

# Crime on the Comstock



**Left Coast Crime 2018**

Reno, Nevada • March 22–25, 2018

# MWA NORCAL CELEBRATES OUR LEFTY NOMINEES!

Susan Alice Bickford, Debut Lefty for *A Short Time to Die*

Rhys Bowen, Historical Lefty for *In Farleigh Field*

Priscilla Royal, Historical Lefty for *The Proud Sinner*

Cindy Sample, Humorous Lefty for *Dying for a Diamond*

Terry Shames, Best Novel Lefty for *An Unsettling Crime for Samuel Craddock*

## ...AND ALL OUR LEFT COAST WRITERS!

WRITERS: JOIN OUR THURSDAY NIGHT GET-TOGETHER

EVERYONE: STOP BY MWA'S BOOK ROOM TABLE—

AND TAKE A SELFIE WITH EDGAR ALLAN POE!

## MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA



## NORCAL CHAPTER



**DETAILS AT [MWANORCAL.ORG](http://MWANORCAL.ORG)**

# Welcome to Crime on the Comstock!

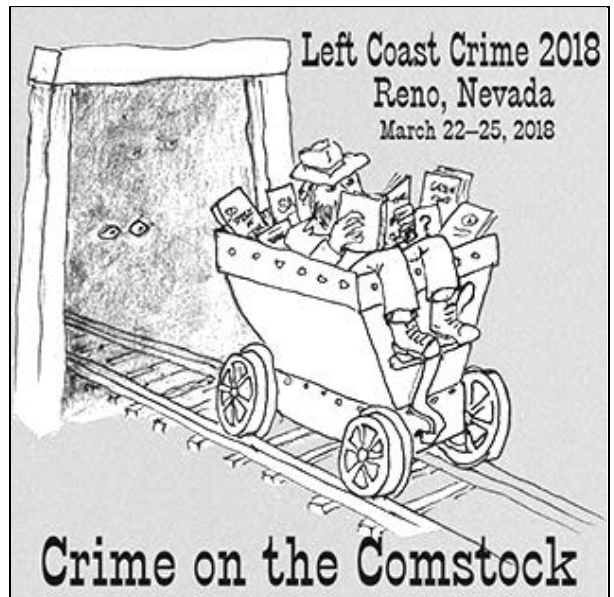
Reno dominates the area as the “Biggest Little City,” but in all fairness, the Nugget is in Sparks. Both cities occupy the Truckee Meadows, between the Carson Range of the Sierras and the Virginia Range on the east — historically where the California-bound wagon trains on the emigrant trails stopped to feed the livestock on the rich grasslands and give rest to the courageous men, women, and children who had made it this far. Please save some time to see the historic sites of the Donner Party and the Victorian-era Virginia City, which is really on the Comstock! The Nevada Historical Society is here in Reno, and Carson City, the state capitol, is 20 minutes south of Reno, with the State Museum and Mint and capitol plaza. So much history to see here, but so little time with four jam-packed days of panels and activities of Left Coast Crime! Did I mention that Mark Twain was coming for a visit to meet you?

I would like to thank the local volunteers who were recruited through our OLLI Mystery Reading group: Joanne Yau, Cathy Retterer, Peggy Johnsen, Sally Snow, Lucinda Long, and Bobbi Lazzarone — all avid mystery readers who thought LCC was a great idea and wanted to be a part of it! A special thank you to Doris Weber, Marjorie Jones, and Bob O’Neill who conceived the concept and design of our humorous miner reading a mystery sitting on the ore cart. It never fails to make me and all who have seen it, laugh!

Behind the local volunteers is a corps of volunteers who are the stalwarts of LCC. Thank you, Lucinda Surber, Stan Ulrich, and Noemi Levine, for your expertise, patience, and guidance in all matters that make Crime on the Comstock a success. What a pleasure it has been working with everyone.

Enjoy the conference. Take advantage of all the interesting panels, Author-Reader Connections, Meet the New Authors breakfast, and talking to other writers and readers in the hallways. If you have comments or need restaurant or sightseeing advice, please stop one of our local volunteers and ask! We want you to see that there is more to Reno than what you thought!

Lynn Bremer  
LCC 2018 Chair



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• **Check the Bulletin Board** by the Registration Table in the Nugget Foyer for news, programming changes, etc....

• **Don’t Forget To Vote!** Put your Lefty ballot in the box at the Registration Table by 1:30 PM on Saturday afternoon.

• **Your Name Tag** is your “ticket” to all LCC panels, interviews, and other events, such as the Welcome Reception, breakfasts, and the Lefty Awards Banquet (plus dinner ticket).

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*Sisters in Crime would like to salute  
its members being honored at*  
**LEFT COAST CRIME 2018:  
CRIME ON THE COMSTOCK!**

*Guest of Honor*  
**Naomi Hirahara**

*Guest of Honor*  
**William Kent Krueger**

*Toastmaster*  
**Todd Borg**

*Congratulations to Sisters in Crime members nominated for Lefty Awards!*

**BEST HUMOROUS**

Donna Andrews  
Ellen Byron  
Marla Cooper  
Cynthia Kuhn  
Cindy Sample

**BEST HISTORICAL**

Rhys Bowen  
Jennifer Kincheloe  
Renee Patrick  
Priscilla Royal  
Jeri Westerson

**BEST DEBUT**

Susan Alice  
Bickford  
Kellye Garrett  
Wendall Thomas  
Nancy Tingley  
Kathleen Valenti


**BEST MYSTERY**


Matt Coyle  
William Kent  
Krueger  
Louise Penny  
Terry Shames  
James W. Ziskin

*To join our community of authors, readers, publishers, agents,  
booksellers and librarians, visit [SistersinCrime.org](http://SistersinCrime.org).*

*Sisters in Crime* <sup>®</sup>

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# Convention Overview

## Wednesday, March 21

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3:00 PM – 5:00 PM Registration begins in Nugget 2 Foyer (continuing Thursday 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM; Friday & Saturday 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM; Sunday 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM)

## Thursday, March 22

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9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Author Speed Dating in Nugget Ballroom 1  
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Book Room & Silent Auction open in Nugget Ballroom 2  
12 noon – 4:30 PM Panels and Interviews begin (see detailed schedule pp. 5-10)  
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM Welcome Reception in Nugget Ballroom 1: light appetizers, cash bar, Lefty Award nominee recognition, and more

## Friday, March 23

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7:15 AM – 8:45 AM Meet the New Authors continental breakfast in Nugget Ballroom 1  
9:00 AM – 6:30 PM Book Room & Silent Auction in Nugget Ballroom 2  
9:15 AM – 6:00 PM Panels and Interviews continue (see detailed schedule pp. 6-8)  
8:00 PM – 9:00 PM Ghost of Honor Mark Twain (McAvoy Layne)



DISSOLUTE  
AUTHOR

## Saturday, March 24

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7:15 AM – 8:45 AM Continental breakfast in Nugget Ballroom 1  
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Book Room & Silent Auction in Nugget Ballroom 2  
9:15 AM – 5:00 PM Panels and Interviews continue (see detailed schedule pp. 8-10)  
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Silent Auction final bidding in Nugget Ballroom 2, cash bar in Foyer  
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Lefty Awards Banquet in Nugget Ballroom 1

- Four Lefty Awards (see p. 79)
- Silent Auction winners posted (redeem winning bids after banquet)

## Sunday, March 25

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9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Book Room in Nugget Ballroom 2; redeem winning Silent Auction bids  
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Regular panels conclude (see detailed schedule p. 10)  
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Guests of Honor closing panel (*no signing afterward*)  
*So long...* Have a safe trip home and we'll see you at LCC 2019 in Vancouver, BC!

- 
- **Author Book Signings** are in the Book Room, Nugget Ballroom 2, following each Panel and most Interviews.
  - **Silent Auction** is ongoing in the Book Room — Nugget Ballroom 2 — from Thursday afternoon until the Lefty Award Banquet at 7:00 PM Saturday. Winners will be posted and items can be redeemed after the Banquet and on Sunday morning. Bid early, bid often, and take home a treasure! (For info on the auction proceeds recipient WACCS, see p. 85.)
  - **Volunteers:** If you'd like to help out, check in at the Volunteer Table in the Nugget 2 Foyer.
  - **Hospitality Corral by Sierra Rooms** — Coffee, tea, snacks, and conversation. *Hours:* Thursday, 11 AM – 4 PM; Friday & Saturday, 10 AM – 4 PM; Sunday, 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM.
  - **Breakfast seating is limited.** It's first come, first-served at the breakfast buffets on Friday & Saturday.
  - **Don't Forget To Vote!** Your Lefty Awards Ballot is included in your registration envelope. Please put your ballot in the ballot box at the Registration Table in the Nugget 2 Foyer by 1:30 PM on Saturday.
  - **Shipping Services.** The Business Center is located next to the Front Desk on floor 1 and will have extra staff on Saturday & Sunday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
  - **Book Exchange** — Please use only the designated exchange table in the Nugget 2 Foyer. Other items placed on the exchange table will be removed.
  - **Promotions & Swag** — Please use the special table(s) in the Nugget 2 Foyer for bookmarks & other promotional wonders, and let's keep it nice and neat!



# MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA

THE WORLD'S OLDEST ORGANIZATION OF PROFESSIONAL WRITERS

## CELEBRATING OVER 73 YEARS OF GREAT MYSTERIES

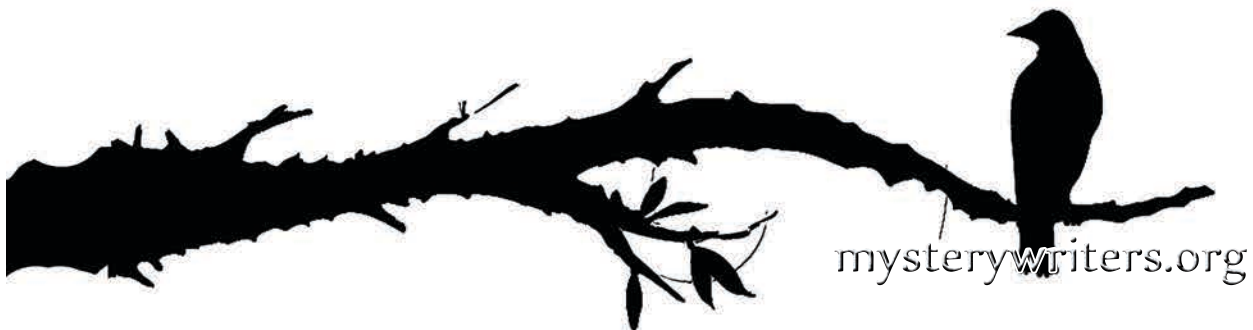
Mystery Writers of America is the premier organization for mystery writers, professionals allied to the crime writing field, aspiring crime writers, and those who are devoted to the genre. MWA is dedicated to promoting a higher regard for crime writing and recognition and respect for those who write within the genre. We provide scholarships for writers, sponsor literacy programs and educational programs and conferences, present the Edgar® Awards and conduct other activities to further a better appreciation for crime writing.

MWA also works to educate writers and those who aspire to write regarding their rights and interests, and to make writers and readers aware of matters which may affect crime writing through legislation, publishing industry practices, judicial decisions, or in other ways. Our membership includes writers of books, short stories, plays, and screenplays; publishers, editors, agents, librarians, booksellers, and other in allied fields; aspiring writers and others devoted to crime writing.

Membership is open to everyone, and you do not need to reside in the U.S. to join.  
Please visit our website [www.mysterywriters.org](http://www.mysterywriters.org) for more information, or for an application

✦ **Networking:** With over 3,000 members worldwide, MWA represents and celebrates the great spectrum of diversity within our genre: Suspense, traditional mystery, thriller, historicals, cozies, PI novels and True Crime. Through our eleven chapters, our members hold meetings, regional conferences, email exchanges and social events.

Some of our member benefits include chapter membership, newsletters devoted to the business end of writing, mentor programs, manuscript critique programs and much more. See our website for all the details.





WORTH A MILLION



MILLIONAIRES LAYING PLANS



WORTH NOTHING

## Detailed Schedule

Note: Book signings take place in the Book Room, Nugget Ballroom 2, immediately following a panel or interview. Panel appearances are subject to change. See the Pocket Program for the latest printed information. For room locations, see the hotel map on the back cover.

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### Thursday morning, March 22

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**9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

#### **Author Speed Dating**

Hosted by Les & Leslie Blatt • *Special Event in Nugget Ballroom 1*

#### **Lunch Break (on your own)**

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### Thursday afternoon, March 22

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**Noon – 12:45 PM**

#### **Regrets, I've Had a Few: What I Wish I Knew When I Started**

Linda Joy Singleton (M), Wendy Hornsby, Libby Klein, Alec Peche, Kathleen Valenti • *Panel in Sierra 1*

#### **LCC 101: Introduction to LCC**

Lucinda Surber (M), Lynn Bremer, Noemi Levine, Linda McNab, Janet Rudolph • *Panel in Sierra 2*

#### **Walk the Line: How Much Research Is Too Much?**

Elena Hartwell (M), Denise (Deni) Dietz, Sabrina Flynn, Charles Rosenberg, Barb Schlichting  
• *Panel in Sierra 3*

#### **I Got Stripes: Behind the Scenes with Real Law Enforcement Professionals**

Mike Spencer (M), Christine Husom, James L'Etoile, David Putnam • *Panel in Sierra 4*

**1:15 PM – 2:00 PM**

#### **Something's Gotta Give: Out of the Box Traditionals**

Warren C. Easley (M), Anne Cleeland, Margaret Dumas, Carlene O'Neil, Ann Saxton Reh • *Panel in Sierra 1*

#### **It's Now or Never: Late in Life Authors & Protagonists**

Terry Shames (M), Cathy Ace, Ellen Kirschman, Pat Stoltey, Heather Young • *Panel in Sierra 2*

#### **In Other Words, Hold My Hand: Romantic Elements in Crime Fiction**

Diane Kelly (M), Scotti Andrews, Yves Fey, Rebecca Grace, Terry Odell • *Panel in Sierra 3*

#### **Shot a Man in Reno: Clichés in Crime Fiction**

Craig Faustus Buck (M), Mark Bacon, Chris Goff, Annie Hogsett, Marty Wingate • *Panel in Sierra 4*

#### **Nevada's Legalization of Casinos & the Rise of Reno as the "Biggest Little City"**

Eric Moody, Neal Cobb • *Special Event in Cascade 3-4*

**2:30 PM – 3:15 PM**

**I Did It My Way: Paths to Publication**

Janice Peacock (M), Leo W. Banks, Ross Carley, Steph Cha, Bruce Rolfe • *Panel in Sierra 1*

**I've Got You Under My Skin: Writing Medicine & Science**

Linda A. Petrilli (M), H.S. Clark, Bette Golden Lamb, J.J. Lamb • *Panel in Sierra 2*

**Devil in Disguise: Odd Jobs & Strange Professions**

Linda Joffe Hull (M), Mysti Berry, John Billheimer, Bill Fitzhugh, Tammy Kaehler • *Panel in Sierra 3*

**That Old Black Magic: Paranormal Suspense**

Sandy Wright (M), Alice Henderson, Eileen Magill, Margaret C. Morse, Dänna Wilberg • *Panel in Sierra 4*

**Cheating with Lady Luck: Good luck is far too rare to leave to chance**

Howard W. Herz • *Special Event in Cascade 3-4*

**3:45 PM – 4:30 PM**

**Toastmaster Interview: Todd Borg**

Interviewed by Catriona McPherson • *Cascade 1-2*

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**Thursday evening, March 22**  
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**6:00 PM – 7:30 PM**

**Welcome Reception • Nugget Ballroom 1**

Greetings, light snacks, cash bar, Lefty Award nominees introduced ... and more

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**Friday morning, March 23**  
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**7:15 AM – 8:45 AM**

**Meet the New Authors Breakfast**

Mike Befeler and Les & Leslie Blatt (Emcees) • LCC registrants welcome, seating limited • *Nugget Ballroom 1*

**9:00 AM – 9:45 AM**

**Impersonations: Creating Three-Dimensional Characters**

[TBA] (M), Corey Lynn Fayman, Timothy Hallinan, Barbara Petty, Nancy Cole Silverman • *Panel in Sierra 1*

**Days of Wine and Roses: Culinary Mysteries**

Leslie Karst (M), Catherine Bruns, Daryl Wood Gerber, Sharon Moore, Nadine Nettmann • *Panel in Sierra 2*

**I Still Miss Someone: Ghosts, Hauntings & Horror**

Michele Drier (M), Paty Jager, Margaret Lucke, Catherine Paul, Jo Perry • *Panel in Sierra 3*

**Ring of Fire: Writing Political Thrillers**

Lisa Brackmann (M), David Hagerty, Kay Kendall, Mike Lawson, Gregory Zeigler • *Panel in Sierra 4*

**10:15 AM – 11:00 AM**

**Highway Patrolman: Law Enforcement Research**

Amy Rogers (M), Shannon Baker, Steven Cooper, Dianne Emley, Terry Odell • *Panel in Sierra 1*

**Gentle on My MInd: The Fun & Familiar Cozy**

Ellen Byron (M), Kristi Abbott/Lillian Bell, Pat Batta, Vickie Fee, Sherry Harris • *Panel in Sierra 2*

**Lefty Award Nominees Past & Present: Best Historical Mystery**

Laurie R. King (M), Jennifer Kincheloe, Catriona McPherson, Priscilla Royal, Kelli Stanley • *Panel in Sierra 3*

**That's Life: Creating Realistic Amateur Sleuths**

Tammy Kaehler (M), Marla Cooper, Judy Copek, Kathy Krevat/Aarons, Gigi Pandian • *Panel in Sierra 4*



**11:30 AM – 12:15 PM**

**I Get a Kick Out of You: How Much Violence Is too Much?**

Simon Wood (M), Robin Burcell, Parnell Hall, David Putnam, Travis Richardson • *Panel in Sierra 1*

**Everybody Loves Somebody Sometime: Gender Roles in Crime Fiction**

Jacque Ben-Zekry (M), Susan Alice Bickford, Lisa Brackmann, Cherie O'Boyle, Laurie Rockenbeck • *Panel in Sierra 2*

**Lefty Award Nominees: Best Mystery**

Todd Borg (M), Matt Coyle, William Kent Krueger, Terry Shames, James W. Ziskin • *Panel in Sierra 3*

**I Thought About You: Recommending Favorite Reads**

Lee Goldberg (M), D.J. Adamson, Leslie Blatt, Andi Shechter, Sue Trowbridge • *Panel in Sierra 4*

**Lunch Break (on your own)**

**Friday afternoon, March 23**

**1:30 PM – 2:15 PM**

**What's Your Prequel? Which Classic Character They'd Like To Write**

Phoef Sutton (M), Todd Borg, Craig Faustus Buck, Ray Daniel, Laurie R. King • *Panel in Sierra 1*

**A Little Less Conversation: Writing Great Dialogue**

Anne Cleeland (M), Aaron Elkins, Priscilla Royal, Charles Salzberg, Reavis Z. Wortham • *Panel in Sierra 2*

**Lefty Award Nominees: Best Debut Mystery**

Lucinda Surber (M), Susan Alice Bickford, Kellye Garrett, Wendall Thomas, Nancy Tingley, Kathleen Valenti  
• *Panel in Sierra 3*

**Trouble in Mind: Pulp Detectives of the Past & Present**

Matt Coyle (M), J.D. Allen, Christa Faust, Mike McCrary, Clive Rosengren • *Panel in Sierra 4*

**2:45 PM – 3:30 PM**

**Mambo Italiano: Writing Other Cultures**

Jill Amadio (M), Dorothy Black Crow, Matthew Iden, Bharti Kirchner, Gigi Pandian • *Panel in Sierra 1*

**No Charge: The Role of Police in Modern Crime Fiction**

Josh Stallings (M), Claire Booth, Steph Cha, Tyler Dilts, G.M. Malliet • *Panel in Sierra 2*

**Lefty Award Nominees: Best Humorous Mystery**

Janet Rudolph (M), Donna Andrews, Ellen Byron, Marla Cooper, Cynthia Kuhn • *Panel in Sierra 3*

**Wooden Heart: Craft Mysteries**

Gay Coburn Gale (M), Peggy Ehrhart, Cheryl Hollon, Sybil Johnson, Camille Minichino • *Panel in Sierra 4*

**4:00 PM – 4:45 PM**

**What Kind of Fool Am I?: Writing in More Than One Genre**

Mike Befeler (M), Maegan Beaumont, Daryl Wood Gerber, Phoef Sutton, Keith Tittle • *Panel in Sierra 1*

**If I Told You Who It Was: Twists & Reveals in the Modern Thriller**

Sharon St. George (M), R.G. Belsky, Harry Hunsicker, Elizabeth Little, Kirk Russell • *Panel in Sierra 2*

**Come Fly with Me: International Settings**

Wendy Hornsby (M), Annamaria Alfieri, Cara Black, Jane Stillwater, Nancy Tingley • *Panel in Sierra 3*

**Somethin' Stupid: Pitfalls in Writing the Opposite Gender**

Thomas Perry (M), Robert Downs, Roger Johns, S.J. Rozan, James W. Ziskin • *Panel in Sierra 4*

**Mystery Improv with Naomi Hirahara**

Naomi Hirahara, Tyler Dilts, Daryl Wood Gerber, Glen Erik Hamilton, Janet Rudolph  
• *Special Event in Cascade 1-2*

5:15 PM – 6:00 PM

**Guest of Honor Interview: William Kent Krueger**

Interviewed by G.M. Malliet • *Cascade 1-2*

***Dinner Break (on your own)***

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**Friday evening, March 23**

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8:00 PM – 9:00 PM

**Mark Twain in Performance** — with McAvoy Layne (see page 25) • *Special Event in Cascade 1-2*

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**Saturday morning, March 24**

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7:15 AM – 8:45 AM

**Continental Breakfast**

LCC registrants welcome • *Nugget Ballroom 1*

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

**Arrivaderci Roma: Historical Mysteries**

Mary Lawrence (M), Ana Brazil, Michael J. Cooper, Janet Dawson, Melissa Lenhardt • *Panel in Sierra 1*

**Birth of the Blues: Going from Idea to Story with Pantsers & Plotters**

Annamaria Alfieri (M), Mark Bacon, Becky Clark, Kim Fay, Ilene Schneider • *Panel in Sierra 2*

**Strangers in the Night: International Espionage**

Chris Goff (M), Lance Charnes, Libby Fischer Hellmann, Michael Niemann, Trevor Scott • *Panel in Sierra 3*

**Hound Dogs and Cool Cats: Animals in Mysteries**

Donna Andrews (M), Janet Finsilver, Waverly Fitzgerald, Diane Kelly, J.R. Ripley • *Panel in Sierra 4*

10:15 AM – 11:00 AM

**Suspicious Minds: The Liars Panel**

Kelli Stanley (M), Christa Faust, Lee Goldberg, Howard Michael Gould, William Kent Krueger

• *Panel in Sierra 1*

**All the Way to Reno: LCC Regional Settings**

Katherine Bolger Hyde (M), Mary Feliz, Kellye Garrett, Glen Erik Hamilton, Nancy G. West

• *Panel in Sierra 2*

**I Gotta Be Me: Self, Traditional & Hybrid Publishing Options**

H.S. Clark (M), Colleen Dunn Bates, Heather Haven, Sheila Simonson, Simon Wood • *Panel in Sierra 3*

**Jailhouse Rock: The Legal System in Crime Fiction**

Ken Isaacson (M), Teresa Burrell, Jennifer Kincheloe, Keenan Powell, L.F. Robertson • *Panel in Sierra 4*

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**Editor's Note:**

Nifty graphics from an 1872 edition of Mark Twain's *Roughing It* (public domain, Gutenberg.org) will pop up here and there in this Program Book, without further explanation.



**11:30 AM – 12:12 PM**

**Desperado: Writing a Great Villain**

Mark Stevens (M), Dale Berry, Michael Kurland, Thomas Perry, Brian Thornton • *Panel in Sierra 1*

**Muddy Waters: Social Issues in Crime Fiction**

Debra H. Goldstein (M), Pat H. Broeske, Bryan Gruley, Leslie Karst, S.J. Rozan • *Panel in Sierra 2*

**Good Luck Charm: Finding the Right Editor**

Eileen Magill (M), Jacque Ben-Zekry, Lisa Q. Mathews, Chantelle Aimée Osman, Zoe Quinton  
• *Panel in Sierra 3*

**The Wonder of You: Taking Emotional Risks in Writing**

Naomi Hirahara (M), Dianne Emley, Timothy Hallinan, Jamie Mason, Josh Stallings • *Panel in Sierra 4*

**Lunch Break (on your own)**

**Lefty Ballots due at 1:30**

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**Saturday afternoon, March 24**  
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**1:30 PM – 2:15 PM**

**Burning Love: The Sex Panel**

Holly West (M), Cara Black, Bill Fitzhugh, Linda Joffe Hull, Catriona McPherson • *Panel in Sierra 1*

**It's How You Use It: Art of the Short Story & Novella**

Stephen W. Buehler (M), Darrell James, Eleanor Cawood Jones, Rob Pierce, Kate Thornton • *Panel in Sierra 2*

**You Make Me Feel So Young: Mystery in YA Fiction**

Janet Dawson (M), Wrona Gall, Kelly Garrett, Christina Hoag, Peggy Townsend • *Panel in Sierra 3*

**I've Got the World on a String: Setting as Character**

Ann Parker (M), John Billheimer, Baron R. Birtcher, Christine Carbo, Robert D. Kidera • *Panel in Sierra 4*

**2:45 PM – 3:30 PM**

**The Match Game**

Chantelle Aimée Osman (M), Bryan Gruley, Glen Erik Hamilton, Jamie Mason, Nadine Nettmann,  
L.J. Sellers • *Panel in Sierra 1*

**Young at Heart: Keeping a Series Alive**

Elizabeth Little (M), Philip Donlay, Aaron Elkins, D.R. Ransdell, Wendall Thomas • *Panel in Sierra 2*

**Can't Help Falling in Love: Spotlight on Independent Publishers**

J.J. Lamb (M), D.Z. Church, Heather Haven, L.C. Hayden, Libby Fischer Hellmann • *Panel in Sierra 3*

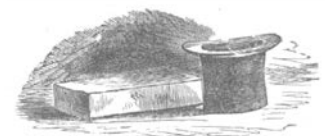
**Always on My Mind: Unforgettable Women in the Genre**

Tina Whittle (M), Lou Berney, Lori Rader-Day, Angela M. Sanders AKA Clover Tate, S.A. Solomon  
• *Panel in Sierra 4*

**4:00 PM – 4:45 PM**

**Guest of Honor Interview: Naomi Hirahara**

Interviewed by S.J. Rozan • *Cascade 1-2*



SILVER BRICKS

**5:15 PM – 6:00 PM**

**The Not So Secret Life of Authors**

Simon Wood (M), Lou Berney, Christa Faust, Bill Fitzhugh, Linda Joffe Hull, Catriona McPherson  
• *Bar Stories in Cascade 1-2*

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**Saturday evening, March 24**  
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**6:00 PM – 7:00 PM**

**Reception** — Cash bars at 6:00 in Nugget 2 Foyer • Silent Auction final bidding (Silent auction items may be redeemed after the Lefty Awards Banquet and on Sunday morning.)

**7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**Lefty Awards Banquet.** Toastmaster Todd Borg — Be sure to bring your Banquet Ticket • *Nugget Ballroom 1*

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**Sunday morning, March 19**  
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**9:00 AM – 9:45 AM**

**Sway: Bloggers & Reviewers Give Tips to Authors**

Travis Richardson (M), Les Blatt, Robert Downs, Parnell Hall, Erica Ruth Neubauer • *Panel in Sierra 1*

**You Are My Sunshine: The Great Outdoors**

Pamela Beason (M), Judy Copek, Margaret Mizushima, Ann Parker, Mark Stevens • *Panel in Sierra 2*

**Unchained Melody: Portraying Psychiatric Disorders**

Charles Rosenberg (M), Ellen Kirschman, Sheila Lowe, Lori Rader-Day, Lynne Raimondo • *Panel in Sierra 3*

**The Door Is Still Open: Academic & Bookstore Mysteries**

Randal Brandt (M), Vinnie Hansen, Cynthia Kuhn, Con Lehane, Bourne Morris • *Panel in Sierra 4*

**10:15 AM – 11:00 AM**

**How You Can Be Part of Left Coast Crime! — Everyone welcome...**

Lucinda Surber (M), Janet Rudolph, Stan Ulrich, LCC Standing Committee • *Confab in Sierra 1*

**Too Close for Comfort: Plot Ideas Ripped from the Headlines**

Harry Hunsicker (M), Laurie Fagen, Cheryl Reed, Mark Wheaton • *Panel in Sierra 2*

**High Hopes: Winning PR & Marketing Ideas**

Teresa Burrell (M), Ken Isaacson, John Rucker, Bonnie Sermon, Rich Zahradnik • *Panel in Sierra 3*

**My Kind of Town: Rural & Suburban Crime Fiction**

David Hagerty (M), Shannon Baker, James Hayman, Clea Simon, Heather Young • *Panel in Sierra 4*

**11:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

**Guests of Honor Closing Panel** (*no signing afterward*)

Cathy Ace (M), Todd Borg, Naomi Hirahara, William Kent Krueger • *Panel in Sierra 1*

**The LCC National Committee • LCC Conference, Inc. • Website: [www.leftcoastcrime.org](http://www.leftcoastcrime.org)**

*The Standing Committee:*

Bill Gottfried, Toby Gottfried, Noemi Levine,  
Lucinda Surber, Stan Ulrich  
Chantelle Aimée Osman  
(Member-at-Large thru LCC 2018)  
Les & Leslie Blatt  
(Members-at-Large thru LCC 2019)

*LCC Convention Chairs (last two & future LCCs):*

2016 Phoenix: Ingrid Willis  
2017 Honolulu: Gay Coburn Gale  
2018 Reno: Lynn Bremer  
2019 Vancouver: Linda McNab & Colleen Glynn

*Emeritus Members:*

Bryan Barrett, Tom Schantz, Thom Walls

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LEFTY AWARD FINALISTS!

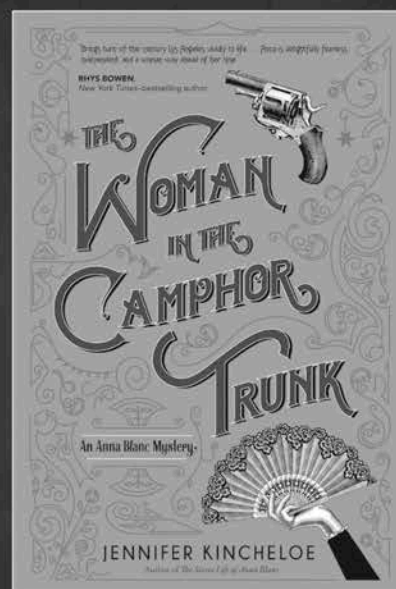
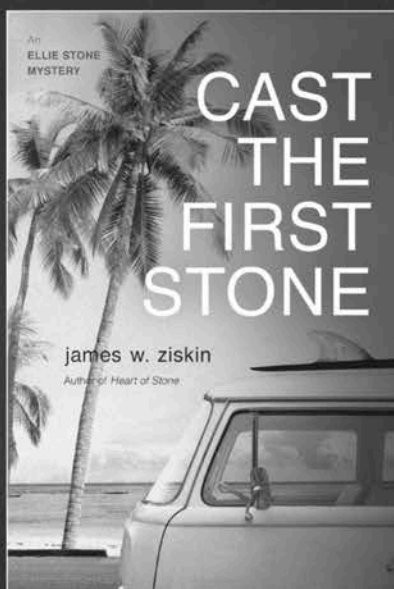
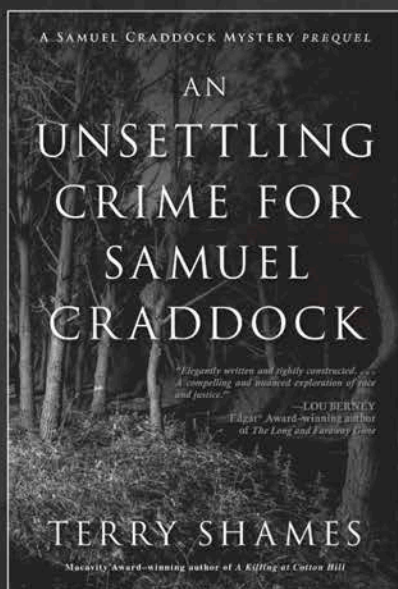
**TERRY SHAMES**



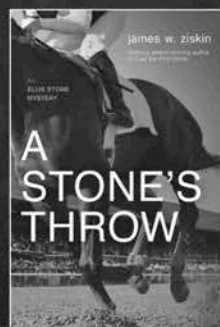
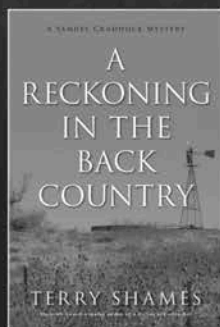
**JAMES W. ZISKIN**



**JENNIFER KINCHELOE**



**Also by these authors:**

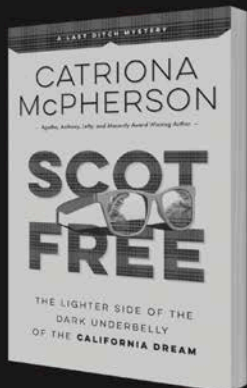


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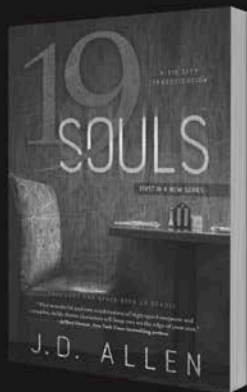


# Series Debuts

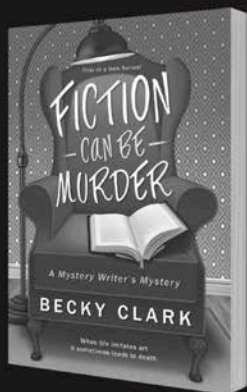
*from Midnight Ink*



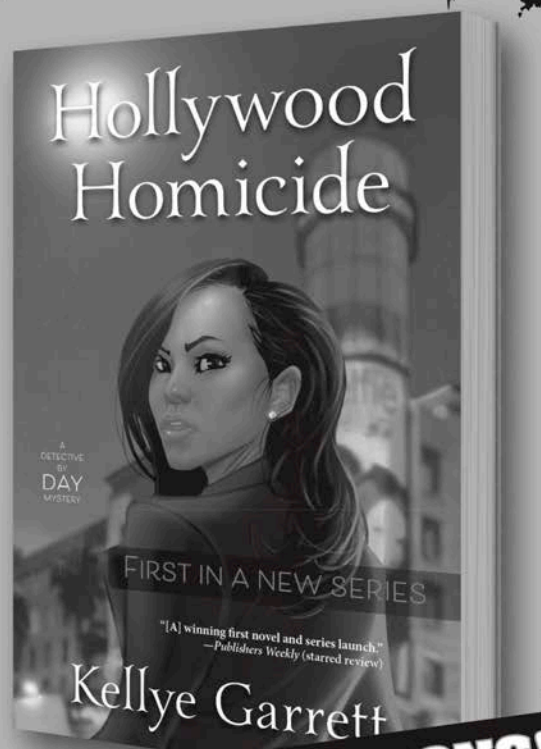
**Catriona McPherson**



**J.D. Allen**



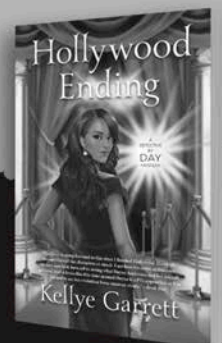
**Becky Clark**



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## Cascade 3-4 Happenings:

# One Shots and You Had Me At...

This year we are featuring two exciting new additions to programming: **One Shots** and **You Had Me At...** will alternate in **Cascade 3-4** throughout the day on Friday and Saturday.

There will be a quick five-minute break between the 15-minute presentations and 5-minute readings.

Please drop by and stay as long as you like!

**One Shots** — Fifteen minute presentations by authors and attendees with interesting information or specializations they'd like to share.

**You Had Me At...** Readers! Time to meet new authors. Authors read the first page of their novel, novella, or short story, just enough to provide a respite from the busy convention and get you wanting more.

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### Friday Schedule — Cascade 3-4

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- 9:10 – 9:15 Lisa Q. Matthews reads from *Fashionably Late*  
9:20 – 9:25 Lance Charnes reads from *The Collection*  
9:30 – 9:45 Michael Cooper presents: Jerusalem Through the Centuries  
9:50 – 9:55 Mary Lawrence reads from *Death at St. Vedast*  
10:00 – 10:05 Mark S. Bacon reads from *Desert Kill Switch*  
10:10 – 10:15 Wendy Hornsby reads from *Number 7, Rue Jacob*  
10:20 – 10:35 Christina Hoag presents: Writing Outside Your Comfort Zone  
10:40 – 10:45 Dorothy Black Crow reads from *The Black Cradleboard*  
10:50 – 10:55 Bharti Kirchner reads from *Season of Sacrifice: A Maya Mallick Mystery*  
11:00 – 11:15 Janice Peacock presents: Making Art with Hot Glass  
11:20 – 11:25 Bruce Rolfe reads from *Tools of the Trade*  
11:30 – 11:35 Annamaria Alfieri reads from *Strange Gods*  
11:40 – 11:55 Mysti Berry presents: Understanding Identity and Security in Cyberspace

#### Lunch Break

- 1:30 – 1:35 Howard Michael Gould reads from *Last Looks*  
1:40 – 1:45 Leslie Karst reads from *Death al Fresco*  
1:50 – 2:05 Dr. Ellen Kirschman presents: Police Psychology  
– The Real and the Fictional  
2:10 – 2:15 Christina Hoag reads from *Skin of Tattoos*  
2:20 – 2:25 D.Z. Church reads from *Perfidia*  
2:30 – 2:35 Robert D. Kidera reads from *Cut.Print.Kill*  
2:40 – 2:45 David Hagerty reads from *They Tell Me You Are Brutal*  
2:50 – 3:05 Laurie Fagen presents: How To Write a Press Releases for Authors  
3:10 – 3:15 Michael Cooper reads from *The Rabbi's Knight*  
3:20 – 3:25 Ann Parker reads from *A Dying Note*  
3:30 – 3:45 Sheila Lowe presents: An Introduction to Handwriting Analysis  
3:50 – 3:55 Nancy Cole Silverman reads from *Room for Doubt*  
4:00 – 4:05 Katherine Hyde reads from *Bloodstains with Brontë*  
4:10 – 4:15 Ellen Byron reads from *A Cajun Christmas Killing*  
4:20 – 4:25 Libby Klein reads from *Class Reunions Are Murder*  
4:30 – 4:55 Nadine Nettmann presents: A Crash Course on Wine Pairings



**Saturday Schedule — Cascade 3-4**

- 9:00 – 9:15 James L'Etoile presents: Prison Trivia
- 9:20 – 9:25 Matt Coyle reads from *Blood Truth*
- 9:30 – 9:45 Ellen Byron presents: Dance it Out – be prepared to move!
- 9:50 – 9:55 Susan Bickford reads from *A Short Time To Die*
- 10:00 – 10:05 Peggy Ehrhart reads from *Murder She Knit: A Knit and Nibble Mystery*
- 10:10 – 10:15 Rich Zahradnik reads from *Lights Out Summer*
- 10:20 – 10:35 Dr. Dorothy Black Crow presents: How To Incorporate Foreign Languages without Losing Readers
- 10:40 – 10:45 Roger Johns reads from *Dark River Rising*
- 10:50 – 10:55 Paty Jager reads from *Haunting Corpse*
- 11:00 – 11:15 Nancy Tingley presents: Art Historians as Detectives
- 11:20 – 11:25 Phoef Sutton reads from *Colorado Boulevard*
- 11:30 – 11:35 Robert Downs reads from *The Fix*
- 11:40 – 11:55 Nancy Cole Silverman presents: Taming Your Muse

**Lunch Break**

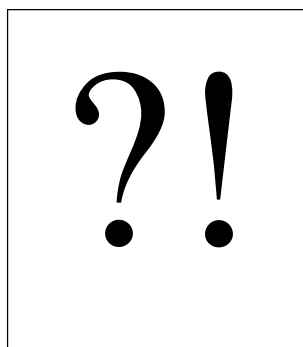
- 1:30 – 1:35 Catherine Bruns reads from *Tastes Like Murder*
- 1:40 – 1:45 Matt Iden reads from *Birthday Girl*
- 1:50 – 2:05 Bharti Kirchner presents: How To Make Your Setting Come Alive
- 2:10 – 2:15 Laurie Fagen reads from *Dead Air*
- 2:20 – 2:25 Ellen Kirschman reads from *The Fifth Reflection*
- 2:40 – 2:45 Nancy Tingley reads from *A Death in Bali*
- 2:50 – 3:05 Annamaria Alfieri presents: Making History Come Alive – How To Create an Authentic Atmosphere in Historical Thriller
- 3:10 – 3:15 Mysti Berry reads from *By the Numbers*
- 3:20 – 3:25 Jill Amadio reads from *Digging Up the Dead*
- 3:30 – 3:45 Phoef Sutton presents: Working with a Co-writer
- 3:50 – 3:55 Cheryl L. Reed reads from *Poison Girls*

LCC Program Books back to the beginning are archived at [www.leftcoastcrime.org/History.html](http://www.leftcoastcrime.org/History.html) – **except one!** If you have the **1992 book**, please lend it to the Standing Committee so we can complete the archives.



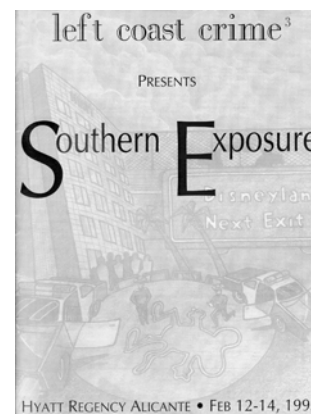
**1991– LCC #1 in San Francisco**

Guests of Honor: Marcia Muller & Bill Pronzini; Toastmaster: Bruce Taylor; Chair: Bryan Barrett



**1992– LCC #2 in San Francisco**

Guests of Honor: J.A. Jance & Earl Emerson; Toastmaster: James Lee Burke; Chair: Donna Rankin



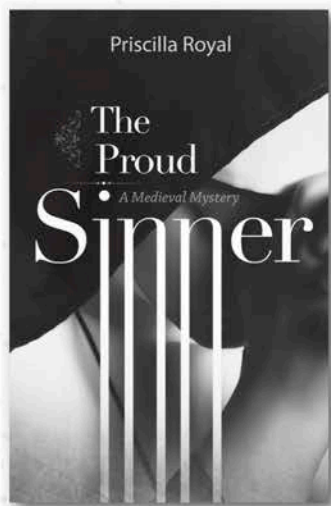
**1992– LCC #3 in Anaheim, CA**

Guests of Honor: Susan Dunlap & Julie Smith; Toastmasters: Ann & Evan Maxwell; Chairs: Kevin Moore & Kathy Johnson



# Congratulations to Priscilla Royal!

Her novel, ***The Proud Sinner***, has been nominated for a Lefty Award for **Best Historical Mystery Novel**.



"A medieval prioress with a talent for solving murders suddenly has far too many for comfort. Royal's 13th medieval murder takes a page from *The Mousetrap*, forcing the detective to think outside the box imprisoning her and her suspects."

— *Kirkus Reviews*

ISBN: 9781464207273

# Congratulations to Wendall Thomas!

Her debut novel, ***Lost Luggage***, has been nominated for a Lefty award for **Best Debut Mystery Novel**.



"Thomas makes a rollicking debut with this comic mystery featuring an unconventional protagonist who proves to have the skills of MacGyver. With its sexy overtones, this fun, character-driven novel will appeal to Janet Evanovich fans."

— *Library Journal* (starred review)

ISBN: 9781464208928

  
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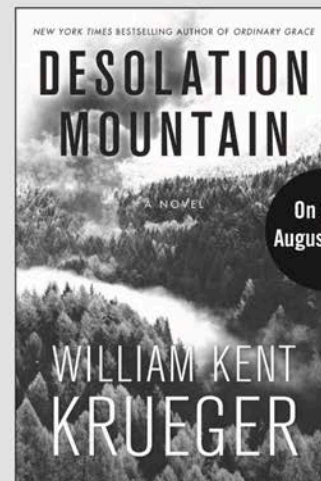
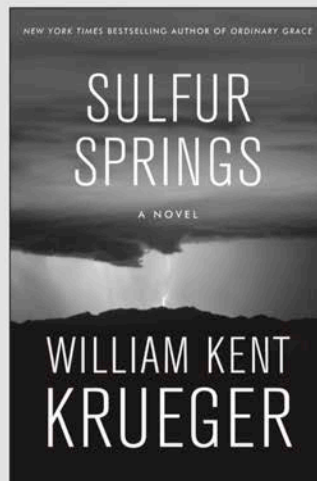
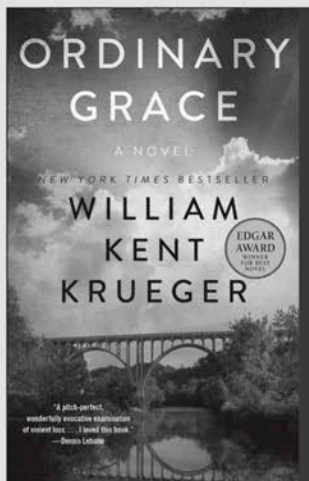
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KRUEGER**



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*New York Times* bestselling author William Kent Krueger has been honored with just about every award in the mystery genre, including: the Anthony (four times), the Dilys (two times), the Barry (two times), the Minnesota Book Award (five times), the Macavity, and the 2014 Edgar Award for Best Novel for *Ordinary Grace*.

Over the course of seventeen books, Kent's Cork O' Connor Mystery Series has become one of the most acclaimed and popular series in contemporary fiction.

Don't miss his latest, Lefty Best Novel nominee *Sulfur Springs*, and look for *Desolation Mountain*, coming in August 2018.

# Guest of Honor: Naomi Hirahara

by Dianne Emley

Among the myriad stereotypes about Los Angeles, which it is adept at spawning, is that no one is *from* here. So when two among the many native Angelenos meet, especially if they came of age in the same off-the-radar pocket within the megalopolis — the foothill communities of the San Gabriel Valley — there's an immediate connection, like an exchange of a secret handshake. That's how I felt the first time I met Naomi Hirahara at a meeting of the Southern California Mystery Writers of America Board of Directors, to which we had both been elected in 2007.

Naomi had recently won the Edgar Award for *Snakeskin Shamisen*, the third book in her acclaimed, bestselling series featuring her unlikely sleuth Mas Arai, an atomic bomb survivor who's now an aging, curmudgeonly gardener in Altadena, CA, a character inspired by Naomi's father. At the time, Naomi and I were both living in Pasadena and frequently carpooled to writer events. Truth: People don't walk (much) in L.A. While navigating traffic (that L.A. nightmare is accurate), Naomi and I got to know each other. Something you should know about Naomi, if you don't already, is that she's a nice person. That's not an adjective that I bestow lightly. She's truly kind, big-hearted, and interested in people. She's a stand-up person, true to her word, and open minded. And she has a wickedly quick sense of humor. I'm delighted that over the years we've become friends.

The greater L.A. area is home to a long established Japanese-American community with a large population in L.A.'s eastside, where I grew up. Many of my grade school friends were Nisei, meaning American-born of Japanese immigrants. Most of their parents had been sent to detention camps during WWII. Like Naomi, on Saturdays my Nisei friends were unavailable for fun because they were attending Japanese school in Downtown L.A.'s Little Tokyo. Through my friends, I'd

come to learn about and love California's Japanese American culture. Naomi is passionate about researching, documenting, and supporting this rich and underrepresented aspect of California history.

In college, Naomi expanded on her interests in Japanese and other cultures, majoring in International Relations at Stanford, spending a summer volunteering in Ghana, and studying Japanese language in Tokyo. Returning to L.A. and her roots, she did a stint as the editor of the *Rafu Shimpo*, a Japanese-language newspaper, which my best friend's father read after he returned in the evening from his job in the produce department of a local supermarket. Naomi eventually began writing books, nonfiction at first, with topics that delved into aspects of local Japanese-American culture such as Japanese-American gardeners in Southern California and notable Californian Japanese Americans.

Then Naomi tackled her first novel, *Summer of the Big Bachi*, introducing Mas Arai to the world. The world loved him. In addition to winning an Edgar, the series has racked up nominations for the Macavity and the Anthony awards, and earned such honors as the *Chicago Tribune's* Ten Best Mysteries and Thrillers and *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year. Naomi has concluded the seven-book series with *Hiroshima Boy*, which has just been released by Prospect Park Books.

Never content to rest on her laurels, Naomi embarked on new challenges, pushing her own boundaries. Seeking to craft a younger and more contemporary protagonist, Naomi wrote *Murder on Bamboo Lane* and *Grave on Grand Avenue*, which feature young, urban, Asian-American LAPD bicycle cop Ellie Rush. Naomi also penned a middle grade novel, *1001 Cranes*, a story about how learning to fold traditional origami paper cranes helps a Japanese-American girl go through a difficult period in her life. I had the pleasure of sharing a book fair table with Naomi and watching her guide the children who stopped by in making simple origami figures. They loved it and it was clear that Naomi did




## Honoree Appreciation

too. She says she'd like to write another children's book and I hope she does.

With Mas Arai's saga concluded, Naomi is busy reinventing herself yet again, tackling an astounding variety of projects and new skills. Her courage and vigor amaze me. Can she bottle it, please? How about taking on improv comedy? Yep. Developing *Summer of the Big Bachi* into an independent film? Can't wait to

see it. Starting a new series about Japanese Americans in Chicago after WWII? Heck yeah! All while she finds time to support civic and cultural events and show up at friends' book launches. Like one of her book titles, she is a *gasa-gasa* girl. Who knows where her talent and inspiration will take her next? We're eager to hang on for the ride.



THE FINAL MAS ARAI MYSTERY  
**Hiroshima Boy**  
Edgar Award-Winning Author  
**NAOMI HIRAHARA**

*Mas Arai series:*

- Summer of the Big Bachi (2004)
- Gasa-Gasa Girl (2005)
- Snakeskin Shamisen (2006)
- Blood Hina (2010)
- Strawberry Yellow (2013)
- Sayonara Slam (2016)
- Hiroshima Boy (2018)

*Ellie Rush series:*

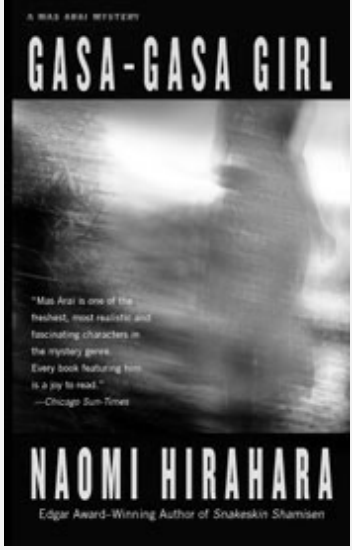
- Murder on Bamboo Lane (2014)
- Grave on Grand Avenue (2015)

*Other fiction:*

- 1001 Cranes (2008)

*Selected non-fiction:*

- An American Son: The Story of George Aratani (2001)
- Life After Manzanar (2018)  
[with Heather C. Lindquist]



A MAS ARAI MYSTERY  
**GASA-GASA GIRL**  
"Mas Arai is one of the richest, most realistic and fascinating characters in the mystery genre. Every book featuring him is a joy to read."  
—Chicago Sun-Times  
**NAOMI HIRAHARA**  
Edgar Award-Winning Author of Snakeskin Shamisen

# Congratulations!

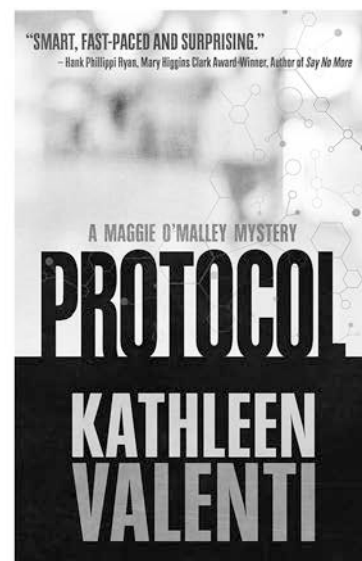


"Between the covers is absolute humor, yet under the funny stuff lies a serious suspense-filled story."  
— *Suspense Magazine*



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— Annette Dashofy,  
*USA Today*  
Bestselling Author

# The Extraordinary Grace of William Kent Krueger

by Lori Rader-Day

I first met William Kent Krueger as his stalker.

Not quite like that.

This was about eight or nine years ago. I had just learned that the book I was writing, my first attempt at a novel, might be crime fiction. I had not planned for this. I was years deep into a master of fine arts degree, and, as far as I knew, no one there was writing crime novels. But I had also just earned a spot in a writing workshop that covered a lot of different kinds of writing — and William Kent Krueger, mystery writer, would be teaching there.

At the workshop, I followed him from room to room. All weekend. Wherever this Krueger guy dropped knowledge, there I was, scraping it up.

Luckily I didn't stand out as a COMPLETE PSYCHO, because in fact many people followed Kent Krueger from room to room at that conference and, let's be honest, at this one. And probably in any situation where he might drop a pearl of wisdom. He's just that likeable, and he has just that amount of wisdom to share. And the thing is? He does. He shares it.

Since I stalked — ahem, met Kent Krueger, I've had a lot of opportunities to listen to him talk, publicly and casually, at conferences and workshops, during bookstore visits, and in the off hours of Left Coast Crime and other events, when it's time for a glass of wine with Diane. I've also had the chance to talk with Kent as a peer these last few years, and as his Mystery Writers of America chapter president for a while there. What stands out about Kent in every interaction is that he is generous, genuine, and always exactly as you hoped he'd be, if you met him first through his writing.

And what writing it is.

I hardly need to tell you because, chances are, you already know: William Kent Krueger is one of our moment's best writers, one of our genre's real artists. His generosity of spirit trickles over into his characters, where each gets the full effect of his powers, where each story is thrilling and touching in equal parts. Kent Krueger's books are enthralling, sublime in the way of an awe-inspiring landscape painting, like the best of the Hudson River School (Google it), only crafted in words:

mountains and waterfalls heavily featured, a storm brewing on the horizon, and, in the foreground, a tiny human figure down in the corner, jaw dropped.

Isn't that how you felt when you met Cork O'Connor and the Up North Minnesota settings of his adventures? Maybe it was in the Anthony and Barry award-winning

debut *Iron Lake* (1998) or in one of the other 15 Cork titles since then. The 17th in the series, *Desolation Mountain*, is out from Atria in August. When you visited Purgatory Ridge, Blood Hollow, Vermillion Drift — Kent would make a pretty good travel agent, wouldn't he? He sells these locations — you really went there. You felt the cold, smelled the wood smoke and the forests. Did you close the book to find to your surprise that you were not in the Boundary Waters at all but still sitting on your own lumpy couch?



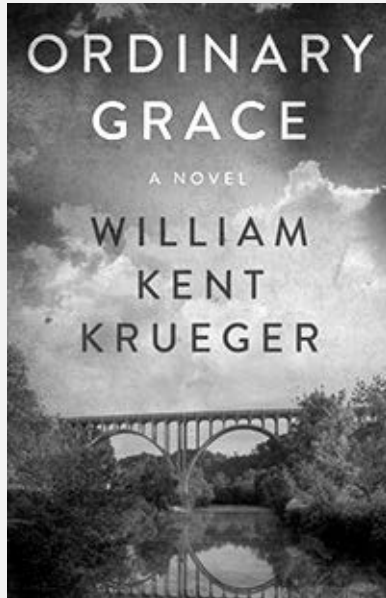
We got comfortable on that couch, letting Cork orient us in the woods. Until Kent Krueger published his (so far) masterpiece, *Ordinary Grace* (2013). *Ordinary Grace* launched to the *New York Times* bestseller list and won every award it was nominated for, which was most of them: Edgar Award for Best Novel, Midwest Booksellers Choice Award for Best Fiction, Goodreads Choice Awards for Best Mystery & Thriller, the Dilys Award from the Independent Mystery Booksellers Association, Left Coast Crime Award for Best Mystery Set Within the United States, Barry Award for Best Novel, Macavity Award for Best Novel, and Anthony Award for Best Novel. The Huffington Post said it was a book "once in a blue moon." The reviewers loved it. The booksellers loved it. And then the readers loved it. Love it, present tense. There's a quality of passion in the initiated. Kent Krueger wrote a book that has fervent believers. The ardent admiration some readers reserve for *Ordinary Grace* is what every writer hopes for, that our books will find the readers who will be most touched, even changed, by what we write. As readers, we only hope the writers we love are somewhere writing more.

## Honoree Appreciation

It's actually quite extraordinary to watch.

Meanwhile, how it's done is... ordinary. Krueger is up at the crack of dawn at a coffee shop down the street, writing the next book. This morning. Tomorrow. The day after that. Doesn't matter if it's Left Coast Crime this week. (It will be something else next week.) He's got a regular seat somewhere in this hotel where he can get coffee and his word count done, first thing. The Church of Ordinary Grace has not changed one thing about Kent Krueger in this respect: He is a craftsman of words in the sense that doing the work is what matters,

and the only way to get the work done is to come at it with the discipline of a woodworker, with the devotion of an acolyte. To work at the page as though it's an ordinary thing, until the words start to rise from the paper, stand on their own, expand their lungs, and breathe. Until the words form the mountain, the waterfall, the storm on the horizon, and the small human form witnessing, wrestling it all. Until the sublime is captured, corked. And then — William Kent Krueger does what he is known to do. He shares it.

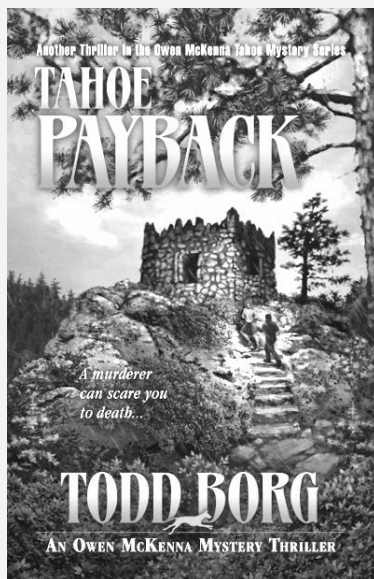
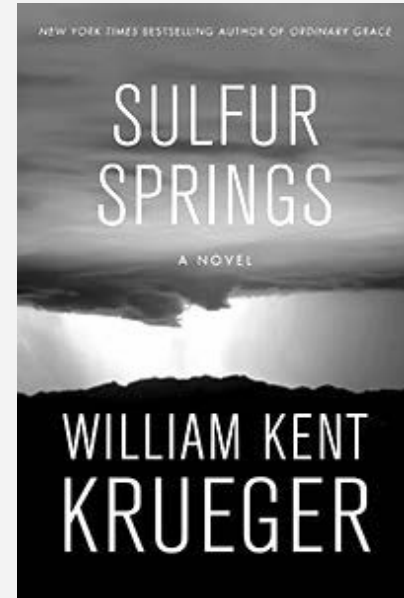


### *Cork O'Connor series:*

Iron Lake (1998)  
Boundary Waters (1999)  
Purgatory Ridge (2001)  
Blood Hollow (2004)  
Mercy Falls (2005)  
Copper River (2006)  
Thunder Bay (2007)  
Red Knife (2008)  
Heaven's Keep (2009)  
Vermilion Drift (2010)  
Northwest Angle (2011)  
Trickster's Point (2012)  
Tamarack County (2013)  
Windigo Island (2014)  
Manitou Canyon (2016)  
Sulfur Springs (2017)  
Desolation Mountain (2018)

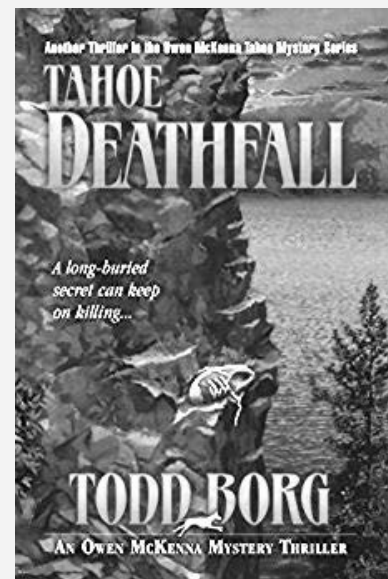
### *Non-series:*

The Devil's Bed (2003)  
Ordinary Grace (2013)



### *Owen McKenna (& Spot) series:*

Tahoe Deathfall (2001)  
Tahoe Blowup (2001)  
Tahoe Ice Grave (2002)  
Tahoe Killshot (2004)  
Tahoe Silence (2007)  
Tahoe Avalanche (2008)  
Tahoe Night (2009)  
Tahoe Heat (2010)  
Tahoe Hijack (2011)  
Tahoe Trap (2012)  
Tahoe Chase (2013)  
Tahoe Ghost Boat (2014)  
Tahoe Blue Fire (2015)  
Tahoe Dark (2016)  
Tahoe Payback (2017)  
Tahoe Skydrop (2018)



# Toastmaster: Todd Borg

## by Lynn Bremer



*The air up there in the clouds is very pure and fine, bracing and delicious. And why shouldn't it be?  
— it is the same the angels breathe.*

(Mark Twain, writing about Lake Tahoe, *Roughing It.*)

Todd grew up in Minnesota reading the mysteries of the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew and writing four mysteries of his own, which he says remain locked in his desk drawer. At the University of Minnesota, he was headed for medical school, but sometime in those four years he had an epiphany, when he realized that doctors had to be in hospitals, and he hated hospitals. He loved skiing and got a job in the skiing business. Oh, yes, and tried his hand as a singer/songwriter. In 1990, Todd and his artist wife Kit moved from Minnesota to Lake Tahoe in pursuit of the skiing life. During the non-skiing season, Todd continued reading mysteries, especially the triumvirate of male detectives, Dashiell Hammett, Raymond Chandler, and Ross Macdonald, notable for strong stories and characters. Add to the list, John D. Macdonald and Robert Parker, and Todd thought Tahoe would be the perfect place to set his own detective stories.

Todd's characters are transplants as well. In the first of the series, *Tahoe Deathfall*, Owen McKenna is an ex-San Francisco Homicide Detective, a loner and a hiker, who opens an investigation business after giving it all up (revealed in *Tahoe Blowup*) to live in a cabin on the Nevada side of the lake with a view of the California side, along with his Harlequin Great Dane, Spot. Street Casey is Owen's forensic entomologist girlfriend, who got her name from her mother not getting to the hospital on time. Street helps occasionally on cases when she studies the insects on the dead bodies to determine the time of death and other pertinent information. Owen's good friend is Sgt. Diamond Martinez, with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, a Mexican immi-

grant, smart, philosophical, with a love for English words.

It is the setting of Lake Tahoe, with its interesting landscape, that has a strong impact on Todd Borg's mysteries. All 15 of the mysteries begin with "Tahoe" in the title.

Lake Tahoe is another character in interesting stories. The setting does not change, but it is a setting that makes one want to revisit, or if one has not visited Lake Tahoe, makes one want to know it. Todd said he is grateful that the setting can be an intriguing aspect of the story. Besides being fun to write about, there are so many different places around the lake to set mystery scenes and the climate always adds its magical touches. If you are at the south shore of Lake Tahoe looking for a breakfast place, The Red Hut at Ski Run has a terrific Owen's Omelette!

After Reno won the bid for LCC 2018, the hunt was on for Nevada mystery writers. Thanks to Sundance Books, Todd gives a talk in Reno whenever he has a new book coming out, and I am a regular reader of his series. After one of his presentations, I had an excuse to tell him about LCC. Todd was my only choice for Toastmaster. He's a terrific ambassador for Lake Tahoe and Nevada writers, with that gift for stories and gab that we Nevadans enjoy!

"I am a lucky guy," he says, in excitement about being the 2018 Toastmaster, and is honored to be in the company of previous Left Coast Crime toastmasters.

Todd always has a busy schedule of speaking and signings. Next August, Todd's 16th book, *Tahoe Skydrop*, will be released. If anyone is looking for a different sort of fun event the last weekend of September, Todd will be at the Candy Dance in historic Genoa, the first permanent settlement in Nevada, when it was part of the Utah Territory and the Overland Emigrant Trail ran down its main street. The annual Candy Dance is an arts and crafts and food faire. Anyone with a sweet tooth will have two days of tasting and buying all sorts of delicious homemade candies, with all the funds going to the town coffers. The Candy Dance began in 1919, for the purchase and maintenance of street lighting. One of the best kept secrets about Nevada is that we have lots of fun history!

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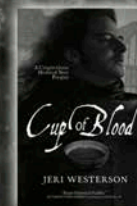
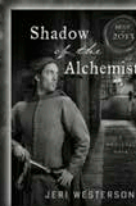
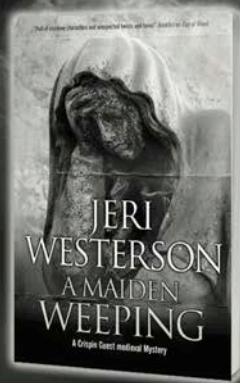
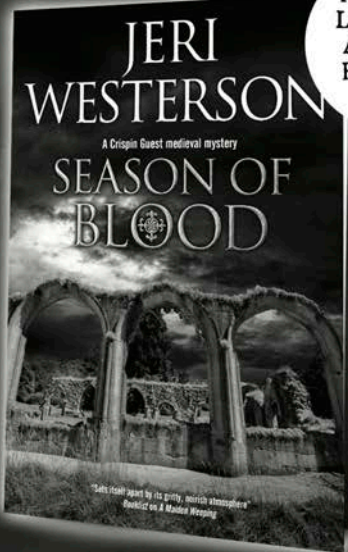
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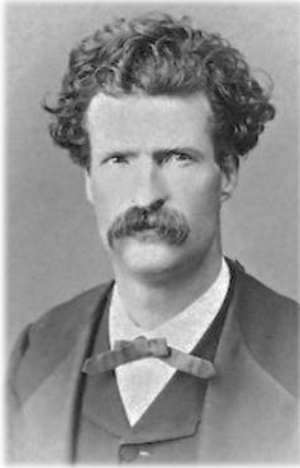


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Mark Twain in 1867

# Ghost of Honor: Mark Twain

## The Crimes of Mark Twain, by Michael Mallory

As a man of letters, Samuel L. Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, needs no introduction. As a crime writer, however, he might. While Twain commonly reserved his “pen warmed up in Hell” to skewer the social mores of the day, on occasion he turned his talents to the mystery tale, usually with his tongue firmly in his cheek.

The best-known of Twain’s mysteries, *Pudd’nhead Wilson*, is also a scathing treatise on small-town society and politics, slavery, and racism. Published in 1894, though set in the antebellum era, the novel contains perhaps the first fictional description of fingerprints being used as a means of identification. The book’s title character is a young lawyer named David Wilson, who on his first day in the town of Dawson’s Landing, Missouri, makes a joke that is so completely misunderstood by the locals it earns him the name “Pudd’nhead.” Wilson’s hobby of collecting and cataloguing the fingerprints of everyone in town on small pieces of glass further cements his reputation as a charming but eccentric dolt.

Years later one of the town’s most respectable citizens, Judge Driscoll, is stabbed to death with an ornate dagger belonging to a visiting Italian nobleman named Luigi Capello, who is arrested. Wilson finally gets to prove he is no dolt by acting as counsel for the defense. Through comparing the fingerprints in his collection with the prints left in blood on the dagger, Wilson proves that the killer is not Capello. It is instead the judge’s wastrel nephew Tom, who desperately needed his uncle’s money to pay gambling debts.

Then Wilson shockingly reveals that Tom is not really a Driscoll at all. He is the natural son of a very light-skinned former slave named Roxy, who had switched him with the real Tom, whom she was nursing, when they were babies. She did so in order to ensure that her son would never face being sold down the river to a brutal Southern plantation owner. In a final ironic twist that is chillingly grim even for Twain, that is precisely the fate of the false Tom.

At the time of *Pudd’nhead Wilson*’s publication, the practice of using fingerprinting for identification was brand new, and in use only in Argentina. The notion

would notably appear in the 1903 Sherlock Holmes story “The Adventure of the Norwood Builder.” Fingerprints would not become a staple of police procedure in the United States until 1906.

Two years after *Pudd’nhead Wilson*, Twain returned to a courtroom setting in the novella *Tom Sawyer, Detective* (1896). Once again the plot involved look-alikes, though this time they were identical twins, Jake and Jubiter Dunlap. Tom Sawyer and his best friend (and in this instance, his Watson) Huckleberry Finn are dispatched by Tom’s aunt to travel to Arkansas to run interference between Tom’s Uncle Silas and the Dunlap family, who are at odds. En route they encounter a mysterious, solitary figure who turns out to be Jake Dunlap, who vanished seven years earlier and was presumed dead. Jake reveals to Tom that he and two others stole a cache of valuable diamonds in St. Louis, and that he is now on the run from his former cohorts.

After the three arrive in town, Jake’s twin Jubiter is discovered dead, his body hidden, and Silas is not only blamed for the crime, he confesses to it! But Tom Sawyer figures otherwise. “Why, I had eyes and could see things, but they never meant nothing to me,” Huck Finn tells the reader. “When Tom Sawyer seen a thing it just got up on its hind legs and talked to him — told him everything it knowed!”

An Arkansas law (seasoned with a heavy dose of salt) permits teenaged Tom Sawyer to act as his uncle’s trial attorney. He reveals that while Silas had bonked Jubiter on the head, he had not killed him. How does he know this? Because Jubiter was still alive, and posing as Jake, truth deduced by Tom upon seeing a signature mannerism that Jubiter habitually displayed, which Jake did not. Jake Dunlap, therefore, was the dead man, having been killed by his two fellow jewel thieves.

In addition to recasting Tom and Huck (who repeatedly calls the opposing counsel “the lawyer for the prostitution”) as Holmes and Watson, Twain also drew details from a 17th-century true crime case in Denmark, which had been turned into the 1829 Danish novel *The Rector of Veilbye*, by Steen Steenson Blitcher.

But if Tom Sawyer as Sherlock Holmes wasn’t enough, Twain’s novelette *A Double-Barreled Detective Story* (1902) included the real thing — though Sherlockians would consider this version of the Great Detective non-canonical in the extreme. In fact, Twain’s satirical conceit is that Holmes’ hilariously convoluted deductions are always wrong.

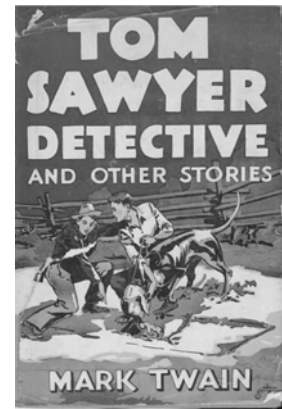
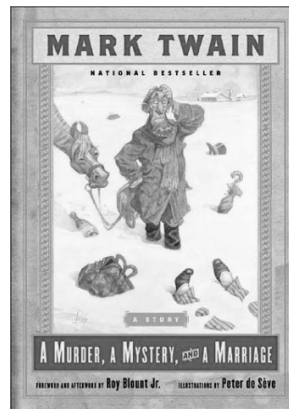
## Honoree Appreciation

The wild-and-wooly plot of *A Double-Barreled Detective Story* begins with a pregnant young woman being brutalized by her betrothed, one Jacob Fuller, who has set his bloodhounds on her. Fuller disappears and the woman gives birth to a boy named Archy, who is something of a human bloodhound, complete with night vision and an enhanced sense of smell. When the boy is old enough, his mother sends him on a mission to find Fuller.

Archy tracks who he thinks is Fuller to a Western mining town, whose residents also include a disagreeable man named Flint Buckner, and an English indentured servant named Fetlock Jones, who is Sherlock Holmes' nephew. Before long, Holmes himself shows up, having finally caught up with a gold miner and presumed career criminal named James Walker after a long pursuit. When Flint Buckner is killed, Holmes offers a completely erroneous solution to the murder, leaving it up to Archy to sniff out the real killer. Furthermore, Holmes' wrongful hounding and harassment of James Walker, who is innocent of everything, incites the other residents to mob justice, and they attempt to burn the Great Detective at the stake! Fortunately, Holmes is saved at the last minute by the town constable.

*A Double-Barreled Detective Story* was first published in April of 1902, right as the last serialized chapter of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* was appearing in *The Strand Magazine*, meaning that some American readers — and perhaps even Twain himself — might not have been aware that Conan Doyle had brought Holmes back from his literary death. So Twain's tale might be taken as the first effort to explain what Holmes was up to during his "Great Hiatus," or it might simply be a skewering of the entire detective genre and its leading light.

An even more bizarre mystery can be found in the novelette *A Murder, a Mystery, and a Marriage*, which Twain wrote in 1876, but which did not see authorized publication until 2011. The murder in question concerned an incidence of bad blood between two families, and the marriage was the culmination of a love triangle between the murdered man's brother, the accused killer, and a phony French count. Family feuds and bad betrothals were recurring themes in Twain's works. The mystery, however, was a real pip: how could the count have suddenly appeared half-buried in a snow bank without there being any footprints in the snow, or any other indication as to how he got there? Twain's original intent was to provide the story's setup only, and then have other prominent writers contribute their own solutions. Unfortunately, no one took him up on it, and the project was shelved. Only Twain's solution survives



... and it's enough to make one wonder what he was really smoking in those cigars.

The "count" turned out to be a French commoner named Jean Mercier, the assistant to novelist Jules Verne. Having gotten sick and tired of Verne's sending him off on one dangerous adventure after another for research purposes, Mercier pushed Verne out of a hot-air balloon, presumably to his death. (The real Verne was, of course, very much alive in 1876.) Later Mercier himself falls out of the gondola and lands in the snow, which is why there are no footprints.

Critics today theorize that Twain was burlesquing the huge popularity in America of works by the author he called "that French idiot." There is, however, another possible explanation. One of the American translators of Jules Verne's best-known books, including *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, in the 1870s was one Rev. Louis Page Mercier, who bylined himself "Mercier Lewis." Under any name, Mercier was an inept translator who frequently reduced Verne's prose and scientific details to nonsense. If Twain realized that, could the root of his joke be that Jules Verne was murdered in America by a guy named Mercier?

Mark Twain could hardly be considered a serious rival to such contemporaries as Arthur Conan Doyle or Melville Davisson Post in terms of Victorian-era detective fiction. But his dabbles within the genre are nothing if not outrageous, whimsical, and sometimes barbed, though a lot of fun. They also confirm that Twain was a social and literary critic who considered no contemporary sacred.

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Reprinted with author's and publisher's permission, from *Mystery Scene*, Volume 33, Issue 4, Fall 2017. Thanks Michael, Kate, and Brian!

Michael Mallory is the author of the Amelia Watson and Dave Beauchamp mystery series, and is a Los Angeles-based journalist. His most recent book is *Essential Horror Movies*.

## Meet McAvoy Layne ~ Ghost of Honor Mark Twain

For 30 years, in over 4000 performances from Piper’s Opera House in Virginia City to Leningrad University in Russia, McAvoy Layne has been preeminent in preserving the wit and wisdom of “The Wild Humorist of the Pacific Slope,” Mark Twain.

McAvoy is a winner of the Nevada Award for Excellence in School and Library Service. He plays the ghost of Samuel Clemens in the Biography Channel’s episode of Mark Twain, and in the Discovery Channel’s Cronkite Award-winning documentary, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. He says, “It’s like being a Monday through Friday preacher, whose sermon, though not reverently pious, is fervently American.”

### *Nevada Territory, The Birthplace of “Mark Twain”*

Samuel Clemens lived in Nevada from 1861 to 1864, and visited the area twice after leaving. He engaged in prospecting on the Comstock Lode with dreams of striking it rich. He failed.

Clemens first used his famous pen name on February 3, 1863, when he wrote a humorous travel account to the Virginia City newspaper, the *Territorial Enterprise*.

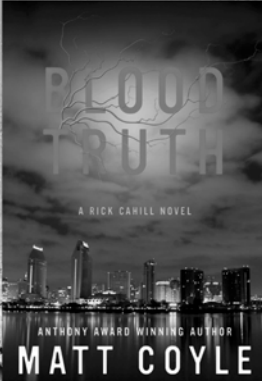
Among the lessons he learned in Nevada was “how far he could push a joke,” due to some “disagreeable experiences” he brought on himself. Thanks to his time in Nevada, Twain was able to enter easily into the Bohemian literary society of San Francisco in 1864, and “required no apology.... His work as a writer on the *Territorial Enterprise* had given him wide notoriety, and in previous visits to San Francisco he had been treated as a celebrity.”



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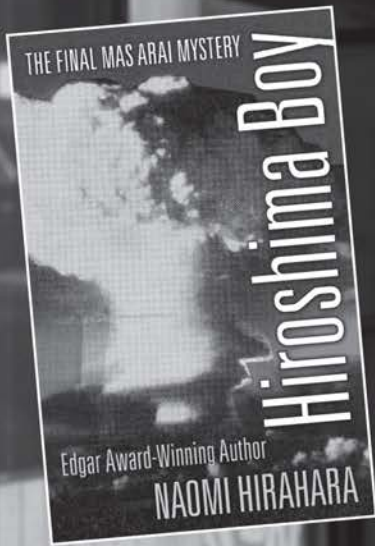


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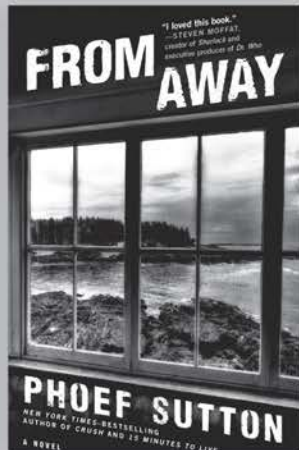
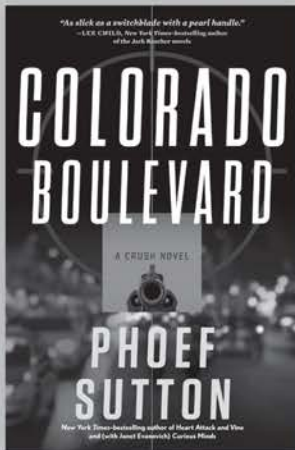
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# Congratulations to Guest of Honor Naomi Hirahara

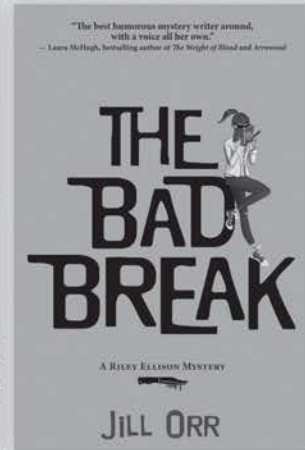
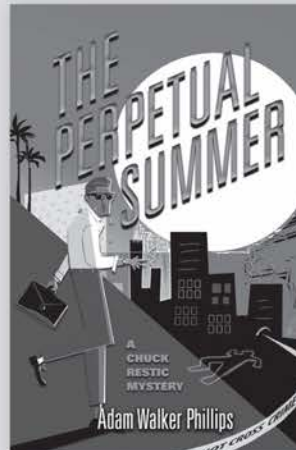


Naomi's award-winning Mas Arai mystery series concludes this month with the publication of *Hiroshima Boy*

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# “G” Is for Grafton

## by Janet Rudolph

Sue Grafton, a trailblazer writer of the female P.I., passed away on December 28, 2017, at the age of 77. Sue was a gracious and talented woman with a wry sense of humor and a huge amount of Southern charm. She was supportive of other writers and a friend to all. Her books had terrific plots and great characters, including, of course, Kinsey Milhone. Her novels entertained us, filled with a unique zeitgeist and lessons on life.

Sue Grafton was one of my heroes... one of those people you admire, respect, and emulate. I've read all of her books — from *A Is for Alibi* to *Y Is for Yesterday*. In 1986, when she published *C Is for Corpse*, I invited her to speak at our fledgling Mystery Readers Literary Salon. Not surprisingly, she was a huge hit. At the 1990 Bouchercon in London, she replaced the “little black dress” with a black beaded jacket and pants, just as versatile. I don't remember Kinsey wearing that in the books, but it was perfect! I emulated Sue's fashion prowess! Understated but elegant.

I got to spend time with Sue in 2011 at Malice Domestic where we shared top billing... well, as if. I received the Poirot Award, and she, the Lifetime Achievement Award, so we were thrown together at various functions and talks. I mention this because we both received Malice teapots that we shipped back to our respective homes. Several weeks later, I noticed my teapot read “Sue Grafton: Lifetime Achievement.” After a short time considering the ethical thing to do, I emailed Sue and let her know. Yes, our teapots had been switched by the shippers. For a brief moment I had a very special souvenir.

In 2014, I asked Sue to be a “Special” Guest at Left Coast Crime in Monterey. At that LCC, I got to spend more time with her and her husband Steve, discussing travel and gardening and the Kentucky Derby. She was so gracious and the

perfect guest, available to all. What an enjoyable time for her fans and friends!

Sue was also very supportive of new and veteran writers. I ran into her at several conventions, and I was always amazed when I saw her sitting alone in panel sessions, taking notes. She never stopped learning or sharing her knowledge with anyone in the mystery community and beyond.

Sadly, there will be no *Z Is for Zero*. The Alphabet ends with Y.

As to Sue's writing, she was clever in establishing a character, appealing to so many, who aged only seven years in the 25 novels. No need for new forensics. Her mysteries have been published in 28 countries and 26 languages — including Estonian, Bulgarian, and Indonesian. Books in her Kinsey Milhone Alphabet series, beginning with *A Is for Alibi* in 1982 and ending last year with *Y Is for Yesterday*, are international bestsellers with readership in the millions.

Named a Grand Master by the Mystery Writers of America, Sue received many other honors and awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Private Eye Writers of America, the Ross Macdonald Literary Award, the Cartier Diamond Dagger Award from Britain's Crime Writers' Association, the Lifetime Achievement Award from Malice Domestic, the Lifetime Achievement Award from our own Left Coast Crime, the Anthony Award given by Bouchercon, the Macavity, the Barry, and three Shamus Awards.

Her experience as a screenwriter taught her the basics of structuring a story, writing dialogue, and creating action sequences which served her well when returning to writing fiction. While going through a “bitter divorce and custody battle that lasted six long years,” Sue imagined ways to kill or maim her ex-husband. Her fantasies were so vivid that she decided to write them down. We all



Sue Grafton “G Is for Guest” interview, with Brad Parks, Toastmaster, at Left Coast Crime in Monterey, March 20, 2014

## Honoree Appreciation

remember “The Jerk” and the stories she told about him at conferences and talks in those early days.

Long fascinated by mysteries that had related titles, including those by John D. MacDonald, whose titles referenced colors, and Harry Kemelman, who used days of the week, and then Edward Gorey’s *The Gashlycrumb Tinies*, an alphabetical picture book of children who die by various means, she got the idea to write a series of novels based on the alphabet. She immediately sat down and made a list of all of the crime-related words that she knew. This exercise led to her chronological series of Kinsey Milhone, P.I. mystery novels. Known as “the alphabet novels,” the stories are set in and around the fictional town of Santa Teresa, California. Santa Teresa is based on Santa Barbara, outside of which Grafton lived in the suburb of Montecito. Grafton also chose to use the name Santa Teresa as a tribute to the author Ross Macdonald, who

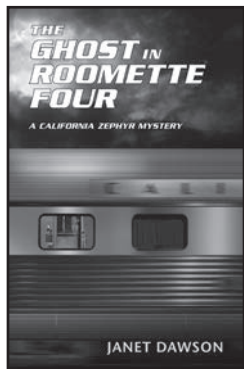
had used it as a fictional name for Santa Barbara in his own novels.

In 1992, Sue told the *Chicago Tribune* that she wanted to be the “king of American mysteries” — “Not the queen, please. I want to be the king.” OK, then. All Hail, the King!

Sue was scheduled to be the Lifetime Achievement Honoree at the next Left Coast Crime convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, in March 2019. She will remain “G Is for Guest” in our hearts. Perhaps the best tribute we can do to honor Sue Grafton is to read or re-read all of her mysteries, starting with “A...” Thanks, Sue, for leaving such a wonderful legacy.

For a fun article about Sue Grafton that you may have missed, check out the magazine *Garden & Gun*, February-March 2014: “Sue Grafton’s Kentucky Garden.”

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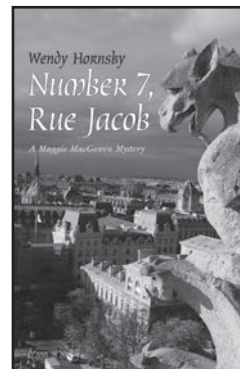
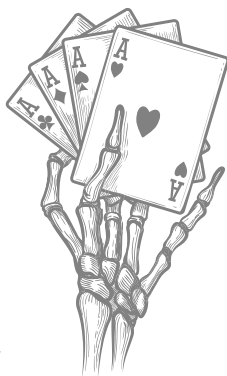
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## Kristi Abbott AKA Lillian Bell

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Eileen Rendahl is the national-bestselling and award-winning author of the Messenger series, four Chick Lit novels, and a psychological thriller. She writes cozy mysteries as Kristi Abbott and Lillian Bell and romantic suspense as Eileen Carr. If you think you're confused, imagine what it's like inside her head. She started writing for the worst of reasons (she thought it would be easy!) and has spent years working on her craft. She has had many jobs and lived in many cities and feels unbelievably lucky to be where she is now and to be doing what she's doing.

[www.EileenRendahl.com](http://www.EileenRendahl.com)

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## Cathy Ace

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Originally from Wales, now-Canadian Cathy Ace writes two series — one in the Christie tradition, one an Anglophile's cozy dream — both with a Welsh accent! Her Cait Morgan mysteries feature a Welsh-Canadian foodie criminal psychologist sleuth who travels the world tripping over “The Corpse with the...(insert precious body part).” The WISE Enquiries Agency mysteries feature four fiercely professional, if soft-boiled, female PI's who investigate quintessentially British cases from a Welsh stately home. Her recently published anthology *Murder Keeps No Calendar*, looks back to when Cait Morgan met Bud Anderson, and when the WISE women decided to work together.

[cathyace.com](http://cathyace.com)

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## D.J. Adamson

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D.J. Adamson is the author of the Lillian Dove Mystery series, and *Outré*, a science fiction-suspense YA that has won three Indie awards. She is the editor of *Le Coeur de l'Artiste*, a newsletter that reviews books, and the blog, L'Artiste, with authors speaking on craft, marketing, and the creative mind. D.J. teaches writing and literature at Glendale College. She is a past board member of Sisters in Crime Los Angeles and Central Coast, a member of the Southern California Mystery Writers, California Writers Club, and Greater Los Angeles Writer's Society. Her books can be found and purchased in bookstores and on Amazon.

[www.djadamson.com](http://www.djadamson.com)

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## Annamaria Alfieri

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Annamaria Alfieri wanted to be a novelist at age nine, but her poor working-class background required her to seek reliable income. Following a career in management consulting, she returned to her first love. Of her debut historical mystery, published in her 60s, *The Washington Post* said: “As both history and mystery *City of Silver* glitters.” Then came two more South American stories. Her Africa series began with *Strange Gods*, British East Africa in 1911. The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* said “the flair of Isak Dinesen... the cunning of Agatha Christie.” *The Idol of Mombasa* followed in 2016 and *The Blasphemers* this year.

[www.annamariaalfieri.com](http://www.annamariaalfieri.com)

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**J.D. Allen**

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J.D. Allen's a Mystery Writers of America Freddie Award-winner. Her Sin City Investigations series launched with *19 Souls* earlier this year. She has a short story in the Anthony Award-winning anthology, *Murder Under the Oaks*, as well as *Carolina Crimes*. She's the chair of the Bouchercon National Board, a member of MWA and PI Writers of America, and president of her local Sisters in Crime chapter. She's an Ohio State University alum with a degree in forensic anthropology and a creative writing minor.

[www.jdallenbooks.com](http://www.jdallenbooks.com)

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**Jill Amadio**

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Like Tosca Trevant, the amateur sleuth in her crime series, *Digging Too Deep* and *Digging Up the Dead*, Jill Amadio hails from Cornwall, UK. But she is nowhere near as grumpy or unwittingly hilarious as her main character, a younger Miss Marple. Jill is also a true crime and thriller ghostwriter and biographer. She was a reporter in Spain, Thailand, Colombia, and the United States. She writes a monthly column for the UK-based *MysteryPeople* ezine, and free-lances for *My Cornwall* magazine. Jill lives in Orange County in Southern California, where it hardly ever rains, much to Tosca's annoyance.

[jillamadiomysteries.com](http://jillamadiomysteries.com)

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**Scotti Andrews**

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Scotti Andrews is an award-nominated writer of thrillers and horror, as well as erotic romances written under the pen name Elise Covert. While she may look like the sweet California girl that she is, her heart is dark and her imagination is even darker. Her female characters are talented with both men and knives, and her stories explore the wonder, fear, and despair of life. With her stories, she promises to scare you and then beckon you to delve deeper into your own dark side.

[www.scottiandrews.com](http://www.scottiandrews.com)

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**Donna Andrews**

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Donna Andrews was born in Yorktown, Virginia, and now lives in Reston. *Gone Gull* and *How the Finch Stole Christmas* are the 21st and 22nd books in her Agatha, Anthony, and Lefty winning Meg Langslow series, to be followed in 2018 by *Toucan Keep a Secret* and *Lark, the Herald Angels Sing*. When not writing — wait: when is she not writing? She currently serves as the Executive Vice President of Mystery Writers of America and is active in Sisters in Crime. She blogs with the Femmes Fatales at [femmesfatales.typepad.com](http://femmesfatales.typepad.com)

[donnaandrews.com](http://donnaandrews.com)

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**Mark Bacon**

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Mark S. Bacon began his career as a southern California newspaper police reporter, one of his stories becoming key evidence in a murder case spanning decades. His Nostalgia City mystery series takes place at a desert theme park recreating a 1970s small town, complete with period cars, clothes, shops, music, restaurants, hotels, fads—the works. The books are partially based on his experience as a copywriter for Knott's Berry Farm theme park. He has also taught journalism and written business books, including one selected as a Library Journal best business book of the year. He is the author of two collections of flash fiction stories — mysteries in exactly 100 words.

[www.baconsmysteries.com](http://www.baconsmysteries.com)



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**Shannon Baker**

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Self-proclaimed desert rat and (aspiring) NYT bestselling writer, Shannon Baker is the author of the Kate Fox mystery series set in the remote Nebraska Sandhills. She generously brings this unique setting to life with humor and affection so you don't have to actually go to Nebraska to experience it. Kirkus says: "Baker serves up a ballsy heroine, a colorful backdrop, and a surprising ending." She was voted Rocky Mountain Fiction Writer's 2017-18 Writer of the Year. Tucson sunset notwithstanding, Baker is, and always will be, a Nebraska Husker. Go Big Red.

[www. Shannon-Baker.com](http://www.Shannon-Baker.com)

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**Colleen Dunn Bates**

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Colleen Dunn Bates is the publisher of Prospect Park Books, one of the leading trade publishers in Southern California. Distributed by Consortium/Ingram, Prospect Park publishes fiction – including mysteries – cookbooks, regional books, and humor/gift titles. Among the mystery authors she publishes are Left Coast Crime honoree Naomi Hirahara, author of the Mas Arai series; Crush series author Phoebe Sutton; Riley Ellison series author Jill Orr; and Chuck Restic series author Adam Walker Phillips. An L.A. native who earned a journalism degree from USC, Colleen is vice president of the PubWest board, and also serves on the board of Immaculate Heart High School in Los Angeles.

[www.prospectparkbooks.com](http://www.prospectparkbooks.com)

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**Pat Batta**

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Patricia (Pat) Batta expects to be writing until she is 114 years old. To find out why, you'll have to talk to her at LCC. After retirement, she wrote the six book Marge Christensen Mystery Series. You can find information on Pat and that series at her website. Marge refused to move with her to Prescott, Arizona, however, so Pat took her daughter Kate instead. She published the first book in the Katie in Cactus Mystery Series, *A Death in Cactus City*, this year.

[www.lillimarpublishing.com](http://www.lillimarpublishing.com)

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**Pamela Beason**

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Pamela Beason, a retired private investigator, has wrestled with monkeys in Africa, hand-fed stingrays in the Caribbean, and nearly collided with bears on Pacific Northwest hiking trails. She shares her love of animals and outdoor adventure as well as her investigation experience in the Sam Westin mysteries (suspense in the wilderness), the Neema mysteries (signing gorillas involved in mayhem), and the Run for Your Life young adult trilogy (extreme endurance racing and murder mystery). Pam's lighter side also occasionally crops up in romantic suspense novels and screenplays.

[pamelabeason.com](http://pamelabeason.com)

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**Maegan Beaumont**

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Maegan Beaumont is the author of the award-winning Sabrina Vaughn thriller series. Her debut novel, *Carved in Darkness*, was awarded the 2014 gold medal by Independent Publishers for outstanding thriller. When she isn't locked in her office torturing her protagonists, she's busy chasing chickens (and kids), hanging laundry, and burning dinner. Either way, she is almost always in the company of her eight dogs, her truest and most faithful companions, and her almost as faithful husband, Joe.

[maeganbeaumont.com](http://maeganbeaumont.com)

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**Mike Befeler**

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Mike Befeler is author of 14 books including six novels in the Paul Jacobson Geezer-lit Mystery Series and recent standalones: *Court Trouble: A Platform Tennis Mystery*; an international thriller, *The Tesla Legacy*; and *Death of a Scam Artist*. Mike is past-president of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of Mystery Writers of America. After a 39-year business career, he retired into writing. He grew up in Hawaii, spent many years in Boulder, Colorado, and currently lives in Lakewood, California, with his wife Wendy. In addition to mystery writing, Mike is a professional grandpa, being entertained daily by his 2 ½ year old grandson.

[www.mikebefeler.com](http://www.mikebefeler.com)

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**R.G. Belsky**

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R.G. Belsky is an author of crime fiction and a journalist in New York City. His newest mystery, *Yesterday's News*, will be published in May 2018 by Oceanview. It is the first in a series featuring Clare Carlson, the news director for a New York City TV station. He previously wrote the Gil Malloy series for Atria about a tabloid newspaper reporter. Belsky himself has been a top editor at the New York Post (where he helped create the famous "Headless Body in Topless Bar" headline), the New York Daily News, Star magazine, and NBC News.

[www.rgbelsky.com](http://www.rgbelsky.com)

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**Jacque Ben-Zekry**

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Jacque Ben-Zekry is a freelance developmental editor with six years' experience, and the owner of Modify Editorial. She has edited over 45 books. Along with her freelance work, she was also a founding member of Amazon Publishing's crime fiction imprint, Thomas & Mercer, where she worked for six years as the head of marketing and as an acquisitions editor.

[www.modifyeditorial.com](http://www.modifyeditorial.com)

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**Lou Berney**

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Lou Berney is an accomplished writer, teacher, and liar. He is the author of the Edgar Award-winning *The Long and Faraway Gone*, *Whiplash River*, and *Gutshot Straight*. He teaches in the Red Earth MFA Program at Oklahoma City University.

[www.louberney.com](http://www.louberney.com)

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**Dale Berry**

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Dale Berry is the creator of the graphic novel series *Tales of the Moonlight Cutter*, paranormal-suspense thrillers set in medieval China. His graphic short stories appear in *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*. In collaboration with writer Gary Phillips, he is currently hard at work on *The Be-Bop Barbarians*, due later this year from Pegasus Books. A San Francisco-based writer and illustrator, he is married to fellow author and lifelong companion Mysti Berry.

[www.myriadpubs.com](http://www.myriadpubs.com)

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## Mysti Berry

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Mysti Berry makes crazy software dollars with technical writing and spends them all on crime fiction. She loves writing screenplays and novels, and her short stories have appeared in anthologies and *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*. Mysti is editing a crime-fiction anthology to fight voter suppression: *Low Down Dirty Vote*, to be published July 4, 2018.

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## Susan Alice Bickford

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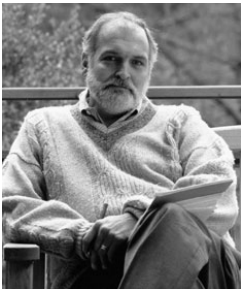
Susan Alice Bickford was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and grew up in Central New York. After she discovered computer graphics and animation, her passion for technology pulled her to Silicon Valley, where she became an executive at a leading technology company. She now works as an independent consultant, and continues to be fascinated by all things high tech. She splits her time between Silicon Valley and Vermont. Susan's debut novel, *A Short Time To Die*, was published in January 2017.

[www.susanalicebickford.com](http://www.susanalicebickford.com)

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## John Billheimer

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John Billheimer, a native West Virginian, lives in Portola Valley, California. He holds an engineering Ph. D. from Stanford and is the author of the “funny, sometimes touching” Owen Allison mysteries set in Appalachia's coalfields. A new series featuring a Midwest sportswriter with a gambling problem debuted in 2012 with the baseball/steroid mystery *Field of Schemes*, followed by *A Player To Be Maimed Later*. *Primary Target*, a mystery dealing with voter shenanigans in West Virginia, is due later this year, along with a nonfiction book, *Hitchcock and the Censors*.

[www.johnbillheimer.com](http://www.johnbillheimer.com)

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## Baron R. Birtcher

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Baron R. Birtcher is the author of the bestselling Mike Travis series, and the stand-alones *Rain Dogs* and *South California Purples*. Randy Wayne White refers to Mike Travis as “a character who is both likeable and flawed — a credible Travis McGee gone South Pacific native.” Don Winslow says, “You want to read Birtcher's books, then you want to live in them.” Birtcher has received starred reviews and critical raves from *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus*, and *Booklist*, and has been nominated for a number of awards including the Lefty, the Nero, and the Claymore, and is a three-time recipient of the Silver Falchion. He currently lives in Kona, Hawaii, and Portland, Oregon.

[www.BaronRBirtcher.com](http://www.BaronRBirtcher.com)

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## Cara Black

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Cara Black writes the *NY Times* and *USA Today* bestselling Aimée Leduc investigation series set in the different *arrondissements* of Paris. She's a member of NorCal MWA, Sisters in Crime, and the Marais Historic society, and received the Medaille de la Ville de Paris. She lives in San Francisco and gets to Paris whenever she can. Her latest book is *Murder in Saint-Germain*.

[www.carablack.com](http://www.carablack.com)

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## Dorothy Black Crow

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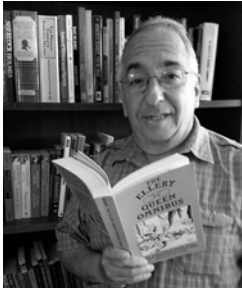
Dorothy Black Crow has taught Native American Literature at Oglala Lakota College and Oregon Coast Community College. From her experiences of Pine Ridge Reservation, she has started a Lakota mystery series: *The Handless Maiden* (2014), *The Black Cradleboard* (forthcoming 2018), and three more stories in the works. She has attended Left Coast Crime since 2014, and has been on two mystery panels (one with Craig Johnson) and one forthcoming on Writing Ethnic Mysteries. Her mentor is James N. Frey and her model is Guest of Honor William Kent Krueger.

[www.dorothyblackcrow.com](http://www.dorothyblackcrow.com)

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## Les Blatt

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Les Blatt is the host of the Classic Mysteries blog and podcast. He has been presenting weekly audio reviews of classic mysteries on the podcast for more than ten years, with more than 560 reviews currently posted and available for reading, listening, or download. The blog features additional reviews and conversations about great “traditional” mysteries, from the Golden Age and before, as well as new mysteries written in the classic tradition. He spent most of his working life as a TV network news producer, writer, and editor, and he hopes that this will not be held against him.

[www.classicmysteries.net](http://www.classicmysteries.net)

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## Leslie Blatt

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Leslie Blatt is a retired School Library Media Specialist. In her 40 years of being in schools, she worked with all the grade levels. Mysteries have always been a major theme in her library as a resource for inquiry teaching as well as getting kids to read. Mysteries always had the largest circulation numbers! Leslie reads a variety of genres, but reading mysteries are the favorite since she was young, starting with Nancy Drew.

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## Claire Booth

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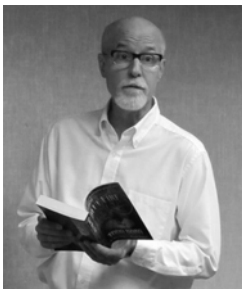
Claire Booth was raised in Reno and graduated from Hug High School too many years ago to count. After college, she spent more than a decade as a daily newspaper reporter, working in Missouri, Washington, DC, South Florida, the Seattle region, and the Bay Area. She spent much of her time covering crimes so strange and convoluted they seemed more like fiction than reality. Eventually she had enough of the real world and decided to write novels instead. Her Sheriff Hank Worth mysteries take place in Branson, Missouri, where small-town Ozark politics and big-city country music tourism clash in strange and convoluted ways.

[www.clairebooth.com](http://www.clairebooth.com)

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## Todd Borg

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When Todd Borg and his wife moved to Tahoe in 1990, the place was so idyllic, it seemed appropriate to add some murder and mayhem into the landscape. The result was private investigator Owen McKenna, his Harlequin Great Dane Spot, forensic entomologist girlfriend Street Casey, and best buddy Sergeant Diamond Martinez. McKenna, who left his previous career as a homicide inspector on the San Francisco Police Department, found that even Tahoe could keep him busy tracking down bad guys. The 16th novel in the bestselling Tahoe Mystery series will be out summer of 2018. Todd is this year’s Toastmaster (see p. 21).

[toddborg.com](http://toddborg.com)

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**Lisa Brackmann**


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Lisa Brackmann is the critically acclaimed author of the Ellie McEnroe novels set in China (*Rock Paper Tiger*, *Hour of the Rat*, *Dragon Day*), and the thrillers *Getaway* and *Go-Between*. Her work has also appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Salon*, *Travel+Leisure*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and *CNET*. In a past life, she was an issues researcher for a presidential campaign, a mid-level film studio executive, and the singer/songwriter/bassist in an LA rock band. She lives in San Diego with a cat, far too many books, and a bass ukulele.

[www.lisabrackmann.com](http://www.lisabrackmann.com)

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**Randal Brandt**


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Randal S. Brandt is a librarian at Bancroft Library of the University of California, Berkeley, where he has the dual roles of cataloger of rare books and curator of the California Detective Fiction Collection. In his spare time he maintains the websites Golden Gate Mysteries [[www.goldengatemysteries.pbworks.com](http://www.goldengatemysteries.pbworks.com)], a bibliography of crime fiction set in the San Francisco Bay Area, and A David Dodge Companion [[www.david-dodge.com](http://www.david-dodge.com)], the official website of thriller/travel writer David Dodge (1910-74). He is also at work on a biography of Dodge.

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**Ana Brazil**


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Ana Brazil is the author of the New Orleans Gilded Age mystery *Fanny Newcomb and the Irish Channel Ripper* (Sand Hill Review Press). She explored the historic houses and landscapes of Virginia as a teenager, earned her master's degree in American history from Florida State University, and traveled her way through Mississippi as an architectural historian. Ana loves fried mullet, Greek Revival colonnades, Miss Welty's garden, and the French Quarter at sunrise. Ana, her husband, and her dog Traveller live in the beautiful Oakland foothills.

[www.anabrazil.com](http://www.anabrazil.com)

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**Lynn Bremer**


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Lynn Bremer, Chair of Left Coast Crime 2018, is a former special education and ESL teacher, Peace Corps volunteer in Costa Rica, and Director of the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library. She has lived in Nevada since 1987, and is a founding member of the Nevada Women's History Project, a member of OLLI (Oscher Lifelong Learning Institute) and its Mystery Book group, and biographer of a pioneer public school teacher, which resulted in the publication of a two-volume collection of her early Reno & Comstock writings.

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**Pat H. Broeske**


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A Southern California native, Pat H. Broeske is an author-journalist and sometime TV producer known for biographies (with Peter Harry Brown) of Howard Hughes (*Howard Hughes: The Untold Story*) and Elvis Presley (*Down at the End of Lonely Street: The Life and Death of Elvis Presley*), and for coverage of Hollywood. The former *Los Angeles Times* staff writer has explored the convergence of Hollywood and crime, ranging from celebrity run-ins with the law to historic cases like the still-unsolved Black Dahlia murder. For true crime shows she covered domestic abuse, the death penalty, recidivism, and school shootings. Her first short story was published last year in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*. [pathbroeske.com](http://pathbroeske.com)

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### Catherine Bruns

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Catherine is the *USA Today* Best-Selling Author of the Cookies & Chance Mysteries. She also writes the Cindy York real estate themed series and the Carrie Jorgenson Aloha Lagoon culinary mysteries. Catherine's been writing since the age of eight, when she authored her first book, a highly plagiaristic version of *Cinderella*. Fortunately, Disney never sued. She lives in Upstate New York with an all male household — husband, three sons, and several spoiled cats and dogs.

[www.catherinebruns.net](http://www.catherinebruns.net)

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### Craig Faustus Buck

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Craig Faustus Buck has won numerous awards for his neo-noir novel, *Go Down Hard* and his short stories, most of which are available free at his website. He is also a screenwriter, having written and/or produced network series, pilots, movies, and miniseries for more years than he cares to admit. Some highlights include the seminal miniseries *V: The Final Battle*, the Oscar-nominated short film *Overnight Sensation* (starring Louise Fletcher and Robert Loggia), and the famous episode where The Incredible Hulk drops acid. But most importantly, he is a pitmaster extraordinaire.

[CraigFaustusBuck.com](http://CraigFaustusBuck.com)

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### Stephen W. Buehler

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Stephen Buehler's short fiction has been published in numerous on-line publications and anthologies. His Derringer nominated short story, "Not My Day," appeared in the *Last Exit to Murder* anthology. He currently has a short story, "Seth's Big Move" in the *LAst Resort* anthology. His book, *The Mindreading Murders*, is making the rounds with publishers. By day Stephen is a script/story consultant. He is also a magician and lives with a dog named Seymour.

[www.stephenbuehler.com](http://www.stephenbuehler.com)

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### Robin Burcell

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NYT Bestselling author Robin Burcell spent nearly three decades working in law enforcement as a police officer, forensic artist and hostage negotiator. The fifth book in her FBI forensic artist series, *The Kill Order*, was named as one of Library Journal's Best Thrillers of 2014. *The Last Good Place* (2015) was a continuation of the late Carolyn Weston series on which The Streets of San Francisco TV show was based. Burcell also co-writes with Clive Cussler in the Fargo series: *Pirate* (2016), *Romanov Ransom* (2017), and *The Gray Ghost*, which will be out in June 2018.

[www.robinburcell.com](http://www.robinburcell.com)

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### Teresa Burrell

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Teresa Burrell has dedicated her life to helping children, first as a teacher and then as a juvenile court attorney. Her law practice focused on abused minors and she has received several awards for her countless hours of pro bono work with children and families. She writes legal suspense mysteries inspired by her experiences as a lawyer. Her Advocate Series consists of nine legal suspense novels. *Mason's Missing* is the first in her new Tuper Mystery series. She continues to advocate children's issues and write novels. Several of her books have received the International Readers' Favorite Awards, and her novels have spent months on Amazon Best Seller lists.

[www.teresaburrell.com](http://www.teresaburrell.com)

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**Ellen Byron**


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Ellen Byron is perhaps best known as a former cater-waiter for the legendary Martha Stewart, a credit she never tires of sharing. Her latest Cajun Country Mystery, *A Cajun Christmas Killing*, is nominated for a Lefty Best Humorous Mystery award. *Body on the Bayou* won the Lefty for Best Humorous Mystery and was nominated for a Best Contemporary Novel Agatha Award. *Plantation Shudders*, nominated for Agatha, Lefty, and Daphne awards, made the USA Today Bestseller list. TV credits include *Wings*, *Just Shoot Me*, *Fairly OddParents*; published plays include the award-winning *Graceland*. Ellen lives in California with her husband, daughter, and two spoiled rescue dogs.

[www.ellenbyron.com](http://www.ellenbyron.com)

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**Christine Carbo**


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Christine Carbo is the author of an ensemble series set in and around Glacier National Park. Her books include *The Wild Inside* (2015), *Mortal Fall* (2016), *The Weight of Night* (2017), and her latest, *A Sharp Solitude* (May 2018, Atria Books). She is a recipient of the Womens' National Book Association Pinckley Prize, the Silver Falchion Award, and the High Plains Book Award. After earning a pilot's license, pursuing various adventures in Norway, and working a brief stint as a flight attendant, she got an MA in English and taught college-level courses. She still teaches, but in a different realm as a Pilates instructor. She and her family live in Montana.

[ChristineCarbo.com](http://ChristineCarbo.com)

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**Ross Carley**


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Russ Eberhart, writing as Ross Carley, has served as a military intelligence officer, an engineering professor, and the CTO of a defense contractor. He is cybersecurity consultant. His first novel, *Dead Drive* (2016) features private eye Wolf Ruger, an Iraq vet with PTSD, and is set in Indianapolis. *Formula Murder* (2017) is set in the racing industry. *Cyberkill* features casino hacking in Las Vegas, a cybercrime network in Chicago, and high-stakes compu-murder in Indianapolis. Ross is a member of the Indy Speed City Chapter of Sisters in Crime. He lives with the love of his life Francie in Indianapolis and Florida.

[wwwRossCarleyBooks.com](http://wwwRossCarleyBooks.com)

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**Steph Cha**


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Steph Cha is the author of *Follow Her Home*, *Beware Beware*, and *Dead Soon Enough*. Her fourth novel will be out from Ecco in 2019. She's the noir editor for the *Los Angeles Review of Books* and a regular contributor to the *Los Angeles Times* and *USA Today*. She lives in her native city of Los Angeles with her husband and two basset hounds.

[bystephcha.wordpress.com](http://bystephcha.wordpress.com)

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**Lance Charnes**


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Lance Charnes has been an Air Force intelligence officer, information technology manager, computer-game artist, set designer, and *Jeopardy!* contestant, and is now an emergency management specialist. He's had training in architectural rendering, terrorist incident response, and maritime archaeology, but not all at the same time. He's the author of the international thriller *Doha 12*, the near-future thriller *South*, the DeWitt Agency Files series of international art-crime novels, and contributes to Macmillan's Criminal Element website. His Facebook author page features spies, archaeology, and art crime.

[www.wombatgroup.com](http://www.wombatgroup.com)

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### D.Z. Church

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D.Z. Church's first suspense novel, *Perfidia*, takes place on Barbados in 1972. As one reviewer noted, "Can't miss with Islands, Ocean, Pirates, and History." With a publication date of June 2018, *Dead Legend* is the first book in the Cooper Quartet, featuring a military family dealing with Vietnam and its fallout. A historical suspense novel, *Dead Legend* takes place in 1967 when the Vietnam war is at its height. It introduces the characters of Sergeant Laury Cooper, a Marine, Lieutenant Byron Cooper, a Navy Aviator, and Ensign Robin Haas, a woman officer fresh out of Officer Candidate School. The second book in the series, *Head First*, isn't far behind.

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### H.S. Clark

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H.S. Clark is a Seattle mystery writer, physician, and anesthesiologist. His protagonist is an anesthesiologist whose medical practice includes far more murder, mayhem, and dead bodies (generally) than that of the author. H.S. Clark writes the Dr. Powers Mystery Series, including medical thrillers *Immortal Fear* and *Secret Thoughts*. You'll find his five star podcast "H.S. Clark Presents Author Spotlight" on YouTube and iTunes, with interviews with bestselling and emerging authors. He moderates the Art and Medicine Forum where fiction meets medicine, featuring "Ask the Doctor." His newsletter, "The Cutting Edge," explores the latest in medical technology and fiction.

[hsclarkmystery.com](http://hsclarkmystery.com)

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### Becky Clark

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Becky Clark is the seventh of eight kids, which explains both her insatiable need for attention and her atrocious table manners. She is wiggly with anticipation over the release in April 2018 of *Fiction Can Be Murder*, the first in her Mystery Writer's Mystery cozy series. Readers say her books are "fast and thoroughly entertaining" with "witty humor and tight writing" and "humor laced with engaging characters" so you should "grab a cocktail and enjoy the ride." Find Becky on her website and in most of the usual places.

[BeckyClarkBooks.com](http://BeckyClarkBooks.com)

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### Anne Cleeland

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Anne Cleeland writes a contemporary Scotland Yard mystery series that is featured in the Amazon top 100 best sellers. She also writes a historical series of stand-alone books set in the Regency period. A member of International Thriller Writers, The Historical Novel Society, and Mystery Writers of America, she lives in California and has four children.

[www.annecleeland.com](http://www.annecleeland.com)

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### Neal Cobb

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A native of Reno, Neal Cobb was involved with his family's businesses (Modern Photo Studio and KNEV, Nevada's first successful FM radio station), and worked for three years as a dealer at Harolds Club. He has served on the Reno Historical Resources Commission and the Washoe County Planning Commission. After donating a major collection of photographs from Modern Photo to the Nevada Historical Society, he became active there as a volunteer. He has presented over 500 programs on the history of Reno and northern Nevada, and authored, with Jerry Fenwick, two popular books: *Reno Now and Then* and *Reno Now and Then II*.



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## Marla Cooper

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Marla Cooper is the author of the Kelsey McKenna Destination Wedding mysteries and a founding member of the Chicks on the Case blog. Her second book, *Dying on the Vine*, is a Lefty nominee for Best Humorous Mystery — which frequently makes her giddy as it has been her secret dream since before she even had an agent. As a freelance writer, Marla has written all sorts of things, and it was while ghostwriting a guide to destination weddings that she found inspiration for her series. Originally hailing from Texas, Marla lives in Oakland, California, with her husband and her polydactyl tuxedo cat.

[www.marla-cooper.com](http://www.marla-cooper.com)

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## Michael J. Cooper

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Michael Cooper writes subversive historical fiction set in the Holy Land foolishly promoting the dangerous notion of coexistence. *Foxes in the Vineyard*, set in 1948 Jerusalem, won the 2011 Indie Publishing Contest grand prize. *The Rabbi's Knight*, set in the Holy Land in 1290, was a finalist for the 2014 Chaucer Award for historical fiction. He lived in Israel from 1966-77 and graduated from Tel Aviv University Medical School. Now a pediatric cardiologist, he volunteers for missions twice a year serving Palestinian children who lack access to care. He lives in Northern California with his wife and two spoiled rotten dogs. Three adult children occasionally drop by.

[michaeljcooper.net](http://michaeljcooper.net)

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## Steven Cooper

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Steven Cooper's most recent novel, *Desert Remains* (Seventh Street Books 2017), is the launch of a new crime series based in Phoenix. A former television reporter, Steven has received multiple Emmy awards and nominations, a national Edward R. Murrow Award, and many honors from the Associated Press. Steven taught writing for five years at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL, and now at Kennesaw State University, near Atlanta where he currently lives. When not writing, he spends most of his time in traffic. *Dig Your Grave*, the next book in his series, is due out in the fall of 2018.

[www.stevencooperbooks.com](http://www.stevencooperbooks.com)

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## Judith Copek

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Judith Copek is the author of crime novels, short stories, and recently, a novelette, *The Meth House*. Her novel *World of Mirrors* takes place on a Baltic island the year after the Berlin Wall falls. Boston's high-tech industry and the Burning Man Festival are the settings for *Festival Madness*. Judith is a member of Sisters in Crime, MWA (where she chairs the McCloy Scholarship Committee), Guppies, and Toastmasters International. She lives in the Boston area. Her blogs are: [lynx-sis.blogspot.com](http://lynx-sis.blogspot.com) (from Montana to Massachusetts) and [proustwhore.blogspot.com](http://proustwhore.blogspot.com) (reading Proust in Foxborough).

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## Matt Coyle

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Matt Coyle knew as a child he wanted to be a crime writer when his dad gave him *The Simple Art of Murder* by Raymond Chandler. He achieved his goal in four short decades. Matt is the author of the Rick Cahill crime series. His books have won the Anthony, Ben Franklin Silver, and San Diego Book Awards, and have accrued nominations for the Macavity, Anthony, Shamus, and Lefty Awards. He lives in San Diego with his yellow Lab, Angus, where he is writing the fifth Rick Cahill novel.

[mattcoylebooks.com](http://mattcoylebooks.com)

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## Waverly Curtis

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Waverly Curtis is the pen name of writing team Waverly Fitzgerald and Curt Colbert, represented at LCC by Waverly. Their Barking Detective series published by Kensington features a talking Chihuahua, Pepe, and his owner, Geri, who works for an eccentric PI. Both Waverly and Curt also write historical mysteries. Curt writes the Rat City series featuring a hard-boiled PI in 1940s Seattle. Waverly's WIP is about a Victorian trance medium who channels the spirit of a woman who claims she was murdered. She had to move out of a haunted apartment building in order to finish the book.

[waverlyfitzgerald.com](http://waverlyfitzgerald.com)

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## Ray Daniel

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Ray Daniel is an award-winning author of Boston-based crime fiction and is the author of the Tucker Mysteries. *Hacked* is the fourth novel in the Tucker series. His short story "Give Me a Dollar" won a 2014 Derringer Award for short fiction and "Driving Miss Rachel" was chosen as a 2013 distinguished short story by Otto Penzler, editor of *The Best American Mystery Stories 2013*.

[raydanielmystery.com](http://raydanielmystery.com)

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## Janet Dawson

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Janet Dawson arrived in Reno aboard the Amtrak *California Zephyr*, appropriate because she writes the *California Zephyr* historical mysteries. Protagonist Jill McLeod is a Zephyrette, a train hostess on the old *California Zephyr*, traveling the rails in the early 1950s. The latest in the series is *The Ghost in Roomette Four*. Janet also writes a series featuring Oakland private investigator Jeri Howard, who most recently appeared in *Water Signs*. In addition to a suspense novel, *What You Wish For*, Janet has written a number of short stories, including Macavity winner "Voice Mail" and Shamus nominee "Slayer Statute."

[www.janetdawson.com](http://www.janetdawson.com)

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## Denise (Deni) Dietz

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Denise (Deni) Dietz, AKA Mary Ellen Dennis, is a USA Today bestselling author of four Diet Club Mysteries; *The Landlord's Black-Eyed Daughter*; the Anthony-nominated *Annie and the Grateful Dead*; plus many more books and stories. When she was in grade school she hid her mom's hardcover *Gone with the Wind* inside her Dick and Jane reader. She got caught, learned her lesson, and hid her dad's Perry Mason paperbacks instead. Deni also does musical theatre and runs an editing service: Stray Cat Productions. When one of her clients is offered a contract, she does a Snoopy dance.

[www.denisedietz.com](http://www.denisedietz.com)

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## Tyler Dilts

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Tyler Dilts received his BA in Theatre from Cal State Long Beach and performed in more than 60 plays before turning his focus to writing and earning an MA in English Literature and an MFA in Fiction Writing. His work has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, and *The Best American Mystery Stories*, and he is the author of the Long Beach Homicide series of detective novels: *A King of Infinite Space*, *The Pain Scale*, *A Cold and Broken Hallelujah* (an Amazon #1 Bestseller), and most recently, the Edgar Award-nominated *Come Twilight*. His newest book, *Mercy Dogs*, was released this month by Thomas & Mercer.

[tylerdilts.com](http://tylerdilts.com)

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**Philip Donlay**

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Philip Donlay has been a flight instructor, flown a private jet for a Saudi prince, and for 28 years flew a corporate jet for a Fortune 500 company. His travels have taken him to over 40 countries on five continents. He is a bestselling author of eight novels: *Category Five*, *Code Black*, *Zero Separation*, *Deadly Echoes*, *Aftershock*, *Pegasus Down*, *Seconds to Midnight*, and *Speed the Dawn*. He currently divides his time between Montana and the Pacific Northwest.  
[www .philipdonlay.com](http://www.philipdonlay.com)

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**Robert Downs**

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Robert Downs aspired to be a writer before he realized how difficult the writing process was. Originally from West Virginia, he has lived in Virginia, Massachusetts, and New Mexico, and now resides in California. When he's not writing, Robert can be found traveling, reading, watching movies, or smiling. His sixth book and first novella, *The Fix*, came out last December. His second novella, *The Bridal Chase*, will come out in April. He's currently under contract for three more books with Black Opal Books.

[www.RobertDowns.net](http://www.RobertDowns.net)

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**Michele Drier**

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Michele Drier is a fifth generation Californian. During her career in journalism she won awards for investigative series. She is the president of Capitol Crimes, the Sacramento chapter of Sisters in Crime, and co-chair for Bouchercon 2020 in Sacramento. Her Amy Hobbes Newspaper Mysteries, set in the California Delta area, are *Edited for Death*, *Labeled for Death*, and *Delta for Death*. A stand-alone, *Ashes of Memories*, was published May 2017. Her paranormal romance series, *SNAP: The Kandesky Vampire Chronicles*, named the best paranormal vampire series of 2014 by PRG, continues with book ten releasing in 2018.

[www .MicheleDrier.com](http://www .MicheleDrier.com)

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**Margaret Dumas**

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Margaret Dumas writes books about smart, funny women who are searching for adventure, love, and the occasional murderer in the San Francisco Bay area. Her new Movie Palace series will be available from Henery Press soon. When not writing, Margaret spends most of her time reading mysteries and watching classic movies. If you see her at the convention, tell her about your favorite old movie!

[www .margaretdumas.com](http://www .margaretdumas.com)

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**Warren C. Easley**

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Author of the Cal Claxton Oregon Mysteries, Warren lives near Portland with his wife and fearless dog, Theo. When he's not writing, he's either fly fishing, hiking, skiing, or tutoring math at an alternative high school in Portland. *Blood for Wine*, book five in the series, published last June, is a story of greed and treachery set against the backdrop of Oregon's bucolic wine country. Always the diligent researcher, Warren had to taste a prodigious amount of pinot noir in preparation for the book. *Moving Targets* will publish in 2018, where Cal finds himself on the mean streets of Portland once again.

[www.facebook.com/WarrenCEasley](http://www.facebook.com/WarrenCEasley)

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### Peggy Ehrhart

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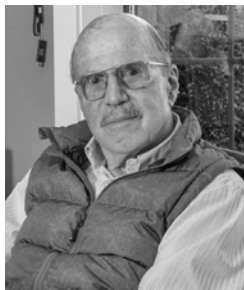


Peggy Ehrhart is a former English professor with a doctorate in Medieval Literature. Her short stories have appeared in many venues, and her first full-length mystery, *Sweet Man Is Gone* (Five Star) appeared in 2008, followed by *Got No Friend Anyhow* in 2011. Inspired by her experiences playing guitar, the books feature a blues-singer sleuth. She is currently writing the Knit and Nibble series for Kensington. Set in fictional Arborville, New Jersey, the series features amateur sleuth Pamela Paterson, founder of the town's knitting club. *Murder, She Knit* is due out March 27. *Died in the Wool* will appear in August 2018. Peggy is an avid crafter, dating from her childhood as a member of the 4-H Club in rural Southern California.

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### Aaron Elkins

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Aaron Elkins is generally acknowledged as the father of the forensic mystery. He has won numerous awards, including a Best Novel Edgar, an Agatha (with his wife and sometimes-collaborator Charlotte), and a Nero Wolfe Award. His Gideon Oliver novels have been made into a major ABC-TV series and have been selections of the Book-of-the-Month Club and the Literary Guild. Although a full-time writer, he keeps his hand in by serving as forensic anthropologist for the Olympic Peninsula Cold Case Task Force in Washington State. He and Charlotte live in coastal Washington, their marriage having survived (more or less intact) their collaboration on nine novels and several short stories.

[www.aaronelkins.com](http://www.aaronelkins.com)

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### Dianne Emley

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Dianne Emley is a Los Angeles Times bestselling author who's received critical acclaim for her Detective Nan Vining mysteries (most recently *Lying Blind*), Iris Thorne mysteries, and a paranormal thriller, *The Night Visitor*. Her books have been translated into six languages. An L.A. native, she lives in the Central California wine country with her husband. When she's not writing, she enjoys digging in a community garden, hiking in the countryside, cooking, wine tasting, and avoiding snow, golf, and snakes. About Dianne's books, Tess Gerritsen says: "Emley masterfully twists, turns, and shocks."

[www.dianneemley.com](http://www.dianneemley.com)

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### Laurie Fagen

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Laurie Fagen is a long-time "writer by habit" who has written for radio and television news, corporate video, films, and documentaries, plus magazines and newspapers. An honorable mention in a short story contest and a love of reading whodunits led to three published anthology short stories, and ultimately her crime fiction novel series Behind the Mic Mysteries. Book #1, *Fade Out*, and book #2, *Dead Air*, are available in e-book, print and audio book, which includes her narration along with professional actors, sound effects, and original music. Fagen is also a jazz singer and artist.

[www.ReadLaurieFagen.com](http://www.ReadLaurieFagen.com)

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### Christa Faust

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Christa Faust is the author of several hardboiled crime novels, including *Choke Hold*, *Money Shot*, and *Hoodtown*. She also recently wrote a gritty, semi-autobiographical graphic novel set in Times square in the 80s called *Peepland* (with coauthor Gary Phillips) and is currently writing strong female characters for Marvel Comics. She grew up in NYC, but now lives and writes in Los Angeles.

[christafaust.com](http://christafaust.com)

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**Kim Fay**


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Kim Fay is the author of the historical novel, *The Map of Lost Memories*, an Edgar Award finalist for Best First Novel, and the food memoir *Communion: A Culinary Journey Through Vietnam*, a Gourmand World Cookbook Award winner. She created the “To Asia With Love” guidebooks, and served as the Hotel Editor for the travel, food and lifestyle website, Gayot.com for 15 years. In addition, she reviews international crime fiction and works by L.A. authors for the Los Angeles Review of Books.

[www.kimfay.net](http://www.kimfay.net)

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**Corey Lynn Fayman**


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“A powerful new voice on the crime-fiction scene” (ForeWord Reviews), Corey Lynn Fayman has done hard time as a musician, songwriter, and theatrical sound designer, but still refuses to apologize for it. His hometown of San Diego, CA, provides the backdrop for his mystery series featuring the guitar-slinging private detective Rolly Waters, including the award-winning *Border Field Blues* and *Desert City Diva*.

[www.coreylynnfayman.com](http://www.coreylynnfayman.com)

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**Vickie Fee**


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Vickie Fee, the highly-caffeinated author of the Liv & Di in Dixie mystery series, blesses hearts and makes Jack Daniels whiskey balls that’ll scorch your tonsils. She was born and raised in Memphis, where Elvis and BBQ are king, and now lives in Marquette, Michigan, with a view of Lake Superior and a longsuffering husband. *Til Death Do Us Party*, the fourth book in the series, featuring a party planner protagonist, her best friend, and her sometimes crazy family, comes out March 27, 2018. Catch up with Vickie on the mystery blog [www.chicksonthecase.com](http://www.chicksonthecase.com).

[www.vickiefee.com](http://www.vickiefee.com)

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**Mary Feliz**


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Mary Feliz writes the Maggie McDonald Mysteries featuring a Silicon Valley professional organizer and her sidekick golden retriever. She’s worked for Fortune 500 firms and mom and pop enterprises, competed in whale boat races, and done synchronized swimming. She attends organizing conferences in her character’s stead, but Maggie’s skills leave her in the dust.

[maryfeliz.com](http://maryfeliz.com)

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**Yves Fey**


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Yves Fey’s award-winning historical mystery is set in the dynamic and decadent world of Belle Époque Paris. Previously, she wrote four historical romances, which will soon be republished under her own name, Gayle Feyrer. She has an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Oregon, and a BA in Pictorial Arts from UCLA. A chocolate connoisseur, she’s won prizes for her desserts. Her current fascination is creating mysterious perfumes that evoke her characters. She lives near San Francisco with her husband Richard Anderson and two cats, the Flying Bronte Sisters.

[yvesfey.com](http://yvesfey.com)

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### Janet Finsilver

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*USA Today* best-selling author Janet Finsilver and her husband reside in the San Francisco Bay Area. Janet loves animals and has two dogs — Kylie and Ellie. Her protagonist, Kelly Jackson, is assisted by a group of crime-solving senior citizens, the Silver Sentinels. Dogs with special abilities romp through the pages of her mystery series. *Murder at Redwood Cove*, *Murder at the Mansion*, and *Murder at the Fortuneteller's Table* are currently available. *Murder at the Mushroom Festival* releases on April 17.

[www.janetfinsilver.com](http://www.janetfinsilver.com)

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### Bill Fitzhugh

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Despite being of average height and not particularly fast in the 100 meters, (though quick enough to escape capture that one time), Bill Fitzhugh somehow managed to become the award-winning author of ten satiric crime novels. Described variously as a polymath, a sophist, and just plain annoying, Fitzhugh enjoys long walks on the beach, transgenic baboons, and shiny objects. Asked to name his major influences, he cites DNA, alcohol, and that eighth grade English teacher who said he would never amount to anything. He was smart enough to marry well and is currently working on a play.

[www.billfitzhugh.com](http://www.billfitzhugh.com)

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### Sabrina Flynn

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Sabrina lives in perpetual fog and sunshine with a rock troll and two crazy imps. She spent her youth trailing after insanity, jumping off bridges, climbing towers, and riding down waterfalls in barrels. After spending 15 years wrestling giant hounds and battling pint-sized tigers, she now travels everywhere via watery portals leading to anywhere. Author of two series: Ravenwood Mysteries and Legends of Fyrsta.

[www.sabrinaflynn.com](http://www.sabrinaflynn.com)

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### Wrona Gall

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I am a sculptor with a passion for reading mysteries, so I decided to write and had a short story published in the *Fire to Fly Anthology*. After focusing on my visual art for several years, I again wrote and was published in the SinC LA's *Last Resort Anthology*. My characters span various personas from dark avengers to humorous villains to an autistic artist. My world expanded beyond my Bachelor and Masters of Art when I met my bookie father-in-law's friends and moved to an un-gentrified area of Chicago where my neighbors ranged from street people to a museum curator.

[wronagall.com](http://wronagall.com)

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### Kelly Garrett

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When not writing, Kelly Garrett spends her time hiking and seeking out new coffee shops and breweries. Her debut YA mystery, *The Last To Die*, was published by Poisoned Pen Press in April 2017 and is a finalist for a 2018 Oregon Book Award.

[garrettkelly.com](http://garrettkelly.com)

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**Kellye Garrett**


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Kellye Garrett writes the Detective by Day mysteries for Midnight Ink. The first, *Hollywood Homicide*, is nominated for Lefty, Agatha, and Barry awards. The second, *Hollywood Ending*, will be out on August 8. Prior to writing books, Kellye spent eight years working in Hollywood, including a stint writing for *Cold Case*. People were always surprised to learn what she did for a living — probably because she seemed way too happy to be brainstorming ways to murder people. Having moved back to her native New Jersey, she now spends her mornings commuting to Manhattan for her job at a leading media company — while still happily brainstorming ways to commit murder.

[KellyeGarrett.com](http://KellyeGarrett.com)

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**Daryl Wood Gerber**


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Agatha Award–winning Daryl Wood Gerber writes the brand new French Bistro Mysteries, as well as the nationally bestselling Cookbook Nook Mysteries. As Avery Aames, she pens the popular Cheese Shop Mysteries. *A Deadly Éclair*, the first French Bistro Mystery, came out November 2017. Daryl also writes stand-alone suspense: *Day of Secrets* and *Girl on the Run*. Fun tidbit: as an actress, Daryl appeared in *Murder, She Wrote*. She loves to cook, and she has a frisky Goldendoodle named Sparky who keeps her in line!

[www.darylwoodgerber.com](http://www.darylwoodgerber.com)

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**Chris Goff**


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Chris Goff is an award-winning author of eight novels. Her most recent book, *Red Sky*, is an international thriller set in Ukraine and Asia, where Diplomatic Security Service Agent Raisa Jordan tests the boundaries of diplomacy as she races to prevent the start of a new Cold War. Goff's series debut, *Dark Waters*, set in Tel Aviv amid the Israel-Palestine conflict, was a finalist for the 2016 Colorado Book Award and 2016 Anthony Award for Best Crime Fiction Audiobook. An intrepid traveler, Goff enjoyed time spent doing research in both Eastern Europe and the Middle East, and eagerly awaits Raisa's next assignment.

[www.christinegoff.com](http://www.christinegoff.com)

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**Lee Goldberg**


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Lee Goldberg is a former professional assassin who gave up killing to write and publish crime novels. He is the co-author of the bestselling Fox & O'Hare novels, which he co-writes with Janet Evanovich, and co-founder of the new publishing company Brash Books, which publishes the best crime novels in existence. You can find out more about him at his website or on the FBI's Most Wanted List.

[www.leegoldberg.com](http://www.leegoldberg.com)

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**Debra H. Goldstein**


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Judge Debra H. Goldstein is the author of the upcoming Sarah Blair series (Kensington), *Should Have Played Poker: a Carrie Martin and the Mah Jongg Players Mystery* and *Maze in Blue*. Her short stories have appeared in periodicals and anthologies, including *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*, *Mystery Weekly*, and *Day of the Dark*. In addition to being a member of numerous Birmingham, Alabama, civic boards, Debra is the Sisters in Crime Guppy president and serves on the national Sisters in Crime board. She also is vice-president of the Southeast regional chapter of Mystery Writers of America.

[www.debrahgoldstein.com](http://www.debrahgoldstein.com)

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## Howard Michael Gould

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Howard Michael Gould graduated from Amherst College and spent five years working on Madison Avenue, winning three Clios and numerous other awards. In television, he was executive producer and head writer of *Cybill* when it won the Golden Globe for Best Comedy Series, and held the same position on *The Jeff Foxworthy Show* and *Instant Mom*. He wrote and directed the feature film *The Six Wives of Henry Lefay*. Other feature credits include *Mr. 3000* and *Shrek the Third*. *Last Looks*, his first novel, introducing former LAPD superstar turned hermit Charlie Waldo, will be published by Dutton in August, with production of the film version planned for later this year.

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## Rebecca Grace

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Becky Martinez writes romantic suspense and mystery novels and short stories as Rebecca Grace. She is a former broadcast journalist who spent 30+ years in TV newsrooms, working primarily in Los Angeles, but with stops in Seattle, San Diego, Las Vegas, and Denver. Both her Dead Man suspense series and her Blues mystery series feature characters based on her days in TV. For the past 15 years she has also been teaching writing classes and co-writing non-fiction books for beginning writers.

[rebeccagrace.com](http://rebeccagrace.com)

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## Bryan Gruley

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Bryan Gruley is the author of the award-winning, critically acclaimed Starvation Lake trilogy, which means he's also an expert (of sorts) in journalism, ice hockey, beer, snowmobiles, shoe trees, and the darkest corners of the Catholic church. His new novel coming in November, *Bleak Harbor*, is a standalone about the kidnapping of an autistic teenage boy (bad people doing bad things to other bad people). He shared in a Pulitzer Prize for *The Wall Street Journal's* coverage of 9/11 and lives in Chicago with his wife Pam.

[www.bryangruley.com](http://www.bryangruley.com)

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## David Hagerty

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Stories about crimes have always resonated with me, whether it was *Crime and Punishment* or *The Quiet American*. Maybe it's because I started my career as a police reporter, or because I worked for a time in the county jail. When I decided to finally get serious about writing, I started with short stories based on real misdeeds I'd witnessed. I wrote one about my next door neighbor, who'd been murdered, another about an ambitious bike racer who decides to take out the competition, and a bunch of others based on characters I met in jail. For my debut novel, *They Tell Me You Are Wicked*, I drew from the most infamous event in my hometown's history: the killing of a political candidate's daughter.

[www.davidhagerty.net](http://www.davidhagerty.net)

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## Parnell Hall

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Parnell Hall is the author of the Puzzle Lady crossword puzzle mysteries, the Stanley Hastings private eye novels, and the Steve Winslow courtroom dramas, and other books that no one has ever read. He persists in coming to conventions anyway, in the hope that someone will recognize him. If you do, steer clear. You might wind up on YouTube. With Stuart Woods, he is the coauthor of the Teddy Fay thrillers. Parnell is an actor, screenwriter, singer-songwriter, and former private eye. His music videos can be seen on YouTube.

[www.parnellhall.com](http://www.parnellhall.com)



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**Timothy Hallinan**

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Edgar, Shamus, and Macavity nominee, and Lefty winner, Timothy Hallinan simply writes all the time, which is how he's managed to grind out 21 novels, some better than others, but all critically (if occasionally mistakenly) praised. They've appeared on many "year's best" lists. He currently writes two series: His latest Poke Rafferty Bangkok novel is *Fools' River*, and the next Junior Bender L.A. mystery, *Nighttown*, is due this November. In 2017 he also revived his Simeon Grist private eye series, written in the 1990s, with *Pulped*. He lives in Los Angeles and Bangkok and is lucky enough to be married to Munyin Choy.

[www .timothyhallinan.com](http://www.timothyhallinan.com)

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**Glen Erik Hamilton**

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Glen Erik Hamilton won the Anthony, Macavity, and Strand Magazine Critics Awards for his first novel, *Past Crimes*, which was also nominated for the Edgar, Barry, and Nero awards. The third novel in his Van Shaw series, *Every Day Above Ground*, was published last July to starred reviews. A native of Seattle, where he grew up on a sailboat, Glen now lives in southern California, and is the current president of the SoCal chapter of MWA.

[glenerikhamilton.com](http://glenerikhamilton.com)

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**Vinnie Hansen**

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Vinnie Hansen fled the howling winds of South Dakota and headed for the California coast the day after high school graduation. As a child, she read while huddled on top the dryer. She's now the author of numerous short stories, the Carol Sabala mystery series, and *Lostart Street*, a cross-genre novel of mystery, murder, and moonbeams. Her next story publication will be "Miscalculation" in *Santa Cruz Noir* (June 2018). Still sane(ish) after 27 years of teaching high school English, Vinnie has retired. She plays keyboards with ukulele bands in Santa Cruz, California, where she lives with her husband and the requisite cat.

[www.vinniehansen.com](http://www.vinniehansen.com)

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**Sherry Harris**

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Sherry Harris is the Agatha Award-nominated author of the Sarah Winston Garage Sale mystery series. The fifth book, *I Know What You Bid Last Summer*, was released in February. Sherry is the Vice President of Sisters in Crime National, and a member of Mystery Writers of America and International Thriller Writers. In her spare time Sherry loves reading and is a patent-holding inventor. She blogs at [Wickedcozyauthors.com](http://Wickedcozyauthors.com)

[SherryHarrisAuthor.com](http://SherryHarrisAuthor.com)

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**Elena Hartwell**

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Elena Hartwell is the author of the Eddie Shoes Mystery series, about a mother/daughter, crime-fighting duo set in Bellingham, Washington. The third book in the series, *Three Strikes, You're Dead* launches April 1. Elena lives in North Bend, Washington, on the middle fork of the Snoqualmie River. When she's not scribbling mysteries, Elena can be found playing with her horses. She loves reading, writing, and the Oxford comma. If you follow her on Facebook or visit her website, you can see cute pictures of all her animals.

[www.elenahartwell.com](http://www.elenahartwell.com)

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### Heather Haven

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Back in the Punic Wars, Heather Haven went to New York to become a writer. There she acquired the ability to write comedy, thanks to her stint at No Soap Radio, and took on a husband, who's pretty funny in his own right. Heather's won numerous awards for her humorous Silicon Valley-based Alvarez Family Murder Mysteries; Manhattan-based WWII Persephone Cole Vintage Mysteries; Ringling Brothers' Circus mystery noir, *Death of a Clown*; and the anthology, *Corliss, and Other Award-Winning Stories*. She and said husband are allowed to live with their two cats in the foothills of San Jose, California, where she is working on her twelfth novel.

[www.heatherhavenstories.com](http://www.heatherhavenstories.com)

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### L.C. Hayden

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Should I allow my characters to have more fun than me? Heck no! So when Harry Bronson from the Bronson Thriller Series (*What Lies Beyond the Fence*) gets a motor home and travels all over the US, I too get a motor home. When Aimee Brent from the Aimee Brent Mystery Series (*Ill Conceived*) learns to scuba dive, I too pick up the sport. In the Connie Weaver Thriller Series (*Secrets of the Tunnels*), Connie wanders through the tunnels, so I too do the tunnel bit. Yep, I will always stay one step ahead on the fun-level scale. The heck with my characters.

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### James Hayman

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After spending more than thirty years writing and producing TV commercials for some of New York's biggest ad agencies, James Hayman decided that Madison Avenue was, as Cormac McCarthy might have put it, no country for old men. He and his wife Jeanne pulled up stakes and moved to Portland, Maine, where James began to scratch a lifelong itch to write thrillers. *The Cutting*, the first McCabe/Savage thriller was published in 2009. Since then he's become the NY Times bestselling author of four more with a fifth on the way.

[www.jameshaymanthrillers.com](http://www.jameshaymanthrillers.com)

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### Libby Fischer Hellmann

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Libby Fischer Hellmann left a career in broadcast news in Washington, DC, and moved to Chicago 35 years ago, where she, naturally, began to write gritty crime fiction. Fifteen novels and 25 short stories later, she claims they'll take her out of the Windy City feet first. She has been nominated for many awards in the mystery and crime writing community and has even won a few. Libby hosts both a TV and radio interview show and conducts writing workshops at libraries and other venues. She was the national president of Sisters In Crime. Her books have been translated into Spanish, German, Italian, and Chinese. Her most recent book is *War, Spies, And Bobby Sox*.

[libbyhellmann.com](http://libbyhellmann.com)

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### Alice Henderson

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Alice Henderson is a writer of fiction, comics, and video game material. Her love of wild places inspired her novel *Voracious*, which pits a lone hiker against a shapeshifting creature in the wilderness of Glacier National Park. She has written numerous officially licensed novels in the worlds of the hit TV series *Supernatural*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, and *Ghost Whisperer*. While working at LucasArts, she wrote material for several *Star Wars* video games. She holds an interdisciplinary master's degree in folklore and geography, and is a wildlife researcher and rehabilitator.

[AliceHenderson.com](http://AliceHenderson.com)

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**Howard W. Herz**


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Howard W. Herz is a native of Reno, where he attended schools through high school. After attending the University of Nevada for two years he transferred to Stanford University and graduated with a degree in civil engineering in 1969. As a teenager, he worked summers for Harvey's Resort Hotel and managed Harvey's coin collections. In 1967, Harvey's began collecting gambling chips, which stimulated Howard's interest in the history of gambling. In the 1990s, he visited gambling manufacturing companies in the Chicago area, and was able to preserve many of their records for the American Gaming Archives at the Nevada Historical Society. Notable are artifacts of "special work"— cheating devices and methods.

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**Naomi Hirahara**


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Guest of Honor Naomi Hirahara is the Edgar Award-winning author of two mystery series set in Los Angeles. Her Mas Arai series, featuring a Hiroshima survivor and gardener, has been translated into Japanese, Korean, and French, and ends with *Hiroshima Boy*, which is being released in March. The first in her Officer Ellie Rush bicycle cop series received the 2014 T. Jefferson Parker Mystery Award. One of her Mas Arai novels, *Summer of the Big Bachi*, is currently being developed into an independent film. A former editor of *The Rafu Shimpo* newspaper and curator of historical exhibitions, she has also published noir short stories, middle-grade fiction, and nonfiction books.

[www.naomihirahara.com](http://www.naomihirahara.com)

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**Christina Hoag**


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Christina Hoag is a former journalist and foreign correspondent who had her laptop searched by Colombian guerrillas and phone tapped in Venezuela, hid under a car to evade Guatemalan soldiers, and interviewed thugs of all stripes, as well as billionaires and presidents. Her noir novel *Skin of Tattoos* (Martin Brown 2016) was a suspense finalist for the Killer Nashville Silver Falchion Award, while her YA novel *Girl on the Brink* (Fire and Ice 2016) made *Suspense Magazine's* Best of 2016. She co-authored *Peace in the Hood: Working with Gang Members To End the Violence* (Turner, 2014).

[www.christinahoag.com](http://www.christinahoag.com)

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**Annie Hogsett**


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"Murder. Mayhem. Romance. Cleveland." Annie Hogsett has a master's degree in English literature and spent her first career writing advertising copy — a combination which, in Annie's opinion, totally qualifies her for making a bunch of stuff up. Her first published novel, *Too Lucky To Live*, #1 in the Somebody's Bound to Wind Up Dead mystery series, was released by Poisoned Pen Press in May 2017. Second in her series, *Murder to the Metal*, comes out in June. Annie lives ten yards from Lake Erie in the City of Cleveland with her husband, Bill, and their delinquent cat, Cujo.

[AnnieHogsett.com](http://AnnieHogsett.com)

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**Cheryl Hollon**


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Cheryl Hollon writes full-time after an engineering career designing and installing military flight simulators in England, Wales, Australia, Singapore, Taiwan, and India. Living the dream, she combines a love of writing with a passion for creating glass art in the small studio behind her house in St. Petersburg, Florida. Cheryl is President of the Florida Gulf Coast Sisters in Crime, a member of Mystery Writers of America, and Novelists, Inc.

[www.cherylhollon.com](http://www.cherylhollon.com)

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## Wendy Hornsby

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An NPR interviewer aptly described Edgar-Award winning author Wendy Hornsby as “a genteel college professor by day, and by night a purveyor of murder most foul.” Now Professor Emeritus, she has abandoned all pretense of gentility in order to purvey foul murder full time. At least, murder on the printed page. Wendy is the author of the Maggie MacGowen Mystery series, and many short stories. *Number 7, Rue Jacob* (Perseverance Press, April 2018), her most recent mystery, is available now.

[www.wendyhornsby.com](http://www.wendyhornsby.com)

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## Linda Joffe Hull

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Linda Joffe Hull is a longtime resident of Denver where she lives with her husband, daughter, and the pets her sons left behind when they went off to college. A former board member of Mystery Writers of America, and longtime member and former president of Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers, Linda was named the 2013 RMFW Writer of the Year. Linda is the author of *The Big Bang*, three titles in the Mrs. Frugalicious Mystery series, and two books in the Sunny St. Clair series. *The Swing of Things*, her upcoming release as part of the writing team Linda Keir, will be released by Lake Union in August.

[www.lindajoffehull.com](http://www.lindajoffehull.com)

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## Harry Hunsicker

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Harry Hunsicker is the former executive vice president of the Mystery Writers of America and the author of seven crime thrillers, including *The Devil's Country* (April 2017; Thomas & Mercer). His work has been short-listed for the Shamus and Thriller Awards. Hunsicker lives in Dallas where he will serve as toastmaster for Bouchercon 2019.

[www.harryhunsicker.com](http://www.harryhunsicker.com)

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## Christine Husom

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Christine Husom is a national best-selling author from Minnesota. She finds the cold, crisp winters clear the cobwebs and encouraged her to write. She pens the Winnebago County Mysteries, and the Snow Globe Shop Mysteries where her bad guys demonstrate not everyone in her state is “Minnesota nice.” She has stories in six anthologies and co-edited *A Festival of Crime*. Her latest titles are *Firesetter in Blackwood Township* and *Frosty the Dead Man*. She served with the Wright County Sheriff, and is currently a County Commissioner. Husom is a member of Mystery Writers of America and Sisters in Crime.

[www.christinehusom.webs.com](http://www.christinehusom.webs.com)

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## Katherine Bolger Hyde

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Katherine Bolger Hyde spent her career as an editor before venturing into writing. *Bloodstains with Brontë* is her second traditional mystery in the Crime with the Classics series. The setting of Crime with the Classics was inspired by her annual writing pilgrimage to Rockaway Beach on the Oregon coast. Katherine makes her home in the redwoods of Santa Cruz County with her husband, the youngest of her four children, and two obstreperous cats.

[www.kbhyde.com](http://www.kbhyde.com)

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**Matthew Iden**


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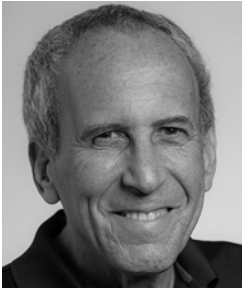
Matthew Iden is the author of the suspense novel *The Winter Over*, a half dozen books in the Marty Singer detective series, and several acclaimed stand-alone novels. His latest, *Birthday Girl*, is a suspense novel featuring Elliott Nash, a former forensic psychologist who is now homeless, but is recruited to save a young girl from a serial kidnapper (March 2018). He has visited seven continents — and written on several of them — but lives in Alexandria, Virginia.

[www.matthew-iden.com](http://www.matthew-iden.com)

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**Ken Isaacson**


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Ken Isaacson has practiced law for almost 40 years, having graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Columbia Law School. His legal career began on Wall Street, and today he is in-house general counsel to an international transportation company. Lawyers write for a living, and many people think they write fiction for a living. One day, Ken decided to drop all pretenses and write something he could readily admit was completely made up. So now he writes crime fiction. Read his latest book, *Death Benefit*, to learn how to gamble on the time someone else is going to die. And how to rig the game.

[www.KenIsaacson.com](http://www.KenIsaacson.com)

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**Paty Jager**


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Paty Jager is the award-winning author of the Shandra Higheagle mystery series. All her work has Western or Native American elements, along with hints of humor and engaging characters. Paty and her husband raise alfalfa hay in rural eastern Oregon. Riding horses and battling rattlesnakes, she not only writes the western lifestyle, she lives it. This is what Mysteries Etc has to say about her Shandra Higheagle mystery series: “Mystery, romance, small town, and Native American heritage combine to make a compelling read.” Her current release, *Artful Murder*, released this month.

[www.patyjager.net](http://www.patyjager.net)

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**Darrell James**


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Darrell James is the author of three award winning novels: *Nazareth Child*, winner of the Left Coast Crime Eureka Award for Best First Novel, *Sonora Crossing*, and *Purgatory Key* — all were finalists for the Anthony, Shamus, and Macavity Awards. In addition his more than 30 short stories have appeared in numerous mystery magazines and anthologies. His latest collection of works, *Old Wounds and New*, was released this past year.

[www.darrelljames.com](http://www.darrelljames.com)

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**Roger Johns**


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Roger Johns is a former corporate lawyer and retired college professor, and the author of the Wallace Hartman Mysteries, *Dark River Rising* (August 2017) and *River of Secrets* (August 2018) from St. Martin's Press/Minotaur Books. His checkered past includes, in no particular order, med school dropout, bookseller, ranch hand, drapery hanger, party photographer, hospital orderly, shoe salesman, and tuxedo rental clerk. Roger lives in Georgia, and belongs to the Atlanta Writers Club, Mystery Writers of America, International Thriller Writers, and Sisters in Crime. With four other crime-fiction writers, he co-authors the MurderBooks blog at [www.murder-books.com](http://www.murder-books.com).

[www.rogerjohnsbooks.com](http://www.rogerjohnsbooks.com)

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### Sybil Johnson

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Sybil Johnson wields pen and brush at her home in Southern California where she writes the Aurora Anderson Mystery series set in the world of tole/decorative painting (*Fatal Brushstroke*, *Paint the Town Dead*, and *A Palette For Murder*). Currently serving as the We Love Libraries Coordinator for Sisters in Crime, Sybil blogs every other week on Type M for Murder ([typem4murder.blogspot.com](http://typem4murder.blogspot.com)).

[www.authorsybiljohnson.com](http://www.authorsybiljohnson.com)

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### Eleanor Cawood Jones

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Eleanor is author of *A Baker's Dozen: 13 Tales of Murder and More* and *Death Is Coming to Town: Four Murderous Holiday Tales*. She began writing in elementary school, using #2 pencils to craft crime stories starring her stuffed animals. Recent stories include "Killing Kippers" (*Malice Domestic 11: Murder Most Conventional*) and "Salad Days, Halloween Nights" (*Midnight Mysteries*). "A Snowball's Chance" (*Chesapeake Crimes: Fur, Feathers, & Felonies*) and "Keep Calm and Love Moai" (*Malice Domestic 13: Murder Most Geographical*) debut in Spring 2018. A former newspaper reporter and reformed marketing director, Eleanor lives in Northern Virginia and travels frequently.

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### Tammy Kaehler

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When Tammy Kaehler discovered the racing world, she was hooked by the contrast between its top-dollar, high-drama competition, and friendly, family atmosphere. Mystery fans and racing insiders alike have praised her award-winning Kate Reilly Mystery Series (*Dead Man's Switch*, *Braking Points*, *Avoidable Contact*, and *Red Flags*), and Tammy takes readers back behind the wheel in her fifth entry, *Kiss the Bricks*. She works as a freelance writer in Southern California, where she lives with her husband and many cars.

[www.tammykaehler.com](http://www.tammykaehler.com)

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### Leslie Karst

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The daughter of a law professor and a potter, Leslie Karst learned early, during family dinner conversations, the value of both careful analysis and the arts — ideal ingredients for a mystery story. Putting this early education to good use, she now writes the Sally Solari mysteries (*Dying for a Taste*, *A Measure of Murder*, *Death al Fresco*), a culinary series set in Santa Cruz, California. An ex-lawyer like her sleuth, Leslie also has degrees in English literature and the culinary arts.

[www.lesliekarstauthor.com](http://www.lesliekarstauthor.com)

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### Diane Kelly

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A former tax advisor and assistant attorney general for the state of Texas, Diane Kelly is no stranger to white-collar crime. When she realized her experiences would make great fodder for novels, her fingers hit the keyboard and thus began her award-winning Death and Taxes romantic mystery series. A graduate of her city's Citizens Police Academy, Diane also writes the hilarious Paw Enforcement K-9 Cop series. She'll soon be launching the Fixin' to Flip cozy mystery home renovation series.

[www.dianekelly.com](http://www.dianekelly.com),

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**Kay Kendall**


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Kay Kendall's award-winning historical mysteries capture the turbulent 1960s. *Desolation Row* and *Rainy Day Women* feature Austin Starr, a 22-year-old Texas bride who lands on the frontlines of societal change, learns to cope, and in joining the struggle turns amateur sleuth. Kay's degrees in Russian history and language help ground her tales in the Cold War, and her titles show she's a Bob Dylan buff, too. Kay lives in Texas with her Canadian husband, three house rabbits, and spaniel Wills. In her former life as a PR executive, her projects won international awards.

[www.austinstarr.com](http://www.austinstarr.com)

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**Robert D. Kidera**


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Robert D. Kidera, author of the popular Gabe McKenna Mysteries for Suspense Publishing, won the Tony Hillerman Award for Best Fiction with his debut novel *Red Gold* in 2015. The book also won Best Mystery and best eBook at the New Mexico / Arizona Book Awards. Its sequel, *Get Lost* won as Best Mystery of 2016 and Best eBook of 2016. *Cut.Print.Kill.*, the third Gabe McKenna mystery, debuted in September of 2017. Mr. Kidera is a member of Southwest Writers, Sisters in Crime, Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers, Western Writers of America, and the International Thriller Writers organizations.

[www.robertkiderabooks.com](http://www.robertkiderabooks.com)

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**Jennifer Kincheloe**


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Jennifer Kincheloe grew up in Southern California, but has traveled to such places as Nicaragua, Ethiopia, and Papua New Guinea. She's been a block layer, a nurse's aid, a fragrance model, and on the research faculty at UCLA, where she spent 11 years conducting studies to inform health policy. Jennifer currently lives in Denver, Colorado, with her husband and two teenagers, two dogs, and a cat. There she conducts research on the jails.

[Jenniferkincheloe.com](http://Jenniferkincheloe.com)

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**Laurie R. King**


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Laurie R. King has been living a life of crime (writing) since 1993, accumulating 27 novels and many other works, including the Mary Russell–Sherlock Holmes stories (from *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*, named one of the 20th century's best crime novels by the IMBA, to 2018's *Island of the Mad*). She has won an alphabet of prizes from Agatha to Wolfe, been chosen as guest of honor at several crime conventions, and may be the only writer to have both an Edgar and an honorary doctorate in theology. She was inducted into the Baker Street Irregulars as "The Red Circle," a secret criminal organization, and is the current president of the NorCal chapter of Mystery Writers of America. (Photo by Josh Edelson.)

[laurierking.com](http://laurierking.com)

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**Bharti Kirchner**


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Bharti Kirchner is the author of seven critically acclaimed novels (in various genres, including literary, historical, and mystery), four nonfiction works, and a litany of short pieces. *Goddess of Fire*, a historical set in the 17th century, was shortlisted for the Nancy Pearl Award. Her most recent, *Season of Sacrifice: A Maya Mallick Mystery* (first in a series), was published in late 2017. Her short story "Promised Tulips," first published in *Seattle Noir*, was recognized as a top noir story and appeared in the anthology, *USA Noir*. Her many awards include a Virginia Center for the Creative Arts Fellowship. She's a popular teacher at writer's conferences nationwide.

[www.bhartikirchner.com](http://www.bhartikirchner.com)

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**Ellen Kirschman**

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I've been a police psychologist for 35 years. I've written three non-fiction books and three award-winning mysteries: *Burying Ben*, *The Right Wrong Thing*, and *The Fifth Reflection*. Writing fiction isn't easy, but it is very therapeutic. My protagonist, Dr. Dot Meyerhoff, is a spunky 50+ year-old police psychologist who is too dedicated for her own good. She takes orders from no one, not even her chief, and persists in solving crimes when she should be counseling cops. Drop by my website, sign up for my newsletter, and/or follow my blog on *Psychology Today*.

[www.ellenkirschman.com](http://www.ellenkirschman.com)

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**Libby Klein**

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Libby Klein graduated Lower Cape May Regional High School sometime in the '80s. Her classes revolved mostly around the culinary sciences and theater, with the occasional nap in chemistry. She has worked as a stay-at-home mom, climbing the ladder up the ranks to the coveted position of Grandma. She also dabbles in the position of Vice President of a technology company, which mostly involves bossing other people around, making spreadsheets, and taking out the trash. She writes from her Northern Virginia office while trying to keep her cat Figaro off her keyboard. Most of her hobbies revolve around eating and travel, and eating while traveling.

[libbykleinbooks.com](http://libbykleinbooks.com)

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**Kathy Krevat aka Kathy Aarons**

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Kathy Krevat is the author of the Gourmet Cat Mystery series featuring cat food chef Colbie Summers and her demanding cat Trouble. Kathy also writes the bestselling Chocolate Covered Mystery series under the name, Kathy Aarons. Kathy lives in San Diego with her husband in the perfect location — close to Philz Coffee and the beach, and within visiting distance of her two grown daughters. When she's not writing, she's an advocate for youth arts education and president of Partners in Crime, the San Diego Chapter of Sisters in Crime.

[www.kathyaarons.com](http://www.kathyaarons.com)

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**William Kent Krueger**

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Raised in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon, Guest of Honor William Kent Krueger — he goes by Kent — briefly attended Stanford University, before being kicked out for radical activities, a dubious honor he continues to be unduly proud of. Before becoming a writer fulltime, he worked in a number of manly enterprises, including logging and heavy construction. Kent writes the *New York Times* bestselling Cork O'Connor series. His 2013 stand-alone novel *Ordinary Grace* was honored with several awards, including the Edgar. *Desolation Mountain*, the 17th novel in his series, will be released in August. He does all his writing in a wonderfully funky coffee shop in St. Paul, Minnesota.

[www.williamkentkrueger.com](http://www.williamkentkrueger.com)

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**Cynthia Kuhn**

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Cynthia Kuhn writes the Lila Maclean Academic Mystery series, which includes *The Semester of Our Discontent*, an Agatha Award recipient (Best First Novel) and *The Art of Vanishing*, a Lefty Award nominee for Best Humorous Mystery. She teaches literature, writing, and film at Metropolitan State University of Denver and serves as president of Sisters in Crime-Colorado.

[cynthiakuhn.net](http://cynthiakuhn.net)



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**Michael Kurland**


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Michael Kurland is the recipient of two Edgar scrolls and was a finalist for The American Book Award for his first Moriarty novel, *The Infernal Device*. His nonfiction books include *How To Solve a Murder*, a handbook on forensic investigation, and *It's a Mystery to Me*, a guide to writing mystery and suspense fiction. His works have been offered by many book clubs and been translated into Chinese, Czech, Danish, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, and some alphabet full of little pothooks and curlicues. He lives in a Secular Humanist Hermitage in a secluded bay south of San Francisco, where he kills and skins his own vegetables. [michaelkurland.com](http://michaelkurland.com)

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**Bette Golden Lamb**


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Bette Golden Lamb, RN, artist, writer, is a Bronx transplant and loves to write dark and gritty medical thrillers. Adventure has gotten Bette into trouble more than once. Fate put her into the wilds of Virginia City, NV, an isolated throwback to the old West, where she rode shotgun as a mountaintop trauma nurse while running a funky bar called The Silver Stope. Bette and husband J.J.'s thriller series has reached #7 with *Bone Slice*. (The murder weapon of the future is here now.) Bette has also published an award winning, two-volume, near-future science fiction novel, *The Organ Harvesters*.

[www.twoblacksheep.us](http://www.twoblacksheep.us)

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**J.J. Lamb**


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J.J. Lamb's budding journalism career was interrupted by the U.S. Army, which sent him to the U.S. Navy stronghold at Norfolk, VA. He was issued a Top Secret clearance and posted to a tiny, windowless, double-barred, spy-proof room, with a safe filled with classified documents. There was also a wood table, straight back chair, Royal manual typewriter ... and the time and privacy to write fiction. Shamus-nominated *No Pat Hands* is the latest of his PI Zachariah Tobias Rolfe III series. And in collaboration with wife Bette Golden Lamb, he has written eight medical thrillers, a suspense-adventure, and a political thriller, *The Killing Vote*, with a plot not unlike the Washington scenario of today.

[www.twoblacksheep.us](http://www.twoblacksheep.us)

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**Mary Lawrence**


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Mary Lawrence farms in Maine and worked in the medical field for over 25 years before publishing her debut mystery, *The Alchemist's Daughter* (Kensington). The book was named by *Suspense Magazine* as a "Best Historical Mystery of 2015." Her articles have appeared in several publications including the national news blog, The Daily Beast. Besides making and selling jams from unusual fruit, her interests include Tudor history, playing the piano, and drinking coffee. The Bianca Goddard Mysteries include *Death of an Alchemist* and *Death at St. Vedast* with two more to follow.

[www.marylancebooks.com](http://www.marylancebooks.com)

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**Mike Lawson**


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Mike Lawson is the award-winning author of 15 novels published by Doubleday, Penguin, and Grove Atlantic. He has been nominated for the Barry Award and has twice won Friends of Mystery Award. The 12 books in his Joe DeMarco political thriller series revolve around a character who is a fixer for a semi-corrupt politician. The first of the three books in his Kay Hamilton series, titled *Rosarito Beach*, involving a rogue DEA agent, was optioned for television. Prior to turning to writing full time, Mike was a nuclear engineer employed by the Navy and he lives in the Northwest.

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## McAvoy Layne

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McAvoy Layne brings Ghost of Honor Mark Twain to life at Crime on the Comstock. You may even find him wandering the convention floor. He will officially hold forth on Friday night at 8:00 PM in Cascade 1-2. (See page 25.)

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## Con Lehane

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Con Lehane is the author of five mystery novels. His latest, *Murder in the Manuscript Room* (2017), is the second in the 42nd Street Library mystery series. Recent stories appeared in *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine* and *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*. He's also the author of the Bartender Brian McNulty mystery series. He holds an MFA in fiction writing from Columbia University School of the Arts and teaches fiction writing at the Bethesda Writer's Center. He lives in Washington, DC. Sometimes he twits or twitters or tweets @clehane.

[www.conlehane.com](http://www.conlehane.com)

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## Melissa Lenhardt

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Melissa Lenhardt is the author of the Jack McBride mystery series, as well as the Laura Elliston historical fiction series. Her debut mystery, *Stillwater*, was a finalist for the 2014 Whidbey Writers' MFA Alumni Emerging Writers Contest, and *Sawbones*, her historical fiction debut, was hailed as a "thoroughly original, smart and satisfying hybrid, perhaps a new subgenre: the feminist Western" by Lone Star Literary Life. A lifelong Texan, she lives in the Dallas area with her husband and two sons.

[melissalenhardt.com](http://melissalenhardt.com)

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## James L'Etoile

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James L'Etoile is a Northern California crime fiction writer who spent 29 years working in the prison, parole, and probation field, serving as an associate warden in a maximum security prison, facility captain, chief of institution operations, hostage negotiator, and director of California state parole. He consults in jails and prisons across the country and has been called upon by local news media as a serial killer subject matter expert. He is the author of *At What Cost* and *Bury the Past*, both published by Crooked Lane Books.

[jamesletoile.com](http://jamesletoile.com)

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## Elizabeth Little

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Elizabeth Little is the author of *Dear Daughter*, a *Los Angeles Times* bestseller and winner of the Strand Critics Award for Best First Novel. She is also the author of two nonfiction books, and her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, among other publications. Her next novel, *Dissolve*, will be published in 2019. She lives in Los Angeles with her family.

[elizabeth-little.com](http://elizabeth-little.com)

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**Sheila Lowe**

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Sheila Lowe is a real-life forensic handwriting examiner who testifies in court cases. The mother of a tattoo artist and a former rock star, she lives in Ventura, CA, with Lexie the Very Bad Cat. Despite sharing living space with a feline, however, her award-winning Forensic Handwriting mystery series is psychological suspense, definitely not cozy. She also writes nonfiction about handwriting analysis and is often seen in the media when cases involving handwriting are in the news.

[www.sheilalowe.com](http://www.sheilalowe.com)

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**Margaret Lucke**

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Margaret Lucke flings words around in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her newest novel is *Snow Angel*, featuring artist and private eye Jess Randolph in a search for a missing child. An earlier Jess Randolph novel, *A Relative Stranger*, was nominated for an Anthony Award. She is also the author of *House of Whispers*, a tale of love, ghosts, and murder on the Marin County coast, and two how-to books on writing, *Schaum's Quick Guide to Writing Great Short Stories* and *Writing Mysteries*. A former president of the Northern California chapter of Mystery Writers of America, she teaches fiction writing classes for UC Berkeley Extension and other venues.

[www.margaretlucke.com](http://www.margaretlucke.com)

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**Eileen Magill**

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Whether it's going to school (notably a BS in Criminal Justice and a Masters in English) or finding places to stash bodies and ways to hide blood evidence, Eileen's devious mind never stops — all in pursuit of her craft, of course. She grew up in Silicon Valley but retired from safety compliance to write mysteries in the Pacific North West. She hikes 4-5 miles each day with her dogs, rain or shine (mostly rain). Her newest adventure is Magill's Quill, manuscript and screenplay editing, specializing in mysteries, thrillers, and horror.

[MQEdit.com](http://MQEdit.com) & [EileenMagill.com](http://EileenMagill.com)

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**G.M. Malliet**

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G.M. Malliet's first St. Just mystery won the 2008 Agatha Award for Best First Novel and was chosen by *Kirkus Reviews* as a best book of the year. It was nominated for many awards, including the Anthony, Macavity, and a Left Coast Crime award for best police procedural. Her subsequent mysteries and short stories have been nominated for nearly every major crime-writing award. Writes Cleveland.com, she "may be the best mystery author writing in English at the moment (along with Tana French). She's certainly the most entertaining..." She and her husband live on the East Coast and travel often to the UK, the setting for all her books.

[GMMalliet.com](http://GMMalliet.com)

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**Jamie Mason**

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Jamie Mason grew up in the Washington DC area. She now lives with her husband and two daughters in the mountains of North Carolina. She writes suspense fiction, more whydunnit than whodunnit. Her novels, *Monday's Lie* and *Three Graves Full*, are from Simon & Schuster's Gallery Books.

[www.jamie-mason.com](http://www.jamie-mason.com)

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**Lisa Q. Mathews**

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Lisa Q. Mathews used to work with Nancy Drew — literally. In addition to being the intrepid sleuth's editor, she was Creative Director at Random House Children's Books and wrote for series such as Mary-Kate and Ashley and The Lizzie McGuire Mysteries. (She was also a competitive figure skater, but never knew Tonya Harding.) These days Lisa is the author of The Ladies Smythe & Westin Mysteries, *Cardiac Arrest*, *Permanently Booked*, and *Fashionably Late*. She also blogs at Chicks on the Case. Lisa enjoys swimming, rich desserts, Nora Ephron movies, and above all a good mystery. She lives in New Hampshire with her husband, a lucky black cat, and a crazy Golden Retriever.

[www.lisaqmathews.com](http://www.lisaqmathews.com)

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**Mike McCrary**

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Mike McCrary is the author of *Steady Trouble* and the Remo Cobb series. He's been a waiter, a securities trader, dishwasher, investment manager, and an unpaid Hollywood intern. He's quit corporate America, come back, been fired, been promoted, been fired again. Currently, he writes stories about questionable people who make questionable decisions.

[www.mikemccrary.com](http://www.mikemccrary.com)

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**Catriona McPherson**

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Catriona McPherson (serial awards botherer) is the author of the Dandy Gilver novels, set in Scotland in the 1930s where, but not when, she was born. She also writes darker (that's not difficult) contemporary standalones, including *House.Tree.Person*. Next month sees the publication of Catriona's first US-set mystery, *Scot Free* (the lighter side of the dark underbelly of the California dream). Exclusive early copies are here at LCC, thanks to Terri Bischoff's suitcase. Catriona lives just across the border in northern California with a black cat and a scientist.

[www.catrionamcpherson.com](http://www.catrionamcpherson.com)

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**Camille Minichino**

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Camille Minichino (AKA Margaret Grace, Ada Madison, and Jean Flowers), is a retired physicist. When her first book, on nuclear waste management, didn't sell well, she turned to cozy mystery novels and has published 25 of them in four different series. She's also written many short stories and articles on the craft of writing. She teaches science at Golden Gate University in San Francisco and writing workshops around the Bay Area.

[www.minichino.com](http://www.minichino.com)

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**Margaret Mizushima**

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Margaret Mizushima is the author of the Timber Creek K-9 mysteries, which include RT Reviewer's Choice Award nominees *Killing Trail* (2015) and *Hunting Hour* (2017); and Reader's Favorite gold medal winner, and finalist in the Colorado Book Awards and International Book Awards, *Stalking Ground* (2016). She worked in a hospital as a speech pathologist before establishing her own rehabilitation agency. Currently, she writes and assists her husband with their veterinary clinic and Angus cattle herd. She enjoys reading and hiking, and she lives on a small ranch in Colorado where she and her husband raised two daughters and a multitude of animals.

[www.margaretmizushima.com](http://www.margaretmizushima.com)

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**Eric Moody**


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Eric Moody is an historian, teacher, and editor whose main areas of interest are Nevada and the West. He spent 30 years with the Nevada Historical Society, as manuscript curator and then acting director before retiring in 2009. During 2010-17 he edited *Nevada in the West* magazine. Author of *Southern Gentleman of Nevada Politics: Vail Pittman*, *Western Carpetbagger: The Extraordinary Memoirs of "Senator" Thomas Fitch*, *Flanigan: Anatomy of a Railroad Ghost Town*, and a study of Nevada's early gaming industry from 1931 to 1945, he is working with Robert Nylen on a history of the brewing industry in Nevada.

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**Sharon Moore**


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After 39 years as an educator, Sharon Arthur Moore "transitioned" to the life of full-time fiction writer. She's an intrepid cook, game-player, and miniatures lover. She writes culinary mysteries under her name; the other genres she writes require pen names. *Impastabilities* is coming out from Red Adept Publishing this fall. Sharon has lived in every region of the country except the Pacific Northwest and loved every one. Her current favorite region is the desert Southwest. She is married to an extraordinary man and claims four children, two daughters-in-law, and two grandsons.

[www.sharonamoore.com](http://www.sharonamoore.com)

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**Bourne Morris**


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Professor Bourne Morris became fascinated by the possibilities for campus violence when she taught at the University of Nevada, Reno for 26 years. And the longer she taught, the more the politics of the academy suggested murder, mayhem, and various forms of treachery. So she retired to enjoy writing three mysteries. Her first, *The Red Queen's Run*, introduced Dr. Meredith "Red" Solaris, who helps a handsome detective investigate the suspicious death of the dean of journalism. The next two Red Queen mysteries focus on kidnapping, sexual assault, and violations of free speech.

[www.bournemorris.com](http://www.bournemorris.com)

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**Margaret C. Morse**


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Margaret C. Morse loves murder mysteries — the sooner the corpse appears, the better! If not reading crime fiction, she's writing it. Margaret's debut novel, *Murder Casts a Spell*, features lawyer Petra Rakowitz, who turns into a witch during her first murder case. In the second in the series, *Murder Lifts the Spirits*, Petra must defend herself from a murder charge. When characters can kill with magic, the ways to dispatch a victim dramatically increase. Margaret used to practice law, so she knows a lawyer can transform into a witch.

[margaretc Morse.com](http://margaretc Morse.com)

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**Nadine Nettmann**


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Nadine Nettmann enjoys drinking wine and writing about it — with a dash of murder. A Certified Sommelier through the Court of Master Sommeliers, Nadine pairs a wine with every chapter in her award-nominated Sommelier Mystery Series. She has visited wineries around the world and once camped in a van for 32 days so she could visit every wine region in France. Her next mystery, *Pairing a Deception*, releases in May with new wines for each chapter so have your wine glasses ready.

[NadineNettman.com](http://NadineNettman.com)

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**Erica Ruth Neubauer**

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Erica Ruth Neubauer is a reviewer for *Publishers Weekly* and *Mystery Scene Magazine*, among others. She is one of the organizers of Murder and Mayhem in Milwaukee, a small conference run every November in the Midwest. She spent 11 years in the military, two years as a cop, and one as a high school English teacher, but now she spends her time happily buried under piles of books.

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**Michael Niemann**

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Michael Niemann writes international thrillers. *Illegal Holdings* is his third novel featuring United Nations investigator Valentin Vermeulen. The earlier novels are *Legitimate Business* and *Illicit Trade*. Two Vermeulen short stories are available in electronic format. His work as an academic focused on southern Africa and frequently spent time in the region.

[michael-niemann.com](http://michael-niemann.com)

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**Cherie O'Boyle**

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Cherie O'Boyle is the author of the award-winning Estela Nogales mystery series, *Fire at Will's* (2014), *Iced Tee* (2015), *Missing Mom* (2016), *Deadly Disguise* (2017), and *The Boy Who Bought It* (2018), and a free e-short story, "Back for Seconds?" Set in the fictional village of Arroyo Loco in the coastal mountains of California, these intelligently written-humorous whodunnits will keep you guessing. Cherie is Professor Emerita of Psychology at California State University, and lives today in Northern California where she happily squeezes in many adventures with friends, family, and her border collies, Shiner and Sky.

[www.cherieoboyle.com](http://www.cherieoboyle.com)

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**Terry Odell**

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From childhood, Terry Odell wanted to "fix" stories so the characters would behave properly. Once she began writing, she found this wasn't always possible, as evidenced when the mystery she intended to write turned into a romance, although she'd never read one. Odell prefers to think of her books as "Mysteries With Relationships." She writes the Blackthorne, Inc. series, the Pine Hills Police series, the Triple-D Ranch series, and the Mapleton Mystery series. Her newest release is *Deadly Engagement*, the 6th offering in the Mapleton series. Her short story collection, *Seeing Red* is a Silver Falchion winner. You can find her high (that's altitude— she lives at 9100 feet!) in the Colorado Rockies.

[terryodell.com](http://terryodell.com)

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**Carlene O'Neil**

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National bestselling author Carlene O'Neil is a former television writer, and is also a commercial real estate broker. Originally from wine country in northern California, she currently lives in Valencia, California. The Cypress Cove mystery series is set along the central California coast, and the similarities between the fictional town of Cypress Cove and the stunning town of Carmel are no accident. *One Foot in the Grape* is the first in the series, published by Berkley Prime Crime. *Ripe for Murder* is her second novel.

[carleneoneil.com](http://carleneoneil.com)

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## Chantelle Aimée Osman

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Chantelle Aimée Osman is a consultant with 22 Literary, co-host of the Crime Friction podcast with author Jay Stringer, and former Editor-in-Chief of *RT Book Reviews*. A freelance editor specializing in mystery, suspense, thriller, science-fiction, and fantasy, she is also an instructor with the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing, Authors at Large, and LitReactor. Chantelle is the author of the non-fiction series on writing *The Quick and Dirty Guide To...* and has published numerous works of short fiction. She is currently editing an episodic thriller, *Serial Killer*, featuring authors Jeffery Deaver and Eoin Colfer, among others.

[www.chantelleaimee.com](http://www.chantelleaimee.com)

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## Gigi Pandian

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*USA Today* bestselling author Gigi Pandian spent her childhood being dragged around the world by her cultural anthropologist parents, and now lives outside San Francisco with her husband and a gargoyle who watches over the backyard garden. Gigi writes the Jaya Jones Treasure Hunt mysteries, Accidental Alchemist mysteries, and locked-room mystery short stories; the most recent titles in each are *The Ninja's Illusion*, *The Elusive Elixir*, and "The Library Ghost of Tanglewood Inn." Her fiction has been awarded the Malice Domestic Grant and Lefty Awards, and short-listed for Macavity and Agatha Awards.

[www.gigipandian.com](http://www.gigipandian.com)

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## Ann Parker

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A native Californian, Ann Parker has longed to live in Colorado since she was a "wee one." Yet, in six decades, she has only managed to budge one set of hills east of her San Francisco Bay Area birthplace. Determined to live in the Rocky Mountains, if only in her dreams, Ann began penning her award-winning Silver Rush historical mystery series featuring saloon-owner Inez Stannert in 1880s Colorado. Much to Ann's bemusement, the newest in the series, *A Dying Note*, finds Inez settled in San Francisco, determined to make a new life and leave her Colorado past behind. Sometimes dreams (and life) are like that.

[www.annparker.net](http://www.annparker.net)

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## Catherine Paul

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Catherine Paul is the pen name of Evelyn Cirincione. She began writing for the Young Adult population in 1998, and has completed five books dealing with mystery, intuition, UFO'S, and decision-making. The characters are realistic, in combining their cultures — Navajo, British, American, and Deaf Culture. She is a member of Sisters in Crime, and Mystery Writers of America, and currently the President of Tucson Sisters in Crime. Catherine, her husband, and dog, moved to Tucson in 1995. She is a retired Special Education Teacher, Deaf. She enjoys reading, walking, cooking, and archery. Her latest book, *They're Here*, a UFO mystery, was a finalist in the Book Excellence Awards.

[catherinepaulmysterywriter.com](http://catherinepaulmysterywriter.com)

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## Janice Peacock

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While working in a glass studio with several colorful and quirky artists, Janice Peacock was inspired to write *High Strung*, the first novel in the Glass Bead Mystery series. She continued the series with *A Bead in the Hand* and *Off the Beadin' Path*. When Janice isn't writing about glass artists-turned-amateur-detectives, she creates glass beads using a torch, designs one-of-a-kind jewelry, and makes sculptures using molten glass. An award-winning artist, her work has been exhibited internationally and is in the permanent collections of several museums. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband, three cats, and an undisclosed number chickens.

[www.janicepeacock.com](http://www.janicepeacock.com)

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**Alec Peche**

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Alec Peche, is the California author of ten books. Eight releases in the Jill Quint, MD Forensic Pathologist series are about a part-time PI, part-time vintner. There are two books in the Damian Green series about a modern-day MacGyver. Both series are soft-boiled mysteries. I live in Northern California with my rescue dog and cats and enjoy wine, skiing, and reading.

[www.alecpeche.com](http://www.alecpeche.com)

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**Jo Perry**

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Jo Perry is the author of *Dead Is Better*, *Dead Is Best*, and *Dead Is Good*, a dark, unconventional, comic mystery series featuring a murdered protagonist and a dead dog who return to fight crime and defend the innocent. Her work has been described as “wickedly entertaining, supernatural deftness” and “like *The Wire* meets *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*,” and has earned praise from Timothy Hallinan, Eric Idle, Jeffrey Siger, Cat Warren, Dennis Palumbo, and others. Jo has a Ph.D. in English, taught writing and literature, wrote poetry, articles and reviews, and produced episodic television. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Thomas Perry, and with their rescue dogs and cats.

[www.authorjoperry.com](http://www.authorjoperry.com)

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**Thomas Perry**

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Thomas Perry is the *New York Times* bestselling author of 25 novels, including the critically acclaimed Jane Whitfield series, the Edgar Award–winning *The Butcher’s Boy*, the Gumshoe Award–winning *Pursuit*, the Barry Award–winning *The Informant*, and *Metzger’s Dog*, voted by NPR listeners to be one of the 100 best thrillers ever. He is the husband of novelist and former television writing partner Jo Perry. His most recent novel is *The Bomb Maker* (January 2018).

[www.Thomasperryauthor.com](http://www.Thomasperryauthor.com)

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**Linda A. Petrilli**

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Linda Petrilli Duncan is a trauma/triage nurse, has been a firefighter, and fought forest fires in the mountains of New Mexico. Certified as a TEMS (tactical EMS) for SWAT and law enforcement, she trained as a pilot and flew rescue and DEA missions for the Civil Air Patrol. Proficient in martial arts and competent in the use of most weapons of minor destruction including knives and tomahawks. According to her children, she is an adrenaline junkie and gets bored easily. Reads voraciously and writes as yet unpublished murder mysteries and thrillers. Belongs to MWA, SinC, RWA, and has given internet classes on medical issues in writing and poisons. She lives in Kentucky with her Newfoundland Ace.

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**Barbara Petty**

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Barbara has lived on both coasts, in NYC and LA, and even studied for a short time in Paris. But when it came time to pick a home for her Thea Browne mystery series she chose her Midwestern roots. Basically she set it in her actual hometown of Rockford, Illinois. But, being a bit of a sneak, she didn’t want to call it by its given name, so she chose instead the name of Rockridge — close enough — but which also happens to be the name of the town in one of her all-time favorite movie comedies, *Blazing Saddles*.



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**Rob Pierce**


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Rob Pierce wrote the novels *Uncle Dust* and *With the Right Enemies*, the novella *Vern in the Heat*, and the short story collection *The Things I Love Will Kill Me Yet*. Former Editor-in-Chief of *Swill Magazine* and co-editor at Flash Fiction Offensive, Rob has also edited dozens of novels for All Due Respect and freelance, and has had stories published in numerous ugly magazines. He lives and will probably die in Oakland, California.

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**Keenan Powell**


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One summer during law school, Keenan Powell visited a friend in Anchorage, Alaska. Upon stepping off the plane, she knew Alaska was where she wanted to live, and the day after graduation, she moved up. A past winner of the William F. Deeck–Malice Domestic grant, her publications include “Criminal Law 101” in *The Writer* magazine (June 2015) and several short stories. She currently writes the legal column, *Ipsa Facto*, for the Guppies’ newsletter, *First Draft*, and blogs with *Mysteristas*. She lives, and practices law, in Anchorage. Her debut, *Deadly Solution*, a Maeve Malloy mystery, was published in early 2018.

[www.keenanpowellauthor.com](http://www.keenanpowellauthor.com)

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**David Putnam**


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During his law enforcement career, David Putnam worked on teams for SWAT, Narcotics, Violent Crimes, Criminal Intelligence, Internal Affairs, and Detective Bureau, and as child protective services coordinator. He rounded out his law enforcement career with three years in the Hawaiian Islands as a Special Agent-part of a real-life “Hawaii-50” team. He’s now retired from law enforcement and spends his time growing organic California avocados and writing, with his wife Mary and their two dogs. His novels, *The Disposables* and *The Replacements*, were both finalist for the SCIBA award. His fifth novel, *The Innocents*, came out last February.

[DavidPutnamBooks.com](http://DavidPutnamBooks.com)

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**Zoe Quinton**


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Zoe Quinton has the dubious honor of having grown up in the publishing industry as the daughter of mystery writer Laurie R. King. About a decade ago, she decided that a lifetime of second-hand exposure to fictional crime was not enough, and she started doing her mother’s online publicity. A few years later, she took over as King’s agent. Now she manages her mother’s career as part of her consulting business, which includes editing, marketing, concept development, and brand management. Zoe is also mother to two small boys, who keep her busy with their endless antics in their hometown of Santa Cruz, CA. She wears many hats, but they all come down to one: helping people tell their stories.

[www.zoequinton.com](http://www.zoequinton.com)

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**Lori Rader-Day**


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Lori Rader-Day, author of *Under a Dark Sky* (forthcoming in August 2018), *The Day I Died*, *Little Pretty Things*, and *The Black Hour*, is a three-time Mary Higgins Clark Award nominee, winning the award in 2016. Lori lives in Chicago, where she co-chairs the mystery conference Murder and Mayhem in Chicago and bothers every writer in town to join Mystery Writers of America and Sisters in Crime.

[www.LoriRaderDay.com](http://www.LoriRaderDay.com)

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**Lynne Raimondo**

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Lynne Raimondo is the author of *Dante's Wood* (Seventh Street Books 2013), a Library Journal Mystery Debut of the Month, *Dante's Poison* (2014), and *Dante's Dilemma* (2015), all featuring Mark Angelotti, a blind, psychologically troubled forensic psychiatrist. In a previous life, Lynne was a partner at Mayer, Brown, the general counsel of Arthur Andersen LLP, and the general counsel of the Illinois Department of Revenue.

[www.lynnerraimondo.com](http://www.lynnerraimondo.com)

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**D.R. Ransdell**

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D.R. Ransdell performs in a mariachi band where jealous customers, jealous musicians, and jealous spouses provide countless plots for the Andy Veracruz mysteries (*Mariachi Meddler*, *Island Casualty*, *Dizzy in Durango*, *Substitute Soloist*). D.R. resides in Tucson with four felines who provide ideas for diabolical antagonists. She's currently drafting a mystery that takes place in Venice, a favorite tourist destination.

[www.dr-ransdell.com](http://www.dr-ransdell.com)

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**Cheryl Reed**

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Cheryl L. Reed has shadowed dark and mysterious characters — from cops to murder suspects, cloistered nuns to girls doing drugs. Her debut novel, *Poison Girls*, is a thriller about girls from Chicago's political families playing a deadly game involving opioids. Her book of non-fiction, *Unveiled: The Hidden Lives of Nuns*, chronicles her bizarre journey of living off and on with women in convents — where she was sometimes ordered to pray for asking inappropriate questions. She is a former editor and reporter at the *Chicago Sun-Times*. When she's not sneaking off to write, she's an assistant professor at Syracuse University.

[www.cherylreed.net](http://www.cherylreed.net)

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**Travis Richardson**

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Travis Richardson has been a finalist for the Macavity, Anthony, and Derringer short story awards, and was listed in *2017 Best American Mystery Stories*. His novella *Lost in Clover* was listed in *SpineTingler Magazine's* Best Crime Fiction of 2012. His second novella, *Keeping the Record*, came out in 2014. He has published stories in crime fiction publications such as *Thuglit*, *Shotgun Honey*, *Flash Fiction Offensive*, and *The Obama Inheritance*. He used to edit the SINC/LA newsletter Ransom Notes and reviewed Anton Chekhov short stories at [www.chekhovshorts.com](http://www.chekhovshorts.com). He plans to publish a short story collection later this year.

[www.tsrichardson.com](http://www.tsrichardson.com)

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**J.R. Ripley**

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JR Ripley is one of several pen names of critically acclaimed — or detested — (it's all a matter of taste) novelist Glenn Eric Meganck. He currently writes the A Bird Lover's Mystery series, the Maggie Miller mysteries, and the Kitty Carlyle mysteries (written as Marie Celine). Unfit for the real world and unable to hold a job, prior to writing full-time, JR worked in a multitude of positions (some standing, some sitting, and most preferably, lying down) including archaeologist, cook, factory worker, copywriter, technical writer, editor, musician, entrepreneur, window washer, and more — all grist for the writer's mill.

[www.JRRipley.net](http://www.JRRipley.net)

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**L.F. Robertson**


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Linda Robertson, writing as L.F. Robertson, is an appellate lawyer. Like her protagonist, Janet Moodie, in *Two Lost Boys* and *Madman Walking*, she specializes in death penalty cases and lives in a constant state of low-level anxiety. She left the East Coast for her adopted state of California soon after college and now lives in San Luis Obispo, a sunny mission town on the central coast. When she can escape from her computer, she tends a struggling garden and orchard, studies Mandarin, and plays the flute in a local Irish music session.

[www.lfrobertson.net](http://www.lfrobertson.net)

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**Laurie Rockenbeck**


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Laurie Rockenbeck was raised a Navy brat and moved around a lot as a kid, including 10 years in Reno. She lives near Seattle with her family, two cats, and a dwindling number of chickens. She graduated with a degree in journalism from UNR and quickly learned that writing fiction was a lot more fun. With a grandmother who started every story with, “This is a true lie...,” there is no doubt that story-telling and exaggeration are part of her genetic make-up. Her new mystery series features Seattle Police Department’s only trans male homicide detective. Laurie has her private investigation license but prefers writing about made up cases to investigating real ones.

[www.laurierockenbeck.com](http://www.laurierockenbeck.com)

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**Amy Rogers**


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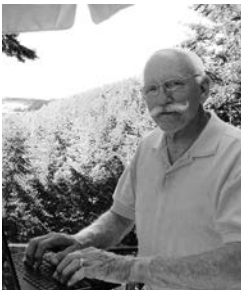


Amy Rogers, MD, PhD, is a Harvard-educated scientist, novelist, journalist, educator, critic, editor, and publisher specializing in all things science-y. Her thriller novels *Petroplague*, *Reversion*, and *The Han Agent* use real science and medicine to create plausible, frightening scenarios in the style of Michael Crichton. Formerly a microbiology professor, she founded Science Thrillers Media, offering editing, publishing services, and website design to independent authors. At ScienceThrillers.com she features other authors in this genre. Amy is a member of International Thriller Writers, is treasurer for Northern California Publishers and Authors, and writes a science column for Sacramento’s Inside Publications. [AmyRogers.com](http://AmyRogers.com)

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**Bruce Rolfe**


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Nobody writes about the loser who didn’t win the lottery. Nobody writes about the author who, exhausted and rejected, sensibly gave up. But plenty of authors have astonishing gumption and every once in a while it pays off, even after 29 years of trying. Last year Bruce Rolfe received a three-book contract from House of Stratus in Cornwall, England, of all places, for his amateur-sleuth series set in Reno, Nevada. Check out his debut novel, *Tools of the Trade*, and upcoming handyman mystery novels at his website.

[www.brucerolfe.com](http://www.brucerolfe.com)

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**Charles Rosenberg**


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Charles (“Chuck”) Rosenberg’s latest novel (#5) is the alternate history thriller *The Trial and Execution of the Traitor George Washington*. It imagines the British kidnapping Washington and taking him back to England to be tried for high treason. It will be published in June by HarperCollins. His interest in the American Revolution began in 5th grade when he had to memorize Longfellow’s *The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere*. To this day, he can still recite it if you ask him (his wife, however, requests that you not ask). He’s at work on his next novel, set during the Presidential election of 1860. From 1982-2008, Chuck was the script consultant to four legal TV shows, including *LA Law*.

[www.charlesrosenbergauthor.com](http://www.charlesrosenbergauthor.com)

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## Clive Rosengren

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Clive Rosengren is the author of the Shamus-nominated novels *Murder Unscripted* and *Red Desert*, featuring Hollywood actor/private eye Eddie Collins. Third in the series, *Velvet on a Tuesday Afternoon*, was released last November. Clive spent most of the last 40 years as an actor, pounding many of the same streets as his fictional detective. A favorite television credit is *Cheers*, where he played the only character to throw Sam Malone out of his own bar.

[cliverosengren.com](http://cliverosengren.com)

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## Priscilla Royal

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Priscilla Royal, author of the Prioress Eleanor/Brother Thomas medieval mystery series from Poisoned Pen Press, was born during WWII, grew up in British Columbia during the Cold War, and went to San Francisco State University during the Vietnam War. After so many wars, she disappeared into the Great Bureaucracy for the next 33 years before retiring to a life of crime in the English 13th century. A theater fan and reader of history, mystery, and fiction of lesser violence, she resides in Northern California. Her 14th book is *Wild Justice*.

[www.priscillaroyal.com](http://www.priscillaroyal.com)

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## S.J. Rozan

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SJ Rozan — from the Bronx and proud of it — has won multiple awards, including the Edgar, Shamus, Anthony, Nero, and Macavity; the Japanese Maltese Falcon; and the Private Eye Writers of America Life Achievement Award. She's written 15 novels, 13 under her own name and two with Carlos Dews as "Sam Cabot." She edited two short story anthologies and many of her own 70+ short stories have appeared in various "Best of the Year" collections. SJ lives in lower Manhattan.

[www.sjrozan.net](http://www.sjrozan.net)

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## Janet Rudolph

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Janet Rudolph is the Editor of the *Mystery Readers Journal*. She blogs daily at [MysteryFanfare.com](http://MysteryFanfare.com) and [DyingforChocolate.com](http://DyingforChocolate.com), has facilitated a weekly mystery book group, hosts Literary Salons with crime writers, founded Left Coast Crime, and is on the Board of Bouchercon and LCC and MWA NorCal. She lives in the Berkeley hills with her husband, two golden retrievers, and three cats who often appear on her Facebook Page (along with a daily garden/rose photo).

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## Kirk Russell

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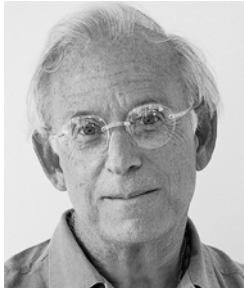
Kirk Russell has written ten crime novels and three series, the first with an undercover Fish and Game officer, Marquez, the second an SF homicide inspector, Raveneau, and most recently FBI special agent bomb tech and investigator, Paul Gale. *Signature Wounds* with Gale was a Kindle First last March. A second Gale novel, *Gone Dark*, publishes this month. Russell is at work on a third Gale as well a new series. When reaching for inspiration the author turns to an old adage: "Stop. Think. There must be a harder way."

[kirkrussellbooks.com](http://kirkrussellbooks.com)

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**Charles Salzberg**

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Charles Salzberg's work has appeared in *New York* magazine, *Esquire*, *GQ*, and *The New York Times Book Review*. He has written over 20 non-fiction books, including *From Set Shot to Slam Dunk*, an oral history of the NBA, and *Soupy Sez: My Zany Life and Times*. He is author of the Shamus Award-nominated *Swann's Last Song*, *Swann Dives In*, *Swann's Lake of Despair*, nominated for two Silver Falchions, *Swann's Way Out*, and *Devil in the Hole*, named one of the best crime novels of the year by *Suspense* magazine. He teaches writing at the New York Writers Workshop, where he is a Founding Member, and he is a member of the MWA-NY Board. *Second Story Man*, will be published this month. [www.charlessalzberg.com](http://www.charlessalzberg.com)

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**Angela M. Sanders AKA Clover Tate**

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Angela M. Sanders writes the Joanna Hayworth vintage clothing mysteries and the Booster Club capers under her own name. As Clover Tate, she's the author of a series of Kite Shop mysteries set in the coastal town of Rock Point, Oregon. When Angela isn't at her laptop, she's rummaging in thrift shops, lounging with a book, and pontificating about how to make the perfect martini.

[www.angelamsanders.com](http://www.angelamsanders.com)

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**Barb Schlichting**

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Barbara Schlichting has always been a dreamer, so she writes books. She likes to wander through bookstores and fall in love with fictional characters. Barbara is the author of the First Ladies Dollhouse mystery series, historical fiction set in downtown Minneapolis. She has several short stories published. Originally from Minneapolis, she and her family moved further north to Bemidji, MN. *Body on the Tracks* is set onboard a 1943 Zephyr express train between Chicago and Denver. Zephyrette Brita discovers a body in the Chicago railyard. a nuclear physicist. Later, Brita uncovers a plot to poison the national food supply as she chases an escaped Nazi hitman before another murder happens.

[www.barbaraschlichting.com](http://www.barbaraschlichting.com)

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**Ilene Schneider**

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Rabbi Ilene Schneider, Ed.D., one of the first women rabbis in the U.S., has decided what she wants to be when she grows up: a writer. Despite spending her retirement birding, gardening, going to movies, traveling, and over-sharing on Facebook, she is the author of the Rabbi Aviva Cohen mysteries: the critically acclaimed *Chanukah Guilt*, the award-winning *Unleavened Dead*, and the award-winning *Yom Killer*. She wrote the best-selling *Talk Dirty Yiddish*, now expanded and re-released as *Talking Dirty – in Yiddish?*; developed a website of Q&As about Chanukah ([whyninecandles.com](http://whyninecandles.com)); and edited a cookbook, *Recipes by the Book: Oak Tree Authors Cook*.

[rabbiauthor.com](http://rabbiauthor.com)

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**Trevor Scott**

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Trevor Scott is the best-selling author of more than 40 mysteries and thrillers, including nearly 20 books in his Jake Adams International Espionage Thriller Series. He was an aviation ordnance man working the dangerous flight deck of aircraft carriers in the Navy, and was a captain in the Air Force, where he was stationed in Germany during the fall of the Berlin Wall. He has a master's in writing from Northern Michigan University and a bachelor's in English from the University of Minnesota, Duluth. A native of Minnesota, he has traveled to more than 80 countries and currently resides in Reno, Nevada.

[www.trevorscott.com](http://www.trevorscott.com)

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**L.J. Sellers**

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L.J. Sellers writes the bestselling Detective Jackson mysteries — a four-time winner of the Readers Favorite Awards. She also pens the high-octane Agent Dallas series, the new Extractor series, and provocative standalone thrillers. Her 23 novels have sold more than a million books (but you wouldn't know that by the way she dresses). L.J. resides in Eugene, Oregon, where many of her novels are set, and she's also an award-winning journalist. When not plotting murders, she enjoys standup comedy, cycling, and zip-lining. She's also been known to jump out of airplanes.

[ljsellers.com](http://ljsellers.com)

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**Terry Shames**

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Terry Shames writes the Samuel Craddock series, the sixth of which, *An Unsettling Crime for Samuel Craddock*, is nominated for a Lefty at this year's convention. Her seventh book, *A Reckoning in the Back Country* came out January 2018. Although she lives in California, the series is set in small-town Texas. When research for the series takes her back to the middle of Texas in summer, she fervently wishes she had set her series in Hawaii near the beach.

[www.Terryshames.com](http://www.Terryshames.com)

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**Andi Shechter**

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Andi Shechter, who chaired Left Coast Crime in 1997 and 2007, is a (mostly former) mystery-loving reviewer, chat host, blogger, panel put-togetherist, intrepid reader, and fangirl. She was LCC Fan Guest of Honor in 2001. She spends time in the world of science fiction fandom, and is an activist for feminism and disability awareness. Andi shares a Seattle abode with a plethora of soft toys, hedgehogs, gorillas, and apes among the horde. She can be found blogging, irregularly, at [hedgehog526.wordpress.com](http://hedgehog526.wordpress.com) and is on Facebook pretty much all the time.

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**Nancy Cole Silverman**

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Nancy Cole Silverman credits the fact both she and Edgar Allen Poe share the same birthday, along with her 25 years in talk radio, for helping her to develop an ear for storytelling. After writing everything from commercial copy to news, she retired from radio in 2001 to write fiction. Today, Silverman has written numerous short stories and novelettes, some of which have been produced as audiobooks. Her new series, the Carol Childs Mysteries (Henery Press), takes place inside a busy Los Angeles Radio station. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband, four adult children, and thoroughly pampered standard poodle.

[www.nancycolesilverman.com](http://www.nancycolesilverman.com)

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**Clea Simon**

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After three nonfiction books and 22 cozy/amateur sleuth mysteries, mostly featuring cats, Clea Simon returned to her rock & roll past last fall with *World Enough* (Severn House), an edgy urban noir. She's going feline again this year, with the upcoming black cat-narrated *Cross My Path*, a Blackie and Care mystery (Severn House); a new Pru Marlowe "pet noir," *Fear on Four Paws* (Poisoned Pen Press), out this summer; and a new witch cat series for Polis Books, starting with *A Spell of Murder* later in the year. A recovering journalist, Clea lives in Massachusetts.

[www.cleasimon.com](http://www.cleasimon.com)

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## Sheila Simonson

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Sheila Simonson has written 15 published novels, nine of them mysteries — the Lark Dodge series from St. Martin's and the Latouche County series from Perseverance Press. Her current mystery, *Call Down the Hawk*, is set in the Columbia River Gorge. Her earlier works have been republished in e-book format by Uncial Press ([uncials.com](http://uncials.com)). Sheila is a member of Sisters in Crime and Friends of Mystery. She likes to talk too much, so you'll probably also find her on a panel.

[sites.google.com/site/sheilasimonson](http://sites.google.com/site/sheilasimonson)

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## Linda Joy Singleton

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When Linda Joy Singleton was 13, she wrote a fan letter to her favorite mystery author — and was thrilled to receive a long letter back. Now she's the author of her 7th series for kids, the *Curious Cat Spy Club*. The newest title, *Dog-Gone Danger*, just came out from Albert Whitman, about a puzzling disappearance, a search & rescue dog, a pug puppy, and a super dog. She lives near Sacramento and has been a member of Sisters in Crime for over 20 years. For teacher resources, writing tips and news, check out her website.

[www.LindaJoySingleton.com](http://www.LindaJoySingleton.com)

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## S.A. Solomon

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S.A. Solomon has published crime fiction and poetry in *New Jersey Noir* (Akashic Books), *Jewish Noir* (PM Press), *Protectors 2: Heroes-Stories To Benefit PROTECT*, *Grand Central Noir* (Metropolitan Crime), *Shotgun Honey*, and *The Five-Two Crime Poetry Weekly*. She's a member of the Mystery Writers of America, New York chapter.

[www.facebook.com/Author.S.A.Solomon](http://www.facebook.com/Author.S.A.Solomon)

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## Mike Spencer

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Mike Spencer has been attending Left Coast Crime for a few years as an undercover would-be fiction writer. He recently wrote the snappy non-fiction page turner, *Private Eye Confidential: Stories From a Real P.I.* (99 The Press.) It's the only fun, short nonfiction book about what a P.I. really does. For the last two decades Mike has run Spencer Investigations in Oakland and Walnut Creek, California. He holds a master's degree in journalism from U.C. Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism. In his 20s he reported on crime and news at daily papers in Virginia, California, and Florida. In his business he serves trial lawyers and select private clients. He shares office space with a yellow labrador, Buttercup.

[SpencerPI.blogspot.com](http://SpencerPI.blogspot.com)

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## Josh Stallings

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"Fiction is the lie I use to tell my truth." Josh Stallings' *Young Americans*, a '70s glam-rock disco heist novel, was nominated for both a 2016 Lefty Award and an Anthony Award. His hard boiled Moses McGuire trilogy found itself on over 14 best-of-the-year lists. His short fiction appears all over the damn place. Born in Los Angeles. Raised in Nor Cali. He now lives and types in the San Jacinto mountains. Surrounded by cedar, pine, and oak forests he spends his days dreaming up nefarious plots, evil crimes, and redemptive tales.

[www.joshstallings.com](http://www.joshstallings.com)

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### Kelli Stanley

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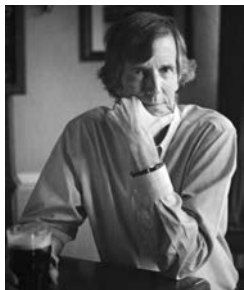
Kelli Stanley is the critically-acclaimed, award-winning author of three previous Miranda Corbie novels (*City of Dragons*, *City of Secrets*, *City of Ghosts*). *City of Sharks* is her latest novel, launching at Left Coast Crime! She is a Macavity and Bruce Alexander Award winner and finalist for The Los Angeles Times Book Prize. Other books include *Nox Dormienda* and *The Curse-Maker*, both part of a historical noir series set in Roman Britain. She lives in San Francisco, which awarded her a Certificate of Honor for her contributions to literature. Kelli likes her bourbon neat, her gardens messy, and her jewelry vintage. Visit her website for book-related music, maps, and more.

[www.kellistanley.com](http://www.kellistanley.com)

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### Mark Stevens

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Mark Stevens is the son of two librarians. By law, he was required to grow up writing books. He writes the Allison Coil Mystery Series — *Antler Dust*, *Buried by the Roan*, *Trapline*, and *Lake of Fire*. *Trapline* won the Colorado Book Award in 2015. *Kirkus Reviews* called *Lake of Fire* “irresistible.” The fifth entry in the series, *The Melancholy Howl*, will be out in late 2018, and Mark’s agent is currently shopping a standalone, *No Lie Lasts Forever*. Mark is president of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of Mystery Writers of America.

[www.writermarkstevens.com](http://www.writermarkstevens.com)

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### Sharon St. George

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During my years as medical staff director of an acute-care hospital, the intrigue and secret-keeping I witnessed inspired me to write the hospital-based Aimee Machado Mystery series. The first four titles, inspired in part by my alternate experience working in health science libraries, are: *Due for Discard*, *Checked Out*, *Breach of Ethics*, and *Primary Source*. My degrees are in English and Theatre Arts, so when I have time for a break from writing, I enjoy taking on a role in a community theatre production. I’m a member of Sisters in Crime and Mystery Writers of America, and I serve as program director for Writers Forum, a nonprofit organization for writers in northern California.

[www.sharonstgeorge.com](http://www.sharonstgeorge.com)

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### Jane Stillwater

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Jane Stillwater is an author, journalist, and war correspondent (whenever she can find a war to gain access to, not like the old days when she was embedded with the Marines in Iraq). She is the author of *Bring Your Own Flak Jacket: Helpful Tips for Touring Today's Middle East*, *Mecca & the Hajj: Lessons from the Islamic School of Hard Knocks*, and *Visions of a Lost and Future World*. Her latest book, *Road Trip to Damascus*, is a hilarious murder mystery that takes place all over the world — the *Where’s Waldo* of crime fiction. She has written about and visited such exotic places as North Korea, Antarctica, Burma, Ukraine, South Africa, Syria, Tibet, Iran, and Washington DC. She currently lives in Berkeley, California.

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### Pat Stoltey

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Pat (Patricia) Stoltey lives in Northern Colorado with her husband Bill, Scottish Terrier Sassy (AKA Doggity), and brown tabby Katrina (AKA Kitty Cat). Her favorite things include a good book to read on a snowy day (plus chocolate and a glass of Pinot Noir). Pat is the author of four novels published by Five Star/Cengage including *Dead Wrong*, a thriller that was a finalist for a Colorado Book Award in 2015, and the historical mystery *Wishing Caswell Dead* (December 20, 2017), set in frontier Illinois in the early 1830s. You can learn more about Pat at her website/blog.

[www.patriciastolteybooks.com](http://www.patriciastolteybooks.com)



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**Lucinda Surber**

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Lucinda became an expert on the California Gold Rush while teaching 4th grade local history, and is looking forward to learning all about the Nevada Silver Rush and the Comstock Mine in Reno. She isn't a gambler, but is teaching her granddaughter how to shuffle and play Go Fish, and can occasionally be coerced into playing a hand or two of Pinochle or Gin Rummy. When they aren't helping with Left Coast Crime, Lucinda and Stan Ulrich run Stop, You're Killing Me!, their Anthony award-winning web resource for lovers of mystery, crime, thriller, spy, and suspense books.

[www.StopYoureKillingMe.com](http://www.StopYoureKillingMe.com)

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**Phoef Sutton**

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Phoef Sutton is a New York Times Bestselling author. He won two Emmy Awards for his work on the classic TV comedy *Cheers* and a Peabody Award for *Boston Legal*. His screenwriting credits include *Mrs. Winterbourne* and *The Fan*, starring Robert DeNiro. His TV movies include *Darrow & Darrow* and *Past Malice*. Phoef has also written plays and novels, among them *Fifteen Minutes To Live* and his "Crush" mysteries, *Crush* and *Heart Attack and Vine*. With Janet Evanovich he co-authored *Wicked Charms* and *Curious Minds*. His most recent books are *Colorado Boulevard* (another Crush mystery) and *From Away*. He lives in South Pasadena, California with his wife and two daughters.

[phoefsutton.com](http://phoefsutton.com)

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**Wendall Thomas**

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Wendall Thomas teaches in the Graduate Film School at UCLA, lectures internationally on screenwriting, and has worked as an entertainment reporter, script consultant, and film and television writer. Her most entertaining job was writing dialogue for a Jack Russell terrier on PBS's *Wishbone*. Her short fiction has appeared in the crime anthologies *Ladies Night* (2015) and *Last Resort* (2017), and her first mystery novel, *Lost Luggage*, takes place in the bizarre and sinister world of endangered animal smuggling.

[www.wendallthomas.com](http://www.wendallthomas.com)

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**Brian Thornton**

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Brian Thornton is the author of nine books. His short fiction has appeared in such venues as *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*, the Akashic Books anthology *Seattle Noir*, and most recently in *The Big Click*. He has two projects coming soon courtesy of Down & Out Books – *The Hangman Isn't Hangin': Crime Fiction Inspired by the Music of Steely Dan*, and *Suicide Blonde*, three interconnected novellas set in 1960s Las Vegas. A native of Washington, he lives with his wife, the writer Robyn Thornton and their son, in Seattle, where he has twice served as Northwest Chapter president for the Mystery Writers of America.

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**Kate Thornton**

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Kate Thornton has over a hundred short stories in print and has been the editor of several anthologies and collections. Most recently, one of her short stories, "Working in the Suburbs," was chosen for inclusion in a Finnish literature textbook for eighth graders. She lives and works in Tucson, AZ, and is active in Sisters in Crime and MWA.

[www.katethornton.net](http://www.katethornton.net)

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## Nancy Tingley

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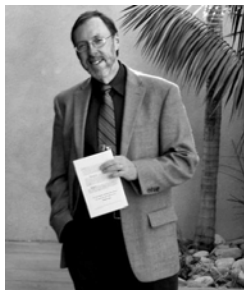
Nancy Tingley stuck close to her field when she created the Jenna Murphy Mysteries — *A Head in Cambodia* and *A Death in Bali*. With a Ph.D. in Asian art, Tingley is a former museum curator and art consultant who likes to read (and write) books immersed in place. She firmly believes that being an art historian is being a detective — so many clues in a painting or sculpture. Nancy lives on a hill in Marin, where she writes in the morning and throws pots in the afternoon — not at the wall, but on a wheel.

[nancytingley.com](http://nancytingley.com)

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## Keith Tittle

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An overnight success after a mere six decades, Keith Tittle's latest novel, *A Matter of Justice* (2017), is the first in the Jefferson Dawes series, and was named Chanticleer Reviews Grand Prize Winner for Suspense/Thrillers. His previous novel, *Drawn Back* (2014), blends historical mystery with time-travel, transporting readers back to the days of Prohibition and speakeasies. Keith lives in Southwest Washington, with his oh-so-patient wife and assorted felines. Always eager to engage with fans about writing, or mysteries, feel free to contact him and check out his web site.

[keithtittle.com](http://keithtittle.com)

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## Peggy Townsend

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Peggy Townsend is a longtime newspaper reporter whose first mystery novel, *See Her Run*, will be released in June by Thomas & Mercer, the mystery and thriller arm of Amazon Publishing. She has won state and national journalism awards for her reporting, and her stories have been published in newspapers across the country. She divides her time between Santa Cruz and Lake Tahoe.

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## Sue Trowbridge

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Sue Trowbridge is a web developer and book designer living in Alameda, CA, with her husband, Joe Mallon, their Boston Terrier, Bibi, and many overflowing bookshelves. You can find her business online at [interbridge.com](http://interbridge.com), and her weekly book reviews at [saturdayreader.net](http://saturdayreader.net).

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## Kathleen Valenti

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Kathleen has lived on the Left Coast her entire life, first in Los Angeles until the ripe old age of three and now in Bend, Oregon. She's written for her supper for more than two decades as an advertising copywriter, spinning stories for everything from athletic apparel to blast-proof undercarriages. (She wishes she were kidding.) As the author of the Maggie O'Malley mystery series, she's added two books to her wordy repertoire: first her Lefty- and Agatha-nominated debut novel, *Protocol*, and *39 Winks*, which releases in May. When she isn't writing, she hangs out with her family, drinks too much coffee, and pretends to enjoy running.

[www.kathleenvalenti.com](http://www.kathleenvalenti.com)

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**Holly West**


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Holly West is the author of the Mistress of Fortune historical mystery series. Her short crime fiction has been honored with two Anthony Award nominations and her stories appear online and numerous anthologies. She's currently editing *Murder-a-Go-Go's*, a collection of crime fiction featuring short stories inspired by the music of the Go-Go's, for Down & Out Books. Net proceeds will benefit Planned Parenthood. Holly lives in Northern California with her husband and two dogs.

[hollywest.com](http://hollywest.com)

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**Nancy G. West**


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Nancy G. West, a business major, discovered writing Aggie Mundeen mysteries was more fun than accounting. In *River City Dead*, Aggie and SAPD Detective Sam plan a rendezvous on the San Antonio River Walk during Fiesta — a vacation from crime and reset for their tumultuous relationship. Murder invades the hotel. Disturbing revelations surface about Aggie's new conventioner friends, the Fabulous Femmes, and calamity plagues Aggie's debut dance performance at Arneson Theater. Even in *River City*, crime complicates relationships. "Like taking a vacation while reading a mystery. History, mystery, humor and romance." Short-Listed: International Chanticleer Awards.

[www.nancygwest.com](http://www.nancygwest.com)

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**Mark Wheaton**


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Reformed Texan Mark Wheaton has been an entertainment journalist, a friend to whisky, a screenwriter, an inveterate eavesdropper, and the world's biggest Idina Menzel fan, sometimes all at once. Likes include art museums, theater, and the catalogue of Stephen Sondheim. Dislikes include crowds, conversations with live people, and saying nice things about himself, which is why he made his brilliant and witty friend write this bio. Mark now lives in Los Angeles and writes novels: *Fields of Wrath*, *City of Strangers*, and *Wages of Sin* (Thomas & Mercer) are available. Next up: *Emily Eternal* (Hachette/Grand Central Publishing, Mar. 2019).

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**Tina Whittle**


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Tina Whittle's Tai Randolph series, featuring intrepid gunshop owner Tai and her corporate security agent partner Trey, has garnered starred reviews in *Kirkus*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Booklist*, and *Library Journal*. Published by Poisoned Pen Press, the sixth book, *Necessary Ends*, is scheduled for release in April. A two-time nominee for Georgia Author of the Year, Tina enjoys boxing, sushi, and reading tarot cards. She is a proud member of Sisters in Crime and serves as both a chapter officer and national board member. Visit her website to follow her on social media, sign up for her newsletter, or read additional scenes and short stories.

[www.tinawhittle.com](http://www.tinawhittle.com)

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**Dänna Wilberg**


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Dänna Wilberg has written, produced, and directed multiple award winning short films, and has produced and hosted TV programs in Sacramento for over a decade. Her published romantic-suspense trilogy featuring young psychotherapist Grace Simms, *The Red Chair*, *The Grey Door*, and *The Black Dress*, poses the question: What do we really know about another person? (heheheh) Her current work in progress is a paranormal-suspense series, *Borrowed Time*, featuring "intuitive" Suzanne Cash, Detective Samson Metzger, and villains you will love to hate. Aside from writing, Dänna loves her children, "killer" cheesecake, and Karaoke.

[www.dannawilberg.com](http://www.dannawilberg.com)

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### Marty Wingate

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Best-selling author Marty Wingate shares her love of Britain in two mystery series. The Potting Shed books feature Pru Parke, a middle-aged American gardener transplanted from Texas to England — book #6, *Best-Laid Plants*, released in October 2017. The Birds of a Feather mysteries follow Julia Lanchester, bird lover, who runs a tourist office in a Suffolk village — look for *Farewell, My Cuckoo*, book #4, in April. Marty also leads garden tours to Britain, spending free moments deep in research for her books. Or in pubs.

[martywingate.com](http://martywingate.com)

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### Simon Wood

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*USA Today* bestselling author Simon Wood is a California transplant from England. He's a former competitive race car driver, a licensed pilot, an endurance cyclist, an animal rescuer, and an occasional PI. He shares his world with his American wife, Julie. Their lives are dominated by a longhaired dachshund and four cats. He's the Anthony Award winning author of *Accidents Waiting To Happen*, *Paying the Piper*, *Terminated*, *Deceptive Practices*, and the Aidy Westlake series. His thriller *The One That Got Away* has been optioned for a movie adaptation. His latest book is *Saving Grace*. Curious people can learn more at his website.

[www.simonwood.net](http://www.simonwood.net)

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### Reavis Z. Wortham

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Reavis Z. Wortham traded a 35-year career in public education to make stuff up by writing two critically acclaimed series: the Red River mysteries set in 1960s rural northeast Texas, and a contemporary Texas Ranger series, the Sonny Hawke thrillers. His first novel, *The Rock Hole*, was a *Kirkus* Top 12 Mystery of 2011. His 5th Red River novel, *Dark Places*, was chosen by True West Magazine as a Top 10 Modern Western for 2015. Reavis is this year's Guest of Honor for the Magnum cum Murder crime writing festival in Indianapolis (October) and will be Keynote Speaker and Co-host for the 2019 Pulpwood Girlfriend Weekend, hosting 750+ book clubs from across the globe in Nacogdoches, TX.

[www.reaviszwortham.com](http://www.reaviszwortham.com)

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### Sandy Wright

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Sandy Wright lives in Arizona with her husband, a super-smart Border Collie/Aussie mix named Teak, and two huge black panther cats, Salem and Shadow Moon. Their daddy, Magick, was even bigger! He's featured in my debut novel, *Song of the Ancients*, the first book in my paranormal suspense series, Ancient Magic, set in the energy-laden town of Sedona. Most of the magical stuff I drew from my own Wiccan background and practice. The series continues at other sacred sites, known and obscure. And please look for my upcoming Arizona suspense, *Crescent Moon Crossing*, releasing this summer!

[www.writerSandy.com](http://www.writerSandy.com)

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### Heather Young

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Heather Young grew up in a land of strip malls, raised by immigrants from the Midwest. Her parents' stories of the "Old Country" inspired her first novel, *The Lost Girls*, a tale of love, betrayal, and death set in northern Minnesota near a small town like the ones where her parents grew up. *The Lost Girls* was an Edgar Award nominee in 2017 and won the Strand Literary Award for Best First Novel. She is currently working on *Lovelock*, a tale of regret, penitence, and death set 93 miles east of here in a small town off Exit 106.

[www.heatheryoungwriter.com](http://www.heatheryoungwriter.com)

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**Rich Zahradnik**

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Rich Zahradnik is a recovering journalist and full-time novelist. He is the award-winning author of the critically acclaimed Coleridge Taylor mystery series from Camel Press (*Lights Out Summer*, *A Black Sail*, *Drop Dead Punk*, *Last Words*). *A Black Sail* was named best mystery in the 2017 Next Generation Indie Book Awards. He lives in Pelham, NY, and volunteers around the New York City area teaching kids how to write real news stories and publish newspapers.

[www.ichzahradnik.com](http://www.ichzahradnik.com)

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**Gregory Zeigler**

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Gregory Zeigler resides on a hill in Jackson, WY, with his wife Dimmie. He is an educator, speaker, environmentalist, and author. The Zeiglers' three children are all grown and gone but not forgotten. In their backyard, Greg and Dimmie cherish the company of wild birds, deer, elk, moose, and the occasional bear, and across the valley a venerated old friend known locally as the Sleeping Indian Mountain. His first book is a travel memoir, *Travels with Max: In Search of Steinbeck's America Fifty Years Later* — film at <https://vimeo.com/131129928>. He later authored two eco-thrillers in the new sub-genre of Climate Fiction: *The Straw That Broke* and *Some Say Fire*.

[gzeiglerbooks.com](http://gzeiglerbooks.com)

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**James W. Ziskin**

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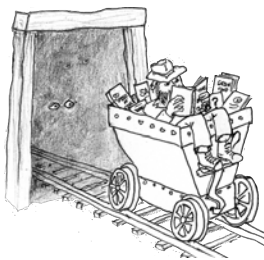
James W. Ziskin (Jim to those in the know) is the author of the Ellie Stone mysteries. Winner of the 2017 Anthony Award for Best Paperback Original and the 2017 Macavity Award for Best Historical Novel (Sue Feder Memorial), he has also been a finalist for the Edgar, Barry, and Lefty awards. Jim is 6' 2", weighs 200 pounds, and writes like a girl.

[www.jameswziskin.com](http://www.jameswziskin.com)

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**The Unknown Author**

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*This space is dedicated to an author who had to cancel, due to a pending book deadline, right before the Program Book was sent to the printer.*

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# Left Coast Crime #28 in Reno

Welcome to the 28th Left Coast Crime, *Crime on the Comstock!* The Left Coast Crime Convention is an annual event sponsored by fans of mystery literature for fans of mystery literature, including both readers and authors. Held in the western half of North America during the first quarter of the year, LCC's intent is to provide an event where mystery fans can gather in convivial surroundings to pursue their mutual interests. Left Coast Crime Conference, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) organization. Stay in touch with LCC, browse the archives of past events, and watch for upcoming conventions at [www.leftcoastcrime.org](http://www.leftcoastcrime.org)

## Left Coast Crime Honorees Through the Years

Year	Place	Guests of Honor	Fan Guests of Honor	Toastmaster	Lifetime Achievement
1991	San Francisco, CA	Marcia Muller Bill Pronzini			
1992	San Francisco, CA	J.A. Jance Earl Emerson		James Lee Burke	
1993	Anaheim, CA	Susan Dunlap		Ann & Evan Maxwell	
1994	Anaheim, CA	Aaron Elkins		Carolyn Hart	
1995	Scottsdale, AZ	Tony Hillerman		Judith Van Gieson	
1996	Boulder, CO	Kinky Friedman	Maggie Mason	Nevada Barr	
1997	Seattle, WA	Faye & Jonathan Kellerman		Lia Matera	
1998	San Diego, CA	Elizabeth George	Willis Herr	Alan Russell	Bob Wade
1999	Albuquerque, NM	John Dunning	Tasha Mackler	Deborah Crombie	
2000	Tucson, AZ	Sue Grafton	George Easter	Harlan Coben	
2001	Anchorage, AL	Michael Connelly Lindsay Davis	Andi Shechter		
2002	Portland, OR	Steven Saylor Laurie King	Don Herron	G.M. Ford	
2003	Pasadena, CA	Robert Crais	Sue Feder	Jerrilyn Farmer	
2004	Monterey, CA	Sharan Newman Walter Mosley	Bryan Barrett Tom Walls	Gillian Roberts	Richard Lupoff
2005	El Paso, TX	Paco Ignacio Taibo S.J. Rozan	Ernie Bulow	Rick Riordan	
2006	Bristol, UK	Boris Akunin Jeffrey Deaver Anne Perry	Bill & Toby Gottfried Donna Moore	Lee Child	
2007	Seattle, WA	Dennis & Gayle Lynds	Kara Robinson Diane Kovacs	Gary Phillips	
2008	Denver, CO	Stephen White	Michael Masliah	Elaine Viets	
2009	Kona, HI	Rhys Bowen Barry Eisler	Pam Dehnke Vallery Feldman	Lee Goldberg	
2010	Los Angeles, CA	Jan Burke Lee Child	Janet Rudolph	Bill Fitzhugh	

Year	Place	Guests of Honor	Fan Guests of Honor	Toastmaster	Lifetime Achievement
2011	Santa Fe, NM	Margaret Coel Steven Havill	Marvin Lachman	Steve Brewer	Martin Cruz Smith
2012	Sacramento, CA	John Lescroart Jacqueline Winspear James Rollins [SG]	Noemi Levine	Harley Jane Kozak	
2013	Colorado Springs, CO	Craig Johnson Laura Lippman Lou Diamond Phillips [SG]	Tom & Enid Schantz	David Corbett	
2014	Monterey, CA	Cara Black Louise Penny Sue Grafton [SG]	Sue Trowbridge	Brad Parks	Marcia Muller Bill Pronzini
2015	Portland, OR	Chelsea Cain Timothy Hallinan Philip Margolin [SG]	Friends of Mystery, Portland, OR	Gar Anthony Haywood	
2016	Phoenix, AZ	Ann Cleeves Gregg Hurwitz	Chantelle Aimée Osman	Catriona McPherson	
2017	Honolulu, HI	Colin Cotterill Dana Stabenow		Laurie R. King	Faye & Jonathan Kellerman
2018	Reno, NV	Naomi Hirahara William Kent Krueger		Todd Borg	
2019	Vancouver, BC	C.J. Box Maureen Jennings	Don & Jen Longmuir	Cathy Ace	[Sue Grafton – see essay p. 27]

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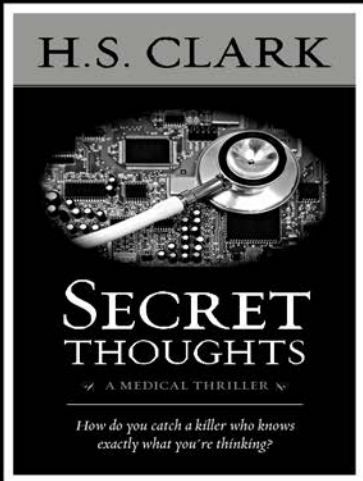
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# Left Coast Crime Awards — The Lefty

Since 2016, all Left Coast Crime Awards are designated as “Lefty” Awards. Once upon a time, the “Lefty” — first awarded in 1996 — was the award given for the best humorous mystery. The LCC Bylaws now provide that each annual convention will give Lefty Awards for best novel in four categories: Humorous, Historical (the Bruce Alexander Memorial, first given in 2004), Debut, and Best (not in the other categories). Annual conventions no longer pick optional award categories.

Over the years, optional awards have been given in a variety of categories, such as for the best mystery set in the LCC geographical region (Mountain & Pacific time zones in North America and west to Hawaii), and variously named depending on the convention location: e.g., *Otter* (Monterey 2004), *Calavera* (El Paso 2005), *Rocky* (Denver 2008 & Colorado Springs 2013), and *Rose* (Portland 2015). Other varieties of geographically-based award include the *Hillerman Sky* for Southwest settings (Santa Fe 2011), *Golden Nugget* for California (Sacramento 2012), and the *Squid* (US) and *Calamari* (non-US) (Monterey 2014).

Awards for best first mystery include the *Eureka!* (Sacramento 2012) and *Rosebud* (Portland 2015). And let’s not forget the *Watson*, for the mystery with the best sidekick (Santa Fe 2011 & Colorado Springs 2013), and the *Hawaii Five-O* (2009) for law enforcement and police procedurals. The *Panik* award was given in memory of Paul Anik for best LA noir (Los Angeles 2010). Cover art was recognized with the *Arty* (Denver 2008).

This year’s Lefty categories and the nominees are set out below. Be sure to deposit your paper Lefty Ballot in the ballot box near the Registration Table by 1:30 PM on Saturday.

## 2018 Lefty Award Nominees

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### Best Humorous Mystery

- Gone Gull* by Donna Andrews
- Cajun Christmas Killing* by Ellen Byron
- Dying on the Vine* by Marla Cooper
- Art of Vanishing* by Cynthia Kuhn
- Dying for a Diamond* by Cindy Sample

### Best Historical Mystery (prior to 1960)

#### – The Bruce Alexander Memorial

- In Farleigh Field* by Rhys Bowen
- Woman in the Camphor Trunk*  
by Jennifer Kincheloe
- Dangerous To Know* by Renee Patrick
- Proud Sinner* by Priscilla Royal
- Season of Blood* by Jeri Westerson

### Best Debut Mystery

- Short Time To Die* by Susan Alice Bickford
- Hollywood Homicide* by Kellye Garrett
- Lost Luggage* by Wendall Thomas
- A Head in Cambodia* by Nancy Tingley
- Protocol* by Kathleen Valenti

### Best Mystery (not in other categories)

- Blood Truth* by Matt Coyle
- Sulfur Springs* by William Kent Krueger
- Glass Houses* by Louise Penny
- Unsettling Crime for Samuel Craddock*  
by Terry Shames
- Cast the First Stone* by James W. Ziskin

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# History of Left Coast Crime Awards

## 2017 – Honolulu, Hawaii

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### Best Humorous Mystery

- ☑ *Body on the Bayou* by Ellen Byron
- Die Like an Eagle* by Donna Andrews
- Fields Where They Lay* by Timothy Hallinan
- The CEO Came DOA* by Heather Haven
- Floodgate* by Johnny Shaw
- A Disguise To Die For* by Diane Vallere

### Best Historical Mystery (prior to 1960)

#### – The Bruce Alexander Memorial

- ☑ *The Reek of Red Herrings* by Catriona McPherson
- Crowned and Dangerous* by Rhys Bowen
- A Death Along the River Fleet* by Susanna Calkins
- The Murder of Mary Russell* by Laurie R. King
- What Gold Buys* by Ann Parker

### Best Debut Mystery

- ☑ *Murder in G Major* by Alexia Gordon
- Cleaning Up Finn* by Sarah M. Chen
- Terror in Taffeta* by Marla Cooper
- Decanting a Murder* by Nadine Nettmann
- Design for Dying* by Renee Patrick

### Best Mystery (not in other categories)

- ☑ *A Great Reckoning* by Louise Penny
- Dark Fissures* by Matt Coyle
- Michelangelo's Ghost* by Gigi Pandian
- The Necessary Murder of Nonie Blake*  
by Terry Shames
- Heart of Stone* by James W. Ziskin

## 2016 – Phoenix, Arizona

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### Best Humorous Mystery

- ☑ *Lord of the Wings* by Donna Andrews
- Plantation Shudders* by Ellen Byron
- February Fever* by Jess Lourey
- Dying for a Donut* by Cindy Sample
- Crushed Velvet* by Diane Vallere

### Best Historical Mystery (prior to 1960)

#### – The Bruce Alexander Memorial

- ☑ *Malice at the Palace* by Rhys Bowen
- The Masque of a Murderer*  
by Susanna Calkins
- The Chocolate Kiss-Off* by Heather Haven
- The Secret Life of Anna Blanc* by Jennifer Kincheloe
- Dreaming Spies* by Laurie R. King
- Mrs. Roosevelt's Confidante* by Susan Elia MacNeal

### Best Mystery Set in the Left Coast Crime Geographic Area

- ☑ *The Accidental Alchemist* by Gigi Pandian
- The Crossing* by Michael Connelly
- Night Tremors* by Matt Coyle
- The Promise* by Robert Crais
- Young Americans* by Josh Stallings

### Best Mystery Set Outside the Left Coast Crime Geographic Area

- ☑ *The Nature of the Beast* by Louise Penny
- The Long and Faraway Gone* by Lou Berney
- Dragon Day* by Lisa Brackmann
- The Killing Kind* by Chris Holm
- Stone Cold Dead* by James W. Ziskin

## 2015 – Portland, Oregon

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### Lefty Award [humorous]

- ☑ *Herbie's Game* by Timothy Hallinan
- The Good, the Bad, and the Emus*  
by Donna Andrews
- January Thaw* by Jess Lourey
- Dying for a Dude* by Cindy Sample
- Suede to Rest* by Diane Vallere

### Bruce Alexander Memorial [historical, pre-1960]

- ☑ *A Deadly Measure of Brimstone*  
by Catriona McPherson
- Queen of Hearts* by Rhys Bowen
- From the Charred Remains* by Susanna Calkins
- City of Ghosts* by Kelli Stanley
- Cup of Blood* by Jeri Westerson

### Rose Award [LCC region]

- ☑ *Pirate Vishnu* by Gigi Pandian
- One Kick* by Chelsea Cain
- Glass Houses* by Terri Nolan
- Deadly Bonds* by L.J. Sellers
- Plaster City* by Johnny Shaw

### Rosebud Award [debut]

- ☑ *The Life We Bury* by Allen Eskens
- Kilmoon* by Lisa Alber
- Ice Shear* by M.P. Cooley
- The Black Hour* by Lori Rader-Day
- Mistress of Fortune* by Holly West

**2014 – Monterey, California**

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**Lefty Award [humorous]**

- ☑ *The Good Cop* by Brad Parks
- The Hen of the Baskervilles* by Donna Andrews
- The Fame Thief* by Timothy Hallinan
- The Last Word* by Lisa Lutz
- Dying for a Daiquiri* by Cindy Sample

**Bruce Alexander Memorial [historical, pre-1960]**

- ☑ *Dandy Gilver and a Bothersome Number of Corpses* by Catriona McPherson
- Heirs and Graces* by Rhys Bowen
- His Majesty's Hope* by Susan Elia MacNeal
- Murder as a Fine Art* by David Morrell
- Covenant with Hell* by Priscilla Royal
- Leaving Everything Most Loved* by Jacqueline Winspear

**Squid Award [U.S.]**

- ☑ *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger
- W Is for Wasted* by Sue Grafton
- Purgatory Key* by Darrell James
- The Wrong Girl* by Hank Phillippi Ryan
- A Killing at Cotton Hill* by Terry Shames

**Calamari Award [non-U.S.]**

- ☑ *How the Light Gets In* by Louise Penny
- Murder Below Montparnasse* by Cara Black
- Hour of the Rat* by Lisa Brackmann
- As She Left It* by Catriona McPherson
- Mykonos After Midnight* by Jeffrey Siger

**2013 – Colorado Springs, Colorado**

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**Lefty Award [humorous]**

- ☑ *The Girl Next Door* by Brad Parks
- Cruising in Your Eighties Is Murder* by Mike Befeler
- Swift Run* by Laura DiSilverio
- December Dread* by Jess Lourey
- Trail of the Spellmans* by Lisa Lutz
- Fit To Be Dead* by Nancy G. West

**Bruce Alexander Memorial [historical, pre-1960]**

- ☑ *Dandy Gilver and an Unsuitable Day for a Murder* by Catriona McPherson
- The Twelve Clues of Christmas* by Rhys Bowen
- A City of Broken Glass* by Rebecca Cantrell
- Live by Night* by Dennis Lehane
- Elegy for Eddie* by Jacqueline Winspear

**Rocky Award [LCC region]**

- ☑ *As the Crow Flies* by Craig Johnson
- Buffalo Bill's Dead Now* by Margaret Coel
- Hush Money* by Chuck Greaves
- Wicked Eddies* by Beth Groundwater
- Sonora Crossing* by Darrell James

**Watson Award [sidekick]**

- ☑ *Bruja Brouhaha* by Rochelle Staab
- In a Witch's Wardrobe* by Juliet Blackwell
- Taken* by Robert Crais
- Fun House* by Chris Grabenstein
- When the Past Haunts You* by L.C. Hayden

**2012 – Sacramento, California**

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**Lefty Award [humorous]**

- ☑ *The Real Macaw* by Donna Andrews
- Getting Old Can Kill You* by Rita Lakin
- October Fest* by Jess Lourey
- Magical Alienation* by Kris Neri
- Dying for a Dance* by Cindy Sample
- The Albuquerque Turkey* by John Vorhaus

**Bruce Alexander Memorial [historical, pre-1960]**

- ☑ *Mercury's Rise* by Ann Parker
- Naughty in Nice* by Rhys Bowen
- A Game of Lies* by Rebecca Cantrell
- A Killing Season* by Priscilla Royal
- Troubled Bones* by Jeri Westerson
- A Lesson in Secrets* by Jacqueline Winspear

**Golden Nugget Award [California]**

- ☑ *City of Secrets* by Kelli Stanley
- Disturbance* by Jan Burke
- The Drop* by Michael Connelly
- Bit Player* by Janet Dawson
- V Is for Vengeance* by Sue Grafton

**Eureka! Award [debut]**

- ☑ *Nazareth Child* by Darrell James
- The Baffled Beatlemaniac Caper* by Sally Carpenter
- Dead Man's Switch* by Tammy Kaehler
- Who Do, Voodoo?* by Rochelle Staab

## Lefty History

### 2011 – Santa Fe, New Mexico

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#### Lefty Award [humorous]

- ☑ *The Pot Thief Who Studied Einstein*  
by J. Michael Orenduff
- Stork Raving Mad* by Donna Andrews
- Swift Justice* by Laura DiSilverio
- Old Dogs* by Donna Moore
- Revenge for Old Times' Sake* by Kris Neri

#### Bruce Alexander Memorial [historical, pre-1950]

- ☑ *The Mapping of Love and Death*  
by Jacqueline Winspear
- A Night of Long Knives* by Rebecca Cantrell
- Murder for Greenhorns* by Robert Kresge
- City of Dragons* by Kelli Stanley
- The Demon's Parchment* by Jeri Westerson

#### Hillerman Sky Award [Southwest]

- ☑ *The Spider's Web* by Margaret Coel
- Wild Penance* by Sandi Ault
- The Bone Fire* by Christine Barber
- Snare* by Deborah J Ledford

#### Watson Award [sidekick]

- ☑ *Junkyard Dogs* by Craig Johnson
- Wild Penance* by Sandi Ault
- Dead Lift* by Rachel Brady
- Rolling Thunder* by Chris Grabenstein
- To Fetch a Thief* by Spencer Quinn

### 2010 – Los Angeles, California

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#### Lefty Award [humorous]

- ☑ *Getting Old Is a Disaster* by Rita Lakin
- Swan for the Money* by Donna Andrews
- Living with Your Kids Is Murder* by Mike Befeler
- Strangle a Loaf of Italian Bread* by Denise Dietz
- High Crimes on the Magical Plane* by Kris Neri

#### Bruce Alexander Memorial [historical pre-1950]

- ☑ *A Trace of Smoke* by Rebecca Cantrell
- Tears of Pearl* by Tasha Alexander
- In a Gilded Cage* by Rhys Bowen
- Freedom's Flight* by Gary Phillips
- Serpent in the Thorns* by Jeri Westerson

#### The Panik [L.A. noir]

- ☑ *Death Was in the Picture* by Linda Richards
- Cemetery Road* by Gar Anthony Haywood
- Trust No One* by Gregg Hurwitz
- Boulevard* by Stephen Jay Schwartz

### 2009 – Waikoloa, Hawaii

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#### Lefty Award [humorous]

- ☑ *Greasing the Piñata* by Tim Maleeny
- Six Geese A-Slaying* by Donna Andrews
- It Happened One Knife* by Jeffrey Cohen
- Thugs & Kisses* by Sue Ann Jaffarian
- Murder at the Bad Girl's Bar and Grill*  
by N.M. Kelby
- Getting Old Is To Die For* by Rita Lakin

#### Bruce Alexander Memorial [historical, pre-1950]

- ☑ *Nox Dormienda, A Long Night for Sleeping*  
by Kelli Stanley
- A Fatal Waltz* by Tasha Alexander
- A Royal Pain* by Rhys Bowen
- Tell Me, Pretty Maiden* by Rhys Bowen
- Touchstone* by Laurie King

#### Hawaii Five-O [police procedural]

- ☑ *Mahu Fire* by Neil S. Plakcy
- Angels Fall* by Baron Birtcher
- The Angel of Knowlton Park* by Kate Flora
- The Black Path* by Åsa Larsson
- Death of a Cozy Writer* by G.M. Malliet
- Fractured* by Karin Slaughter

### 2008 – Denver, Colorado

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#### Lefty Award [humorous]

- ☑ *Murder with Reservations* by Elaine Viets
- The Penguin Who Knew Too Much*  
by Donna Andrews
- Stuff To Die For* by Don Bruns
- Some Like It Hot-Buttered* by Jeffrey Cohen
- Knee High by the Fourth of July* by Jess Lourey

#### Rocky Award [LCC region]

- ☑ *The Girl with the Braided Hair* by Margaret Coel
- Free Fire* by C.J. Box
- Lost Dog* by Bill Cameron
- Stealing the Dragon* by Tim Maleeny
- False Fortune* by Twist Phelan

#### Arty Award [cover art]

- ☑ *Her Royal Spyness* by Rhys Bowen
- Queenpin* by Megan Abbott
- Isabella Moon* by Laura Benedict
- Silent Counsel* by Ken Isaacson
- Stealing the Dragon* by Tim Maleeny

**2007 – Seattle, Washington****Lefty Award [humorous]**

- ☑ *Go to Helena Handbasket* by Donna Moore
- No Nest for the Wicket* by Donna Andrews
- Monkey Man* by Steve Brewer
- 47 Rules of Highly Effective Bank Robbers*  
by Troy Cook
- Murder Unleashed* by Elaine Viets

**2006 – Bristol, UK****Lefty Award [humorous]**

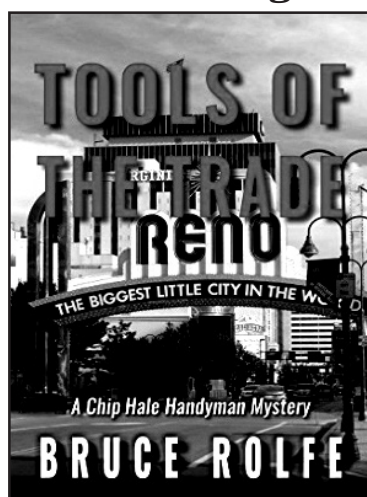
- ☑ *Cast Adrift* by Peter Guttridge
- Cue the Easter Bunny* by Liz Evans
- The Big Over Easy* by Jasper Fforde
- Highway 61 Resurfaced* by Bill Fitzhugh
- Fags and Lager* by Charlie Williams

**Bruce Alexander Memorial [historical, pre-1950]**

- ☑ *Spectres in the Smoke* by Tony Broadbent
- Night's Child* by Maureen Jennings
- Pardonable Lies* by Jacqueline Winspear

## A Must Read

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Entertaining**



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**2005 – El Paso, Texas****Lefty Award [humorous]**

- ☑ *We'll Always Have Parrots*  
by Donna Andrews [tie]
- ☑ *Blue Blood* by Susan McBride [tie]
- Carnage on the Committee*  
by Ruth Dudley Edwards
- Holy Guacamole* by Nancy Fairbanks
- Perfect Sax* by Jerrilyn Farmer

**Bruce Alexander Memorial [historical, pre-1950]**

- ☑ *The Witch in the Well* by Sharan Newman
- Five for Silver* by Mary Reed & Eric Mayer
- Tyrant of the Mind* by Priscilla Royal
- Murder on Marble Row* by Victoria Thompson
- Birds of a Feather* by Jacqueline Winspear

**Calavera Award [LCC region]**

- ☑ *Grave Endings* by Rochelle Krich
- Snap Shot* by Meg Chittenden
- Shadow Play* by David Cole
- What Others Know* by L.C. Hayden
- Family Claims* by Twist Phelan

**2004 – Monterey, California****Lefty Award [humorous]**

- ☑ *Mumbo Gumbo* by Jerrilyn Farmer
- Crouching Buzzard, Leaping Loon*  
by Donna Andrews
- Shop Till You Drop* by Elaine Viets

**Bruce Alexander Memorial [historical, pre-1950]**

- ☑ *For the Love of Mike* by Rhys Bowen
- Silver Lies* by Ann Parker
- Four for a Boy* by Mary Reed & Eric Mayer

**Otter Award [LCC region]**

- ☑ *More Than You Know* by Meg Chittenden
- Dragonfly Bones* by David Cole
- Murder Pans Out* by Emily Toll

**2003 – Pasadena, California****Lefty Award [humorous]**

- ☑ *The Hearse Case Scenario* by Tim Cockey [tie]
- ☑ *Pipsqueak* by Brian M. Wiprud [tie]
- Hard Eight* by Janet Evanovich
- This Pen for Hire* by Laura Levine
- The Rival Queens* by Fidelis Morgan
- Buck Fever* by Ben Rehder

## Lefty History

### 2002 – Portland, Oregon

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#### Lefty Award [humorous]

- ☑ *Dim Sum Dead* by Jerrilyn Farmer [tie]
- ☑ *Fender Benders* by Bill Fitzhugh [tie]  
*Revenge of the Wrought-Iron Flamingos*  
by Donna Andrews  
*Murder Can Upset Your Mother* by Selma Eichler  
*Long Time No See* by Susan Isaacs

### 2001 – Anchorage, Alaska

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[No Award Given]

### 2000 – Tucson, Arizona

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#### Lefty Award [humorous]

- ☑ *Murder With Peacocks* by Donna Andrews  
*Big Trouble* by Dave Barry  
*High Five* by Janet Evanovich  
*Immaculate Reception* by Jerrilyn Farmer  
*Murder Shoots the Bull* by Anne George

### 1999 – Albuquerque, New Mexico

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#### Lefty Award [humorous]

- ☑ *Four To Score* by Janet Evanovich

### 1998 – San Diego, California

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#### Lefty Award [humorous]

- ☑ *Three To Get Deadly* by Janet Evanovich  
*Dead Men Don't Dance* by Margaret Chittenden  
*Scam* by Parnell Hall  
*I Still Miss My Man But My Aim Is Getting Better*  
by Sarah Shankman  
*The Death and Life of Bobby Z* by Don Winslow

### 1997 – Seattle, Washington

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[No Award Given]

### 1996 – Boulder, Colorado

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#### Lefty Award [humorous]

- ☑ *The Fat Innkeeper* by Alan Russell  
*God Bless John Wayne* by Kinky Friedman  
*Who in Hell Is Wanda Fuca?* by G.M. Ford  
*Movie* by Parnell Hall  
*Miracles in Maggody* by Joan Hess  
*If I'd Killed Him When I Met Him*  
by Sharan McCrumb  
*{ the end – or the beginning... }*

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# Who Benefits? The LCC 2018 Charity

Each Left Coast Crime Convention raises money to support a local literacy organization with funds raised through silent and live auctions, along with the annual Quilt Raffle. LCC 2018's auction recipient is the Women and Children's Center of the Sierra (WACCS), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that provides education, job training, resources, and referrals to help women escape or avoid poverty in order to provide a better life for their families.

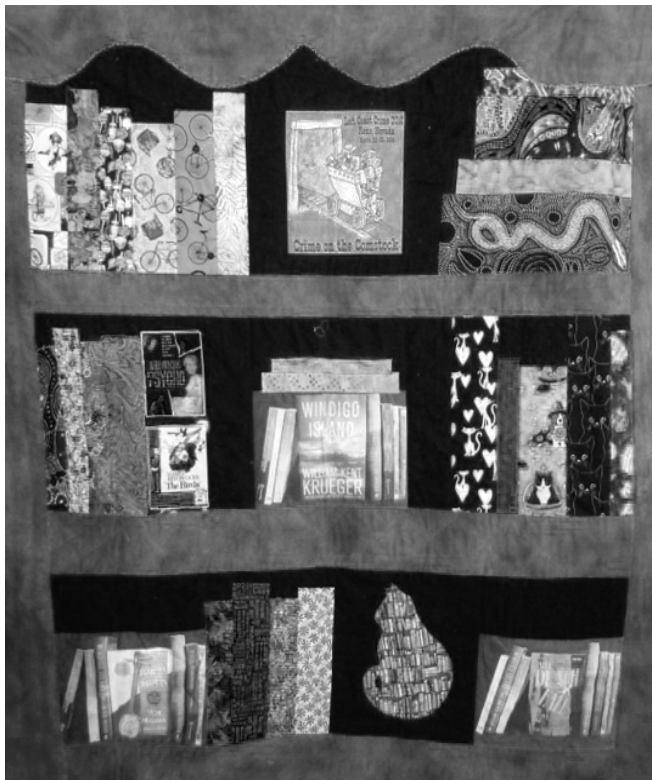
WACCS offers a comprehensive variety of services to under-resourced women and their children. Core programs include classes for high school equivalency preparation, English as a Second Language, and computer skills training; Gateway to Success job preparation and attainment program; GS2 for women seeking to advance in their jobs and lives; a diaper bank; and case management for women needing to regain financial stability. All services are free and focus on the special barriers faced by poor women living day-to-day, crisis-to-crisis.



All proceeds from the Left Coast Crime 2018 auction go to WACCS. LCC attendees have donated items for the silent auction and they are all on display in Nugget Ballroom 2, which is also the Book Room, open Thursday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Friday 9:00 AM – 6:30 PM, Saturday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Final bidding takes place on Saturday from 6:00 PM until the beginning of the Lefty Award Banquet at 7:00 PM. The winners will be posted outside the Nugget Ballroom, and items can be redeemed after the Banquet and on Sunday morning between 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

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## The LCC Quilt Raffle



Vallery Feldman and Pam Dehnke, who were Fan Guests of Honor at Left Coast Crime 2009 on the Big Island, have been making quilts for charities since 1997. Each quilt is unique and the Guests of Honor at the convention sign the label on the back.

All the money raised by either auction or raffle goes to the charity chosen by the convention for 2018 — the Women and Children's Center of the Sierra. Vallery reports that they have fun making the quilts and they enjoy using their hobby for a useful purpose.

Raffle tickets for this year's special quilt can be purchased in the Silent Auction area of the Book Room, which is located in the Nugget Ballroom 2. The winning ticket will be drawn and announced at the Lefty Awards Banquet on Saturday evening.

There is a gallery of past quilts at the LCC national website: [www.leftcoastcrime.org/quilt.html](http://www.leftcoastcrime.org/quilt.html)

# THE INTERNATIONAL CRIME FICTION CONVENTION



One of the '50 Best Festivals  
in the UK' —*Independent*

One of the 'Best Crime-Writing Festivals  
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**17 - 20 MAY 2018 BRISTOL, UNITED KINGDOM**

## *Featured Guest Authors*

**Lee Child**  
**Martina Cole**  
**Jeffery Deaver**  
**Peter James**

## *Highlighted Guest Authors*

**John Banville**  
(aka Benjamin Black)

**John Simenon**

## *Toastmaster*

**Robert Thorogood**  
creator of *Death in Paradise*

## *Participating Authors*

Simon Brett	Zoë Sharp
Martin Edwards	Yrsa Sigurðardóttir
Ruth Dudley Edwards	Gunnar Staalesen
Elly Griffiths	Andrew Taylor
John Harvey	Nicola Upson

*plus*

**Pitch-an-Agent**  
**Crime Writing Day**  
**Gala Dinner**

## *Presentations for:*

**Audible Sounds of Crime Award**  
**Best Crime Novel for Children**  
**Best Crime Novel for Young Adults**  
**eDunnit Award**  
**H.R.F. Keating Award**  
**Last Laugh Award**

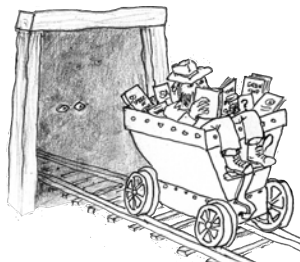
For more information or to sign up for newsletters visit the website  
[www.crimefest.com](http://www.crimefest.com) • email: [info@crimefest.com](mailto:info@crimefest.com) • Venue: Bristol Marriott Royal Hotel



# Useful Information

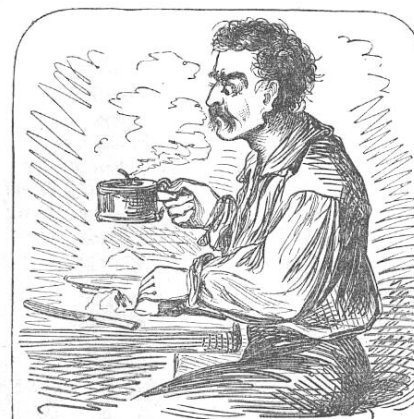
## Hospitality Corral

There will be coffee, tea, and various snacks in the Hospitality Corral, next to the Sierra panel rooms. Come in, grab a chair, admire the view, and hang out.



### Hospitality Corral Hours:

Thursday: 11 AM – 4 PM  
Friday: 10 AM – 4 PM  
Saturday: 10 AM – 4 PM  
Sunday: 8:30 – 10:30 AM



DRINKING SLUMGULLION

## Convention Breakfasts and the Lefty Banquet

Both **convention breakfasts** will be on a first-come, first-served basis. If you like getting up for events that *start* at 7:15 AM, join us for a continental breakfast in Nugget Ballroom 1. If you've stayed up too late the night before, feel free to sleep in. On Friday morning, Mike Befeler and Les & Leslie Blatt will host the famous and now long-running *Meet the New Authors Breakfast*.

You'll need your banquet ticket for the **Lefty Awards Banquet** on Saturday night. Banquet tickets showing your entrée choice were included in your registration envelope — unless you told us you weren't coming. The ticket fits in the pocket of your badge holder, so don't lose it! Show your ticket at the door to the Nugget Ballroom 1. Please be sure to have yours handy so that everyone can get into the ballroom with as little fuss and feathers as possible. If you purchased an Extra Banquet Ticket for your companion, that ticket was included in your registration envelope and will be needed for your companion's admission.

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## Left Coast Crime 2017 Book Dealers

The Left Coast Crime **Book Room** is located in Nugget Ballroom 2.

**Hours: Thursday 9 AM – 5:00 PM • Friday 9 AM – 6:30 PM • Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM • Sunday 9 AM – 1 PM**

<b>Cross-Genre Books</b> crossgenrebooks@gmail.com 503-655-6210	<b>Dale Johnson</b> — Specializing in collectible and out of print mystery hardcovers and paperbacks. Dale is serving as our Book Room Coordinator and will be handling many consignment publications. • PO Box 122, West Linn, OR 97068
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## The Crime on the Comstock Committee

*If you need something, hunt one of us down, or just start screaming...*

Convention Chair	Lynn Bremer
Registrar & Treasurer	Stan Ulrich
Panel Programming	Chantelle Aimée Osman
Lefty Awards	Lucinda Surber & Stan Ulrich
Silent Auction	Noemi Levine & Bobbi Lazzeroni
Volunteer Coordinator	Lucinda Surber
Publisher Liaison	Lucinda Surber
Book Storage	Joanne Yau
Author-Reader Connections	Lucinda Surber & Cathy Retterer
Author Speed Dating	Les & Leslie Blatt
Registration Captain	Dotty Morefield
Book Signing Captain	Lucinda Long
New Author Breakfast	Mike Befeler & Les & Leslie Blatt
Banquet Table Sign-Ups	Fran Vella & Sara Bowling
Hospitality Captain	Lucinda Long & Joanne Yau
Photographer	Darrell Hoemann
Website	Lucinda Surber
National Public Relations	Janet Rudolph
Program Book Editor	Stan Ulrich
Advisors	Bill & Toby Gottfried

## Acknowledgments

- Our heartfelt thanks for the Book Bag donations  
*Publishers:* Brash Books, Five Star Publishing, HarperCollins Publishers, Midnight Ink Books, Minotaur Books, Mystery Scene, Poisoned Pen Press, Penguin Random House, Prospect Park Books, Simon & Schuster, Soho Crime, Thomas & Mercer  
*Authors:* Todd Borg, Dorothy Black Crow, Kate Carlisle, Robert Downs, Mary Feliz, Waverly Fitzgerald, Timothy Hallinan, Elena Hartwell, Terry Odell, Rich Zahradnik
- And a shout out to all of the wonderful folks who donated Silent Auction items!
- Special thanks to Vallery Feldman & Pam Dehnke who create the beautiful themed quilts each year for Left Coast Crime.
- The LCC Reno Committee especially appreciates all the other volunteers who are moving boxes of books, stuffing book bags, helping at the Registration Table, serving as Panel Room Monitors, working on the Silent Auction, helping in the Hospitality Corral, and everywhere else! We're all volunteers here.

## Who's Here From Where? \*

Kristi Abbott / Lillian Bell • CA  
Cathy Ace • BC  
Joan Adams • OR  
D.J. Adamson • CA  
Annamaria Alfieri • NY  
J.D. Allen • NC  
Vickie Allen (Tori Holiday) • CA  
Jill Amadio • CA  
Sarah J. Andersen • MN  
Carol Anderson • ID  
KSue Anderson • CO  
Donna Andrews • VA  
Scotti Andrews • WA  
Alba Arango • NV  
Violetta Armour • AZ  
Kristin Arnold • CO  
Bonnie Austin • CA

Mark Bacon • NV  
Shannon Baker • AZ  
Bernard Banks • CA  
Leo W. Banks • AZ  
James Bartlett • CA  
Daisy Bateman • CA  
Colleen Dunn Bates • CA  
Pat Batta • AZ  
Tim Bauer • CA  
John Bean • WA  
Pamela Beason • WA  
Maegan Beaumont • AZ  
Mike Befeler • CA  
R.G. Belsky • NY

Jacque Ben-Zekry • CA  
Barbara Bennett • CA  
Kathryn Bennett • AZ  
Nancie Bennett • CA  
Diane Benson • CA  
James Benson • CA  
Lisa Benton • CA  
Eric Berglund • MN  
Lisa Berglund • MN  
Debbie Berghold • WA  
Lou Berney • OK  
Dale Berry • CA  
Mysti Berry • CA  
Robin Berry • CA  
Karen Bevers • CA  
Susan Alice Bickford • CA  
John Billheimer • CA  
Baron R. Birtcher • OR  
Terri Bischoff • MN  
Cara Black • CA  
Dorothy Black Crow • OR  
Les Blatt • NJ  
Leslie Blatt • NJ  
Claire Booth • CA  
Karen Booth • CA  
Todd Borg • CA  
Marilyn Borisoff • CA  
Sara Bowling • WA  
Jean Boyden • CA  
Patricia Boynton • NV  
Lisa Brackmann • CA  
Bev Brady • CO

Mike Brady • CO  
Shari Brandhoy • MN  
Richard Brandshaft • WA  
Randal Brandt • CA  
Ana Brazil • CA  
Andy Brejnak • CA  
Carol Brejnak • CA  
Lynn Bremer • NV  
Pat H. Broeske • CA  
Michael Broschat • WA  
Donna Brown • CA  
Marian Brown • NV  
Catherine Bruns • NY  
Angie Brunton • CA  
Lynne Bryson • UT  
Craig Faustus Buck • CA  
Rita Buckley • CA  
Stephen W. Buehler • CA  
Jane Burnham • CA  
Robin Burcell • CA  
Teresa Burrell • CA  
Peter Busch • CA  
Ellen Byron • CA

Valerie Caires • CA  
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Mary Lou Cassingham • NC  
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D.Z. Church • CA  
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H.S. Clark • WA  
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Raymond Clockel • AZ  
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Phyllis Cook • OR  
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Steven Cooper • GA  
Hans Copek • MA  
Judy Copek • MA  
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Christine Crawford • CA  
Tom Crawford • CA  
Lorenzo Cuesta • CA  
Yolanda Cuesta • CA  
Waverly Fitzgerald / Curtis • WA

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Avery Daniels • CO  
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M.C. Davis • NV

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Carol Dependahl-Ripperda • CA  
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Michele Drier • CA  
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Bart Paul • NV  
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Jim Powers • CO  
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Sharon Price • NV  
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Mary Putnam • CA

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Richard Quan • BC  
Zoe Quinton • CA

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Lynne Raimondo • IL  
Gregory Randall • CA  
D.R. Ransdell • AZ  
Marilyn Rappaport • NV  
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Annette Rogers • AZ  
Dianne Rogers • CA  
Bruce Rolfe • WA  
Cora Rolfe • WA  
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Sally Anne Rosenberg • CA  
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S.J. Rozan • NY  
John Rucker • ID  
Janet Rudolph • CA  
Cecilia Runkle • WA  
Kirk Russell • CA  
Paula Ryals • NV  
Kathryn Rybka • IL

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Charles Salzberg • NY  
Karen Samuels • CA  
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Adele Satterfield • CA  
Mary Sawicki • CA  
Dian Schaffhauser • CA  
Barb Schlichting • MN  
Ilene Schneider • NJ  
Lisa Schoof • CA  
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Mike Spencer • CA  
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Kelli Stanley • CA  
Mark Stevens • CO  
Jane Stillwater • CA  
Pat Stoltey • CO  
Karin Stormo • WA  
Nancy Sullivan • CA  
Donnetta Summers • CA  
Lucinda Surber • NM  
Phoef Sutton • CA

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Connie Taylor • CA  
Meredith Taylor • CA  
Nancy Taylor • CA  
Wendall Thomas • CA  
Pam Thomson • BC  
Brian Thornton • WA  
Kate Thornton • AZ  
Robyn Thornton • WA  
Colleen Thuener • CA  
Marie Tilson • CA  
Nancy Tingley • CA  
Nijole Tinitis • ON  
Peter Tinitis • ON  
Keith Tittle • WA  
Maggie Topkis • NY  
Peggy Townsend • CA  
Sal Towse • CA  
Karen Toyohara • CA  
Sue Trowbridge • CA  
Mark Twain (McAvoy Layne) • NV

Deborah Ulan • AZ  
Stan Ulrich • NM  
Jean Utley • CA

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Kathleen Valenti • OR  
Fran Vella • CA  
Susan Ver Voorn • CA  
Chris Volk • CA

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Tamara L. Walker • OR  
Thom Walls • WA  
Barbara Waters • CA  
Stephen Waters • CA  
Doris Weber • NV  
Cindy West • OH  
Holly West • CA  
Nancy G. West • TX  
Mark Wheaton • CA  
Becky Whitten • WA  
Tina Whittle • GA  
Melissa Wibom • CA  
Linda Wick • CA  
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Dänna Wilberg • CA  
Marlene Willauer • CA  
Chris Williams • CA  
Tom Williams • CA  
Sharon Williamson • IL  
Marty Wingate • WA  
Simon Wood • CA  
Reavis Z. Wortham • TX  
Kathy Wright • CA  
Sandy Wright • AZ  
Kate Wyland • CA

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Joanne Yau • NV  
Heather Young • CA  
Merrill (Merlot) Young • BC  
Jennifer Younger • CA

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*\* Registrants as of March 6, 2018*

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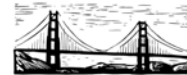
Come to the "How You Can Be Part of LCC" panel on Sunday at 10:15 AM  
in Sierra 1 to hear all about what goes on behind the scenes of LCC.

Can't attend the panel? Visit the Future LCCs table near  
Registration and pick up our Help Wanted Ads.

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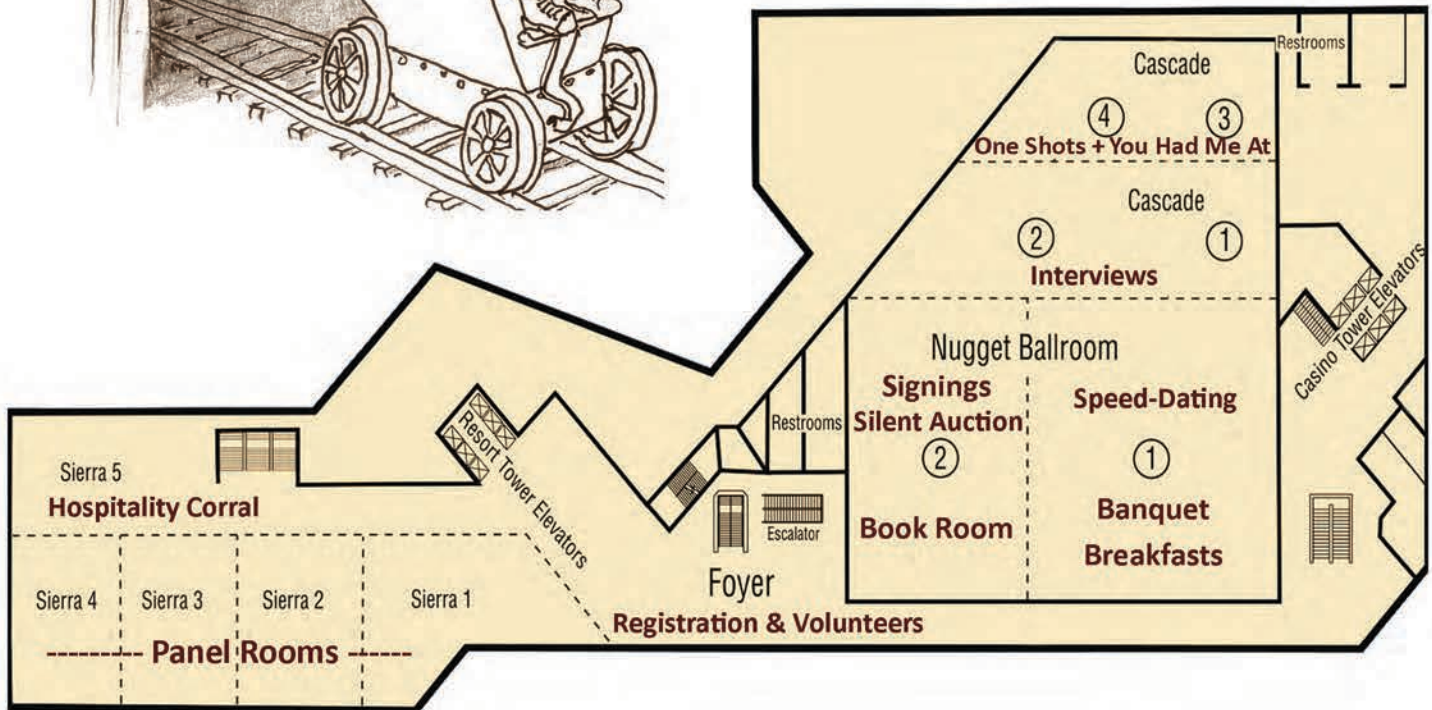
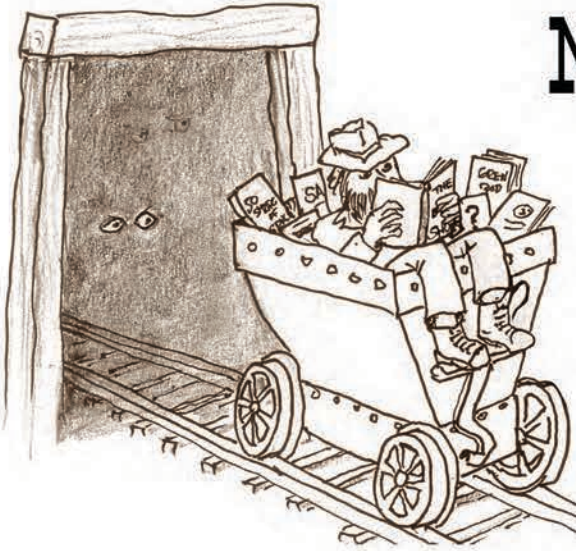
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# Nugget Casino Resort Second Floor



Please wear your *Crime on the Comstock* Name Tag at all times during the entire convention. It is your ticket into all LCC panels, interviews, and other events, such as the Welcome Reception, breakfasts, and the Lefty Awards Banquet. It also helps us all get to know each other!

New to LCC? Stop by the Volunteer Table and volunteer! It's a great way to make new friends while helping our all-volunteer-run convention.

Come to "LCC 101" on Thursday morning for tips about enjoying the convention from experienced LCC attendees, and "How You Can Be Part of Left Coast Crime" on Sunday morning to learn how to become more involved in Future LCCs.

Don't be shy! Introduce yourself to those sitting next to you at a panel, standing in line to get a book signed, browsing in the Book Room, or enjoying a cup of coffee in the Hospitality Corral. Share your passion for the mystery/thriller genre!

Have questions or need help during the convention? Visit the Registration Desk or ask any of the *Crime on the Comstock* Committee folks who are wearing Sheriff stars, like Spot McKenna. We want to help!

