

I love turning reality into fiction. My criminals get caught every time! Here are some facts I fictionalized in *Tangled Lines*.

This pelican's slashed pouch inspired the opening chapter in *Tangled Lines* and the tragic events which propelled Kenzie into her next crime fighting challenge. Unlike many birds in the story, this pelican was rescued in time for surgery, a successful recovery, and a happy release.



Below are photos of my experience at the docks in Key West where instead of the advertised tarpon feeding, a man tossed very large yellow tail carcasses to pelicans. The tarpon didn't have a chance. Pelicans cannot digest fish larger than 8 inches, if they can even swallow them. Feeding a pelican a large carcass often leads to its death. This experience was fictionalized and used to deepen the mysterious conspiracy. I imagined the man feeding pelicans as one of the criminals. Certainly, in real life he was not, though he was breaking the law.





See what can happen to a pelican when it is fed a big fish. With puncture wounds like this it would not be able to feed itself.



With limited funds, the Key West Wildlife Center does its best to disseminate the information on this flyer to the public. From this ongoing challenge came the idea for Ana to create the informational card project she presented to the high school environmental club.



Whoever the actual Florida Keys pelican slasher was, the torturer became one of the fictional criminals in Tangled Lines. This excerpt is from one of many news articles about the reward offered to catch the slasher. Sadly, this criminal was never caught. Fortunately, this adult pelican's surgery was also a success.



This is the Carolina Skiff I imagined as Angelo's new boat, though I changed its color. In real life, it would take an experienced backcountry boater like Angelo to navigate the treacherously shallow Keys' water with this beauty.

Rome Island and its location are fictional. But the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) estimates there to be 1,700 mangrove islands in the Keys. This fact sparked the idea that Kenzie could navigate from island to island, hiding behind each to elude the criminals.



Note to all my Florida Keys friends: Remember, *Tangled Lines* is fiction! Mostly...