Advance praise for No Odes to Widows

"Though the strength of its exotic setting and out-of-the-ordinary world of place both draw in Kay Taylor Burnett's first novel, the real benefit to the reader is the story's power to heal a broken heart. Only a native of the Big Bend understands it well enough to fathers him into magnetic appeal. Only a woman who has known decades of loneliness could ever attempt to portray how the high desert Texas country and its quirky community ultimately inspire her to overcome grief and find, slowly, unexpected hope, faith, and a passion for life. At last, widows everywhere have their own ode."

—David Marion Wilkinson, Award-winning author, Not Between Brothers

"If anybody knows Texas lawmen, good and bad, and Texas women (including me), and how it feels to be a Texas widow, it's Kay Taylor Burnett. Like her friend, the late, great Molly Ivins, she's ready to share in this suspenseful novel peopled with earthy characters. I wish she'd let one of her friends tell her own story. But legendary Texas women around these parts don't much care about being legends. They're too busy picking themselves up, dusting themselves off, and starting all over again."

—Dodie Meeks, painter, poet, mystery writer, When I Got Dressed Again

" 'When you get to be our age,' a woman complains in Kay Taylor Burnett's lean and resonant novel, 'the only available men seem to be drunks or philanderers, or they prefer other men.' But the refrain driving this story set in the beguiling outback towns of Big Bend is one of good humor and fellowship, not bitterness and solitude. And there lies Burnett's skill in crafting her mystery: All of these characters seem too decent for one of them to be a killer."

—Jan Reid, writer, journalist and a senior editor at Texas Monthly, Rio Grande

"Kay Taylor Burnett, widow of a brilliant trial lawyer, sister of a Texas sheriff, and a bright star of West Texas, displays an ear for dialog rivaling that of her friend and colleague Cormac McCarthy in this exciting Texan-a-clef. The characters are real and larger than life, just like the land they spring from. Far West Texas is a country woman, firmly portrayed in this first novel that hopefully is not the only novel."

—Dick DeGuerin, renowned Texas trial lawyer

Kay Taylor Burnett is founder of The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake. She is a fellow at Stanford University Graduate School of Business and the CEO of a small energy development company. The widow of legendary Texas lawyer, Warron Burnett, has three grown children and lives on Galveston Island.

While standing in line to purchase fresh-baked bread at a local bakery in Alpine, Texas, three women from an unlikely friendship, Katherine Bell, Doris Kemp, and Susanna Perez, hero into common except that they are all widows. They6 support each other through good times and bad and are about to become involved in a local crisis.

The community is shocked when a young Texas Highway Patrolman is murdered cold on duty, leaving behind his young wife and child. As the authorities follow the leads in the case, the three widowed friends investigate on their own, spurred on by Doris, a criminal justice professor at the college, who wants to practice what she reads and teaches.

Their investigation produces more questions than answers. Could the shooter be the same person driving the sports car that almost ran Katherine off the road the night of the murder? Is there a link between the murder and the strange activities taking place at Katherine’s neighborhood home?

As Katherine, Doris, and Susanna follow the trail of murder, love, and betrayal, they support each other in their own private paths to personal resolution.