW
DARK SIDE OF THE CUT
A HISTORY OF CRIME ON BRITAIN'S CANALS

Exploring the sinister history of Britain's canals …

Canals were the lifeblood of the Industrial Revolution, but prosperity had its price: crime. From the earliest days, canals had a shady reputation, and in Victorian Britain disturbing facts emerged to reveal the hidden dark side of the water, where dangerous figures lurked in the shadows. When a brutal murder in 1839 created a national outcry, it seemed to confirm all the worst fears about boatmen – a tough breed of men working to survive in harsh conditions, who lived by their own rules, and were swiftly branded as outlaws by the press.

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