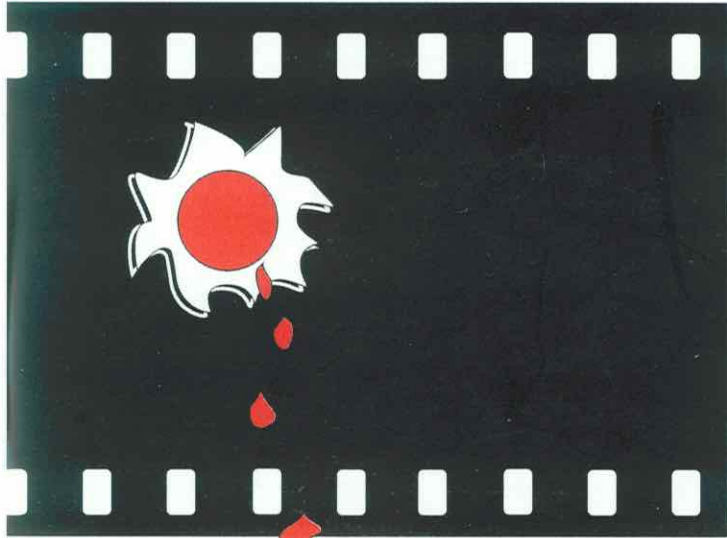


Lights! Camera! **Murder!**
Left Coast Crime 2003

13



Pasadena, California
Feb. 27 - March 2, 2003

Lights! Camera! Murder! Left Coast Crime 2003

Guest of Honor

★ ROBERT CRAIS ★

Pasadena, California
Feb. 27 - March 2, 2003

Toastmaster

★ JERRILYN FARMER ★

Fan Guest of Honor

★ SUE FEDER ★

ROLL THE CREDITS!

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Why Left Coast Crime?

By Helen Howerton, Chairman, LCC 13



It's a simple question, really: why do we gather every year in a different place, at a different hotel, either traveling very far (remembering my Alaska trip), or just across town (Pasadena, here I come!)? A lot of answers come to mind.

It's the opportunity to meet your favorite author in the flesh, and get that brand new book (or well-thumbed older copy) autographed. And that picture in the program book – you might want to get that signed, too.

There's the fun of meeting up with old friends, or putting a face to the name you've seen on DorothyL. That's an added bonus right there -- plenty of new faces, plenty of new names.

And don't forget the chance to leave the spouse/significant other and/or the kids and/or the job at home, and revel in your favorite hobby.

Yeah, this is an easy quiz. It's all of the above and a whole lot more.

Something that began as a gathering of mystery writers and their fans thirteen years ago has evolved into...a gathering of mystery writers and their fans. We like it that way.

We like that at Left Coast Crime 13 you'll have the opportunity to hear scores of mystery writers explain in their own voices why and how they write. Yep, not from an article in a magazine or an e-mail interview, but from their own lips. Not that there's anything wrong with articles or interviews -- we live in an information age, after all -- and the more info I can find about my favorite authors, the better. But there's definitely something exciting about watching a group of writers get together and throw ideas around and respond to questions from the audience. Did we mention that a terrific sense of humor seems to be a prerequisite for writing mysteries?

We also like how those same authors' written "voice" is allowed to flourish in so many wonderful ways, from hard-boiled, action packed police procedurals to senior sleuths. And how broad that connection can be. Our theme -- "Lights! Camera! Murder!" -- celebrates the entertainment industry's reliance on whodunits...there's that Hollywood thing, after all.

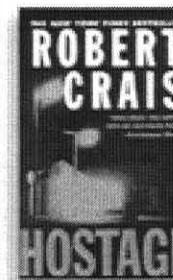
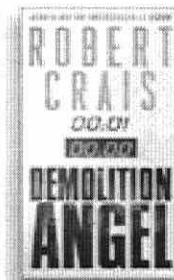
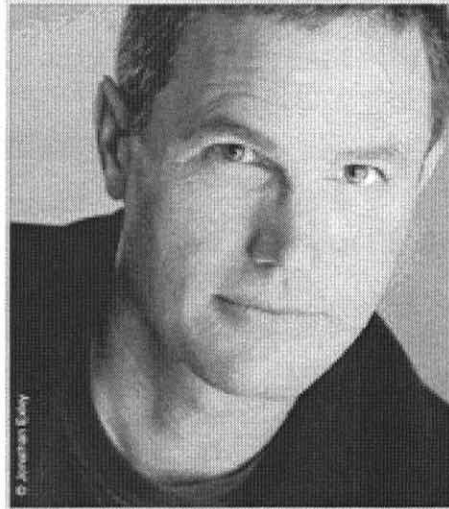
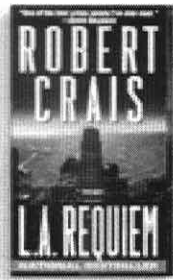
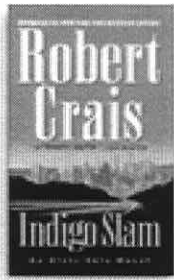
We like that a heck of a bunch of people around us enjoy the same thing we do...and don't mind talking about it into the wee hours. And that you can do this from a chair in the lobby to a stool in the bar, 'cause sometimes only a bar stool will do.

And just maybe you'll sit in on a panel that caught your eye, and a whole new genre will suddenly sound really, really interesting. Your "to be read" pile will soon threaten to engulf the house...a good thing.

Because when the world around you threatens to become overwhelming, you can grab one of those books, and suddenly you're right there, putting together those clues and bringing the bad guy -- OK, maybe a bad girl -- to justice. You've got interesting people to meet and exotic places to go. The work, the dishes, the worrying can wait. And pretty soon you're thinking it might be fun to go and meet the people who write these books. And this year you get to do it in Southern California, a terrific place to visit at any time of year.

So, Left Coast Crime, a conference full of like-minded people eager to talk about mystery books and mystery authors, awaits you. Enjoy the panels, visit the dealers room, and save a little bit for our charity auction. And above all, have fun!

Ballantine Books
Congratulates
Robert Crais



Guest of Honor
Left Coast Crime 2003

*And we proudly salute all our bestselling mystery authors
in attendance at Left Coast Crime 2003*

David Corbett

Lee Harris

Christine Kling

Rochelle Krich

Scott Phillips

Valerie Wolzien

Gillian Roberts

Paula L. Woods



Ballantine Books

Guest of Honor - ROBERT CRAIS

By Gerald Petievich

Rising from a murky past in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, member of a family that includes four generations of police officers, private pilot, Southern Gent, hunter of killer beasts in strange lands, observer of the world through a cop's cynical eyes, gourmet cook who knows twelve recipes for shrimp etouffé but hates pretense (I have personally seen him drink whiskey from a metal canteen), and *People Magazine's* "Sexiest Author Alive" (which he hates talking about), Robert Crais is like his character Elvis Cole, whom he created while hiding in a deserted mountain cabin from a dangerous black bear that threatened to rip him to shreds.

Rumor has it that Crais was an overnight success -- one of those wunderkinds whom envious snivelers resent. There is evidence to support this claim. Only a few months after arriving in Hollywood, he sold one of his first scripts to the then-hit ABC television series, *Baretta* (starring you know who). He became the youngest story editor at Universal Studios when Jack Klugman hired him for the NBC series *Quincy*. When Crais turned his hand to novels, his first work, *The Monkey's Raincoat*, was nominated for every major mystery award. There is also evidence contrary to his being a wunderkind, but we'll get to that in a moment.

Crais's introduction to the genre was a second-hand copy of *The Little Sister* by Raymond Chandler. He was fifteen years old when he read it, and "was swept away by Chandler's sense of mood and atmosphere." Crais consumed noir fiction set in Southern California and fell in love with this place through the descriptions of Chandler, James M. Cain, Ross MacDonald, and others. But it was Chandler who fired his desire to read and write the stuff, and to move west. Elvis Cole talked of a familiar aspiration in the last chapter of *L.A. Requiem*: *When I first came here I fell in love with this place. During the day, Los Angeles is a great playful puppy of a town, anxious to please and quick with a smile. At night, it becomes a treasure chest filled with magic and dreams... All you need is the magic. All you have to do is survive, but it's that way anywhere. That's what I found here when I first came; that's what more and more people find here every day... It's why they came; that treasure chest of hope.*

In Hollywood, Crais worked at all the usual mundane jobs while teaching himself to write scripts--security guard ("minimum-wage target"), warehouseman ("buy stock in Ben-Gay"), roofer ("a one-way ticket to skin cancer"), and convenience store clerk ("minimum wage target"). Crais's writing career took off with the sale to *Baretta*, then he moved on to other TV shows such as *Quincy*, *Hill Street Blues*, *Cagney and Lacey*, and, as he says, "nearly every successful cop show in the 80s." In a few short years, he had been given the title of *producer* and was recognized as one of the best writers in the TV industry.

But all was not well in La-La Land...

When Crais was producing the CBS television series *The Mississippi*, he authored a script that series star Ralph Waite ordered him to rewrite. Crais didn't like Waite's suggestions for 'improving' the script, so he refused. Waite fired him (the series was subsequently canceled). Another time, Crais delivered a movie script to a major star known for tough-guy roles. Though Crais had completed the script, the star had not yet signed a contract, so Crais refused to hand over the script until the contract was signed. When the star grew belligerent, Crais offered to fight him on the spot and the winner could have the script. The star, predictably, declined the invitation.

After years of increasing frustration with television, Crais wanted to write novels. He said, "I was tired of whining actors and bubbleheads having input into my work. I told my agent I was taking a year off, then drove to Lake Arrowhead and rented a cabin.

Continued on next page

ROBERT CRAIS continued

Everyone thought I was crazy to quit my job the way I did, but I needed distance from the city to gain perspective on what I had been through. I didn't know what I was going to write or if I would be able to sell it, but I had to write about it."

After moving into the cabin, Crais learned that a bear had been breaking into other cabins in the area. A nearby resident had been mauled. One of Crais's police officer relatives loaned him a .357 Magnum with the deadpan advice, "Here, sleep with this." (This gun became Joe Pike's weapon of choice.) Crais said, "I was in this windy cabin high up on ridge, dead of winter, snowbound, scared of this damned bear, carrying this gun every time I went outside, scared that I wouldn't be able to finish this book or sell it, and that when I returned to Hollywood everything I worked for would be gone. The experience was surreal."

Crais finished the book, eluded the bear, and the result was *The Monkey's Raincoat*. Now, back to that 'wunderkind' tag. Before Crais wrote scripts, he accumulated 116 rejection letters prior to making his first fiction sale, a fantasy short story sold "to a penny-a-word original anthology." (Crais kept all 116 rejections.) And, despite Elvis Cole's current best-selling popularity, Crais received nine rejection letters for *The Monkey's Raincoat* before placing it. In one of these letters, a Senior Editor at a well-known publishing house wrote, "I'm afraid a character with loud shirts and a surly cat doesn't work for me...so here this is, back to you." In another, the leading publisher of mystery fiction at the time politely suggested that Crais "try another house."

Ultimately, *The Monkey's Raincoat* found a home and is now in its 25th printing (so much for rejections). Ten more well-received novels followed, including *Hostage* and *Demolition Angel* which are soon to be movies, and the newest Elvis Cole novel, *The Last Detective*. Crais's novels now hit the *New York Times* bestseller list and are also bestsellers in England, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, and France.

Like most true Cajuns, Robert Crais is not a man to be taken lightly. He is the outsider who prefers to make his own way no matter what others think. Witness his lifestyle: He wakes most mornings at four and races to the gym. He skydives. He has a pilot's license, and enjoys practicing risky aerobatic maneuvers. He does not pal around with Hollywood celebrities, but prefers the company of "real people." He is known in LA's Chinatown and Echo Park cop bars. "Like any sane person, I like the research better than the writing," he says.

When researching *The Last Detective*, one of Crais's friends--a Marine Corps veteran and big game hunter--suggested that Crais accompany him on a trip to the wilds of Alaska in search of an enormous Alaskan brown bear, the most dangerous predator on earth. They flew a seaplane to the remote Tlingit fishing village of Angoon, Alaska, then ventured up the coast of Admiralty Island by boat. The symmetry of the moment was not lost. Trudging onto a rocky shore with only a rucksack and a rifle, this time it was Crais who was stalking the bear.

Gerald Petievich (www.petievich.com) is the author of *To Live and Die in L.A.* His eighth novel, *The Sentinel*, will be released in February and will soon be a Paramount motion picture starring Michael Douglas.



Fan Guest of Honor - SUE FEDER

By Helen Howerton

I first "met" Sue Feder, our Fan Guest of Honor, when I responded to a message she'd placed on DorothyL announcing the creation of the Historical Mystery Appreciation Society. After a lifelong fascination with the works of Ellis Peters, Sue was interested in taking that interest a few steps further, and wanted to know if anyone else felt like coming along for the ride. I sure did, as did dozens of others, and the Historical Mystery Appreciation Society, and its publication *Murder:Past Tense* was born. Although the journal is on hiatus at the moment (after five years of publication), Sue's interest in the genre hasn't waned – just the time necessary to pursue editing and publishing what is after all a labor of love. (Since this girl wants to enjoy a well-earned retirement in March 2005, when she'll be able to tackle the thousands of unread books on her shelves, we're given her a little respite). She does continue to maintain her wonderful website -- "Sue Feder's Magical Mystery Tour Reviews" – which can be found at <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/monkshould>.



I thought about asking Sue a bunch of questions about historical mysteries, and realized that her own words would be the best introduction to the genre I could find. So, I've incorporated an article Sue wrote for the first issue of *Murder:Past Tense*, which sums up her philosophy of historical mysteries. It's a succinct explanation of the attraction of historical mysteries, to Sue and those countless others (like myself) who enjoy being transported to another time, another place – where a body (or two or three) can be found.

"Once upon a time, in a moment of combined boredom and lunacy, I founded the Ellis Peters Appreciation Society. Seven years later I decided it was time to take a long sabbatical. Some time after that I began to miss the long hours, sore neck, aching shoulders and painful wrists.

Then I went to the Monterey Bouchercon. It was the third day, at the totally uncivilized hour of 8:30AM. I'd had about six hours of sleep -- total, that is. I was talking to a dear friend and long-time mystery fan who is generally known for her reticence and wishy-washy opinions.

"Lindsey Davis is a terrific writer," said Andi Shechter.

"I have to admit I'm not really that crazy about her books," I replied mildly. "I find her use of dialog jarring, much too modern."

"How the hell do you know how they talked to each other in ancient Rome?" snarled Andi.

Ever the voice of reason, I argued, "Neither do you. All I know is, it doesn't feel right to me."

All of which led to a philosophical discussion of the nature of historical mysteries, why people read them, and the expectations we have of them.

*"This would make a nice article," I thought. My buddy, George Easter, had offered me an ongoing Historical Mystery column in his wonderful fanzine, *Deadly Pleasures*, in a gallant effort to save me from myself.*

Continued on next page

SUE FEDER continued

I began to question my friends in the fan community and monitoring mystery-related newsgroups for postings about historical mysteries. I followed a thread about awards for historical mysteries and became involved in a lengthy e-mail correspondence about such an award and who might sponsor it. (Does anyone besides me marvel at the irony of discussing historical mysteries in a high-tech setting?) And then I said the words which, once out, put me right on the path to..... long hours, sore neck, aching shoulders, painful wrists -- and lots of fun, new friends, and personal satisfaction. "If I were still running EPAS I'd sponsor it myself."

So, EPAS evolved into The Historical Mystery Appreciation Society, broader in scope, but with the same freewheeling editorial vision that made EPAS a success, if the number of returnees was any indication. Why did I do it? The real truth is: for no other reason than that I like them. And what is it I like about them?

Let's get the basics out of the way. We all want fully developed characters in a well-realized setting, a believable, thoughtful, suspenseful plot, and lyrical writing. That said, why historicals? Because it seems that people who do read them, devour them, and people who don't, won't touch them. What do we find in historicals that contemporary mysteries lack? And what is it that makes one succeed where another fails?

It's no surprise that historical mysteries, and historical fiction in general, make history come alive by giving it a human face. Writers of historical fiction face special challenges. While some might simply be jumping on a marketing bandwagon, most have a sincere and long-held love for the period about which they write. Primary among their challenges are to create those characters, settings and plots while remaining faithful to known history; to so fully absorb the details of another time that the reader has a complete sense of this world, and yet not let the research (which any writer will tell you is his favorite part of the writing process) become an end in itself, getting in the way of the story; to be as accurate as possible in creating a consistency of morals and ideas of the period, yet balance these against modern sensibilities so that the characters won't be completely alien to the reader.

To sum it up, I think historical mystery writer Margaret Frazer said it best when she said that a good historical mystery needs to have just enough sense of an otherwhen to make it noticeably different from our own time, and yet still able to present the faces of the characters and make the reader understand what they were like. "There is," she said, "a pleasure in being able to be in some other time, some other place, some other way than 20th century America."

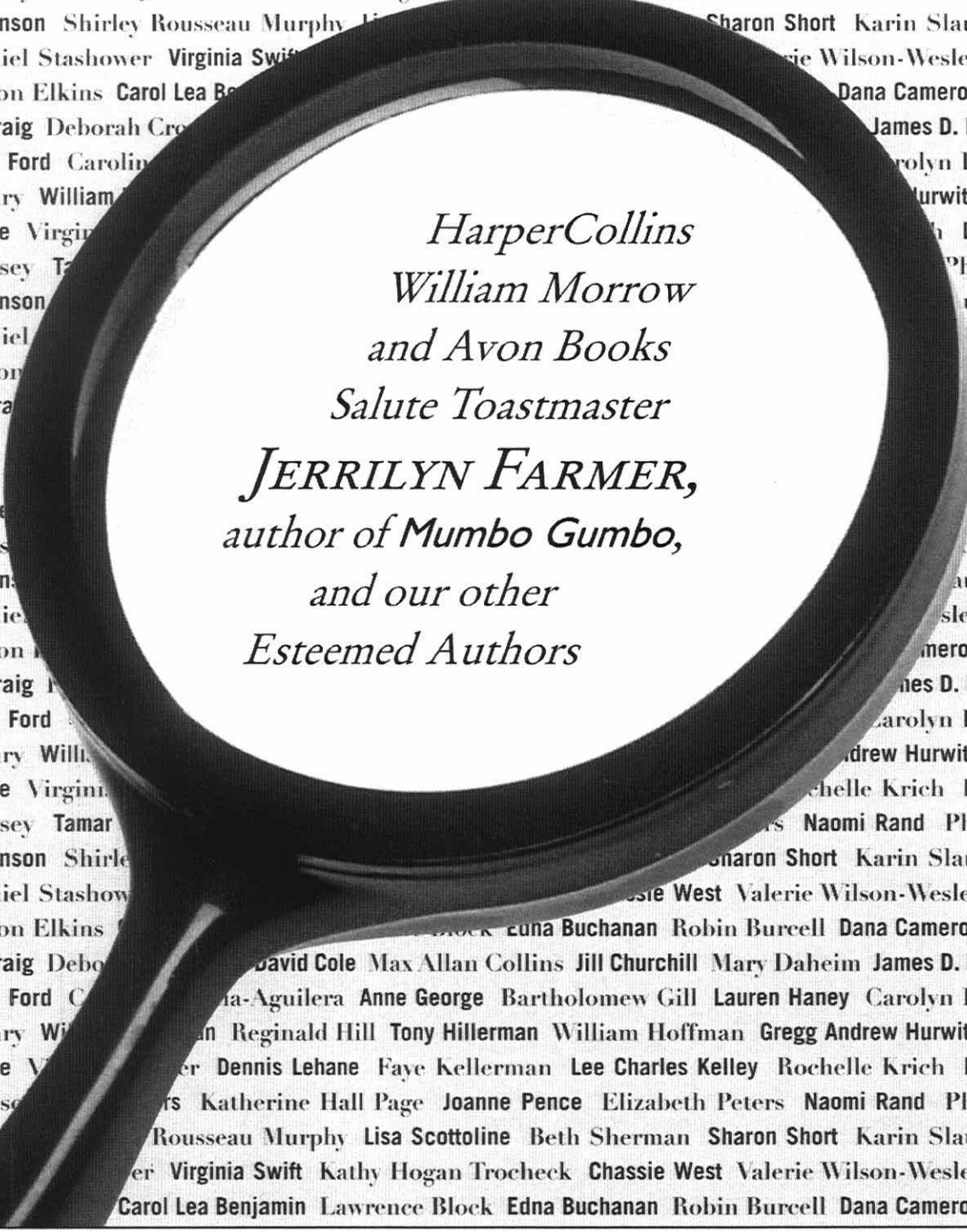
Sue offered a similar explanation when I asked her what got her started reading historical mysteries.

"Easy -- as with so many of us, um, older historical mystery fans, it was Josephine Tey's The Daughter Of Time. It was the first time in my life I found history interesting, and the idea of history being mystery was a revelation."

I appreciate Sue's continuing interest in the historical mystery, a genre that we both love. Please join me in welcoming Sue Feder as our Fan Guest of Honor for Left Coast Crime 13!

Helen Howerton, a long time fan of the historical mystery genre, is Contributing Editor of *Murder:Past Tense*, the Journal of the Historical Mystery Appreciation Society, and Chairman of LCC 13.

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***Toastmaster* - JERRILYN FARMER**

By Dawn Weiss

"In L.A., you either develop a great sense of denial, a great sense of humor, or you leave town." So says Madeline Bean in *Sympathy for the Devil*. Her creator, Jerrilyn Farmer, agrees, although she feels a great sense of humor/great sense of denial combo platter may be ideal.

A great imagination doesn't hurt either. Jerrilyn insists she was born to gypsy parents, then stolen as an infant by a roving band of bookkeepers and raised in the Chicago suburbs.

Well, she *did* grow up (as much as she's grown up at all) in suburban Chicago, and she *was* part of a roving band... of actors, in a production of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest." When it moved to LA, so did she. She had loved acting since childhood and received acting awards even before becoming a Theatre major at Northern Illinois University. So staying in LA to audition and study her craft made a lot of sense.



Naturally, the next logical career step was writing for television game shows. Really, though, even actors have to eat, and when you keep being offered writing jobs *and you aren't even seeking them*, it's time to consider changing course. That Jerrilyn found herself writing isn't that surprising. She won writing contests as a kid, even, as a ninth grader, taking state honors for best comedy monologue.

She went on to write for dozens of game shows, including *Jeopardy!* and *Supermarket Sweep*. Her extensive TV writing experience also includes comedy specials for Martin Short and Dana Carvey, making her one of the few people to put words in the mouths of both Art Fleming and the Church Lady.

Ready to move on to a new challenge, preferably writing something longer than 72 characters (the length limit on *Jeopardy!* questions), Jerrilyn moved on to mysteries. She made her witty sleuth Madeline ("Mad-ah-line") Bean an event planner/caterer in the Hollywood Hills. The job gave Madeline entrée to the homes (and lives, and deaths) of the rich, famous, and powerful, and allowed the author, an avid amateur chef, to blend a culinary element into her books.

Madeline, her friend and business partner Wesley, and wacky but hip assistant Holly, were an instant hit when *Sympathy for the Devil* was published in 1998. It won the Macavity Award for Best First Mystery, and received Agatha and Anthony nominations. *Immaculate Reception*, *Killer Wedding*, and *Dim Sum Dead* followed. Collectively, they racked up multiple Agatha, Anthony, and Lefty nominations, and hit #1 on the *Los Angeles Times* Bestseller List. *Dim Sum Dead* won a Lefty Award.

The newly released *Mumbo Gumbo* marks both Jerrilyn's hardcover debut and a sort of return to her roots, as Madeline becomes a fill-in writer on a TV game show.

Humor abounds in the series. Along with the wicked satirical depiction of Hollywood (reality-based to a frightening degree), there are one-liners and witty banter galore. However, the serious issues aren't treated lightly. Simmering underneath the characters' present lives and relationships are the unresolved tragedies of the past. These historical backstories are vital to the plot, and the heart, of each book.

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JERRILYN FARMER continued



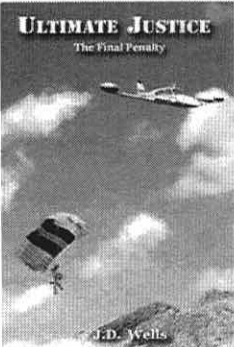
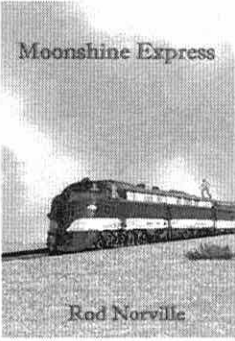
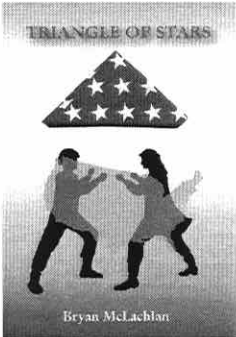

That means heavy research is necessary – sending Jerrilyn delving into such varied topics as the Chinese language, dying wool, raising farm animals, World War II intrigue, and a suspicious death at the Vatican (for *Immaculate Reception*, wherein the Pope is locked in a bathroom).

Readers don't seem to mind the occasional false imprisonment of the Pope. Jerrilyn says, "Luckily, readers have been pretty kind. If I have received an occasional edgy question, it was certain to be about why Madeline continued to put up with her boyfriend, Arlo." She takes it "as a very high compliment that readers care enough about these characters to want them to be happy."

Jerrilyn and her husband Chris have two sons: Sam, 12, is very clever at spotting things that need to be fixed in Mom's manuscripts, and Nick, 10, is already the true gourmet chef in the family. She also teaches mystery writing in the UCLA Extension Writers Program. (If she had the time, I'd suggest she teach parenting as well. She's awfully good at it.)

If you've read her work, you know Jerrilyn is a terrific writer. I've been friends with her since before she had a Macavity to her name and can reveal that she's a terrific person as well. Not only is she kind, bright, and funny, she is also quite possibly the most level-headed gypsy kidnapped by bookkeepers as an infant and currently residing in the greater Los Angeles area.

Dawn Weiss is a lawyer, writer, and Co-Chair of Programming for Left Coast Crime 2003. She is also a Los Angeleno with a great sense of humor, who nonetheless left town for a while. Her great sense of denial made her think that returning was a swell idea.

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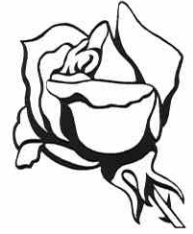


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Welcome to Pasadena



Perhaps you watched the Rose Parade this year, seeing the fabulous floats make the turn from Orange Grove Boulevard onto Colorado Boulevard. This year especially you would have seen a bright, sunny day and the San Gabriel Mountains sparkling in a cloudless sky.

And the façade of the Norton Simon Museum, only one of the dozens of cultural and visitors' attractions in our fair city. Which leads me to my point – you want museums, fantastic shopping areas and fabulous restaurants – you've come to the right place. In between the panels and programming, the book room and book signing, find a little time to experience everything that Pasadena has to offer.

Pasadena may be best known for the Tournament of Rose Parade and the Rose Bowl game, but those once-a-year attractions are outweighed by the amount of other activities available to visitors the other 364 days of the year. You want museums? We got 'em. Shopping? Yeah, I mentioned that, too. Beautiful gardens? In town, and a world-famous one a few miles away.

Let's start with all that wonderful cultural "stuff." The Norton Simon is perhaps the most recognizable, due to its prominent Parade position. Located at 411 West Colorado Boulevard (a short drive away), the museum features seven centuries of European art from the Renaissance to the 20th century, and a sculpture garden highlighting the works of Auguste Rodin.

Just a few short blocks from the Hilton (towards the mountains on Los Robles) is the Pacific Asia Museum. This mansion-based edifice concentrates on showcasing the art and culture of Asia and Pacific nations.

Finally, the granddaddy of them all – The Huntington Library Art Collections and Gardens, in San Marino. You'll need a car for this, but if you have the time, it's an experience that shouldn't be missed. You'll be able to tell your relatives you saw the originals of "Blue Boy" and "Pinkie!"

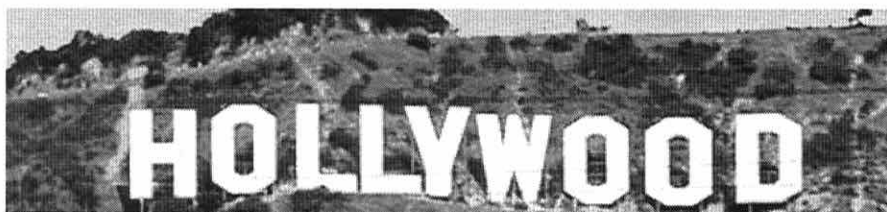
For those who want to get in a little shopping, Paseo Colorado is only a few blocks away, on Colorado Boulevard. Sixty-five retail operations call this outdoor "urban market" home. In addition, heading east on Colorado Boulevard itself, what we locals call "Old Pasadena" is an experience that shouldn't be missed. It's an anything-but-old eclectic collection of stores, art galleries, restaurants and boutiques.

Did somebody mention food? Once again, strap on your walking shoes and head over to Paseo Colorado and Colorado Boulevard, and the streets on either side. From American cooking to Thai specialties, and everything in-between, you're sure to find something to tempt your taste buds – that's why we left lunch and Saturday dinner open, so that you'll have a chance to experience everything Pasadena has to offer!

I've only touched on a few of the many "things to see and do" in the Pasadena area. Our registration area will have information available from the Pasadena Convention & Visitors Bureau with addresses, hours of operation, costs, etcetera. We look forward to welcoming you to a terrific Left Coast Crime 13, and hope you'll enjoy everything that the conference – and the city of Pasadena – has to offer.

Helen Howerton
Chairman, LCC 13





LOS ANGELES: CITY OF DREAMERS

By Carolyn Wheat

If Raymond Chandler didn't invent Los Angeles, he taught us how to see it. For him, the sprawling city of defeated dreamers, drenched in sunlight yet with darkness at its core, represented the curdled American dream. From the corruption of Bay City (Santa Monica) to the hothouse Sternwood mansion in the hills, to his seedy office on Hollywood Boulevard, Philip Marlowe traveled up and down the social scale in search of something to believe in. He never found it.

Back in 1994, the city of Los Angeles designated the corner of Hollywood and Cahuenga Boulevards "Raymond Chandler Square." Marlowe's office is supposed to be on the sixth floor of the Pacific Security bank building – but you'll have a hard time finding the small sign marking the "square." L.A. has never been good at facing the truth about itself, and Chandler cut too close to the bone.

Much of the Los Angeles Chandler knew is gone now, replaced by higher than ever high-rises, cleaned up and made tourist-friendly. The old Paramount Studio on Melrose (the gate made a famous appearance in Billy Wilder's *Sunset Boulevard*) is more tourist attraction than working movie studio, but you can still get a steak at Musso & Frank's, one of Chandler's favorite watering holes. The venerable restaurant on Hollywood Boulevard, down the street from the Chinese Theatre, is also mentioned in Michael Connelly's *Trunk Music*. ["Some of the waiters looked and moved as if they'd been there long enough to have served Chaplin."]

Want a tour of Michael Connelly's Los Angeles? You can take a tour bus, or you can let your fingers do the driving by logging on to Michael's website. Your armchair tour will show you various L.A. landmarks along with the passages from Michael's books in which those landmarks appear. Check out www.michaelconnelly.com to see some of Harry Bosch's favorite and not so favorite parts of the City of Angels.

Another contemporary writer with a feel for the history of her city is Paula Woods, whose website is studded with references to L.A.'s African-American past. In addition to the Hollywood Walk of Fame, her site includes pictures of the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, which features a life-size statue of the Little Tramp. Log onto www.woodsontheweb.com for a closer look.

James Ellroy's *L.A. Confidential* as book and movie gave the rest of the country a searing portrait of Fifties Los Angeles. The famous scene where Guy Pearce as Sgt. Exley thought the real Lana Turner was a prostitute took place in the Formosa Café, a Chinese restaurant near the Warner Hollywood Studios on Santa Monica Boulevard. WB and Paramount are the only two studios left in the city; all the back lots that once spread from Gower Gulch (where silent films were made) to West Hollywood are gone. To read accounts of what those studios were like in their heyday, check out Stuart Kaminsky's lovingly written Toby Peters series, which begins in the Thirties and is now heading into the Fifties. Each book features portraits of the stars of the day, from Errol Flynn to Cary Grant. A full listing of books is available at www.stuartkaminsky.com.

Talk of the Fifties would be incomplete without a mention of the man whose deep, portentous voice intoned, "This is the city: Los Angeles, California" every week. Starting in radio and succeeding beyond his wildest

Continued on next page

Los Angeles: City of Dreamers (continued)

dreams in television, Jack Webb as Sgt. Friday painted a very different picture of L.A. law enforcement than either Chandler or Ellroy. The Parker Center, named for the city's legendary police chief [Gene Rodenberry was once a cop under Parker's leadership, by the way], still stands at Temple Street, about three blocks from Union Station, featured in Chandler's last book, *Playback*. For a touch of true crime, step into the lobby of the Biltmore Hotel on Fifth Street, just down the street from the wonderful, refurbished L.A. Central Library. No brass plaque will tell you why you're there, but I will: it's the last place Elizabeth Short, better known to crime history as The Black Dahlia, was seen alive.

A final note: touring by website is fun, but this ex-New Yorker has also discovered that it's actually possible, and even delightful, to walk in this legendarily unwalkable city. Some enterprising group of walkers has put together a self-guided tour of downtown L.A. known as Angel's Walk. Download the entire tour at www.ci.la.us/ANGELSWALK/ and follow the signs for a splendid afternoon of sightseeing – food included, if you stop at Grand Central Market for a bite. Don't miss the Bradbury Building on Broadway; not only was it the site of Philip Marlowe's office in Robert Altman's version of *The Long Goodbye*, it was also featured in *Blade Runner*.

Los Angeles truly offers an embarrassment of riches for the crime fiction aficionado. During your stay in Pasadena, do make your way down the Pasadena Freeway to the big city and take in some of its criminous delights. You might even stop at the morgue for a spot of shopping – yes, Skeletons in the Closet carries everything from toe tag luggage tags to beach towels with chalk outlines on them. It's at 1104 North Mission Road. It's not open weekends, but it does have a website: www.lacoroner.com for your shopping convenience.



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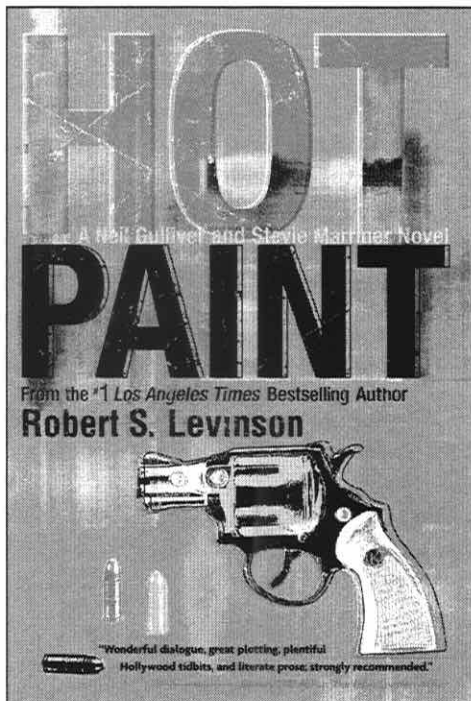
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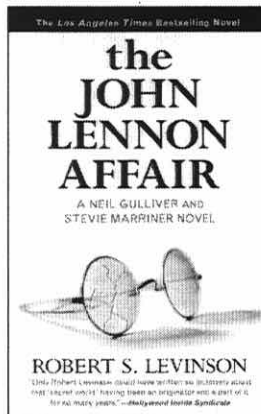
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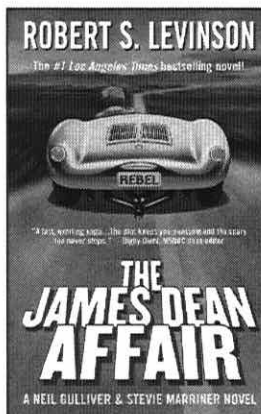


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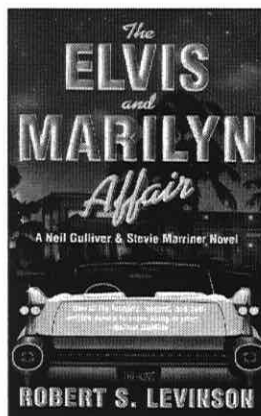


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—*Booklist*, starred review,
on *The Elvis and Marilyn Affair*

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HAS ANYBODY HERE SEEN RAYMOND?

By Robert S. Levinson

When I visited him at the County Jail a few months ago, Judge Raymond Harvey told me he was planning to attend Left Coast Crime. "Assuming my damn lawyer can get me out on bail," Judge Harvey said. He cackled at the prospect, remote at best, given the overwhelming evidence presented by the DA at the prelim that the judge had more than earned his Murder One indictments.

"I've been going to them for years and years, Bobby, getting some of my finest inspirations, and this year it's close to home, Pasadena," he said, his voice dropping to a conspiratorial whisper.

I said, "The other reasons, too? Kit Marlowe? To revisit an old haunt, Pasadena City Hall?"

He had one of those blinding neon smiles, and this time he used it at full wattage, as if we'd become the best of friends the moment he insisted we put our ranks aside and treat each other to first names.

"You said it, not me. If I tell you something, though, about Kit and Pasadena, everything between us is off the record, right, Bobby? The way our dear old fart of a friend, Augie Fowler, swore it to me, or I would not have agreed to you being here?"

This was the fourth time he'd asked. "Yes. Everything, until and unless you say otherwise, Raymond."

"Cross your heart and hope to die, you're not telling me the truth, Bobby?"

I raised my hand, like I was taking an oath.

"Haw. Good. Excellent. If ever I thought not, Bobby, I would find my own very special way to cross your heart. You do understand that, don't you?"

"Like we're sharing the same shadow, Raymond."

He nodded agreement. "Move in closer. I don't need to be shouting any of this...Good. Much better, Bobby." And his words became barely louder than a whisper. "Yessiree, Bobby. I did it, I did her--Kit. As sure as push came to shove. Haw."

Raymond Harvey began describing Pasadena's City Hall on North Garfield as if I had to take his verbal tour in order to understand about Kit Marlowe, appreciate what he did with her.

He explained in punctilious detail how City Hall had been built seventy-five years ago as the centerpiece in a three and a half-million-dollar Civic Center construction project, a grand structure in the California Mediterranean style, based on the visions of sixteenth century Italian architect Palladio, who favored a serene early Renaissance style over the Gothic and late Renaissance styles popular in his time.

"You must go see for yourself," Judge Harvey said, his voice as soothing as cough syrup. "You'll discover the City Hall tower and dome owe as much to the great man's vision as the Church of Santa Maria della Salute in Venice, the Hotel des Invalides in Paris and, of course, St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

"Yes. I will. I'll do that."

"A paean to Heaven on earth, that circular tower. It rises six stories. Its fifth story forty-one feet high and punctuated by four majestic round arches and four smaller arches. Capped by the dome, twenty-six feet high, fifty-four feet across. The dome punctuated by the lantern, a column-supported cupola forty-one feet high, surmounted by an urn and ball. The highest point two hundred and six feet above ground. Originally covered in multicolored fish scale tile, but now red, as is the Cordova clay tile roof."

Raymond Harvey's cold blue eyes glistened with appetite and clear saliva bubbles played at the corners of his razor-thin lips, as if he were contemplating a thick, juicy steak, not an edifice.

He devoured other aspects of the City Hall like a fine dessert, a fruit cocktail of facts and figures. I listened patiently while he carried on about the floor of the main lobby (red Padre tile), the interior woodwork (vertical-grained white

Continued on next page

Raymond continued

oak), the stairways (Alaskan marble treads, balustrades of wrought iron handrails).

He studied me for any sign that I doubted his superior intellect, at the same time showing that he for one doubted it not a whit. "But I digress, isn't that so, Bobby?"

"I'm sure what I'm learning is relative, Raymond."

Raymond Harvey touched the tip of his aquiline nose--decorated in the fine-lined blue and red broken veins of a chronic drinker--and smiled in acknowledgement.

"I knew she was the one for City Hall the first second I spied her in my courtroom. I found a pretext for summoning her into chambers. Haw. Quicker than a card cheat's deal she showed me she knew the ruse and didn't mind. Brains as well as the beauty I had hungered after for so long."

"And your love affair began."

"The *intellectual* is what it was all about, Bobby. Damn it. The *intellectual*. That and only that as a prelude to the end game."

"Her death."

He cocked an eyebrow in amusement, but said nothing to the point.

When he did, finally--when Raymond Harvey was barely into recounting the details of the murder that shocked the nation beyond anything it already knew about the man who'd styled himself as "Number Thirteen" in the notes, clues and taunts he'd left behind at his killing scenes--I was unable to keep my lunch down. The stream of green, yellow, brown, and pepper red puke splattered over Raymond Harvey's stolid face and dribbled onto his orange jump suit.

The judge finger-wiped his mouth clean.

He said, finally, quietly, as if he were sharing a secret with himself, "Haw. How unfortunate, Bobby-boy."

I had no way of telling if the judge meant for himself or for me.

The next day, shortly before two o'clock, I took the same route through the Spanish Colonial courtyard of Civic Center on which Raymond Harvey had guided Kit Marlowe. I imagined them strolling along the crushed granite paths as if they owned time, the sun bright and warm in a cloudless sky, the judge identifying the tile on the cloistered arches for Kit, lecturing her about the live oak and silk floss trees shading the azalea, hydrangea and rhododendron flower beds alive with color; intoxicating the impressionable young woman with everything but the truth.

With every step I heard the judge's commentary, spoken as if he were narrating a documentary on the Travel Channel, things like, *It vastly amused me, Bobby, Pasadena's Police Department headquarters being right there. How we waltzed right by them like two June and December lovers out for a stroll.*

Raymond Harvey couldn't have been more full of himself.

Inside City Hall, I crossed the main lobby and took my time working up the stairs to the highest point in the tower open to the public.

I located the service door with the busted lock that the judge had used to maneuver Kit higher, to the off-limits area directly underneath the dome, bragging to her how this type access was one of the special entitlements that came to him as a judge.

"She was hesitant," he'd said to me. "Telling me she feared her vertigo might kick in, but at the same time she was one of those adventurous, try anything sorts--the dear foolish child.

"Once arrived, I threw the bar lock and guided her to one of the small open arches. I told her to climb onto its base for a view of Pasadena not to be imagined and the vigor that comes from the feel of the charging fresh, clean air.

"She told me: *I'm too afraid to do that. Too scared to do that, Raymond.* I said: *Don't be. I'll hold onto you, keep you as safe as a dream while you strike a blow against this vertigo of yours.* Haw.

"After she removed her heels, I guided her up there and engulfed her thighs in a tight, protective grip. She

Continued on next page

Raymond continued

pressed her hands against the walls to steady herself, and a moment later was high on the thrill, laughing at the sky, giggling with delight. At the same time, her body was quivering with the fright of her height. She demanded the vertigo go away, but her shaking only got worse. Finally, she asked me in a voice as unsteady as her legs had gotten to help her down.

"I said, *With pleasure, you sweet creature*. I moved my palms to her firm buttocks. I gave her a shove and down she went, screaming under my watchful eye, all the way down into a broken, bloody mass on the courtyard tile. I'd transformed Kit into a work of fine art, but I only had fragments of a moment to admire my creation.

"I quickly deposited my usual calling card for one of my adventures and was gone from there and safely away long before anyone could even determine the dear creature's point of departure.

"Truthfully, Bobby, it was one of my finest adventures and, ever since, I've relished the prospect of repeating it. I had this vision of finding another Kit Marlowe during the three days of Left Coast Crime, where I'd have my choice of enchanting creatures from all parts of the country, many of whom would enjoy the architectural raptures of Pasadena City Hall. Not to be, I fear, given the ongoing incompetence of that damned lawyer of mine and his failing on every front to arrange for my bail."

There was a surprise waiting for me when I reached the County Jail later that afternoon, to tell the judge I was too upset by what I'd seen to any longer play the game by the rules we had in place.

I was renegeing on our agreement.

I intended to go public with everything I had learned from the murderous "Number Thirteen" himself: Judge Raymond Harvey.

Tell the D.A.

Tell the news media.

Tell anyone who'd listen.

My thank you to the judge for the gift of a nightmare that would stay with me forever.

Or longer.

My own special gift to the memory of Kit Marlowe.

Only, he was no longer there.

His lawyer had managed to make bail for the judge.

I've been looking over my shoulder ever since.

He's still out there somewhere, Number Thirteen.

They're crediting him with the body in the trunk the police discovered last month in one of those posh million-dollar high rises on the Wilshire Corridor.

And I keep remembering what Raymond Harvey had to say about being at Left Coast Crime, so, please--

--You be careful, too.

Best-selling author Bob Levinson is president of the Southern California Chapter of Mystery Writers of America. This excerpt from his novel-in-progress, *Without a Hitch*, was inspired by the theme of Left Coast Crime 2003.

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ROBERT FERRIGNO

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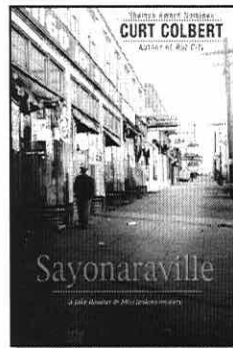


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DAILY SCHEDULE

<u>Day</u>	<u>Events</u>
Thursday Afternoon	Registration, Authors' Roundtable, LCC 101
Thursday Evening	Radio Play at Pasadena Central Library or Police Dog Demonstration at the hotel
Friday Morning	7:30-8:45 am CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST- Pasadena Room
Friday Panels	9 am to 5 pm LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
Friday Evening	Opening remarks: Jerrilyn Farmer & Robert Crais MEXICAN BUFFET DINNER LEFTY, ARTY, & DILYS AWARD PRESENTATIONS International Ballroom
Saturday Morning	7:30-8:45 am CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST- Pasadena Room
Saturday Panels	9 am to 5 pm LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
Saturday Evening	DINNER ON YOUR OWN DESSERT PARTY AND CHARITY AUCTION International Ballroom
Sunday Morning	7:30-8:45 am CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST- Pasadena Room
Sunday Panels	9 am to noon

REGISTRATION HOURS:
Thursday, Feb. 27: 12 noon to 7:00 pm
Friday, Feb. 28: 8:30 am to 7:00 pm
Saturday, Mar. 1: 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

MOVIE LOUNGE: Ste. 201—Friday & Saturday
HOSPITALITY ROOM: Monterey Room
DEALERS' ROOM: California Ballroom

All panels are 50 minutes. Signings immediately after panels in Pasadena Room

Key to Panel Locations:
International East (IE) - International West (IW)
San Gabriel (SG) - Pacific Ballroom (PB)

In description of panels, moderator is indicated by (M)

Authors' Roundtable: In lieu of "15 Minutes of Fame" sessions, LCC 13 is offering an Authors' Roundtable in the San Marino Room. Authors may sign up for one or two 20-minute sessions, Thursday through Saturday. Sign-ups begin at noon Thursday on a first-come basis. (A sign-up easel is at the door.) Each session will feature two authors at separate tables. Everyone is invited to attend these informal chats and book discussions.

Authors' Roundtable Hours: Thursday: 2 pm to 5 pm; Friday & Saturday: 9 am to 5 pm;
 Sunday: 9 am to Noon

PROGRAMMING

Thursday, February 27**4:00 pm:****LCC 101—PB (A & B)**

Andi Shechter (M), Suzanne Epstein

8:00 pm:**When the Fuzz Really Is Fuzzy: Police Dogs—SG**

Sgt. Mark B. Goodman, Pasadena Police Dept.

Old Time Radio Presentation by Bobb Lynes, followed by "Sorry, Wrong Number" performed by 30 Minutes to Curtain at Pasadena Central Library

30 Minutes to Curtain is a Los Angeles-based group which began producing new radio dramas in 1983. The actors perform regularly on radio station KCSN-FM, appear on stage, and produce special broadcasts for the Los Angeles Radio Reading Service which serves people with visual impairments.

Friday, February 28**9:00 am****They Work Hard for Less Money—IE**

David J. Walker (M), Marisa Babjak, Rick Copp, Roberta Isleib, CJ Songer

Off the Beaten Path: Exotic Locales—IW

Victoria Heckman (M), Deborah Turrell Atkinson, Michelle Black, Kate Grilley, Sean E. Thomas

Bury Him in Paper: Legal Mysteries—SG

Mary Jane Maffini (M), Joel Goldman, Dick Lochte, Sheila Lowe, David Rosenfelt

Running a Book Club for Fun and Nonprofit—PB

Janet Rudolph (M), Sally Cadagin, Nancy Rodich-Hodges, Paula Salo, Maddy Van Hertbruggen

10:00 am**Provenance Research: Tracing a Different Kind of Art Fraud—IE** Amy Walsh**Guns & Roses: Romance in the Mystery—IW**

Kate Flora (M), Deborah Donnelly, Laura Hayden, Thom Racina, Jamie Wallace

On a Horse with No Name: Death in the Desert—SG

Paul Anik (M), Sinclair Browning, David Cole, JA Jance, James C. Mitchell, Betty Webb

Must...Own...That...Book: Collecting for Fun and Profit—PB

Barbara Murray (M), Linda Bivens, Carl Coan, J. Dennis Riordan

11:00 am**LCC Book Club: Kris Neri discusses the Tracy Eaton series—IE** Dawn Weiss (M)**Avenging Angels Dark and Light: Religious Mysteries—IW**

Rochelle Krich (M), Tom Griffith, Lee Harris, Sharan Newman, Judith Van Gieson

Beyond Pussy Galore and Rosa Kleb: Women in Spy Fiction—SG

Taylor Smith (M), Lynnette Baughman, Libby Fischer Hellmann, Gayle Lynds, Claire McNab

Fangs a Lot: All Creatures Bite and Maul—PB

Maryelizabeth Hart (M), Lee Killough, Maria Lima, Jeff Mariotte

11:50 am—1:00 pm: LUNCH BREAK**1:00 pm****Dicks with Baggage: When their Background Shapes the Story—IE**

Barbara Seranella (M), Richard Barre, Michael Connelly, T. Jefferson Parker, John Morgan Wilson

The Fuzzy Boundary between Mystery and Mainstream: The Literary Crime Novel—IW

William Kent Krueger (M), Glynn Marsh Alam, Margaret Coel, David Corbett, Lono Waiwaiole

The Little Old Lady from Pasadena: Senior Sleuths—SG

Alan Cook (M), Patricia Gebhard, Patricia Guiver, June Moffatt, Serita Stevens

Archaeological Mysteries: Digging for Dirt—PB

Aileen Baron (M), Lyn Hamilton, Susan Cummins Miller

2:00 pm**Ripped from the Headlines—IE**

Bonnie Hearn Hill (M), Stephen J. Cannell, Kelly Lange, Sarah Lovett, James C. Mitchell

Tools of the Trade: Detecting in the Pre-Modern Era—IW

Sue Feder (M), Alan Gordon, Charles O' Brien, Sharon Kay Penman, Nancy Wikarski, Patricia Wynn

LCC Book Club: Cynthia Harrod-Eagles discusses the Bill Slider series—SG Barbara Peters (M)**The Modern PI: Still the Last Lone Seeker of Truth?—PB**

Ed Goldberg (M), Steve Oliver, John Shannon, Bob Stevens, David J. Walker

LIGHTS! CAMERA! **MURDER!**

Friday (Cont'd)

3:00 pm

LA Beyond the Sunshine and the Oranges: A Paradise of Darkness—IE

Taffy Cannon (M), Jan Burke, Elizabeth M. Cosin, Robert Crais, T. Jefferson Parker, April Smith

Hot Sex & Cold Crime: Romantic Suspense—IW

Alan Russell (M), Donna Anders, Shawna Delacorte, Lisa Jackson, Linda O. Johnston, Linda Wisdom

Bless Her Heart, She Didn't Mean to Kill Him: Southern Mysteries—SG

Malinda Hall (M), Tess Collins, Chloe Green, Toni L. P. Kelner

Forgotten Gems: Lesser Known Authors From the Past—PB

Robert Weibezahl (M), Randal Brandt, DL Browne, Len Moffatt, William F. Nolan, Domenic Stansberry

4:00 pm

Modern Noir: Having Fun with Despair and Deception—IE

Robert Ferrigno (M), Kent Braithwaite, Gary Phillips, Ray Shannon, Roger L. Simon

Black and White and Dead All Over: Reporter Sleuths—IW

Eddie Muller (M), Denise Hamilton, Rick Mofina, Carolyn J. Rose, Penny Warner

Killing with Kindness: The Mean Streets of Suburbia—SG

Lora Roberts (M), Kathleen Delaney, Earlene Fowler, Jonnie Jacobs, Dolores Johnson, Valerie Wolzien

First Do No Harm: Medical Mysteries—PB

DP Lyle (M), Eileen Dreyer, Chris Holmes, Bette Golden Lamb, J.J. Lamb

7:00 pm: MEXICAN BUFFET

MOVIE LOUNGE

Suite 201 Upstairs

Refreshments

Saturday 9 am—5 pm

7 pm - *Chinatown*

Saturday 9 am—5 pm

7 pm - Surprise Movie Classic

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Saturday, March 1

9:00 am

No Polygraphs Needed: Detecting When Someone Is Lying—IE Jack Trimarco

Who's Wearing the White Hat?: Heroes vs. Anti-Heroes—IW

Domenic Stansberry (M), Michael Collins, David Corbett, Robert Ellis, Thomas Perry

Death on an Unpaved Road: Environmental Mysteries—SG

Bonnie J. Cardone (M), David Dun, CJ Box, John Billheimer, Stan Jones, Megan Mallory Rust

Selling Yourself Right: The Art of Subtle Promotion—PB

Don Bruns (M), Maggie Griffin, William Manchee, Stephanie Shea, Megan Underwood

10:00 am

Cops vs. Coppers: Yanks & Brits Duke It Out—IE

Adrian Muller (M), Paul Bishop, Robin Burcell, Cynthia Harrod-Eagles, Stuart Pawson

Not For Writers Only: Enhancing Creativity and Getting in the Flow—IW Taylor Smith (M), Susan K. Perry

LCC Book Club: Gary Phillips discusses *The Perpetrators*—SG Tom Fassbender & Jim Pascoe (M)

Authors to Watch: Reviewers' Picks—PB

Ed Goldberg (M), Gaylene Chesnut, Jenifer Nightingale, Maddy Van Hertbruggen, Robert Weibezahl

11:00 am

A Chat With Liz Devine: The Inside Scoop on *CSI*—IE DP Lyle (M)

Murder Most Funny—IW

Rhys Bowen (M), Tim Cockey, Bill Fitzhugh, Ben Rehder, Brian M. Wiprud

Kick-Ass Broads: Tough Dames with Unusual Jobs—SG

Donna Andrews (M), Sue Henry, Skye K. Moody, Megan Mallory Rust, Barbara Seranella

The Good Old Days: Why Write About the Past? - PB

Sheree Petree (M), Jack Bludis, Carola Dunn, Ken Kuhlken, Domenic Stansberry

11:50 am—1 pm: LUNCH BREAK

1:00 pm

Barbara Peters Interviews Robert Crais in International East & West

Saturday (Cont'd)

2:00 pm

Crime Drama on TV: What Works and What Doesn't—IE

Matt Witten (M), Stephen J. Cannell, Elizabeth M. Cosin, Michael R. Perry, Thomas B. Sawyer

LCC Book Club: Sharan Newman discusses *To Wear the White Cloak*—IW Sue Feder (M)

Multiple Personalities: Writers with More Than One Series—SG

Alan Russell (M), Rhys Bowen, Jonnie Jacobs, Gillian Roberts, John Morgan Wilson

Don't Shoot the Piano Player: Mysteries & Music—PB

Hal Glatzer (M), Don Bruns, Lorie Ham, Bill Moody, Barbara Reed, Nathan Walpov

3:00 pm

How Black Is Noir?: Film Noir Then and Now—IE

Skye K. Moody (M), Steve Brewer, Dick Lochte, William F. Nolan, Kevin Burton Smith

Ms. Marple & Sherlock Holmes Weren't Getting Any: Sex in the Modern Mystery—IW

Earlene Fowler (M), Jennifer Apodaca, Cara Black, Jerrilyn Farmer, Michael Nettleton

Rebels & Rulebreakers: Protagonists (and Authors) Who Are a Little Bent—SG

Suzanne Proulx (M), Denise Dietz, Mary Jane Maffini, Kris Neri, Tim Cockey

Small Presses: Does Size Really Matter? - PB

Michael Mallory (M), Richard Barre, Tom Fassbender, Meredith Phillips, Gerald Schiller

4:00 pm

The Serious Business of Making Us Laugh: Funny Men of Mystery—IE

Victoria Heckman (M), G.M. Ford, Parnell Hall, Robert Levinson, Keith Snyder

Suspense Fiction: Those Pulsating, Pulse-Racing Reads—IW

Gayle Lynds (M), Andrew Lyons, Kit Sloane, Mark T. Sullivan, Simon Wood

Where the Wild Things Are: Supernatural Mysteries—SG

Maryelizabeth Hart (M), Katie Hamilton, Marilyn Meredith, Susan Slater, Pari Noskin Taichert

Collecting For Po' Folks: How to Break Into Collecting without Breaking the Bank—PB

Sheldon McArthur (M), Sally Cadagin, June Moffatt, Len Moffatt, Joan Montgomery

8:00 pm: DESSERT & CHARITY AUCTION

Sunday, March 2

9:00 am

A Policeman's Lot Is Not a Happy One—IE

Claire McNab (M), Robin Burcell, Dr. Raymond D. Mars, Dave Putnam, Mary Putnam

On the Road Again: Footloose Sleuths—IW

Taffy Cannon (M), Kate Flora, L.M. Lawson, Connie Shelton, Simon Wood

Foul Play: Sports Mysteries—SG

Paul Anik (M), Steve Brewer, Christine Goff, Linda Lane McCall, Michael Nettleton

Writing Workshop: The How-To's of Writing Great Flash Mysteries—PB

George M. Scott (M), Denise Baton, Michael Mallory, Margaret Searles, Tim Wohlforth

10:00 am

Down These Mean Streets: The Legacy of Raymond Chandler—IE

Woody Haut (M), Jack Bludis, Ken Kuhlken, Kevin Burton Smith, Domenic Stansberry

When Social Injustice Is the Crime: Mysteries with Social Issues—IW

Carolyn Wheat (M), Michael Allen Dymmoach, Stuart Pawson, John Shannon, Paula L. Woods

Haven't Been There, Haven't Done That: New Authors—SG

Christine Kling (M), Kit Ehrman, Claire M. Johnson, Twist Phelan, Kurt Popke, David J. Sherman

Don't Put Your Gun in the Diaper Bag: Parent Sleuths—PB

Toni L.P. Kelner (M), CJ Box, William Kent Krueger, Lora Roberts, Matt Witten

11:00 am

Writing Workshop: A Screenwriter Teaches Dialogue-Writing to Novelists—IE Mae Woods (M) Sharon Doyle

What's My Motivation: Authors Discuss the Choices They Make—IW

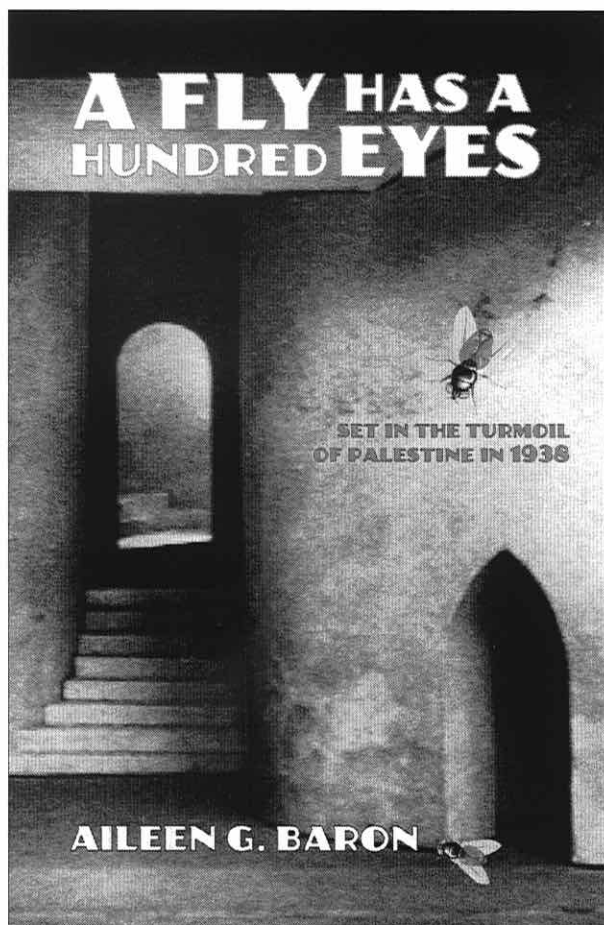
Gillian Roberts (M), Dan Barton, Joan Blacher, Alan Cook, Jimmy Olsen, Judith Smith-Levin

Dude, Where's the Body?: Mysteries for Young Adults—SG

Daniel J. Hale (M), Rodney Johnson, Gay Kinman, Marianne Mitchell

LCC BUSINESS MEETING in Santa Monica Room

“This atmospheric adventure will effortlessly transport lovers of historic mysteries to another time and place.”—BOOKLIST



A FLY HAS A HUNDRED EYES

AILEEN BARON

Set in Jerusalem in the summer of 1938, this fascinating mystery novel teems with the atmosphere of the time.

Lily Sampson, an American archaeologist, becomes embroiled in intrigue when an important member of her dig is murdered and a blue amphoriskos (a vial about 3 1/2" long) is missing. Lily tries to solve the murder—endangering her own life—as well as find whoever stole this rare artifact.

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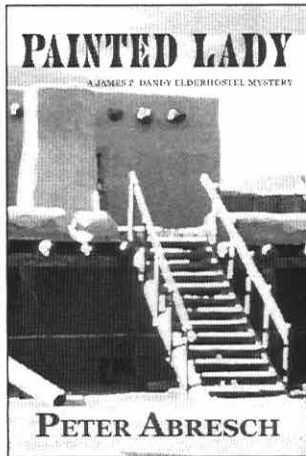
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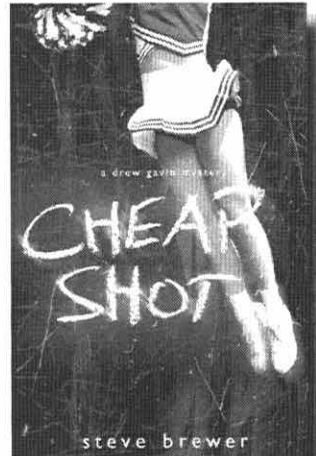


Painted Lady
A James P. Dandy Mystery
 by Peter Abresch

Did watching a woman jump to her death sound like a fun way to start an Elderhostel? Not to Jim Dandy. Not when it piqued the curiosity of lady love, artist Dodee Swisher. So it was good they motored off on the Santa Fe Trail Elderhostel. But then it turned out the woman was an American Indian shaman. And had been murdered.

Hardbound, 5½" x 8¼", 285 pages, ISBN 1-890768-47-2, \$24.95

Available March 2003

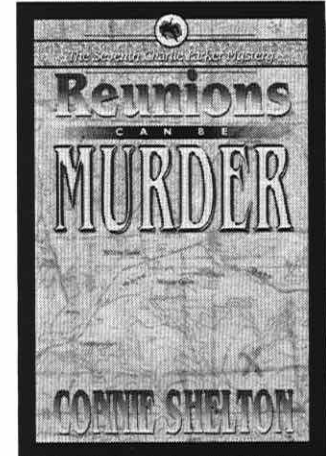


Cheap Shot
A Drew Gavin Mystery
 by Steve Brewer

A phone call in the middle of the night brings Albuquerque Gazette Sports Editor Drew Gavin to the aid of his friend and reporter Curtis White, who has awoken beside a brutally murdered cheerleader. Unable to recall anything from the night before, Curtis swears he's innocent, and Drew believes him.

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 by Connie Shelton

Charlie Parker gets a case all her own when an ill-tempered matriarch hires her to find her elderly, eccentric father, who's gone missing just weeks before the all-important family reunion. Charlie soon finds that the old man was on the trail to a cavern of vast riches known only as local legend: the Lost Dutchman Mine.

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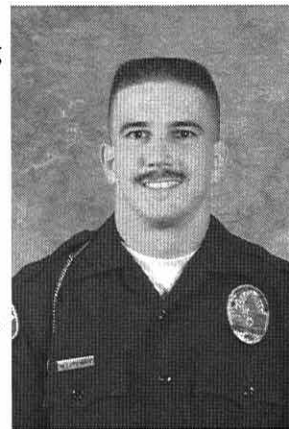
FEATURED SPEAKERS

Sergeant Mark B. Goodman has served with the City of Pasadena Police Department since 1994 in a variety of positions including Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Special Enforcement Section Officer, and Detective. He currently supervises patrol officers assigned to the department's canine and equestrian programs.

While assigned to the Detective Section, Sgt. Goodman investigated a variety of crimes, and served as the president of the Foothill Burglary Investigators Association. This group is responsible for identifying burglary and other crime trends in the greater San Gabriel Valley.

He also has experience investigating gang related incidents and street level narcotics and has served on the department's Critical Incident Response Team.

Sgt. Goodman earned a BS in Criminal Justice Administration at California State University, Los Angeles, and has an advanced POST certificate.



Elizabeth Devine brings years of experience in true life sleuthing to TV's popular series *CSI* and *CSI: Miami*. Currently a writer, producer and technical consultant, Devine began her career as a criminalist in the Narcotics section of the LA County Sheriff's Department. In 1986, she transferred to Serology then became a crime scene investigator.

She has worked on some of the city's high profile murder cases, including investigations of racing great Mickey Thompson and the Menendez Brothers. For her work on the Universal CityWalk murder case, Devine received the department's Meritorious Service Medal. In 1998, she was promoted to Supervising Criminalist, taking charge of the Narcotics section before heading up the CSI program and co-supervising the lab's DNA unit. In addition, Devine has provided field-work training for the LAPD, LASD, and Department of Justice in homicide investigation, sexual assault investigation and crime scene reconstruction. After 15 years with the LASD, Devine retired as their most experienced CSI and their leading crime scene reconstruction expert.

In 2000, she joined the production staff of *CSI* as a technical consultant. In the first season of the hit drama, Devine received story credit on two of the highest-rated episodes and wrote a third, all based on real-life murder cases ("Blood Drops," "Table Stakes," and "Too Tough to Die"). She co-wrote three episodes during the second season then became executive story editor. She remains a technical consultant on the show though she has moved on to the post of Consulting Producer for its spin-off series, *CSI: Miami*.

Sharon Elizabeth Doyle began her writing career in children's theater. She broke into television at PBS where she won many awards for shows "that twelve people and her mother saw." She moved to LA and wrote a spec script for *Cagney and Lacey* to get an agent. It was rejected by agents but accepted by *Cagney and Lacey*. She wrote episodes of *21 Jump Street* and other popular series then branched into TV movies (*Stolen Babies*, *Sins of the Mind*, *When Danger Follows You Home*). For the last two years, she was writer-producer for *Nero Wolfe* on A&E. She loved using the English language again and discovered why staff writers make big bucks--they never sleep. She teaches at USC School of Cinema and lives in Sierra Madre with her husband, three children, seven cockatiels, autocratic cat and maladjusted dog.





Jack Trimarco served as the Polygraph Unit Chief of the LA office of the FBI from 1990 until his retirement in 1998. During this 21 years as an FBI agent, he conducted over 1,100 polygraph examinations. He has also worked as a psychological profiler providing analysis of suspected offenders and threat assessments as well as trial strategies and expert testimony.

Trimarco's high profile cases included investigations of the Unibomber, TWA Flight 800, the assassination of DEA Agent Enrique Camarena in Mexico, the bombing of PanAm Flight 103, Dr. Wen Ho Lee espionage case, Oklahoma City bombing, LAPD Ramparts scandal and the World Trade Center bombing.

Today, Trimarco is recognized as an expert in the field of interviewing and interrogation. He has also taught hostage negotiation, defensive tactics, firearms and homicide investigation. He has conducted training sessions for the FBI Academy, CIA, INS, US Attorneys Office, US Department of Justice, American Polygraph Association, California Association of Polygraph Examiners and the Department of Defense Polygraph Institute.

He currently lives in Camarillo and works as a certified polygraph examiner and private investigator.

Susan K. Perry is the author of *Writing in Flow: Keys to Enhanced Creativity*. The popular writing handbook contains inspiring interviews with 76 best-selling authors, including Jonathan Kellerman, Faye Kellerman, Sue Grafton, and Michael Connelly. She is currently working on a sequel, *Loving in Flow*.

A social psychologist, Perry has written more than 800 articles, essays, reviews, and advice columns for such publications as *Psychology Today*, *Writer's Digest*, *Journaling*, *USA Today*, *LA Times*, *Child*, *Billboard*, *Woman's World*, *Seventeen*, and *Muscle Media*. She is a longtime contributing editor for *Valley* and United Parenting Publications and also reviews writing books for *The ASJA Monthly*.

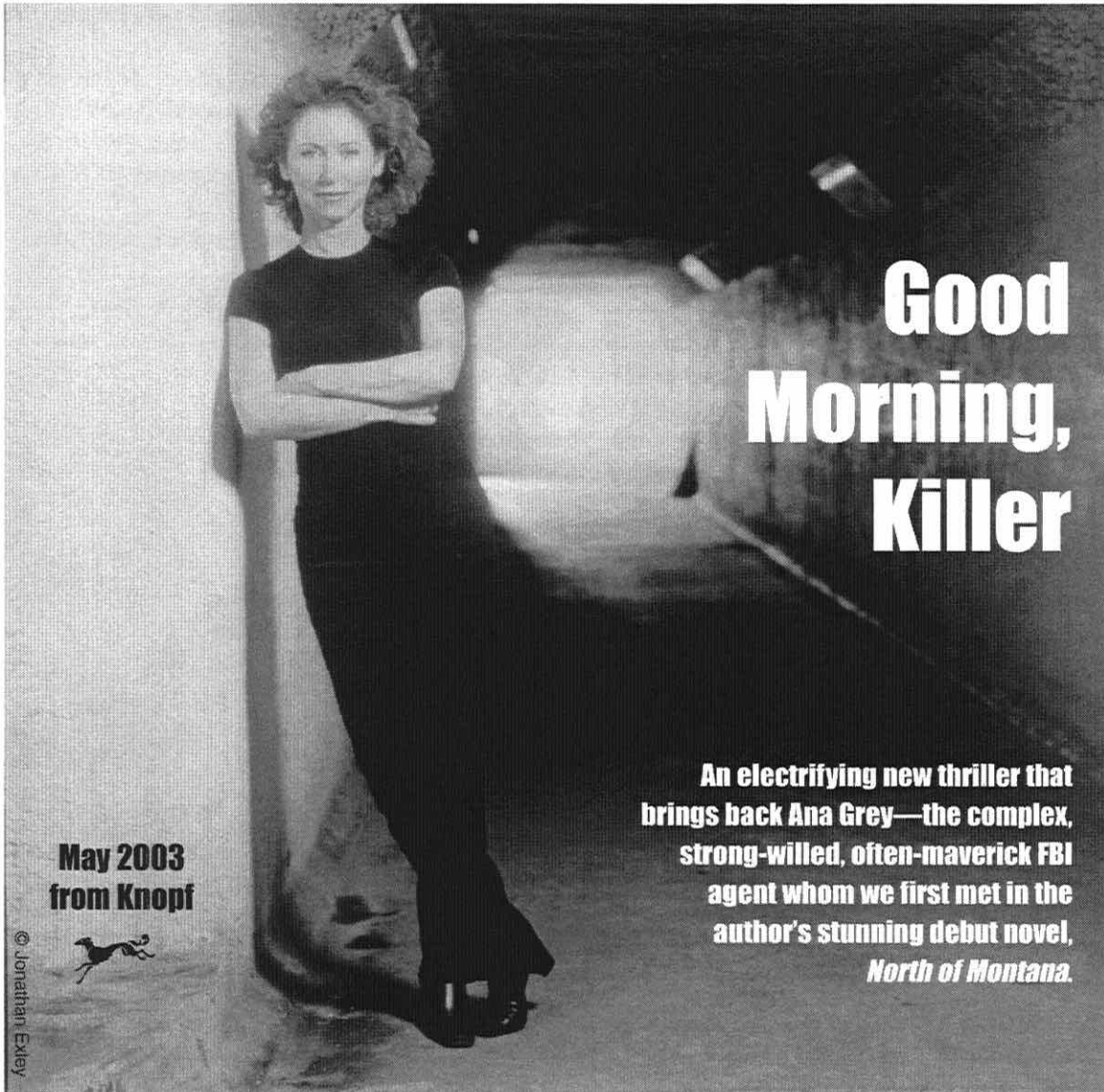
Perry is a sought-after speaker on topics related to writing and psychology. She has taught writing at UCLA Extension, UC Irvine, Cal State University Fullerton, Santa Monica College, and Glendale Community College. She regularly teaches courses for the *Writer's Digest* online program.

Her website (www.BunnyApe.com) contains excerpts from her work, as well as an Expert Q&A column about writing.



Amy Walsh heads Provenance Research at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) and is co-author of *The AAM Guide to Provenance Research*, the authoritative research manual for the field. For the past three years, she has been responsible for researching LACMA's collection to determine if any of the objects legally acquired by the museum had previously been appropriated by the Nazis. Last year, as a result of her research, LACMA returned to Poland a rare Persian tapestry. Walsh received her Ph.D. from Columbia University with a specialization in Dutch and Flemish painting. She has published numerous articles on art and the history of collecting. She's worked for the Metropolitan Museum in New York, the Getty Museum, and the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena. She is now completing the scholarly catalogue of the Norton Simon's collection of Northern European paintings.

From **April Smith**
Author *North of Montana* and *Be the One*



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ABOUT THE BIOGRAPHIES

The editors wanted to make the biography section of the program book entertaining as well as informative. We sent a questionnaire to our panelists asking about their non-writing jobs, favorite pastimes, funniest moments, favorite villains, and a few other probing questions. We hoped their responses would be amusing and also give readers insight into their lives. Many writers threw themselves into the assignment with gusto. We've quoted from their responses in the bios that follow, but space limitations forced us to greatly pare down the material. We'd like to share some of it and give an overview of the answers.

Previous career/Funniest moment: These are choice, and we've integrated most responses into the bios.

Favorite moment as an author: These were remarkably similar, so we cut most of them. Everyone said: their first publishing deal, first seeing their books in the store, first book signing, receiving nominations and awards, climbing up the best seller list.

Advice to aspiring writers: This was the one dud question. Almost everyone answered it sincerely, urging new writers to work every day, to accept rejection as a part of the business and to be persistent. We 86'd those and only used a few unusual responses.

Favorite mystery book or author: Most folks were unwilling to commit to one choice, and there's a great range of selections. Some also felt they didn't want to slight friends and fellow attendees.

Favorite opening/closing sentence: Receiving the most mentions was the evocative first line in *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier ("Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again."); James Crumley's colorful opening punch in *The Last Good Kiss* ("When I finally caught up Abraham Trahearne, he was drinking beer with an alcoholic bulldog named Fireball Roberts in a ramshackle joint just outside of Sonoma, California, drinking the heart right out of a fine spring afternoon."); and Raymond Chandler's oft-quoted passage in *Red Wind* ("There was a desert wind blowing that night. It was one of those hot dry Santa Anas that come down through the mountain passes and curl your hair and make your nerves jump and your skin itch. On nights like that every booze party ends in a flight. Meek little wives feel the edge of the carving knife and study their husbands' necks. Anything can happen.") Also cited by a few was Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* for both opening and closing lines.

Favorite pastime: Well, of course, it's READING. What were we thinking?

Favorite murder method: This question produced some gems. Cited most often was the use of a frozen leg of lamb as a murder weapon from "Lamb to the Slaughter" by Roald Dahl televised as an *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*. Two writers selected "death by questionnaire."

Favorite villain: Hands down, our authors love Hannibal Lecter. The name came up so frequently, we didn't know how to credit it. Professor Moriarty came in second. Several folks picked Iago—and President George W. Bush.

Because Left Coast Crime attracts the best comic minds in the mystery-writing world, the questionnaires provided entertaining reading. We hope you'll enjoy getting to know them on the following pages and stop by the dealers room to discover their books.

Editors:
Mae Woods
Suzanne Epstein
Paul Anik

PANEL PARTICIPANTS



Glynn Marsh Alam is known as the originator of "swamp noir" fiction. Her Luanne Fogarty mystery series (*Dive Deep and Deadly*, *Deep Water Death*) features a female scuba diver in North Florida. Last year she also published a literary/mainstream novel *River Whispers*. She is the English department

chair at Los Angeles High School where she teaches English literature. She has contributed stories to *Back Porch*, *Thema Magazine* and the Sisters in Crime/LA anthology *Murder by Thirteen*.

Favorite murder method: Snake bite. In a swamp, who's to know if it's planted or accidental?

Current project: *Cold Water Corpse* (Spring 2003)

Webpage: www.avocetpress.com



Donna Anders is the author of 11 novels, including recent psychological thriller *In All the Wrong Places*. Her published works cover a wide range of genres—historicals, juvenile mysteries, serials, poems and plays. Popular mystery titles include *Dead Silence*, *Another Life* and *The Flower Man*. Anders has been an instructor for the Writer's Digest School for 15

years and taught writing workshops across the country. She was awarded the Pacific Northwest Writers Conference Achievement Award in 1993. She lives in Mill Creek, WA.



Donna Andrews was born in Yorktown, Virginia, the setting of *Murder with Peacocks* and *Revenge of the Wrought Iron Flamingos*, and now lives in Reston. When not writing fiction, this former website manager is a self-proclaimed computer nerd. Andrews has two mystery series to her credit. One features ornamental blacksmith/sleuth Meg

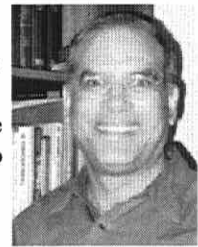
Langslow. The other, launched last year, introduced an artificial intelligence character and her human allies in *You've Got Murder*. Sequel *Click Here for Murder* comes out in May.

Last published book: *Crouching Buzzard, Leaping Loon*

Funniest moment as an author: A store signing where my books hadn't arrived yet. We told anyone who came that we'd already sold out.

Webpage: <http://donnaandrews.com>

Paul Anik has been a business transactions attorney for over 20 years. He now specializes in representing computer software companies. An avid collector of mystery books, he is co-Founder of We're Dying To Meet You, a mystery book club in the Los Angeles area. He is a member of the planning committee of Left Coast Crime 13.



Funniest moment with an author: When Gary Phillips, a guest speaker at my mystery book club, solicited bets as to when I would fall asleep. (I had just completed a 10-hour flight from London.)

Any other comment: May my daughter and son get hooked on reading mysteries.

Jennifer Apodaca writes humorous, cozy mysteries with a splash of romance. With the encouragement of her husband, she went back to college after their three sons were born and pursued a writing career. Her first fiction project was a straightforward romance "but dead bodies and quirky humor turned up with alarming regularity." So she gave in to her natural instincts and has produced two novels featuring Samantha Shaw: *Dating Can Be Murder* and *Dying to Meet You*. She's currently at work on her third book.



Webpage: www.jenniferapodaca.com

Deborah (Debby) Turrell Atkinson spent ten years as a pharmaceutical representative for Eli Lilly in Hawaii which led her to many remote areas of the Islands. The folklore she learned now shows up in her novels. She retired when her first son was born and now writes mysteries (*Primitive Secrets*), short stories (anthology *Strong Currents*) and articles for *Island Scene Magazine*. When she needs a break from the day-to-day grind at the keyboard, she works as a substitute teacher at her children's school.



Funniest moment as an author: Interviewing experts while doing research. Try discussing the best poison to use to commit a murder with a group of doctors. They get into it! Especially if you're having dinner and a good red wine...

Favorite murder method: Poison. What does that say about me?

Webpage: www.DeborahTurrellAtkinson.com



Marisa Babjak calls her mystery style "al-dente." Her *White Lies* is not quite hard-boiled but not soft and cozy either. She's now working on the second book in her series (*The Street Where Angels Fear to Tread*) and writing a new YA skein. Mystery lovers also know Babjak for her Femmes Fatales catalog of crime-inspired gifts. Before mysteries took over her life, she worked as a computer analyst. She cites her favorite pastime as "reading mysteries on the deck of my sailboat, exotic island bound, with my own secret concoction of a Polish-Brazilian frozen Daiquiri close at hand."

Favorite mystery book: Too many to name, but I started out reading the young adult Trixie Belden mysteries, books still dear to my felonious heart.

Webpage: www.mysterygifts.biz.



Aileen G. Baron has spent her life unearthing the treasures and secrets left behind by previous civilizations. She has taught for 20 years at California State University, Fullerton, and has conducted many years of archaeological fieldwork in the Middle East. Her personal experiences on a dig in Jerusalem lend color and richness to her debut novel, *A Fly Has a Hundred Eyes*.



Richard Barre was born in Los Angeles and raised in California. He is the author of *The Innocents* (winner of the Shamus Award for best first P.I. novel), *Bearing Secrets*, *The Ghosts of Morning*, *Blackheart Highway*, *The Star*, and *Burning Moon* (which will be released in April 2003). Prior to writing crime fiction and short stories, he was a copywriter and creative director at his own advertising agency and wrote and edited travel publications. He lives in Santa Barbara with his wife, Susan.

Advice to aspiring writers: Write anyway...



Dan Barton is a professional stand-up comedian whose onstage antics seep into his clever mysteries featuring amateur sleuth/comic Biff Kincaid (*Dead Crowd*, *Heckler*, *Killer Material*). When Barton moved from Houston to LA, he wrote two suspense novels (*Banshee*, *Relife*) while pursuing acting gigs. He's appeared in feature films, TV programs, industrial videos and commercials. He now works as supervising producer of E! Entertainment's weekly series *Wild On* and performs regularly at the Comedy Store.

Favorite mystery book: *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, James M. Cain

Webpage: <http://geocities.com/biffkincaid>



Denise Baton (aka Eva Montealegre), a graphic designer, is editor-in-chief of one of the most progressive mystery magazines on the internet. MYSTERICAL-E, The E-zine for Mystery Lovers, offers original mystery stories, reviews, and interviews. Before she was whisked into cyberspace, Baton was a writer/producer on *The Shaping of America*, a series of TV spots celebrating US history. Her first short story, "The Ticket," was featured as Publisher's Choice in *Futures*.

Current project: *Criminal Insights*, a non-fiction book on-crime writing

Funniest moment as an author: When my best friend since childhood read my manuscript and said, "I had no idea you think like this. You scare me!"

Webpage: <http://welcome.to/mysterical-e>

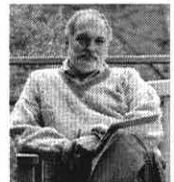
Lynnette Baughman, a former newspaper editor, is widely recognized for her best-selling espionage novel *A Spy Within*. Set in her hometown of Los Alamos, New Mexico, it draws from real WWII events. She's also the author of a light-hearted Las Vegas mystery (*Thin Disguise*) and a bioterrorism thriller (*Lost Almost*). She's a regular columnist for the *Santa Fe New Mexican* and has written features for *Reader's Digest*, *Runner's World*, and other magazines.



Favorite moment as an author: When I learned that the head librarian in my town made a recording of my first book for her blind father. Each member of her family read a chapter.

Webpage: www.newmexicoauthor.com

John Billheimer writes crime novel set in West Virginia's coal country featuring Owen Allison, "a failed failure analyst." An industrial engineer, Billheimer also works as a transportation planner. For 30 years he has served as Vice President of SYSTAN, Inc., a small consulting firm that specializes in traffic safety issues. The inspiration for his mystery series came when a research project took Billheimer into the coal fields of his home state. His first novel, *The Contrary Blues*, made *The Droid Review's* Top Ten list, and was followed by *Highway Robbery* and *Dismal Mountain*. *Drybone Hollow* comes out in April.



Funniest moment as an author: Being told by a reader that a secondary character who had a job very much like my own real-life consulting work was "a boring guy with a boring job."

Favorite villain: Caspar Gutman (*The Maltese Falcon*)

Webpage: www.johnbillheimer.com



Paul Bishop, a 23 year veteran of the LAPD, currently supervises the West LA Area Sex Crimes and Major Assault Crimes units. Twice honored as Detective of the Year, Bishop writes the edgy, humor-laced series featuring detective Fey Croaker (*Kill Me Again, Twice Dead, Tequila Mockingbird, Chalk Whispers*).

Other novels include *Shroud of Vengeance, Citadel Run, and Chapel of the Ravens*. His most recent book, *Pattern of Behavior*, is a short story collection.

Current project: Film and television scripts, *Coyote Paradise* (a Croaker book) and *The Villain's Waltz* (a stand-alone)

Funniest moment as an author: Arresting a suspect at his residence and finding one of my books on the nightstand. How odd to be reading an author before bedtime, only to have him show up the next morning to put you in jail. It would be 12 years before he got to finish the book and find out whodunit.

Favorite opening sentence: "It was a dark and stormy night." (Snoopy)

Webpage: www.BookRadio.com/Bishop

Linda Bivens, founder of Crime Time Books in Pasadena, is now a private book dealer.



Joan Blacher, a licensed psychotherapist in private practice for the past 16 years, is a former professor and co-author of *Difficult Teens: A Parents Guide for Coping*. The publication of *Murder Canyon* adds "mystery writer" to her illustrious resume which includes contributions to counseling and educational journals, magazines and newspapers. She has lectured and given workshops on psychological and educational topics throughout the United States. In addition to her membership in the American Psychological Association and Sisters in Crime, she serves on community boards that provide services to troubled children and families. She lives in Somis, CA.

She has lectured and given workshops on psychological and educational topics throughout the United States. In addition to her membership in the American Psychological Association and Sisters in Crime, she serves on community boards that provide services to troubled children and families. She lives in Somis, CA.



Cara Black's first novel, *Murder in the Marais*, launched Aimée Leduc as a computer security expert and was nominated for both an Anthony and Macavity. Leduc is currently working on her fifth investigation *Murder in the Palais Royale*. Black also has written short stories for two upcoming anthologies, *My Sherlock Holmes* and *Murder in the Bastille*. She lists her other pursuits as being a mom, a preschool director and a former cappuccino/espresso technician in a Swiss train station.

Favorite pastime: READING and hanging out in Paris -- hey, it's my job!

Favorite murder method: It varies, but right now I like electrocution a lot.

Favorite murder method: It varies, but right now I like electrocution a lot.

Webpage: www.carablack.com

Michelle Black is the author of four novels set in the Victorian West which have been finalists for the Colorado and Oklahoma Book Awards. She is also a lawyer, former bookstore owner, and publisher of Cheyenne language materials. Her most recent book, *Solomon Spring*, is the first in a series of historical mysteries. A sequel will be published in the fall. .



Current project: *The Second Glass of Absinthe*, a murder mystery is set in Leadville, Colorado, during the silver boom of 1880.

Funniest moment as an author: I walked into a bookstore hoping to sign stock. Before I had a chance to introduce myself, I was ushered to the sale table by a clerk who gleefully urged, "Check out these half-priced books. We're trying to get rid of them." My most recent release was there.

Jack Bludis has sold over 30 novels, six novellas, and almost 300 short stories using various pseudonyms in various genres. He has been an actor, a teacher, and a bartender and has worked in public relations. His Brian Kane hardboiled noir series launched with *The Big Switch*, followed by *The Deal Killer*. His current project, *New Guy on the Block*, is based on a story he wrote for the anthology *Mystery Street*. He lives in Baltimore, Maryland.



Funniest moment as an author: "What kind of books do you write," came an audience question at a signing last year. Trying to be cute, I said, "Well, I don't do cats." At which time the store owner's feline rubbed against my leg.

Rhys Bowen, author of the cleverly titled Constable Evans books, recently launched a second series featuring Irish immigrant Molly Murphy in 1901 New York City (*Murphy's Law*). A sequel, *Death of Riley*, came out last year. The Evans mysteries, set in the mountains of North Wales with a cast of loveable eccentrics, include *Evan Can Wait, Evan and Elle, Evan Help Us, Evans Above, Evanly Choirs* and *Evan's Gate*. She's written TV and radio plays and once worked as a studio manager for the BBC. She lives in San Rafael, CA.



Favorite opening sentence: "Billy Coppersmith realized he was possessed when he caught himself thinking about breasts during the Lord's Prayer." (*Murdering Ministers, Alan Beechey*)

Favorite murder method: Roald Dahl's killing with a frozen leg of lamb which was then cooked. I don't write particularly clever murder methods--I shoot 'em, hit 'em over the head or strangle 'em.

Webpage: www.rhysbowen.com



C.J. Box balances mystery writing with an executive post at Rocky Mountain International, a company that promotes tourism for five states. An avid fly-fisher, he brings his enthusiasm for the outdoors to his novels. These include *Open Season* and *Savage Run*. *Winterkill* is due out in June. He has the notable

distinction of winning the Anthony, Macavity and Barry Awards at the same time.

Favorite opening sentence: "On the third day of their honeymoon, infamous environmental activist Stewie Woods and his new bride Annabel Bellotti were spiking trees in the forest when a cow exploded and blew them up."

(*Savage Run*)

Favorite murder method: Exploding cows or death by grizzly bear.

Webpage: www.cjbox.net



Kent Braithwaite introduced savvy Mexican-American PI Jesse Ascencio in *The Wonderland Murders* in 2000. Two sequels, *Not Quite Paradise* and *Shattered Dreams*, are currently in the works. He also writes short stories, poetry and non-fiction. For over 20 years, Braithwaite has been a teacher at Coachella Valley High School where he has served as department

chairman and president of the local teachers' union. He also teaches mystery writing at California State University, Northridge.

Favorite Mystery Book: Ross Macdonald's *Black Money*. It is somewhat of an updated *Great Gatsby* set against the social milieu of Southern California in the 1960s. In many ways, I believe it can be argued that F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* is the finest crime novel ever written.



Randal Brandt is a librarian at Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley. An avid mystery fan, he created the official website for mystery and travel writer David Dodge (1910-1974) called A David Dodge Companion. He has also created

cyber homes for Berkeley mystery writer Mary Collins and Dell paperback cover artist Robert Stanley. Brandt compiled and edited *Golden Gate Mysteries: A Bibliography of Crime Fiction Set in the San Francisco Area*. His articles have appeared in *Mystery Readers Journal* and on The Thrilling Detective website.

Webpage: www.lib.berkeley.edu/~rbrandt/
A David Dodge Companion: <http://www.david-dodge.com/>

Steve Brewer has spent 22 years as a journalist for newspapers and the Associated Press. He currently writes a syndicated weekly humor column, "The Home Front," as well as two mystery series. He's published six books featuring private eye Bubba Mabry (most recently *Crazy Love*) and two starring sportswriter Drew Gavin (*Cheap Shot*). His most recent publication is a humor book, *Trophy Husband: A Survival Guide to Working at Home*. Several books are in the pipeline for 2003, including *Boost*, a crime novel about a car thief.



Webpage: www.intriguepress.com

D.L. Browne writes under several pen names, including Colin Dunne, Diana Killian and Louise Harris. She worked as operations manager for a security company before finding a career in fiction. She now runs iUniverse's official Mystery & Suspense Community and manages the Wicked Company discussion list and writing group. She also works as an editor and reviewer. She contributes regularly to The Thrilling Detective website as well as I Love A Mystery. Browne is currently working on a mystery set in England's Lake District.



Last published book: *The Art of Dying* (as Diana Killian)

Favorite mystery author: Leslie Ford. I'm a huge fan of mysteries from the '30s and '40s.

Webpage: www.girl-detective.net

Sinclair Browning writes the Trade Ellis mystery series featuring an engaging Arizona woman who's "part Apache, part rancher and all private eye." Before becoming a writer, Browning has worked as a political consultant, real estate broker, banker, horse trainer, and travel agent. Last year she published a nonfiction anthology (*Feathers Brush My Heart*) and completed two Ellis titles (*Crack Shot* and *Tragedy Ann*, due out in October).



Current project: *The Bolt Hole*, a stand-alone suspenser

Favorite pastime: riding her horses

Webpage: www.sinclairbrowning.com

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Don Brun is a former advertising writer, musician and songwriter. He draws on his many years on the road for his mystery series featuring Mick Sever, an entertainment journalist who covers the rock and roll scene (*Jamaica Blue*). Brun lives in Lima, Ohio, but frequently travels to the Caribbean to get material for his songs and books. He recently released a CD of original music called "Last Flight Out." He is currently working on his second novel.

Funniest moment as an author: Being mistaken for Michael Connelly. We look nothing alike.

Webpage: www.don-bruns.com



Robin Burcell has been a police officer since 1983. She is also the department's forensic artist, trained at the FBI's Quantico HQ. She has worked as a detective, criminal investigator, fingerprint examiner, patrol officer, and as a member of the Hostage Negotiation Team. Her first book, *When Midnight Comes*, was a finalist for both the Romance Writers of

America's Golden Heart for Historical and Best First Book. Burcell currently writes a police procedural mysteries featuring San Francisco PD Homicide Inspector Kate Gillespie. She lives in Northern California with her husband, three children, and Dinky the neighborhood cat.

Last published book: *Deadly Legacy* (2003)

Favorite villain: The ladies in the play "Arsenic and Old Lace."

Webpage: www.robinburcell.com



Jan Burke is the Edgar-winning author of *Bones*, *Flight*, and most recently *Nine*, which has been optioned for film. Her mystery series, featuring Southern California newspaper reporter Irene Kelly, also includes *Goodnight, Irene*, *Sweet Dreams, Irene*, *Dear Irene*, and *Remember Me, Irene*. A collection of her short stories, *18*, was recently published.

Burke is a past president of the SoCal Chapter of MWA and has served on the National Board and contributed to its handbook, *Writing Mysteries*. She and her husband, Tim, share their Long Beach home with their two dogs, Cappy and Britches.

Webpage: www.janburke.com

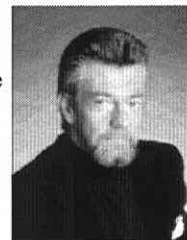


Sally Cadagin is a retired math teacher and fan reviewer for Poisoned Pen Press and Sue Feder's Historical Mystery Appreciation Society (HMAS). She lives in Springfield, Illinois.

Favorite author: Jan Burke

Favorite opening sentence: "They found the dead fellow in London, balled up in a basket of eels. Chewed upon he was, and most unsightly." (*Honor's Kingdom*, Owen Parry)

Stephen J. Cannell, one of Pasadena's favorite sons, sold his first story idea to *Mission: Impossible* in 1966. Then there was no stopping him. He went on to write and produce some of America's favorite TV shows. It's a long list: *The Rockford Files*, *Baa Baa Black Sheep*, *Richie Brockelman*, *Tenspeed and Brown Shoe*, *The Greatest American Hero*, *The A-Team*, *Hardcastle and McCormick*, *Hunter*, *21 Jump Street*, *Wiseguy*, *Booker PI*, *The Commish*, and *Scene of the Crime*. After making an indelible mark on TV, he returned to his first love—the printed word—and has written a diverse array of thrillers, including *The Devil's Workshop*, *The Plan*, *Riding the Snake*, *King Con*, *The Tin Collector*, *Final Victim*, *Hollywood Tough*. He is currently working on a film version of *21 Jump Street* and his fourth Shane Scully mystery, *Vertical Coffin*.



Previous career before becoming a writer: I worked for my father in the furniture business. I was 21, married, and just out of college. I drove his trucks, worked in accounting and managed his warehouse. However, when I got home every night at five-thirty, I wrote for five hours. My wife served dinner at ten-thirty. (I'm still married after 39 years of that schedule... Go figure.)

Funniest moment as an author: Being asked to autograph a pair of A-Team boxer shorts. I didn't know they existed... and I own the merchandizing rights to the show.

Webpage: www.cannell.com www.cannellbooks.com

Taffy Cannon lists *Jeopardy!* contestant, carnival barker, social worker, substitute teacher and professional feminist among her many callings before becoming a mystery writer. She has authored several contemporary amateur sleuth sagas (*Open Season on Lawyers*, *Guns and Roses*) and a travel mystery series (*Murder Will Travel*). She completed *The Tumbleweed Murders* for the late Rebecca Rothenberg. She lives in Carlsbad, CA.



Current project: The third *Booked for Travel* mystery.

Webpage: www.TaffyCannon.com



Bonnie J. Cardone was an editor/writer/photographer for *Skin Diver Magazine* for 22 years. She's written more than 900 articles and two mystery novels. She is co-author of *Shipwrecks of Southern California* and editor/author of *Fireside Diver*, an anthology of underwater adventure stories.

Cardone was named Woman Diver of the Year in 1999 and is one of the first women inducted into the Women Divers Hall of Fame. She currently serves as editor of the Sisters in Crime national newsletter.

Webpage: www.bonniejcardone.com



Claire Carmichael (aka Claire McNab), a former president of Sisters in Crime, balances a busy schedule writing two mystery series and teaching. One series features Sydney-based Detective Inspector Carol Ashton (most recent title, *Accidental Murder*); the other depicts the thrilling adventures of Australian undercover agent Denise Cleever (*Murder Undercover*,

Death Understood, *Out of Sight*, *Recognition Factor*). Carmichael now lives in Los Angeles and teaches in the UCLA Extension Writers Program. She was the recipient of the Outstanding Instructor Award in 1998.

Favorite opening sentence: "Last night I dreamt I went to Manderly again..." (*Rebecca*, Daphne du Maurier)

Favorite murder method: Black & Decker power drill



Gaylene Chesnut is the co-owner of Whodunit? Mystery Bookstore in Winnipeg. She and her business partner, Henrietta Wilde, especially enjoy championing "wonderful Canadian mystery writers who are not published in the US." In ten years

of business, the store has grown to a stock of over 7,000 new and used books and publishes a newsletter (*The Missing Clue*). Whodunit? also carries modern British first editions and many American works.

Webpage: www.whodunitcanada.com

Carl E. Coan is a health care professional and an amateur mystery book collector. As CEO of the oldest non-profit community clinic in Los Angeles serving a low-income population, he is particularly interested in hard-edged novels which address social issues. He began reading mysteries more than 20 years ago but became a serious reader and collector in the early 1990s. His interest centers around LA writers and stories. He is a member of the Left Coast Crime 13 planning committee, and co-founder of We're Dying to Meet You, a mystery book club.



Tim Cockey wanted to get published a second time ever since the fifth grade when a poem of his appeared in the school literary magazine. Toward that end he majored in English ("which he speaks very good"), embarked on an extensive collection of unfinished short stories, wrote a novel, then turned it into a screenplay which caught the interest of Sundance Institute, "thus waylaying him from novel writing for the many years he chased after the elusive movie dream." When he came to his senses, he began writing his wickedly droll "hearse series" featuring bon vivant Baltimore undertaker Hitchcock Sewell. *The Hearse Case Scenario* was nominated for the Left Award. Cockey lives in New York City.



Previous career before becoming a writer: Ad sales. Managing a farmer's market. Publicity Director for an opera company. The usual stuff.

Favorite villain: Well that would have to be my mother, wouldn't it? Isn't that everyone's answer?

webpage: www.timcockey.com

Margaret Coel began her writing career as a newspaper reporter. Her mystery series, set on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming, features Jesuit priest John O'Malley and Arapaho attorney Vicky Holden. Most recent book is *The Shadow Dancer* with *Killing Raven* due out in September. She says, "Writing mysteries is the most fun I've ever had. My only regret is that I didn't start sooner, say at about age five."



Funniest moment as an author: At a book signing, two people got into an argument about what my characters should do. I wanted to say, Get a grip—they're not real.

Webpage: www.margaretcoel.com

David Cole is the author of the part-Hopi cybersleuth Laura Winslow series (*Scorpion Rain*, *Stalking Moon*, *The Killing Maze*, *Butterfly Lost*). He admits that the inspiration for many of his plots and characters came from personal experiences as a political activist. In 1994 he co-founded NativeWeb



(www.nativeweb.org), an internet non-profit corporation for Native Americans and indigenous peoples of the world. He is currently working on a non-fiction, sociological study of hate crimes and community healing based on the 1998 murder of James Byrd in Jasper, Texas. Cole lives in Syracuse, NY, with anthropologist Deborah Pellow and four cats.

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Michael Collins (aka Dennis Lynds) has been spinning edgy Dan Fortune tales since 1967. The series numbers 20 books, including *Fortune's World*, a collection of stories spanning from 1963 to 2000. His

most recent novel, *The Cadillac Cowboy*, features a new protagonist "whose name may or may not be Ford Morgan." Collins has won the MWA Edgar and the Marlowe Lifetime Achievement Award from MWA's SoCal Chapter. He is currently working on a thriller, and a new collection from Crippen & Landru featuring his early magazine series character Slot-Machine Kelly. He lives in Santa Barbara with his wife, best-selling novelist Gayle Lynds.

Webpage: www.Dennislynds.com



Tess Collins was raised in a southeastern Kentucky town and spent her early years listening to mountain tales of haunted hollows, ghosts, moonshiners and unsolved murders. No doubt they influenced her writing. She is the author of three thrillers set in Appalachia (*The Law of Revenge*, *The Law of the Dead*, and *The Law of Betrayal*) and three plays. She has published articles on writing for *Byline Magazine* and *The Writer*. She currently lives in San Francisco where she is the manager of the Curran Theatre.

Funniest moment as an author: One of my high school teachers coming to a book signing and flirting with me. The funny thing is I had the biggest crush on him in high school. Now the tables were turned.

Favorite opening sentence: "Maybe if I had loved her less there would have been no murder." (*Man and Wife*, Andrew Klavan)

Webpage: www.tesscollins.com



Michael Connelly first walked the crime beat as a reporter in Florida. He moved west to work for the *LA Times*. His first novel, *The Black Echo*, was based on a true case and introduced LAPD Detective Hieronymus Bosch. It won the Edgar for best first novel. Connelly continued the series with *The Black Ice*, *The Concrete Blonde*, *The*

Last Coyote, *Trunk Music*, *Angels Flight*, *A Darkness More than Night*, and *City of Bones*. His 1998 non-series thriller *Blood Work* was filmed by Clint Eastwood last year. The author ventured into TV in 2000 as one of the creators of *Level 9*, a cyber crime skein on UPN. Connelly currently serves as President of the MWA. He lives with his wife and daughter in Florida.

Last published book: *Chasing the Dime* (2002)

Current project: *Lost Light* (April 2003)

Webpage: www.michaelconnelly.com

Alan Cook is the author of *Catch a Falling Knife* and *Thirteen Diamonds*, mystery novels set in a North Carolina retirement community where the residents are anything but retiring. His other books include *Walking to Denver* and *Freedom's Light: Quotations from History's Champions of Freedom*. The Buffalo native is also a pioneer in the computer industry who worked for IBM when it introduced the first commercial product. He has worked with computers in management, technical and sales capacities for over 25 years. He's a former president of Southwest Manuscripters, a Los Angeles writers' group founded in 1949, and has also served as president of Peninsula Friends of the Library for the Palos Verdes Library District in Southern California.



Current project: "Aces and Knives" (temporarily available for free download from his website)

Favorite murder method: death from food allergy

Webpage: <http://alancook.50megs.com>

Rick Copp was a Children's Television Development Executive in New York before getting his big break as a staff writer on *The Golden Girls*. He wrote episodes of other popular series (*Wings*, *Dream On*) then began developing new shows. He co-created and executive produced the syndicated action adventure series *Team Knight Rider*, the CBS detective pilot *Homewood, P.I.* starring Tony Danza, and the cable sci-fi film *The Adventures of Captain Zoom in Outer Space*. His first novel, *The Actor's Guide to Murder*, will be published in November.



Current project: *The Actor's Guide to Adultery* (2004)

Favorite opening sentence: "I probably shouldn't have given my phone number to the guy who pumped my stomach." (*Postcards from the Edge*, Carrie Fisher)

Webpage: www.rickcopp.com

David Corbett grew up in Columbus, Ohio, and spent his college years as a musician and comedian. He spent 13 years as a private investigator for a large San Francisco firm where he worked on several high-profile cases (the Cotton Club Murder, the People's Temple Trial, and the Michael Jackson case). His gumshoe career now enlivens his mystery writing. He's the author of *The Devil's Redhead* and the upcoming *Done For A Dime*.



Favorite pastime: Downhill voodoo

Favorite villain: Dick Cheney

Webpage: www.davidcorbettauthor.com

Elizabeth M. Cosin, a former journalist, broke into mystery fiction in 1999 with a fresh, new series featuring Santa Monica-based femme PI Zen Moses (*Zen and the Art of Murder* and *Zen and the City of Angels*). Characterized as "Sue Grafton meets Raymond Chandler" by Ingram, the series continues with *Zen Justice* (2003). Cosin has written for several prime-time television dramas, including *Buddy Faro*, *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*, *24*, and *Dragnet*. She lives in Los Angeles.



Shawna Delacorte (aka Sharon Dennison) worked in television as a production manager before she became a writer. She began with non-fiction magazine articles combined with photography then tackled a full-length romantic suspense novel. By 1994 she was writing full time. Delacorte recently moved from LA to Kansas where

she also teaches fiction writing at Wichita State University.

Last Published Book: *At the Tycoon's Command* (2003)

Webpage: www.charlequin.com

Kathleen Delaney (see Kathleen Delaney Koppang)



Denise (Deni) Dietz describes her mystery sub-genre as "witty psychological thrillers with no socially redeeming values whatsoever." Her first novel, *Throw Darts at a Cheesecake*, was inspired by her part-time job as a Weight

Watchers lecturer. Deitz hit the bestseller list with *Footprints in the Butter*. She has written several historical romances and collaborated on a book (*Finding Bess*) with her husband, Gordon Aalborg.

Funniest moment as an author: I have a vanity license plate that says: ADVANCE. When people ask if I bought my car with my book advance, I reply, "No, the license plate."

Favorite villain: The Wicked Witch in *The Wizard of Oz*.

Webpage: www.denisedietz.com



Deborah Donnelly's resume includes a motley assortment of jobs -- nanny, librarian, corporate speechwriter and sci-fi writer. She entered the mystery field with *Veiled Threats*. The humorous novel introduced Seattle wedding planner Carnegie Kincaid who works out of a houseboat and has a

flair for flowers, cakes and mysterious corpses. Donnelly's most recent offering is *Died to Match*.

Favorite mystery book or author: The Bill Slider series by Cynthia Harrod-Eagles.

Webpage: www.deborahdonnelly.org

Eileen Dreyer credits her on-the-job training as a trauma nurse as a valuable research tool for her medical suspense mysteries. She's also studied forensic nursing and graduated from Tactical EMS School for SWAT team medics.



It's no surprise that her two series sleuths parallel her own career interests. Maggie O'Brien (*With a Vengeance*) is a SWAT medic, and Molly Burke (*Head Games*) is a trauma nurse/death investigator.

Favorite opening sentence: "I was trapped in a house with a lawyer, a bare-breasted woman, and a dead man. The rattlesnake in the paper bag only complicated matters." (*Fat Tuesday*, Earl Emerson)

Favorite murder method: One I got from a friend in ICU: Paralyze the victim with tubocurine (so they're still awake and can watch), then insert a 16 gauge needle into the person's left ventricle and let him bleed out. (Do you really think nurses are the most compassionate people out there? I get my best murders from them.)

Webpage: www.eileendreyer.com

David Dun, a native of Washington, now makes his home on the north coast of California. By day, he is a practicing attorney who represents family corporations. By night, he is a best-selling mystery writer with two books on the shelf and two in the works. Dun made his debut in 2001 with *Necessary Evil* followed by *At The Edge. Overfall*, an adventure thriller featuring an anti-terrorist expert, will be published in April 2003.



Favorite mystery book or author: Nelson DeMille

Webpage: www.daviddun.com

Carola Dunn has written 11 Daisy Dalrymple mysteries set in England in the 1920s. The most recent, *Mistletoe and Murder*, was published last Christmas. Her current book, *Die Laughing*, features the "crime of everyone's dream: killing a dentist." Before embarking on a mystery career, she worked in construction, market research, childcare, building design and as a textbook proof-reader. One of her early literary jobs was writing definitions for a dictionary of science and technology.



Advice to aspiring writers: Talent, Luck, Persistence: you need at least 2 of the 3 to succeed, and the only one you control is Persistence.

Webpage: www.geocities.com/CarolaDunn/

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Michael Allen Dymmoch lives and works in Chicago's northern suburbs, where she writes the John Thinner/Jack Caleb mystery series. She's a past president of the Midwest Chapter of Mystery Writers of America and a former newsletter editor for the Chi-

cagoland chapter of Sister in Crime. Her books include *The Death of Blue Mountain Cat*, *Incendiary Designs* and *The Feline Friendship*. She is currently working on the fourth book in this police procedural/amateur sleuth series.

Favorite murder method: .357 Magnum

Favorite villain: Iago



Kit Ehrman was working for the government and attending college when she stumbled across Dick Francis's *In The Frame*. She went on to read all his mysteries, then quit her job, chucked college and went to work at a Maryland horse farm. She became barn manager, worked at the race-track for a brief time, then moved to a breeding farm where she helped deliver foals. During the "mental down time" she spent mucking out stalls, she got into the habit of making up stories. Once she began putting her ideas on paper, she soon had a novel, *At Risk*. Ehrman now lives on a horse farm in Indiana and admits she still gets her best ideas while mucking stalls.

Webpage: www.kitehrman.com



Robert Ellis, a media consultant with Campaign Group, Inc., has written and produced over 1,000 TV spots for political candidates. One of his earliest interests, however, was crime fiction. He began writing short stories as a teenager and once skipped school to attend a murder trial. His political background and mystery savvy come together in his novels, *Access to Power* and *The Dead Room*. Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Ellis now lives in L.A.

Webpage: www.robertellis.net



Suzanne Epstein, is a retired Marriage and Family Therapist. She writes reviews for *The Snooper*, a bi-monthly publication of Snoop Sisters Books. She also wrote for About.com until its demise. A devoted conventioner, she has attended three Bouchercons, two Mayhems in the Midlands and six previous Left Coast Crimes. She admits

having no inclination to write a mystery of her own. Her most creative energies have been devoted to her 38-year marriage to Ken and raising three wonderful children who are all artists in the fields of music and theater. She lives in Northridge, CA.

Tom Fassbender (with Jim Pascoe) is founder of Ugly-Town, an independent Los Angeles publishing house. He's co-author of the neo-retro pulp fiction titles *By The Balls: A Bowling Alley Mystery* and *Five Shots and a Funeral* as well as ongoing *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* comic book stories for Dark Horse Comics. UglyTown's current roster of authors includes Gary Phillips and Rodney Johnson. The company also published the mystery anthology *A Deadly Dozen*.

Webpage: www.uglytown.com

Robert Ferrigno grew up in a small town in Florida where he spent his youth "cutting secret passages through the palmetto thickets with a machete and occasionally burning down those palmettos for the simple pleasure of seeing the fire trucks arrive, sirens blaring." He earned an MA in Creative Writing and intended to teach, then found that being a professor was mostly a matter of going to meetings. Instead he went back to his "first love, poker." He spent the next five years gambling full-time. He created a punk rock magazine called *The Rocket* and got a job as a feature writer for a SoCal daily newspaper. From there it was a short leap to fiction. He has published seven noir thrillers (most recent title: *Scavenger Hunt*). He currently lives in the Pacific Northwest.



Advice to aspiring writers: Coffee

Favorite mystery book or author: Elmore Leonard

Webpage: www.robertferrigno.com

Bill Fitzhugh won the Lefty Award for *Fender Benders* at the 2001 Left Coast Crime. Two of his other comic thrillers (*Pest Control* and *Cross Dressing*) are now in development at film studios and *Heart Seizure* will be published in March. He also wrote *The Organ Grinders* which he describes as "an ode to human organ trafficking." A native of Mississippi, he worked in radio, TV and film before turning to fiction writing. He lives in Los Angeles where he is currently at work on his sixth novel, *Radio Activity*.



Previous career before becoming a writer: Struggling writer.

Funniest moment as an author: When I discovered my German publisher had re-titled *Cross Dressing* as ... *McJesus*.

Webpage: www.billfitzhugh.com



Kate Flora (aka Katharine Clark), the current President of Sisters in Crime, began her career as an attorney "chasing deadbeat dads, shaping up wayward docs, and representing the Human Rights Commission." She turned to writing and has chalked up six mysteries featuring educational consultant Thea Kozak. The

most recent titles are *Death in Paradise* and *Liberty or Death*. Reincarnated as Katharine Clark in 1998, she debuted with a suspensor, *Steal Away*. She is currently working on a police procedural series set in her home state of Maine. She lives in Concord, Massachusetts.

Advice to aspiring writers: 1) Keep your seat on the seat. Most of the writing is done through discipline and determination. The muse only visits occasionally. 2) Make yourself a sign that says: Not now, I'm writing. Then decide whether it needs to go on the outside of your door to keep people out, or the inside of your door to keep you in.

Webpage: www.Kateflora.com



G.M. Ford, a former creative writing teacher, made his fiction debut with *Who in Hell Is Wanda Fuca?* That novel was nominated for both a Shamus and an Anthony Award and has been listed among the 100 Favorite Mysteries of the Century by The Independent Booksellers Association. Ford has written six books in his Leo Waterman

series (newest title, *The Deader the Better*) and recently launched a new skein featuring true crime writer Frank Corso (*Fury, Black River*). He is currently working on the third, tentatively entitled *A Blind Eye*.



Earlene Fowler was raised in La Puente, California, by a Southern mother and a Western father which is probably why her Benni Harper mystery series features quilts, cattle, smart-mouthed women, cowboys and a sexy Latino cop. Her first novel, *Fool's Puzzle*, was nominated for an Agatha Award for Best First Mystery of

1994. Her quilt-titled books now include *Goose in the Pond*, *Dove in the Window*, *Seven Sisters*, *Arkansas Traveler*, *Steps to the Altar*, and Agatha winner *Mariner's Compass*. Her tenth book, *Sunshine and Shadow*, comes out in May. She is an avid lover of quilts, folk art, horses, country/western music and cowboy boots (she owns 25 pairs).

Funniest moment: When a fan told my husband she knows what the hairline on his stomach looks like because she assumes that's what I was describing as my male protagonist's.

Favorite villain: Wile E. Coyote

Webpage: www.earlenefowler.com

Patricia Gebhard worked as a librarian and nonfiction writer before the Mystery Muse redirected her career goals. She quickly learned that writing mysteries allowed her to make good use of her travels and experiences. Like the heroine of *Motives for Murder*, Gebhard has lived in Berkeley, camped at Dinwoody Lakes, and been part of a musical group. Her travels have taken her all over Europe and the Middle East, including a year in Turkey. Her nonfiction books include *Santa Barbara County Courthouse* and other architectural and design studies, most recently on the furniture of R.M. Schindler. She currently lives in Santa Barbara.

Hal Glatzer, a former musician and journalist, has long been an innovator in mystery fiction. *Kamehameha County*, his 1979 tale of murder in Hawaii, was published as a manila file-folder of newspaper clippings, letters and telex dispatches. He was one of the first writers to self-publish an e-book (*Massively Parallel Murder*) and an audio mystery (*Too Dead to Swing*). A sequel, *A Fugue in Hell's Kitchen*, will come out next year. Glatzer currently serves as a director of the Art Deco Society of California and collects paperback mysteries with lurid cover art from the 1940s and '50s.

Webpage: www.toodeadtoswing.com

Christine Goff, a former journalist, brings environmental themes and her love of bird-watching into her mystery fiction. Her first two novels, *A Rant of Ravens* and *Death of a Songbird*, were named Willa Literary Award Finalists for Best Original Paperback. Most recent offering, *A Nest in the Ashes*, explores a local man's death during a timber-clearing fire in the Rockies. Goff is currently working on *Death Takes A Gander*. She lives in Evergreen, CO.

Favorite opening sentence: "If she'd had a foot fetish Anna would have been an extremely happy woman." (*Firestorm*, Nevada Barr)

Webpage: www.christinegoff.com

Ed Goldberg was born in The Bronx where his family gave him three of the interests which have stayed with him throughout his life: good food, baseball, and music. After completing college, he moved to Washington, DC, became a technical writer and contributed articles to an entertainment paper. Now based in Portland, OR, his first novel, *Served Cold*, won the 1995 Shamus Award. He works at radio station KBOO as a film reviewer and host of "The Bronx Zoo." He is an avid fan of local microbrews and the local Single-A baseball team.

Last published book: *Dead Air*

Webpage: www.greatnorthwestbooks.com/a_authors/a_Goldberg.html

LIGHTS! CAMERA! MURDER!



Joel Goldman is a fourth generation Kansas Citian who practices law by day and crime writing by night. He's been a trial lawyer since 1977 so it's no surprise that his series (set in Kansas City, natch) features a savvy trial attorney. Lou Mason was introduced in *Motion to Kill*. *The Last Witness* comes out in March, followed by *Dead Even* (2004) and *Deadlocked* (2005).

Funniest moment as an author: When my mother told me that my sex scenes were a little dry.

Favorite murder method: Up close and personal without a weapon.

Webpage: www.joelgoldman.com



Alan Gordon advises aspiring authors to write every day to develop and improve their writing "muscle" – as he himself does despite a heavy work load as a public defender with the New York City Legal Aid Society. His numerous short stories include fantasy and science fiction as well as mysteries. He's the author

of a medieval mystery series featuring jester Theophilus of the Fools' Guild. The tales are set during the late 12th and early 13th century Crusades. *The Widow of Jerusalem* is slated for publication this month. Fifth book in the series, *An Antic Disposition*, is due out in 2004.

Funniest moment as an author: At the Mid-Atlantic, watching a demonstration of police dogs. The drug-sniffing dog made a beeline [dogline?] for my backpack and shook it like a giant chew toy. It smelled a combination of the pretzels inside and the cats at the house where I'd been staying. The reaction of the ladies sitting next to me was priceless.

Favorite Villain: Robert Walker's character in Hitchcock's *Strangers on a Train* (by Patricia Highsmith).



Chloe Green (aka Suzanne Frank), a journalist and freelance writer, pens mysteries set in the fashion world. Like the heroine of her series, she has also worked as a stylist for a fashion house. Her passion for history has taken her to Egypt, Greece, Israel and throughout Europe. She currently has a post office box in

Texas, where generations of her ancestors have lived. But she's a gypsy at heart, and with a cell phone and laptop, there is no place too far.

Most recent book: *Fashion Victim*

Webpage: www.timescribe.com

Maggie Griffin is co-owner of Partners & Crime Mystery Booksellers in Greenwich Village in New York City. She uses her background in computer technology and her mystery savvy in other pursuits as well. She's the web maven and publicist for Lawrence Sanders, Lee Child, Steve Hamilton, and T. Jefferson Parker, and publicist for Sarah Lovett, Julie Smith and Brian M. Wiprud.



Favorite pastime: Reading without interruption. Like that ever happens.

Favorite villain: Captain Hook

Thomas H. Griffith is a Los Angeles based pastor who writes for a genre that "doesn't quite yet exist in the market—male romantic suspense." The subtext for his writing, though, is his passion for a biblical sense of justice. His first mystery novel, *The Burger Barn on Sunset*, is currently making the rounds at publishing houses while he pens a sequel. He also works as a professional income tax preparer.

Kate Grilley writes cozy mysteries set on the fictional Caribbean island of St. Chris featuring radio deejay/amateur sleuth Kelly Ryan. Her first book, *Death Dances to a Reggae Beat*, won the Anthony Award in 2001 and was nominated for the Agatha, Barry, and Macavity. It was followed by *Death Rides an Ill Wind* and *Death Lurks in the Bush*. Her favorite pastimes are "ocean kayaking, astronomy, and thinking up new ways to dispense with victims."



Favorite mystery book: *A Murder is Announced* by Agatha Christie

Webpage: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Kate_Grilley

Patricia Guiver is the author of the clever Delilah Doolittle pet detective series featuring a middle-aged ex-pat Brit living in Surf City, Southern California. *Delilah Doolittle and the Canine Chorus* will soon be followed by *The Beastly Bloodline*. She lives in Huntington Beach (which has a remarkable resemblance to Surf City).



Favorite mystery book or author: Patricia Highsmith

Funniest moment as an author: A fan followed me into the restroom to get an autograph.



Daniel J. Hale & Matthew LaBrot are now able to claim mystery writing as the family business. The uncle/nephew duo began turning Matthew's sports adventures into imaginative mystery tales when he was 13. Their first book, *Red Card*, features Zeke Armstrong and soccer. Second mystery, *Green Streak*, finds Zeke in an inline skating race in Central Park where a mugging occurs. When he's not brainstorming with Matthew or racing mountain bikes, Hale works as an attorney in Dallas.

Current project: *Black Ice*, a Zeke Armstrong snowboarding mystery

Favorite murder method: Using an icicle as a dagger.

Favorite villain: Cruella DeVil

Webpage: <http://zekearmstrong.com>



Malinda M. (Mindy) Hall writes a mystery series featuring social worker Louisa Daniel and her family (*Social Graces, Nowhere Is Somewhere*). A graduate of SMU in Dallas with an MA in Speech Pathology from University of Tulsa, Hall has worked as a speech therapist and a teacher. Various states she has called home include Michigan, Texas, Ohio, New Mexico, Oklahoma and California. She's currently at work on the three more books on her "to-be-published shelf."

Favorite mystery book or author: Nancy Drew, especially the early volumes.



Parnell Hall is the author of the Stanley Hastings mystery novels and a series of courtroom dramas featuring Steve Winslow. His first novel, *Detective*, was nominated for an Edgar and a Shamus. Hall has also worked as an actor and a private detective. His PI experiences form the basis for Hastings' cases. Hall has no courtroom experience, however, and "owes his Winslow series to a childhood spent reading Erle Stanley Gardner." His third series depicts the much married Cora Felton solving crossword puzzle crimes. A former president of the Private Eye Writers of America, Hall lives in New York City with his wife and two sons.

Last published books: *A Puzzle in a Pear Tree* (Cora Felton) and *Manslaughter* (Stanley Hastings)

Advice to aspiring writers: Squeeze, do not jerk, the trigger.

Funniest moment as an author: When Donald Westlake hit me in the face with a cream pie.

Favorite murder method: I like stabbing!

Webpage: <http://parnellhall.com> and <http://puzzlady.com>

Lorie Ham has been singing gospel music and writing since she was a child. Her first song was published when she was 13. She has gone on to write newspaper articles, short stories, poems and two mystery novels set in the world of gospel music (*Murder in Four Part Harmony, The Trouble with Tenors*). Ham is also the editor of her own online mystery book review site, The NoName Café Book Review Corner. She lives in the San Joaquin Valley with her husband, two children, two dogs, four cats, and three rats.



Webpage: www.LorieHam.com

Denise Hamilton was a staff writer for the *LA Times* for 10 years. She covered the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe, the break-up of the Soviet Union and youth movements in Japan, but most of her stories focused on LA's exploding immigrant Asian communities. Inspiration for her first novel, *The Jasmine Trade*, came from her front page murder story that created a controversy on both sides of the Pacific. The recipient of various grants and fellowships, Hamilton has done consulting for New York University's Institute for War, Peace Reporting and Washington, D.C.-based Search for Common Ground. She has written a handbook on multi-ethnic reporting and led workshops in the Balkans (where she got people who have hated each other for 1,000 years to sit down and collaborate on articles). Her second book in the Eve Diamond series, *Sugar Skull*, will be published later this month.



Favorite murder method: Native plants

Webpage: www.denisehamilton.com

Katie Hamilton, founder of Metheglin Press, grew up in Germany. She lived in Morocco and in the Arkansas Ozarks before finally settling in Phoenix. Her publishing company, established in 1996, reissues 17th, 18th and 19th century reference books for modern writers and researchers. She earned a degree in Business Administration and developed a system to convert ailing computers into useful management tools.





Lyn Hamilton is the author of a series of archaeological mysteries. The first book, *The Xibalba Murders*, was nominated for the Arthur Ellis Award for best first crime novel in Canada. Series features antiques dealer/sleuth Lara McClintoch who travels the world buying for her store, finding murder and mayhem along the way. Each book is set in an exotic location and draws on the ancient past. An avid student of archaeology, Hamilton brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the series. As former Director of Cultural Programs in Ontario, she was responsible for the licensing of all archaeology in the province.

Last published book: *The Etruscan Chimera*

Favorite moment as author: Selling rights to *The Celtic Riddle* to Angela Lansbury for a TV movie.

Webpage: www.lynhamilton.com



Lee Harris embraced writing as her "day job" in 1992 and now has 12 published books to her credit. Before that she worked as a teacher and wrote training materials for AT&T and Bell Communications Research. *The Good Friday Murder* introduced ex-nun-turned-sleuth Christine (Kix)

Bennett and was nominated for an Edgar in 1993. A second series debuts in April with *Murder in Hell's Kitchen*. It features Jane Bauer, an NYPD detective who works on cold cases.

Last published book: *The Happy Birthday Murder*

Webpage: www.NMOMysteries.com



Cynthia Harrod-Eagles wrote her first novel during her university days and won the Young Writers' Award. She's held a variety of jobs in the commercial world, beginning as sales manager for Coca-Cola in Edinburgh and ending as a pensions officer for the BBC in London, while writing during the evenings and weekends.

The success of the *Morland Dynasty* series enabled her to become a full-time writer in 1979. Harrod-Eagles also writes an acclaimed mystery series featuring Bill Slider, a police detective in Shepherd's Bush. Apart from writing, her passions are music (she plays in several amateur orchestras) horses, wine, architecture and the English countryside. She lives in London. *The Bill Slider Omnibus* has been selected for discussion at the LCC Book Club.

Last published book: *Gone Tomorrow*

Webpage: cynthiaharrodeagles.com and billslider.com

Maryelizabeth Hart is the author of two companion books for Joss Whedon's TV hits *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Angel*. She also works as a bookseller and produces the Mysterious Galaxy newsletter, "The Plot Thickens."

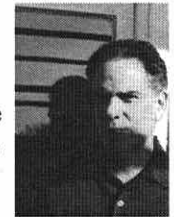


Favorite moment as an author: Conducting interviews with cast and crew on the *Angel* set and holding Gunn's axe.

Favorite opening sentence: "He loved to watch fat women dance." (*Goodnight, Irene*, Jan Burke)

Web page: www.mystgalaxy.com

Woody Haut was born in Detroit, grew up in Pasadena and has lived in Britain since the early 1970s. Presently a London-based journalist who divides his time between the UK and France, he has worked as a college lecturer, taxi driver, and cinema programmer. He has written three books examining the importance of noir fiction: *Pulp Culture: Hardboiled Fiction and the Cold War*, *Neon Noir: Contemporary American Crime Fiction*, and *Heartbreak and Vine: The Fate of Hardboiled Writers in Hollywood*. His articles have appeared in the *Guardian*, *Observer*, *Sight and Sound*, *Rolling Stone* and *Crime Time*.



Favorite opening sentence: "The shell-shocked horse ran toward the statue of Christ." (*The Big Red One*, Sam Fuller)

Favorite murder method: In Edgar Ullmer's classic film *Detour*, Vera runs into the bedroom threatening to call the police but collapses drunkenly on the bed with the telephone cord caught around her neck. Robert pulls the cord from the other side of the locked door, strangling her.

Laura Hayden (aka Laura Kenner) has so many stories to tell she needs two names to get them all in print. Shortly after selling her first romantic suspenser (*Someone to Watch over Me*), she won the RWA's Golden Heart for *A Margin in Time*. Two other titles followed, then "Laura Kenner" came on the scene with three books. Recently, Hayden partnered with Susan Ford to create the "First Daughter" mystery series. *Double Exposure* came out in 2002, and *Sharp Focus* is scheduled for release this year.



Favorite opening sentence: "Jennifer Sheridan stood in the door of my office as if she were Fay Wray and I was King Kong and a bunch of black guys in sagebrush tutus were going to tie her down so that I could have my way." (*Freefall*, Robert Crais)

Webpage: <http://suspense.net>



Gar Anthony Haywood is the acclaimed author of six Aaron Gunner mysteries and two humorous novels featuring Joe and Dottie Loudermilk (*Going Nowhere Fast* and *Bad News Travels Fast*). His first book, *Fear of the Dark*, won multiple awards for best first detective novel, including the Shamus Award.

A former president of the SoCal Chapter of MWA, he also works as a computer technician and graphics designer. He lives in his native Los Angeles.

Current project: *Man Eater*, written as Ray Shannon

Favorite opening sentence: "It didn't take much to set him off these days – laughter from the apartment below, a flash of blond hair out of the corner of his eye." (*The Horse Latitudes*, Robert Ferrigno)

Favorite pastime: Pick-up basketball



Victoria Heckman is the award-winning author of an Hawaiian police series (*K.O.'d in Honolulu*, *K.O.'d in the Volcano* and the upcoming *K.O.'d in Hawaiian Sovereignty*). Her short fiction has appeared in *Futures*, *Short Story*, as well as on the web sites *Mysterical-E*, *Without a Clue* and

LoveWords. She has also edited two anthologies. A former teacher, actor and director, she is currently the president of Sisters in Crime Central Coast Chapter and a member of Sisters in Crime's E Publishing Committee.

Funniest moment as an author: A 'fan' said, "I loved your book! It was so... short!"

Favorite murder method: Death by volcano

Webpage: www.victoriaheckman.com



Libby Fischer Hellmann has been writing all her life but just turned to fiction six years ago. Her story, "The Day Miriam Hirsch Disappeared," won the 1999 Bouchercon Short Story contest. Her first novel *An Eye for Murder* introduced video producer Ellie Foreman in 2002. Like her feisty heroine, Hellmann writes and produces videos. She also coaches individuals

and groups in presentation skills, speech delivery, and media interviews. Raised in Washington, D.C., she's been living in the Chicago area over 20 years with her husband, two teenagers, and a beagle. She has been President of the Chicagoland Sisters in Crime for three years.

Current project: *A Picture of Guilt* (Summer, 2003)

Favorite villain: Alan Rickman in the movie *Robin Hood*

Webpage: www.hellmann.com

Sue Henry has lived in Alaska for almost a quarter of a century. She brings Alaskan lore and the majestic beauty of its vast landscape to her mysteries. There are nine books in her Jessie Arnold/ Alex Jensen series (recent title: *Cold Company*). She is currently at work on a new series featuring Maxie McNabb and her dachshund (who first appeared in *Dead North*). Henry also teaches writing at the University of Alaska in Anchorage. She is a former president of Sisters in Crime.



Favorite opening sentence: "We were about to give up and call it a night when somebody dropped the girl off the bridge." (*Darker Than Amber*, John D. MacDonald)

Favorite murder method: Those uniquely Alaskan. My deceased characters have been savaged by sled dogs, eaten by a bear, dropped off a cliff, left to freeze, and washed away in the outrun from the collapsing face of glacier.

Bonnie Hearn Hill uses her background as a journalist and newspaper editor to fuel her taut thrillers (most recent title: *Intern*). She works part time for *The Fresno Bee* and pens a series featuring a hearing-impaired reporter. She's currently working on *Killer Body*, the first installment of a three-book contract. Hill also teaches for *Writer's Digest Online Workshops*.



Favorite mystery book: *Winter and Night* by S.J. Rozan. When I finished it, I turned back to page one and began reading it again. She's that good.

Favorite murder method: I just had a character use a straight razor in a bathtub. That was fun.

Webpage: www.bonniehearn.com

Chris Holmes, M.D., author of mystery novel *The Medusa Strain*, is a physician board-certified and practice-seasoned in Pediatrics, Public Health, and Occupational Medicine. During a 35 year career, he has investigated epidemics of all kinds, both domestic and foreign. Dr. Holmes has published numerous articles on such varied topics as preventive medicine, medical history, biomedical ethics, and pediatrics. His new book, *Spores, Plagues and History: The Story of Anthrax*, will be published in May.





Roberta Isleib is a clinical psychologist with a small private practice. She's also the author of a series featuring Cassie Burdette (an aspiring professional golfer "with a knack for finding trouble") and sports psychologist Dr. Baxter. Thus, writing allows Isleib to combine the things she loves most--psychology, mysteries, and golf. She was introduced to the game by her husband-to-be and took up writing about golf psychology "in order to justify the time spent maintaining a whopping handicap." *Six Strokes Under* will soon be followed by *A Buried Lie* (May 2003). She lives in Madison, CT.

Favorite mystery book or author: Nancy Drew was my first love. Then came John D. MacDonald--what a leap!

Webpage: www.robertainisleib.com



Lisa Jackson studied English at Oregon State University but never really thought she'd be a writer. She spent a few years working in banks, insurance companies and trust companies, then married and had children. When they were knee deep in toddlers, her sister suggested they both write romance novels. Her sister's sold first, and a year later, Jackson sold *A Twist of Fate*. Now she has over 60 books to her credit. Her recent titles, *If She Only Knew* and *Hot Blooded*, both hit the *New York Times* extended bestseller list.

Last published book: *The Night Before* (March 2003)

Advice to aspiring writers: Read and think about what makes a book good. It's easy to criticize. Instead, figure out what made the editor buy the book you've just read--even if you hated it.

Webpage: www.lisajackson.com and themysterymansion.com



Jonnie Jacobs was either terribly indecisive or she loved school. After earning a BA at UC Berkeley, she went on to get a 1) law degree; 2) an MA in English; and 3) a graduate degree in counseling. Her experience as an attorney, high school counselor and teacher have served her well as a mystery

writer. She pens the Kali O'Brien legal suspense series (most recent title: *Cold Justice*) and suburban mysteries featuring Kate Austen. Now working on her tenth novel, she is a frequent lecturer on mystery fiction and the craft of writing. She lives near San Francisco with her husband and two sons.

Current project: *Intent to Harm* (October 2003)

Webpage: www.jonniejacobs.com

J. A. Jance grew up in Bisbee, Arizona, wanting to be writer. She worked as a teacher, librarian and life insurance sales rep before establishing a flourishing literary career. She's written 27 books. One mystery series features Seattle homicide detective J.P. Beaumont.



A second series follows the casework of Sheriff Joanna Brady in the southwestern desert. Jance's recent *Partner in Crime* cleverly brings the two sleuths together to investigate the murder of an industrial whistle-blower relocated to Arizona by the Federal Witness Protection Program.

Advice to aspiring writers: Without logic, no one will be persuaded. Without magic, no one will care.

Funniest moment as an author: My mother called on my cell phone in the middle of a speech in Lexington, Kentucky. Since she was 88 at the time, I took the call.

Webpage: www.jajance.com

Claire M. Johnson switched her career path from historian to dessert chef when she realized there wasn't a thriving job market for scholars. She trained at the California Culinary Academy and worked as a pastry chef for eight years. The passion and frenzied pace characterizing the food scene on the West Coast during the 1980s is described in Johnson's first novel, *Beat Until Stiff*, which won the 1999 Malice Domestic Writers Grant. Johnson stopped cooking professionally when her children were born and is currently an editor at U.C. Berkeley. Eating at restaurants is still her favorite hobby, with her most severe criticism reserved for the dessert menu.



Funniest moment as an author: Realizing that the title of my book, which had gone to press, had another, shall we say, "loaded" meaning. You can take the girl out of the Catholic school, but not the Catholic school out of the girl.

Favorite villain: Rebecca de Winter

Webpage: www.rouxmorgue.com

Dolores Johnson once wrote freelance articles for a dry cleaning publication. She now draws on this experience to invent new case-work for Mandy Dyer, a Denver dry cleaner who solves crimes. The lighthearted mystery series includes *Taken to the Cleaners*, *Hung Up to Die*, *A Dress to Die For*, and *Homicide and Old Lace*. Johnson lives in Aurora, CO.



Last published book: *Buttons and Foes* (2002)

Funniest moment as an author: When a dry-cleaner friend leapt onto his conveyor and rode it around his plant to prove to me that a victim actually could hang that way.

Webpage: Sleuths2die4.com



Rodney Johnson describes his young adult mystery novels (*The Curse of the Royal Ruby*, *The Secret of Dead Man's Mine*) as a "Native American Nancy Drew series." Johnson shares his Lakota Sioux heritage with his literary creation Rinnah Two Feathers but doesn't get into nearly as much trouble. He works as a freelance writer for the Disney Channel and as a script consultant and story editor for feature films. His action comedy *Wasabi Tuna*, starts filming in March. He lives in Los Angeles.

Favorite villain: Count Olaf from the Lemony Snicket books

Webpage: www.rinnahtwofeathers.com



Linda O. Johnston sold her first short story to *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* and nabbed the Robert L. Fish Memorial Award from the MWA. It was later anthologized in *The Year's Best Mystery and Suspense Stories* for 1989. A practicing attorney, she juggles her time between the law and writing romantic suspense. She has published nine novels and several short stories. Her most recent story is featured in the anthology *Murder on Sunset Boulevard*.

Last published book: *Tommy's Mom* (2002)



Stan Jones is the author of a mystery series featuring Eskimo State Trooper Nathan Active (*White Sky*, *Black Ice* and *Shaman Pass*). Born in Anchorage, Jones began his career as a journalist and worked as news director at Kotzebue's public radio station for two years. He won awards for investigative reporting during his tenure at the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* and as city editor of the *Anchorage Daily News*. Jones is actively involved in local environmental issues and works for an advocacy group set up to prevent oil spills after the Exxon Valdez catastrophe.

Favorite murder method: Bashing a book reviewer over the head with his laptop.

Webpage: www.litrix.com



Toni L.P. Kelner writes the Laura Fleming mysteries set in an imaginary mill town in North Carolina. Since they're Southern and in the cozy genre, she calls them "iced tea cozies." She worked as a technical writer before focusing on mysteries. Titles include recent release, *Wed and Buried*, as well as

Death of a Damned Yankee, *Tight as a Tick*, *Country Comes to Town*, and *Down Home Murder*.

Funniest moment as an author: When I pointed out my book on the shelves of a bookstore to my young daughter. She gasped, "That's Mama's book." I beamed. Then she added, "What's it doing here?"

Webpage: www.tonilpkelner.com

Lee Killough first published in science fiction, but since age 11 she has also loved mysteries, especially police procedurals ("a consequence of growing up with *Dragnet*, *Naked City*, *M-Squad*, and *Police Story*"). When she began writing stories, she enjoyed blending fantasy and sci-fi into her own brand of "cross-genre mysteries." Killough's last book, *Wilding Nights*, features werewolf cops. She has depicted future cops (*Bridling Chaos*), a vampire cop (*Blood Walk* and *Blood Games*) and is cooking up an adventure with a ghost cop in the upcoming *Killer Karma*.



Gay Tolti Kinman worked as a librarian and university educator before she began writing mysteries for children. She's also written numerous non-fiction articles and short stories. Her tale in the anthology *A Deadly Dozen* was nominated for an Agatha Award, and a detective story is featured in *Murder on Sunset Boulevard*. She served as co-editor of SinC/LA's *Desserticide II*. She is currently working on her third adult mystery featuring Jo Peters, a smalltown city attorney.



Favorite murder method: I like finding new and different methods. Every household tool and appliance is a potential murder weapon, not to mention cleaning solvents, etc. How about a little Lily of the Valley water in your soup, my dear?

Webpage: gaykinman.com

Christine Kling has spent over 20 years living on boats. She's cruised the waters of the North and South Pacific, the Atlantic, and the Caribbean. Working as a charter boat cook and deckhand in the Virgin Islands, she earned her 100 ton U.S. Coast Guard Captain's license. Her articles and stories have appeared in many boating publications. She made her mystery-writing debut with *Surface Tension*, which introduced tugboat captain Seychelle Sullivan. A sequel, *Cross Current*, is due out in November. Kling works as a coordinator for the Magnet Programs of Broward County Schools in Fort Lauderdale.



Funniest moment as an author: I was at home signing several cases of books a store had shipped to me. My son, now a freshman in college, asked me if I wanted him to help. "You know I got really good at signing your name in high school, Mom."

Favorite pastime: Other than reading, sailing. Luckily, with an autopilot, you can do them both at the same time.

Webpage: www.christinekling.com



Kathleen Delaney Koppang juggles two jobs. She's a mystery writer and a real estate broker with Re/Max Parkside in Paso Robles. The California town also happens to be the setting of her Ellen McKenzie series (*Dying for a Change*). In her 20 years of real estate sales, Delaney has never stumbled across a dead body in a vacant house, but she had no problem imagining it. She's published several stories and won an award for her short fiction.



Rochelle Krich won the Anthony Award for her first book, *Where's Mommy Now?*, later filmed as *Perfect Alibi*. Its success spurred her to leave a teaching position at a private high school and go into writing full-time. In addition to her suspense novels (*Speak No Evil*, *Fertile Ground*), she writes an Agatha-nominated series featuring

LAPD homicide detective Jessie Drake. Novels include *Fair Game*, *Angel of Death*, *Blood Money*, *Dead Air* and *Shadows of Sin*. Last year, *Blues in the Night* introduced a second series starring true crime writer Molly Blume.

Favorite mystery book or author: *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier.

Favorite pastime: Mah-jongg -- I play every Monday night, like my protagonist, Molly Blume.

Webpage: www.rochellekrich.com



William Kent Krueger spent a few years logging timber and working construction. When he embarked on writing a series, the life he knew in the great Northwoods of Minnesota offered a fresh mystery setting for the adventures of his part Irish/part Ojibwe ex-sheriff Cork O'Connor. Now on book four (*Blood Hollow*) in the series, Krueger has also written numerous short stories and magazine articles. His most recent book, *The Devil's Bed*, is a stand-alone thriller.

Funniest moment as an author: My seventh grade teacher approached me after a book event, looked me up and down, then declared, "I guess I was wrong about you."

Favorite murder method: The roasting alive thing, ala Hansel & Gretel.

Webpage: www.williamkentkrueger.com

Ken Kuhlken is the author of *Mid-heaven*, *The Loud Adios*, *The Venus Deal* and *The Angel Gang*. His stories have appeared in *Esquire*, *San Diego Reader* and numerous literary magazines. His work has been chosen as a finalist for the Ernest Hemingway Award for best first novel, named *Private Eye Writers of America* best first novel, honorably mentioned in *Best American Short Stories*, and rewarded with a National Endowment for the Arts Literary Fellowship.



Current project: Primarily caring for a new baby.

Favorite villain: Dobbs in *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*

Web site: www.kenkuhlken.net

Bette Golden Lamb, a Registered Nurse, has developed parallel careers as a professional sculptor and artist, as well as a writer. Her artistic works have been selected for juried national shows and are sold through galleries and art associations. Her first published short story, "Slip-Up," written in collaboration with her husband, J. J. Lamb, appeared in *Dark Star*. Their medical suspense thriller, *Bone Dry*, was published in January.

Favorite opening sentence: "Skeleton 509 slowly raised its skull and opened its eyes." (*Spark of Life*, Erich Maria Remarque)



J. J. Lamb is a career writer, contributing to newspapers, the Associated Press, Lloyd's of London Press, magazines, advertising, and fiction. He is the author of three private-eye novels, several mystery stories, and two business history books. His byline has appeared in such publications as *Holiday*, *Modern Bride*, *Travel*, *New York Times Magazine*, *California Living*, *Road & Track*, *Civil War*, and *San Francisco Magazine*. He served as regional VP of the Northern California MWA for three years and is currently writing a medical suspense series with his wife, Bette.

Funniest moment as an author: Walking in on a not-yet-famous author making love to his wife at a writers conference.

Any other comment: Insightful writing and critical reading are essential to a happy, joyous, and free world.



Kelly Lange has been a TV news anchor/reporter for NBC-4 in LA "since shortly before the Civil War." Her behind-the-scenes savvy is reflected in a new light-hearted mystery series featuring a TV reporter/sleuth, Maxi Poole, who is "just like me, only younger, hipper, smarter, thinner, and blonder." Her first book, *The Reporter*, came out in 2002. *Dead File* will be published in June. Lange is also the author of *Trophy Wife* and *Gossip*.

Favorite mystery book or author: Sue Grafton is my goddess. I pray every day that my Maxi, who is 180 degrees different (spike heels, full-on makeup, blood-red fingernails) has just a little Kinsey in her soul.

Favorite murder method: I was trying to write a convoluted undersea body pressure murder once and had a conversation with Sue Grafton about how to pull it off. She said, "Oh, just shoot him."

Webpage: www.Kelly-Lange.com



L.M. (Lori) Lawson, author of *Green Flash* and *Easing Sheets*, has been able to combine her two dreams—fiction writing and long distance cruising. She and her husband have spent nearly a decade cruising through the tropical waters of Mexico and Central America. They've transited the Panama Canal and crossed the Atlantic. Their latest adventure took them through 257 locks in the canals of Holland, Belgium and France.

Webpage: lmlawson.com



Robert S. Levinson was a newspaperman before entering the field of public relations, where he represented a diverse roster of clients including the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and a large roster of music stars. After an illustrious career in PR, he segued into mystery fiction with *The Elvis and Marilyn Affair*.

Levinson's suspense thrillers are built around celebrity icons he knew in his PR life. *The James Dean Affair* nabbed the top spot on the *LA Times* Bestseller List after one week of sales. Levinson served six terms as president of the Hollywood Press Club and currently heads the So-Cal Chapter of Mystery Writers of America. He was co-emcee of the 2002 MWA Edgar Awards ceremony in New York and will produce the Awards this year. He lives in LA with his wife, Sandra.

Last published book: *Hot Paint* (2002)

Webpage: www.robertslevinson.com

Maria Y. Lima was born in Cuba and emigrated to the US at age three. She's been writing stories "since she learned to pick up a pencil." Her experience as a longtime non-fiction writer and freelance book reviewer combined to entice her to try her hand at fiction. Her short story, "The Butler Didn't Do It," was selected to appear in an upcoming anthology and she has completed a supernatural mystery. Lima currently works as the project manager for a web services company and oversees the Sisters in Crime internet site. She lives in Alexandria, VA.



Webpage: www.thelima.com

Dick Lochte, author of the short story collection *Lucky Dog and Other Tales of Murder*, began his career as a novelist with the publication of *Sleeping Dog*, cited as one of the 100 Most Popular Mystery Novels of the Century by the Independent Mystery Booksellers of America. He currently co-authors two legal series with former prosecuting attorney Christopher Darden (*The Trials of Nikki Hill*, *L.A. Justice*, *The Last Defense* and the upcoming *LAWless City*). He's also written scripts, teleplays and numerous reviews and articles.



Previous career: I worked for a detective agency while in college, wrote continuity for a local TV station, managed a travel bureau in Chicago, handled publicity for a movie theater, wrote advertising and promotion copy for a national magazine, was film critic for the mostly underground *Los Angeles Free Press*, drama critic for very much above-ground *Los Angeles* magazine and columnist for the *Los Angeles Times Book Review*. The latter made me start thinking about writing a book.

Funniest moment as an author: Being asked to pose in the nude for a calendar to be called *Writers in the Raw*. I declined on advice from my wife.

Any other comment: I'd feel more flattered if the *Writers in the Raw* people were to ask me today.

Sarah Lovett is the author of *Dark Alchemy*, *Dante's Inferno*, *Dangerous Attachments*, *Acquired Motives*, and *A Desperate Silence*, as well as 25 nonfiction children's books. Lovett worked as a legal researcher for the New Mexico Attorney General, an executive director of a non-profit theater, a jazz dancer, a playwright, a gas station attendant, an upholstery assistant, and a bartender. But it was her experience working in the state pen that led her to create fictional forensic psychologist Dr. Sylvia Strange. Lovett has a degree in criminal justice and is currently studying psychology and criminology. A native Californian, she lives in Santa Fe, NM with her husband, Michael Mariano, and their two dogs.





Sheila Lowe is a court-qualified handwriting expert who runs a consulting practice in Southern California. She's the author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Handwriting Analysis, Handwriting of the Famous and Infamous*, and the award-winning Sheila Lowe's Handwriting Analyzer software, as

well as numerous monographs and articles. Her first mystery, *Poison Pen*, was a prizewinner at the Southwest Writers Conference in 2000, but has not yet been sold. She is currently working on a sequel, *Written in Blood*. A Fellow of the American College of Forensic Examiners, she often responds to media requests for her opinion in high profile cases.

Favorite mystery book or author: *Ashes to Ashes*, Tami Hoag

Webpage: www.writinganalysis.com



DP Lyle, M.D. was born and raised in Huntsville, Alabama, home of the NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center. His childhood revolved around football, baseball, and building rockets in his backyard. But when it was time to choose a career, he went to medical school. For the past 25 years, he has practiced Cardiology in Orange

County, California. He currently writes "The Doctor Is In," a monthly medical and forensic Q&A column for MWA regional newsletters and hosts an informative website. His book, *Murder and Mayhem: A Doctor Answers Medical and Forensic Questions for Mystery Writers*, is a compilation of the most interesting questions he's received. Dr. Lyle is also the author of a mystery series featuring Samantha Cody (*Devil's Playground, Double Blind, Angels Share*).

Favorite murder method: Fear. It can kill directly and/or make characters do very dangerous and deadly things.

Webpage: www.dpylemd.com

Dennis Lynds (see Michael Collins)



Gayle Lynds, a former newspaper reporter, worked as a think-tank editor with top-secret security clearance. Many of the ideas for her books arise from this past experience. Her best-selling suspense novels include *Mesmerized, Mosaic, and Masquerade*, as well as *The Paris Option* and *The Hades Factor* with Robert Ludlum. Her international thrillers have been published in over 20 countries and been selected as "Page-Turner of the Week" by *People Magazine*. She lives in Santa Barbara with her husband, novelist Michael Collins (aka Dennis Lynds).



Current project: A sequel to *Masquerade*

Advice to aspiring writers: If you're not getting rejected, you're not trying hard enough.

Favorite mystery book or author: My husband, Michael Collins, aka Dennis Lynds

Webpage: www.GayleLynds.com

Andrew Lyons made his writing debut with the psychological thriller *Darkness in Him*. Previously, he worked as a television producer "on several ill-fated shows, including the short-lived daytime talk show *Marilyn*, and the even shorter-lived night-time talk show *The Stephanie Miller Show*." Later stints as a film researcher on *Access Hollywood* and associate producer for VH-1 only fueled his resolve that he should be writing. He completed his novel and scored a sale to St. Martin's Press. He's currently working on a thriller/love story.



Advice to aspiring writers: Find out which friends know publishers or agents. Give them gifts. And money. Offer sexual favors.

Favorite pastime: Watching my polite, good-hearted, not-quite-mean-enough-to-win San Antonio Spurs win just enough games to give me false hope.

Webpage: andrewlyons.com

Mary Jane Maffini, the current President of Crime Writers of Canada, began her career as a librarian. She held an eclectic array of positions, from Librarian of the Brewers Association of Canada to Director of the Statistics Canada Library, before she began writing. Her short stories have appeared in numerous anthologies, including *The Ladies Killing Circle, Menopause is Murder, Cottage Country Killers, Fit to Die, and Iced*. Her three novels are *Speak Ill of the Dead, The Icing in the Corpse, and Little Boy Blues*. She lives in Ottawa. In real life, although she is a member of The Ladies Killing Circle, she has never pulled the plug on anyone.



Current project: *Lament for a Lounge Lizard*, a new series featuring Fiona Silk (Fall 2003)

Webpage: www.maryjanemaffini.ca



Michael Mallory moved to LA to pursue work as a newscaster and actor then began writing. He has published over 70 short stories in magazines and anthologies, including an entry in the upcoming *Our Sherlock Holmes*. He served as an editor of the SinC/LA anthology, *Murder on Sunset Boulevard*, and is a regular contributor to the *LA Times* "Kids Reading Page." He's the author of *The Adventures of the Second Mrs. Watson*, a collection of inter-connected stories featuring an Edwardian lady sleuth. His non-fiction titles include *Marvel: The Characters and Their Universe* and *Hanna-Barbera Cartoons*.

Advice to aspiring writers: Read, write, read, write, read, write, read, write, eat, repeat.

Funniest moment as an author: Being approached by a twittering fan then watching her spin and march away when she realized my nametag read "Michael Mallory" not "Connelly."

Webpage: www.deadlylibipress.com



William Manchee, a native of Ventura, attended UCLA then University of San Diego School of Law. After a stint in the US Marines, he and his wife relocated to Plano, Texas, where he completed his legal training. He now has an office in North Dallas catering to the needs of small business owners. In 1995 he started

writing as a diversion from his stressful law practice. It wasn't long before he realized writing was his true passion. Between 1995 and 1997 he wrote eight novels. His first, *Twice Tempted*, was a legal thriller. Manchee's next novels, *Undaunted*, *Brash Endeavor*, *Second Chair*, and *Ca\$h Call*, are part of a mystery series featuring attorney Stan Turner. He is now at work on a second series.

Favorite mystery author: Lisa Scottolini

Webpage: <http://williammanchee.com>



Jeff Mariotte is a Senior Editor for DC Comics/WildStorm and an owner of Mysterious Galaxy, San Diego's mystery/sci-fi bookstore. His writing includes licensed fiction for TV hits *Angel* and *Star Trek*. He is currently at work on the fifth book in the *Star Trek: The Lost Era* series.

Last published book: *Angel: Endangered Species* (with Nancy Holder)

Advice to aspiring writers: Sometimes, it really is who you know. Network. And read everything.

Favorite mystery book or author: James Lee Burke

Webpage: www.jeffmariotte.com

Raymond Mars, Ph.D., is a licensed psychologist currently working for the LAPD. He provides psychological counseling and conducts critical incident debriefing for officers involved in traumatic situations. Dr. Mars is also involved in management consultation and training in stress management, communication skills, anger control, and balanced health. He has also worked with hostage negotiators in the SWAT unit. Before moving to LA, Dr. Mars was on staff at the Memphis Police Department. He taught training courses on such topics as cultural diversity, communication strategies, working with the mentally ill, police suicide, and police marriages.



Sheldon McArthur became interested in book collecting as a teenager after meeting Will and Ariel Durant. During his college years, he worked in bookstores and rose to a managerial post at Pickwick's Hollywood. In 1988, he opened Mysterious Bookshop West, a branch of Otto Penzler's famed Manhattan store. When the LA site closed in 2000, McArthur and a group of investors founded a new shop in Westwood. The Mystery Bookstore is now a haven for collectors of first editions and memorabilia and has an active slate of author signings.



Webpage: www.mystery-bookstore.com

Linda Lane McCall adopted the pen name Gabriella Diamond to distinguish her works that feature the game of polo, such as her story in the recent anthology *Murder on Sunset Boulevard*. She is the author of four suspense novels (including *On the Run* and *Tapping at the Window*) and several award-winning short stories. Before publishing her first book, she worked as a technical writer and editor for a variety of businesses.



Current project: An open-ended series about a woman who lives two lives. By day, she is Angela Hastings, Ph.D., clinical psychologist in Marina del Rey. At night, she is a licensed bartender using the audacious name Swizzle Bacardi.

Funniest moment as an author: I took a break from writing to refill my coffee cup. Leaving my office, I turned left and ran head-on into the wall. I was headed to my character's kitchen which was to the left and my kitchen was to the right.

Webpage: www.LLMwrites.com



Marilyn Meredith has written non-fiction for national magazines as well as mysteries and two historical family sagas. She has also authored the first of a police procedural mystery series (*Final Respects*), a spiritual romance (*Lingering Spirit*), and a psychological horror novel (*Wishing Makes It So*). Her Tempe Crabtree books allow her

to delve into Native American spirituality and supernatural lore. Also a writing teacher, Meredith has been a featured speaker at several writers' conferences and has contributed a chapter to *The Portable Writers' Conference*.

Current project: *Wing Beat* (fourth book in Tempe Crabtree series)

Favorite murder method: Poisoning by the water in a vase of Lily of the Valley flowers, a method used in *Deadly Trail*.

Webpage: <http://fictionforyou.com>



Susan Cummins Miller has created a fresh and unusual mystery heroine—a geologist. Frankie MacFarlane made her debut in *Death Assemblage*. Miller's writing in familiar territory. She's taught geology and oceanography and conducted fieldwork for the US Geological Survey in

California, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, and Arizona. Miller is also the author of an anthology (*A Sweet, Separate Intimacy: Women Writers of the American Frontier, 1800-1922*) and a contributor to *The Southwest Inside Out: An Illustrated Guide to the Land and Its History*. She's working on her second mystery.

Current project: *Township and Range* (2003)

Advice to aspiring writers: A journey of 80,000 words begins with but a single hook.

Webpage: <http://hometown.aol.com/stmiller46/myhomepage/index.html>



James C. Mitchell launches his first novel, *Lovers Crossing*, in July. The St. Martin's release introduces Brinker, an ex-Border Patrol agent now working as a Tucson private eye. Mitchell, a college professor at the U.of Arizona, previously worked as a broadcast journalist and a

lawyer. He is currently working on Brinker's second adventure, *The Riot Victims*.

Favorite closing sentence: "Ishmael gave himself to the writing of it, and as he did so, he understood this, too: that accident ruled every corner of the universe except the chambers of the human heart." (*Snow Falling on Cedars*, David Guterson) This sentence could be a creed for crime writers, it seems to me.

Favorite villain: Harry Lime.

Marianne Mitchell is a genuine, born and bred, Arizona desert rat. She grew up in Phoenix and now lives in Tucson. The desert, with all its beauty and mystery, has inspired many of her tales. A former elementary teacher, she published her first story in 1992 and has since written over 70 stories and articles for children's magazines, including *Jack and Jill*, *New Moon*, *Pockets*, and *Highlights for Children*. She currently writes "The Bear Family" feature for *Highlights*. Her books include *Maya Moon*, *Over the Waves*, *Joe Cinders* and *Gullywasher Gulch*. *Finding Zola* will be published in March.



Favorite opening sentence: "It was the kind of night wind that blows uninvited down chimneys, scattering ashes on the hearths of rich and poor alike—the kind of brute force that startles sparrows from their roosts, sticks their feathers on backward, and flings them earthward to feed alley cats." (*The Bells of Lake Superior*, Dayton O. Hyde)

Webpage: www.MarianneMitchell.net

June Moffatt says she was bitten by the publishing bug at an early age. She found her niche in sci-fi and mystery fiction as a writer, publisher and editor. She published *The JDM Master Checklist*, a bibliography of John D. MacDonald, and edited *The Edward D. Hoch Bibliography*. She and her husband, Len, were given a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 1999 Bouchercon.

Len Moffatt has clocked over 60 years as a mystery fan and writer. His parody of "The Raven" appeared in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*. Another satirical piece, "Father's Vampire," which was published in *Weird Tales* 52 years ago has recently been reprinted in *100 Creepy Little Creature Stories*. He and his wife, June, were among the original founders of Bouchercon in 1969.



Rick Mofina works as a reporter for an Ottawa news wire service and still finds time to produce a gritty crime suspense series. His debut book featuring San Francisco newspaperman Tom Reed and homicide inspector Walt Sydowski was an Arthur Ellis Award finalist for Best First Novel. Titles include *If Angels Fall*, *Cold Fear* and *Blood of Others*. *No Way Back* is set for release in June.



Funniest moment as an author: Receiving a personal check from a reader who bought a used copy of one of my books for 25 cents then read it and thought I deserved the full \$7 cover price. I laughed all the way to bank.

Favorite pastime: Driving down lonesome windswept highways.

Webpage: www.rickmofina.com



Joan Montgomery, co-owner of Murder by the Book in Denver, has been a mystery book collector for over ten years. Her specialty is "hyper-modern" fiction (printed after 1980). After a former career as a CPA, Montgomery now devotes her time exclusively to bibliophilia. She frequently presents educational programs about mystery sub-genres and book collecting at schools and book clubs.



Bill Moody is a professional jazz drummer and noted music critic as well as a mystery writer. He has written five novels featuring jazz pianist/amateur sleuth Evan Horne (*Bird Lives!*, *The Sound of the Trumpet*, *Death of a Tenor Man*, *Solo Hand* and *Looking for Chet Baker*). He currently lives in Northern California where he teaches at Sonoma State University. His band is scheduled to perform at LCC 14 in Monterey next year.

Favorite pastime: Watching pro football



Skye K. Moody is a writer, photographer and former East African bush guide for medical aid safaris. Her work as a journalist has taken her to international hot spots from Tanzania to Uzbekistan. She's the author of several nonfiction books, (*Hillbilly Women*, *Fruits of Our Labor: Soviet & American Workers Talk About Making a Living*) as well as five mysteries. Her most recent novel, *K Falls*, is a thriller about an eco-terrorist attack. Moody teaches creative writing at the University of Washington and at the Richard Hugo House in Seattle. Her sixth novel, *Medusa*, will be published in June.

Funniest moment as an author: At a book store reading, my mother in the front row held up her hands in a dramatic thumbs down gesture then circulated at the party afterwards telling folks not to buy my book because it has "obscenities" in it.



Adrian Muller was born in Canada and raised and educated in the Netherlands. After obtaining a degree in Arts Administration from the Reinwardt Academy for Museology, he moved to Bristol. He held various posts at Watershed, Britain's first media centre, but has since become a freelance journalist. He has also organized crime fiction events, including St. Hilda's Crime and Mystery Weekend in Oxford and Dead on Deansgate. His work has appeared in the 'Masters of Crime' supplement published by *The Times* as well as in magazines in Australia, Europe and the US. He writes the 'Transatlantic Eye' column for *Mystery Scene*.

Favorite murder method: Depends on whether I am the victim or perpetrator.

Eddie Muller is a writer, filmmaker and designer. His popular books on film noir (*Dark City*, *Dark City Dames*, *The Art of Noir*) have garnered acclaim from both writers and cineastes. Muller is the programmer/host of the Annual Festival of Film Noir at Hollywood's legendary Egyptian Theater, and has appeared on AMC, A&E, ABC, and TCM as a film noir expert. His work has appeared in *Vanity Fair*, *Time*, *Playboy*, *Premiere* and *The Village Voice*. Muller recently began writing fiction, bringing an edgy, '40s pulp sensibility to his own novels (*The Distance* and *Shadow Boxer*). He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.



Favorite moment as an author: Getting a blurb from Leonard Gardner. His book, *Fat City*, made me want to write novels.

Favorite pastime: Mixing cocktails.

Webpage: www.noircity.com

Barbara Murray credits Left Coast Crime in San Diego with starting her "downhill slide" into book collecting. "Before that, I just bought any old book and read it. After that, I started paying attention to whether it was a first edition and remembering *not* to put my coffee cup down on it."



A chemistry professor at the University of Redlands, Murray is a charter member of Thursdays Are Murder, a local book discussion group.

Advice to aspiring writers: Write faster

Webpage: http://newton.uor.edu/facultyfolder/barbara_murray/

Kris Neri, a past president of the LA Chapter of Sisters in Crime, pens the funny and sassy Tracy Eaton mysteries. Her first novel, *Revenge of the Gypsy Queen*, was nominated for Agatha, Anthony, and Macavity Awards. Tracy's further adventures spin out in *Dem Bones' Revenge* and the upcoming *Revenge for Old Time's Sake*. Her series has been selected for discussion at the LCC Book Club. Neri has published over 50 short stories and won two Derringer Awards. She currently teaches in the UCLA Extension Writers Program and serves on the Board of Directors of the SoCal Chapter of MWA.



Previous careers before becoming a writer: Actress, secretary, insurance sales person, voiceover actress, middle manager in a medical lab, the person who passes out samples in the supermarket -- and some jobs that weren't that good.

Webpage: www.krisneri.com



Michael Nettleton (aka Michael Phillips), a Portland radio talk-show host, has spent 31 years as a broadcaster in seven different cities. A stint in Albuquerque brought him together with his future wife and co-author, Carolyn Rose. His love of writing and telling stories began early in life, thanks to encourage-

ment from his parents and a hyperactive "what if" gland. The Nettletons have written four novels, including the newly released *The Hard Karma Shuffle*. Their YA fantasy, *The Hermit of Humbug Mountain*, is available from SynergEbooks. Nettleton has written several award-winning short stories and is currently working on a solo mystery featuring a golf hustler/PI in Albuquerque.

Advice to aspiring writers: Learn your craft and splatter words on the page as often as possible.

Favorite opening sentence: "There are mornings, just after dawn on unseasonably hot June days when every breath you draw is filtered through forty pounds of wet laundry, that you welcome the clear cold icicle of the telephone bell ringing." (*The Witch Finder*, Loren Estleman)

Webpage: deadlyduosmysteries.com



Sharan Newman is a medieval historian and the author of two acclaimed historical series, as well as the editor of the Crime Through Time anthologies. She won a Macavity for her first book, *Death Comes As Epiphany*, which also introduced Catherine Levendeur. Other titles in the medieval French series include

The Devil's Door, *The Wandering Arm*, *Strong As Death*, *Cursed in the Blood* and *To Wear the White Cloak* (the featured selection for the Left Coast Crime Book Club). She lives in Portland.

Last published book: *Heresy* (2002)

Webpage: www.hevanet.com/sharan/Levendeur.html



Jenifer Nightingale is a music teacher in British Columbia, Canada, who spends her free time "book swapping" on the internet at Jen's Book Exchange. She also reviews books for several online sites, coordinates reviews for Scribesworld and line edits *Futures Mysterious Anthology*

Magazine.

Webpage: ebooksCanada.com/jensbookexchange

William F. Nolan is a leader in the field of mystery scholarship as well as an award-winning novelist and screenwriter.



However, he began his career as a commercial artist working for Hallmark Cards in his Kansas City hometown. He moved west, became a journalist and editor then segued into mystery and science fiction. *Logan's Run*, a futuristic cop story co-authored with G.C. Johnson, vaulted him into the media limelight. Nolan wrote two sequels, and the franchise sparked a film, TV show and comic book series. He's written two books featuring LA detective Bert Challis (*Death Is for Losers*, *The White Cad Cross-Up*). His nonfiction study of *Black Mask* magazine (*The Black Mask Boys*) came out in 1985. Since then he's written three novels featuring "the Boys" (Dashiell Hammett, Raymond Chandler, Erle Stanley Gardner) as amateur crime-solvers in 1930s Hollywood (most recent title: *Sharks Never Sleep*).

Current project: A "definitive" biography of Hammett for Alfred A. Knopf

Funniest moment: When I forgot my wife's name while introducing her to a sexy film star.

Charles O'Brien, Ph.D., is an ordained Episcopal priest with a part-time ministry as well as an author of historical mystery fiction. Most of his career was spent teaching at Western Illinois University where he also directed projects in the school's travel study program abroad. He has retired from the History Department but still teaches his signature class, a comparative survey of British, American, French and German crime and policing. His mystery series, set during the French Revolution, launched with *Mute Witness* followed by *Black Gold* in 2002.



Favorite mystery book: *An Unsuitable Job for a Woman*, P.D. James

Webpage: www.mutewitness.com

Steve Oliver introduced ex-mental patient/cab driver/sleuth Scott Moody in *Moody Gets the Blues* followed by *Moody Forever*. *Moody in Winter* is due out in hardback this fall. Oliver worked as a computer programmer and trainer before he became a writer. Between Moody sagas, he has found time to exercise his darkly comic vision in *Dead Men*, a stand-alone featuring ex-con Jack Starr.



Webpage: www.steveoliver.com



Jimmy Olsen came to mystery writing through journalism. He's worked as a reporter, editor, photographer and English teacher. He's also an active scuba diver and instructor. He operated a scuba

business in the Caribbean, a dive charter boat in Florida and served in the US Navy. He began writing fiction in 1989 and has published several short stories. His first novel, *Things In Ditches*, came out in 2000.

Favorite villain: Fagin in *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens



T. Jefferson Parker is an award-winning journalist and the author of eleven contemporary mysteries. His work, often described as "California noir," captures the allure of beach life coupled with the seedy undertow of crime. Books include the

bestsellers *Pacific Beat*, *Red Light*, *The Blue Hour*, *Laguna Heat* and *Silent Joe*. When he's not fighting a publishing deadline, you're apt to find him fishing or playing tennis.

Current project: *Cold Pursuit*

Funniest moment as an author: Being asked to autograph *The Bridges of Madison County*

Favorite villain: Jiggs Scully in Elmore Leonard's *Cat Chaser*

Webpage: www.tjeffersonparker.com

Jim Pascoe (with Tom Fassbender) is founder of Ugly-Town, an independent Los Angeles publishing house, and author of neo-retro pulp fiction titles *By the Balls: A Bowling Alley Mystery* and *Five Shots and a Funeral*. He and Fassbender also write the monthly *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* comic book series for Dark Horse Comics. Ugly-Town's current roster of authors includes Gary Phillips and Rodney Johnson. The company also published the mystery anthology *A Deadly Dozen*.



Stuart Pawson began writing after a career as an electrical engineer followed by a spell working for the probation service. His first mystery featuring Detective Inspector Charlie Priest, *The Picasso Scam*, was well received; the second, *The Mushroom Man*, was described as "actually better than his excellent debut." He is currently working on the ninth book in the gritty, humor-laced series which is set in Yorkshire. Pawson is married, with no children and no cats, but reluctantly confesses to owning five lusty tortoisés.

Last published books: *Laughing Boy*, *Chill Factor* (October 2002)

Funniest moment as an author: Reading a slightly rude passage from *Mushroom Man* and later being told that there were several nuns in the audience.

Webpage: www.meanstreets.co.uk

Sharon Kay Penman has a BA in history from the University of Texas and a JD from Rutgers School of Law but has not practiced law since the publication of her first novel, *The Sunne in Spendour*, in 1982. She currently resides in New Jersey but has lived in England and Wales while researching books. Her first mystery, *The Queen's Man*, was nominated for an Edgar. Her books include six historical novels and three medieval mysteries.



Current project: *Dragon's Lair*, a medieval mystery to be published by Putnam's in 2003

Web-page: www.sharonkaypenman.com

Michael R. Perry has written or produced more than 100 hours of television, including episodes for the series *American Gothic*, *The Practice*, *NYPD Blue*, *Millennium*, and *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*. He is currently working on *The Guardian*. Perry has received three Edgar nominations and won the statuette for an episode of *The Practice*. He won an Emmy for his work on *NYPD Blue*. He has also written two paperback thrillers and two nonfiction books.



Thomas Perry is the author of 13 novels, including the national bestsellers *Death Benefits* and *Pursuit* and an Edgar Award-winning thriller, *The Butcher's Boy*. His novel *Vanishing Act* was selected by the Independent Mystery Booksellers Association as one of the 100 Favorite Mysteries of the Century. To support his "writing habit," Perry has taught university classes and worked as a writer/producer of prime-time network television series. His most recent novel, *Dead Aim*, was published last December.



Advice to aspiring writers: The best thing about writing is being able to earn a living with nothing but a pen and a piece of paper. The worst thing about it is needing to earn a living, and having nothing to do it with but a pen and a piece of paper.

Funniest moment as an author: The advance reader's edition of one of my books was assembled out of order with pages 1-24 followed by 265-285 then 36-72, etc. It was mailed before anyone discovered the error. Two reviews appeared complaining that the plot "seemed incoherent" and "curiously disjointed." But all the others--probably those most used to my work--didn't appear to notice.

Web page: www.ThomasPerryauthor.com



Barbara Peters owns the Poisoned Pen Mystery Bookstore and serves as the Senior Editor of its publishing arm. She credits her Chicago childhood, college days in California and stints as an attorney, historian and librarian as "great preparation for a life in crime." Peters retired to Arizona where she opened The

Poisoned Pen in 1989 and soon found she had a very demanding new career. The shop has grown to a mega-mystery store with an international clientele, a lively slate of author events, and a monthly publication, *Booknews*. Peters taught Crime Fiction at Arizona State University but now devotes full time to Poisoned Pen Press.

Last published book: Editor, *AZ Murder Goes...Professional* (2002)

Favorite mystery book or author: What a snake pit this would open for me to answer...

Funniest moment as a bookseller: Perhaps the best was the moment a customer dropped a wrapped condom on the floor while purchasing a copy of Lindsey Davis' *One Virgin Too Many*.

Webpage: www.poisonedpen.com



Sheree Petree is a publicist and the president of Personalized Info-Media, a national marketing company. Her first novel, *Number, Please*, won the 2002 Dark Oak Mystery Contest and was a *Publisher's Weekly* "pick" among new mystery writers to watch. Set in the '60s, the book features young

switchboard operator/sleuth Trish Malcolm. Petree is currently working on two sequels, *Hookswitch* and *Busy Signal*.

Webpage: www.shereepetree.com



Twist Phelan is a triple threat – author, attorney, athlete. She was so successful as a trial lawyer suing corporate scoundrels that she was able to retire from law at age 32. A world traveler, she has paddled outrigger canoes in Australia, mountain biked in Costa Rica, competed in triathlons in

Europe, skate-skied in Scandinavia, played polo in Southeast Asia, scaled mountains on four continents, and road-biked from the Pacific to the Atlantic. Now she spends her days in front of her computer, working on her next Pinnacle Peak mystery. Her legal-themed mysteries (*Heir Apparent*, *Lear's Daughter*) each feature a different sport.

Favorite villain: Coyote in the Roadrunner cartoons

Any other comment: Yes, it's my real name (and my parents weren't hippies).

Webpage: www.twistphelan.com

Gary Phillips began writing as a teenager in South Central Los Angeles. He is the author of the Martha Chainey mysteries (*High Hand*, *Shooter's Point*), four novels featuring Ivan Monk (*Perdition*, *USA*, *Violent Spring*, *Bad Night Is Falling*, *Only the Wicked*), several stand-alones and short stories. A longtime community activist, he has also published articles on politics and pop culture in the *LA Times* and *San Francisco Examiner*. His most recent book, *The Perpetrators*, has been selected for discussion at the Left Coast Crime Book Club.



Current Project: *bangers*, a book about bad cops and ambitious politicians (2003) and a couple of comic book projects for Oni Press.

Favorite opening sentence: "The white boy with the funny left eye walked into the Acey Deuce on a Monday Night Football night." (*Fear of the Dark*, Gar Anthony Haywood)

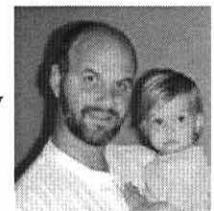
Favorite Villain: Galactus from Marvel Comics

Webpage: www.gdphillips.com

Meredith Phillips is an editor and partner in the independent publishing firm of Perseverance Press/John Daniel & Co. Perseverance publishes established mystery writers who wish to continue a series or begin a new one. Their Left Coast authors include Janet LaPierre, Shelley Singer, Taffy Cannon, Penny Warner, Rebecca Rothenberg, Hal Glatzer, Nancy Baker Jacobs, Lora Roberts, Carolyn Wheat, and Patricia Guiver. These "Mysteries for the New Golden Age" have garnered seven prestigious mystery nominations and awards. Previously, Phillips worked as a freelance editor specializing in mystery fiction for several New York houses.



Kurt Popke, an ER doctor, made his writing debut with *Lethal Cure*. The offbeat mystery is set in a Sacramento trauma center and features an ethically challenged doctor, a colostomy-wearing reluctant PI, and an assassin with failing eyesight. Dr. Popke is currently working on a medical thriller about stem cell research as well as an historical novel depicting the plight of WWII German refugees. He lives in Wilton, near Sacramento.



Favorite pastime: Falconry.



Suzanne Proulx (rhymes with "clue") is a Southern California native now living in exile in Denver. She turned to mystery novels because writing unites her two most marketable skills (fast typing, good spelling) with her irresistible urge to tell great whopping lies. Her medical whodunits featuring Vicky

Lucci, a savvy, in-your-face hospital risk manager, are *Bad Blood*, *Bad Luck*, *Bad Medicine*, and *Declared Dead*.

Previous career: Book editor, journalist, ad copywriter, typesetter, paralegal, telephone installer, waitress - "(obviously can't hold a job)"

Favorite murder method: Sunny von Bulow's eggnog (heavy cream, eggs, brandy)--death by cholesterol)

Webpage: www.suzanneproulx.com



Dave Putnam (aka D.W. Putnam) is a court-qualified expert in narcotics and accident reconstruction with 20 years of law enforcement experience. He has worked with several police units, including S.W.A.T., violent crimes, narcotics, and intelligence. A consultant to crime writers, he has recently taken up the

pen himself. He is the author of the "Reluctant Narc" series featured in *The California Narcotic Officer Magazine* and the novel *Missing Fingers*. He lives in Murietta, CA, with his wife, Mary.

Favorite moment as an author: When I met my true love (and now wife) in a read/critique group.

Webpage: www.dwputnam.com, www.missing-fingers.com



Mary Putnam was born and raised in Hawaii. She holds degrees in physics and computer science. She writes software programs and teaches programming as well as nonfiction. Her articles have appeared in various publications including *Newsweek* and *Start* magazines. She

has completed a crime novel (*Terminal Love*) and is currently working on a non-fiction work (*Living with a Cop*). She is a member of the planning committee of Left Coast Crime 13.

Favorite moment as an author: When I met my true love (and now husband) in a read/critique group.

Webpage: www.maryputnam.com

Thom Racina earned an MFA in Theater Arts in Chicago and moved to Los Angeles. Before long he was working as a daytime TV writer. His soap opera credits include *General Hospital*, *Days of Our Lives*, *Another World*, *Generations* and *Santa Barbara*.



Twenty years and five Emmy nominations later, he embarked upon a new career as a mystery writer. His romantic thrillers include *Never Forget*, *The Madman's Diary*, *Secret Weekend*, *Hidden Agenda*, and *Snow Angel*. He now divides his time between homes in Palm Springs and Washington, DC.

Webpage: www.thomracina.com

Barbara Reed merged her two passions—music and writing—in the unique production of *High Notes Are Murder*, a mystery accompanied by an original soundtrack. After training at Berklee College of Music, Reed toured as a jazz and pop singer, finally making her way to Los Angeles. She'd always wanted to write and began developing a singer/sleuth, Liz Hanlon. After each chapter, Reed went to the piano to unwind. Soon, her character's mood began to inspire introspective songs which she decided to produce in tandem with the book. Reed is currently working on a sequel, *Harmonic Deception*, and a nonfiction book on the music business.



Webpage: www.Raresoundpress.com

Ben Rehder, a native Austinite, recently launched his first novel, *Buck Fever*.



The comic mystery was named one of the best books of 2002 by Publishers Weekly and Library Journal and has been nominated for a Lefty and Arty. Rehder has worked in the advertising industry as a copywriter for 18 years. He's an avid hunter and outdoorsman, interests which have fueled his fiction and magazine writing. *Bone Dry*, due out in September, continues the Texas adventures of Game Warden John Marlin.

Favorite murder method: Ah, there are so many. Anything involving power tools.

Webpage: www.benrehder.com

Denny Riordan stores his vast book inventory in the keg cooler of an old beer distributing company building which prompts him to claim he "lives in a refrigerator." His collection numbers over 80,000 volumes. The Riordan collection-obsession gene first kicked in with cars until he "wised up to the fact they take a lot of room." He switched to collecting automotive books and amassed 3500 trade catalogs from 1800 to 1940. Then there was no turning back. He was soon a full scale book dealer.



My favorite murder method: Sneak up outside a house, slap it hard, and watch the To Be Read pile topple over and crush the victim.



Gillian Roberts (aka Judith Greber) is the author of the Award-winning Amanda Pepper mystery series. It features a Philadelphia high school English teacher and her significant (but undernamed) other, C. K. Mackenzie. The first book, *Caught Dead in Philadelphia*, won the Anthony. Roberts has recently launched a second series focused on two private detectives in

Marin County (*Time and Trouble, Whatever Doesn't Kill You*). The geography of the two series is no accident—the author's a native Philadelphian who now lives in California. She was also once a high school English teacher. ("Everybody said: write what you know.") After ten whodunits, she has applied that advice to a non-fiction book, *You Can Write a Mystery*.

Current Project: Book #12 in the Amanda Pepper series.

Webpage: www.gillianroberts.com



Lora Roberts was born and raised in Missouri but for 25 years has lived in Palo Alto, the setting of most of her mysteries. She's worked as a journalist, PR rep, technical writer and medical editor. She currently writes two mystery series. Liz Sullivan was introduced in *Murder in a Nice Neighborhood*.

Titles include *Murder Follows Money, Murder Crops Up* and *Murder Mile-High*. Another series features Liz's friend Bridget Montrose in a series of entertaining adventures (*Revolting Development, Another Fine Mess*). Roberts is now working on a mystery set in England in 1903 (which includes an appearance by Sherlock Holmes).

Webpage: www.NMOMysteries.com



Nancy Rodich-Hodges is a retired librarian who specialized in public library cataloging. Her passion for literature now manifests itself in organizing book discussion clubs and embarking on a writing project of her own—a biography of her husband's naval career. She lives in Oak Harbor, WA, and has

the distinction of being the very first person to register for LCC13.

Favorite mystery author: Marcia Muller.

Carolyn Rose writes about murder, TV news, and what happens when the two mix. For 24 years, she worked in television newsrooms in Little Rock, Albuquerque, Eugene, and Vancouver, Washington. Now, she and her husband, Michael Nettleton, write as a team. One mystery series features TV news maven Casey Brandt (*Consulted to Death, Driven to Death*, and the upcoming *Dated to Death*). Their new book, *The Hard Karma Shuffle*, introduces a '60s style sleuth nicknamed Paladin. Rose has been published in *Murderous Intent Mystery Magazine, Dogwood Tales, Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* and *Seventeen*. She currently teaches a novel-writing boot camp for Clark College.



Favorite closing sentence: "Just take it a step at a time, and remember to alternate feet." (*Random Walk, Lawrence Block*)

Favorite pastime: making origami creatures out of rejection letters

Webpage: www.deadlyduomysteries.com

David Rosenfelt has something no other novelists can claim—36 dogs. Five years ago, he and his wife founded the Tara Foundation to rescue neglected dogs and find them new homes. The ones which were not adopted now happily reside Chez Rosenfelt. The author began his career in the film business and rose to President of Marketing at Tri-Star Pictures. After overseeing numerous publicity campaigns, he wanted a new challenge. He found it in writing. He sold a few movie scripts which were never actually filmed, then several TV movies which were. ("It's safe to say that their impact on the American cultural scene has been minimal.") Rosenfelt has written two humor-laced courtroom mysteries (*Open and Shut* and *First Degree*).



Funniest moment as an author: When I heard what the typical advance was for a first novel.

Favorite villain: Alan Rickman in *Die Hard*

Janet A. Rudolph is Editor of the *Mystery Readers Journal*, Director of Mystery Readers International, and a teacher. A long time contributor to the genre, she received her Ph.D. in religious mystery fiction. She currently writes for her own interactive site, *Murder on the Menu*. She lives in the hills near Berkeley, California, with her husband, a golden retriever, assorted cats and marauding deer, odoriferous skunks, steely-eyed possums, and burrowing gophers.



Websites: www.murderonthemenu.com and www.mysteryreaders.org



Alan Russell has written seven mysteries which have received great critical acclaim, but so far he "hasn't made enough from his writing to retire to that villa in France...or even a condo in Fresno." His novels (*Shame, Multiple Wounds, No Sign of Murder, The Hotel Detective*) run the gamut from whodunits to comedic mysteries to suspense. His latest release, *Exposure*, garnered a starred review in *Publishers Weekly*. Russell has been nominated for most of the major mystery awards "and has even won several literary awards of which no one has ever heard." In continuing with his tradition of a misspent youth, the 6' 7" author stills plays in San Diego basketball leagues.



Megan Mallory Rust, a former professional pilot in Alaska, weaves her personal aviation experiences into her mediflight mystery series. A severe head injury caused by a fork lift accident ended her flying career. Then Rust found she loved playing amateur sleuth

along with her heroine Taylor Morgan and that writing allows her "to have wonderful adventures without even having to get out of her pajamas." Her series numbers three books (*Dead Stick, Red Line, Coffin Corner*) with two new titles in the works. Rust lives in Eagle River, Alaska, with a husband and the requisite number of cats.

Current project: A mystery featuring a Village Public Safety Officer in Quinhagak, Alaska.

Funniest moment: I had to laugh—though I wanted to cry—when I saw that the cover of my first book depicted a herd of polar bears on a glacier on Mt. McKinley. Polar bears do not hunt in packs and would never be found on Mt. McKinley.

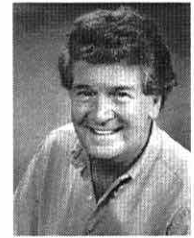
website: www.meganrust.com



Paula Salo has been a Sherlock Holmes enthusiast since age 10. She entered organized Sherlockian fandom in 1944 when she joined the Scowrsers and Molly Maguires of San Francisco. Since moving to Southern California, she has been a member of several local

scion societies of the Baker Street Irregulars and is founder/president of the Blustering Gales from the South-West. Salo has written numerous articles for Sherlockian newsletters and served as the first editor of the Scowrsers' journal. She worked as a Young Adult Librarian for the LA Public Library until her retirement in 1991.

Web Page: <http://home.earthlink.net/~bgsw/>



Thomas B. Sawyer is not a typical show biz hyphenate. He's a multi-hyphenate: novelist/screenwriter/playwright/TV writer/producer. He was showrunner of *Murder, She Wrote* and wrote 24 episodes of the hit series. He's written nine network TV pilots and numerous episodes of other shows. He recently used his expertise to aid fledging writers in two educational tools, Plots Unlimited and Storybase, and the book *Fiction Writing Demystified*. His first mystery novel, *The Sixteenth Man*, offers a compelling look at the JFK assassination. Sawyer lives in Malibu with his wife, Holly, and cats.

Favorite mystery book: *The Maltese Falcon*, Dashiell Hammett

Favorite villain: The CIA

Webpage: www.ThomasBSawyer.com

Gerald A. Schiller has worked as a teacher, documentary filmmaker, novelist and journalist. His books include two mysteries (*Deadly Dreams, Death Underground*) and a collection of humorous and offbeat tales (*True Stories of Old California*). His articles and reviews have appeared in the *LA Times, Ventura Star, Futures* and *Mystery Readers Journal*. He is currently working on a second volume of California stories and a third mystery novel. He has taught writing classes for UCLA Extension and Learning Tree University.



George M. Scott teaches cultural anthropology at California State University, Long Beach by day and writes fiction by night. He's sold short stories to mystery, horror, science fiction and fantasy magazines and is putting the finishing touches on his first novel. He is currently on the Board of the LA Chapter of Sisters in Crime.



Current project: *Leaving Padre Island*, a novel in which teenagers and ghosts face off over Spanish treasure.

Favorite closing sentence: "'Well, I'm back,' he said." (*The Lord of the Rings*, J.R.R. Tolkien)

Webpage: www.georgemscott.com



Margaret Searles served as co-editor of *And Some of Them Are Dead*, a Deadly Alibi anthology of stories by Sisters in Crime writers, and as associate editor of *Futures Mysterious Anthology Magazine*. Her own stories have been published in *Mystery Readers Journal*, *New Times*, *Whispering Willow*, *Sleuthhound*, *Futures*, and the

SLO Death anthologies. Her non-writing jobs have included chemist, book-store owner, teacher and editor. She is currently working on a cozy mystery novel, *Terlingua Ale*.



Barbara Seranella grew up in Pacific Palisades then ran away to a hippie commune. She rode with a motorcycle gang for a while then returned to Southern California to settle down. Always unorthodox, the job she selected was--auto mechanic. Her years in a Brentwood Texaco lube bay were not wasted. She married the service manager and began writing

mysteries featuring female auto mechanic Miranda "Munch" Mancini. The Munch series numbers five books including the recent *No Man Standing*. *Unpaid Dues* will be published in May.

Favorite pastime: Tennis, golf, walking my dogs, playing cards with my husband. I'm assuming you mean legal pastimes...

Favorite murder method: Has to be an "LA Natural" aka death by gunshot.

Webpage: www.barbaraseranella.com



John Shannon has worked as a journalist, technical writer, video producer and general fiction novelist. His fiction now focuses on the investigations of LA-based Jack Liffey, finder of

missing children. The author admits that sending Liffey out into the city's subcultures allows him "to build up a cumulative jigsaw portrait of the social history of this fascinating sprawling multi-ethnic region." Recent book, *Streets on Fire*, is set in the ghettos of South Central LA. *City of Strangers*, due out in May, takes Liffey into the Persian-American community where runaway kids get caught up with Islamic fundamentalist terrorists.

Favorite moment as an author: When characters you are writing come alive and do things you not only haven't planned but don't want them to do.

Webpage: jackliffey.com

Ray Shannon: See Gar Anthony Haywood

Stephanie Shea has been an artist, a tennis pro, a college professor and a systems administrator. In 1996 she began hosting a weekly interview/chat hour featuring published mystery writers. Her unique online site was an immediate hit because it allows authors to promote new books and talk directly to their fans. She lives in the Puget Sound area with her husband and two Old English Sheepdog puppies.



Webpage: www.mysteryplaceonline.com/

Andi Shechter earned a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice, but the closest she's ever come to using it is as a reader of mystery and crime fiction.



She worked primarily in administrative jobs until an orthopedic disorder led her to change her focus. She has been a reviewer, online chat-room host, interviewer, author publicist and essayist. She oversaw the 1997 Left Coast Crime Convention and was Fan Guest of Honor at LCC in 2001. She organized mystery programs for the Northwest Bookfest for three years. Her reviews have appeared in *Mystery Readers Journal*, *Gay and Lesbian Review Worldwide* and *Murderous Intent*. Her writings include "The Perception Of Disabled People In Mystery Fiction: or Supercrip Solves a Mystery." She lives in Seattle.

Connie Shelton is now working on the eighth title in her series featuring Albuquerque-based female sleuth Charlie Parker. Before embarking upon writing as a full-time career, she survived a colorful variety of jobs, from running an import/export company to flying hot air balloons. She is the author of *Publish Your Own Novel*.



Last published book: *Reunions Can Be Murder*

Funniest moment as an author: Being seated next to Janet Evanovich at a signing. My line had about 10 people in it; hers stretched out the door and down the hall. There was nothing to do but laugh.

Webpage: www.connieshelton.com



David J. Sherman recently launched his first mystery novel, *The Dark Side*, but he's been writing and selling short stories and poetry for many years. Along the way, he's held a variety of non-literary jobs—computer programmer, warehouse manager, truck driver, dispatcher, safety consultant, and record store owner. Born in Racine, Wisconsin, he currently lives in Southern California with his wife, daughter and a black Labrador named Emily. *Clouded Judgment*, his sequel featuring P.I. Jack Murphy, will be out later this year.

Advice to aspiring writers: Accept rejections as an evil yet necessary part of this business. Think of them as merit badges for sending out the work.

Favorite villain: Keller, Lawrence Sanders' "Hit Man". Technically, he's a protagonist, but a villain just the same. Only Sanders could get me to love a hit man.

Webpage: www.davidjsherman.com



Roger L. Simon, a former president of both PEN and the International Association of Crime Writers, has been nominated for the Edgar Award three times and for an Academy Award in screenwriting. He is best known for the Moses Wine detective series which launched with *The Big Fix*. His eighth novel, *Director's Cut*, will be published in June. Among Simon's many screenplay credits are *Scenes from a Mall* with Woody Allen and *Bustin' Loose* with Richard Pryor. He has also directed two movies (*Prague Duet*, *My Man Adam*). He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, screenwriter Sheryl Longin, and his daughter Madeleine. And, yes, he has a dog!



Susan Slater balances a career as a documentary producer for the Department of Energy with her work as a mystery writer. She has two series set in New Mexico and is currently launching a third with *Flash Flood*. The Ben Pecos series takes place on a Pueblo reservation and is rich in Native American lore. Slater lives in Albuquerque where her favorite pastime is tooling around in her super-charged MINI Cooper S.

Current projects: *Thunderbird*, the third Pecos book, comes out in paperback in March.

Favorite moment as an author: Seeing my books on an airport newsstand. Somehow that said I'd arrived. Of course, there continues to be some question about where...

Favorite murder method: I like the unusual. I've used the Hanta Virus and voodoo.

Webpage: www.SSSlater.com

Kit Sloane describes her edgy contemporary mysteries featuring film editor Margot O'Banion as "cozy noir." She's currently working on the fifth book in the series. Books include *Final Cut*, *Grape Noir*, and *Bad Actors*. Though many people assume she's had a career cutting movies, she was formerly a medical office manager. She and her husband live on a horse ranch in Northern California where her favorite pastime is taking care of animals.



Favorite opening sentence: "Hale knew they meant to murder him before he had been in Brighton three hours." (*Brighton Rock*, Graham Greene)

Favorite murder method: Anything ambiguous like a suicide that may or may not have been arranged.

Webpage: www.kitsloane.com

April Smith scored homeruns with her first two novels, *North of Montana* featuring FBI Special Agent Ana Grey, and *Be the One*, a suspenser about the only female baseball scout in the major leagues. Agent Grey returns with a second adventure in *Good Morning, Killer* (May 2003).



Smith was born and raised in the Bronx, then attended Boston University and migrated west to complete an MA in Creative Writing at Stanford. She has written and produced award-winning dramatic series for television, including *Cagney and Lacey* and *Chicago Hope*, as well as small screen adaptations of *The Taking of Pelham One Two Three* and Anna Quindlen's *Black and Blue*. Smith lives in Santa Monica with her husband and two children.

Webpage: www.aprilsmith.net

Kevin Burton Smith is an editor, author, and critic whose musings on crime, detective and pulp fiction have appeared in *Mystery Scene*, *Details*, *January Magazine*, *Blue Murder*, *The Mystery Readers Journal*, *Word Wrights*, *Over My Dead Body*, *Crime Time* (Britain) and *Crime Factory* (Australia). He's the founder/editor of the award-winning Thrilling Detective Web Site. Recent fiction projects include stories in *Iced*, an anthology of Canadian noir fiction, and *Grunt and Groan*, a collection of stories involving sex in the workplace. He also co-edited (with partner-in-crime D.L. Browne) *Down These Wicked Streets*, a collection of private eye tales.



Previous career before becoming a writer: CIA hitman/game show host.

Favorite murder method: Bad habits, like late nights talking and drinking with friends. Only problem is it takes a long, long time.

Webpage: www.thrillingdetective.com



Taylor Smith is the author of six best-selling novels of intrigue and suspense. Born in Winnipeg, she spent 12 years as a diplomat-turned-senior advisor on intelligence issues to the Canadian Prime Minister and Cabinet. She was a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly in New York, spent three years working in East Africa, and covered Soviet bloc satellite nations in the final years of the Cold War. Smith turned her international experience into fiction with the 1995 publication of her first novel, *Guilt by Silence*. A sequel, *The Innocents Club*, was published in 2001. Her most recent thriller, *Deadly Grace*, delves into the secrets of a heroine of the French Resistance. Since 1990 she has lived in Southern California.



Judith Smith-Levin uses her experiences as a former cop to craft a lively mystery series featuring an African American police lieutenant. Smith-Levin worked the high crime beat and made history as the first female patrol officer in Worcester, Massachusetts.

After leaving the department, she moved to Los Angeles and worked in security for Aaron Spelling Productions. Show biz trumped gumshoeing and she moved on to a series of production jobs at 20th Century Fox, from film publicist to freelance writer. When the glitz wore off, she moved to Carmel and founded Mystery Book Store. After reading tons of mysteries, she decided that writing one was her next challenge, and Lt. Starletta Duvall was born. Her books are *Do Not Go Gently*, *The Hoodoo Man*, *Green Money*, *Reckless Eyeballin'* and the forthcoming *The Champagne Room*.



Keith Snyder is an author, filmmaker and musician. Between gigs, he's found time to spin out four mysteries featuring electronic musician Jason Keltner (*The Night Men*, *Show Control*, *Coffin's Got the Dead Guy on the Inside*, and *Trouble Comes Back*). Formerly the keyboardist for The Cosmic Debris,

Snyder also played with the Afropop/reggae band Kadara. He co-wrote, directed and scored the short film *I Is for Gun*, winner of the Silver Award at the 1999 Atlantic City Film Festival. He recently finished a comedy short (*Sell in Hell*) and is developing a feature-length project. A life-long resident of LA, he moved to New York City in 1998 with his wife, opera singer Kathleen Haaversen.

Webpage: www.woollymammoth.com/keith

C.J. Songer worked for several years behind the scenes with the Glendale Police Department in California and is married to a former Robbery/Homicide investigator. Versed in weapons and self-defense, she has been invited to shoot at tactical matches where street survival skills are measured. *Bait*, her first novel, was published in 1998. It launched the career of Meg Gillis, a recovering ex-cop from the Glendale PD. Songer's two sequels are *Hook* and *Line*.



Previous career before becoming a writer: I've worked a variety of odd jobs. The oddest and most dangerous has been being a mom.

Favorite murder method: Shoot 'em.

Webpage: www.cjsonger.com

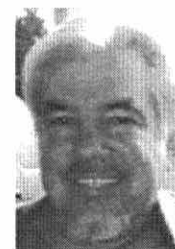
Domenic Stansberry is the author of five noir books, including *The Last Days of Il Duce*, *The Spoiler* and *Manifesto for the Dead*, a fictionalized portrayal of the last days of legendary pulp novelist Jim Thompson. Stansberry's awards include two nominations for the Edgar, a Hammett Prize nomination, and an NEH grant. He also works as a writer for educational and entertainment projects in video and interactive media. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife, the poet Gillian Conoley, and their daughter Gillis.



Current project: *The Confession*: story of a psychologist implicated in the strangulation death of his ex-lover.

Favorite mystery book or author: In the mystery genre, Dorothy Hughes, as well as Bill James. I find myself returning to James Cain every few years, and Graham Greene.

Bob Stevens has worked as a private investigator for 35 years. His cases have involved organized crime, commercial fraud, drugs, gangs, murders, burglaries, domestic disputes and insurance claims. He served three terms as a District Governor of the California Association of Licensed Investigators. Stevens began turning his job expertise into fiction and has published stories in *Red Herring*, *Futures*, *Orchid Press Mysteries* and *Handheld Crime*. He pens a column, "Through a Private Eye Darkly," for *Mysterical-e* and is currently working on a novel featuring a cruise ship investigator (another job on his resume). He is a past president of the Orange County Chapter of Sisters in Crime.



Webpage: <http://welcome.to/mysterical-e>



Serita Deborah Mendelson-Stevens is an RN specializing in psychiatric nursing. She's the author of *Deadly Doses: A Writer's Guide to Poisons* and several fiction books, including the Fanny Zindel mystery series (*Red Sea Dead Sea*, *Bagels for Tea*) and a YA title, *Unholy Alliance*. Her most recent book, *The Nurses*, is the fourth in her Healers series written as Tyler

Cortland. She's edited several mystery anthologies (*Unholy Orders*, *Too Unholy*, and *Blondes in Trouble*) and donates the proceeds to Hugs and Hopes, a group she founded to aid Romanian orphans. She's also worked as a book reviewer, reporter, story analyst, and writing instructor.

Favorite closing sentence: "And they lived happily ever after"....because in writing we can create worlds that don't always exist and we can give the reader hope for the future.

Favorite murder method: Poison, of course.

Webpage: www.SeritaStevens.org and www.hugsandhopes.com



Mark T. Sullivan is the author of six acclaimed mystery thrillers. Two are currently being developed as feature films (*The Purification Ceremony*, *Labyrinth*). He has written extensively for magazines, including *Outdoor Life*, *Sports Afield*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Boston Globe Magazine*, *The Washington*

Post Magazine and *Yankee*. As a reporter with the *San Diego Tribune* and *Union-Tribune*, he was nominated twice for the Pulitzer Prize. Before becoming a journalist he worked as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Niger, West Africa. His next book, *The Serpent's Kiss*, comes out in July.

Favorite murder method: These days I'm partial to diamondback rattlers.

Favorite villain: Fagan

Webpage: marktsullivan.com



Pari Noskin Taichert was born and bred in Albuquerque. Her upcoming mystery series features Sasha Solomon, a baby-boomer, smart aleck, relationship-challenged PR pro who makes her meager living marketing small New

Mexico towns. Like her heroine, Taichert has worked in PR "for eons." She currently writes book reviews and a literary column for the *Albuquerque Tribune* and dispenses PR advice at www.aboutpublicrelations.net.

Current project: *The Clovis Incident* (February 2004)

Favorite mystery book or author: I love humor. Carl Hiaasen's *Lucky You* is a gem. Donald Westlake's Dortmunder series are wonderfully wrought. Robert B. Parker's Spenser & Hawk dialogs soar.

Webpage: www.badgirlspress.com

S. E. Thomas (aka Sean E. Thomas) has authored three mystery novels featuring Alaska State Trooper Sgt. Robert Sable who's half Tlingit and half Scandinavian (*Dark Project*, *Dark Soul*, *Dark Gold*).

After graduate studies in organic chemistry, Thomas served in the Army as a Nike Hercules missile officer and test engineer. An avid boater, he's been a Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteer for more than 25 years, participating in many search and rescue outings. He currently works for the federal government as a chief of administrative services.

Current project: *Dark Conspiracy* which delineates the attempted takeover of Alaska by domestic terrorists.

Webpage: www.seanethomas.com



Megan Underwood is West Coast Publicity Director of Goldberg McDuffie Communications. She has worked on the publicity campaigns of the *New York Times* bestsellers *Monica's Story* by Andrew Morton, *The Bodyguard's Story* by Trevor Rees-Jones, *America's Queen* by Sarah Bradford, and *1st to Die* and *Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas* by James Patterson. She now specializes in publicizing mystery and thriller authors. In addition to James Patterson, she has worked with John Connolly, Alex Kava, Laura Van Wormer, R.J. Kaiser, James Zagel, and Bonnie Hearn Hill. She lives in Somis, CA.

Webpage: www.goldbergmcduffie.com



Judith Van Gieson is the author of four mystery novels featuring UNM archivist/librarian Claire Reynier. Fourth book in the series, *Land Of Burning Heat*, was published in February. Van Gieson has also written short stories and eight mysteries featuring Albuquerque lawyer Neil Hamel.

She nabbed the Bravos Excellence in Literary Arts Award in 2002 and the Spirit of Magnifico Literary Award in 1996. Now a convert to desert life, she was born in New York City and grew up in New Jersey. She lives in Albuquerque's North Valley where she's at work on *The Shadow of Venus*.

Favorite mystery book or author: *A Thief of Time* by Tony Hillerman

Funniest moment as an author: When a dealer in Boston emailed me to tell me he'd found a copy of my highly collectible first book, *North of the Border*, in the Wellesley dump. It was inscribed to someone I thought was a dear friend.

Favorite murder method: Anaphylactic shock

Webpage: www.judithvangieson.com





Maddy Van Hertbruggen is an online mystery book reviewer who writes for the *I Love a Mystery* newsletter and Reviewing the Evidence site. Her pastimes all involve books—reading, reviewing, collecting, and discussing them with online friends at 4 Mystery Addicts. In her non-cyber life, she works as a training development manager for AT&T

Wireless.

Favorite opening sentence: "There is a bullet in my chest, less than a centimeter from my heart." (*A Cold Day in Paradise*, Steve Hamilton)

Webpage: Her discussion group is located at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/4_Mystery_Addicts/



Lono Waiwaiole spent his childhood moving up and down the West Coast, a roller coaster ride that took him to 26 different schools before he graduated from high school in Portland, Oregon. After college, he spent two years in the Army and served as a medic in Vietnam. He

currently works as a high school teacher but has also logged hours as a basketball coach, journalist, editor and poker player ("a career which might have lasted longer had I been a little better at it"). He became a student of hard-boiled fiction and took the plunge into writing. His first novel, *Wiley's Lament*, was recently published, and he is working on a sequel.

Favorite mystery book or author: Elmore Leonard from the old guard; George Pelecanos from the new.

Webpage: lonowaiwaiole.com



David J. Walker, president of the Midwest Chapter of MWA, has been a lawyer, an investigator with the Chicago PD, and a parish priest. (So if there's ever a TV series called *Law & Order & Atonement*, he'll have all three departments covered.) Walker has written four highly

acclaimed books starring Chicago PI Mal Foley (most recent title: *No Show of Remorse*). He also writes a series featuring a married private eye team (*A Ticket to Die For*, *A Beer at a Bawdy House*, *The End of Emerald Woods*).

Jamie Wallace, writer, web designer and "recovering attorney," recently won the Daphne du Maurier Award for best unpublished mystery/suspense novel for her first book, *Murder in Law*. Her short story, "Driven to Kill" is featured in the mystery anthology *A Deadly Dozen*. Website designer Wallace has designed cyber "homes" for Barbara Seranella, Gary Phillips, Joanne Fluke, John Morgan Wilson, S.K. Rizzolo, Sherri L. Board, Irene Marcuse, LCC 2003, and Educare. She is a member of the planning committee of Left Coast Crime 13.

Webpage: www.wallacewebs.com



Nathan Walpow moved to Los Angeles to be an actor. He nabbed several stage roles and won two Drama-Logue Awards. He appeared on TV's *Sledge Hammer!* "for which I still receive residuals totaling approximately \$1.81 a year." Walpow's moment of national fame came in 1985 when he rose to glory as a five-times-undefeated champion on *Jeopardy!* While working as a computer programmer, he took a writing class at UCLA Extension and began kicking out sci-fi and fantasy short stories. Reading Raymond Chandler prompted a switch to crime fiction. Like Chandler, Walpow was 50 when his first book was published. He's written three mysteries featuring Joe Portugal (*The Cactus Club Killings*, *Death of an Orchid Lover*, *One Last Hit*). His short story in *A Deadly Dozen*, was selected for inclusion in *Best American Mystery Stories 2001*. He is currently on the board of directors of the SoCal MWA chapter.

Favorite murder method: Lowering an armadillo by rope from a heating duct to eat the victim's brain.

Webpage: <http://walpow.com>



Penny Warner has sold over 40 books, including six mysteries in the Connor Westphal series set in California's gold country. *Dead Body Language* won a Macavity for Best First Mystery and was nominated for an Agatha. Her most recent title is *Blind Side*. Warner also writes a children's series featuring a sleuthing troop of Girl Scouts. She has an MA in Special Education and teaches child development as well as mystery writing courses. Upcoming books are *Silence Is Golden* (Connor Westphal) and *Mystery of the Missing Mustangs* (Girl Scouts).

Funniest moment as an author: Being soaked by a sprinkler seconds before I was to speak to 200 library patrons.

Favorite opening sentence: "They were trying to kill me and I had to pee." (*The Frog King*, Frank McConnell)

Webpage: www.pennywarner.com





Betty Webb is a reporter and book reviewer for the Tribune Newspapers in Arizona. She also writes noir mysteries featuring PI Lena Jones (*Desert Noir*, *Desert Wives: Polygamy Can Be Murder*). Before moving to Scottsdale, she was a commercial artist and illustrator in Los Angeles and New York for 25 years working for larger advertising agencies such as BBD&O. Her play, "The Gospel According to Lewis," was produced in New York. Another drama, "Prime Time for El Supremo," was broadcast live on KTAR-AM radio in Phoenix.

Current project: *Desert Shadows: Publishing Can Be Murder*. Like the other Lena Jones books, it's based on fact.

Favorite Villain: My ex-boss (in real life). So far, I've killed her in every single book although I once turned her into a man to do the dirty deed.

Webpage: www.bettywebb-mystery.com



Robert Weibezahl is the co-author of *A Taste of Murder: Diabolically Delicious Recipes from Contemporary Mystery Writers* which was a finalist for both the Agatha and Macavity Awards. A sequel, *A Second Helping of Murder*, will be out this year. His articles have appeared in

national and regional publications including *Irish America* and *Bikini* magazines, *Mystery Readers Journal*, and the *Los Angeles Daily News*. He currently writes the bi-monthly "Well Read" column for *BookPage* and freelances as a publicist.



Dawn Weiss is a lawyer and a writer. She pens mystery fiction ("generally containing a liberal amount of offbeat humor") and non-fiction related to politics, humor, and the mystery field.

She's currently working on her first novel, a humorous yarn about a PI "who would be a bit more by-the-book if she could remember where she left it." Weiss is the founder of Thursdays Are Murder, a local book group, and serves as co-chair of programming for Left Coast Crime 2003.

Advice to aspiring writers: Follow your instincts. Unless your instincts suck, in which case you should follow someone else's instincts.

Carolyn Wheat, author of the Cass Jameson legal mysteries (*Where Nobody Dies*, *Fresh Kills*, *Mean Streak*, *Sworn to Defend*, *Troubled Waters*), puts her years of teaching to good use in her new book, *How to Write Killer Fiction*. She's the editor of two anthologies, *Tales Out of School* and *Murder on Route 66*. Her own short stories have nabbed the Agatha, Anthony, Macavity and Shamus awards. A former criminal attorney, she is currently working on a second book for aspiring writers, *Start Your Novel TODAY*.



Any other comment: I love conventions because I come as a wide-eyed fan, not a writer hoping to sell books. No matter what I do in the world of mystery, I am a fan first, foremost, and always.

Nancy S. Wikarski earned a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago then decided not to pursue an academic career. Instead, she went to work in the financial district as a computer consultant and began writing. Her short mystery fiction has appeared in *Futures*, and her historical mystery reviews in *Murder: Past Tense* and *Deadly Pleasures*. She is on the executive board of the Twin Cities Chapter of Sisters In Crime. *The Fall of White City* is the first book in her new series set in Chicago in the 1890's.



Current project: *Shrouded in Thought* (October 2003)

Funniest moment as an author: At a book signing, a patron approached -- and asked where the books on Ed Gein (Wisconsin's first serial killer) are shelved.

Webpage: www.nswikarski.com

John Morgan Wilson started writing for newspapers at 19 then worked as a freelance journalist, TV documentary writer and screenwriter before publishing his first mystery—and winning an Edgar. His Benjamin Justice series (*Simple Justice*, *Revision of Justice*, *Justice at Risk*, *The Limits of Justice*) offers a dark look at contemporary LA. A new series co-authored with Peter Duchin features Phillip Damon (*Blue Moon*). Wilson has taught in the UCLA Extension Writers' Program for 24 years.



Favorite opening sentence: "When I finally caught up with Abraham Trahearne, he was drinking beer with an alcoholic bulldog named Fireball Roberts in a ramshackle joint just outside Sonoma, California, drinking the heart right out of a fine spring afternoon." (*The Last Good Kiss*, James Crumley)

Favorite murder method: I've never forgotten a Charlie Chan movie I saw as a kid in which a man was found dead in a locked room with only a tiny window for entry or exit. The culprit turned out to be a small, trained monkey who had slipped in with a long needle, inserting it through the ear of the sleeping victim and into his brain. Truly creepy!

Webpage: www.johnmorganwilson.com



Brian M. Wiprud published his first novel, *Sleep with the Fishes*, in 2001. A sequel (*Dirt Nap*) is next on the launch pad. He also pens a new mystery series featuring New York-based taxidermy collector Garth Carson. The debut volume, *Pipsqueak*, was nominated for a Lefty Award. Wiprud lives in Manhat-

tan and makes a living as an expert on the city's underground. Widely traveled in the pursuit of fly fishing, he is published regularly in fishing magazines. He is also a collector of taxidermy.

Favorite mystery authors: Donald Westlake and Chuck Flink.

Webpage: www.wiprud.com



Linda Wisdom was born and raised in Huntington Beach. She majored in Journalism in college then switched to Fashion Merchandising when she was told there was no future for her in fiction writing. (Since then she has sold nearly 60 novels!) Her humorous romance and suspense books have appeared on bestseller lists and been nominated for awards by Romantic Times and Romance Writers of America. In her non-writing life, she's held a variety of positions ranging from retail sales to executive recruiter for a personnel agency. She and her husband live in Murrieta, CA, with a menagerie of pets (two dogs, four parrots, one turtle, one tortoise and four Siamese fighting fish).

Last published book: *Small Town Secrets*

Funniest moment as an author: At an autographing, a reader came up, stared at my name card then announced, "You're not the one I want." (She did return when she learned I was both Linda Wisdom and Linda Randall Wisdom.)

Webpage: <http://occrwa.com/lindawisdom>



Matt Witten lists bicycle messenger, circus roustabout and prison teacher as jobs he does not usually include on his resume. He now balances a busy TV career with writing a humorous amateur sleuth series featuring Jacob Burns (*Breakfast at Madeline's*, *Grand Delusion*, *Strange Bedfellows*, *The Killing Bee*). His episodic TV credits include *Law & Order*, *Homicide* and *Ghostwriter*.

Current project: I'm writing an episode of the CBS show *Judging Amy*, and a pilot for ABC based on the novel *Darwin's Blade*.

Favorite closing sentence: "Every day from here to there funny things are everywhere." (*One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*, Dr. Seuss)

Webpage: www.mattwitten.com

Tim Wohlforth has had 21 mystery short stories published and is now segueing into novels. His work has appeared in *Futures* and other magazines, as well as in the anthologies *Fedora*, *Hardbroiled*, *Bullet Points* and *Small Crimes*. He is the co-author of a non-fiction book (*On The Edge: Political Cults Right and Left*). He cites his pastimes as camping, hiking and photography and lives in Oakland, CA.



Favorite opening sentence: "Every time they got a call from the leper hospital to pick up a body, Jack Delaney would feel himself coming down with flu or something." (*Bandits*, Elmore Leonard)

Webpage: www.timwohlforth.com

Valerie Wolzien says the idea for her first mystery novel came to her in the middle of a PTA meeting when her son was in third grade. *Murder at the PTA Luncheon* quickly found a publisher and was made into a CBS television movie. Since then Wolzien has written 19 novels. Fourteen feature Susan Henshaw as a housewife/amateur sleuth. A second series stars Josie Pigeon, a carpenter/contractor and single parent. Josie's sixth adventure, *A Fashionable Murder*, will be published in April. Wolzien lives beside the Hudson River in a house built in the 1860s.



Last published book: *An Anniversary to Die For*

Favorite murder method: In my mysteries, I've been strangling the victims. They're all women who wear long scarves -- you could say they're asking to be strangled.

Webpage: NMOMysteries.com

Simon Wood is a California transplant from Slough, England. In the last three years, he's had over 70 mystery and horror stories published. He claims a day job—mechanical engineer—and a more reckless past as a racecar driver and pilot. His debut novel, suspense-thriller *Accidents Waiting To Happen*, came out last year. A second thriller (*We All Fall Down*) and short story collection (*Dragged into Darkness*) are slated for publication in 2004. He lives in Richmond with his American wife Julie, longhaired dachshund Royston and cat Streeter.



Favorite moment as an author: Actually seeing someone buy my book in a store. This involved me tailing the customer from bookshelf to checkout.

Favorite villain: Lawrence Block's Mike Ballou

Webpage: www.simonwood.net



Mae Woods is a writer-producer whose screen credits include three episodes of HBO's *Tales from the Crypt*. She produced the TV movie *When Danger Follows You Home* (based on an original treatment by Sara Paretsky scripted by Sharon Doyle). Her film work includes posts as a development executive and associate producer (*Streets of Fire*, *Brewster's Millions*, *Crossroads*, *Extreme Prejudice*, *Red Heat*, *Johnny Handsome*). She is currently working as a freelance writer. She has written for Mysterynet, MGM Home Entertainment and Digital City. Her short story, "An Open and Shut Case," appears in *Murder on Sunset Boulevard*.

Favorite mystery book or author: Dorothy B. Hughes



Paula L. Woods is the author of *Stormy Weather*, second novel in her Charlotte Justice series (named one of the Best Mysteries of 2001 by the *LA Times*). The series launched with *Inner City Blues* (1999) which received the Macavity Award for Best First Mystery, was named Best First Novel by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association,

and was nominated for the Edgar and Anthony for best first mystery novel. The third book in the series, *Dirty Laundry*, will be published in August. Woods is also the editor of the acclaimed anthology *Spooks, Spies, and Private Eyes: Black Mystery, Crime, and Suspense Fiction of the 20th Century*. She frequently reviews books for the *LA Times*.

Web page: www.woodsontheweb.com



Patricia Wynn is the creator of the Blue Satan mysteries, a swashbuckling series set in early 18th-century England. Prior to that she wrote historical romances and worked as an international commercial lending officer at a major US bank. Her mystery titles include *The Birth of Blue Satan*, *The Spider's Touch* and upcoming *The Motive from the Deed*.

Funniest moment as an author: Being told by a bookseller who furnished prisons that "those guys just love your Regencies!" She assured me that none of them were doing hard time.

Favorite pastime: Sniffing other people's gardens and wishing they were mine.

Webpage: www.patriciawynn.com

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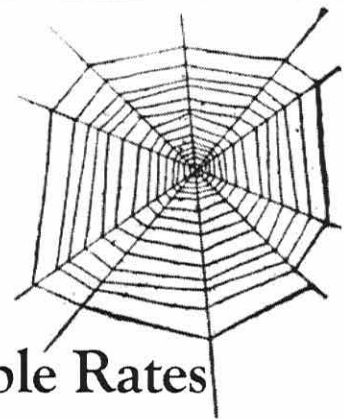
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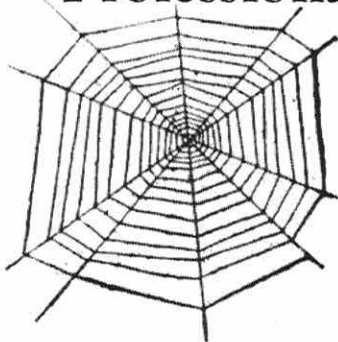
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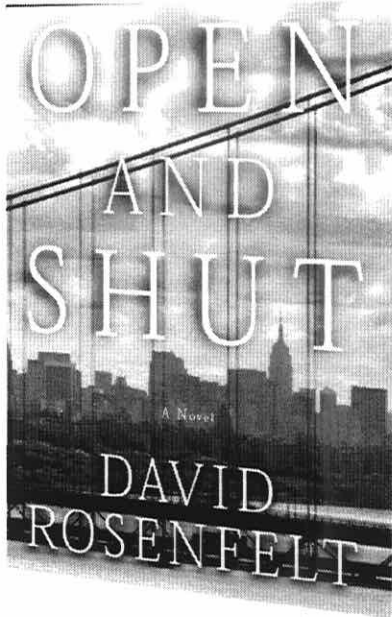
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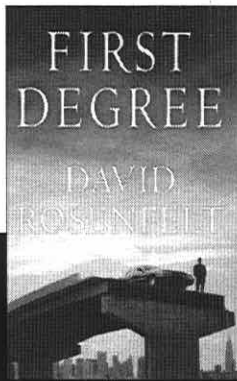
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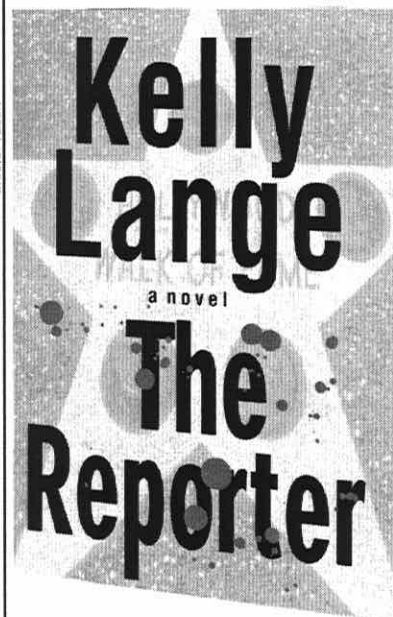
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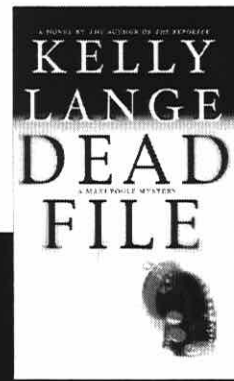


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- Chopping Spree** by Diane Mott Davidson
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The **Dilys Award** is named in honor of Dilys Winn, founder of the first bookshop devoted to mysteries. The Independent Mystery Booksellers Association, a trade association devoted to selling mysteries, has presented this award each year since 1993 at Left Coast Crime. It recognizes the books chosen by the members as the ones they most enjoyed selling throughout the year. The nominees for the 2003 Dilys Award are:

- You've Got Murder**, Donna Andrews (Berkley Prime Crime)
- Without Fail**, Lee Child (Putnam)
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- In The Bleak Midwinter**, Julia Spencer-Fleming (St. Martin's)

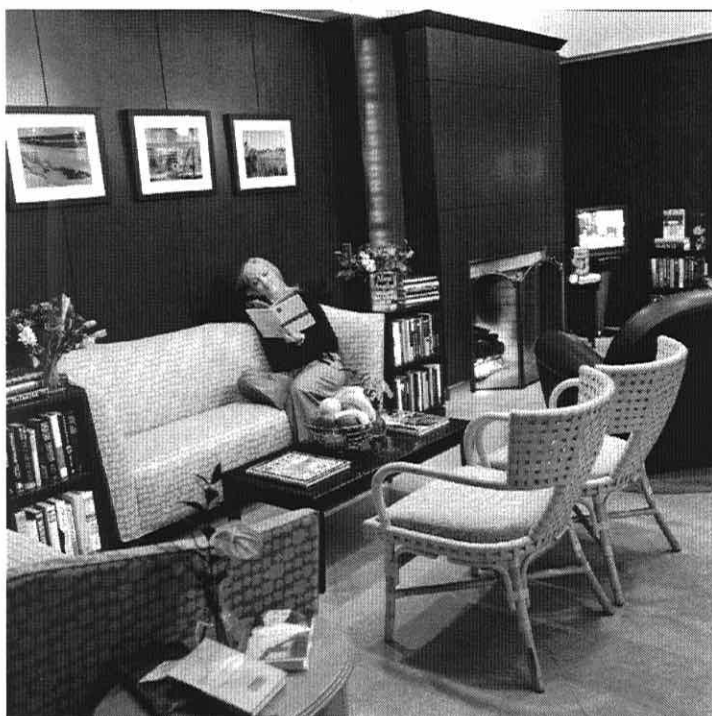
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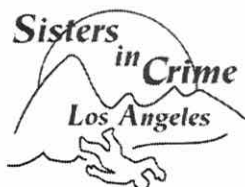
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A Taste of *Revenge* . . .

“Murders my beat,” Mother intoned dramatically.

To which I thought: Then just kill me now and put me out of my misery.

On a busy street corner in Century City, Los Angeles’ Westside business district, Mother had struck a pose against a lamppost. A very mystery-ish pose, very *noire*. Tugging down the brim of her smoky fedora, she sent a steely scowl through her violet-blue eyes intended to stop any would-be bad guys in their tracks. From the looks of things, that Friday rush-hour sidewalk was full of bad buys. Didn’t those silly suits have anything better to do than gawk at the bane of my existence?

Her hat hid most of her wavy blonde hair, but the too-short skirt of her trim-fitting navy suit exposed enough of those pinup girl legs to stop traffic. Literally — drivers came to a halt in the intersection and stared. Jeez, wouldn’t you think a woman her age would wear longer skirts? And wouldn’t you think my legs would look half as good?

I made them all gather in the dining room. Everyone but me sat around the huge stone table. Mother had that thing designed to look like Stonehenge — no one could figure how it stayed together. I didn’t worry about it collapsing, however. A lot of heavy stuff had been piled on it over the years. Though maybe never anything as heavy as the truth it would hold today.

When they filed into the room, they all scrambled for their favorite chairs. None of these chairs matched; Mother merely collected an interesting assortment when she put this room together. But they were all of the usual size, except for the one at the head of the table. That was an honest-to-God, gilt-and-red velvet throne. Guess which chair Mother grabbed?

While they settled in, I paced around the table, clutching my stack of photos. The wind howled outside now, as the rain fell in buckets. While I’d resented the dark clouds that blocked the sun, I now reveled in the appropriately gloomy background the rain lent to my performance.

“Tracy, you’re making me dizzy,” Mother snapped. “Stop playing Hercule Poirot — and sit down.”

Skippy handed the gun to his devoted wife; she slipped it into the side pocket of her short teal dress. He brought his hands together, as if in prayer, and inclined his head over them in a gesture that seemed to rob from both Eastern and Western religions. “Your time has come, my friends.”

While Skippy put on his little performance, Bambi snatched the door open and rushed outside. She slammed it shut behind her — and the lock clicked.

Skippy turned to the door. “Bambi, my dear, what—”

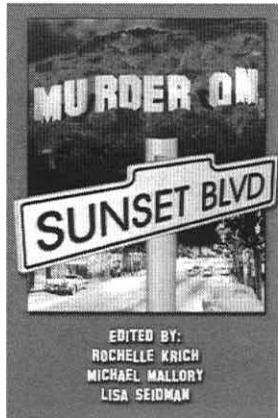
Bambi twisted her head toward the front of the building. “Excuse me?” she shouted to someone. “No, there’s no one inside.” She looked back at Skippy. A superior twitch tugged at her puffy bee-stung lips.

So she knew how to pull off her ambitions after all. “Skippy, something tells me your little wife is about to become the head DOLT now,” I said.

“No.” Skippy threw himself at the heavy door. “Bambi, you can’t do this to me! Not to me,” he cried.

The fumigating tent slid down past the window. My heart began to beat in my chest like a set of bongos.

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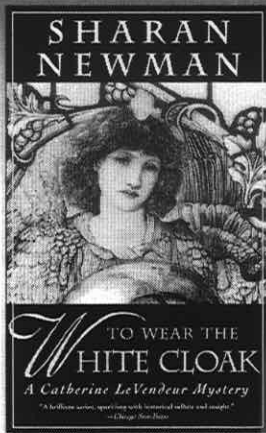
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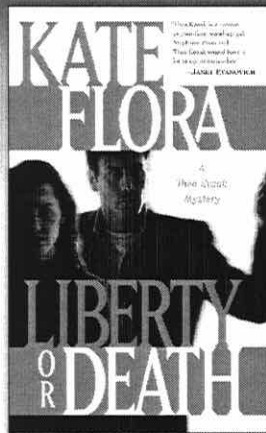


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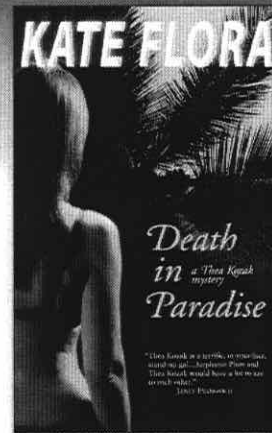


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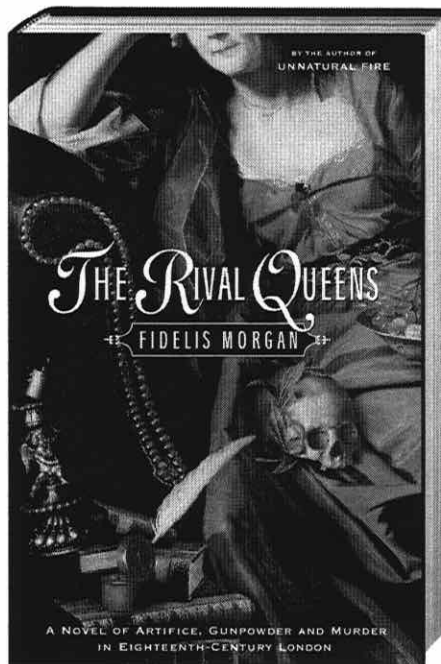
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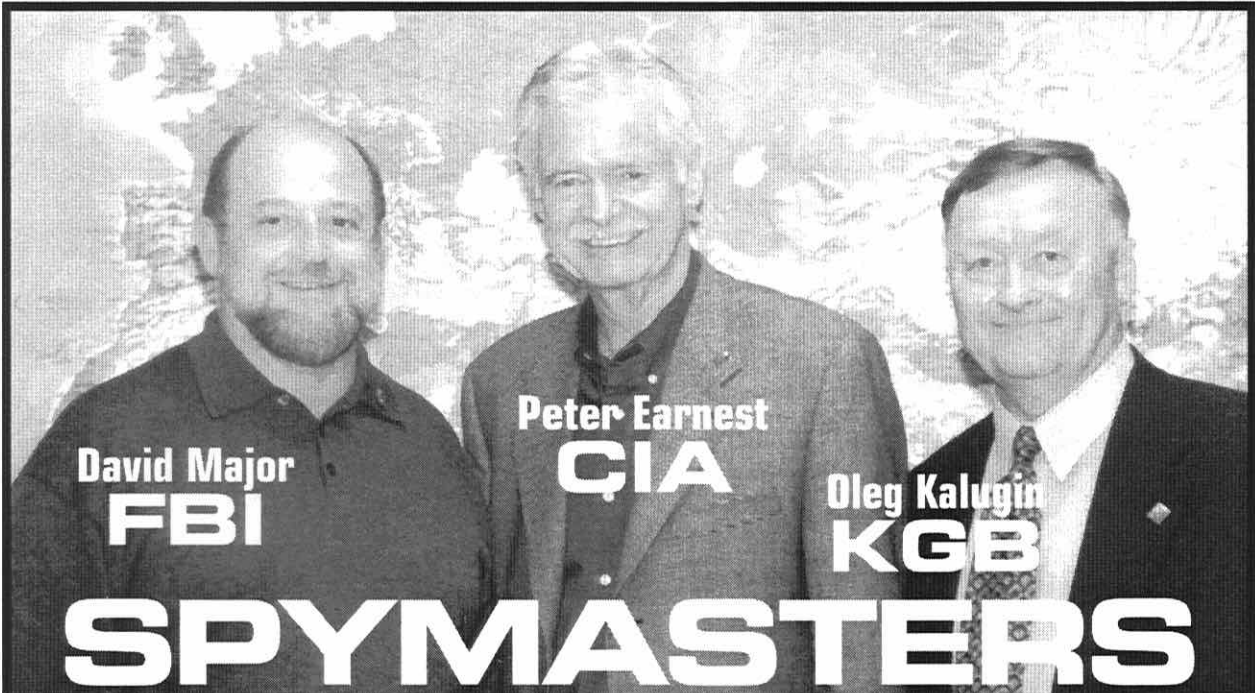
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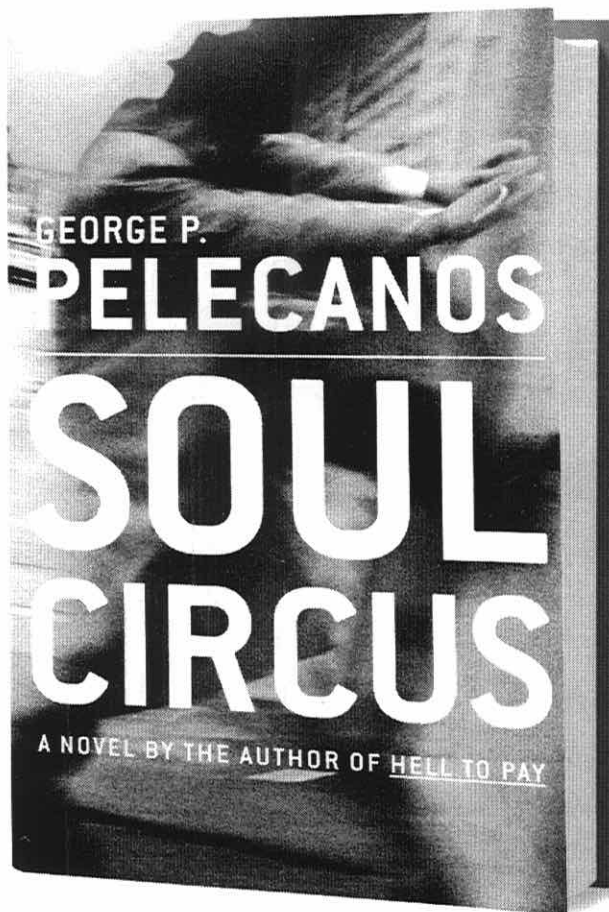
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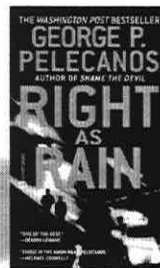
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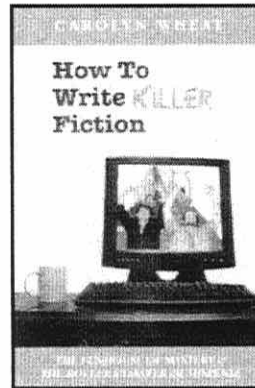
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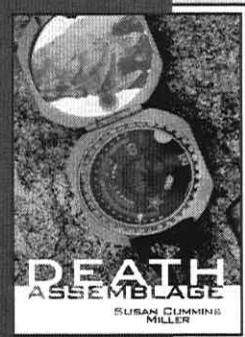
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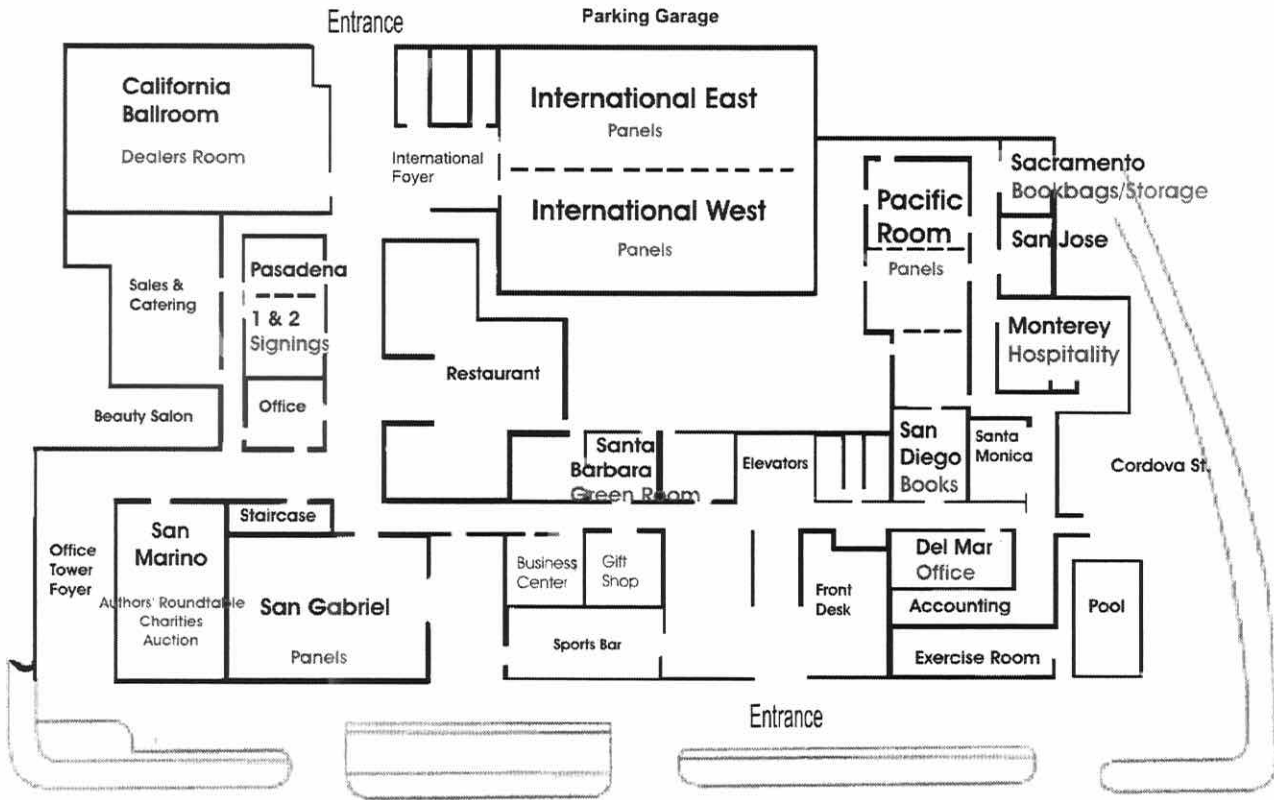
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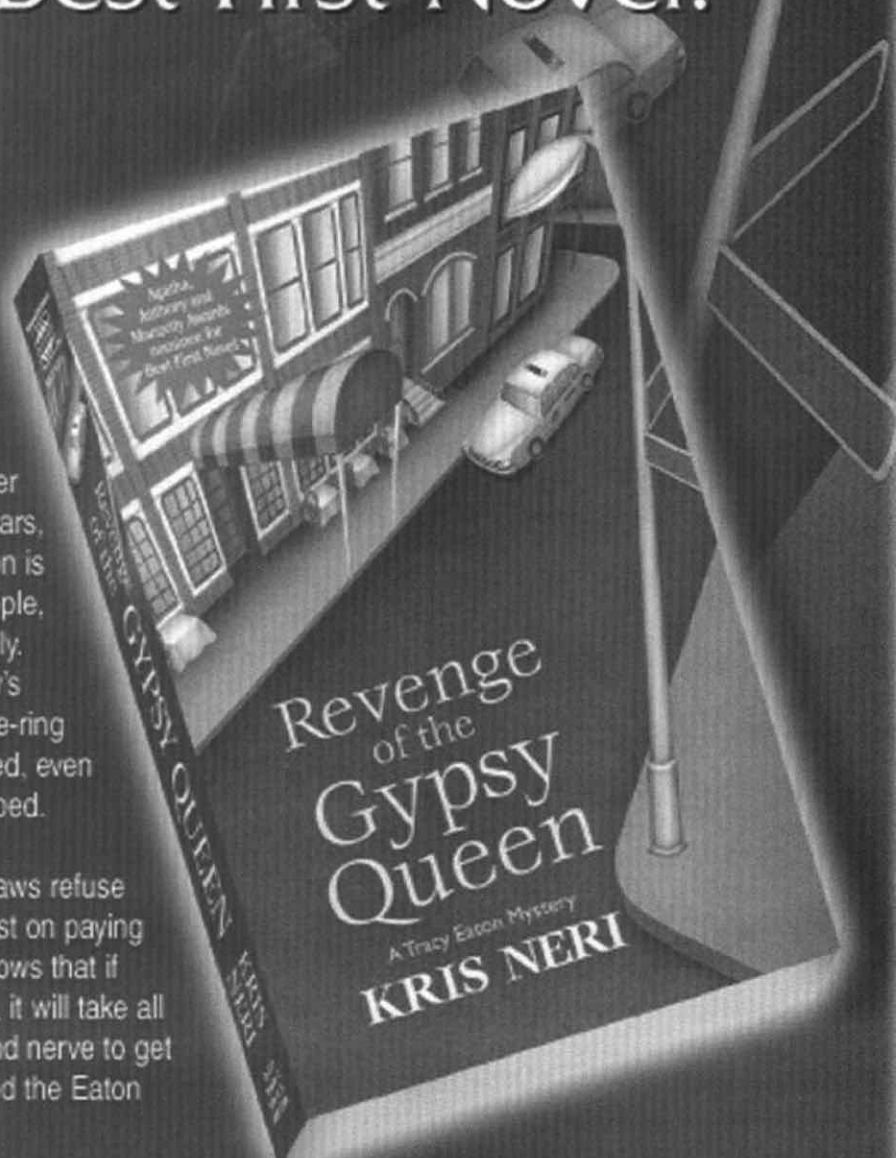
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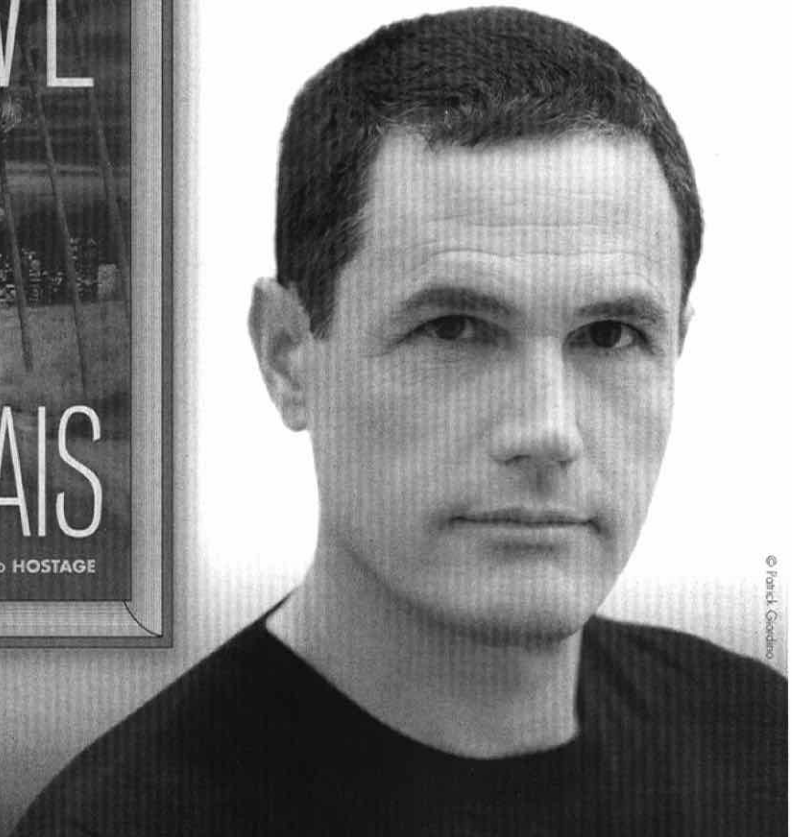
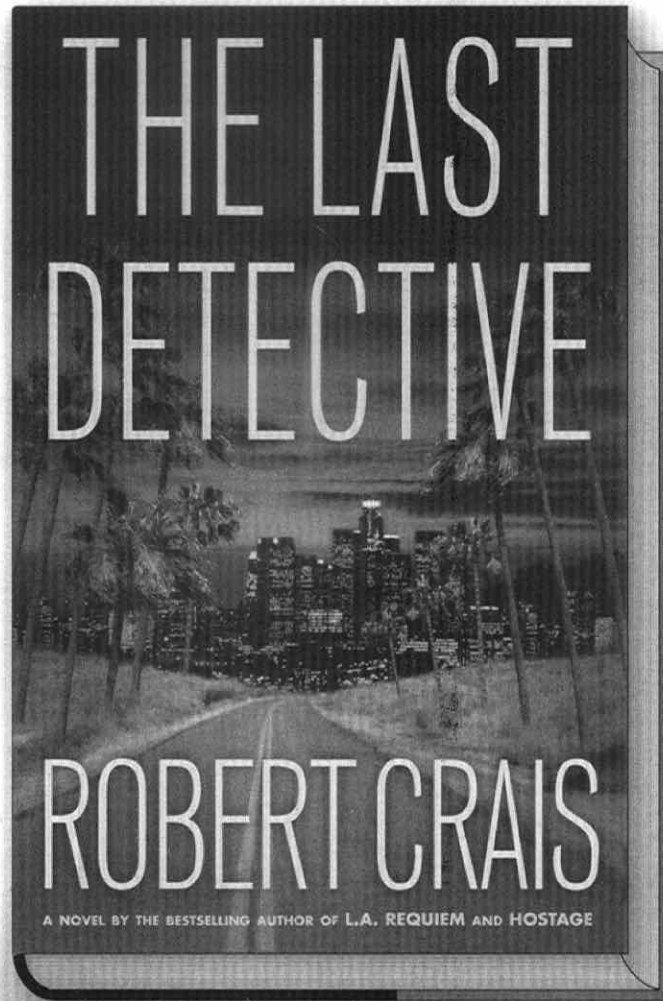
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