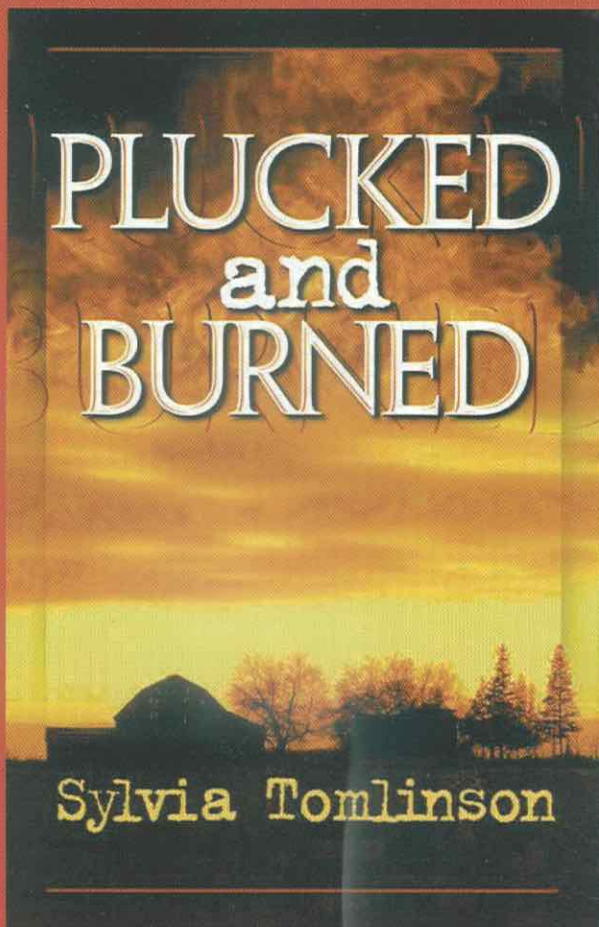




Left Coast Crime 14

**Monterey, California
February 19 - 22, 2004**



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Marie Jones, Reviewer
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Table of Contents

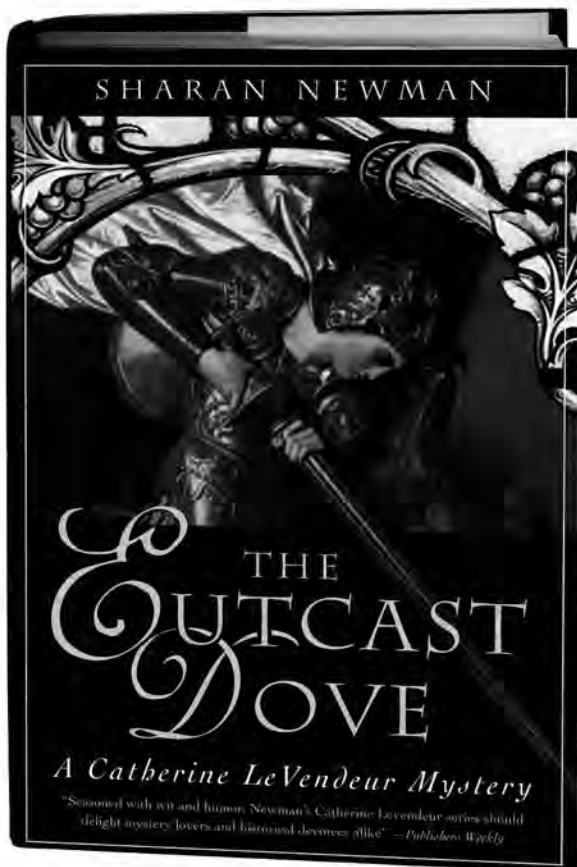
Welcome to Left Coast Crime	3	Day in Monterey	17
About the Program Book	4	Jazz in Monterey	19
Lifetime Achievement – Richard Lupoff	5	Daily Schedule	20
Guest of Honor – Sharan Newman	7	Program Schedule	21
Guest of Honor – Walter Mosley	8	Panel Participants	26
Toastmistress – Gillian Roberts/Judy Greber	10	Book Dealers	92
Fan Guest of Honor – Bryan Barrett	11	Awards	93
Fan Guest of honor Thom Walls	12	Auction Benefits	95
Bruce Alexander Tribute	14	Left Coast Crime Committee	96
Mayor of Monterey Welcome	16	Obituaries	101
		Left coast Crime Honorees	104
		Left Coast Crime By-Laws	105
		Floor Plan	108



Photo: Lola TroyFiur

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—*Romantic Times Bookclub*, 4½ star review on *To Wear the White Cloak*

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Left Coast Crime 14 – Welcome

Welcome to Left Coast Crime 14 at the Doubletree Hotel, Monterey, California. Our volunteer team has actively been planning this convention for the past 2 years and we look forward to all of you enjoying yourselves in the loveliest area of California in an intimate, friendly, and fun mysterious environment. Little did we know 14 years ago when we began this regional convention concept in San Francisco that we would be together in 2004, meeting with old friends, making new friends, and sharing common and not so common interests.

Our **programming committee**, under the enthusiastic influence of Betsie Corwin, has designed many different pathways for you to take to satisfy your mystery interests. It is our hope that you will have plenty of choices to fill your time in Monterey and that at times you will be frustrated because you can't be in two places at the same time. You will have ample opportunity to meet old friends and new and familiar authors, and to become acquainted with some of the wonderful areas on the Monterey Peninsula. Take advantage of all that you can fit in while you are with us during this long weekend.

Our **volunteers**, under the direction of Sylvia Tobias, are here to serve you and help you find your way around the Hotel and the Convention enter. They will be readily recognizable by their distinctive vests. Do take advantage of their expertise.

The **hospitality suite** is open for your relaxation and snacking. Pam Dehnke and Janet Appel have spent countless hours deciding on what to serve and how to provide you with an area to get together and talk when you just “need to be away” from other activities. Enjoy their hospitality.

Toby and Bill will be “locked” into the **administrative offices** and are available to assist you during the convention if there are any issues that need resolution. Stop by and say hello. You will recognize us by the “smiles” on our tired faces.

There are countless others who have contributed their time, efforts, and ideas and they will be introduced to you as the long weekend progresses. Feel free to introduce yourselves to any of the people wearing blue T-shirts or red vests with the Otter Design.

To fully enjoy your time with us, consider the following:



Smile at people and say hello. Breaking the ice is a wonderful way to make new friends.

- Feel free to ask questions at panels when time permits; no question is unimportant.
- Use the hospitality suite to find folks who share common interests. Mystery people like talking about their mysteries, what they like, whom they like, and what they don't like. We all have valuable opinions and this convention presents a unique opportunity to share your thoughts.
- Feel free to explore the areas around the hotel and on the Monterey Peninsula. The Hotel will be happy to direct you to Historical sites, wonderful restaurants and excellent shopping (we have good ideas also, so stop by the Administrative offices)
- Use the miles of safe walking trails and breathe the fresh air of California
- Go onto Fisherman's Wharf and listen to the seals, see the otters, and listen to the eerie cries of the gulls
- Visit the book room and fill yourself with the pleasure of reading (and fill your convention carry bag with goodies).

Above all, have fun amongst friends and enjoy the Monterey Peninsula.

Our very best to all of you.

Toby and Bill Gottfried
Co-chairs, Left Coast Crime 14
Monterey California
February 19-22nd, 2004

About the Program Book

A year ago when Bill and Toby Gottfried, our wonderful program co-chairs, asked me to do the program book I immediately, and somewhat naively, said yes, of course. As I had done all of the publications for the 1997 Bouchercon, except for the Program Book, this seemed like a logical step. The reason I was so confident about doing the book is that I knew that I would have expert help. My committee consisted of my husband, Marc, Roseanne White, Edith Gladstone, Margaret Howland and Janet Rudolph. Marc is the one who designs the documents I do. Without touching the computer he helps me layout the publications so they look professional. Roseanne and Edith are professional copy editors. They would do all the proofing and the editing of the biographies into usable form. Margaret solicited the ads and Janet gave encouragement and ideas.

When we sat down to decide on the format, we looked at previous LCC books and decided that the Pasadena book was the best. We loved the idea of ask-



Vallery and Marc Feldman

ing panelists questions in addition to the bios. We felt that this made for more interesting reading. I also decided to emphasize the photos since many people took the time to send in professional ones. I thoroughly enjoyed communicating with everyone who contributed to the book. I hope you will enjoy *Left Coast Crime* and that the book will be a useful reference in finding favorite authors and discovering new ones.

Vallery Feldman
Editor

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Lifetime Achievement Award: Richard Lupoff

An Appreciation by Art Scott

I first encountered Dick Lupoff in 1970 the way most folks do, as a reader. The book was *All In Color for a Dime*, then and now a seminal study of the history and art of the American comic book. It was evident from his contributions to this work and, its sequel, *The Comic Book Killer*, that he was a serious, insightful observer of popular culture. It was equally evident that he was an enthusiastic partisan of the subject – i.e., a *fan*. So much the better. Later on I read his study of Edgar Rice Burroughs, which displayed the same ideal combination of scholarship and clear-eyed affection for another somewhat less-than-respectable literary phenomenon.

I'm not much of a reader of science fiction and fantasy, then Dick Lupoff's main stock in trade, so he disappeared from my radar for a number of years until sometime in the late 1980s, when he called me up out of the blue. He was working on a piece about Richard S. Prather, the wonderful paperback private eye writer and creator of the immortal Shell Scott, a mutual friend suggested that I could supply him with information and copies of Prather's early and scarce paperback originals. Dick and I are both denizens of the greater East Bay, not too far apart, so he visited me and we spent several hours discussing Prather, paperback writing (his area of expertise), and vintage paperback collecting (mine). After that meeting we had occasional phone conversations and the odd bump-intos at the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore.



At the time, Dick was in the process of reinventing himself as a mystery writer. He is a latecomer to the field but hardly a neophyte – the appearance of a certain Dr. Watson in a story nearly forty years ago is evidence of his long-time familiarity with the fundamentals of the genre. I loved his first mystery novel, *The Comic Book Killer*, which introduced Hobart Lindsey, a somewhat nebbishy (less so as the series progresses) insurance adjuster, and Marvia Plum, a sharp black lady cop. I followed the Lindsey-Plum series as it progressed; Dick had the neat

idea of using oddball niches of popular culture-nostalgia-collectibles to provide story ideas. Along the way, he has also provided a rich and insightful portrait of life in the Oakland-Berkeley-East Bay region, a very different milieu from familiar next-door San Francisco, home base for so many mystery writers from Hammett to Pronzini.

I got a pleasant surprise when *The Cover Girl Killer* came along in 1995. The subject was vintage paperback collecting and pb cover art, my particular passion, and one of the ancillary characters, “Scotty Anderson,” bore more than a coincidental resemblance to me. Then three years ago “Scotty” was brought back into the Lupoff orbit in a big way. Dick had contracted to do a big coffee-table book on the history of American paperbacks. I signed on as research assistant, supplier of old paperback books for the cover art galleries, and general computer graphics guy. In the process of putting *The Great American Paperback* together, and later

Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery

promoting it at conventions and bookstores. I spent a lot of time with Dick (and his lovely wife Pat and their various cats and dogs) and got to know him pretty well.

Dick is an amazing guy, a generous, genial man of boundless curiosity and enthusiasm. Hanging out with him is like spending time with a conversational Roman candle. He can hold forth on an amazing array of subjects: books and writers, of course: genre fiction of all sorts, mainstream literature, dime novels, pulps, and comics. Lovecraft and Burroughs. Publishers and agents. Politics and baseball. Classical music and jazz. Fans and fanzines. Classic movies and old time radio. Perhaps he's not a true polymath. I suspect he's a bit weak on subjects like quantum chromodynamics (I may be wrong), but he's certainly a poly-something! He's also an omnivorous reader and a terrifyingly quick study. When we were working on *The Great American Paperback* Dick was reading his way through Rex Stout (and what a pleasure it must be to do that, for the first time, as an adult!). I've been a Nero Wolfe aficionado for forty years, yet Dick was right there with me when it came to discussing arcane topics relating to life in the famous brownstone on West 35th Street. And not long afterwards, Dick wrote "Cinquefoil," a witty Wolfe pastiche.

Dick Lupoff has been writing for fifty-some years. His bibliography is an astonishing literary smorgasbord: scholarly works of fact and wild flights of fantasy, science fiction and mystery, thoughtful idea stories and spoofy pastiches, multi-volume meganovels and short-shorts. This all-over-the-place aspect of his work has baffled some critics, but it makes perfect sense to those who know Dick. This multiplicity of literary Lupoffs is simply a reflection of his poly-somethingness.

Dick now considers himself primarily a mystery writer. He has written ("Spaceman Come Home" in *Writer at Large*) that he's very happy to be here, finding the mystery readership to be

more mature and stable than the science fiction folks. We are equally happy to have him here; he's contributed wonderful stuff to the realms of science fiction and fantasy and pop culture scholarship, now it's our turn. Lindsey and Plum are welcome additions to the detective pantheon. I can't wait to see what he's got in store for us next!

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Guest of Honor: Sharan Newman

An Appreciation by Steven Saylor

We might call Sharan Newman a Renaissance woman, were she not so manifestly a medievalist. Sharan lives, breathes, studies, teaches, imagines and re-imagines the Middle Ages, recasting the historical past in the mode of the modern mystery novel with stunning results.

Sharan first made her mark in the genre of historical fantasy; her three novels about Guinevere, first published in the 1980s, remain in print. But for those attending Left Coast Crime, Sharan's most notable achievement is the Catherine LeVendeur series, which began with *Death Comes As Epiphany*. The novel was nominated for Agatha and Anthony awards and won the Macavity for best first mystery of 1993.

Epiphany is the sudden manifestation of the essential nature of something, or an intuitive grasp of reality through a simple and striking event. Epiphany is the goal of mystery fiction, that golden moment of revelation when all is made clear. And epiphany is what Sharan must have experienced when she wrote her first mystery, for it opened the floodgates of her imagination. Eight other novels in the series have followed, taking readers deep into the world of twelfth-century Europe to follow the investigative exploits of Catherine and her stalwart husband Edgar. *Cursed In The Blood* won the Herodotus Award for best historical mystery of 1998. The latest is *The Outcast Dove* (December 2003). Sharan also co-edited the three *Crime Through Time* anthologies, which have become landmarks in the history/mystery genre.

One of the delights of the LeVendeur series is the means it provides for Sharan to share with readers her wide-ranging erudition about the medieval world. While relatively few have been privileged to hear Sharan expound on such



topics as “Absolution Without Atonement: the Case of ‘La Naissance du Chevalier au Cygne’” (a paper delivered at Stanford in 1998), many thousands of readers are transported with each new installment in the LeVendeur series into a richly complex recreation of the past made authentic by the author's seemingly inexhaustible scholarship. (One of the most striking features of Sharan's lovely home outside Portland, Oregon, is a remarkable library filled with esoteric volumes in many languages.)

Dispelling popular misconceptions is one of Sharan's passions; visitors to her web site www.hevanet.com/sharan can learn “Six Things That ‘Everyone Knows’ about the Middle Ages That Aren't True.”

Sharan is a woman of degrees, including a BA from Antioch College in Comparative Literature and an MA from Michigan State University in English. She has completed requirements for a Ph.D. in History at the University of California at Santa Barbara. She is a longtime member of the Medieval Academy, has served on the advisory board for the Medieval Association of the Pacific, and lectures widely. (A partial list of her speaking and seminar engagements includes The Smithsonian Institution, UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Rice University, the University of Wisconsin, Ohio State University Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Rhodes College, and Vassar College.)

For her many accomplishments spanning the worlds of scholarship and mystery, LCC is proud to welcome Sharan Newman as a Guest of Honor.

Guest of Honor: Walter Mosley

An Appreciation by Paula L. Woods

Reading Walter

While I've never told him this, Walter Mosley has been an inspiration to me for more years and more reasons than he knows.

We met over ten years ago at what was then called the American Booksellers Association's convention. Mistaking me and my husband for booksellers, a W.W. Norton publicist pulled us across the aisle to meet the author and get a signed copy of his latest mystery. Meeting Walter

was a pleasant surprise—not just because he was gracious and charming to total strangers, but because I hadn't heard of a black mystery writer since Chester Himes.

Today Walter's significance extends far beyond Himes. David L. Ulin, in *The Atlantic Monthly*, has said that the Easy Rawlins books “compose a sprawling novel of manners about twentieth-century African-American Los Angeles that owes as much to authors like Dickens and Zola as it does to the aesthetics of noir.” While I agree, my own response to the series is more visceral, because that chance meeting, and subsequent devouring of every one of the Easy Rawlins mysteries, made me realize as I never had what a void there had been in my reading life. For throughout the color-coded titles of the series, Walter has created in Easy and his sidekick, Raymond “Mouse” Alexander, two of the most fully-realized characters in fiction—intelligent, funny, violent, loving, and heroically flawed in a way I'd never seen black men or, one could



argue, men of any color portrayed. Additionally, Walter evokes a pivotal time and place that has great personal resonance for me—Los Angeles of the 1940s to 1960s, a city traversed by both Walter's and my own father and a generation of black immigrants who escaped the terrors of the South for what they hoped would be a new Eden in California.

But reading Walter's work also caused me to

wonder: were there other black writers of crime fiction who were his contemporaries? And what about the writers before Chester Himes—were there any and why hadn't I heard of them? The question led me to seek out and collect the text that became the anthology *Spooks, Spies, and Private Eyes* and to forge lasting relationships with a number of fine writers. I have Walter to thank for that. I also thank him for writing so eloquently and powerfully that I began to think that maybe I, too, had something to say about life and crime in Los Angeles and, by extension, America. I would have never attempted to write fiction if Walter hadn't preceded me, telling tales and writing truth that transcends race and class.

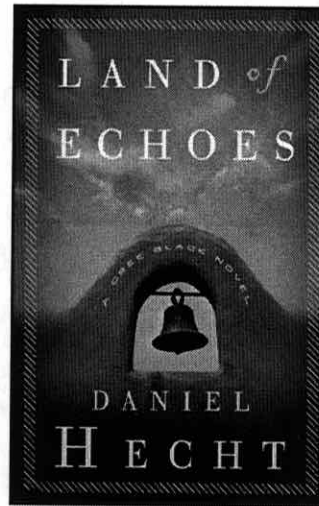
And those truths are not limited to the mystery genre. Walter is one of those rare people, possessed of a fertile mind and unswerving vision, whose intellect has been applied to the six novels, prequel, and short stories that comprise the Easy Rawlins oeuvre; two mysteries in a series featuring Paris Minton and Fearless

Jones; two collections of short fiction about ex-con Socrates Fortlow; the literary novels *RL's Dream* and the newly published *The Man in My Basement*; two science fiction novels; screenplays; and several works of social and political criticism. Taken together, Walter's body of work has significantly expanded our understanding of the power of writing to change lives.

Such a list of accomplishments would be more than enough for most people. But Walter has also served as president of the Mystery Writers of America and on the board of the National Book Foundation. Among other contributions that have made the literary landscape richer and more diverse for us all, he consciously chose to publish the Easy Rawlins prequel, *Gone Fishin'*, with an independent black-owned press and has helped to establish a publishing certificate program at City University of New York intended to involve more people of color in the publishing industry,

He has said publicly that his fiction is about black male heroes. As a writer, social critic, and activist, Walter Mosley himself embodies that concept as completely as any of his characters. Recognition of his work and his humanity by Left Coast Crime 2004 is a most richly deserved honor for one of America's most notable writers.

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A Toast to Gillian Roberts/Judy Greber

by Marilyn Wallace

If I were going to create a character in a book to personify the idea of a great and true friend, she would be smart, funny, and willing to read my manuscripts as often as necessary and offer brilliant suggestions with great tact. Her clever reactions to life's challenges would never fail to make me laugh, and her pain and outrage at the world's injustices would assure me that a strong moral compass needn't lose its sense of direction inside a genuinely funny person. She would listen to my silences from 3,000 miles away and check to find out whether anything was wrong. She would send me gifts of tiny elephants and let me send her absurdly silly frogs. She'd be a gracious hostess, a fantastic cook, a loyal keeper of secrets.

Since writers have the luxury of creating the perfect universe, this perfect friend would talk with me endlessly—on long walks and long drives, in airports and in places where we were supposed to be listening to someone else—about the challenges and rewards of writing, of family, of being a woman in a changing world. A necessary quality, of course, would be knowing how to share a room at a mystery convention so that it's neat enough to find that other shoe but not so neat that it feels like home.

She would write books that charm and delight while offering important truths about real people with real problems. Each story would reveal an understanding of the human experience, whether of life as a teen-aged misfit at a private high school in Philadelphia or as a working class woman living on the fringes of affluent Marin County. As further proof of her wisdom and generosity, she'd write a fabulous handbook about writing crime fiction that every



aspiring mystery writer (and even some who are already in the pantheon but may need a little juice to keep the flow of words going) should read, in which she proves that she's a splendid teacher, too.

She would be a lot like Judy Greber/Gillian Roberts.

I met Judy a hundred years ago at a writers' conference in San Rafael, California. She was sitting at a round oak table in a grand Victorian vestibule, talking to a person who has no substance in my memory. As I approached

her table she looked up. I'd never before believed in friendship at first sight, but after that moment I knew it was possible. We talked for five minutes, no longer, but a little frisson of anticipation lingered. The next time we saw each other, we discovered that we'd both gone home and told our husbands that we'd just met someone who was going to be a friend.

After we'd been part of each other's lives for years, after we'd shared all those walks and manuscripts and conventions, I heard a theory that explained what had made that moment in the vestibule so special. The Sufis say that when the world was created, different people were bathed in different amounts of light. In each successive trip into this material plane of existence, you recognize those people who were bathed in the same amount of light. Even if I have the cosmology wrong, I love that idea because it explains that moment of meeting Judy. Instant recognition—lifelong friendship.

I'm blessed to call Judy my friend. You're lucky to have her wit and kindness welcome you to Left Coast Crime.

Fan Guest of Honor: Bryan Barrett

An Appreciation by Thom Walls

I've known Bryan for about 25 years, so what can I say without saying anything actionable and/or libelous. As the saying goes, I'll stick with "just the facts" as I know them. Bryan is in his mid to late forties, he's a single male, he's a Leo. In some ways, he would have been a great nineteenth century naturalist, he's always curious about the natural sciences. He's always identifying plants, animals, and birds while we are on the road, driving to conventions. He's a bit of a lefty, gets it from his grandfather, who was active in Seattle's longshoremen's union. He's been selling comics, books, and interesting stuff his whole adult life. He went to college and minored in theater. He worked on a student production with Tom Hanks, yes, that Tom Hanks. He's tried out for "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire", got the first call back, but didn't advance any further. He should have told them about the connection to Tom Hanks, but forgot, until it was too late.

Bryan's fannish career started with working on comic conventions, then on the science fiction conventions, and in the 80s on the 1982 Bouchercon, in San Francisco. He was the Chairman, of the 1985 Bouchercon. As he says, he had no assets, so they made him the Chair and had him sign the contracts with the hotel. He helped found the Left Coast Crime Conventions, as there weren't a lot of regional mystery conventions back in 1990. He convinced me to Chair the Seattle Bouchercon in 1994 and helped with the bidding. When, at the 1993 Bouchercon in Omaha, the gauntlet was thrown down that there would never be another Bouchercon in the Bay area without the effort of the person



speaking. Bryan took it upon himself to start organizing a bid for the 1997 Bouchercon, which he co-chaired with Bruce Taylor.

Bryan has helped others get involved with organizing and running mystery conventions; he was the co-chair, with Debbie Cross, of the Portland Left Coast in 2002, mainly serving as hotel liaison and speaker to other

conventions. He helped convince the Austin committee to put on the 2002 Bouchercon. He has also been in charge of various dealers' rooms in a few mystery conventions. He's also been a member, off and on, in the DAPA-EM mystery APA, an amateur press association publication, otherwise known as the secret masters of mystery fandom (SMOFs). He's a funny writer and keen observer of his times, and movies. He just can't spell. In fact, one of his favorite sayings is, "I was a Chairman, and Chairmen can't spell."

He currently resides in the Pacific Northwest, where a large part of his extended family resides. He moved up here in the late 90s, when the city of Oakland gave him money to go away. To explain it a little better, after an earthquake in the Bay Area, the building his store was in, survived without damage, and it happened to be around the corner from City Hall. So the city declared eminent domain, and paid him, along with the rest of the co-op residents to go away. It allowed him to move up to the Pacific Northwest and to take care of his mother in her later years.

So what else could I say. He's a good friend and it certainly has been interesting knowing him all these years.

Fan Guest of Honor: Thom Walls

An Appreciation by Bryan Barrett

Thom Walls.

Thomas D. Walls as he is known to his bank.

What can I say ?

Internationally published photographer.

Former Navy Chief. Science

Fiction Fan. Former Boeing employee. Book Dealer.

Convention Treasurer.

Convention Chairman.

(Bouchercon, CostumeCon.)

Member of the Permanent Board of Left Coast Crime.

At-Large Member of the Bouchercon Exec.

Committee. Dapa E'mer.

Bibliographic Researcher.

Raconteur and international man of mystery.



He is also a collector of many things –Mysteries, Refrigerator Magnets, Original Art. Mermaids. Playboy Paperbacks. Airline Playing Cards, Jessica Rabbit figurines. Poker Chips. Donald Hamilton Westerns. Film. Coffee Cups. Dust.

I first met Thom back in 1978 at a Crawford SF Fair at the Pasadena Hilton, the very same hotel that hosted Left Coast Crime. I was selling books, Thom was there promoting a Worldcon Bid for Seattle in '81. I can't remember much more than the fact of our meeting other than I sold him a book.

Back in 1985 I introduced him to Bouchercon. The second San Francisco Bouchercon to be exact. Like most of the attendees, he had a great time. Unlike most attendees Thom left the event wanting to host one.

In 1987 Thom was introduced to the Mystery APA Dapa E'm at the Philadelphia Bouchercon. Thom, recognizing kindred spirits, signed up at once and has been a contributor ever since.

Because of a last minute rule change at the San Diego Bouchercon, Thom's Seattle bid lost to Pasadena. (Long story here, buy me a cookie and I can tell you all about it.)

Not discouraged Thom put together another bid for Bouchercon in 1994. Due to another last minute rule change Seattle had to run against Austin Texas. This time he won.

For the next three years, 1991 to 1994, Thom worked on his Bouchercon. The last year as a Laid-Off Boeing Employee. I think that the reason that Seattle was a success was because of his ability to plan to be a laid-off Boeing employee and spend the needed time

working on the project.

The Seattle Bouchercon remains one of the best mystery conventions to date. End

Part Deux

Over the years Thom and I have had many conversations.

Scene: Hotel coffee shop at a mystery convention.

Bryan: Why do they always serve grape jelly? You'd think of all the jam choices that they could choose, blackberry, raspberry, strawberry, honey, apple, orange marmalade marion berry. you'd think that they would show some imagination in toast topping choice.

Thom: Grape is the cheapest. You left out mixed fruit.

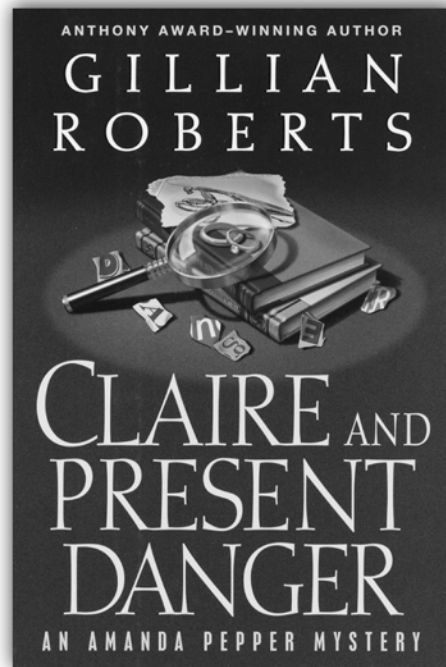
Bryan: Grape sucks.

Thom: No. Grape is just the jelly for the masses.

Bryan: They serve it in prisons and old folks homes.

Thom : A distinction without a difference.

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congratulates toastmistress
GILLIAN ROBERTS



And we proudly salute all our bestselling mystery authors
in attendance at Left Coast Crime 14

Peter Clement

David Corbett

Lee Harris

Harley Jane Kozak

Rochelle Krich

Scott Phillips

Valerie Wolzien

Paula L. Woods



Bruce Alexander - (1932 - 2003)

A Tribute by Tom Nolan

The author of the highly regarded (one might even say beloved) series of historical mysteries featuring the blind magistrate Sir John Fielding and his teenaged apprentice Jeremy Proctor is named on those novels' jackets as Bruce Alexander. But friends and colleagues knew the man behind this pseudonym as Bruce Cook.

The son of a railroad employee, Bruce moved from city to city a good deal as a youngster. Maybe this experience helped make him especially sensitive to different places and people and histories. Certainly his output as a writer reflects an appreciation of an eclectic range of experience, a quality expressed to the fullest in his Sir John and Jeremy novels placed in the 18th century (the tenth of which, *The Price of Murder*, was published in October 2003). Writing under his own name, Bruce Cook did an earlier series of contemporary California mysteries featuring a Hispanic-American detective, Chico Cervantes.

The mystery genre was the form in which Cook's fiction flowered. But in his 40-year career as a journalist, novelist, and editor, Bruce wrote several other sorts of books, including significant studies of Dalton Trumbo, Bertolt Brecht, the blues musicians of Chicago, and the "beat figure," a man of letters: someone producing valuable work in a number of forms, from criticism to biography to fiction.

That man of letters began as a boy in love with the work of Robert Louis Stevenson. In time, a lot of Stevenson's spirit of adventure and grace of prose were transmuted into Bruce Alexander's historical mysteries. Stevenson's plucky young heroes have a worthy colleague in Jeremy Proctor, who in turn seemed an unconscious fictional self portrait of the author who created him.

Like his character Jeremy, Bruce Cook persevered in the face of adversity. "I'm persistent; that's my strong suit," said this citizen who grew up through the Depression years and World War II and came of age in the Cold War era. "No matter what they throw at me, I just keep coming on."

The strength of character of Bruce Cook/Alexander shines through every page he wrote. It's emblematic of this diligent man of letters' work ethic that when he died unexpectedly, late in 2003, he had a new Sir John and Jeremy book about to be published and another stand-alone novel all but done.

Bruce's other great character, Jeremy's mentor-savior Sir John Fielding, was based on a historical figure; but his emotional inspiration was Bruce's own father, a man who was a quiet hero to his son. "He was the nicest man I ever knew," Bruce said of his dad. "I think I put a lot of him into Sir John." No doubt there was much of his father's decency in Bruce himself: a man who could say more with a nod, a shrug, or a smile than many others could in a page of prose or a minute of talk. A devoted husband and father, Bruce Cook took an almost paternal interest in his friends. "The nicest man I ever knew" – that's a phrase many of us now use to describe the gifted and caring Bruce Cook.

CHRONICLE

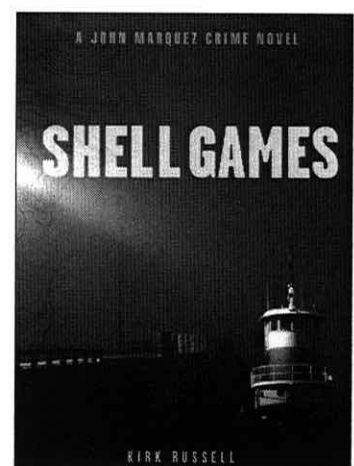
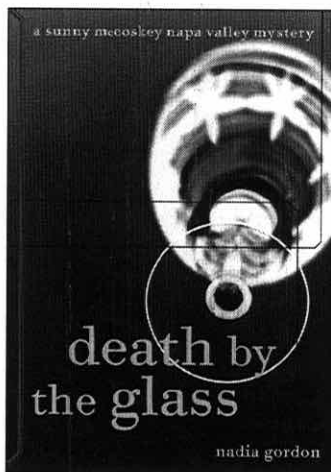
CRIME



Nadia Gordon, James Calder, Kirk Russell

Chronicle Books introduces the latest thrilling additions to the Chronicle Crime list: *Death by the Glass* by Nadia Gordon, *About Face* by James Calder, and *Shell Games* by Kirk Russell, three Californian authors writing about quintessentially Californian topics—wine, biotech, and the environment.

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Welcome to the City of Monterey!

On behalf of the City Council, the citizens of Monterey, and myself, I offer our warmest greetings to the participants of the Left Coast Crime 14 convention. We are pleased and honored that you returned to Monterey.

There is no better place than the Monterey Peninsula, the most beautiful place on Earth, where "land, sea and sky meet," for you to get together to share your passion of mystery and reading. Monterey is a mosaic of culture, steeped with its extraordinary historic roots. While attending your conference, we hope you will have the opportunity to experience Monterey's history, its unspoiled beauty, and its diverse cultural legacy, as well as the hauntings of great writers such as Robert Lewis Stevenson and John Steinbeck.

Once again, welcome to Monterey.

Dan Albert

Dan Albert

Dan Albert
Mayor

A Day in Monterey

Susan Young, Staff Writer, *Oakland Tribune*

Friday, February 21, 2003

On top of the view and nature, there are historical sites, museums, festivals, restaurants and shopping.

After years of schlepping relatives, friends and field-trip students down to Monterey to visit the famous aquarium, you can get a bit of tunnel vision when thinking about Monterey.

Sure, when pressed you might come up with the Laguna Seca raceway and the annual blues festival. But really, what can you do in Monterey?

Most people think of this seaside community in terms of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, but beyond that worthy attraction is a walkable town filled with historic sites, a kitschy wharf and miles of biking, walking and tide pooling possibilities.

With the Bay Area experiencing a warmer-than-usual winter, this is a perfect time to beat the summer crowds and join the locals in enjoying this gem of a city.

There's a pedestrian and bike trail that's easily accessible from the main waterfront parking lot off Del Monte Avenue, right in front of the Municipal Wharf and close by the Old Fisherman's Wharf. The coin machines allow for up to 12 hours of parking for about \$1 an hour.

Exploring both the Municipal Wharf and Old Fisherman's Wharf across the marina can lead to unexpected treasures, like the Sandbar & Grill, a little piano bar tucked underneath the Municipal Wharf where the locals like to hang.

Posters from old musicals are pinned on the walls, and the music appropriately leans toward Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin. Locals say the restaurant, back when it was known as the Windjammer, was the location for a scene from Clint Eastwood's *Play Misty for Me*.

The wooden box of a building sits precariously above the water, with a nice view of the marina. Otters and sea lions paddle by almost on cue as you wait for your meal, delighting even the most jaded native.

Right across the small marina from the Sandbar & Grill is the Old Fisherman's Wharf – but don't expect the same kind of acreage that you find in San Francisco. It's a working wharf filled with touristy stores, whale watching trips and rows of restaurants offering free samples of their clam chowder.

A not-to-be-missed highlight is Carousel Candies. All of the candies are hand-made in the store, including the pulled saltwater taffy.

Old Fisherman's Wharf was built in 1845 and has the distinction of being mentioned in John Steinbeck's book *Sweet Thursday*, when he and Ed Doc Ricketts launched their journey to the Gulf of Mexico from this spot.

If you're hankering for a step back into early California history, there's no place better than restored Old Monterey. Just a few strides from the main waterfront parking lot is the Maritime Museum and the pristine Custom House Plaza.

Steinbeck may be the author most identified with Monterey, but the city also can claim Robert Louis Stevenson. Stevenson came to Monterey in 1876 in pursuit of a married woman he fell in love with back in France. Stevenson stayed at a house that has since been restored and is known as the Robert Louis Stevenson House. The house was also the setting for Steinbeck's short story, "How Edith McGillcuddy Met R.L.S."

The Stevenson House has a nice collection of memorabilia, including furniture, first edition books, manuscripts, keepsakes and personal belongings of the writer, given by members of his family.

The town has some beautifully refurbished homes and many of the gardens have also been restored. The

Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery

sweet smell from the gardens can be whiffed through most of the year, but never quite as strongly as in the spring and summer months.

Visitors have a choice of several free guided tours, courtesy of the California State Park system, or take your own self-guided tour. Dorothy might have had her yellow brick road to follow, but Monterey sight-seers can simply follow the round markers on the sidewalks that designate The Path of History walking tour.

First stop should be at Pacific House, which was originally built for the storage of U.S. military supplies in 1847. Now the building is used as a history museum and offers pamphlets on the walking tours and other historic sites in the area.

Most of the restored Monterey adobes, which number more than 30, date from the 1830s. The adobes include Colton Hall, where California's first Constitution was hammered out in 1849. The second floor assembly hall has been restored to appear as it was when the 48 delegates of the first Constitution

Convention met.

If you weary of history, pop over to the beach. Just past the Monterey Bay Aquarium, where Pacific Grove starts, there's a three-mile stretch of great tide pools. You can walk or bike along the beach area on the path, or drive to a spot and park.

In addition to ample views of birds and mammals, from otters to seals, there are the wonderful tiny treasures of the tide pools.

On a trip last week we saw sea anemones, small fishes, hermit crabs, bright orange sea stars, limpets, chitons and assorted crabs and mussels. Of course, visitors should be respectful of the fragile area. Don't pick up the animals and be careful where you walk.

For more information on the Path of History walking tours, call (831) 649-7118 or (831) 372-2608 ext. 21.

Web site at www.mbay.net/~mshp/
You can e-mail Susan Young at syoung@angnewspapers.com or call (925) 416-4820.
(reprinted by permission of the *Oakland Tribune*)

YOU OTTER JOIN US...

In congratulating the organizers of Left Coast Crime Monterey for putting on such an outstanding convention.

We are the Northern California Chapter of Mystery Writers of America.

We welcome everyone to Left Coast Crime Monterey and our home turf.

**If you are a mystery writer, bookseller, librarian, reviewer or you hope to write a mystery some day
YOU OTTER JOIN US IN MWA!**

We'd like to invite mystery writers and mystery associates who live in the area to come to a future meeting and consider joining our great organization.

We're a friendly bunch and our meetings are a wonderful resource for anyone connected with crime (in a legitimate way).

Our speakers have included gun experts, forensic gurus, criminal psychologists, private eyes and police officers, as well as well-known writers willing to share their craft.

We meet six times a year in various parts of the Bay Area, and plan to hold annual meetings in Sacramento and the South Bay so that those members have a chance to meet and schmooze too.

Among our stellar cast of local members is our toastmistress Gillian Roberts and such mystery writing luminaries as Joe Gores, Laurie King, John Lescroat, Steven Saylor, Perri O'Shaughnessy, Sheldon Siegel, Rhys Bowen, Robin Burcell, Janet Dawson, Jonnie Jacobs, Cara Black, Penny Warner, John Billingham, Eddie Muller, David Corbett, Jaki Girdner, Danielle Girard, Ayelet Waldman, and eighty more published authors.



MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA

Northern California Chapter

President: **Rhys Bowen**; Vice President: **Robin Burcell**, Treasurer: **Danielle Girard**,
Board of directors: **Ann Parker, John Billingham, Simon Wood, Elaine Flinn, Steve Brewer**.

Monterey and All That Jazz

Bill Moody

What do most people think of when the Monterey Peninsula is mentioned? Well for all of us here, Left Coast Crime of course, but Monterey means an array of sights and sounds. Beautiful sandy beaches? Seals playing along the pier, the Aquarium. Golf at Pebble Beach, or maybe it's John Steinbeck's Cannery Row, brought to life in the James Dean film *East of Eden*?

For music lovers, Monterey might be memories of hot jazz on cool evenings and for good reason. Monterey has become synonymous with jazz. Last year 45,000 people came here for the 46th Annual Monterey Jazz festival, one of the biggest and most successful festivals in the world.

In 1958, San Francisco jazz critic Ralph Gleason and disc jockey Jimmy Lyons, inspired by George Wein's Newport jazz festival, decided the Monterey County Fairgrounds would be an ideal venue for jazz. They selected pianist John Lewis of the Modern Jazz Quartet as the festival's first music director, and for the next 45 years virtually every name in jazz has made the September trip to northern California. Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk, Miles Davis, and Dave Brubeck are just a few who have performed and recorded live albums in Monterey.

In more recent years, Clint Eastwood, a long time resident of nearby Carmel and for a time, that city's mayor championed the festival, and became a board member. Eastwood featured archive scenes of the festival in his film, *Play Misty For Me*. As he and Donna Mills stroll through the grounds, we're treated to the Cannonball Adderly Sextet on stage.

Today, attended every year by thousands, Monterey has become one of the premier jazz festivals in the world and draws visitors from everywhere on the globe. For musicians it's a choice gig.

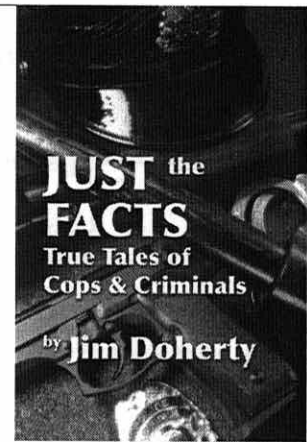
So enjoy the harbor, the Aquarium, the beautiful scenery. And if this is your first visit to Monterey, think jazz too. Come on back next September for the jazz festival.

Just the Facts

True Tales of Cops & Criminals

by Jim Doherty

columnist for
Mystery Readers Journal



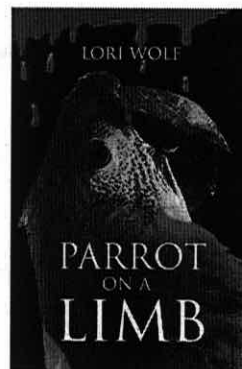
"Jim Doherty combines the cool eye of a law enforcement professional (which he is) with the fiery enthusiasm of a fan (which he also is) in a superb collection of essays detailing the true-crime back-stories of some of mystery fiction's greatest yarns. These crisp, no-nonsense accounts are hypnotically readable, and the Eliot Ness chapter alone is worth the price of admission."

—Max Allan Collins, author of *Road To Perdition*

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Reviewingtheevidence.com

PARROT ON A LIMB

by
Lori Wolf
www.loriwolf

Daily Schedule

Wednesday **Registration:** 4-7 PM

Thursday **Registration:** 9 AM-6 PM
Programming: 1-5 PM.

Open House at the Monterey Aquarium: 7:30-10 PM. For the first 350-400 registrants. Bus transportation will be provided (the first buses will leave at 7 PM, and every 15 minutes thereafter).

Friday **Continental Breakfast 7:00 Am 8:30 In Lobby area**
Registration: 9 AM-4 PM
Programming: 9 AM-5 PM.
Ongoing Mystery Movies: 10 AM-12:20 AM, Suite 117, DoubleTree

Author Round Robin: 5:30-7 PM. A chance to meet many of the authors attending, get all the books signed that you buy or brought with you while listening to the sounds of Bill Moody and his jazz band. Light buffet will be served. De Anza room

Movie: 8PM - 10:30 *Devil in a Blue Dress* will be screened in the Steinbeck Auditorium. Film introduced by Walter Mosley.

Wine Tasting: 8-10 PM. "Dying on the Vine" is our Mysterious Monterey Wine Tasting event! Bonsai I and II

Saturday **Continental Breakfast, In Lobby area**
Registration 9 AM-4 PM
Programming: 9 AM-5:30 PM.
Ongoing Mystery Movies: 1:30 PM-12:20 AM Suite 117, DoubleTree

Awards Luncheon: Noon-1:30 PM. Presentation of the guests of honor and the Lefty and Otter Awards . Open to registrants only. De Anza Ballroom *A special quilt will be raffled off at the awards luncheon!*

Film Noir Event at the Steinbeck Auditorium: 8-10 PM. Presented by Eddie Muller , the author of *The Distance, Art of Noir, Dark City* and *Dark City Dames* . No-Host cocktail reception 7-8 PM preceding the program. Free to participants; \$25 per non-registrant.

Sunday **Continental Breakfast 7:00AM – 8:30 AM**
Registration: 9-11 AM
Programming: 9 AM-1 PM.

Sisters in Crime Writers' Track: Presented by the Northern California Chapter of SinC. De Anza III

Registration Hours:

Wednesday 4-7 PM
Thursday 9 AM-6 PM
Friday 9 AM-4 PM
Saturday 9 AM-4 PM
Sunday 9-11 AM

Panels will be 50 minutes in length. Signings will take place immediately after the panels. Moderators are indicted by (M).

Movie Lounge Suite 117, DoubleTree
Hospitality Room - Suite 515
The Hospitality Room will be open Thursday through Sunday evening.
Dealers Room – Portola room
Silent auctuin - Benefits Friends of Sea otters
LCC business meeting Sunday Morning

Book Room Hours:

Thursday Noon - 6 PM
Friday 10AM - 8 PM
Sat. 10-11:30am 1:30 -6PM
Sunday 10-2

Open to the public Friday - Sunday

Thursday - Program Schedule:

There will be no programming in Bonsai I or Bonsai II today.

1-2 PM

Left Coast Crime 101: Tips for first timers -- How to get the most out of Left Coast Crime. De Anza I

Andi Shechter, Betsie Corwin

Familiar Ground: The Pros and Cons of writing What You Know. De Anza III

Susan Lynn Kingsbury (M), Lynn Fulton, Dana Cameron, L.M. Lawson, Peter Spiegelman

2-3 PM

New Voices #1: Debut mystery authors introduce themselves and their books.

De Anza I

Malinda Hall (M), S.W. Hubbard, James C. Mitchell, Charles Benoit, Louise Hoblitt

Research: Authors who love it, and those who don't -- How they strive to get things right.

De Anza I I

Jay Waggoner (M), Frankie Y. Bailey, Jackie Winspear, Pat Gebhard, Jane Finnis

Murder in Monterey and Beyond. De Anza III

Carl Brookins (M), Nancy Baker Jacobs, Sheree Petree, Elaine Flinn, Vinnie Hansen

3-4 PM

Interview: Sharan Newman, Guest of Honor. De Anza I
Interviewed by Gillian Roberts.

Old Time Radio Mystery Show: Armstrong of the S.B.I. De Anza II

Jim Harmon and other special guests.

New Noir: Is it just "dark and edgy"? Or is there more? De Anza III

Woody Haut (M), Marianne MacDonald, Con Lehane, Blake Crouch, Robert Skinner

4-5 PM

Another Dead Body? Give Me a Break -- The Amateur Sleuth Conundrum. De Anza I

Kate Grilley (M), Kit Sloane, Ellen Byerrum, Judy Clemens, Libby Fischer Hellmann

Gotta Have a Gimmick... or not?: What makes a story, setting, plot unique? De Anza II

Leslie Ann Budewitz (M), Marisa Babjak, Ruth Francisco, Shirley Rousseau Murphy

Interview: Walter Mosley, Guest of Honor. De Anza III

Interviewed by Paula Woods.

7:30-10 PM Special Event

Monterey Bay Aquarium: Opening Night Reception.

Program Schedule: Friday

Additional Friday programming: Movie Track (Suite 117)
9am -5pm Fifteen Minutes of Fame plus the Short Story Fest will take place in Bonsai I

9-10 AM

Romantic Entanglements: Integral to the story, or necessary evil? Bonsai II

Libby Fischer Hellmann (M), Don Bruns, Martha Conway, Shawna Delacorte, Dennis Burgis

Death In the Wide Open Spaces: Authors discuss pros and cons of writing about crimes in the mountains, deserts and other outdoor settings. De Anza I

Stephanie Shea (M), Merrill Sanders, Susan Slater, Connie Shelton, David Cole

East vs West: Does setting make a difference?

De Anza II

Camille Minichino (M), Ron Lovell, Larry Karp, Susan Cummins Miller, Ted Fitzgerald

The Art of Creating Suspense: How writers get readers to turn the page. De Anza III

Donus Roberts (M), Deborah Turrell Atkinson, Barbara Fradkin, Christine Goff, John Morgan Wilson

10-11 AM

Quickie Crimes: Short story writers discuss murder in the short form. Bonsai II

Tim Wohlforth (M), Jack Bludis, Joanne Lucas, Serita Stevens

Cultural Landscapes in the Mystery: More than just setting -- authors discuss how they create fictional worlds. De Anza I

Janet Dawson (M), Ann Parker, Rochelle Krich, Betty Webb, Earlene Fowler

Interview: Richard Lupoff, Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree. De Anza II

Interviewed by Jim Harmon.

Realism: Making it interesting, making it work. De Anza III

Michael Allen Dymmoch (M), Mike Lester, William Deverell, Steve Oliver, Eddie Muller

Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery

11 AM-12 PM

The Reader's Viewpoint: Fans, Booksellers, Collectors, Writers – what they read and why. Bonsai I Mary Mason (M), Cynthia Nye, Eugene Aubrey Stratton, June Moffatt, Len Moffatt

Travel Guide to Long Ago: Historical authors discuss the settings of their characters. De Anza I

Lauren Haney (M), Charles O'Brien, Candace Robb, Sharan Newman, Patricia Wynn, Priscilla Royal

Weird Jobs for a Sleuth. De Anza II

L.C. Hayden (M), Bill Moody, John Billheimer, Donna J. Ferguson, Joyce Krieg, Meredith Blevins

The Wild Bunch: Where did all these weird people come from, and what are they doing in my book? The ensemble crime novel. De Anza III

Barbara Seranella (M), Gar Anthony Haywood (aka Ray Shannon) Charles Fleming, G.M. Ford, Mark Haskell Smith

12-1 PM

Making the most of your website. Bonsai II

Sue Trowbridge (M), Nathan Walpow, Kate Derie, Stephanie Kane, Heidi Mack

Mystery Goes to the Animals: Crime fiction with animals in an important role. De Anza I

Laurie R. King (M), Laura Crum, Patricia Guiver, Lori Wolf, Sue Owens Wright

World Events That Changed Fiction: How events like 9/11, Rodney King, and others changed the way stories are told. De Anza II

Jeremiah Healy (M), Gene Riehl, S.J. Rozan, Ralph Pezzullo, Charlene Weir

Beat The Pros: Writers match wits with professionals to solve a crime. De Anza III

Rhys Bowen (M), Robin Burcell, David Corbett, D.P. Lyle, Stephen Booth, Meg Chittenden

1-2 PM

Crime Writing for the Tube: Writers who write for TV. Bonsai II

Gar Anthony Haywood(M.), Rick Copp, Sharon Doyle, Paul Guyot

Women Writing the West. De Anza I

Penny Warner (M), Lora Roberts, Taffy Cannon, Margaret Coel, Pari Noskin Taichert

Death in Faraway Places. De Anza II

Carol Fairweather (M), Lyn Hamilton, Cara Black, Kent Gilmore, Carola Dunn

What's Hot, What's Not?: Trends in Crime Fiction. De Anza III

Kimberley Cameron (M), Meredith Phillips, Michael Seidman, Win Blevins
John Cunningham

2-3 PM

Chester Himes' "New Angles": Re-imagining the Heroic in American hard-boiled crime fiction. Bonsai II

Norlisha Crawford (M), Robert Skinner, Robert Greer, Woody Haut

Bringing the Past Alive: Modern mysteries that take us back in time. De Anza I

Jaye Moretz (M), Richard Lupoff, Val Davis (aka Angie/Robert Irvine),
Naomi Hirahara, Leslie Silbert

Hammett vs. Chandler: Their influence in today's crime fiction. De Anza II

Mark Coggins (M), Jim Doherty Gay, Tolti Kinman, Bob Stevens

A Serious Look at Lighthearted Mysteries. De Anza III

Susan McBride (M), Donna Andrews, Bill Fitzhugh, Steve Brewer, Harley Jane Kozak

3-4 PM

Crime Through Time: History of the mystery, who wrote the first crime story, and more. Bonsai II

Carl Brookins

NOT "Just the facts, ma'am": Sleuths who use non-traditional detection methods. De Anza I

Barbara Peters (M), Jaqueline Girdner (aka Claire Daniels), Denise Dietz,
Lee Killough, Linda Joy Singleton

Got a Dead Guy. Now what?: Writers demonstrate the creative process – live. De Anza II

Gillian Roberts (M), Jan Burke Daniel Hecht Margaret Maron Jimmy Olsen

Bad Boys & Girls: Heroes on the wrong side of the law.

Simon Wood (M), Chris Niles, Walter Mosley, Barry Eisler, Scott Phillips

4-5 PM

Sounding Off: Reviewers tell it like it is. Bonsai II

Andi Shechter (M), Sally Fellows Chris Aldrich Maddy Van Hertbruggen

5:30-7 PM Special Event: Author Round Robin Signing Party with Jazz by Bill Moody's combo. In the DeAnza Ballroom.

8-10:30 PM

Special Event: The movie, "Devil In a Blue Dress," will be screened in the Steinbeck Auditorium.

The film will be introduced by Walter Mosley; Mr. Mosley will be introduced by Toby Gottfried.

8-10 PM

Special Event: "Dying on the Vine," a Mysterious Monterey Wine Tasting event

Saturday - Program Schedule:

Additional Saturday programming: Movie Track
(Suite 117)

Fifteen Minutes of Fame in Bonsai I 10 AM – 5:30 PM

9-10 AM

Beyond Harry Potter #1: Mysteries for the young and young at heart. Bonsai II

Patricia E. Canterbury (M), Bruce Hale Kate Emburg
Patricia Elmore Marianne Mitchell. Daniel J. Hale

North vs. South – California, that is: L.A. freeways, wine country, gold country foothills, warm water bays, and how they affect the story. Colton

Bonnie Hearn Hill (M), April Smith Ed Mitchell Nadia
Gordon Ken Kuhlken

Crimes Against Nature: Environmental Crime. Ferrante

Adrian Muller (M), C.J. Box, Kirk Russell, Kathy Brandt,
Skye Moody

Healy's Court: Audience participates in Socratic method of debate about myths of mystery writing. Steinbeck

Jeremiah Healy

10-11 AM

New Frontiers of Publishing: E-Books and Print on Demand. What is the future? Bonsai II

Erwin Bush (M), Helen Haddad, Victoria Heckman, Dee
Ann Palmer

Deadly Science: Lethal strains, genetic tampering and other criminal developments. Colton

John F. Schilke, M.D. (M), Peter Clement, W.H. Watford,
David Dun, James Jay Calder

Mean City Streets or Country Roads: Urban vs. rural settings and how they affect the story. Ferrante

Denise Swanson (M), Tess Collins, Joseph Trigoboff,
Louise Titchener, Susan mcbride

Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang: Opening lines and how they pull the reader in. Steinbeck

Dana Stabenow (M), Laurie R. King, Barbara Seranella

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Special Event: Awards Luncheon. In the DeAnza Ballroom.

1:30 - 2:30 PM

New Voices #2: More debut mystery authors introduce themselves and their books. Bonsai II

Sally Fellows (M), Katherine Shephard, Claire Johnson,
Twist Phelan,s Karen Swee

Dirty Politics: Is There Any Other Kind? Political thrillers -- why writers write them and why readers read them. Colton

Charles Fleming (M), William Kent Krueger, David Ellis,
Kathleen Antrim

Legacy of Sherlock Holmes Ferrante

Carolyn Wheat (M), David Hauge Leslie S. Klinge Michael
Mallor Stu Shiffman, Michael Kurland

Reading by Walter Mosley, Steinbeck

2:30 - 3:30 PM

Author/Agent/Editor: How each helps shape a book. Bonsai II

Adrian Muller (M), Blake Crouch, Linda Allen, Marcia
Markland

Lawyers Who Turned to Crime: Lawyers or former lawyers discuss writing about fictional lawyers. Colton

Dawn Lucian (M), Sheldon Siegel, Jonnie Jacobs, Joel
Goldman, D.W. Buffa

Is There a Doctor in the House?: Medical mysteries. Ferrante

D.P. Lyle, M.D. (M), J.J. Lamb, Bette Golden Lamb, Kurt
Popke, Lee Goldberg , joel goldman, D. W. Buffa

Catherine's World: Myth and fact – the truth about the Middle Ages. Seinback

Mel Hunt (intro), Sharan Newman

3:30 - 4:30 PM

Culinary Crimes. Bonsai II

Robert Weibezahl (M), Valerie S. Malmont, Peter Elbling,
Nancy Fairbanks

Murder, Mayhem & Family Values: Sleuths who juggle murder investigations with family obligations. Colton

Malinda Hall (M),Sue Ann Jaffarian, Pat Browning, Mary
O'Shaughnessy

Fact to Fiction: Writers discuss real life that inspired their fiction. Ferrante

Charlotte Cook (M), Denise Hamilton, Ridley Pearson,
Lewis Perdue, Aaron Elkins

Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery

Graffiti: A Universal Headache. Steinback

Todd Kessler, Monterey P.D.

4:30 - 5:30 PM

Cop, PI, Amateur, and Someone In-Between: What each type of protagonist brings to the story. Bonsai II

Jay Margulies (M), Mark Bouton. Barbara Nadel, Pamela Cranston Mary Jane Maffini

Historical Accuracy vs. Political Correctness: Authors discuss whether they do or don't rewrite a "kinder, gentler" past to suit their fiction. Colton

Randal Brandt (M), Tony Broadbent, Hal Glatzer, Aileen Baron

Justice and the Law: Who stays "inside the lines" and who doesn't? Is vigilantism ever justified? Ferrante

Thomas H. Griffith (M), Richard Barre, Lee Child, Patricia H. Rushford, Marilyn Meredith

100 Incredible Covers: A slide show of the greatest (and goofiest) mystery covers from the Golden Age of paperback cover art. Steinback

Art Scott

7-8 PM **Special Event: No Host Cocktails in the Steinbeck Lobby**

8-10 PM **Special Event: Noir Night with Eddie Muller in the Steinbeck Auditorium**

Sunday - Program Schedule:

9-10 AM

I Left My Gun in San Francisco: Is "only in San Francisco" really true when it comes to crime fiction? De Anza 1

Randal Brandt (M), Robin Burcell, Mark Coggins, Eddie Muller, Claire Johnson

Going Global or Up Close and Personal: High stake crimes, national/ worldwide disasters vs. misdeeds on a smaller scale. De Anza 11

Kathleen Antrim (M), Nancy Baker Jacobs, Pari Noskin. Taichert W.H. Watford, M.D., Tess Collins

SinC Writers Track: Getting Black on White – from Blank Screen to Manuscript: Strategies for developing ideas, characters, clues. De Anza 111

Gillian Roberts

10-11 AM

Making it Relevant: Bringing social (and even political) issues into mystery fiction.

De Anza 1

Suzanne Epstein (M), Christopher Rice, Ed Goldberg,

Paula L. Woods, Lee Child

A Funny Thing Happened...: Authors share humorous and not-so-humorous anecdotes about booksignings and other events. De Anza 11

Parnell Hall (M), Tom Mitcheltree, M.K. Preston, Valerie Wolzien, Ed Mitchell

Sisters in Crime Writers Track: Researching: Use what you know and research what you don't. De Anza 111

Cara Black, Lyn Hamilton, Stephen Booth, Tony Broadbent, Lauren Haney

11 AM - 12 PM

Sidekicks Who Steal the Show: Minor characters who threaten to take over the story. How the characters developed and how writers keep them in line. De Anza 1

J.J. Lamb (M), Bette Golden Lamb, Ann Parker, Penny Warner, Steve Brewer, Lee Harris

Beyond Harry Potter #2: Mysteries for the young and the young at heart. De Anza 11

Patricia E. Canterbury (M), Rodney Johnson, Claire McNab, Pat Lupoff

SinC Writers Track: Editing & Rewriting: Polishing for clarity and punch. De Anza 111

Lora Roberts, Jonnie Jacobs

12-1 PM

What Writers Read: What do writers read when they aren't writing? What books have influenced their fiction? De Anza 1

Margaret Lucke (M), Stephen Booth, Shirley Rousseau Murphy, Elaine Flinn
Nadia Gordon

The Lady Investigates: A history of the female sleuth in fiction. De Anza 11

Camille Minichino (M), Rhys Bowen, Carolyn Wheat, Merrill Sanders

SinC Writers Track: Selling/Marketing: "Guerilla marketing" for authors without a large budget.

De Anza 111

Mark Coggins, Kathleen Antrim, Simon Wood

Silent Auction to benefit Friends Of Sea OttersS

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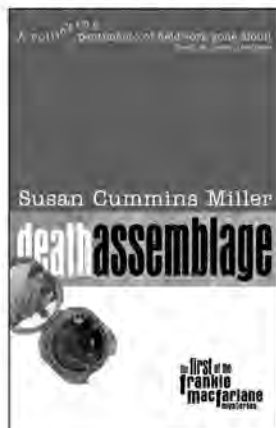
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Panel Participants



Chris Aldrich has been a lifelong reader of mysteries and took her first steps into the fan community in 1995 when she discovered kindred spirits in the CompuServe mystery forum. In 1997, Aldrich and Lynn Kaczmarek formed Black Raven Press and acquired *Mystery News*, the most complete, up-to-date, and entertaining guide to the latest mystery books, writers,

and events. In addition to reviewing and interviewing for *Mystery News*, Aldrich was a contributor to *They Died in Vain*, the award-winning guide to "Overlooked, Underappreciated and Forgotten Mystery Novels." By day, Aldrich consults as a special project manager for a large international logistics concern.

Linda Allen is the president of the Linda Allen Literary Agency, which is located in San Francisco. The agency was founded about 18 years ago.



Donna Anders is the author of eleven novels, including *In All The Wrong Places*, her most recent lead title of psychological suspense from Pocket Books. *Dead Silence*, *Another Life* and *THE FLOWER MAN* were prior lead titles from Pocket Books. Her next lead title thriller, *Night*

Stalker, will be released on December 1, 2003. Donna has published almost 400 shorter works, including short stories, novelettes, serials, articles, poems and plays, and two picture/coloring books. She is currently writing her next suspense novel, *Somewhere Out There*.

Favorite murder method: Anything that appears to be an accident.

Funniest moment as an author: When I poked myself in the eye with the comb just as I was leaving for a book signing. I bought an eye patch to wear for the four-hour signing then headed to the E.R. when it was over. Fortunately my eye was OK. I just looked like Frankenstein. Awful experience that turned out funny and I sold 150 books!



Donna Andrews was born in Yorktown, Virginia, the setting of her Meg Langslow series, and now lives in Reston. *We'll Always Have Parrots* (February 2004) is the fifth in the series, following *Murder with Peacocks* (1999 Agatha and Anthony best first novel winner), *Murder with Puffins*, *Revenge of the Wrought Iron Flamingos*, and *Crouching Buzzard*,

Leaping Loon. *You've Got Murder*, the first in Andrews's series featuring artificial intelligence personality (AIP) Turing Hopper, won the Agatha award for best mystery of 2002, and was followed by *Click Here for Murder*.

Funniest moment as an author: I once had someone inform me that he'd already read a book with an Artificial Intelligence (AI) detective, but by a male author. He then proceeded to tell me the plot of *You've Got Murder* in such excruciating detail that it was obvious not only to me but to two other people in the conversation that it was, in fact, my book. And when I attempted to prove this by mentioning some minor plot detail before he got to it, his face lit up. "You see! You've read it too!"

Web site: donnaandrews.com



Kathleen Antrim's debut novel is *Capital Offense*, a political thriller about an ambitious first lady caught in a web of murder and deceit. A former columnist for the Tri-Valley Herald, part of the ANG Newspaper Group, and current columnist for *Crime, Justice & America Magazine*, Antrim has won writing

awards from both the Santa Barbara Writer's Conference and the Maui Writer's Conference. Antrim grew up in Avon Lake, Ohio, attended Bowling Green State University where she majored in public communications, and began her career in sales and marketing with the Gillette Company. She resides in Pleasanton with her husband, two daughters, and three dogs. She is at work on her next novel and is an active member of the Authors Guild, Mystery Writers of America, Sisters In Crime, Murder Must Advertise, and Left Coast Crime.

Web site: breakthroughpromotions.com



Deborah Turrell

Atkinson lives in Honolulu with her husband and their two teenagers. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and spent ten years traveling around the Hawaiian Islands as a pharmaceutical representative for Eli Lilly and Co. before she “retired” to write and raise her children. Atkinson is a

freelance contributor to *Island Scene Magazine*, editor of *‘Elele*, the *‘Iolani ‘Ohana* newsletter, and is a recipient of the University of Hawaii’s Myrle Clark award for creative writing. She is a graduate of the Iowa Writer’s Workshop and her first mystery novel, *Primitive Secrets*, was published in October 2002. She’s hard at work on book number two, tentatively titled *Pele’s Sigh*.

Favorite murder method: Untraceable biological substance such as succinyl choline or insulin.

Web site: debraaturellatkinson.com



Marisa Babjak grew up on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, instilled with a love of the ocean that is prevalent in her writing. A certified beach bum, when she isn’t sailing Babjak enjoys scuba diving, windsurfing, and traveling. She graduated from the University of South Carolina and received a master’s degree in Computer Science from Golden Gate University. In writing her first novel, *White Lies*, Babjak

drew on personal experiences growing up in the segregated South and seeing Klan intimidation first hand, and she introduces readers to a protagonist living with the chronic pain disease reflex sympathetic dystrophy. Babjak is the owner of *femmes fatales Mystery Gifts* (mysterygifts.biz). She is a beach bum in southern California with her husband, six computers, and a robot.

Favorite murder method: Poison

Web site: www.mysterygifts.biz

Frankie Y. Bailey is a criminal justice professor and the author of several nonfiction books including *Out of the Woodpile* (1991) and the forthcoming *Blood on Her Hands*. Her mystery series features crime historian Lizzie Stuart in *Death’s Favorite Child* (2000), *A Dead Man’s Honor* (2001), and *Old Murders* (2003). Bailey is at work on the



fourth Lizzie Stuart mystery, a nonfiction book about the worldviews of African American mystery writers, and a new mystery series set in the 1940s.

Favorite murder method: Never tried it in one of my books – and I would think rather unreliable unless one added drugs or alcohol—but what about doing a Madonna

and using that drop-dead body as the murder weapon: pushing the victim to the point of having a heart attack from excitement/exertion doing sex. An “Oops, did I do that? I certainly didn’t mean to” for the killer. And a rather pleasant way to go for the victim.

Web site: www.frankieybailey.com



Aileen Baron has a Ph.D. in archaeology and taught for twenty years in the Department of Anthropology at California State University, Fullerton. Her many years of archaeological fieldwork in the Middle East include a year at the American School of Oriental Research

in Jerusalem as an NEH scholar and as director of the overseas campus of California State Universities at the Hebrew University. Her first novel, *A Fly Has a Hundred Eyes*, about the murder of a British archaeologist in 1938 in British mandated Palestine, won first place in the mystery category at both the Pikes Peak Writers conference and the South West Writers Conference.

Favorite opening line: “The last camel died at noon.” (Ken Follett, *The Key to Rebecca*)



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*, *Burning Moon*, *Bethany*, *Echo Bay* (April 2004), and *Wind on the River* (October 2004).

Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery

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. Currently, in addition to writing, he is the associate publisher at the newly revitalized Capra Press in Santa Barbara where he lives with his wife, Susan.

Web site: www.caprapress.com

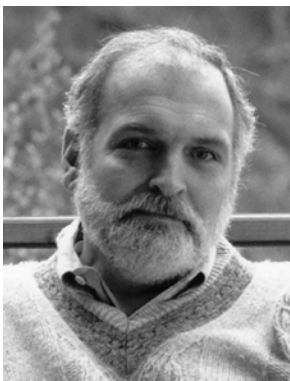


Charles Benoit – a copywriter responsible for ads that have driven consumers into buying frenzies – has spent the last 15 years teaching high school social studies, both in the U.S. and overseas. His first novel, *Relative Danger*, was published in January 2003. He and his wife, Rose, currently

live in frigid Rochester, New York, and spend each night planning their escape.

Favorite opening line: “The day on which Lawlessness reared its ugly head at Blandings Castle was one of singular beauty.” (P.G. Wodehouse, *The Crime Wave at Blandings*)

Web site: www.CharlesBenoit.com



John Billheimer, a native West Virginian, lives in Portola Valley, CA.. He holds an engineering Ph.D. from Stanford University and is the author of the “funny, sometimes touching”, Owen Allison mystery series set in Appalachia’s coalfields. The series includes *The Contrary Blues*, *Highway Robbery* (exploring West Virginia roadbuilding scandals), *Dismal Mountain* (covering

the controversial topic of strip mining), and *Drybone Hollow* (dealing with the false claims and scams that follow in the wake of a devastating flood).

Favorite murder method: Mineshaft collapse

Favorite opening: “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 fight. Meek little wives feel the edge of the carving knife and study their husbands’ necks. Anything can happen.” (Raymond Chandler, *Red Wind*)

Web site: johnbillheimer.com



Cara Black lives in San Francisco with her husband (a bookseller) and son. When asked how often she visits Paris to research the Aimée Leduc investigation series, her response is “never enough.” The series includes *Murder in the Marais*, *Murder in Belleville*, *Murder in the Sentier*, and *Murder in the Bastille*. A 2003 San Francisco

Library Laureate, Black is copresident of the Northern California Sisters in Crime, MWA member, and member of the Paris Historique Association.

Funniest moment as an author: A commissaire, whom I was interviewing, introduced me as an American author to some cops on the back stairs of the Paris Police Prefecture. “Aaah Patreeeeceaa Cornwaaahl!” they said. But when I tried to explain in mangled French that I was someone else, they just kept grinning and nodding. “Oui le bang-bang Patreeeeceaa!” We ran into them several times that day and they’d cock their fingers, wink, and say “Patreeeeceaa Cornwaaahl.” To this day I’m convinced they think they met her.

Web site: www.carablack.com Photo: Bruce Hearne



Meredith Blevins

grew up in Los Angeles before smog was invented. She moved to northern California, was a music therapist, then became a business journalist. She ran away from her grown-up home and now lives on Raven Ranch, in red rock country of Utah, with her writer-husband Win Blevins. The kids are gone, and they

sit on the porch and watch their livestock come and go. Her new book, *The Hummingbird Wizard*, is packed full of wild women who excel at larceny, petty theft, and Gypsy magic.

Funniest moment as an author: I was on a Sisters in Crime panel. The moderator went down the line (there were six of us) and asked each of us what our experience was with the law. These people actually did have law experience! They’d worked the police beat, they’d driven around with a nephew-sheriff, there was even a retired cop. I was sweating, I had no experience. I was also at the end of the line, which was lucky. Then it came to me. I did have experience! (I also have no internal editor.) It was my turn—I blurted out, “I have an outstanding warrant for my arrest in Texas!” Jeez. It was as if I’d just won a gold medal in the Olympics Hall of Stupidity. It was true, people laughed. Maybe some of them had been printed, too...

Web site: meredithblevins.com

Photo



Win Blevins came out of Missouri and Arkansas and whirlwinded through a lot of good colleges and jobs. At thirty-three, then principal movie and theater critic of the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, he discovered his calling, writing books. Fifteen volumes of fiction, informal history, and lexicography

have followed, and his historical novel about Crazy Horse, *Stone Song*, won the Spur Award and the Mountains and Plains Booksellers award. His most recent book is *So Wild a Dream*. He's also an editor for TOR-Forge Books. A devoted westerner, hiker, river-rafter, and mountaineer, he was lucky enough to discover Meredith Blevins six years ago. They live and write in a remote corner of the canyon lands of Utah.

Favorite opening lines: "Jerry and I grew up before smog was invented. We both left Los Angeles when the hills disappeared and the ocean got tired of movie stars." (Meredith Blevins, *The Hummingbird Wizard*)

Web site: winblevins.com



Jack Bludis has sold over 30 novels, six novellas, and almost 300 short stories, using various pseudonyms in various genres. *The Deal Killer* and *The Big Switch*, both in the Brian Kane series, are the only two novels with the Jack Bludis byline, which is also Jack's

real name. He feels that mysteries are by far the most difficult books and stories to write. He lives in Baltimore and travels frequently.

Favorite opening line: "Last night I dreamed of Manderly again." (Daphne du Maurier, *Rebecca*)

Web site: www.jackbludis.com



Stephen Booth is the creator of young police detectives Ben Cooper and Diane Fry, who operate in England in the beautiful and atmospheric Peak District. Stephen won the Barry Award for Best British Crime Novel two years running with *Black Dog* and *Dancing with the Virgins*. The third

book in his Peak District series was *Blood on the Tongue*, and the fourth was *Blind to the Bones*. A former newspaper journalist, Booth lives in Nottinghamshire, England, with his wife, three cats, and three goats.

Favorite opening line: "Eunice Parchman killed the Coverdale family because she could not read or write." (Ruth Rendell, *Judgement in Stone*)

Web site: www.stephen-booth.com



Mark Bouton is a former FBI agent who writes cosmic mysteries. Law degree in hand, he joined the feds and spent 30 years chasing bad guys across America. He arrested killers, kidnapers, and kinky crooks, but his major moment was playing a key role in solving the Oklahoma City bombing. In *Max Conquers the Cosmos*, Max Austin shines as an ex-FBI man-turned-private eye

who solves crimes through his knowledge of astronomy. In truth, he gets help from his elderly German shepherd sidekick, Binga, who helps collar the perps and take a bite out of crime.

Funniest moment as an author: My agent calling me at 6:30 on a Friday evening saying we had an offer on my novel. Who did she think she was kidding?

Web site: www.markbouton.com



Rhys Bowen is the author of two mystery series: the Constable Evans mysteries, set in contemporary North Wales, and the Molly Murphy mysteries, set in New York, 1901. The first book in the latter series, *Murphy's Law*, won the Agatha, Herodotus, and Reviewer's Choice awards in 2002. Her most recent books

are *Evan Only Knows* and *Death of Riley*. Having lived in northern California for over 30 years, Bowen is almost a native of the region.

Funniest moment as an author: In the middle of my speech at a library in North Carolina, a teenage girl passed the doorway, sobbing loudly. She then turned and crossed the doorway again, bawling even louder. Nobody in the

Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery

audience batted an eyelid.

Web site: www.rhysbowen.com



C.J. Box is the critically acclaimed author of national bestselling novels *Open Season*, *Savage Run*, and *Winterkill*, featuring Wyoming game warden Joe Pickett, and the first-ever simultaneous winner of the Anthony, Macavity, Barry, Gumshoe, and Edgar awards.

His work appears in nine languages. *Open Season*, a New York Times Notable Book, has been optioned for a feature film by Warner Brothers. Box lives outside of Cheyenne with his wife, Laurie, and three daughters. *Wanted Destruction* will be published in 2004.

Favorite murder method: Exploding cow (*Savage Run*)

Web site: cjbox.net



Kathy Brandt has been hooked on mysteries since she picked up *The Secret of the Old Clock* when she was ten. By the time she closed the pages on that Nancy Drew, she knew she would someday write her own stories. *Swimming with the Dead* debuts her new series. The Caribbean setting and the focus on underwater

crime investigation was a natural for Brandt because she and her husband have been sailing and scuba diving in the islands for 15 years. Brandt taught non-fiction writing at the University of Colorado and has published dozens of articles in national magazines such as *Women's Sports and Fitness*, *Complete Woman*, *Sailing*, *Yachting*, *Heartland Boating*, and *Scouting Magazine*.

Favorite murder method (from my book): The killer catches up with his victim diving in a shipwreck 70 feet under the ocean. He wrenches his victim's air regulator out of his mouth, envelops him in a fishing net, and watches him drown.

Web site: ksbrandt.com

Randal Brandt is a librarian at The Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author



of several mystery-related Web sites, including "A David Dodge Companion", www.david-dodge.com, the official site of author David Dodge (1910-1974) and *Golden Gate Mysteries*, www.lib.berkeley.edu/~rbrandt/sfmystery/, an annotated bibliography of crime fiction set in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has also written articles for *The Thrilling Detective Web Site* and *Mystery Readers Journal*. He lives in Berkeley, California.



Steve Brewer is the very tall author of 10 mysteries, most recently the stand-alones *Bullets* and *Fool's Paradise*. All his novels remain in print, and his first featuring private eye Bubba Mabry, *Lonely Street*, is in preproduction in Hollywood. Brewer also writes a weekly humor column that appears in newspapers around the country; several columns are

collected in his book, *Trophy Husband: A Survival Guide to Working at Home*. A longtime resident of Albuquerque, NM, Brewer now lives in Redding, CA, with his wife, two sons, and a dog named Elvis.

Favorite opening line (from [ahem] my own book, *Dirty Pool*): "Friends come and go, but enemies are forever."

Web site: www.intriguepress.com



Tony Broadbent was born in Windsor, England. He is married and now lives in Mill Valley, California. He is the author of two mystery novels set in the post-World War II London of the late nineteen-forties, *The Smoke* and *Spectres in the Smoke*.

Favorite opening line: "I don't care what you say, 18,000 pounds (sterling) is a lot of money. The British Government had instructed me to pay it to the man at the corner table who was now using a knife and fork to commit ritual murder on a cream pastry." (Len Deighton, *The Ipcress File*)



Carl Brookins in a previous lifetime acquired a liberal arts degree in a flexible multiple-major program for which he is ever grateful. He's old enough to have had several interesting careers. Before turning to a full-time career as a mystery writer, he was a freelance photographer,

a public television program director, a cable television administrator, and for 25 years a counselor and faculty member at Metropolitan State University in Saint Paul. Today, in addition to writing mysteries, he reviews crime fiction for *Mystery Scene* magazine and occasionally the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. His current novels are in the Michael Tanner sailing series, the most recent being *A Superior Mystery*.

Favorite opening line: "This morning I woke up dead."

Web site: www.carlbrookins.com



Pat Browning's professional writing credits go back to the 1960s, when she was a stringer for the *Fresno (Calif.) Bee* while working full time as a legal secretary. Since then, she has worked as a travel agent, travel writer (her articles bore such exotic datelines as Tangier, Bombay, Budapest, Dubrovnik, and Shanghai), and newspaper reporter and

columnist (for two small newspapers in the Fresno area). Her first mystery, *Full Circle* (2001), is set in a fictitious town in the central San Joaquin Valley of California and has been called "a study in small town secrets." Browning is working on her second novel in the series. Born and reared in Oklahoma, she is a longtime resident of the central San Joaquin Valley.

Favorite murder method: Poison

Web site: www.authorsden.com/patchbrowning

Don Bruns is a former advertising writer, musician, and songwriter. He draws on his any years on the road for his mystery series featuring Mick Sever, an entertainment journalist who covers the rock and roll scene. (*Jamaica Blue*). Bruns lives in Lima, Ohio, but frequently travels to the Caribbean to vet material for his songs and books.



He recently released a CD of original music called "Last flight Out". Most recent book is *Barbados Heat*.

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

Website: www.don-bruns.com



Leslie Budewitz provides legal research for writers who want to get the facts and feelings about the law right in their novels, screenplays, and other fiction. She also writes mysteries and nonfiction. A graduate of Notre Dame Law School, she's admitted to the bar in Washington and Montana, but has been known to frequent other bars as

well. Leslie walks on the wild side whenever possible, near Bigfork, Montana.

Favorite murder method: Whatever leaves 'em really dead.

Favorite opening line of a mystery: "It was only a little murder. He wasn't even an important man. And it happened so long ago -." Margaret Mosely, BonitaFaye

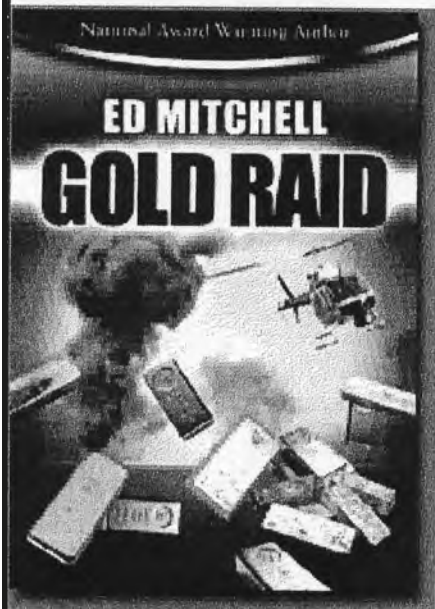
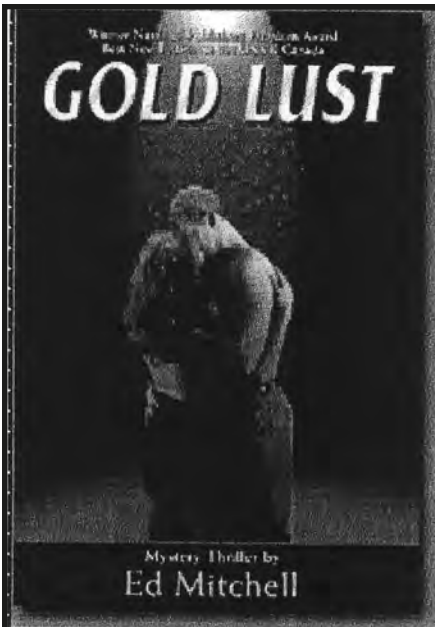
Website: www.LawandFiction.com



D.W. Buffa was born in San Francisco and raised in the Bay area. Although he had been writing fiction for nearly ten years, he was by his own admission a complete failure, unable to attract the interest of an agent or the attention of a publisher, until a young assistant editor at Henry Holt and Co.

read the manuscript of *The Defense* and decided she liked it. *The Defense* was followed by *The Prosecution* and then *The Judgment*, which was one of the five books nominated in 2002 for the Edgar Award as best novel of the year. D.W.Buffa lives in the Napa Valley

Website: www.dwbuffa.com



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Ramona Turner, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*

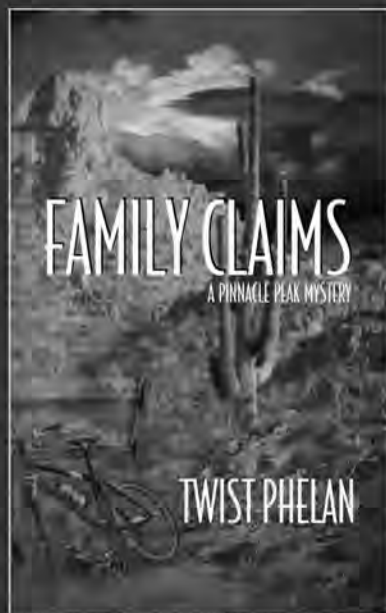
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storytelling. Phelan is on her way!"

— Michael Connelly

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Robin Burcell, a Sacramento County criminal investigator, has been a police officer since 1983. She was a member of the hostage negotiating team and was the FBI-trained forensic artist for several different law enforcement agencies. She is the author of the SFPD Homicide Inspector

Kate Gillespie novels, *Every Move She Makes*, *Fatal Truth*, *Deadly Legacy*, and *Cold Case*.

Web site: robinburcell.com



Dennis Burges comes to fiction writing from a varied background: building houses, building guitars, and teaching school. Trained at various times as a carpenter, a soldier, a musician, and a teacher, he brings a little of all those to his mysteries. With majors in English and social studies and some knowledge of one Native-American and two European

languages, it is natural that history and language mix in his thrillers. An Arizona native with family roots in colonial Williamsburg, he and his wife, Jená, again make their home in Virginia where they teach English at Longwood University.

His most recent published book is *Graves Gate*

Favorite murder method: In real-life I use the cutting innuendo. In my fiction, my favorite so far has been a frame-up that leads the victim to death by hanging.

website: www.burges.org



Jan Burke is the bestselling author of the Irene Kelly series, as well as *Flight* and *Nine*. She won the Edgar for best novel for *Bones* and has won the Agatha and two Macavity Awards for Best Short Story; her stories have been collected in *18*. Her latest Irene Kelly mystery, *Bloodlines*, was just published. You can learn

more about her and see pictures of her dogs on her web site

Web site: www.janburke.com



Erwin Bush has over the years been a patron of the illustrative arts and early member of ASFA (Association of Science Fiction & Fantasy

Artists), a radar technician on a naval destroyer, a small press publisher, an editor of an academic journal, a book reviewer, a professional philosopher (who talked his way into a non-existent master's degree program at an Ivy League school), a spouse and business partner to a book cover artist, and has spent the last 20 years working in the high tech industry, focusing on technical support, communication, and how to make technology accessible and understandable to ordinary people. Bush is currently a regular contributor to the *IOBA Standard* (the quarterly newsletter of the Independent Online Bookseller's Association) and is aspiring to be an aspiring fiction writer.

Web site: www.erwinbush.com



Ellen Byerrum is a journalist in Washington, D.C., as well as a published playwright. Her comic mystery plays, *A Christmas Cactus* and *Remedial Surveillance*, have been performed in the U.S. and Canada. She also holds a Virginia private investigator's registration.

A Colorado native, she lives in Virginia with her husband. *Killer Hair* is her first novel, and Byerrum is happy to report that columnist Lacey Smithsonian will be back in future *Crime of Fashion* mysteries, uncovering crime as well as fashion faux pas in the nation's capital.

Funniest moment as an author: In the course of researching methods for dispatching a victim in a hair salon, I was asking a young, spiky-haired, partially blonde stylist about the finer points of razor blades. She was very helpful, even taking the safety off a straight razor and assuring me this would be the perfect murder weapon. And she had a burning literary question of her own: "Wow, you're a *writer* ?!" she chirped. "Cool! What's your favorite coffee shop?"

Photo: Joe Henson



Anne M. Byron is a native of Michigan. After her marriage to James she traveled the United States with him and their family of two boys and a girl while he was stationed with the Air Force at bases in Ohio, Florida, Maine, and Massachusetts. There was one overseas stint on Guam. After James left

the Air Force, the family lived in Vermont for over twenty years.

Many of Byron's (A.M.s) story lines come from experiences while living there, but her fairly recent move to Whidbey Island in the state of Washington has brought about new challenges for A.M. and her two major characters of two novels, Jan and Greg Whitehouse.

Novels include: *Frost Heaves*, *Invasion of Snowfield*, *Kin's Harbor*.

Favorite murder method: The gunshot wound to the head by professional hit persons, but I'd like to try a poisoning gig in a future book.

Funniest moment as an author: At a book selling/signing. A woman came up to me and said my picture looked just like her son. I don't know where that idea came from. Oh, well. "It was a dark and stormy night..." Ha ha!



James Calder is the author of 2 books in the Bill Damen mystery series, *Knockout Mouse* and *About Face*. Set in San Francisco, the series explores the fascinating and frightening world of biotechnology. Its protagonist, a cameraman-turned-investigator, is a brash risk taker, willing to put himself in the strangest of situations; his cinematographer's eye makes for a special quality

of observation. Calder is at work on the third Bill Damen novel, which delves into the world of assisted reproduction technologies.



Dana Cameron, like her series protagonist, Emma Fielding, is a professional archaeologist. She has a Ph.D. and experience in Old and New World archaeology and has worked on sites dating from prehistoric times to the nineteenth century. Site Unseen is the first novel featuring New England archaeologist Emma

Fielding. Emma's second adventure, *Grave Consequences*, is set in England, and the third, *Past Malice*, takes Emma home to Massachusetts. The fourth book, *A Fugitive Truth*, will be out in spring 2004. Cameron lives in Beverly, Massachusetts, with her husband and benevolent feline overlords.

Favorite opening line (from *Past Malice*): "My trousers fell to the floor with a heavy, metallic thunk."

Web site: danacameron.com



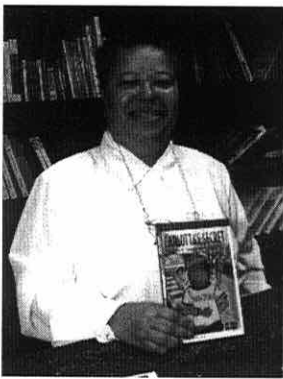
Taffy Cannon is the author of 10 novels in which a great many people die, often unpleasantly. Setting of the *Booked for Travel* series, written under the name **Emily Toll**, include the Sonoma wine country (*Murder Will Travel*), California Gold Rush country (*Murder Pans Out*), autumn in New England (*Fall into Death*, due in

May 2004), and other locales. Cannon has also written a stand-alone, *Open Season on Lawyers*, and completed *The Tumbleweed Murders*, a Claire Sharples Botanical Mystery begun by her friend and colleague Rebecca Rothenberg, who died in 1998.

Favorite murder method: it's probably botulism (and I used it in *Open Season on Lawyers*).

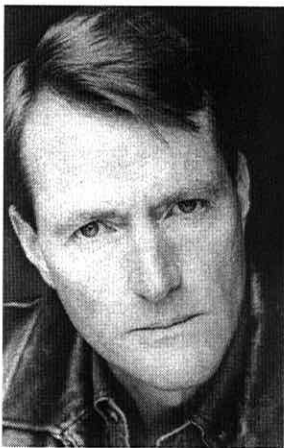
Web site: www.taffycannon.com

Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery



Patricia (Pat) E. Canterbury, a native of Sacramento, California, is the assistant executive officer for the California state Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, a political scientist, an award-winning poet, an award-winning short-story writer, and a novelist. She was included in Eleanor Taylor

Bland's salute to African-American mystery writers, *Shade of Black. The Secret of St. Gabriel's Tower*, Canterbury's first novel in the historical Poplar Cove mystery trilogy (for 9-14 year-olds) is currently out of print. *Carlotta's Secret*, the first of the proposed eight-book children's fairy-tale mystery series, *The Delta Mysteries* (for 6-9 year-olds), is in bookstores. She is currently hard at work on future *Delta Mysteries* and the second of the *Jamaica Wong* speculative fiction novels. She lives in Sacramento with her husband Richard Canterbury (also a writer) and their pets.



Lee Child, previously a television director, union leader, theater lighting designer and law student, is the author of seven *Jack Reacher* novels, which thanks to a hyperactive agent currently sell three copies a minute in forty-one countries and thirty-two languages. Bill Clinton says, "I love *Jack Reacher*," and Newt Gingrich says Lee creates "the finest adventure fiction being written in America

today," but, ruining a potential tripartisan trifecta, Ralph Nader has made no recorded comment about any of the books at all. *Persuader* was published in May 2003, and *The Enemy* will appear in June 2004.

Favorite opening line: "When the phone rang, Parker was in the garage, killing a man." (Richard Stark, *Firebreak*)

Web site: LeeChild.com
Photo: Blanche Mackey

Meg Chittenden, a writer for 32 years, has published over 100 short stories and articles, three children's books, the non-fiction *How to Write YOUR Novel*, and 32 novels in various genres. Last out was *More Than You Know*. Recently, at Sleuthfest, Chittenden learned to shoot several types of firearms. She has no desire to own any weapons, but wanted to be able to write a little more knowledgeably



about them. She might now be able to come up with something more imaginative than "He had a gun. He shot the gun." Stay tuned.

Favorite murder method: Defenestration

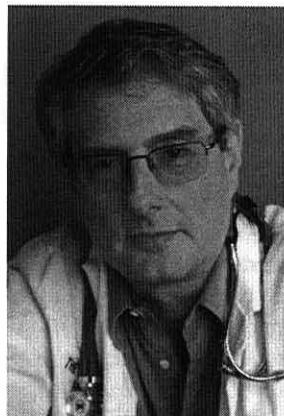
Web site: www.megchittenden.com



Judy Clemens is the author of *Till The Cows Come Home*, in which Stella Crown, dairy farmer by day, biker by night, must unearth the cause of a deadly illness and put a stop to a threatening saboteur. Clemens lives on a farm in Ohio with her husband and two children, where her livestock consists of three cats.

Favorite murder method (or really, favorite victim) A hemophiliac, though no one else in Dorothy Sayers's *Have His Carcase* knew it, as he'd been dead a while before they found him but they thought he had only just been killed.

Web site: www.judyclemens.com



Peter Clement, a physician for 28 years, 20 of them in ER, chief of Emergency Medicine and Family Practice at St. Mary's Hospital in Montreal, is the author of the Earl Garnet Medical Thriller series, *Lethal Practice*, *Death Rounds*, and *The Procedure*. His last two books, *Mutant* and *Critical Condition*, introduce Richard Steele, a widowed ER physician, and Kathleen Sullivan, a

renowned geneticist, great with genes, lousy with men. His new book, *Mortal Remains*, is another Earl Garnet story. Favorite murder method: Use a doctor's knowledge to replicate a fatal disease.

Web site: peterclementbooks.com



Margaret Coel, a historian by trade, is the author of the Wind River mystery series set among the Arapahos on Wyoming's Wind River Reservation and featuring Jesuit priest Father John O'Malley and Arapaho attorney Vicky Holden. Coel weaves the rich and tragic history of the Arapahos into her plots, along with current issues. *Killing Raven*, the

latest novel, is about the dark side of casinos on Indian reservations. *Wife of Moon* is due out in September.

Web site: www.margaretcoel.com



Mark Coggins writes the August Riordan series. The first in the series, *The Immortal Game*, was singled out by Otto Penzler as a "Penzler's Pick" for Amazon.com. Of the second book, *Vulture Capital*, CNBC said "Fast cars, nymphomaniac rich kids, billionaires with short attention spans, and long

money: a truer picture of Silicon Valley can't be found." Coggins lives in San Francisco with his wife Linda and their cat Taki, and is at work on his third August Riordan book, *Candy from Strangers*.

Funniest moment as an author: When I was contacted by a "real" jazz bass-playing private investigator, who was (mistakenly) convinced that I had based my PI August Riordan on him.

Web site: immortalgame.com

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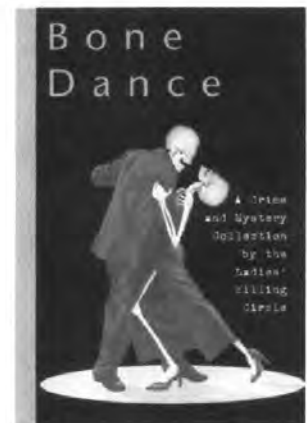
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Keep an eye out for Mary Jane and Barbara at this year's Left Coast Crime



David Cole has been writing various things for years, but mysteries are his all-time favorite. He's the author of five Laura Winslow books set in Arizona and featuring a half-Hopi private investigator who's an expert in cybercrimes and computer forensics (yes, there is such a thing, growing in popularity because of identity theft). A long-time activist for native

and indigenous peoples, he's a co-founder of NativeWeb (www.nativeweb.org), an internet non-profit with more than 6,000 links. He's currently working on three other books, including a non-fiction sociological study of the dragging death of James Byrd in Jasper, Texas. He lives in Syracuse, New York, and Tucson, Arizona.

Funniest moment as an author: At a Waldenbooks in Phoenix, a woman began stroking my arm passionately. She had to touch an actual author because Dr. Phil spoke "directly to her" (over the TV set) about "seizing the moment" whenever possible—my arm was that moment.

Web site: www.decole.com

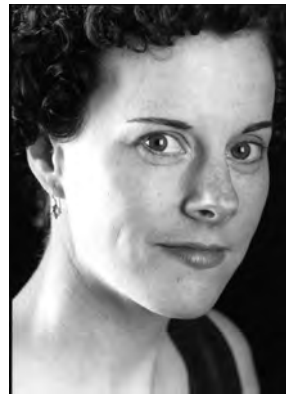


Tess Collins is a coal miner's granddaughter with Cherokee ancestry on her mother's side and a legend of being descended from a mountain clan known as the Seven Sisters on her father's. She grew up listening to mountain tales of haunted hollows, ghosts, moonshiners, and unsolved murders. Her works include *The Law of Revenge*, *The Law of the Dead*, and *The*

Law of Betrayal, thrillers set in Appalachia; a nonfiction book, *How Theater Managers Manage*; and three plays, *Tossing Monte*, *Barbarians*, and *Helen of Troy*. She has also published articles in *Byline Magazine* and *The Writer*.

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

Web site: www.tesscollins.com



Martha Conway, as a writer of literary fiction, has studied with James Salter and Tom Jenks. Her short stories have been published in journals, including *The Iowa Review*, *EPOCH*, *The Quarterly*, *The Carolina Quarterly*, and the *Mississippi Review*. The Wall Street Journal has called her fiction "short, tight, and powerful." In addition,

she received a California Arts Council Fellowship for creative writing in 1996. After her mother died of cancer in 1999, Conway found that she wanted to write something different that would be a break from everyday life, and not something heavy and meaningful, or at least not obviously meaningful. The result is *12 Bliss Street*, a dryly humorous novel that straddles the border between mystery and thriller. Conway was born in Shaker Heights, Ohio, graduated cum laude from Vassar College, and currently lives in San Francisco.

Web site: marthaconway.com



Charlotte Cook, MFA, has taught writing for more than ten years. She's been published many times, as have many of her students. Charlotte's writing career began with a column in the long-defunct *Berkeley Gazette*. More recently she won third place in a California Writers Club short story contest. *Moxie Magazine* published

"Time to Play Hitler and the Jew" and "Of Spatulas and Sturgeons." She participates regularly in the *San Francisco Chronicle's* Two Cents project. Someday she will rewrite her mystery, *Original Kin*, finish her suspense novel, *When Fallen Angels Fly*, complete her memoir, *Raised By Weasels*, and submit that children's book, *First Book of Rodents*.

Rick Copp is a veteran film and television writer who has written for many television series, including "The Golden Girls," "Wings," "Dream On," "Flying Blind," and "Team Knight Rider," "Jack of All Trades," "Secret Agent Man," and "Teen Titans," as well as movies such as *The Brady Bunch Movie* and *Scooby Doo* and the *Witch's Ghost*. His first novel, *The Actor's Guide to Murder*, was released in November 2003, and his second, *The Actor's Guide to Adultery*, will be out in October 2004.

Time and Tide Wait for No Body



He is currently at work on his third, *The Actor's Guide to Kidnapping*.

Favorite murder method: A poisoned angel food cake because I just can't pass up a good dessert.

Web site: rickcopp.com



David Corbett was for nearly fifteen years a senior operative with the private investigation firm of Palladino & Sutherland in San Francisco, where he worked on a number of high-profile criminal and civil litigations, including the Cotton Club murder case, the People's Temple trial, the Michael Jackson case, and a RICO civil litigation brought

by the Teamsters against union leaders associated with organized crime. His first novel was *The Devil's Redhead* (2002), and the second *Done for a Dime* (2003).

Funniest moment as an author: At Bouchercon 2002 in Austin, Chris Niles (*Hell's Kitchen*) was introduced by Eddie Muller. The first words to pass through the lovely Ms. Niles's mouth were: "David, there's graffiti in the ladies' room that says you like to be dominated." I manage, through some odd quirk of quick-wittedness, to reply: "I know. I put it there." Chris subsequently inscribed her book to me with: "From one sick mind to another."

Web site: davidcorbettauthor.com



Pamela Cranston, author of *The Madonna Murders*, writes fiction, poetry, and non-fiction. Her work has appeared in numerous journals including *The Adirondack Review*, *Anglican Theological Review*, *Blueline Anthology*, *Forward Movement Publications*, *Mystic River Review*, *Northwoods*

Journal, *Tales for the Trail: Adventures in Air, Land, &*

Water, and *Penwood Review*. She received a Master of Divinity degree in 1988 from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California, and was ordained an Episcopal priest in 1990. For the past fifteen years, she has served churches and hospices San Francisco Bay Area where she lives with her husband.

Favorite first line: "The telephone bell was ringing wildly, but without results, since there was no-one in the room but the corpse." (Charles Williams, *War In Heaven* [1930])

Publisher (St. Huberts Press) web site: Sthubertspress.com



Blake Crouch is a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. *Desert Places*, his first novel (January 2004), is a dark thriller about a suspense writer whose life is changed forever when he is kidnapped and taken to a remote Wyoming desert. His captor is a thoughtful murderer, intent on

demonstrating the thin line between reality and his victim's fictional exploitation. Crouch has recently relocated from North Carolina to Durango, Colorado, where he has been putting the finishing touches on the sequel.

Favorite opening line: "Context is everything." (Jonathan Lethem, *Motherless Brooklyn*)

Web site: blakecrouch.com

Photo: Paul Pennington



Laura Crum is a fourth-generation Californian who has been training horses for over 20 years. She writes a mystery series that features equine veterinarian Gail McCarthy and revolves around the world of western cowhorses. Her most recent book is *Hayburner*, and her eighth book, *Forged*, will be

published in 2004. Crum lives in the hills near Monterey Bay with her husband, son, and a large menagerie of horses, dogs, cats, and chickens.

Favorite murder method: Spooking the victim's horse, that is, said victim is thrown and falls to his or her death. Nice and tidy--though not all that reliable in real life.

Web site: <http://members.cruzio.com/~absnow>

Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery

John Cunningham is vice president and associate publisher of St. Martin's Press. He was responsible for the creation of Minotaur, St. Martin's crime imprint, in 1999 and has overseen Minotaur's program since then. John has been at St. Martin's for almost a decade, and before that he worked for W.W. Norton, Baker & Taylor and Gordon's Books in Denver. Among the authors he has worked with are Val McDermid, Ian Rankin, Steve Hamilton, S.J. Rozan, Dana Stabenow, and Julia Spencer-Fleming.

Favorite opening line: "It was not the first time Richard Bone had shaved with a Lady Remington, nor did he expect it would be the last." (Newton Thornburg, *Cutter and Bone*)

Web site: www.mintoaurbooks.com



Val Davis has trained Apollo astronauts, written ad libs for Connie Chung, been a counterintelligence agent, a newspaper reporter, a TV news director, and a computer engineer, and has degrees in English, engineering, art history, and archaeology. All this would make Val Davis 108 years old if he/she weren't two

people, Angie Irvine and Bob Irvine, who have published five novels under this pseudonym. The latest two are *Return of the Spanish Lady* and *Thread of the Spider*.



Janet Dawson created PI Jeri Howard, who has sleuthed her way through nine novels, beginning with *Kindred Crimes*, a PWA contest winner. Dawson's recently published story collection, "Scam and Eggs", includes the Macavity-nominated "Voice Mail." A Jeri Howard story, "Slayer Statute," appears in the September/October 2003 issue of *Ellery Queen's*

Mystery Magazine. Dawson has served as MWA Norcal chapter president and board member and has also chaired the Edgar Awards.

Web site: janetdawson.com.



Shawna Delacorte (pseudonym of Sharon Dennison) has lived most of her life in Los Angeles, California, where she earned her living for many years by working in television production before turning to writing full time. Her books include *Having the Best Man's Baby* and *In His Safekeeping*. She also teaches fiction writing in the Continuing Adult Education

Non-Credit classes department at Wichita State University.

Favorite murder method: I like to use things that appear as if they were accidental death—falling off a cliff, a boating accident, eating some type of exotic food that is harmless when cooked but poisonous when eaten raw.

Web site: www.charlequin.com



Kate Derie is a freelance writer and editor who specializes in the mystery fiction field. She is the creator of Clueless.com, the most popular online reference site for fans of mystery fiction. She is also editor and publisher of the *Deadly Directory 2004*, a guide to mystery booksellers, groups, events, periodicals, and more. She is

Associate Editor of the *Mystery Readers Journal*, and has written for *The Armchair Detective*, *The Third Degree*, and other mystery publications. She lives in Tucson, Arizona.

web site: www.clueless.com



Bill Deverell worked as a journalist for seven years, and, as a member of the British Columbia, Alberta, and Yukon bars, he was counsel in more than a thousand criminal cases, including thirty murder trials, either as defender or prosecutor. His first novel, *Needles*, won the \$50,000 Seal Prize in 1979

and the Book of the Year Award in 1981. His subsequent novels include *High Crimes*, *Mecca*, *The Dance of Shiva*,

Platinum Blues, Mindfield, Kill All the Lawyers, Street Legal: The Betrayal, The Laughing Falcon, and Mind Games. He is also the author of the true crime book *A Life on Trial: The Case of Robert Frisbee*, based on a notorious murder trial that he defended. A feature film of *Mindfield*, for which he wrote the screenplay, was released in 1990. *Trial of Passion* won the 1997 Arthur Ellis prize in crime writing in Canada, and the Dashiell Hammett award for literary excellence in crime writing in North America. He wrote the screenplay "Shellgame" for CBC-TV drama, which served as the pilot for CBC's long-running series "Street Legal," and he is the creator of that series, which has run internationally in more than 50 countries. He also authored several one-hour radio plays performed by the CBC in the "Scales of Justice." series. In 1994 and 1999 he served as Chair of the Writers' Union of Canada, and he is a member of the Canadian Writers Guild and PEN International. He lives on Pender Island, British Columbia, and in Costa Rica.

Web site: www.deverell.com



Denise (Deni) Dietz had a short-lived singing career, an even shorter-lived teaching career, and worked for Paramount. Her sister, actress Eileen Dietz, has inspired two novels about behind-the-scenes stardom, *The Wishing Star* and *Fifty Cents for Your Soul*. Dietz's dog, the late, great Cherokee, inspired *Footprints in the Butter*, an Ingrid Beaumont mystery costarring Hitchcock the Dog. Her next mystery, *Eye of Newt*, will be published by Five-Star. A short culinary story, "Yes We Have No Bananas," appeared in the Silver Daggers *Criminal Appetites* anthology in October 2003. Dietz is married to novelist Gordon Aalborg (AKA Victoria Gordon). They met online, have collaborated on a romantic suspense, and live on Vancouver Island with their two dogs, Sydney and Pandora.

Funniest moment as an author: When I saw my first published book in the library, I screamed, "Me! Me! Me!" as I ran up and down the aisles. People just stared at me, so I changed my shout to: "Come! Come! Come!" I spent a goodly portion of my childhood in libraries, the reason why I've dedicated *Eye of Newt* to librarians.

Web site: www.denisedietz.com

Jim Doherty, a police officer for more than 10 years, has worked at various times for seven different agencies in six different states. Under his own name he's written a series of police procedural short stories featuring a roving cop named Dan Sullivan, who moves around almost



as much as doherty; the stories have appeared in *Blue Murder, Mystery Buff, Hand Held Crime, and Writers' Journal*, among other venues. He's also written private eye stories as Kenneth Thornton Samuels and western/mystery hybrids as Scott Morrison. His first book, *Just the Facts*, a collection of true-crime articles, is being launched at LCC. Doherty teaches an on-line class on Raymond Chandler for Barnes & Noble University and wrote the e-book text for that course.

Favorite opening line: "I first heard Personville called Poisonville by a red-haired mucker named Hickey Dewey in the Big Ship in Butte. He also called his shirt a shoit. I didn't think anything of what he'd done to the city's name. Later I heard men who could manage their r's give it the same pronunciation." (Dashiell Hammett, *Red Harvest*)

Web site: www.deadlyserious.com

Marc Dolezal is the director of a loose-knit group of film fans known as The Danger and Despair Knitting Circle. The Knitting Circle maintains the world's largest collection of classic film noir on VHS and DVD at their website www.noirfilm.com. The group restores and archives rare noir titles on 16mm film and now has over 70 in the collection with plans to acquire another dozen in 2004. Born in Los Angeles in 1951, he spent over 15 years working in and managing jazz night clubs on the West Coast.

Web site: darknessanddespair.com



Sharon Elizabeth

Doyle was born in New Jersey and moved to Texas and then to Washington, DC before settling in California. Her first mystery series on Maryland Public TV featured a detective who solved everything with math. Her most recent was the late lamented *Nero Wolfe* on A&E television, for which

she was the writer-producer. In between she wrote for "Cagney and Lacey" and "Reasonable Doubts." She has written eight television movies, one of her favorites being *When Danger Follows You Home*, which she co-wrote with Sara Paretsky. She teaches at USC film school and lives in Sierra Madre with her husband and kids, 1 neurotic dog, 1

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dominant cat, and 7 opinionated cockatiels.

Favorite murder method: Infecting someone with tetanus by concealing the germs as a bottle of iodine and “arranging” for the victim to cut her foot (a method Rex Stout used in *Cordially Invited to Meet Death*).



David Dun graduated from Seattle University and the University of Washington and took up the practice of law in the small coastal town of Eureka, California. Dun began writing in 1994 and writes adventure thrillers favoring outdoor settings. His books include *Necessary Evil*, *At the Edge*, *Overfall*, and, to appear in 2004, *Unacceptable Risk*. When

he has spare time, which isn't often, he enjoys cruising in British Columbia.

Funniest moment as an author: A flight attendant approaches me on an airplane, says she's read my books, and asks for a primer on writing suspense fiction. She persuades the other attendant to continue serving refreshments on the mostly empty airplane, sits down immediately across the aisle with a pad and pencil, and takes notes until preparation for landing about 45 minutes later. Only a couple of passengers seemed angry at having lost their flight attendant.

Web site: daviddun.com



Carola Dunn's Daisy Dalrymple series is set in England in the 1920s. Dunn was born and grew up in England and has lived on the Left Coast since 1969. Before writing her first mystery, she worked in market research, child care, and construction. She also wrote definitions for a scientific-technical dictionary and over 30 Regency novels. Her

only preparation for a career in historical fiction was failing history at school. The latest (twelfth) in the Daisy Dalrymple series is *Die Laughing*.

Favorite murder method: In *Styx and Stones*, I killed an atheist by pushing over a large stone angel on top of him.

Web site: www.geocities.com/CarolaDunn/



Michael Allen

Dymmoch has served as President and Secretary of the Midwest Chapter of Mystery Writers of America, and as newsletter editor for the Chicagoland Chapter of Sisters in Crime. Michael currently lives and works in Chicago's northern suburbs. Her most recent book is *The*

Feline Friendship.

Favorite opening line: Lambert Fleming was barely fifteen years old and trying very hard to fit into that bright, sad afternoon in October when he suddenly became invisible. (David J. Walker, *Applaud the Hollow Ghost*)

Web site: MichaelAllenDymmoch.com



Barry Eisler, after graduating from Cornell Law School in 1989, spent three years with the U.S. government. For a decade thereafter he practiced various aspects of international law, including a year with the Japanese law firm of Hamada & Matsumoto in Tokyo and two years as in-house counsel at the Osaka

headquarters of Matsushita Electric & Industrial Co., Ltd. Eisler earned his black belt in judo from the Kodokan International Judo Center in Tokyo. Today he lives and works in the San Francisco Bay Area and continues to travel to Japan frequently. Rights to *Rain Fall*, his first novel, have been sold in 15 countries, and film rights have been purchased by Jet Li. *Hard Rain* is his second novel, and he has signed with Putnam for two more Rain books.

Favorite opening: “America was never innocent. We popped our cherry on the boat over and looked back with no regrets. You can't ascribe our fall from grace to any single event or set of circumstances. You can't lose what you lacked at conception.” (James Ellroy, *American Tabloid*)

Web site: barryeisler.com

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Peter Elbling has been a comic actor, a director and producer, as well as a writer. He has acted in numerous television shows, including “Laverne and Shirley,” “Taxi,” and “WKRP,” and in films, *The Man with Two Brains*, *Baby Boom*, etc., and on stage. He has also written many television shows and co-wrote the film, *Honey*,

I Blew up the Kids. His first mystery novel was *The Food Taster*. Elbling also wrote three other books, two works of satire (*The 1980s: A Look Back* and its sequel), and one children’s book, *Aria*. He has just completed his second mystery novel, *The Sarawak*. He can currently be seen as the professor in the Xerox commercial.

Favorite murder method: The Borgias had a method of poisoning they called la tarantella. It was the saliva of a pig which had been hung upside down and beaten for three days until dead. I have no idea if it worked or not, but the very thought of it is enough to kill most people.

Funniest moment as an author: After celebrating a birthday in a very upscale French restaurant, I went home and became sick all night long. Annoyed because the meal was expensive, I went back the next day to complain. I arrived just as the restaurant was opening and told the maitre d’ what had happened. He shrugged and said in a snotty French accent, “What do you want me to do about it?” Until that moment an apology would have been fine, but his attitude irked me, so I said, “How about a refund?” He laughed and said, “We don’t give refunds if ze food does not agree wiz you.” To which I replied, “It wasn’t a question of not agreeing, I was poisoned.” He said, “Zen per’aps you need a food taster.” I was about to say, “Per’aps you need a fat lip” — when I suddenly thought— Food Taster! What a great idea! I went home and wrote the idea down in my notebook and a couple of years later I began the novel. I had always thought that when the book was finished I’d go back and show it to him, but to my “dismay” I discovered that the restaurant had closed some time ago.

Web site: Peterelbling.com

Aaron Elkins, a former anthropologist, has been writing mysteries since 1982 and won an Edgar for *Old Bones* in 1988. He has also won an Agatha (with his wife Charlotte) and a Nero Wolfe Award. His major continuing series features forensic anthropologist-detective Gideon Oliver, “the skeleton detective.” A second series features art curator-sleuth Chris Norgren. Elkins and his wife have



Peninsula.

Favorite murder method: Anything at all, as long as solving it requires the services of a forensic anthropologist.

Web site: www.aaronelkins.com



David Ellis is an author of legal thrillers and a trial lawyer in Chicago. His first novel, *Line of Vision*, won the Edgar Award for Best First Novel. His second novel was *Life Sentence*, and his third, *Jury of One*, will be released in March 2004. Ellis lives on Chicago’s north side with his wife and two pugs. He would prefer not to discuss the Cubs.

Favorite murder method: Strangulation has such a personal touch.

Web site: davidellisbooks.com



Patricia Elmore is the author of a series for “middle age” children (8-12), featuring an eleven-year-old Oakland sleuth and including *Susarinah and the Purple Mongoose Mystery*. She used to think someday she’d grow up and write “real” novels but has long since decided she prefers the way kids see things. She lives in Albany, CA (next door to Berkeley), where she’s found a new

career as the witch of the Halloween haunted house. Rave reviews, but pays even worse than writing (hey, peanuts beat leftover candy corn), so she’s hanging onto her day job.



Kate Emburg is the president and cofounder of The Society of Phantom Friends, a group of adults who read and collect girls' mystery series such as Nancy Drew, Trixie Belden, and Judy Bolton. She has been publishing the Society's monthly newsletter, *The Whispered Watchword*, since 1985. Kate and another Phantom Friend, Michael Cornelius, used their series

expertise to parody the girl sleuth genre in a book called *Susan Slutt, Girl Detective*, which was published by Vineyard Press in September 2003.

Favorite opening line: "A big weimaraner named Jake was hemorrhaging on my skirt." (Lillian M. Roberts, *Riding for a Fall*) [It accurately lets you know what to expect from the book: female veterinarian solves mystery that is icky and bloody.]



Suzanne Epstein has been reading mysteries since she was ten years old. During the past ten years, she has become a reviewer and a collector of signed first editions. Recently she has done several "book talks" on mystery topics to community groups. She loves attending mystery conventions, visiting with the many authors and

fans she has met over the years, as well as discovering new authors. Suzanne and her husband have traveled widely, and she often reads mysteries set in the locations she is visiting. She finds this adds another dimension to the usual guidebooks. She has visited many landmarks, streets, restaurants, etc. that she has encountered in mystery books. Epstein is a retired Marriage and Family Therapist and lives in Northridge, California.

Left Coast Crime thanks Bachman Pretzels Store On-Line Services for their generous donation of pretzels.



Nancy Fairbanks (Nancy Herndon) has written ad copy, studied and taught at various universities, given faculty parties for scientists of all kinds, and published seven historical romances under the pseudonym Elizabeth Chadwick. Her first mystery, *Acid Bath*, debuted in 1995

under Nancy Herndon, her married name. Six more Elena Jarvis police procedurals followed. Her first culinary mystery, *Crime Brulee*, was written under her maiden name, Nancy Fairbanks, and came out in 2001. The most recent books in this series are *Chocolate Quake* and *The Perils of Paella*. The author's interests are travel, opera, history, reading, writing, and eating tax-deductible meals in good restaurants.

Favorite murder method: A rap on the head with a small, expensive statue, followed by the injection of a lethal liquid, and finished by display of the corpse in a performance art exhibit.

Web site: nancyfairbanks.com



Carol Fairweather has been a reader of mysteries since the 1960s when she took a break from science fiction and read 50 Agatha Christies in a row. As a member of the Prodigy online mystery discussion group, the Berkeley Second Saturdays group, Sisters in Crime, and DorothyL, she has spent many hours

discussing mysteries and what makes them good - or bad. She facilitates meetings and teach business writing and communication skills for her day job and edits NorCal SinC's newsletter *Stiletta* for fun.

Favorite murder method: The leg of lamb (later served to the detectives) from an old Alfred Hitchcock show from a story by Roald Dahl.

Sally Fellows was a high school teacher of history and English in Omaha, Nebraska for thirty-five years. Upon retirement she discovered mysteries as her avocation. She reviews for *Mystery News* and for the online publication *Reviewing the Evidence*. She has been program chairman for the small mystery convention, *Mayhem in the Midlands*, for its first five years.

Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery



As **Donna Ferguson** knows, sometimes real life is more exciting than fiction, especially if you make your living diving for sea urchins. Ferguson spent twenty years in the commercial diving and fishing business before launching a career in writing. Keeping company with heroes and outlaws, renegades and

shysters, she explored the west coast from Ketchikan, Alaska, to Santa Barbara, California. *Troubled Waters*, the first of her Mickey Sutter mysteries, is inspired by real-life characters and heart-stopping adventure. Ferguson is now working on her second novel, *Diving For Keeps*, which takes place on California's rugged Mendocino coastline.

Favorite murder method: "Choke 'em to death!"

Web site: <http://hoover.hdo.net/~sutter>



Jane Finnis is the author of *Get Out or Die* (December 2003), set in Roman Britain in 91AD.

Favorite murder method: Poison. It's usually premeditated, and there are enough different kinds—fast, slow, painful, peaceful—to make it really flexible.

Favorite opening line: "When the girl came rushing up the steps, I decided she was wearing far too many clothes."
(Lindsey Davis, *The Silver Pigs*)

Funniest moment as an author: I had an idea for my novel's cover involving a headless corpse lying by a Roman column. Richard, my husband, is a good photographer, so we went one day to a local stately home with fake classical architecture in the grounds. He photographed me playing dead, in front of a Roman-looking column. What passing visitors must have thought I don't know, but I was giggling so much that he eventually said, "Keep still, can't you? Corpses don't laugh." Later he removed my head (electronically only), and the resulting image is part of the *Get Out or Die* cover.

Web site: www.janefinnis.com



Ted Fitzgerald writes for the *Drood Review of Mystery* and has contributed to the Anthony Award-winning *They Died in Vain* (edited by Jim Huang). His short fiction has appeared in *Hardboiled Magazine* and in the collections *Private*

Eyes (edited by Mickey Spillane & Max Allan Collins) and *Feline and Famous: Cat Crimes Goes Hollywood* (edited by Ed Gorman & Martin Greenberg).

Web site: tedfitz@msn.com

photo: Jiro Kimura



Bill Fitzhugh is the author of *Pest Control* and *Cross Dressing*, now in development at Warner Brothers and Universal Studios. Reviewing *Fender Benders*, the *New York Times* said, "Fitzhugh is a strange and deadly amalgam of screenwriter and comic novelist and his facility and wit, and his taste for the perverse, put him in a

league with Carl Hiaasen and Elmore Leonard." His other books include *The Organ Grinders* and *Heart Seizure*. He won the Lefty Award and the Best Fiction award from the Mississippi Library Association. *Radio Activity*, the first in a new series, will be published in 2004.

Funniest moment as an author: Signing at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, I was seated between Heidi Fleiss and T.C. Boyle. So there we were, a pimp, a whore, and a real novelist.

Web site: www.billfitzhugh.com



Charles Fleming has reported on the entertainment industry since 1985 for *Newsweek*, *Variety*, *Vanity Fair*, *Time*, the *New York Times*, *Playboy*, *Spy* and elsewhere. He lives in Los Angeles and teaches entertainment reporting at the University of Southern California.

Fleming's nonfiction includes *High Concept* and (as co-author) *Three Weeks in*

October. His second novel, *After Havana* (sequel to *The Ivory Coast*), came out in January.

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



Elaine Flinn, a former antique dealer and a mystery lover, followed the old saw "write what you know." What better way to introduce the millions of new collectors and mystery lovers to the fascinating world of antiques and art? So she quit the antiques game (more or less--one never quits!) and turned to her next love:

mystery. As a thirty-plus-year resident of the Monterey Peninsula, Flinn chose Carmel, the gem of the California coast, as the setting for her Molly Doyle series. *Dealing in Murder* is the first book in the series.

Web site: www.elaineflinn.com



G.M. Ford's first novel, *Who in Hell is Wanda Fuca?*, was listed among the 100 Favorite Mysteries of the Century, by The Independent Booksellers Association. The second, *Cast in Stone*, was one of the most critically acclaimed mysteries of 1996. The sixth and final book in the Leo Waterman series is *The Deader the Better*.

A former creative writing teacher, Ford has begun a new series, featuring true crime writer Frank Corso. The first three in this series are *Fury*, *Black River*, and *A Blind Eye*. Ford is currently working on the fourth, tentatively titled *Red Tide*. He is the recipient of the 2003 Achievement Award from the Pacific Northwest Writers Association as well as the 2003 Spotted Owl Award from the Oregon Friends of the Mystery,

Earlene Fowler, a native Californian, writes the popular Benni Harper quilt-titled mysteries set on California's Central Coast. She won the Agatha for Best Novel 1999 for her sixth book, *Mariner's Compass*. *Steps to the Altar* and *Sunshine and Shadow* have numbered 29 and 31 on the *New York Times* bestseller list. Her latest book, *Broken Dishes*, comes out in May 2004. She has signed a contract for two more Benni Harper books as well as a mainstream novel. She owns a purple Ford pickup and



twenty-five pairs of cowboy boots.

Web site: www.earlenefowler.com



Barbara Fradkin was born in Montreal but lives in Ottawa, where her work as a child psychologist provides ample insight and inspiration for murderous plots. She writes dark, compelling short stories and a detective novel series featuring the exasperating, unpredictable Ottawa police inspector Michael Green. *Mist Walker*, the most recent in the series,

was released in September 2003.

Favorite opening line: "She's going to kill me. It's just a matter of time until she gets it right." (Mary Jane Maffini, "Sign of the Times," in *Fit to Die*, a Ladies Killing Circle anthology)

Web site: www3.sympatico.ca/family.fradkin



Ruth Francisco grew up in a small town in New England, studied voice and drama in New York City, and then moved to Los Angeles to work in the film industry. *Confessions of a Deathmaiden* is her first novel.

Favorite first line: (after the fires, the only mystery opening I can think of is this paragraph, a favorite of many). "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 fight. Meek little wives feel the edge of the carving knife and study their husbands' necks. Anything can happen." (Raymond Chandler, *Red Wind*)

Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery



Lynn Fulton is a native Left Coaster. Born in Berkeley, California, she spent her childhood writing unfinished stories. However, the fiction bug did not really bite until, after far too many years of education, she found her first “real” job: investigating claims of medical negligence for a malpractice insurance carrier.

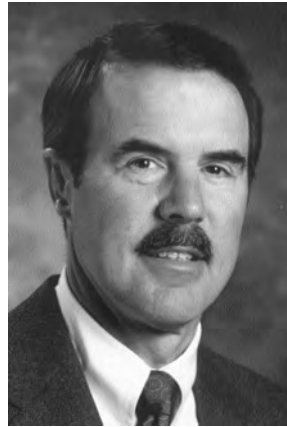
The potential for turning malpractice into murder soon struck her, and she began writing her first Petra Jameson mystery, *Resulting in Death*. The second in the series is *Gorked*. Lynn lives in Martinez, California, with her husband, their one-year-old son, and two neurotic cats.

Funniest moment as an author: I was feverishly writing my first book—not just on the computer keyboard, but in my head, during any spare moment I could find: driving, commuting, eating, etc. One day I was so distracted by a particularly difficult plot point that I didn’t realize I’d left home without my purse until I pulled up at my destination 70 miles away. No cash, no checks, no credit cards—and precisely two drops of gasoline left in my tank. But I had my plot worked out!

Web site: authorsden.com/lynnfulton

Pat Gebhard grew up in Minneapolis and has lived in New York, New Mexico, and at present in Santa Barbara. She has traveled extensively in Europe, the Middle and Far East, and has been writing for years (mainly on librarianship and architectural history and criticism, most recently on the furniture of R.M. Schindler). Like her heroine in her mystery, *Motives for Murder*, Gebhard has lived in Berkeley, has camped at Dinwoody Lakes, Wyoming, and been part of a music group. In Wyoming, her husband and friends ran a boys camp for several years. She has two grown girls, one a professional hunter-jumper rider and the other an environmentalist and mother.

Kent C. Gilmore, husband, father, and an eminently successful businessman, for more than 25 years has also participated at Grand Prix level in the classical equine sport of dressage. Gilmore’s passion for dressage also led to his debut novel, *Kirchborn*. With the goal of generating discussion of why dressage (and 25 other sports) may be discontinued at the Olympics, Gilmore crafted a story of international intrigue, love, lust, and greed that not only entertains but also brings his readers into the rarefied world of this sport. In addition, the Swiss banking system and its notorious cover-up of the Nazi lootings of World



War II and contemporary international terrorism also play a role in his compelling, deftly written debut novel.

Web site:
www.atlasbooks.com/marktplc/00834.htm



Jackie Girdner/Claire Daniels is a recovering attorney, an eighteen-year student of tai chi, and the author of 12 Kate Jasper mysteries under her name of Jaqueline Girdner. Daniel’s nw series begins with *Body of Intuition* and features Cally Lazar, a recovering attorney, intuitive energy healer, and “cane-fu” master. Daniel’s second Cally Lazar mystery, *Strangled Intuition*, should

be on the shelf in January of 2004. Claire lives in Marin county, California, with her husband, Greg, an intuitive energy healer.

Favorite murder method: Use of a salad shooter in Jaqueline Girdner’s book *Fat-Free and Fatal*.

Web site: www.clairedaniels.com



Hal Glatzer has been a journalist and novelist for more than thirty years. He’s the author of several innovative mysteries, including the current Katy Green series, set in musical milieux, which include *Too Dead To Swing* (an all-girl swing band) and *A Fugue In Hell’s Kitchen* (a conservatory string quartet). Hal and his wife are Art Deco enthusiasts

and frequent travellers, with homes in San Francisco in the Haight-Ashbury district and in Manhattan in (where else?) Hell’s Kitchen.

Web sites: www.toodeadtoswing.com,
www.fugue-mystery.com



Christine Goff's first two novels were *A Rant of Ravens* and *Death of a Songbird*. Her third book, *A Nest in the Ashes*, resulted in a recent Colorado National Public Radio interview for her insights on prescribed fire issues. A former journalist, Goff lives in the Colorado Rocky Mountains, where her novels are set. She looks forward to the publication of her fourth in

the Birdwatcher's Mystery series, *Death Takes a Gander*.

Current titles are: *A Rant of Ravens*, *Death of a Songbird*, *A Nest in the Ashes*

Favorite murder method: I'm a fan of the unusual. My favorite method to date is one in my soon-to-be released, *Death Takes a Gander*, where someone is pushed through an ice fishing hole and drowned.

Funniest moment as an author: Winning the "sack" award in a simile contest at a regional writers conference. Unfortunately, I didn't win the grand prize for having the best simile. I won the booby prize for "missing the mark" altogether. Not only didn't I write a simile on taste, I wrote a great metaphor for odor. Any chance it had something to do with the drinks I had in the bar the night before?

Web site: www.christinegoff.com



Ed Goldberg was born in the Bronx, New York, in 1943. After dropping out of college in 1962, he attempted to do stand-up comedy, unsuccessfully. He wrote for a few of the underground papers in New York. He moved to Washington, DC, 1973, became a technical writer, and wrote features and reviews for a monthly arts and entertainment paper.

In 1991, he moved to Portland, Oregon and finished *Served Cold*, winner of the 1995 Shamus Award for best original paperback fiction. His third novel, *Better Dead*, is looking for a publisher. He is currently working on his first non-fiction book.

Favorite Murder Method:

The "apparatus" in Kafka's *In the Penal Colony*

Funniest moment as an author: Finding a book I had personalized and autographed for a friend in a used bookstore. It put everything in perspective.

Favorite Opening Paragraph:

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 fight. Meek little wives feel the edge of the carving knife and study their husbands' necks. Anything can happen. You can even get a full glass of beer at a cocktail lounge.

Raymond Chandler, *Red Wind*



Lee Goldberg, is a writer/producer and a two-time Edgar Award nominee whose many television credits include "Martial Law," "Diagnosis Murder," "Spenser: For Hire," "Nero Wolfe," "1-800-Missing," and "Monk." He's also the author of *My Gun Has Bullets*, *Beyond the Beyond*, and the "Diagnosis Murder" series of paperback originals,

as well as coauthor of *Successful Television Writing*. His most recent books are *Successful Television Writing*, *Diagnosis Murder: The Silent Partner*, *Diagnosis Murder: The Death Merchant*, and *The Walk*.

Web site: www.lgoldberg.com



Joel Goldman is a trial lawyer who began writing when one of his partners complained about another partner. Goldman suggested they write a murder mystery, kill the son-of-a-bitch off in the first chapter, and spend the rest of the book figuring out who did it. The partner didn't, but Goldman did. He's now a ten-year

overnight success with two Lou Mason thrillers, *Motion to Kill* and *The Last Witness*, on bookshelves. The latest, *Cold Truth*, just came out.

Favorite murder method: anything up close and personal,

Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery

since there's nothing more personal than murder.

Web site: www.joelgoldman.com



Nadia Gordon is the pen name of Julianne Balmain, a San Francisco-based writer whose books include *Sharpshooter* and *Death by the Glass*, books one and two in the Sunny McCoskey Napa Valley mystery series. She is currently working on book three, *Murder Alfresco*, due

out in spring 2005. Under her own name, Balmain is the author of *Kama Sutra Deck*, *Office Kama Sutra*, *Abroad*, and several children's books.

Web site: www.nadiagordon.com



Robert Greer is the author of the C.J. Floyd mystery series, *The Devil's Hatband*, *The Devil's Red Nickel*, *The Devil's Backbone*; *Limited Time*, a medical thriller; and a short story collection, *Isolation and Other Stories*. Greer lives in Denver, where he is a practicing surgical pathologist, research scientist, and professor of

pathology and medicine at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. He also edits the High Plains Literary Review, reviews books for National Public Radio, and raises Black Baldy cattle on his ranch near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. His fifth novel, *Heat Shock*, came out in October 2003.

Favorite opening line: "June seventeenth turned out to be a six-biscuit day, and Vernon Lowe hated six-biscuit days." (*The Devil's Red Nickel*)



Tom Griffith is a local church pastor by calling and occupation, a mystery author and fan by avocation. His first novel, *The Burger Barn on Sunset* (which he unabashedly is marketing as a "male romantic suspense"), is being released in hardback and e-book

formats on February 15, 2004. He loves mystery stories with "professional religious" as protagonists. He is also interested in exploring the varied concepts of "justice" within law, mystery stories, and Biblical/ethical views.

Web site: thomashgriffith.com



Kate Grilley, a Virgin Islands resident, is the award-winning author of the Kelly Ryan/St. Chris Caribbean mystery novels *Death Dances to a Reggae Beat*, *Death Rides an Ill Wind*, and *Death Lurks in the Bush*. She is the current national president of Sisters in Crime.

Favorite murder method:

Poison! It's my weapon of choice!

Web site: ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/kate_grilley



Patricia Guiver was born and raised in Surrey, England, and now makes her home in southern California, the setting of her Delilah Doolittle pet detective mysteries. The sixth in the series, *The Beastly Bloodline*, is a recent release. A former journalist and editor, she received her early training in London's Fleet Street. Guiver also writes a pet column for the

San Gabriel Valley News Group, and in her spare time volunteers for the local humane society. In a change of pace from fur, fin, and feather, she's currently working on a World War II romantic suspense.

Favorite murder method: Bludgeoning with croquet mallet



Helen Haddad was born in New York and studied art and design. Early in their marriage she and her husband moved to southern California, where she worked for many years in the Los Angeles County Library system before leaving to write full time. Haddad divides her time between Coronado island in San Diego and her home in the hills above La Habra.

Picture of Guilt is her first published novel.

Favorite opening line: "This is how I always start: I am the prosecutor." (Scott Turow, *Presumed Innocent*)

Web site: www.helenhaddad.com



Bruce Hale, raised by wolves just outside Los Angeles, has worked as a surveyor, gardener, dee-jay, English teacher (in Japan), and corporate

lackey. Tiring of all this, he turned to writing. Hale has published over a dozen books for children, including *The Malted Falcon*, in his popular Chet Gecko mystery series. Vanguard Films has optioned the series. A Fulbright scholar (in storytelling), Hale is in demand as a speaker, having presented at conferences, universities, and schools across the country. His acting credits include numerous plays, several television commercials, and an independent movie, *The Ride* (in which he plays a surfer's agent).

Funniest moment as an author: I was making a presentation at a Hawaii school, telling kids about story writing, creativity, and the life of an author. The audience was excited. During the Q&A, one student kept his hand up the entire time, an urgent expression plastered on his face. I figured he had a burning question that would influence his future career as a writer, so at last I called on him. "Mr. Hale," he said, pointing at my balding pate, "do you know they have chemicals you can rub on your head to make the hair come back?"

Web site: www.brucehale.com



Daniel J. Hale, together with his teenage nephew, **Matthew LaBrot**, writes the Zeke Armstrong Mystery series for kids. *Red Card*, the first

installment, won the Agatha Award for Best Children's/Young Adult Mystery in 2003. (Fifteen at the time, LaBrot is the youngest-ever recipient of the award.) *Green Streak*, an inline speed skate racing mystery set in New York City, will be published in April 2004. The uncle/nephew writing team are now at work on *White Out*, a snowboarding mystery. A competitive mountain bike racer, Hale speaks fluent French and holds a graduate degree from Cornell University.



Malinda Hall has lived in six states. Before graduating from University of Tulsa, she attended Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Since then she has worked as a bookkeeper, an English and math teacher; currently she is a public high school speech therapist. Her first mystery, *Social Graces*, begins the story of the family of Louisa Daniel, and the second, *Nowhere Is Somewhere*,

continues Louisa's series. The mother of two daughters, Hall lives in northern California with her husband, C. Mike, parents, dog, and cat.

Funniest moment as an author: A speech therapist colleague told me he bought my book, *Social Graces*, to which I replied a hearty thank you. "But," he said, "it was a mystery," to which I agreed. "Oh, I thought it was a professional text about pragmatic language," he said disappointedly. "You know, using language properly, that kind of thing." At least, it was a sale.



Parnell Hall is the author of the Puzzle Lady crossword puzzle mysteries, the Stanley Hastings private eye novels, and the Steve Winslow courtroom dramas. He registered late, and is lucky to have any bio at all. As punishment, he has been made to moderate a panel. The organizers of this convention should not be held responsible for the resultant chaos.

His most recent book is *With This Puzzle, I Thee Kill*.

Favorite murder method: I like stabbing.

Funniest moment as an author: Reading my royalty statements.

Favorite opening line of a mystery: "I want to kill someone." - Parnell Hall, *Detective*

Web sites: parnellhall.com and puzzlелady.com

Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery



Denise Hamilton writes the critically acclaimed Eve Diamond crime novels, including *Sugar Skull* (2003) and *The Jasmine Trade* (2001), which was shortlisted for the Edgar Allen Poe, the Macavity, the Anthony and the Willa Cather Award. *Last Lullaby*, the third Eve novel,

will be published in April 2004.

Hamilton was a Los Angeles Times staff writer for 10 years. Her award-winning stories have also appeared in *Wired*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Der Spiegel* and *New Times*. Hamilton lived and taught in former Yugoslavia during the Bosnian War as a Fulbright Scholar. She lives outside Los Angeles with her husband and two boys.

www.denisehamilton.com

Photo: Jeff Kreider, The Book Orphanage



Lyn Hamilton is the author of a series of archaeological mysteries featuring antique dealer Lara McClintoch who travels the world in search of the rare and beautiful for her store, finding more than a little murder and mayhem along the way. Each of the well-researched novels is set in a different part of the world and deals with the past in an unusual way. The fourth

book in the series, *The Celtic Riddle*, formed the basis for the 2003 "Murder She Wrote" TV movie starring Angela Lansbury. Lyn, like Lara, is an antiques addict.

Her most recent book: *The Thai Amulet*

Favorite murder method: Impaling them on a several hundred year old suit of armor.

website: www.lynhamilton.com



Lauren Haney, a former technical editor in the aerospace and international construction industries, is the author of the ancient Egyptian mystery series featuring Lieutenant Bak. Set during the reign of Queen Hatshepsut, the series includes *Right Hand of Anon*, and, most recently, *A Place of Darkness*, *A Cruel Deceit*, *Flesh of the God*, and

A Path of Shadows. She lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and travels to Egypt at every opportunity.

Favorite murder method: Stabbing. It's straightforward, there can be no mistake about the killer's intent, and any number of interesting implements can be used in a variety of ways.

Web site: www.mysterynet.com/haney/



Vinnie Hansen is the author of the Carol Sabala murder mystery series, set on the central coast of California and featuring a baker sleuth who aspires to be a PI. The series includes *Murder, Honey*; *One Tough Cookie*; *Rotten Dates*; and the upcoming *Tang is Not Juice*. A high-

school English teacher for twenty years, Hansen lives in Santa Cruz, California, with her husband, artist Daniel S. Friedman, and their very spoiled cat Lola.

Favorite murder method: Poison. Since my protagonist is a baker/sleuth, poison is a logical choice. Poison can be beaten into a batter or sprinkled on a souffle. I also love poison for its infinite variety. From household products to plants in the garden to creepy, crawly creatures, poisons come in all forms and are readily available. Also, poison is a good fit for my novels, which are cozies, a sub-genre of murder mystery where the gentle readers like more emphasis on who-done-it and less emphasis on blood and gore. Besides a quick push off a steep cliff, poison is my method of choice.

Web site: www.cruzers.coni/-danvin

Jim Harmon, as a child, read a lot (and listened to the radio). He began writing short stories when he was 13, science fiction, detective, and western stories at first and then mystery and adventure novels. He has written and produced professional radio drama and created two



Tom Mix comic books and a short series of Mix radio adventures (he was the sidekick, Pecos). Today Harmon is far from retired: he still edits and writes about science fiction and Westerns on radio, and he also makes radio and TV appearances.

Favorite murder method: A disappearing bullet, one made of ice. Or an ice dagger (but I am always loathe to cut anybody cold).

Favorite opening line: It's the scene that opens Billy Wilder's *Sunset Boulevard*. William Holden is floating face down in a swimming pool and starts to tell his story. You suspect it will not have a happy ending.

Funniest moment as an author: At an airport once before the era of X-ray machines on a book tour for *The Great Radio Heroes* (a modest best seller), one handler went through my luggage and—afraid I might hijack the plane to Cuba—seized my Tom Mix wooden 6-shooter: it was a prop for TV interviews, made of wood with cardboard handles held shut by a bent nail. During the flight the gun rode in a diplomatic pouch in the cockpit.



Patricia Harrington writes the Bridget O'Hern amateur detective mystery series (*Death Stalks the Khmer* was published in 2001) and the Stanley Street Irregulars series, featuring a trio of fifth-grade sleuths. Her short mystery fiction and her works have appeared in *Futures Mysterious Anthology*

Magazine, *Womans World*, and an anthology *Mystery in Mind*. She is coeditor of *Bullet Points*, a micro-mystery anthology. Harrington also has a beginning reader e-book series that features Fat Cat and Gray Mouse (see www.childrenzbooks.com). Fat Cat occasionally dons a Sherlockian deerstalker hat and solves mysteries. Harrington belongs to the Short Mystery Fiction Society, Mystery Writers of America, and Sisters in Crime.

Favorite murder method: Looking back, I see that I favor "falls." Such an innocent way to send someone to his doom, or her final comeuppance, and make it all seem a plausible accident.

Web site: www.patriciaharrington.com



Lee Harris writes constantly, travels frequently, swims whenever the weather permits, and gets together with her writer friends, Nuns, Mothers and Others, at the drop of a hat to go to Left Coast conventions. The most recent book in her series featuring ex-nun sleuth Christine Bennett is *The Bar Mitzvah Murder*. The first book in a new rougher, tougher series

featuring NYPD Detective Jane Bauer, who works on cold cases, is *Murder in Hell's Kitchen*. Single and forty, Jane is a twenty-year veteran suddenly thrown into different, exhilarating work.

Favorite murder method: A gun; it's probably the one I have used most often.

Web site: www.nmomysteries.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 noirfiction: *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 line: "The shell-shocked horse ran toward the statue of Christ." (Sam Fuller *The Big Red One*,)

Favorite murder method: In Edgar Ullnier'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.

She's beautiful and resourceful and labor pains are the very least of her problems.



The father of her baby is a charming but underhanded Dallas Cowboy who's being blackmailed by a white sadist who thinks he's a black one.

The money manager trying to lowball her on an equitable child support agreement is the Cowboy's penny-pinching mother.

She's holding a Vegas casino betting slip that will make her \$1.25 million richer if the 50-1 underdog Arizona Cardinals can pull off one of the biggest upsets in Superbowl history.

And professional troubleshooter Aeneas Charles seems to want *her* even more than the other two men want the betting slip.

Somebody in the city of Lost Wages is about to get badly burned.

Bet the house it *won't* be Reece Germaine.

Firecracker

A NOVEL BY RAY SHANNON

Author of MAN EATER

"You open this book and the fuse is lit. Big characters, big money, a big writer at work. FIRECRACKER explodes with a punch. A rare find!"

- Ridley Pearson, author of THE ART OF DECEPTION

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L. C. Hayden's mystery novels include *Who's Susan*, *When Colette Died*, *Where Secrets Lie* (which has been optioned for a movie), and *What Others Know*. She has also written the nonfiction *When Angels Touch You*, a spiritually uplifting book. Another novel, *The Drums of Gerald Hurd*, promises

the punch of a first-class horror story and the sensitivity of a romance. Hayden spends a vast amount of time on the road in her motor home, promoting books, speaking, and presenting workshops. Besides writing, Hayden enjoys drawing, reading, traveling, and scuba diving.

Funniest moment as an author: During a recent signing a lady came in about five minutes before the signing was over. Her face was flushed. She had obviously been running. She told me she had been driving for two hours just so she could meet me. Naturally, I felt very honored. She then told me that her sister had all three of my mystery books and she planned to get copies of all my books for herself. At that time, I had four titles out. I kept thinking: I have to put something really nice in her books and I have to find four different things to say. While we conversed, my mind searched for those magical words. About fifteen minutes later, she said she'd have to go. She grabbed one copy of each of my books and began to walk away. I called her back. "Do you want me to sign those books?" She turned to look at me with horror on her face. "I don't like to have my books trashed!" The fan giveth and the fan taketh.

Website: lchayden.freesevers.com



Gar Anthony Haywood (Ray Shannon) is the Shamus and Anthony Award-winning author of ten crime novels: six featuring African-American private investigator Aaron Gunner; two recounting the adventures of amateur crime solvers and Airstream trailer owners Joe and Dottie Loudermilk; and most recently, two stand-alone

thrillers written under the pen name of Ray Shannon, *Man Eater* (January 2003) and *Firecracker* (January 2004).

Favorite opening line: "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." (Robert Ferrigno, *The Horse Latitudes*)

Web site: www.garanthonyhaywood.com



Jeremiah Healy (Terry Devane) is the author of seventeen novels and three collections of short stories, most featuring (fictional) private investigator John Cuddy. A graduate of Rutgers College and Harvard Law School, Healy also writes the Mairead O'Clare legal thrillers under his pseudonym of Terry

Devane. Healy is the current president of the International Association of Crime Writers, and he will be the American Guest of Honor at Bouchercon, Toronto, in 2004. His most recent book is a Devane legal thriller, in which a small law firm represents a female trial judge presiding over the worst of the Boston "priest-rape" criminal trials.

Favorite murder method: Strangulation, because you can watch the light of life fade from the eyes of the person you're killing. However, for the books, it's firearms, because they are the great equalizer, giving men and women, regardless of relative physical strength, the same ability to kill, thus broadening the cast of credible suspects.

Web site: www.jeremiahhealy.com

Photo: Jim Norman



Bonnie Hearn Hill's thriller, *Intern*, about a California state senator whose lover/intern disappears, was the first of a six-book deal with MIRA books and was published in hardcover February of 2003. *Killer Body*, set in the weight-loss industry, was published this month (February, 2004), and *If*

It Bleeds, the first in a series of mass-market newspaper thrillers, will be published by MIRA in August. A former newspaper editor, Hearn Hill teaches fiction writing for Writer's Digest Online Workshops and leads a private workshop in Fresno, Calif.

Web site: www.bonniehearnhill.com



Daniel Hecht spent twenty years as a professional guitarist before earning his MFA from the Iowa Writers Workshop and taking up writing. Starting with the best-selling *Skull Session* in 1998, his five literary thriller/mystery novels have been published to enthusiastic acclaim in the United States and abroad.

His most recent novels,

City of Masks and *Land of Echoes*, are the first in a series featuring Cree Black, a parapsychologist who uses her unique empathic talents as well as scientific methods to solve mysteries that are at once paranormal, psychological, and forensic. Hecht is an amateur scholar of psychology and neuroscience, and is a graduate of the New York State Police's elite Williams Homicide Investigation Seminar.

Favorite opening line of a mystery: "In the year 1878 I took my degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of London, and proceeded to Netley to go through the course prescribed for surgeons in the Army (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *A Study in Scarlet*)"

Web site: www.danielhecht.com

Photo: Stella Hovis



Victoria Heckman

is the award-winning author of the K.O.'d in Hawaii mystery series, which includes *K.O.'d in Honolulu* and *K.O.'d in the Volcano*. She is happily finished with the third, *K.O.'d in Hawaiian Sovereignty*. Her short fiction has appeared in *Futures*, *Short Story*,

Kid's Highway, *Mysterical-e*, *The Smog*, *Without a Clue*, *LoveWords*, *True Soul Mates*, *More Slo Death*, and *And Some of Them Are Dead*. Heckman has also edited two anthologies, coedited a third, and is a freelance editor. She is copresident of Sisters in Crime—Central Coast Chapter, Mystery Writers of America, and the Police Writers Association.

Funniest moment as an author: At a book signing a "fan" came up and said, "I just loved your book! It was so... short!"

Web site: victoriaheckman.com



Libby Fischer

Hellman, the author of *An Eye for Murder*, *A Picture of Guilt*, and the upcoming *An Image of Death*, is a transplant from Washington, DC, but has lived in the Chicago area 25 years. When not writing fiction, she writes and produces corporate videos. She has also worked in television news and public relations and

can occasionally be spotted in those venues. A founding member of Sex, Lies, and Videotape (guess which one she is), she lives with her family and a beagle, shamelessly named Shiloh.

Favorite murder method: Let's not get carried away, a bullet works. It's fast, efficient, and it gets the job done.

Web site: www.hellmann.com/mystery-author/index.htm



Naomi Hirahara

is a writer and editor of nonfiction books on the Japanese American experience. She previously worked as an editor and reporter of the *Rafu Shimpo*, a bilingual Japanese American daily newspaper in Los Angeles. Her first mystery novel, *Summer of the Big Bachi*, will be out

in March 2004. Her protagonist is Mas Arai, a Japanese American gardener and atomic-bomb survivor living in Los Angeles. Hirahara and her husband also reside in Southern California, where she was born and raised. She is now at work on her second Mas Arai book.

Favorite opening line: "I was surprised to see a white man walk into Joppy's bar." (Walter Mosley, *Devil in a Blue Dress*)

Web site: www.naomihirahara.com



Louise Hoblitt has worked in fields and canneries, reported for a newspaper, learned to fly, scuba-dive, spearfish, wind surf, body-surf, and play in a women's band. She lives in the Oakland Hills in a multi-level house she built herself by putting a rack on her car, hiring an itinerant carpenter, and working

alongside him. She thinks she has the risk-taking gene.

Favorite murder method: Remember Aunt Rhody? Her old gray goose is dead, died in the millpond, a-standin' on her head. Mm-hmm. I've been thinking about that.

Web site: www.home.earthlink.net/~louisehoblitt



S.W. Hubbard, an avid hiker and canoeist, has spent many happy hours exploring the High Peaks area of the Adirondack Mountains, the setting for her series. *Take the Bait*, her first book, was published in April 2003, and its sequel will be released in March 2004. She has worked for over 20 years as a marketing promotions writer and lives in Morristown, New Jersey, with her

husband, two children, and cat.

Funniest moment as an author: As a first-time author, I have been delighted and honored to receive fan mail from my readers. One of the best e-mail messages I received had the subject line, "message from a prune." My fan proceeded to tell me that she'd read *Take the Bait*, in its entirety, in the course of one long bath. (She admitted she had to add more hot water.) It took me ten years to write the book and she polishes it off during her bath!

Web site: www.swhubbard.com



Bob Irvine is the author of 21 novels published in the United States and one novel published only in Sweden. He spent many years in Los Angeles as a TV news producer, director and writer. Many of his news productions were awarded Emmys. His most recent novels are *Barking Dogs* and *Pillar of Fire*. He has written five other novels in collaboration with Angie

Irvine under the name Val Davis (see her bio under the pseudonym).



Jonnie Jacobs is the author of ten books in two series. The Kali O'Brien novels of legal suspense depict a tough but tenderhearted heroine with a passion for justice. The Kate Austen suburban mysteries combine light humor with the page-turning suspense of mystery. A former practicing attorney, she lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Her most recent book is *Intent to Harm*

Funniest moment as an author - Being asked to show an ID before autographing stock. Who else would want to sign my books?

Web site: www.nmomysteries.com



Nancy Baker Jacobs is the award-winning author of 12 crime novels, including the Devon MacDonald private eye book *Flash Point* (featuring arson investigator Susan Delancey) and *Star Struck* (introducing *Hollywood Star* reporter Quinn Collins), both first installments in new mystery series; and seven suspense novels. Her latest suspense offering is *Ricochet*, which

is set in the Monterey area. Jacobs has worked as a private detective, a university professor and administrator, and a journalist, and, lives on California's Monterey peninsula. As Nancy C. Baker, she's also written six nonfiction books on subjects ranging from black market adoption to breast cancer.

Favorite murder method: Something that could be seen as an accident or natural death—overdose, arson, car accident, and the like. My murders are subtle: has a murder taken place at all?

Web site: www.nancybakerjacobs.com.



Sue Ann Jaffarian is the author of the award-winning *Too Big to Miss* and *The Curse of the Holy Pail*, which feature amateur sleuth Odelia Grey, a middle-aged, plus-size, paralegal. In addition to writing this series, Ms. Jaffarian is a much sought-after motivational speaker and humorist, as well as a legal assistant with thirty

years experience in the legal profession. She is currently working on the third book in the Odelia Grey mystery series, *Remedial Murder*, and serves on the Board of Sisters In Crime/Los Angeles.

Funniest moment as an author? It was during one of my first interviews after my first novel, *Too Big To Miss*, which features a protagonist very much like myself, a middle-aged, plus-size, paralegal ... was published. The interviewer, a very young woman, looked me over and asked very seriously "What ever inspired you to write a mystery about an overweight paralegal?"

After giving it quick thought, I responded that I receive inspiration to write the Odelia Grey mystery series from my day-to-day life as a tall, thin, young, blonde, who works as an extra on "Baywatch."

Web site: <http://www.sueannjaffarian.com>



Claire M. Johnson completed the California Culinary Academy's program for professional chefs in 1983 and worked as a pastry chef in San Francisco and Oakland for eight years. Set in the restaurant world, Johnson's first novel, *Beat Until Stiff*, is the first book in the Mary Ryan, Pastry Chef, murder mystery series. *Beat Until Stiff* won the 1999 Malice Domestic Writer's. She lives

in Lafayette, California, with her husband, two children, and numerous animals.

Web site: www.rouxmorgue.com



Rodney Johnson is the author of the Rinnah Two Feathers mystery series; the most recent is *The Curse of the Royal Ruby*. He is a freelance kids' writer specializing in script consulting, story editing, and writing for feature films.

Johnson shares his Lakota Sioux heritage with his literary creation Rinnah Two Feathers but doesn't get into nearly as much trouble. He lives in the Silver Lake area of Los Angeles and is hard at work on the third Rinnah Two Feathers book, *The Legend of Devil's Graveyard*, coming in fall 2004.

Favorite opening line: "If you are interested in stories with happy endings, you would be better off reading some other book." (Lemony Snicket, *The Bad Beginning, A Series of Unfortunate Events*)

Web site: www.RinnahTwoFeathers.com



Stephanie Kane, born and raised in Brooklyn, now lives in Denver with her husband, a federal judge. A partner in Denver's largest corporate law firm before jumping the fence to criminal defense work, she has lectured on money laundering and white collar crime in Eastern Europe and has a black belt in karate. *Blind Spot*, her first legal thriller, stars a

female defense attorney who is a closet dyslexic. *Extreme Indifference*, the second in that series, was published by Scribner in November 2003.

Web site: writerkane.com

Larry Karp says Thomas Purdue, the music box collector-detective in his Music Box Mystery series, hums old popular tunes as he goes about his business. By an odd coincidence, so does Karp (when he was a kid, he listened endlessly to Al Jolson on 78rpm records). The latest tune is *The Midnight Special*, and the next, *Sorcerer and the Junkman*, will be out soon. He's working on a fifth novel, something very different, but bet it's got music at its heart: "Let me sing and I'm happy."



Funniest moment as an author: It didn't start out funny, not at all. The archvillain in my second book is Vincent Larimore, larcenist and killer of people and cats—someone you want nowhere near you, no way. So picture my face, just a few weeks ago, when one of the lines in my e-mail box read "Vincent Larimore."

When I finally got up the courage to open the message, I found out he's a real live person who did an Internet name search and got my name. He actually thought it was cool to share a name with such an ultimate "slime bag." When my hands finally stopped shaking, I sent Vincent a signed copy of the book.

Web site: www.larrykarp.com



Lee Killough has loved both SF and mysteries—and police procedurals in particular—since age 11, a consequence of growing up with "Dragnet," "Naked City," "M-Squad," and "Police Story." Afraid of exhausting the supply of her favorite genres in her small hometown library, she began writing her own stories, and rather than choose between SF and mystery, she

combined them as much as possible. The habit has stuck. Approximately half of her 14 novels are police procedural mysteries with SF or dark fantasy detectives: including future cops (*Bridling Chaos*); a vampire cop (*Blood Walk* and *Blood Games*), and werewolf cops (*Wilding Nights*).

Favorite opening line: "He found himself standing in a parking garage with no memory except of his murder." (from my book-in-progress, *Killer Karma*)

Web site: www.Meishamerlin.com

Laurie R. King is a third-generation native of the Bay Area, who lived in the Monterey Bay area when there were still fishermen on the docks. She went to the university in Santa Cruz and graduate school in Berkeley, doing degrees in religious studies and Old Testament theology. From there she turned to crime, publishing *A Grave Talent* (the first in the Kate Martinelli series) in 1993 and *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* (the first in the Sherlock Holmes/Mary Russell series) the following year. King now has fourteen books out in nineteen languages worldwide. Her two most recent



books are *The Game* and *Keeping Watch*. Many of her books make use of theological ideas, but she also writes about children, house construction, World War I, India's princely states, and whatever else takes her fancy.

Funniest moment as an author: Being an author is funny in itself. But one that still makes me chortle was early on, before I was published, when I had a friend typing *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* for me. There is a moment of high drama when Ms Russell whips off her hat to reveal that she is a young woman, not the boy Sherlock Holmes has taken her to be, and scathingly declares, "It's a damned good thing that you did retire, if that's all that's left of the great detective's mind!" Only my handwriting is not too clear, so that instead we have Ms Russell proclaiming, "...if that's all that's left of the great detective Smird!"

Web site: www.laurierking.com Photo: Seth Affoumado



Susan Lynn Kingsbury

pens articles, essays, book reviews, personal interviews/profiles, and short stories, both fiction and nonfiction. Some of her articles appear in *Cruising World Magazine*, *The Ensign*, *Writing Etc.*, and the *NAWW Weekly Newsletter*. "Dispatched," her true-crime short story, is included in an upcoming anthology titled *The Simple*

Touch of Fate, to be published in the spring of 2004.

Current book projects include a mystery novel, *On a Beautiful Beach Somewhere*; a police procedural, *To Do the Right Thing*; and a nonfiction book, *My Husband's Love of Sailing, from a Woman's Point of View*.

Funniest moment as an author: I'd been writing articles for a local boating newsletter for about a year when we attended a holiday party for the organization. My husband and I were sitting at a long table with about six other couples when one woman exclaimed, "I know who you are! You're the famous writer who writes the column in the LOG! I love your stories!" I'd never thought of myself as famous before (or even after) that. My face stayed red the rest of the evening as all eyes were on the "famous writer!"

Web site: hometown.aol.com/writingsbysilk/myhomepage/business.html

Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery



Gay Tolt Kinman

coordinates Workshops for Writers at Cal State, San Bernardino; has six writing award nominations; has published over one hundred and fifty articles; has had a play produced; and has coedited the cookbook, *Desserticide aka Just Desserts and Deathly Advice*.

She is a scholar for The Center for the Book, Library of Congress/UCLA “Women of Mystery” Program and is the 2003 Edgar’s Chair for Best Children’s Mystery. Her story “Miss Parker and the Cutter Sanborn Tables” appears in *A Deadly Dozen: Tales of Murder from Los Angeles*, and the story “Neither Tarnished Nor Afraid” in *Murder on Sunset Boulevard*. Tolman’s Gothic novel, *Castle Reiner*, is set in California in 1899.

Funniest moment as an author: This is the funniest within recent memory. I called the 800 number to make hotel reservations for this conference and told the woman who answered that I wanted group reservations for Left Coast Crime 14. She said she couldn’t take my reservations and that I had to call the hotel directly. But, I said, it says here in the instructions that I’m to call this number and say what group I’m with. We repeated each other again, our voices rising. Finally the exasperated voice on the other end of the phone said, “But I can’t take reservations for fourteen!”

Web site: www.gaykinman.com



Harley Jane Kozak

grew up in Nebraska, attended New York University’s Graduate Acting Program, and spent the next two decades in show business, starring in 50 plays, ten feature films, and a dozen TV movies, series, and miniseries. Kozak lives in the wilds of Los Angeles with her trial lawyer

husband, a cat, two big dogs, and three small children. Her first novel, *Dating Dead Men*, was published in January 2004. She’s currently working on the sequel.

Web site: www.harleyjanekozak.com

Rochelle Krich’s new mystery, *Dream House*, features L.A. based true crime writer/freelance reporter Molly Blume, who made her debut in *Blues in the Night*. She has also penned several short stories, five stand-alones, and five



novels in the Jessie Drake series. *Rachel’s Tomb*, the next Molly Blume adventure, will be out in October 2004.

Funniest moment as an author: At a local signing at a bookstore in Farmers Market, the store manager set up the event for Friday — “when there are tons of tourists and tour buses” —

there were, but on that particular Friday afternoon all the tourists (and there were many) were Japanese speaking.

Web site: www.rochellekrich.com



Although Joyce Krieg

has never solved a murder, her life story has several parallels with that of her fictional heroine. Like Shauna J. Bogart, Krieg was one of the trailblazers for women in radio as the first female anchor at the top-rated news and talk station in Sacramento, California.

She later put her experiences

to the page with *Murder Off Mike* (April 2003), featuring a female talk radio host. It won St. Martin’s “best first traditional mystery” contest. The sequel, *Slip Cue*, is to be published in the spring of 2004.

Favorite method of murder: My protagonist is a talk radio host, so I’ve always been curious as to whether it’s possible for anyone to actually be “talked to death.”

Web site: www.joycek.com.



William Kent Krueger,

after being kicked out of Stanford University, took refuge in Minnesota where he now lives with his wife and two children. The novels in his Cork O’Connor series have received a number of awards, including the Anthony and the Barry awards for Best First Novel, the Loft-McKnight Fiction Award, the Minnesota

Book Award, and the Friends of American Writers Prize. Several of his works have been optioned by Hollywood. A

stand-alone thriller titled *The Devil's Bed* was released in February 2003. *Blood Hollow*, the next installment in the Cork O'Connor series, is scheduled for release in February 2004.

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

Web site: www.williamkentkrueger.com



Ken Kuhlken's novels are *Midheaven*, *The Loud Adios*, *The Venus Deal* and *The Angel Gang*. His stories have appeared in ESQUIRE, dozens of literary magazines and frequently in the SAN DIEGO READER. His work has been chosen as 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.

www.kenkuhlken.net



Michael Kurland is the author of over 30 novels and a melange of short stories, articles, and other stuff. Michael Kurland gave up his career in the theater and took up writing when the horse died. His stories are set in epochs and locations from Ancient Rome to the far future; anyplace the reader won't spot anachronisms too easily. His works have appeared in many languages,

sometimes three or four on the same page, and are believed to be fragments of one great opus, a study of the *untermensch*. More can be learned at his

Website: www.michaelkurland.com

Bette Golden Lamb and **J.J. Lamb's** most recent novel is *Bone Dry* (January 2003).

Bette Golden Lamb, a registered nurse, has developed a



parallel career as a painter, sculptor, and ceramist. Her art works have been shown and sold in California through galleries, stores, associations, and art festivals. Her first published short story, "Slip-Up," written in collaboration with J.J.,

appeared in *Dark Star*. She has also written nonfiction pieces and is a member of Sisters in Crime.

J.J. Lamb is a career writer for newspapers, Associated Press, consumer and trade magazines, advertising and public relations, and fiction. He is the author of three private-eye novels, with a German reprint, and a number of short stories. He is a member of Mystery Writers of America, was vice president of the Northern California Chapter of MWA for three years, and has served on national awards committees for MWA and Private Eye Writers of America.

The Lambs live in Northern California and are currently concentrating on writing medical thrillers and husband/wife amateur sleuth novels, along with being involved in a number of other creative projects.

(Bette's) Favorite opening: "There should have been a dark whisper in the wind. Or maybe a deep chill in the bone. Something. (Harlan Coben, *Tell No One*)

(J.J.'s) Funniest moment as an author: Writing a sex scene while looking out over the swimming pool at a nudist park.



Lots of novelists live to write adventure. But only one novelist, **Lori Lawson**, author of mysteries *Green Flash* and *Easing Sheets*, lives adventure to write. With her husband Carl, Lawson has combined two

dreams—fiction writing and long-distance cruising—in a mutually enriching way of life. Lawson's stories ring with an authority and immediacy that can only come from an author who takes risks and lives life to the fullest. Likewise, Lawson's characters—ordinary people caught up in extraordinary and dangerous situations—must summon an ocean voyager's resourcefulness and inner strength to meet the challenges and solve the mysteries. Lawson's life on the water, like that of her characters, has its share

Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery

of intrigue. Carl proposed marriage as they sailed down the California coast under spinnaker. Years later, on the southwest coast of England, they rode out the remnants of a hurricane. And after Lawson penned *Green Flash* on a tiny island on Norway's west coast, they transited 257 locks from the Netherlands to the Mediterranean. The moral of the story? Live an interesting life and it's bound to spill over into your fiction. And Lawson's loyal readers are completely onboard with that.

Web site: www.lmlawson.com



Cornelius Lehane's first novel, *Beware the Solitary Drinker*, was chosen a 2002 Notable Crime Novel by *January Magazine* and a 2002 *ForeWord Magazine* Book of the Year Silver Award. His second crime novel, *What Goes Around Comes Around*, is scheduled for fall 2004. Over the years Lehane has been a college professor, a union organizer, and was, like his protagonist

Brian McNulty, a bartender for more than a decade. After spending most of his life in and around New York City, he now works as a labor journalist and lives in a Washington, DC suburb with his wife and two sons.

Funniest moment as an author: It's a series of moments, at the Capitol Book and News store. When an employee came across mention of a book by Cornelius Lehane and wondered aloud if he was related to Dennis—next to Michael Connelly, their favorite contemporary mystery writer—the owner misheard the question as fact and ordered one copy (he figured, surely we can sell it to one of our many fans of his brother). By the time it arrived, he knew they weren't brothers. But one employee read the book and then another did; both loved it. The owner said, "And you know how this ends, don't you? By the end of the Christmas season, *Beware the Solitary Drinker* stood quite near the top of our bestseller list, and we'd reordered it three or four times, and not one copy at a time, either."



Mike Lester was born in Houston, Texas, and raised in Southern California where he resides. *An Occasional Dream* is his first work of fiction. He is currently working on his second book and is putting the finishing touches on a screenplay scheduled to go

into production later this year. He likes to paint, enjoys discussing films and books, loves a good steak, and is a decent bowler.

Web site: www.uglytown.com/dream



Ron Lovell retired eight years ago after a career as a journalism professor at Oregon State University. Before that he was a magazine writer with *Business Week*, *Medical World News*, and the McGraw-Hill News Service in Los Angeles, Denver, Houston, and New York. He now spends his time writing mystery novels for his Thomas Martindale series.

The first, *Murder at Yaquina Head*, was published in 2002 and the latest, *Dead Whales Tell No Tales*, came out in April 2003. His books are set on a university campus and on the Oregon coast, where he lives year round.

Favorite murder method: Hitting "victims" over the head—out of the view of readers. It is less gruesome than shooting or stabbing someone and, when discovered later, the body has less blood (but bludgeoning to death works best).

Web site: www.martindalemysteries.com

JoAnne Lucas of "Valley Fever, Where Murder Is Contagious" is an active member of MWA, Sisters in Crime, and an associate member of PWA. All her stories are generally set in Fresno, CA. If California is the king of crazy, Fresno is its court Jester. Lucas' work can be found in several anthologies including the forthcoming *Bullet Points and Dime*, and in fine print magazines.

Dawn Lucian is a retired lawyer, having been a prosecutor and in private practice, both plaintiff's and defense litigation. She also served as a small claims judge and arbitrator and has resided almost all of her life in beautiful Santa Barbara, CA.

Favorite murder method: It involves the extensive use of a knife.

Favorite opening line: it has thunder, lightning, rain, and a dead body (guesses as to title and author are welcome).



Margaret Lucke's mystery credits include books, short stories, and scripts for mystery events. Her novel, *A Relative Stranger*, was nominated for an Anthony Award, and she is also the author of two nonfiction books on writing, *Schaum's Quick Guide to Writing Great Short Stories* and *Writing*

Mysteries. Her short stories have appeared in the Lethal Ladies anthology series and as "5-Minute Mysteries" on the Salon magazine Internet site. She teaches writing classes for University of California-Berkeley Extension and is a former regional vice president of Mystery Writers of America. Peggy lives in Northern California, where she dabbles in cooking, gardening and art.

Photo: Charles R. Lucke



Dr. Douglas Lyle

(D. P. Lyle) , for 25 years, has practiced cardiology in Orange County, California. He is the author of three novels and one non-fiction book. He writes "The Doctor Is In," a monthly medical and forensics Q and A column, for three MWA chapter newsletters, and maintains his web site, The Writers Medical

and Forensics Lab, through which he helps writers with their own stories. His books are the nonfiction *Murder and Mayhem: A Doctor Answers Medical and Forensic Questions For Mystery Writers* and the mystery novels *Devil's Playground* and *Double Blind*, both in the Samantha Cody mystery series.

Favorite murder method: Fear.

Web site: www.dplylemd.com

Marianne Macdonald was born in the lumber town of Kenora, Northern Ontario, and grew up in Winnipeg and Montreal. Her first children's book was published when she was 16. For thirty years she pretended to be an academic, acquiring various degrees and teaching at universities in Canada and England. She left teaching early in order to return to her writing. She now lives in a tall Victorian house on top of Muswell Hill in London, with open fireplaces in the cellar and stained glass in the attic windows. Since 1996 she has published a series of novels



in which Dido Hoare, thirty-something London single mother and antiquarian book shop owner, is involved in murder and mayhem thanks to her itch of curiosity and an inability to back down even when she knows she should. *Death's Autograph*, *Ghost Walk*, *Smoke Screen* and *Road Kill* were followed in 2001 by *Blood Lies*, with a body in a country house library and a valuable first-edition "Peter Rabbit" lost, stolen or strayed. *Die Once*, a tale of disguises and absences came out in 2003.

www.marianne-macdonald.com



Mary Jane Maffini is a lapsed librarian, former co-owner of Prime Crime Mystery Bookstore, and past president of the Crime Writers of Canada. She's the author of the Ottawa-based Camilla MacPhee mystery series. *Lament for a Lounge Lizard*, featuring the failed romance-writer Fiona Silk, is the first book in her second

series.

Web site: www.maryjanemaffini.ca



Michael Mallory is the author of *The Body in the Bath* and the *Adventures of the Second Mrs. Watson*, both featuring Amelia Watson. He has had more than 70 short stories published in magazines, anthologies, and online and has also written two nonfiction books on pop culture (*Hanna-Barbara Cartoons* and *Marvel: the*

Characters and their Universe). By day Mallory is a Los Angeles-based entertainment journalist.

Favorite opening line: "It was a dark and stormy night"—the only four-time opener in fiction (Edward Bulwer-Lytton, *Paul Clifford*; Madeleine L'Engle, *A Wrinkle in Time*; Ray Bradbury, *Let's All Kill Constance*; Snoopy, "Untitled")



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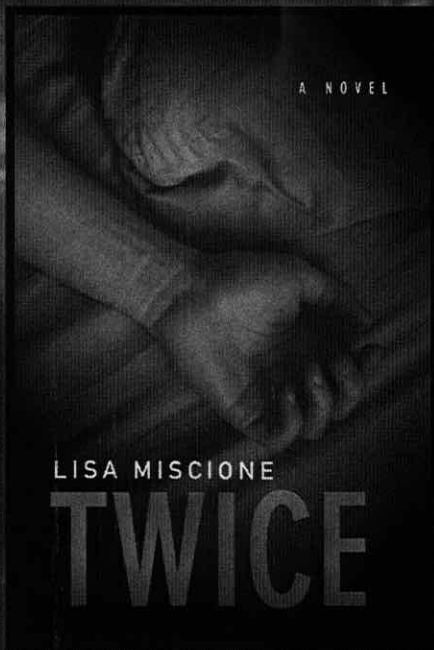
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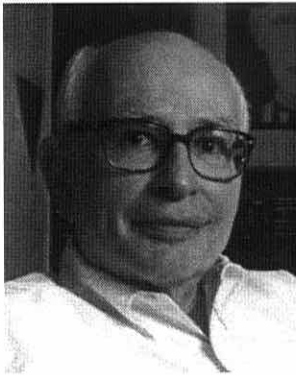
Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery



Valerie Malmont is a former librarian turned mystery writer who grew up on Okinawa and also lived in Laos, Thailand, and Taiwan. She now resides in rural southcentral Pennsylvania in a small town that is the inspiration for her fictitious borough of Lickin Creek. She has written five mysteries in the *Tori Miracle/Pennsylvania Dutch*

series.

Favorite murder method: I boiled a woman to death in a huge cauldron of apple butter. It was obviously a rural type of crime. People seem to remember it (from my own book



Jay Margulies has taught for many years at Portland State University and other colleges in Portland. His interest in the mystery novel led him to develop and teach courses in the history of the private eye, the police procedural, and Northwest mystery writers. He is a co-founder of Friends of Mystery.



Marcia Markland is an editor with Thomas Dunne Books, which is an imprint of St. Martin's Press. She worked at St. Martin's many years ago, and then went on to be the editor of *The Mystery Guild* at The Literary Guild. She has recently returned to the company and is delighted

to be working with many extraordinarily gifted mystery writers, including Karen Harper, Jane Langton, Camille Minichino, Blake Crouch, Con Lehane, and Steven Torres, just to name a few.

Margaret Maron, in addition to her stand-alone novels and short stories, writes of two series characters: Judge Deborah Knott of Colleton County, NC and Lt. Sigrid Harald, NYPD. Her books have won numerous awards and are on the reading lists of several courses in contemporary southern literature. The most recent novel is *Last Lessons of Summer*. A past president of Sisters in Crime and the American Crime Writers League, she also makes great



Web site: www.MargaretMaron.com

fried okra.

Favorite murder method: As a rule, I stick with the old reliables: bullets, knives, poisons, and "blunt instruments" but must admit that *Uncommon Clay* provided an interesting change of pace when I glazed a victim and put him in a white-hot kiln.

Mary (Maggie) Mason has been reading mysteries since her early forays into Nancy Drew, Judy Bolton, Dana girls, Trixie Belden, etc. Maggie has been a bookseller since 1989 but a collector for a lot longer. Maggie was the first ever Left Coast Crime Fan Guest of Honor at the Boulder Left Coast. She was Fan Guest of Honor at Bouchercon 1999 in Milwaukee. She is a contributor to *Mystery and Detective Monthly*, the *St James Guide to Mystery Writers*, and *DAPA'EM*, as well as a reviewer for *Deadly Pleasures*. She is also the unofficial "angel" of her local libraries' reading program (payback for the use of their internet computer?). Look for Maggie at most of the mystery conventions.

Web site:



Susan McBride is the author of *Blue Blood*, the first of the Debutante Dropout mysteries. The second in the series, *The Dallas Diet Club*, will be out in 2005. She also has several novels in print featuring Litchfield, TX police

detective Maggie Ryan, and her short fiction and essays have appeared in three anthologies. A founding member of the Deadly Divas, four "nice women who write about murder," McBride will be the toastmaster at Mayhem in the Midlands this year.

Funniest moment as an author: at LCC in 2002 I saw Chris Aldrich of *Mystery News* waving in my direction as she walked into the bookroom. The room was full of people—and much better known writers, like G.M. Ford and J.A. Jance—so I turned around to see which of these famous scribes she was hailing. When I looked back at Chris, she pointed at me and said, "Yes, I'm waving at YOU." Now whenever I see her, we reenact the moment.

Web site: www.SusanMcBride.com



Claire McNab is the author of over 40 published books and is known in her native Australia for her crime fiction, children's novels, picture books, self-help books, and text books. She has three mystery series. Fifteen books feature Detective-Inspector Carol Ashton, five feature undercover agent

Denise Cleever, and the first in a new series, *The Wombat Strategy* (May 2004) stars Kylie Kendall from the Outback, who inadvertently becomes a PI in Los Angeles. McNab became a permanent resident of the United States in 1993. Apart from her writing, she is an instructor in the UCLA Extension Writers' Program, where she teaches advanced classes in novel writing. She is a past president of Sisters in Crime.

Favorite murder method: Brain surgery with a Black & Decker drill



Marilyn Meredith is the author of *Deadly Omen*, *Unequally Yoked*, *Intervention*, and *Wingbeat* in the Deputy Tempe Crabtree mystery series, along with the prequel, *Deadly Trail*. The first two of her Rocky Bluff P.D. series are *Final Respects* and *Bad Tidings*; the third is *Guilt by Association*, publisher's award winner for mystery and suspense. She is an

instructor for Writers Digest School.

Favorite murder method: Poison. It isn't messy and there are so many delightful ways to do it. In my book *Deadly Trail*, the victim drank tea that had been made with the water that a lily of the valley had been in.

Web site: <http://fictionforyou.com>

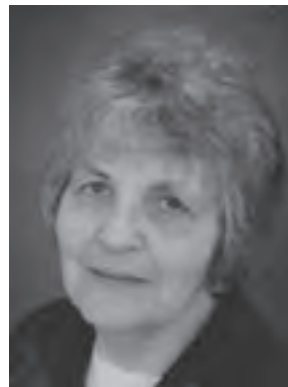
Susan Cummins Miller worked as a field geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey before becoming a writer of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. In *Death Assemblage*, geologist Frankie MacFarlane uncovers clues that solve ancient and recent murders while unraveling the geologic secrets of the mountains near Pair-a-Dice, NV. In the sequel, *Dead Ringer*, set in southeastern AZ and Sonora, Mexico, Frankie becomes embroiled in cross-border artifact-smuggling, money-laundering, and murder.



Favorite opening line: "Anna Halsey was about two hundred and forty pounds of middle-aged putty-faced woman in a black tailor-made suit. Her eyes were shiny black shoe buttons, her cheeks were as soft as suet and about the same color. She was sitting behind a black glass desk that looked like Napoleon's tomb and

she was smoking a cigarette in a black holder that was not quite as long as a rolled umbrella. She said: "I need a man." (Raymond Chandler, *Trouble Is My Business*)

Web site: hometown.aol.com/stmiller46/myhomepage/



Camille Minichino is past president and current board member of MWA NorCal and the California Writers Club. She has been Edgar chair (2003) and chair of the Mary Higgins Clark Award. Her mystery series features Gloria Lamerino, a retired physicist who lives above her friend's funeral parlor and consults with the police on science-related

homicides. The most recent in the series is *The Boric Acid Murder* and the next, *The Carbon Murder*, will be out early in 2004. Camille teaches science classes at Golden Gate University in San Francisco. She also holds fiction writing workshops and works as a scientific editor and consultant at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Funniest moment as an author: A recurring one, when I'm introduced to someone and the person asks, "You're a writer? Do I know you?"

Web site: www.minichino.com



Ed Mitchell is a former Army officer, rocket scientist, and management consultant writing among the oaks in Monterey County, at least when the cat is not invading his lap. He spent over 14 years crafting the Gold Lust series. Gold Lust, the first thriller of the series,

received regional recognition for Best Mystery Thriller and national recognition for Best New Fiction in the US and

Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery

Canada from a small press (it was also selected as the first non-Steinbeck novel accepted into the National Steinbeck Center Resource Library). Recently released *Gold Raid* is its stand-alone sequel.

Funniest moment as an author: Doing a radio show while the host briefly abandoned me in the transmission booth. As I read a passage from my debut novel, the microphone boom gradually sank toward the floor and I had to follow it all the way to the floor. The host found me on my knees with rear end in the air but continuing to read for the (unseen and) unaware audience.

Web site: www.BooksByMitchell.com



James C. Mitchell

teaches media law at the University of Arizona Department of Journalism. *Lovers Crossing* is his first novel. His short story work has appeared in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*. He is an award-winning writer on law topics.

Mitchell worked as a television news broadcaster in Louisville, Los Angeles, and New York City. He grew up in southern California and now lives in Tucson, AZ, where he is working on the second novel in the Brinker series.

Favorite opening line: "The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there." (L.P. Hartley, *The Go-Between*—which isn't a mystery, exactly, but the past and foreign countries are proving central to my stories, set along the border with Mexico)

Web site: www.jamescmitchell.net/

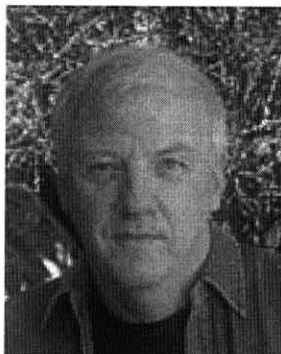


Marianne Mitchell has decided not to grow up. The author of seven children's books, she is still exploring the mysteries and adventures that fascinate young readers. Her picture books include *Joe Cinders*, a cowboy Cinder-fella story, and *Gullywasher Gulch*, about an old pack-rat prospector who saves for a rainy day. She

also writes mysteries for young adult readers. *Finding Zola* is set near her hometown of Tucson, AZ. The setting for her next mystery, *Firebug*, due out in 2004, is Sedona, AZ.

Favorite opening line: "Marissa says 'I'm a magnet for mayhem.'" (Wendelin Van Draanen, *Sammy Keyes and the Art of Deception*)

Web site: www.MarianneMitchell.net



Thomas Mitcheltree

is the author of four books, *Terror in Room 201*, *Katie's Will*, *Dataman*, and *Katie's Gold*. He has two mystery series going, the Paul Fischer mysteries, and the Grant Reynolds mysteries, and has begun work on another series (but isn't quite sure what will happen with that yet).

A novelette, "Merry Little Christmas," has been published in the anthology *How Still I See Thee Lie*. By the time of the conference, *Blink of an Eye* will be out.

Mitcheltree retired from full-time teaching to concentrate on writing. He is unmarried, has four children, three grandchildren, two dogs, and a cat. He teaches writing part-time for Chemeketa Community College in Salem, OR.



Bill Moody was born in Webb City, MO, and grew up in Santa Monica. A professional jazz drummer, Moody has played and/or recorded with Jr. Mance, Maynard Ferguson, Jon Hendricks, Annie Ross, and Lou Rawls. He lived in Las Vegas for many years as a musician on the Las Vegas

Strip, hosted a weekly radio show, and taught English at the University of Nevada. He now lives in northern California, where he teaches creative writing at Sonoma State University and continues to be active in the Bay Area jazz scene with the Terry Henry Trio and Dick Conte's trio and quartet. He is the author of five Evan Horne novels: *Looking for Chet Baker*, *Bird Lives!*, *Sound of the Trumpet*, *Death of a Tenor Man*, and *Solo Hand*.

Favorite murder method: I improvise on a premise or motif, if you will, and I'm a fervent advocate of the "what if" game during the writing process.

Web site: www.billmoodyjazz.com



Skye Moody is a writer, photographer, and former East Africa bush guide. Her latest mystery/thriller, *Medusa*, is the sixth in the Venus Diamond mystery series. The next, *The Good Diamond*, is due out this summer. Moody's first book of nonfiction, *Hillbilly Women*, was adapted for

the stage in New York City and received a *Mademoiselle Magazine* "Woman of the Year" award. The second, *Fruits of Our Labor*, received a National Endowment for the Humanities president's award. Her work as a journalist and photojournalist has taken her numerous times around the world, and her photographs have been exhibited in New York, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Chengdu, China, and Seattle.



Adrian Muller was born in Canada and was raised and educated in the Netherlands. He now lives in Britain and is a freelance journalist and events organizer, specializing in crime fiction. His profiles of crime novelists have been published in books and magazines in Australia, Europe, and the United States. He writes the 'Transatlantic Eye' column for *Mystery Scene*.

Muller has been the Events Manager for the London bookshop Crime in Store; was one of the organizers of the 1997 St. Hilda's Crime and Mystery Weekend in Oxford; and in 1998 he helped to found Dead on Deansgate, Britain's biggest crime fiction convention—in 2000 and 2001 he was the Programming Chairman. He was also one of the originators of, and contributors to, the "Masters of Crime" supplement published by *The Times*.

Favorite murder method: Boring people to death with movie, television, and theatre trivia. (Want to know anything about flop musicals? Just ask me.) As for my favorite murder method in fiction? Check out Val McDermid's *Booked For Murder*.



Eddie Muller – the czar of Noir—won the Gumshoe for Best First Novel of 2002 for *The Distance*. The second Billy Nichols novel, *Shadow Boxer*, was released in 2003, as was his volume of classic

crime movie posters, *The Art of Noir*. Muller also programs and hosts annual film noir festivals in San Francisco and Hollywood.

Web site: www.darkcity.com



Shirley Rousseau

Murphy spent her childhood on the California coast riding the horses her father trained. She has worked as a commercial artist and interior designer and has exhibited paintings and sculpture in juried shows in the western states, Panama, and Mexico. Before launching the Joe Grey mysteries, she published 30 books for children and young

adults. Her most recently published mystery, the ninth in the series, is *Cat Seeing Double*. The next one, *Cat Fear no Evil*, is due out in March.

Favorite opening line: "The man lay facedown, bleeding into the braided rug of Susan Brittain's breakfast room, the fallen keyboard of Susan's computer dangling from the edge of her desk and dripping blood onto his face." (my own book, *Cat Laughing Last*)

Web site: www.joegrey.com



Barbara Nadel is a British author who writes crime novels set in Turkey. A Londoner, Barbara has a degree in psychology and, until she became a full-time writer in 2003, she worked with people experiencing mental health

problems. So far she has written six books based in Istanbul featuring Inspector Cetin (pronounced Chetin) Ikmen. The books have been published in many different languages, including Turkish, and her first book, *Belshazzar's Daughter*, was just published in the U.S. (December 2003). She is married with one adult son, a Persian cat, and a 1995 Nissan Micra.

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Favorite murder method: Strangulation by bowstring. The bowstring was a silken cord used only on members of the Turkish royal family (under the Ottomans). In the right hands it was a quick method of despatch—so stylish too. I've used it myself (so to speak) in one of my books.

Web site: www.twbooks.co.uk/authors/barbaranadel.html



Gary Warren Niebuhr is the library director for the Village of Greendale, WI. He operates P. I. E. S. (Private Investigator Entertainment Service), a mail order catalog of new and used private eye fiction and is the author of *Make Mine a Mystery* and *A Reader's Guide to the Private Eye Novel*. He was the co-coordinator, with Ted Hertel, of the

1999 Bouchercon and the conference coordinator for EYECON'95. He was the Fan Guest of Honor for the 2004 Bouchercon and was the Fan Guest of Honor at Magna Cum Murder in 1995.

Favorite murder method: I still prefer to use an ice pick in the back of the neck.

Web site: <http://my.execoc.com/~piesbook/me.html>



Chris Niles is the author of five novels. The latest, *Vanished*, will be published this March. She has worked as a journalist, advertising copywriter, waitress and roustabout. She lives in Brooklyn, New York with her husband and a small white dog.

Favorite opening line: "The right apartment was tough

to find, so they murdered the old lady." (Andrew Klavan, *Don't Say a Word*)

Web site: none of my own but I sometimes contribute to www.tartcity.com

Charles O'Brien, born and raised in Wisconsin, taught history for 30 years, mostly at Western Illinois University. In 1994 he began work full time on a historical mystery series set in France on the eve of the revolution. The first is *Mute Witness* and the sequel is *Black Gold*. The third, *Noble Blood*, is written and searching for a



publisher. O'Brien lives in Williamstown, MA, with his art historian wife, Elvy.

Favorite murder method: I can't say that I have a favorite. Each of the six murders in my novels thus far have been different.

Web site: www.mutewitness.com



Steve Oliver's first novel about a former mental patient cab driver, *Moody Gets the Blues*, was published in 1996. Its sequel, *Moody Forever*, was published in 1998. The third, *Moody in Winter*, was published in October 2003.

Favorite murder method: That would have to be the wood chipper.

Favorite opening line: I'm going to substitute with a favorite title, Michael Brett's *Kill Him Quickly, It's Raining*.

Funniest moment as an author: a signing in Ketchum, ID where only one person showed up—an author wanting to know about book tours.

Web site: www.steveoliver.com



Jimmy Olsen is a native of Hoffman, MN and has worked as a newspaper reporter, editor, and photographer. For over 40 years he's been an active scuba diver and instructor, living 5 years in the Dominican Republic. He's sold short stories to literary magazines such as *North Dakota Quarterly* and *Glimmer Train Press*. His first novel, *Things in Ditches*,

appeared in 2000; his second, *The Poison Makers*, is scheduled for release later this year.

Funniest moment as an author: Cursed with the name Jimmy Olsen, I decided just before publication of my first novel to make it work for me. I sent a review copy to the *Daily Planet* in Metropolis, IL. No response. Finally, I called, thinking surely they'd want to review a novel by Jimmy Olsen since they have a mammoth statue of him, along with Superman and Lois, in a downtown square. A patient fellow at the newspaper informed me that Jimmy Olsen was a fictional character. No such person actually exists.

Web site: www.jimmyolsen.net



Mary O'Shaughnessy

was born in northern California and now lives in the Bay Area near Palo Alto. With her sister, Pamela, she co-writes a series of legal crime novels under the pen-name of Perri O'Shaughnessy. The novels feature an attorney, Nina Reilly, who works out of Lake Tahoe and Monterey. Last summer their ninth

novel, *Presumption of Death*, was published. A novel of arson and murder, it is set in Carmel Valley—not too far from this conference! The next one, *Unlucky in Law*, is also set in Monterey.

Favorite murder method: unique and current; whatever has never been done.

Web site: www.perrio.com



Dee Ann Palmer is a public health nurse and an award winning poet and writer whose stories and articles have appeared in a variety of national publications. Her latest story, "A Clean, Well Lighted Place," can be read online at Mysterical-E's Web site. Agrippina Magazine will publish her poem "Betrayal" this year. In May 2005,

Awe-Struck E-Books will release her first novel, *Cry of the Bells*, a historical romantic suspense set during early California's romance era. Palmer lives in southern California.

Favorite opening line: "Like a fudge souffle, life can collapse." (Diane Mott Davidson, *Prime Cut*)



Ann Parker earned degrees in physics and English literature before falling into a career as a science writer. The only thing more fun for her than slipping oblique Yeats references into a fluid dynamics article is delving into the past. Her ancestors include a Leadville blacksmith, a Colorado School of Mines professor,

and a gandy dancer. Her historical mystery *Silver Lies* is set

in the silver boomtown of Leadville, CO, and was a winner in the 2002 Colorado Gold Writing Contest (mystery category). Parker and her family reside near Silicon Valley, whence they have weathered numerous high tech boom-and-bust cycles.

Favorite murder method: Whatever's currently under construction, mystery-wise. Garrote with corset lacing or possibly piano wire. Or maybe something unusual with a buttonhook.

Web site: www.annparker.net



Ridley Pearson is the bestselling author of 14 novels including *Probable Cause*, *Beyond Recognition*, *The Pied Piper*, *The Diary of Ellen Rimbauer*, and *The Art of Deception*. He was the first American to be awarded the Raymond Chandler/Fulbright Fellowship in detective fiction at Oxford University. He is currently

co-producing/writing a documentary film for the *Animal Planet* channel, and co-producing/writing a dramatic series for cable's *Showtime* network. His next novel, *The Body of David Hayes*, will be published in April.

Favorite opening line: "The last camel died at noon." (Ken Follett, *The Key to Rebecca*)

Web site: www.ridleypearson.com



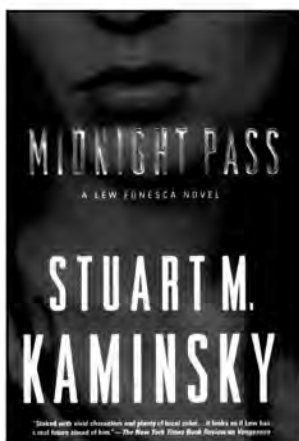
Lewis Perdue has written 19 published books, including 12 novels. He is a fifth-generation native of the Mississippi Delta. He has taught journalism at UCLA and Cornell and founded four companies: a wine company, a magazine, and two technology firms.

He has been a top aide to a U.S. Senator and a governor, worked as a Washington correspondent and columnist for the *Wall Street Journal* Online, CBS Marketwatch, and TheStreet.com, and written book reviews for *Barron's*.

Favorite murder method: Activating an ancient, lethal retrovirus contained in everyone's genome.

Web site: www.lewisperdue.com

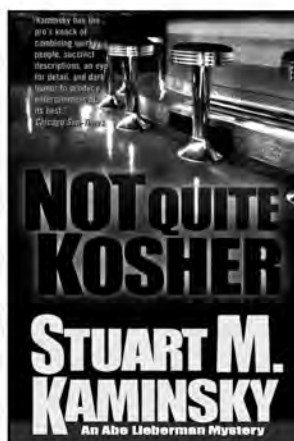
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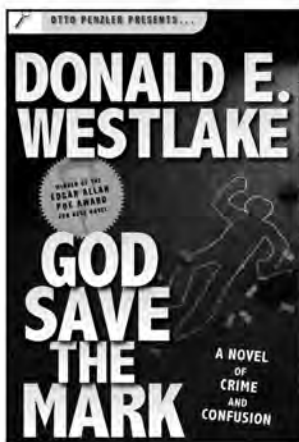
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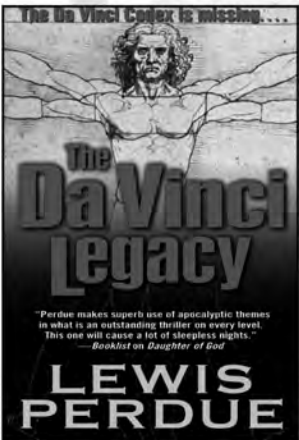


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Barbara Peters started Scottsdale, Arizona's The Poisoned Pen in 1989 and went on with her husband Robert Rosenwald to form Poisoned Pen Press in 1997, thus leaving herself little time for leisure reading, which is what hooked her into mystery in the first place. She credits two amazing staffs with the success of both enterprises as well as the extraordinary support of authors and the aid of publishers, not to mention the wonderful community of readers.

Favorite murder method?

A truly undetectable method would result in no book, so whatever the author can convince me fits the crime

Funniest moment as an editor:

The first time one of the NY publishing reps called to sell one of my own novels back to me in mass market edition for the bookstore.

Favorite opening line of a mystery?

Don't dare tackle this one. I'll stick to the first line of *Pride and Prejudice*

web site: poisonedpenpress.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* No.1. "pick" among new mystery writers to watch. Set in the '60s, the book features youngswitchboard operator/sleuth Trish

Malcolm. Petree is currently working on two sequels, *Hookswitch* and *Busy Signal*.

Web site: www.shereepetree.com



Ralph Pezzullo is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter, published author, and poet. He has written for the stage (14 plays including *Tail of the Tiger* and *Gauguin's Parrot*, produced in London, New York City, and across the country), film, television ("Miami Vice," etc.), and radio (NPR, BBC). His two

nonfiction books are *At the Fall of Somoza* (1994) and *The Leap into Haiti* (forthcoming). His most recent mystery novel is *Eve Missing* (2003).

Favorite opening line: "The pebbled glass door is lettered in flaked black paint: Phillip Marlow...Investigations."
(Raymond Chandler, *The Little Sister*)



Twist Phelan's success as a plaintiff's trial lawyer suing corporate scoundrels allowed her to retire from law practice in her early 30s. Since then Phelan has become a world traveler and avid athlete. From her home base on an ocean-going boat, she has paddled outrigger canoe in Australia, skate-skied in Scandinavia,

competed in team roping in the American West, climbed mountains in Southwest Asia, and cycled from the Pacific to the Atlantic coast in less than three weeks. A different sport figures into each of Phelan's legal-themed mysteries set in the fictional resort town of Pinnacle Peak, Arizona. Her next book, *Family Claims*, is based on her winning entry in the Mystery Category/Colorado Gold Writing Contest. Bicycling is the sport featured in this title.

Funniest moment as an author: I arrived at one of my first signings to find the bookstore had a tall stack of books by THOMAS Phelan for me to sign (child psychology, I think). When I pointed this out to the manager, she asked if I would mind signing them anyway because "no one would notice."

Web site: www.twistphelan.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.

Web site: www.danielpublishing.com/perserverance



Scott Phillips is the author of *The Ice Harvest*, *The Walkaway*, and *Cottonwood*. He won the California Book Award.

Favorite opening line: “I turned the Chrysler onto the Florida Turnpike with Rollo Kramer’s headless body in the trunk, and all the time I’m thinking I should’ve put some plastic down.” (Victor Gischler, *Gun Monkeys*)

Web site: www.scottphillipsauthor.com.



Kurt Popke loves being an emergency room physician, so it’s no surprise that he loves mysteries too. The elements of investigating and solving crimes are not dissimilar to diagnosing acute illnesses. Working from a “what-if” scenario that occurred to him at work, he wrote his first novel, *Lethal Cure* (it

certainly won’t be his last). Popke lives with his wife and three children (and an embarrassingly large number of animals) on a hobby farm in the Sacramento area. Aside from medicine and writing, he enjoys the sport of falconry.

Funniest moment as an author: When my computer crashed and I lost over a month’s worth of writing. That was hilarious.

Web site: www.kurtpopke.coms



Marcia Preston grew up on a wheat farm in Oklahoma, near a town not too different from the setting of her first mystery novel, *Perhaps She’ll Die*. From her father she learned the art of storytelling; from her mother, a reverence for books; and from Oklahoma’s red earth, a love of wildlife and the outdoors.

Preston taught in public high schools for more than a decade and worked for a time as PR and publications director for the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. Currently, she edits and publishes *ByLine*, a small-press trade magazine for writers.

Preston lives with her childhood sweetheart and first husband (the same guy) beside a creek in central Oklahoma, where she gardens and dodges tornadoes.

Web site: www.bylinemag.com/marcias_mysteries.asp



Cora J. Ramos is past president of the San Joaquin chapter of Sisters in Crime and has been editor of its newsletter, *The Poison Pen*, for the past five years. Her short stories have won contests and been published here and in a German anthology of Sisters-in-Crime writers. Presently she is co-author of the anthology

of mystery and suspense stories set in California’s San Joaquin valley and entitled *Valley Fever, Where Murder Is Contagious*.

Favorite murder method: I don’t have one. I like to mix it up. But, if I had to choose one I’d have to say poisoning with exotic substances would be at the top of my list.



Vol Ranger is a genre fiction writer living on an 1800s homestead with an abandoned gold mine and a vintage apple orchard in a redwood forest in Santa Cruz County. The area is the last vestige of the tie-dye universe and makes you think of wood stoves, foggy mornings, scrambling down rocky cliffs to tiny beaches,

and nude hot-tub parties. It’s a place that encourages eccentricity, diversity, and even perversity. Luckily, Vol fits right in. Her next mystery will begin at the annual Santa Cruz Fungus Fair, but it gets a little strange after that.

Vol’s most recent published stories were “Blood Brother” in *Vision Quests* and “Ice Crimes” in *On Spec*.

Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery



Susan Retten, local mystery writer, taught English literature and creative writing for twenty years in Europe—in Germany, Ireland and Spain—before moving to California in 1994. She conducted the Mystery Writers' Workshop at UC Santa Cruz Extension, and was once a co-editor

of the literary magazine of the *Instituto de Estudios Norteamericanos* in Barcelona. *Death's Other Kingdom*, her first published novel, is set in the Santa Cruz Mountains and features Animal Control Officer Chyna Gault. Chyna becomes entangled in investigations of murder, arson and other nefarious doings as she strives to protect and serve our four-footed friends.



Christopher Rice published his first novel, *A Density of Souls*, a dark coming-of-age story set in his hometown of New Orleans, when he was 22. His second novel, *The Snow Garden*, won a Lambda Literary Award. He is the former fiction editor of *Genre* magazine and currently a contributing columnist for the *Advocate*.

His latest novel, *Light Before Day*, is the story of a young gay reporter and a straight best selling mystery novelist who team up to find the truth behind a series of strange disappearances in southern California.

Favorite opening line: "He was the ghestliest hitchhiker who ever thumbed me." (Ross MacDonald, *Find a Victim*)

Web site: www.densityofsouls.com



Candace Robb's medieval mysteries have won critical acclaim in the United States, England, and throughout Europe. *Publisher's Weekly* has said that "Robb is uncommonly good at period atmosphere." The latest (eighth) in the Owen Archer series (14th century York) is *The Cross-Legged Knight*. The second

Margaret Kerr mystery (late 13th century Scotland) is *The*

Fire in the Flint (2003). The *List of Edinburgh* said of the first Kerr mystery, *A Trust Betrayed*: "Thirteenth-century Edinburgh comes off the page cold and convincing, from the smoke and noise of the tavern kitchen to Holyrood Abbey under a treacherous abbot."

Favorite murder method: My vote goes to the tribal elder in Peter Weir's *The Last Wave*, who frightened a thief with a sacred bone. Terrified, the thief ran and promptly drowned in a small puddle.

Web site: www.candacerobb.com



Donus Roberts is a fan, collector, seller and author of one local history & many professional articles. He has not attended LCC before because of perpetual conflicts. But he is a consistent attendee of Bouchercon and has been on several panels, *Collecting and Otherwise*, at Milwaukee, Philly & Las Vegas.

Web site: <http://www.abc-bookstore.com>



Lora Roberts has written almost as many mysteries as she has biographical paragraphs for conference program books, quite a few, in other words. Her newest book, *The Affair of the Incognito Tenant*, takes place 100 years ago and features a young widow who inadvertently becomes Sherlock Holmes' housekeeper. Also in print

is her previous book, *Another Fine Mess*, which involves a group of authors in danger of being deleted at a prestigious arts retreat. Roberts, who enjoys gardening, beading, and procrastinating, lives in Palo Alto, California.

Favorite murder method: at the dictates of my plot, I will use the means at hand in a book to remove characters. Those means change with each book. Read them and see.

Funniest moment as an author: Being mistaken for Nora Roberts? Not funny, exactly. Signing my books in the King Supermarket in front of the videos? Kinda scary, actually, as a lot of customers were interested in the videos and I was in their way. Watching Lee Harris dissolve into hysterical laughter in front of the audience at the last event of a grueling book tour? Yeah, that's it.

Web site: www.NMOMysteries.com



Priscilla Royal grew up in British Columbia and has a degree in world literature from San Francisco State University, where she discovered the beauty of medieval literature. Until recently she worked for the federal government in various positions that provided a wonderful education in the complexity of human experience and

motivation. She is a fan of theater, mysteries, and fiction of lesser violence. She now lives in northern California. Her first medieval mystery, *Wine of Violence*, came out in December 2003.

Favorite opening line: “For the last twenty years or so, being a partner in a big corporate law firm has been like having a license to print money.” (Sheldon Siegel, *Special Circumstances*)

Web site: www.priscillaroyal.com



S.J. Rozan was born and raised in the Bronx. She is the author of eight books in the Bill Smith/Lydia Chin series, the most recent of which, *Winter and Night*, won the Edgar, Nero, and Macavity awards for Best Novel. Rozan has previously won the Shamus and Anthony for Best Novel and an Edgar for Best Short

Story. She plays basketball incessantly, though badly, and lives in New York’s Greenwich Village. Her forthcoming book is a 9/11-based standalone, *Absent Friends*.

Favorite opening line: “Last night I dreamt I went to Manderly again...” (Daphe du Maurier, *Rebecca*)

Web site: www.SJRozan.com



Janet A. Rudolph is editor of the *Mystery Readers Journal*, director of Mystery Readers International, and a teacher of mystery fiction. A longtime contributor to the mystery genre, Rudolph writes customized mystery scripts, a challenging twist

on the mystery genre, for her interactive mystery event company, Murder on the Menu. She lives in the Berkeley hills with her husband, a golden retriever, assorted cats and marauding deer, odoriferous skunks, steely-eyed possums, and burrowing gophers.

Web sites: www.murderonthemenu.com,
www.mysteryreaders.org



Patricia H. Rushford has authored over 40 books, including *Sins of the Mother* and the latest, *Secrets, Lies & Alibis* (first in the McAllister Files, which she is writing with an Oregon State police lieutenant). She also writes the Angel Delaney mysteries, the Helen Bradley mysteries, and the Jennie McGrady

mysteries. Most of her mysteries are set in the Northwest. Rushford conducts writer’s workshops and is co-director of Writer’s Weekend at the Beach.

Favorite murder method: My most creative, I think, was killing off a mayor with clam toxin.

Favorite opening line: “She woke in the body of a dead friend.” (Nora Robert, *Caroline Moon*)

Funniest moment as an author: having my publisher list Harrison Ford rather than Harrison James as my co-author.

Web site: www.patriciarushford.com



Kirk Russell lives in Berkeley. He’s married to a very talented chef and has two teenage children with their own cars, so he sees them only occasionally, though he adores them. Russell’s love of open country led to his interest in the Department of Fish & Game: he has taken part in the department’s sting training operations, watched bear poaching busts, visited

safehouses, and seen surveillances and stake-outs. His crime hero, the protagonist of *Shell Games*, works there. A second novel in the series is due out this summer.

Funniest moment as an author: I was a fill-in at a Barnes & Noble book event in Berkeley and a gyp in the audience

Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery

stood up during the Q&A and said, “You know, I’ve lived here all my life and I like to read, but I don’t get your genre. Where’s the mystery?” He turned and pointed. “San Francisco is over there. Marin is over there. I mean it, what’s the matter with you people, where’s the mystery?”



Merrill Sanders lives in San Francisco, entrenched in a Victorian cottage with her cat, Diva. Sanders says, “Although I love this city, I take it for granted. For that reason I set my first novel, *Sierra Gothic*, in the Sierra foothills. I haven’t spent much time there so everything is new and exciting. Also, since I don’t really know what I’m talking

about, I feel free to invent what I choose. I’ve developed an imaginary Gold Country of my own, and this makes me very happy.”

Favorite murder method: A frozen weapon. No, I’m not talking about locking people into a meat freezer or abandoning them on ice floes. What I like to do is shoot people with a frozen bullet, or stab them with a frozen dagger. The weapon melts, leaving no trace (I think it was Roald Dahl who made classic use of this technique).



John F. Schilke, M.D. I enjoy mysteries, am a past president of the Portland (OR) Order of the Blue Carbuncle (Sherlock Holmes society), and have given talks about death investigation. My favorite subject is Poisons I Have Known and Loved. I have not published, but do assist writers with medical questions.

Art Scott for nearly 30 years has been editor of DAPA-EM, the communal mystery fan publication. His main collecting interest is the hardboiled paperback mystery, and since 1981 he has presented slide shows at mystery conventions on paperback cover art. He is co-author of *The Paperback Covers of Robert McGinnis*, contributed to Richard Lupoff’s *The Great American Paperback* and has provided critical entries for several mystery reference



works. He was Fan Guest of Honor at Bouchercon 25, in Seattle.

Favorite murder method: strangulation by a midget hanging upside-down on a rope ladder from an autogyro (a method Harry Stephen Keeler used in *The Marceau Case*).



Barbara Seranella is the creator of the Munch Mancini Crime Novel series. Like her character, she is a former biker chick and auto mechanic. The latest of her urban crime novels is *Unpaid Dues*. Seranella lives in southern California with her husband, Ron, and their dogs.

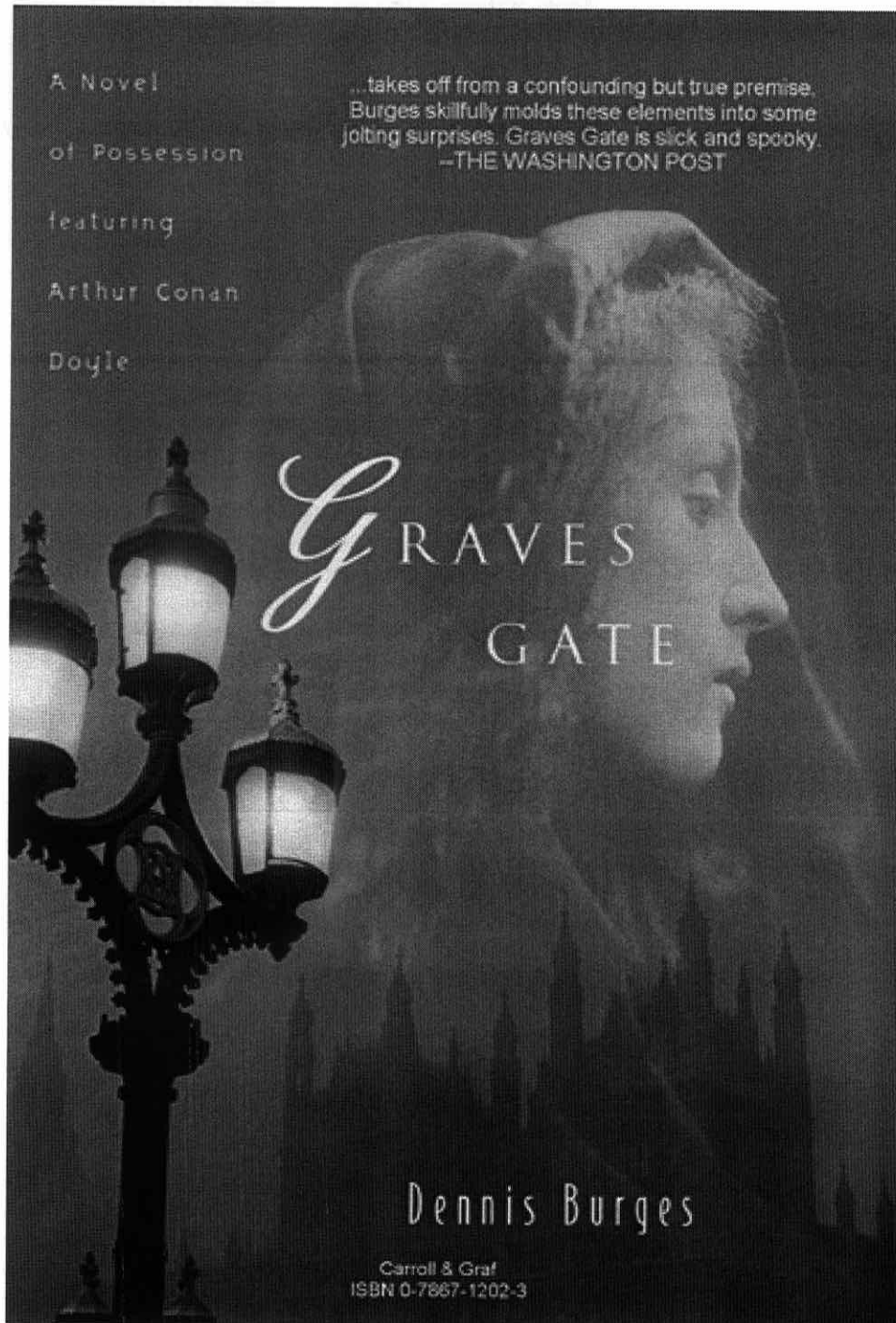
Favorite opening line: “Los Angeles Homicide Detective Art Becker studied the trail of ants streaming into the open mouth of the dead man.” (from my own book *No Man Standing*)

Web site: www.barbaraseranella.com



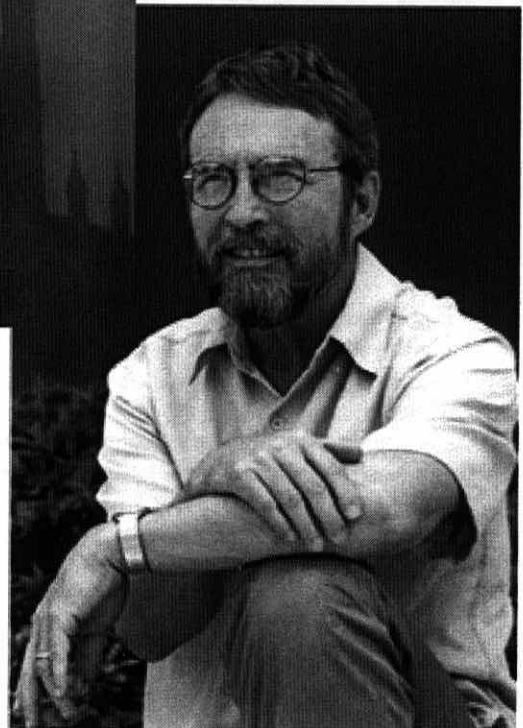
Andi Shechter (a) is a reader, fan, reviewer, occasional interviewer, con-runner, panelist, moderator, and essayist—she was Fan Guest of Honor at Left Coast Crime in 2001 and chaired and ran programs for Left Coast Crime in 1997 and Bouchercon 25, (b) is a blonde coke-addicted New York runway model with an attitude; (c) volunteers

at a shelter for battered women, collects hedgehogs, and lives with the Wonderful Stu Shiffman in Seattle; (d) all of the above. Shechter’s writings include *The Perception Of Disabled People In Mystery Fiction: or Supercrip Solves a Mystery* and *How to Run A Mystery Convention: A Practical Guide*.



Burges offers fine Conan Doyle atmosphere and plotting without the old gasbag in the deerstalker hat.
--KIRKUS REVIEWS

An aging Arthur Conan Doyle is at the center of eerie doings in Graves Gate by Dennis Burges. This atmospheric thriller (it's hard to imagine a colder or creepier London) will have you looking over your shoulder.
--ALBERMARLE MAGAZINE



It's a pleasure to read something really original in the way of thrillers....Graves Gate very nearly reads as though it were written in the 1920's...about as high praise as I can give a historical novel.
--I LOVE A MYSTERY

Keep an eye on things
at the author's website
www.burges.org



Connie Shelton is the author of the Charlie Parker mystery series, set in her hometown of Albuquerque, NM. The latest book in the series is *Honeymoons Can Be Murder*, and the first four were optioned for a series of made-for-TV-movies. But this is only one facet of this woman. Since 1975 Shelton has been a commercial hot air balloon pilot and

currently holds the women's world altitude record for size AX-4 balloons (and has been featured in *Who's Who* and *The World Who's Who of Women*). Besides writing the Charlie Parker mysteries, Shelton is an award-winning essayist and instructor for the Long Ridge Writers Group. Her work has been published in several anthologies and her short stories have won several prizes. She and her husband currently live in northern New Mexico.

Favorite murder method: Unexplained disappearance.

Web site www.connieshelton.com



Katherine Shephard's degree in criminal justice and her experience as a political speech writer and attendance at convention, rallies, and political fundraisers afforded her a first-hand opportunity to research the life of

politicians. Much of what gave her the inspiration for her book, *Fraternity of Silence*, was garnered through conversations overheard in ladies restrooms! She has been dubbed "the mole in the hole."

She is now writing the second in the Silence Series from her home in southern California or her "second home," the Texas Hill country.

Favorite murder method: Fiery crashes—planes, helicopters, automobiles.

Web site: www.KatherineShephard.com



Michael Siedman, praised by *Publishers Weekly* for creating a crime fiction list consisting of "intelligent but accessible books that is rare for a house of any size" and by the *Washington Post* for Walker's "distinctive imprint on crime fiction" is a freelance editorial consultant working with publishers and individual writers. He is the author of four highly praised

books for writers, most recently *Fiction: The Art and Craft of Writing and Getting Published* and *The Complete Guide to Editing Your Fiction*. His articles and essays have appeared in a wide variety of journals including *Mystery Scene*, *Fourth Genre* and *The Armchair Detective*, which he edited from 1980-1989. His short stories have been published in *Mystery*, *Twilight Zone* magazine, and the original anthology, *Stalkers*. His story, "The Dream That Follows Darkness" received a Spur nomination from the Western Writers of America. In addition to his writing and editing, Siedman, called by PW "one of our business's most wry and quotable editors" is a frequent guest lecturer at conferences and workshops around the country.



Sheldon Siegel graduated from the Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California at Berkeley in 1983. He has been in private practice in San Francisco for over nineteen years and specializes in corporate and securities law with the firm of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP. His three novels, *Special Circumstances*, *Incriminating Evidence* and

Criminal Intent have all been national best sellers. His fourth novel, *Final Verdict*, will be released August 2003. He lives in Marin County with his wife, Linda, and twin sons, Alan and Stephen. He is at work on his next Mike Daley story.

How did Siegel come to write his stories? You might be interested to read about the circumstances that led to... *Special Circumstances*. Or, what made him think the world wanted another legal thriller? And find out what Sheldon learned in writing *Incriminating Evidence* at his

Web site: www.sheldonsiegel.com



Leslie Silbert works as a private investigator in New York City under the guidance of a former CIA director for operations. Her first novel, *The Intelligencer*, debuts this month. Propelling readers from the shadows of the sixteenth-century underworld to the glitter

of Queen Elizabeth’s court, from the dark corridors of a clandestine American op-center to the cliffs of Capri, it is at once a murder mystery, a tale of poetic inspiration, and a richly detailed foray into parallel worlds of espionage and political intrigue separated by centuries.

Favorite opening line: “The man with ten minutes to live was laughing.” (Frederick Forsyth, *The Fist of God*)

Web site: www.lesliesilbert.com



Linda Joy Singleton has published over 25 juvenile books about twins, ghosts, clones, parallel worlds, and psychics. The latest is *My Sister the Ghost #1*, in July 2003. Her paranormal mystery, *Double Vision*, was released in summer 2003. Coming in 2004 are two juvenile mystery series, **Strange**

Encounters and *Psychic Sleuth*. She’d rather write for kids than adults: “I love seeing the world through the heart of a child, where magic is real and every day begins a new adventure. Writing for kids is a gift, a responsibility, and an honor.”

Funniest moment as an author: As I was waiting to give a talk at a writing conference, I looked down and noticed I’d put on two mismatched shoes. Finally when it was my turn to speak, I changed my speech opening and admitted my shoe mistake, then shared a quick list I’d made of all the things I could have done to fix my shoe dilemma, like run to the mall, go barefoot, or pretend mismatched shoes was a new fashion style. Everyone laughed—and it turned into one of the best talks I’ve ever given.

Web site: www.LJSingleton.com



Robert Skinner has published widely in the field of crime fiction criticism, most particularly on the career of Chester Himes, and also produced six crime novels, the most recent of which is *The Righteous Cut*. His essays and stories have appeared in *Afro-American Review*, *Mississippi Quarterly*, *Louisiana Literature*, *War, Literature & the Arts*, and *Plots With*

Guns. He makes his home in New Orleans, where he is University Librarian at Xavier University of Louisiana.

Favorite murder method: a gun, the larger the caliber, the better I like it.

Favorite opening line of a mystery: “There was a desert wind blowing that night. It was one of those hot dry Santa Anas that come down through the mountain passes... .Anything can happen.” (Raymond Chandler, *Red Wind*)

Funniest moment as an author: driving 400 miles to do an autograph signing, and finding all of 2 people waiting to see me.



Susan Slater is the author of the Ben Pecos series (*Pumpkin Seed Massacre*, *Yellow Lies*, and *Thunderbird*). *Flash Flood* is the first of a second series featuring insurance investigator Dan Mahoney. Her most recent book, *Five O’clock Shadow*, is a stand-alone. By day Slater works for a government

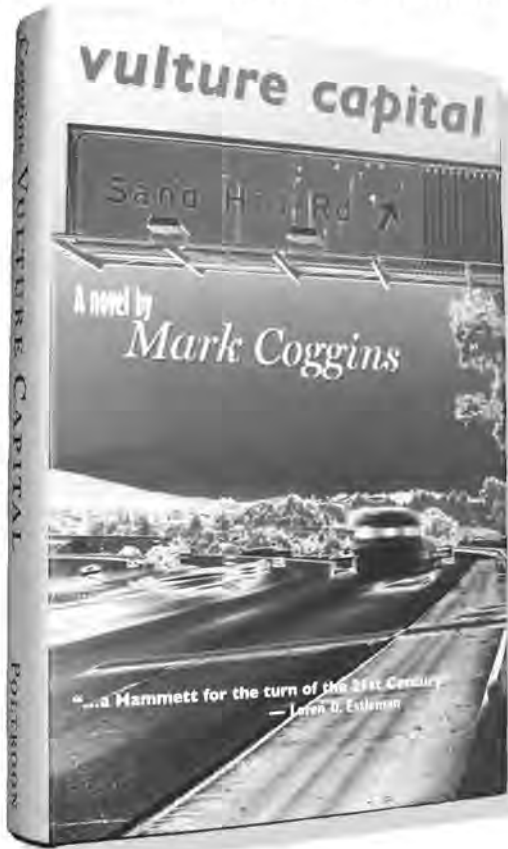
contractor and teaches creative writing by night. She lives in Albuquerque, NM with Roger and Emma, two Welsh Pembroke Corgis.

Funniest moment as an author: Tony Hillerman warned me that sooner or later, all New Mexico writers suffered the Saguaro curse—having one or more of the large cacti on a cover of their book even though there are no Saguaros in NM. Well, not only are there large phallic cacti on the paperback cover of *Flash Flood*—they’re underwater to boot!

Web site: www.SSSlater.com

LEFT COAST INTRIGUE...

FROM MARK COGGINS, THE AUTHOR OF *THE IMMORTAL GAME*



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—*Deadly Pleasures Magazine*

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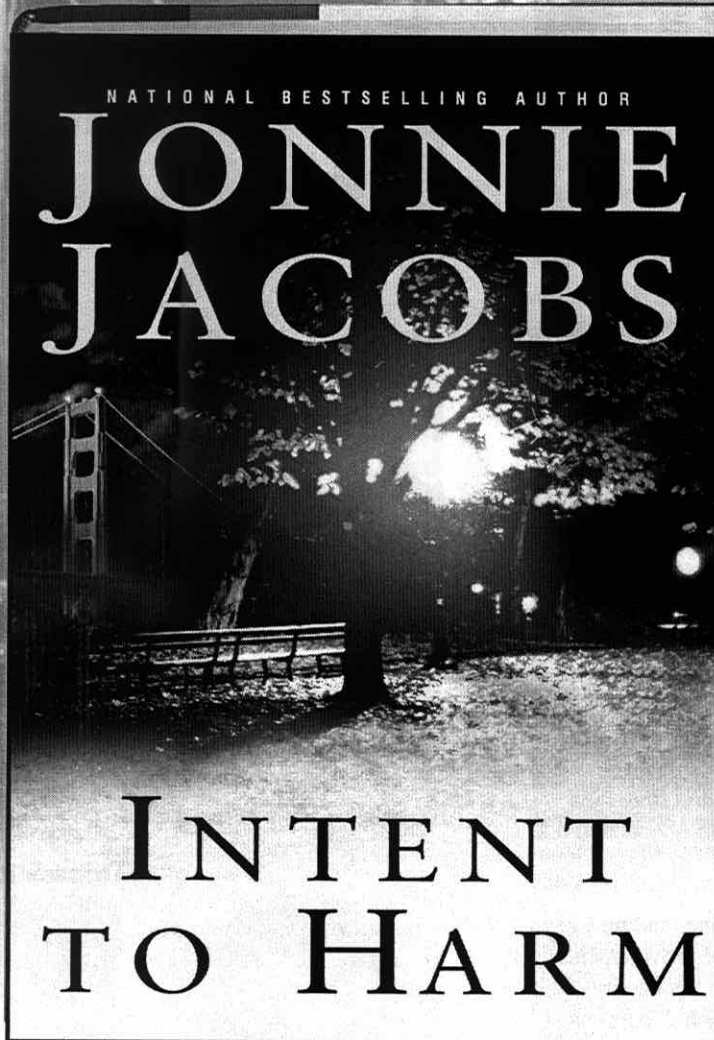
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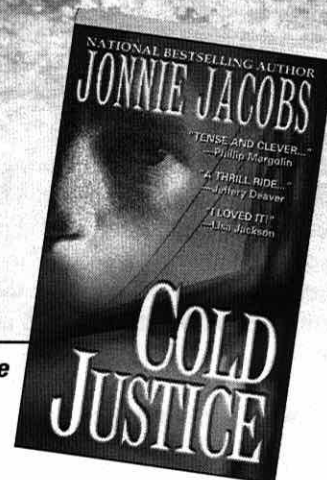
— *Chicago Sun Times*

**From the *San Francisco Chronicle*
bestselling author**




**“Plan to
stay up all
night and
enjoy the
ride.”**

**—Sheldon Siegel,
New York Times
bestselling author**



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Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery



Kit Sloane was the first fiction editor of *Futures Mysterious Anthology Magazine*. She has published short stories and articles on writing. The latest in her Margot O'Banion series is *Last Words* (her daughter's cover for an earlier one, *Grape Noir*, was an Anthony nominee for Best Cover Art 2002). She is a movie buff who lives on a hilltop northern California ranch

with her college professor husband, four horses, four cats, two goats, and a boxer named Sally.

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

Web site: www.kitsloane.com



April Smith is the author of *North of Montana*, an FBI thriller, *Be the One*, a novel of suspense about the only female baseball scout in the major leagues, and *Good Morning, Killer*, the sequel to *North of Montana* and just published in May 2003; she is working on the next Ana Grey novel. Smith was born and raised in the Bronx,

New York. Aside from writing novels, she has maintained a successful career in television, having written and produced dramatic series such as "Cagney and Lacey" and "Chicago Hope" and TV adaptations of *The Taking of Pelham One, Two, Three* and Anna Quindlen's *Black and Blue*. She lives in Santa Monica, California with her husband and 2 children.

Funniest moment as an author: During one reading I gave in a bookstore, a young couple in the front row appeared absolutely mesmerized. I felt great about connecting with this hip couple and started reading "to them." Afterward, when they came up to have me sign their book, I learned they were tourists from Italy and did not speak a word of English.

Web site: www.aprilsmith.net



Mark Haskell Smith

lives in Los Angeles and has written the novel *Moist* and the screenplay for *Playing God*. He was co-screenwriter of the Brazilian film *The Inheritance* and has adapted his own novel and other works for the screen. He is currently adapting the South Korean film *Marrying the Mafia* and working on his next novel, *Delicious*.

Favorite murder method: To pretend to be a psychiatrist and, over the course of a few years, convince the victim to commit suicide.

Web site: www.markhaskellsmith.com



Peter Spiegelman

is a veteran of more than 20 years in the financial services and software industries, and has worked with leading banks, brokerages and central banks around the world. His first novel, *Black Maps*, was published in August 2003 and will be published internationally in 2004. Spiegelman lives in Connecticut, where he is currently at work on his second John March novel.

Favorite opening line: "The sky above the port was the color of television, tuned to a dead channel." (William Gibson, *Neuromancer*—as tough and startling and noir-ish a piece of crime writing as any I've ever read even though it happens also to be science fiction)

Web site: www.peterspiegelman.com



Dana Stabenow

is the author of 20 novels and the Alaska Traveler column in *Alaska Magazine*, as well as various short stories, essays, and the occasional vitriolic guest editorial in the *Anchorage Daily News*. The first Kate Shugak novel won an Edgar award, and the next Kate Shugak novel (no. 14),

A Taint in the Blood, comes out in September 2004. She

edits anthologies, cohosts the radio book club Book Talk Alaska, is the co-chair of Bouchercon 2007, and obviously has no life.

Favorite opening line: "The bad news was the blood in her hair." (from my own book, *Blood Will Tell*)

Web site: www.stabenow.com



Bob Stevens has worked as a private investigator for more than 35 years. His short stories have appeared in *Red Herring*, *Futures*, *Orchard Press Mysteries*, and *HandHeld Crime*. He pens a column, "Through a Private Eye Darkly," for *Mysterical-e*. He's a past president of Sisters in Crime, Orange County.



Serita Stevens trained as a forensic nurse and is the author of 29 books. The best known is *Deadly Doses: a Writer's Guide to Poisons*, and she also wrote the Fanny Zindel (Jewish grandmother) series. She edited the mystery anthology *Unholy Orders* to benefit Romanian orphans and is working on a

third anthology, *Too Unholy*, also to help the charity (Hugs and Hopes, www.hugsandhopes.com, which welcomes all contributions). The tentative title of her new book on forensic nurses and their cases is *Looking Both Ways*.

Favorite murder method: well, for me that answer is easy—poison.

Favorite opening line: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." (Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*)

Web site: www.SeritaStevens.org



Jordan Stoen started writing before she knew the alphabet, filling notebooks with illegible scribbles. After high school her jobs ranged from waitress to loan officer, library assistant to stripper. Following a year in an English commune, she returned to school, graduating from UC

Berkeley with high honors and awards for writing and research. She became senior editor for a financial division of the old Harper & Row, then opened a freelance editorial service. Now the children are grown, she has time for fiction. Her first professional sale came on the first mystery story she submitted, and she is still in shock.



Eugene Aubrey Stratton was a CIA case officer for 14 years. He has lived all over the world, including seven years in Greece, the setting for his current suspense novel, *Fit For Fate: A Tale of Byzantine Intrigue in Modern Athens*. He speaks Greek fluently and has worked with Greeks of all backgrounds. He has been

historian general of the Mayflower Society, a fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, a MENSAs member, and CWA member. His other books include the cozy mysteries *Killing Cousins*, and *Cornish Conundrum*, plus two nonfiction books. His next book is a Victorian historical/literary mystery.

Web site: eugenestratton.com



Denise Swanson started writing after coming face-to-face with evil. She quickly decided she would rather write about villains than encounter them in her daily life. She was shocked to discover that getting a book published was nearly as difficult as vanquishing scoundrels. Her series is set in Scumble River, IL and

features Skye Denison, a school psychologist sleuth. Her most recently published book, *Murder of a Barbie and Ken*, came out in November 2002.

Funniest moment as an author: Asking a funeral home director if I could close myself into one of his display caskets to see how it would feel.

Web site: www.DeniseSwanson.com



Karen Swee attributes her lifelong addiction to historical mysteries to her childhood reading of *The Secret of the Old Clock* and *Little House in the Big Woods*. From Nancy and Laura she learned she could solve mysteries and partake of the breathtaking adventures safely curled up in her armchair. After growing up in the Midwest

and on the West Coast, Swee moved to New Jersey where she lives surrounded by historic places and the ghosts of the American Revolution who whisper stories in her ear. *Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Murder* is Karen's first mystery.

Favorite murder method: Death by ringing used in *The Nine Tailors* by Dorothy Sayers, *Dead March* by Ann McMillan, *The Doctor Digs A Grave* by Robin Hathaway]



Pari Noskin Taichert hails from Albuquerque and had the smarts to return after living in wetter climes. She has worked as a belly-dancing instructor, textbook sales consultant, and PR pro—among her more respectable jobs (she has a BA in Asian studies and MSW in transcultural therapy). A national award-

winning journalist, she writes a monthly literary column for the *Albuquerque Tribune*. *The Clovis Incident* introduces reality-challenged PR pro Sasha Solomon who specializes in helping small towns attract tourists. Unlike Sasha, Taichert is married, has kids and leads a normal life.

Favorite murder method: The unlikely and untried. Hiassen's frozen lizard ranks as one of my favorites right now.

Websites: www.parinoskintaichert.com and badgirlspress.com



Debra (D.C.) Thomas has published several short mysteries and won contests with others. Recent publications include "Spam Scam" in the Fall 2003 issue of *Futures Mysterious Anthology Magazine* and two pieces of flash fiction in the Wildside anthology *Bullet Points*. She is shopping the first novel in a mystery series. Debra is also an artist

and has published numerous writing-related cartoons and short-story illustrations. When not writing or drawing, she plays the folk harp and designs theater sets.



Louise Titchener lives with her philosophy professor husband in Baltimore. Her last mystery, *Buried in Baltimore*, features Toni Credella, a dyslexic young woman who accidentally shot her abusive husband. It was awarded an Eppie for Best Mystery of 2002. Her newest Toni Credella mystery is *Burned*

in Baltimore. Titchener teaches novel and mystery writing for Johns Hopkins Department of Continuing Education.

Funniest moment as an author: As I sat on a panel at a Balticon Science Fiction convention, the editor next to me explained to the audience that books with tan covers and green covers never sold well. Of course, I was displaying my books—one with a green cover and one with a tan cover. Oh well...

Web site: www.mysteriousbaltimore.com



Joseph Trigoboff's *The Bone Orchard* was chosen as one of the *New York Times* best crime novels of the year, as a participant in Barnes & Noble's Discover Great Writers Program, and as a featured alternate of the Book of the Month Club. It was republished in November 2003. His new book is *The Shooting Gallery*.

Favorite opening line: "We ought to legalize murder,

Yablonsky. The average murderer serves less than seven years in this country. In effect we've already made it a misdemeanor. Besides, people only like to do what's forbidden. I bet if we made murder legal, the rate'd go down." (from my own book, *The Shooting Gallery*)

Web site: www.mediamuscle.com/trigoboff/



Sue Trowbridge is the webmaster for LCC2004.com, the official Left Coast Crime 14 web site. She is the owner of Interbridge.com, which provides web services for numerous mystery writers and booksellers, including the Deadly Divas, the Minnesota Crime Wave, San Francisco Mystery Bookstore and Mystery Readers International. Trowbridge lives in Albany, California.



Maddy Van Hertbruggen is a seriously addicted mystery reader who began reviewing books online in 1995 for the now defunct Ed's Internet Book Reviews. Currently, Maddy reviews online for I Love a Mystery Newsletter and Reviewing the Evidence.com, as well as the reincarnated print fanzine, *Mystery*File*. Van Hertbruggen is the co-founder of the online mystery

book discussion group, 4 Mystery Addicts (Yahoo), which has over 500 active members. Originally from New Jersey, Maddy has become a Texan citizen and looks forward to our next meeting in El Paso.

Jamie Wallace, writer, web designer, and "recovering attorney," won the 2002 Daphne du Maurier Award for Best Unpublished Mystery/Suspense for her first book, *Murder in Law*. Her short story, "Driven to Kill," is featured in UglyTown's *A Deadly Dozen* mystery anthology. Currently in agent/publisher hunting mode, she hopes to snag a publishing deal soon for her 2 completed novels. As a web site designer, she has designed cyber "homes" for Barbara Seranella, Gary Phillips, Joanne Fluke, John Morgan Wilson, S.K. Rizzolo, Sherri L. Board, Sisters in Crime/ Los Angeles, and LCC 2003 (she was also a member of

LCC 2003's planning committee). Married to a still-young-at-heart aging hippie, she lives in Culver City with her husband, son, and two dogs.

Funniest moment as an author: Having a spirited conversation about the art of writing, only to have a copy of Jan Burke's book presented for autograph. I was tempted but didn't sign Jan's name.

Web site: www.wallacewebs.com



In **Nathan Walpow's** rock-and-roll-midlife-crisis-crime-novel *One Last Hit*, protagonist Joe Portugal picks up his electric guitar after a 30-year hiatus and tries to put his teenage band back together. Life imitates art: soon after the book was published, Nathan restrung his '60s-vintage Fender and began rocking once more, soon appearing at B.B.

King's Blues Club with a Procol Harum covers band. Walpow's other work includes the earlier Joe Portugal mysteries *The Cactus Club Killings* and *Death of an Orchid Lover*, and the short story "Push Comes to Shove," which appeared in *The Best American Mystery Stories 2001*.

Web site: www.walpow.com



Penny Warner has published over 40 books, including 6 mysteries in the Connor Westphal series. The first, *Dead Body Language*, won a Macavity Award for Best First Mystery; the latest, *Silence Is Golden*, came out in September 2003. She also writes a series for middle-grade readers, featuring a scout troop that

solves mysteries involving historic, environmental, and social issues. *Mystery of the Haunted Caves* won an Agatha Award and an Anthony Award for Best Juvenile Mystery. Among her other activities, she and her husband, Tom, write and produce murder mystery events for libraries and other organizations across the country. She lives in Danville with her husband and has two children.

Web site: www.Pennywarner.com



W.H. Watford is a cardiologist in Birmingham, AL, where he lives with his wife and 3 children. His interests include reading, music, astronomy, theology, and collecting ancient Bibles. His first book, *Mortal Strain*, a medical thriller, won First Place for Outstanding Fiction at the prestigious Santa Barbara Writing Conference. The second of his Jack Harris series, *Lethal Risk*, was published in December

2003. He is currently at work on his third novel.

Funniest moment as an author: As I walked into the bookshop for my first book signing, I noticed an influential mystery newsletter editor who had told me a few days earlier she couldn't make my signing. I lost my nerve when I saw the scowl on her face. She pointed my way and loudly said, "I've got a bone to pick with you." The room hushed, and I glanced nervously around at some friends, cringing. All I could think to say was, "I'm glad you came, but I thought you were going to the beach." Her face tightened, and she said, "That's why I'm mad. I stayed up all night reading your damn book, and was too tired to drive down to meet my friends." And she smiled. All I could do was sit down like a wet noodle.

Web site: www.whWatford.com



Betty Webb is the book reviewer/fine arts reporter of the Tribune Newspapers (AZ) and a mystery writer. The latest book in her Lena Jones private detective series, *Desert Shadows: Publishing Can Be Murder*, came out in September 2003.

Before entering journalism, she enjoyed a 25-year career in advertising as a graphic designer/illustrator. She lives with her family in Scottsdale, AZ, less than a mile from the Pima Indian Reservation and mere blocks from her fictional PI's office.

Favorite murder method: I enjoy bashing people to death with blunt instruments. So satisfying.

Favorite opening line: "The door to my office opened and a dame walked in, bringing Trouble with her." (Joanne Dobson, *The Maltese Manuscript*)



Robert Weibezahl is co-author of *A Taste of Murder: Diabolically Delicious Recipes from Contemporary Mystery Writers* and its sequel, *A Second Helping of Murder*. His first mystery story, "Judge and Jury," appeared in the Fall 2003 issue of *Futures Mysterious Anthology Magazine*. He writes the monthly "Well Read" column for *BookPage* and has written for many publications including *Irish America*, *Bikini*, and *Mystery Readers Journal*. Also a book

publicist, he has worked with such mystery writers as April Henry, G.H. Ephron, Naomi Rand, and Peter Abresch. He lives in southern California.

Favorite murder method: the leg of lamb in Roald Dahl's "Lamb to the Slaughter."

Web site: <http://home.earthlink.net/~tasteofmurder>



Charlene Weir was born in the little town of Nortonville, KS. The population varies between 250 and 400 people, depending on which brother she asks. The town didn't abound with excitement, but there must have been a lot of sin, because it had 7 churches.

Her father was minister at one of them. She now lives in northern California with 2 cats who are always on the wrong side of the door. Her first novel won St. Martin's best first traditional mystery award, and her last, *Up in Smoke*, came out in November 2003.

Favorite opening line: "I don't think my stepfather much minded dying. That he almost took me with him wasn't really his fault." (Dick Francis, *To the Hilt*)



Carolyn Wheat, author of the Cass Jameson legal mysteries, has won the Agatha, Anthony, Macavity, and Shamus awards for her short stories. One compendium of her stories is *Tales Out of School*. She has since turned her talents to helping others write the books of their dreams with *How to Write Killer Fiction*

and offers workshops around the country. She is currently working on a book about detective archetypes.

Favorite murder method: who can forget Roald Dahl's famous leg of lamb?

Favorite opening line: I was trapped in house with a lawyer, a are-breasted woman, and a dead man. the rattlesnake in the paper sack only complicated matters. (Earl Emerson, *Fat Tuesdy*)

Funniest moment as an author: Since I take myself incredibly seriously, any mishaps that happened to me cannot possilby be seen in a humorous light (and don't you laugh either).



John Morgan Wilson is the Edgar Award-winning author of the dark, character-driven Benjamin Justice mystery series, which also won two Lambda Literary Awards. He also writes the lighter, nostalgic, and romantic Philip Damon series with legendary bandleader Peter Duchin. Wilson's latest mysteries are *Blind Eye* and (written with Duchin) *Good Morning, Heartache*, which

has good-looking dames and decent jokes.

Favorite murder method: Forcing Gary Phillips to sit through a monologue by Robert S. Levinson and die laughing.

Web site: www.johnmorganwilson.com



Jacqueline Winspear was born and raised in the county of Kent, England. She worked in both general and academic publishing, in higher education, and in marketing communications before emigrating to the United States in 1990. Then, employed in business and as a personal/professional coach, Winspear embarked

upon a lifelong dream to be a writer. *Maisie Dobbs*, the first in her series of war novels and a Top Ten BookSense 76 selection, is set during World War I—a time of great social upheaval and intense emotions that offers ample fodder for stories of guilt and innocence. Winspear is also a regular contributor to journals covering international education and lives in Ojai, California, with her husband, John Morell.



Brian M. Wiprud's second book *Pipsqueak* was winner of the 2002 Lefty Award and was nominated for the 2002 Barry Award Best Paperback Original. Bantam Dell is re-publishing *Pipsqueak*, and it is due out June 2004, with the sequel to follow in 2005. Brian's first book, *Sleep with the Fishes*, was published in 2001. He lives in New York City,

and is also widely published in fly fishing magazines.

Web site www.wiprud.com



Tim Wohlforth has recently had 31 short stories accepted for publication in various mystery magazines. His writings also appear in six anthologies, including *Down These Dark Streets*, *Fedora*, and *Hardbroiled*. A contemporary noir novel, *No Time to Mourn*, will be out in 2004. He coauthored the nonfiction book *On the Edge: Political Cults Right and Left*.

Favorite murder method: Placing a chef's head in a boiling pot of lobster bisque.

Web site: www.timwohlforth.com



Lori Wolf announced to her second-grade classmates that she was going to be a writer when she grew up. She was glad she didn't take their doubts to heart. She is the author of *Gothic Doo-Wop* (literary fiction) and *Parrot on a Limb*, the first in the new Quinn McKay mystery series, which she describes as "New Age pastoral noir set in the Ojai Valley in southern

California." Wolf teaches English at Los Angeles Pierce College and Moorpark College and lives in Thousand Oaks, CA, with her two mischievous Siberian huskies.

Favorite opening line: "When Sean Devine and Jimmy Marcus were kids, their fathers worked together at the Coleman Candy plant and carried the stench of warm chocolate back home with them." (Dennis Lehane, *Mystic River*)

Web site: www.loriwolf.com

Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery



Valerie Wolzien got the idea for her first mystery novel in the middle of a PTA meeting when her son was in fourth grade. That book, *Murder at the PTA Luncheon*, was made into a movie of the week for CBS (13 Susan Henshaw mysteries followed). Wolzien's second series stars Josie Pigeon, single mother and owner of a contracting company. Living

in a house built during the Civil War, the author has lots of contact with builders, electricians, and carpenters who keep her supplied with anecdotes about Josie Pigeon's work. The latest is *A Fashionable Murder*, and *Death in a Beach Chair* will be out next month.

Favorite murder method: anything bloodless.

Funniest moment as an author: There I was sitting in the bookstore waiting for just one reader to appear and tell me how much they liked my work. Mary Higgins Clark was at a table outside of the store with a line that extended from one end of the mall to another. I think Parnell Hall has written a song about this.

Web site: NMOMysteries.com



Simon Wood is a California transplant from England. He has traveled extensively, holds a private pilot's license, and used to be a competitive race car driver. In the last 3 years he's racked up over 80 story credits in magazines and anthologies. His debut novel is *Accidents Waiting to Happen* and his short story collection *Dragged*

into Darkness will be out in August. He shares his world with Julie (his American wife), Royston (a longhaired dachshund), and Streetcar (a cat)—all rescued from the barbaric California streets.

Favorite opening line: "I had a family errand to run, that's all, but I decided to take a pistol." (Daniel Woodrell, *Give Us a Kiss—A Country Noir*)

Web site: www.simonwood.net

Paula L. Woods is the author of the award-winning series featuring LAPD homicide detective Charlotte Justice. The first, *Inner City Blues*, received the Macavity Award for Best First Mystery and was named Best First Novel by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. *Dirty Laundry* is the latest in the series.



writer of crime fiction.

Web site: www.woodsontheweb.com



Sue Owens Wright

made her debut as a mystery novelist and illustrator with *Howling Bloody Murder*, featuring Elsie MacBean and her basset hound, Cruiser. Wright has published widely, teaches English, and writes for *Comstock's* business magazine. She studied fiction writing at Trinity College and University Galway in Ireland and University College London.

Funniest moment as an author: In 2002, I was invited to attend the Illinois Basset Waddle, an off-leash, jowl-flapping hound weekend happening that included a parade of over 700 hounds, food, costume contest, and raffles to raise money for Guardian Angel Basset Rescue. I was a judge for the Best Howl and Best Trick contests, but if there had been a Best Counter Cruising competition, I met a contender. When my attention was diverted momentarily from my hamburger while signing a copy of my book for a fan, a basset snatched the whole thing right from under my nose. No basset hound ever moves that fast unless there's grub involved.

Web site: www.beanieandcruiser.com

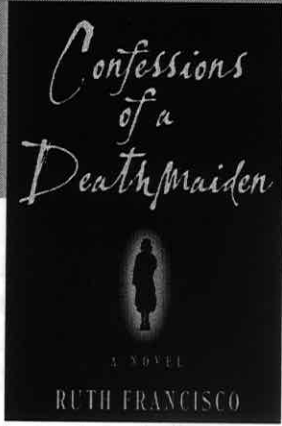
Photo: Susan Heggstad



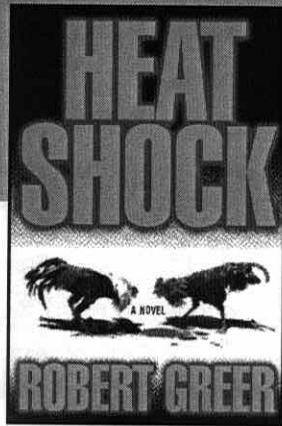
dog, Abby, who has started having panic attacks at the age of 10.

Web site: www.patriciawynn.com

It's no mystery where you'll find the hottest page-turners in town!



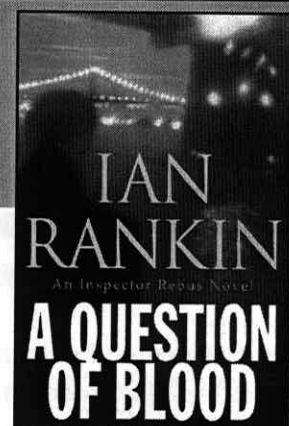
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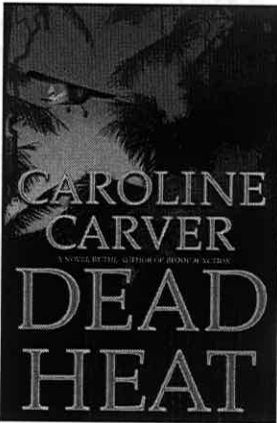
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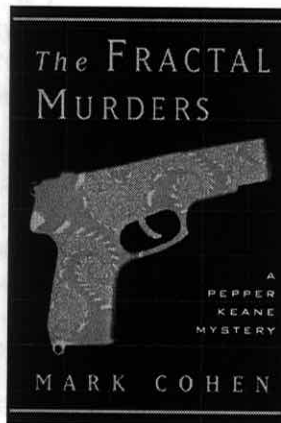
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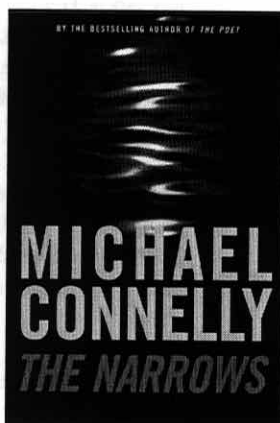
A Question of Blood
Ian Rankin
Coming in February 2004



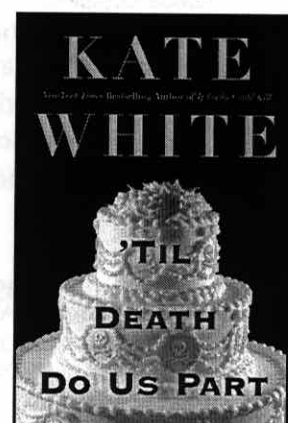
Dead Heat
Caroline Carver
Coming in March 2004



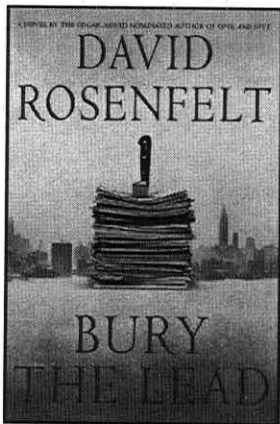
The Fractal Murders
Mark Cohen
Coming in May 2004



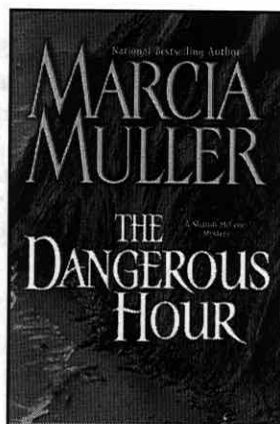
The Narrows
Michael Connelly
Coming in May 2004



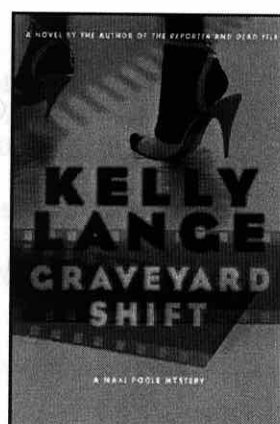
'Til Death Do Us Part
Kate White
Coming in May 2004



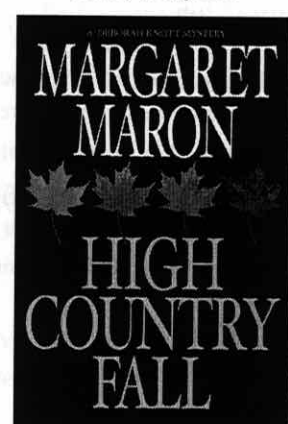
Bury the Lead
David Rosenfelt
Coming in June 2004



The Dangerous Hour
Marcia Muller
Coming in July 2004



Graveyard Shift
Kelly Lange
Coming in July 2004



High Country Fall
Margaret Maron
Coming in August 2004



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Awards

Lefty Award

Given by the Left Coast Crime Convention for the most humorous book published in the previous year. Not given every year.

2003 Nominees

Mumbo Gumbo by Jerrilyn Farmer
Crouching Buzzard, Leaping Loon by Donna Andrews
Shop Till You Drop by Elaine Viets

Previous Winners

2003 – *Pipsqueak* – Brian Wiprud
2002 Winner (tie): Donna Andrews - *Revenge of the Wrought-iron Flamingos*
Winner (tie): Bill Fitzhugh - *Fender Benders*
2001 No award given
2000: *Murder with Peacocks* by Donna Andrews
1999: *Four to Score* by Janet Evanovich
1998: *Three to Get Deadly* by Janet Evanovich
1997: no award given
1996: *The Fat Innkeeper* by Alan Russell

Bruce Alexander History Mystery Award

Left Coast Crime 14, to honor the memory of author Bruce Alexander (Bruce Cook), is establishing the Bruce Alexander History Mystery Award. This award is for the best Historical Mystery (global location, i.e., set anywhere and in any time period up to the end of World War II) written in 2003.

For the Love of Mike by Rhys Bowen
Four for a Boy by Mary Reed and Eric Mayer
Silver Lies by Ann Parker

Otter Award

The Otter is a unique award (will probably never

be given again) and is for the best mystery written in the geographic area covered by Left Coast Crime in 2003.

More Than You Know by Meg Chittenden
Murder Pans Out by Emily Toll
Dragon Fly by David Cole

Independent Mystery Booksellers Association Dilys Award Nominees

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. The award recognizes the books chosen by the members as the ones they most enjoyed selling throughout the year. Modeled after the American Booksellers Association's ABBY, the award is traditionally announced at Left Coast Crime.

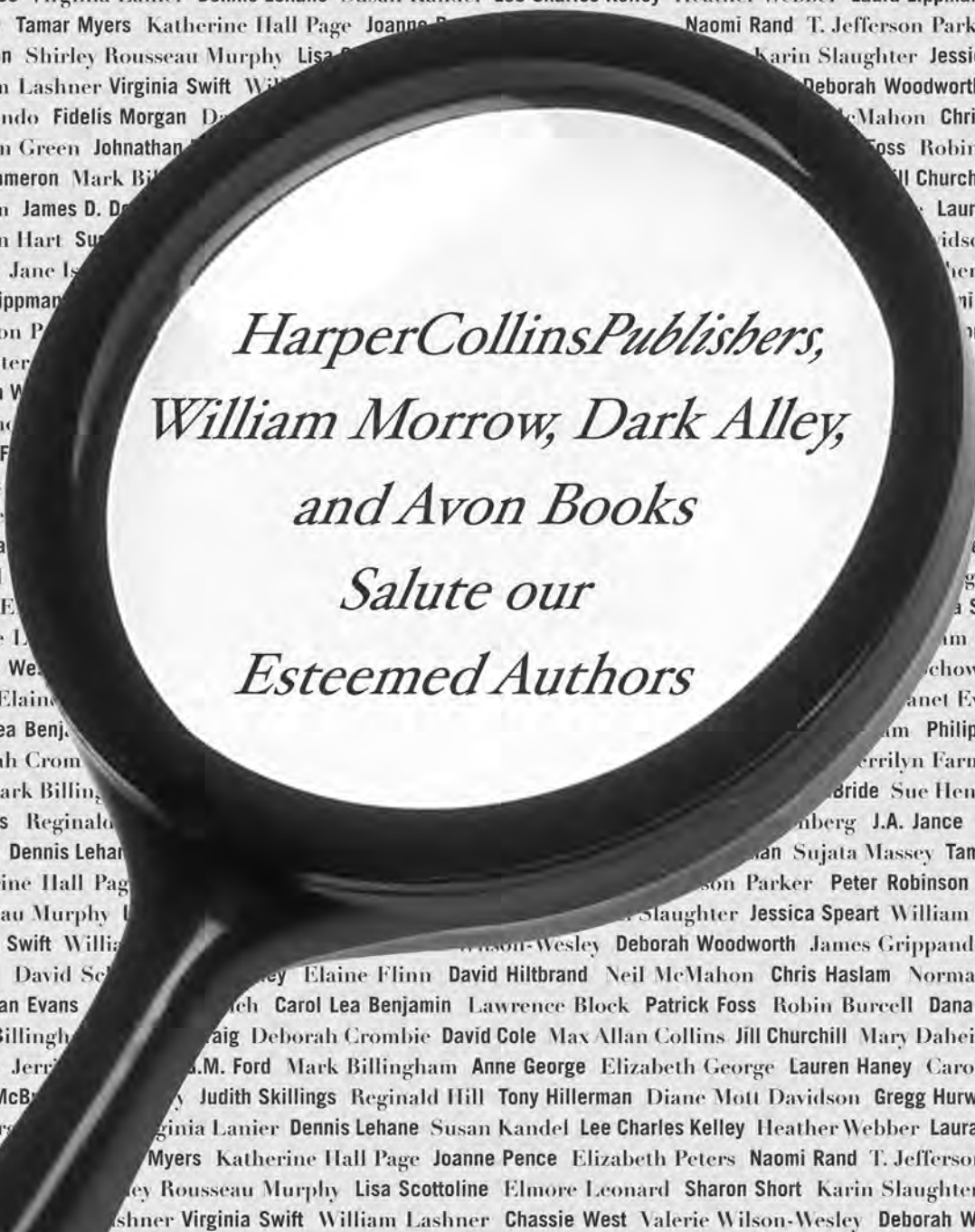
The nominees for the 2004 Dilys Award are:

Crouching Buzzard, Leaping Loon by Donna Andrews (St. Martin's)
The Sixth Lamentation by William Broderick (Viking)
Lost In A Good Book by Jasper Fforde (Viking)
Monkeewrench by PJ Tracy (Putnam)
Maisie Dobbs by Jacqueline Winspear (Soho)

The winner will be announced at Saturday afternoon's Awards Luncheon. This year's winner will receive an engraved glass paperweight.

The IMBA has won several awards for both *The 100 Favorite Mysteries Of The Century* and *They Died In Vain*, published by Crum Creek Press/Drood Review Books. For more information on the IMBA and the Dilys Awards, including past nominees and winners, visit <http://mysterybooksellers.com>.

Janet Evanovich Carol Lea Benjamin Lawrence Block Patrick Foss Robin Burcell Dana Cameron Mark Billingham
Philip R. Craig Deborah Crombie David Cole Max Allan Collins Jill Churchill Mary Daheim James D. Doss Jerrilyn
Farmer G.M. Ford Mark Billingham Anne George Elizabeth George Lauren Haney Carolyn Hart Susan McBride
Sue Henry Judith Skillings Reginald Hill Tony Hillerman Diane Mott Davidson Gregg Hurwitz Jane Isenberg
J.A. Jance Virginia Lanier Dennis Lehane Susan Kandel Lee Charles Kelley Heather Webber Laura Lippman Sujata
Massey Tamar Myers Katherine Hall Page Joanne Pence Naomi Rand T. Jefferson Parker Peter Robinson Shirley
Rousseau Murphy Lisa Scottoline Karin Slaughter Jessica Speart William Lashner Virginia Swift William
Deborah Woodworth James Grippando Fidelis Morgan David Selby Elaine Flinn David Hiltbrand Neil McMahon Chris Haslam Norman Green
Johnathan Evans Johnathan Evans Patrick Foss Robin Burcell Dana Cameron Mark Billingham Jill Churchill Mary
Daheim James D. Doss Jerrilyn Farmer G.M. Ford Mark Billingham Anne George Elizabeth George Lauren Haney
Carolyn Hart Susan McBride Sue Henry Judith Skillings Reginald Hill Tony Hillerman Diane Mott Davidson Gregg
Hurwitz Jane Isenberg J.A. Jance Virginia Lanier Dennis Lehane Susan Kandel Lee Charles Kelley Heather Webber
Laura Lippman Sujata Massey Tamar Myers Katherine Hall Page Joanne Pence Naomi Rand T. Jefferson Parker
Peter Robinson Shirley Rousseau Murphy Lisa Scottoline Karin Slaughter Jessica Speart William Lashner
Virginia Swift William Woodworth-Wesley Deborah Woodworth James Grippando Fidelis Morgan David Selby
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Auction Benefits The Friends Of Sea Otters

THE FRIENDS OF SEA OTTERS

In 1938 a group of otters was spotted near Bixby Bridge along the Big Sur coast. This sighting confirmed that California's otter was, indeed, still in existence.

In 1968 when Margaret Owings, a well-respected conservationist, and Dr. Jim Mattison, an avid outdoorsman, founded FSO, the southern sea otter population numbered about 650. Since that time, the population has grown in number and range and includes about 2,300 otters along the central California coastline.

When FSO first began, it was operated solely on a volunteer basis; many times meetings were held at Owings' home and it was through her sheer force of will that the organization continued. She helped establish environmental policy to benefit the otter; she spoke to legislators both in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.; and she used her insight and knowledge to rally scientists, conservationists, educators, and friends to embrace FSO's mission.

Mattison marched along with her at every step, albeit with a different focus. He utilized his considerable medical knowledge to help in the biological research of otters; and he turned his scuba diving hobby into a treasure trove of pictures, information, and data – all about otters – for FSO. He helped develop a curriculum for teachers, produced a film about otters, and was instrumental in establishing FSO as an otter and otter habitat resource organization.

The success of FSO is well-known in the environmental community. As the only advocacy organization for sea otters in the world, FSO has become a voice to be reckoned with in the fight to protect our marine communities.

In 1993 FSO reassessed its focus and changed its mission statement to include not just protection of the southern sea otter, but sea otters throughout their north Pacific range, and all sea otter habitat. FSO is now assessing those threats facing Alaska otters – a species that was tragically affected by the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound --for successful resolution. Additionally, FSO is investigating the plight of Russian otters which are outside the protection of both the U.S. Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The most serious threat they face comes from poachers hunting for skins.

FSO has worked to reduce the oil spill risk to the California sea otter population and its coastal environment by successfully opposing the expansion of the Moss Landing oil tanker port in Monterey Bay; working to keep offshore oil drilling away from the central California coast; training volunteers to care for oiled otters in California; playing a key role in the reintroduction of the otters to their ancestral home, San Nicolas Island, in an attempt to establish a reserve breeding population that would be spared from a central coast oil spill; and working to establish vessel lanes to keep oil tankers further offshore while traveling along the California coast.

What began as two people's commitment to save a single species has become an organization with a staff fully committed to ensuring not only the protection of the sea otter, but also the preservation of critical marine environments necessary to the otter's survival.

Left Coast Crime 14 Committee

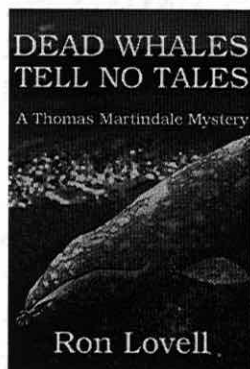
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Left Coast Crime 14



The Thomas Martindale Mysteries



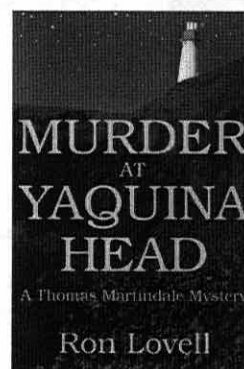
"Dead Whales Tell No Tales is the second in an enjoyable Oregon-based series starring a cranky-but-amiable college professor. . . Here Martindale gets mixed up in the death of an unpleasant marine biologist. . . and an all too human conspiracy involving whales."

—*Seattle Times*

" . . . Lovell. . . introduced his reluctant sleuth last year in *Murder at Yaquina Head*. That was a swift and accomplished book, and this one is even better. They are issued by a small press, but Lovell's work as a mystery writer is equal to or better than most authors published by the major houses. This is a solid mystery with good characters and deft writing."

—*Statesman Journal*

Published by Sunstone Press, \$18.95
ISBN: 0-86534-383-7



"Lovell debuts a series featuring an Oregon journalism professor. . . (His) firsthand knowledge lends an air of credibility to the story and setting. . . he crafts a convincing story peppered with absorbing details about World War II."

—*Booklist*

" . . . Mixed with details of the lighthouse, the Oregon Coast, and an aquarium, this is all good stuff for a mystery. What really makes it a good read, however, is the self-effacing Martindale, a delightful, if sometimes exasperating, sleuth who is far too nosy for his own good."

—*Denver Post*

Published by Sunstone Press, \$18.95
ISBN: 0-86534-369-1



See Ron Lovell at Left Coast Crime 2004,
appearing on a panel on East vs. West Mystery Writing.
Read more about him and his books at www.martindalemysteries.com.

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- ★ ‘If you don’t fall in love with the Szabos, you don’t have hormones. A sublime debut whose sequel can’t come fast enough.’ —*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review
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COMPETITION CAN BE MURDER by Connie Shelton

Charlie Parker and her husband Drake find themselves in the middle of a helicopter-boat war in the North Sea. In addition to the battle over services to the oil rigs, Charlie is compelled to investigate the disappearance of a teenage boy.



5½ x 8¼, 292 pages, Hardcover,
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April 2004



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With stories from Steven-Elliot Altman, Joan Boswell, Vicki Cameron, Meg Chittenden, Denise Dietz, Sophie Dunbar, E. J. Glenski, Libby Fischer Hellmann, Joyce Holland, Babs Lakey, Kris Neri, Malachi Saxon & Anne Perry, Serita Mendelson Stevens, L. L. Thrasher, John Vourlis, Mary V. Welk, and Brenda Witchger

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Following the success of *Dead Clever*, comes the second Lily Pascale mystery. Lily receives a troubling phone call from Jess, an old university friend who she hasn't seen or spoken to in several years. Jess is now a journalist selling true-life stories to *Smile!* magazine and has gotten herself into a spot of trouble. She has written a feature on three women who were all victims of stalking — and on the day of publication, all three women are found murdered. By the time Lily arrives in London, Jess is missing and has left behind a mysterious trail of clues.

Cl. | ISBN 1-932112-08-1 | \$24.95 | 264 pages



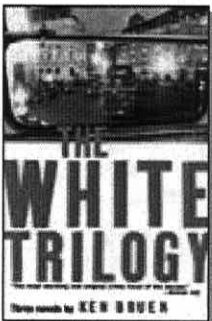
Dead Clever
A Lily Pascale Mystery
Scarlett Thomas

"British author Thomas puts a hip spin on the English cozy in this engaging mystery (the first of a trilogy), full of attractive characters in a lovingly evoked setting."
— *Publishers Weekly*

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Lily Pascale is witty, cracker jack smart, and totally unflappable. In *Dead Clever*, Lily's interest in crime fiction not only lands her a job at a local college, but helps when she becomes enmeshed in investigating the deaths of two students. Intelligent, endearing, eccentric, and habit-forming, Lily Pascale is the coolest heroine to step out of London since Bridget Jones. *Dead Clever* is her spirited debut.

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The White Trilogy
Ken Bruen

"Bruen does a masterful job of depicting the bleak streets of modern-day London, then creating characters who gradually reveal themselves to be touchingly human in spite of their surroundings. Three compulsively readable tales of British crime and punishment." — *Washington Post*

Detective Chief Inspector Roberts and Detective Sergeant Brant are obverse sides of the same tarnished coin. Roberts is cool, cerebral and

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Pb. | ISBN 1-932112-02-2 | \$14.99 | 416 pages



Weeping
A Fritillary Quilter Mystery
Shelley Reuben

"[Shelley Reuben's] characters...are so combustible that you keep expecting them to go up in flames...Some fires, it seems, are in the belly." — Marilyn Stasio, *The New York Times Book Review*

In the entire canon of tough-girl sleuths, there's no one quite like Fritillary Quilter. She's a New York fire investigator, a sassy, fresh spirit with a nose for arson and an eye for dubious burn patterns. "Weeping" is an arson investigator's term, and also the usual state that befalls a fire's grief-stricken survivors. So it's with some surprise, and suspicion, that Tilly meets the seemingly unconcerned Faith Browning, whose sister Dorsey has just burned to death in their family home. When Faith puts in a quick claim without giving the insurance company a chance to look around, the company calls Tilly. Teamed with the arson pro Isaac "Ike" Blessing, Tilly and Ike must sift through the ashes to find the truth. Written by a real-life private eye and fire investigator, *Weeping* is fueled by technical authority, lively characters, and stylish prose.

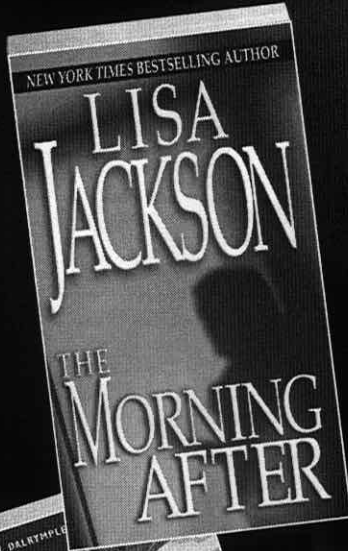
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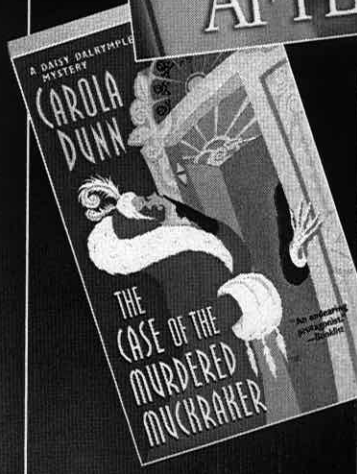
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March 2004



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Carola Dunn

In this charming tenth installment of Carola Dunn's cozy mystery series, dauntless British sleuth Daisy Dalrymple discovers that a guest at her New York City honeymoon hotel has checked out...permanently.

Kensington Mass Market
November 2003

OVERFALL
David Dun

From the national bestselling author of *Necessary Evil* comes another gripping blockbuster thriller about a man and a woman swept up in a desperate race to deter a madman.

Pinnacle Mass Market
April 2003

INTENT TO HARM
Jonnie Jacobs

In her bestselling Kali O'Brien thrillers, Jonnie Jacobs has taken readers to the razor's edge of suspense. Now, Kali's back, embroiled in a case that may do more than get her in trouble—it could get her killed.

"Nevermind John Grisham; read Jonnie Jacobs instead." —*Chicago Sun Times*

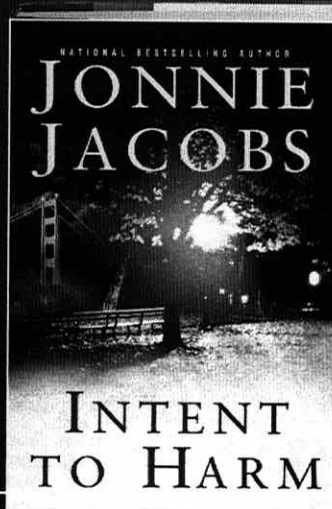
Kensington Hardcover
October 2003

THE ACTOR'S GUIDE TO MURDER
Rick Copp

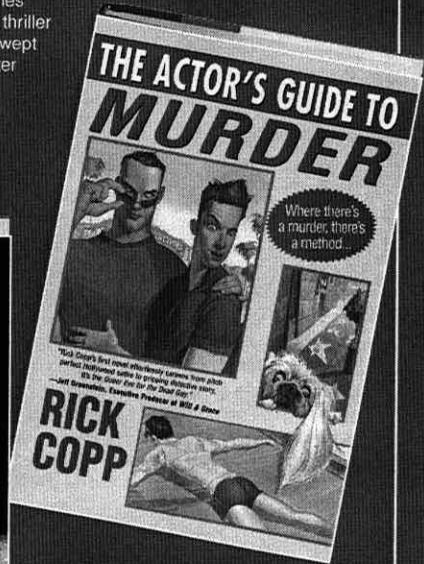
Former 80s child star Jarrod Jarvis has managed to escape the notoriety that has plagued his peers. But his quiet life in the Hollywood Hills is soon in jeopardy when his friend is found face-down dead in his lap pool, and Jarrod sets out to find the culprit.

"It's the Queer Eye for the Dead Guy."
—Jeff Greenstein, Executive Producer, *Will & Grace*

Kensington Hardcover
November 2003



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Gone, But Not Forgotten

Marvin Lachman

As mystery's unofficial "obituarian," I take this opportunity to remind Left Coast Crime attendees of some people important to the genre who died in the last year or so.

MICHAEL ANTHONY at age 61, on May 15, 2003. British mystery writer whose novels had an ecclesiastical background.

GEORGE BAXT at age 80, on June 28, 2003. Mystery writer and screenwriter who created Pharoah Love, probably the first openly gay detective in fiction. Baxt also wrote detective novels in which famous Hollywood personalities of the past were featured.

JANIE BOLITHO at age 52, on September 27, 2002. British detective novelist who wrote two series, one about Chief Inspector Ian Roper and the other about Rose Trevelyan.

SYLVIA K. BURACK at age 86, on February 14, 2003. Editor and publisher who co-edited several books about writing suspense and mystery fiction.

W(ILLIAM) J(OHN) BURLEY at age 88, on November 15, 2002. British engineer and teacher who turned to mystery writing in his fifties and created Cornish police detective Charlie Wycliffe.

KEITH CAMPBELL at age c.88, on January 18, 2003. New Zealand mystery novelist, who wrote eight novels, including six about Mike Brett.

PEGGY CONKLIN at age c.100, on March 18, 2003. Actress who created the role of Pamela North in the 1941 play Mr. and Mrs. North, based on the work of the Lockridges.

BRUCE COOK at age c.71, on November 9, 2003. Under his own name, he wrote about Los Angeles private eye "Chico" Cervantes. Under his "Bruce Alexander" pseudonym, Cook wrote a popular historical mystery series about Sir John Fielding.

HUME CRONYN at age 91, on June 15, 2003. Canadian actor whose work on stage and screen was highly regarded for over 60 years. He was also a writer, adapting the play Rope and the novel Under Capricorn for Alfred Hitchcock movies.

AMANDA CROSS at age 77, on October 9, 2003. Under her real name, Carolyn Heilbrun, she taught literature at Columbia University and wrote on feminist topics. Her series detective, Kate Fansler, was also a professor of literature.

LARRY DOBKIN at age 83, on October 28, 2002. An actor and director, he played Archie Goodwin and Ellery Queen on radio.

BUDDY EBSEN at age 95, on July 6, 2003. Dancer on Broadway and in Hollywood, he achieved his greatest fame on television, where his roles included private eye Barnaby Jones.

HOWARD FAST at age 88, on March 12, 2003. Historical novelist, author of Citizen Tom Paine and Spartacus, who turned to writing crime fiction under the pseudonyms Walter Ericson and E.V. Cunningham after he was blacklisted during the McCarthy era.

JOHN R. FEEGEL at age c.71, on September 16, 2003. Chief Medical Examiner of Tampa, Florida, he had earlier written crime novels involving forensic medicine.

SARA ANN FREED at age 57, on June 25, 2003. Editor at Mysterious Press and Warner Books, she was given the Ellery Queen Award by MWA in 1999 for her distinguished work in publishing.

NICOLAS FREELING at age 76, on July 20, 2003. British-born writer who lived in Europe most of his life and created Dutch detectives Piet and Arlette Van der Valk and French detective Henri Castang.

GARY GOTTFELD at age 61, on September 5, 2003. Formerly president of the Southern California chapter of MWA, he published four crime novels.

WINSTON GRAHAM at age 93, on July 10, 2003. British writer of the popular Poldark historical series, he also wrote mysteries such as Marnie (1961), filmed by Hitchcock.

SEBASTIEN JAPRISOT at age 71, on March 4, 2003. Popular French mystery novelist whose pen name was an anagram of his real name, Jean Baptiste Rossi. His books included The 10:30 from Marseilles (1963), later published (and filmed) as The Sleeping Car Murder.

ELIA KAZAN at age 94, on September 28, 2003. The legendary and controversial director of Americanstage and screen, he also wrote a crime novel, The Assassins (1972).

FREDERICK KNOTT at age 86, on December 17, 2002. Born in China to English missionaries, he lived in New York after the success of his plays Dial "M" for Murder (1952) and Wait Until Dark (1966).

RAYNE KRUGER at age 80, on December 21, 2002. South-African born and educated, he moved to England where he wrote six thrillers in the 1950s before going into business there.

VIRGINIA LANIER at age c.73, c. October 2003. Her first novel, Death in Bloodhound Red (1995) was published when she was 65 and was nominated for the Agatha and Macavity Awards and won an Anthony.

NORMAN LEWIS at age 95, on July 22, 2003. British

Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery

travel writer who also wrote novels of international intrigue.

HELEN LILLIE at age 87, on January 9, 2003. Scottish-born journalist who worked for British Intelligence in America in World War II and also wrote two suspense novels.

LOIS DOROTHEA LOW at age c.86, on November 8, 2002. British writer who published about a dozen crime novels using pseudonyms Lois Paxton, Zoe Cass, and Dorothy Mackie Low.

GAVIN LYALL at age 70, on January 18, 2003. British writer who was a former RAF pilot and started his career with thrillers, such as *The Wrong Side of the Sky* (1961) in which the heroes were often pilots. He received CWA Silver Daggers for *The Most Dangerous Game* (1964) and *Midnight Plus One* (1965). Beginning in 1980 he wrote two series of spy novels.

HELEN MEYER at age 95, on April 21, 2003. Business executive who played an important role at Dell Publishing when they issued the crime "mapbacks" so beloved to collectors.

MANUEL VÁZQUEZ MONTALBÁN at age 64, on October 17, 2003. The leading crime writer in Spain, he wrote 20 novels about Pepe Carvalho, Barcelona private detective.

JOAN LOWERY NIXON at age 76, on June 28, 2003. A writer of mysteries for young adults and juveniles, she won four Edgars, more than any other writer.

MARC OLDEN at age 69, on September 5, 2003. He was a prolific writer of crime novels under his own name and as "Robert Hawkes."

MARTIN PAGE at age 65, on September 10, 2003. A British foreign correspondent, he turned to fiction with the successful crime novel *The Man Who Stole the Mona Lisa* (1984).

NORMAN PANAMA at age 88, on January 13, 2003. Writer-producer in Hollywood who, with his long-time partner Melvin Frank, wrote spy comedies such as *My Favorite Blonde* (1942) for Bob Hope and *Knock on Wood* (1954) for Danny Kaye. With Jerome Chodorov, he wrote the stage mystery *A Talent for Murder* (1981), starring Claudette Colbert.

GREGORY PECK at age 87, on June 12, 2003. Distinguished American actor whose many roles included crime films such as *Spellbound* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. He won an Academy Award for his performance as defense lawyer Atticus Finch in the latter. SIR PETER SAUNDERS at age 91, on February 6, 2003. British theatrical producer who put on many plays by Agatha Christie, including *The Mousetrap*, running in the West End since 1952.

JOHN SHERWOOD at age c.89, in 2002. British teacher and intelligence officer in World War II who turned to writing with thrillers. He also wrote a mystery set at the BBC, where he worked. In 1984 he created Celia Grant in a series of gardening mysteries.

BILL SHOEMAKER at age 72, on October 12, 2003. One of the great jockeys of all time (he won 8,833 horse races), he was credited with four crime novels beginning in 1994. DEREK SMITH at age c.76, in January 2003. British writer of two tightly-clued, fair-play detective novels featuring Algy Lawrence.

JERRY SOHL at age 88, on November 4, 2002. Science fiction writer who also wrote five crime novels and many scripts for Alfred Hitchcock's television program.

GRETCHEN SPRAGUE at age c.77, on October 16, 2003. She won an Edgar in 1967 for Best Young Adult mystery and thirty years later wrote an adult series about an amateur detective who was, like Sprague, a legal aid attorney.

ROBERT STACK at age 84, on May 14, 2003. Actor best known for his role as Treasury agent Eliot Ness in the popular television series *The Untouchables*.

PETER STONE at age 73, on April 26, 2003. The first writer to win the Tony, Oscar, and Emmy Awards, he wrote the screen play for *Charade* (1963), which he later novelized.

JOHN TRENCH at age 82, on February 13, 2003. British advertising director who also wrote four mystery novels, three of which were about amateur archeologist Martin Cotterell.

LEON URIS at age 78, on June 21, 2003. Author of bestsellers, including *Exodus* (1958), he also wrote spy novels, including *Topaz* (1967), which was filmed by Hitchcock.

JOHN WEITZ at age 79, on October 3, 2002. German-born American fashion designer who turned to writing and published one thriller *Friends in High Places* (1982).

DAVID WILLIAMS at age 77, on September 26, 2003. Welsh-born advertising executive who turned to writing after suffering a severe stroke in 1977. After 17 books about amateur detective Mark Treasure, a banker, he began writing procedurals about the South Wales Police.

ROBIN W. WINKS at age 72, on April 7, 2003. American historian who taught 40 years at Yale and also wrote and edited books on detective fiction. He won an Edgar as editor-in-chief of *Mystery and Suspense Writers* (1998). PHILIP YORDAN at age 88, on March 24, 2003. Playwright and screen writer who received Oscar nominations for *Dillinger* (1945) and *Detective Story* (1951).

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Left Coast Crime honorees through the years.

Place	Year	Guests of Honor	Fan Guests of Honor	Toastmasters	Lifetime Achievement
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San Francisco, CA	1992	J.A Jance Earl Emerson		James Lee Burke	
Anaheim, CA	1993	Susan Dunlap Jill Smith		Ann & Evan Maxwell	
Anaheim, CA	1994	Aaron Elkins		Carolyn Hart	
Scottsdale, AZ	1995	Tony Hillerman		Judith Van Gieson	
Boulder, CO	1996	Kinky Friedman	Maggie Mason	Nevada Barr	
Seattle, WA	1997	Faye Kellerman Jonathan Kellerman		Lia Matera	
San Diego, CA	1998	Elizabeth George	Willis Herr	Alan Russell	Bob Wade
Albuquerque, NM	1999	John Dunning	Tasha Mackler	Deborah Crombie	
Tucson, AZ	2000	Sue Grafton	George Easter	Harlan Coben	
Anchorage, AL	2001	Michael Connolly Lindsay Davis	Andi Shechter		
Portland, OR	2002	Steven Saylor Laurie R. King	Don Herron	G.M. Ford	
Pasadena, CA	2003	Robert Crais	Sue Feder	Jerrilyn Farmer	
Monterey, CA	2004	Sharan Newman Walter Mosley	Bryan Barrett Thom Walls	Gillian Roberts	Richard Lupoff
El Paso, Texas	2005	Paco Ignacio Taibo II S.J. Rozan	Ernie Bulow	Rick Riordan	

Left Coast Crime is going to El Paso, Texas in 2005, See you there!!!

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Left Coast Crime By-Laws

The "Left Coast Crime Convention," the "Western North American Regional Mystery Conference" hereto referred to as "LCC," is an event sponsored by fans of Mystery Literature, for fans of Mystery Literature. LCC is an annual convention. The intent is to provide an event where fans of the Mystery genre can gather in convivial surroundings to pursue their interests in the genre.

LCC is a non-profit enterprise which must be incorporated locally by each LCC volunteer-based committee for the duration of the event. Sponsorship by existing non-profit organizations is encouraged as long as they adhere to LCC bylaws.

Past, present, and future LCC are not responsible for the debts incurred by any previous or subsequent LCC events.

LCC will feature a Guest(s) of Honor (GoH), who is to be treated as a literary treasure. All expenses within reason incurred by the the GoH will be the responsibility of that year's LCC. In the event that LCC has more than one GoH, at least one GoH must reside or have novels set in the Western Region.

Fan Guest(s) of Honor are to be treated in the same manner as author GoHs.

Any LCC may create any new guest designation other than Lifetime Achievement.

LCC will do its best to extend hospitality to its entire membership.

A standing committee shall be established to:

Register and maintain the name Left Coast Crime and the Western Regional Mystery Conference with continuing trademark protection.
Maintain the LCC mailing list.

Maintain the continuity of LCC.

To review and oversee the site selection for future LCC.

To select the site for upcoming LCC conferences, based on bids from viable bidding committees.

To act as executive committee to represent the membership should an emergency arise.

To remove accreditation from any site committee that imperils the viability of future LCC. This includes failure to secure a venue one year in advance, violation of LCC bylaws, or the appearance that the committee will be unable to properly stage the event.

To review the financial report prepared by each LCC committee.

LCC is the "Western North American Regional Mystery Conference" as defined by the Mountain Time Zone and all time zones westward to Hawaii.

The LCC rotates north to south on an annual basis. Conventions held in the Northern Region are held in even-numbered years, Southern Region in odd-numbered years.

Regions defined as follows:

Northern Region

Canada: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon
United States: Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, California (north of Santa Clara County), Nevada (north of Las Vegas)

Southern Region

United States: New Mexico, Arizona, Texas (El Paso only), Hawaii, Nevada (south of Lake Tahoe), California (Santa Clara county and southward)
Mexico

LCC will held in the first quarter of the calendar year.

LCC will not be held for more than two consecutive years in the same region if at all possible.

Bidding For Future LCCs

Bids for future LCC must be submitted to the standing committee no later than 45 days prior to the commencement of the current year's LCC.

Bidding committees must:

Submit a resume of its committee members with its bid

Submit a site for the event

Submit a letter of intent from event site

Bids for future LCC maybe accepted up to 3 years in advance.

If no bid is received, the standing committee may solicit bids.

The awarding of LCC locations to a bidding committee shall be made by majority vote of the standing committee.

In case of a tie vote in the standing committee, the bids will be put to a vote of the general membership at the current LCC.

"None of the Above" will be an option placed on any such ballot. If "None of the Above" wins, all competing bids are excluded from consideration. The standing committee will solicit alternative bids, and from those choose the one they feel most qualified.

The current LCC committee will provide the LCC in the immediate year following the minimum by way of support:

One page of advertising in program book

A space to sell memberships at current event

One free attending membership to current event

Extending this support to other future LCC convention committees would be commendable but is not mandatory.

Name Badges

It is the intention of LCC to be an egalitarian gathering of mystery fans that does not create a distinction between fans of the mystery genre professional and otherwise. Therefore:

Names printed on badges should be readable at five feet.

The only designations allowed on badges are - Dealer, Exhibitor, Staff/Committee, and Program Participant. (This is done for security reasons only.)

Ribbons or other items that differentiate participants are prohibited.

Dealers and Exhibitors

A space (book room) known as the dealer's must be made available for the sale and display of goods of interest (books) to the membership of LCC.

Acceptance to the dealer's room is based on seniority.

Acceptance of other dealers is at the discretion of current committee after obligations to Legacy Dealers have been taken care of. (A Legacy Dealer is someone who has done 7 of the last 10 LCCs.)

Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery

Hours: The dealers' room will open to the membership no earlier than 9 AM local time. The room will be open a minimum of twenty hours over the course of the event.

A dealers' room contains more than one bookseller or exhibitor.

Each exhibition space will include a membership to the event.

LCC must receive a hold harmless agreement from exhibitor in order to participate in LCC.

Tables for non-profit literary fan groups should be provided free of charge, if possible.

Membership on the Standing Committee shall include:

The immediate past year's chair, the current chair, and accredited future chairs.

To maintain the continuity of LCC, the Standing Committee will contain a maximum of five permanent committee whose qualifications are:
Having attended a minimum of five non-profit mystery conventions, of which at least 3 must be LCC;
Worked on at least 3 previous non-profit literary events, and in a committee position on at least two of those events.

Permanent Membership on the standing committee is for the lifetime of LCC or until formal resignation.

It is the responsibility of the Permanent Standing Committee to deal with site selection of future LCCs.

The permanent members of the standing committee are the court of last resort in disputes arising from site selection.

The permanent committee members are the living memory of LCC. They provide a resource and recourse for future LCC committee. (The wheel need not be reinvented.)

Member at large:

Any person with interest in LCC may submit their name for consideration for membership on the standing committee to the standing committee.

If accepted by the standing committee, the term is for two years.

The standing committee will approve new members by a majority vote.

The member(s) of at large will be full voting members of the standing committee.

The Current LCC Committee

03 Pasadena
'04 Monterey - Bill & Toby Gottfried
'05 El Paso - Mary Sarber

The Permanent Committee

Tom Schantz
Thom Walls
Bryan Barrett

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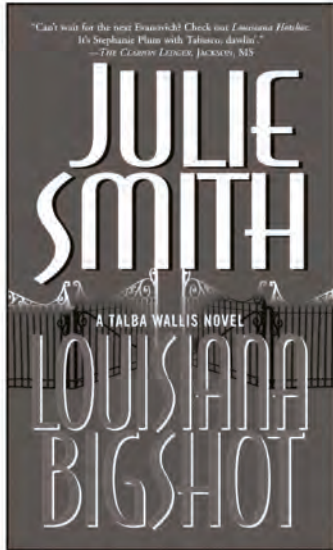
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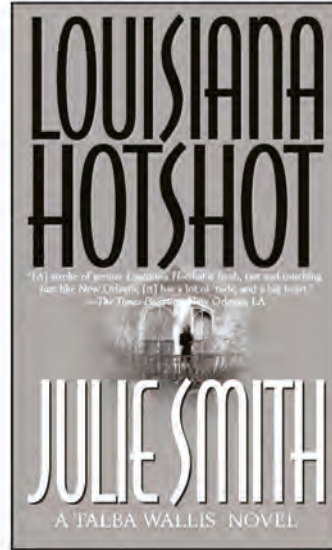


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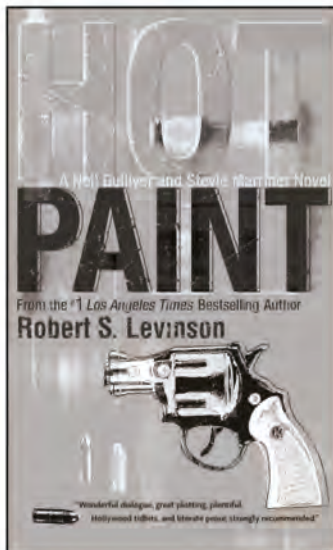


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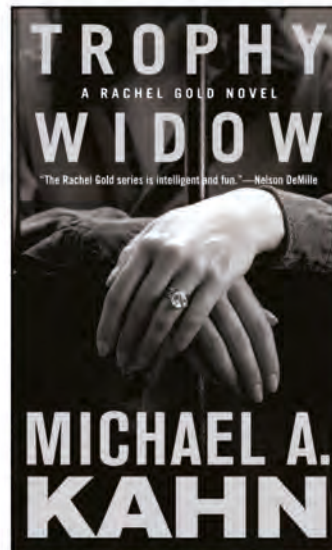


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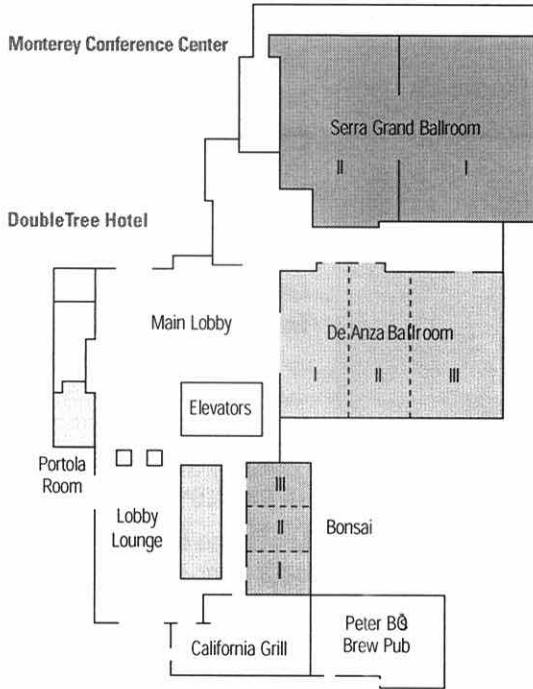
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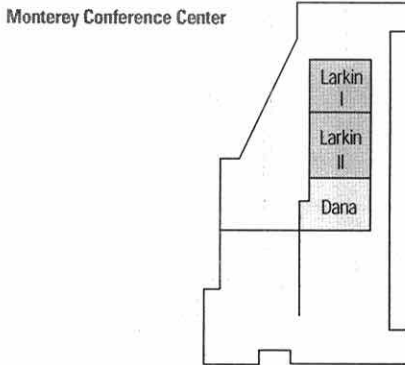


Sand, Sea Lions, Otters, and Mystery

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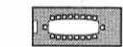


LEVEL TWO



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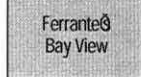
DoubleTree Hotel



Executive Boardroom

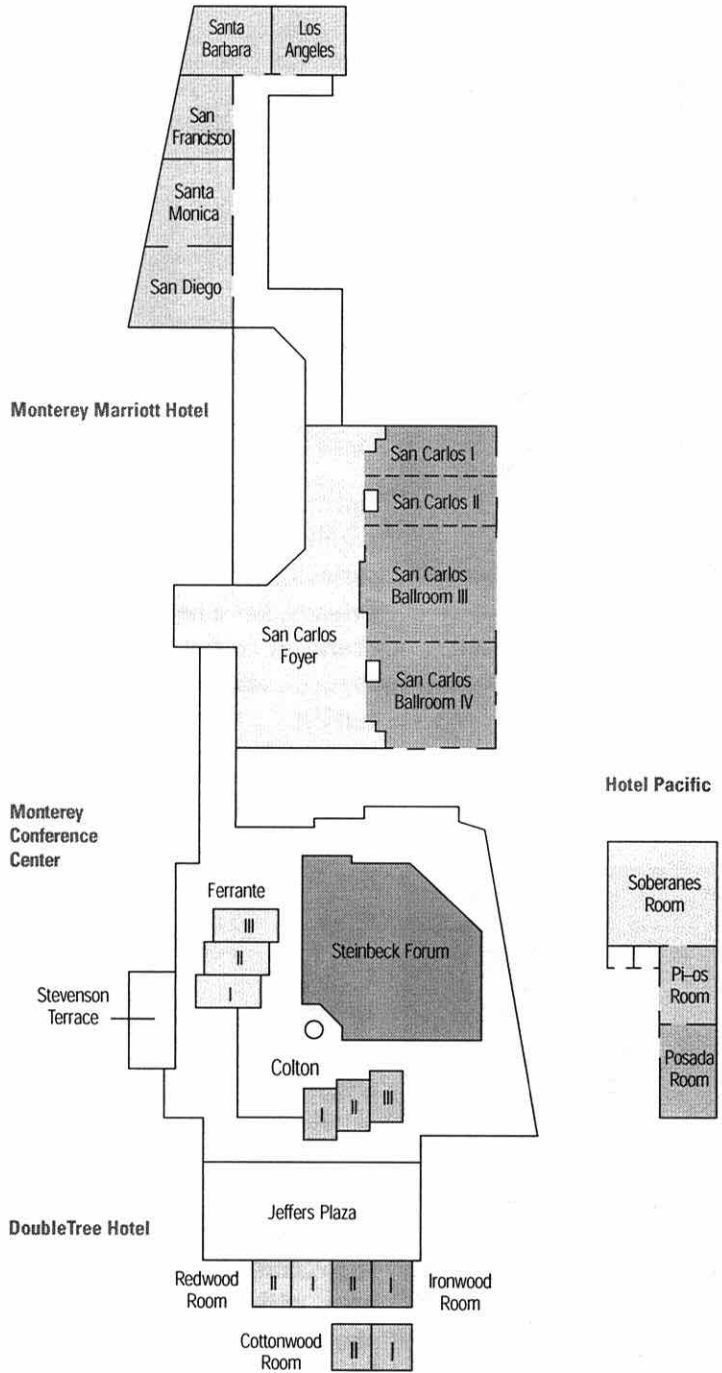
LEVEL TEN

Monterey Marriott Hotel

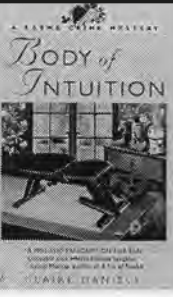


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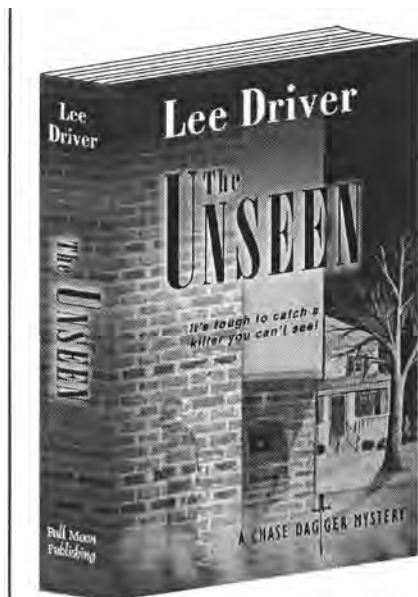
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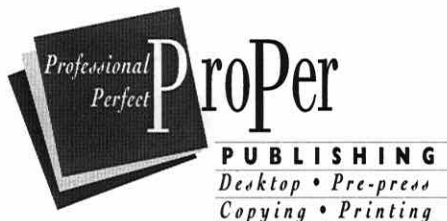
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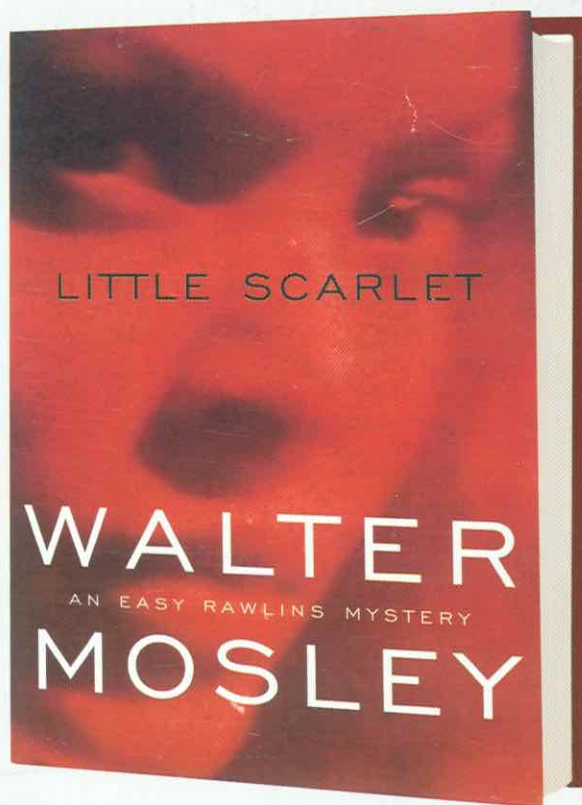
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