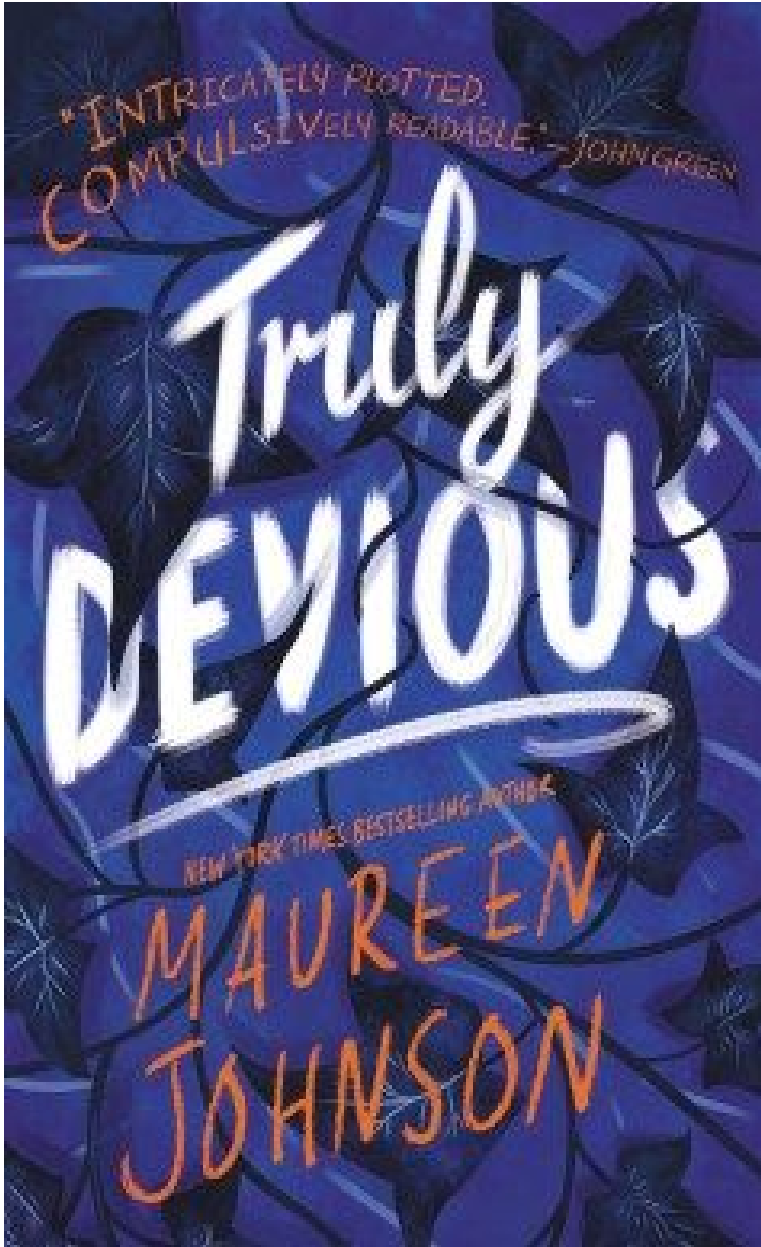


ABE LINCOLN BOOK AWARD

2021 NOMINEE

TRULY DEVIIOUS

By Maureen Johnson



Ellingham Academy is a famous private school in Vermont for the brightest thinkers, inventors, and artists. It is “a place where learning is a game.”

Shortly after the school opened, the founder’s wife and daughter were kidnapped. The only real clue was a mocking riddle listing methods of murder, signed with the frightening pseudonym “Truly, Devious.” It became one of the great unsolved crimes of American history.

True-crime aficionado Stevie Bell is set to begin her first year at Ellingham Academy, and she has an ambitious plan: She will solve this cold case. That is, she will solve the case when she gets a grip on her demanding new school life and her housemates: the inventor, the novelist, the actor, the artist, and the jokester.

But something strange is happening. Truly Devious makes a surprise

return, and death revisits Ellingham Academy. The past has crawled out of its grave. Someone has gotten away with murder.