

Left Coast Crime 2024

Bellevue, Washington

April 11–14, 2024



Author Arthur Coburn's Cinematic Journey to 'Murder in Concrete: A Must-Read Thriller'

(By Creative Minds @ Work)

...Arthur Coburn made a remarkable transition from editing box-office hits like "Spiderman" to crafting gripping narratives. His path took him from Dartmouth College to Harvard Law School, leagues away from the glitter of Hollywood. Yet, it was in this world of cinema that Coburn found his true calling. Editing over two dozen films, he honed a unique storytelling perspective, that's vividly evident in his writing...his novel *Rough Cut* even snagged the Novel Prize at the Southern California Writer's Conference in 2005.

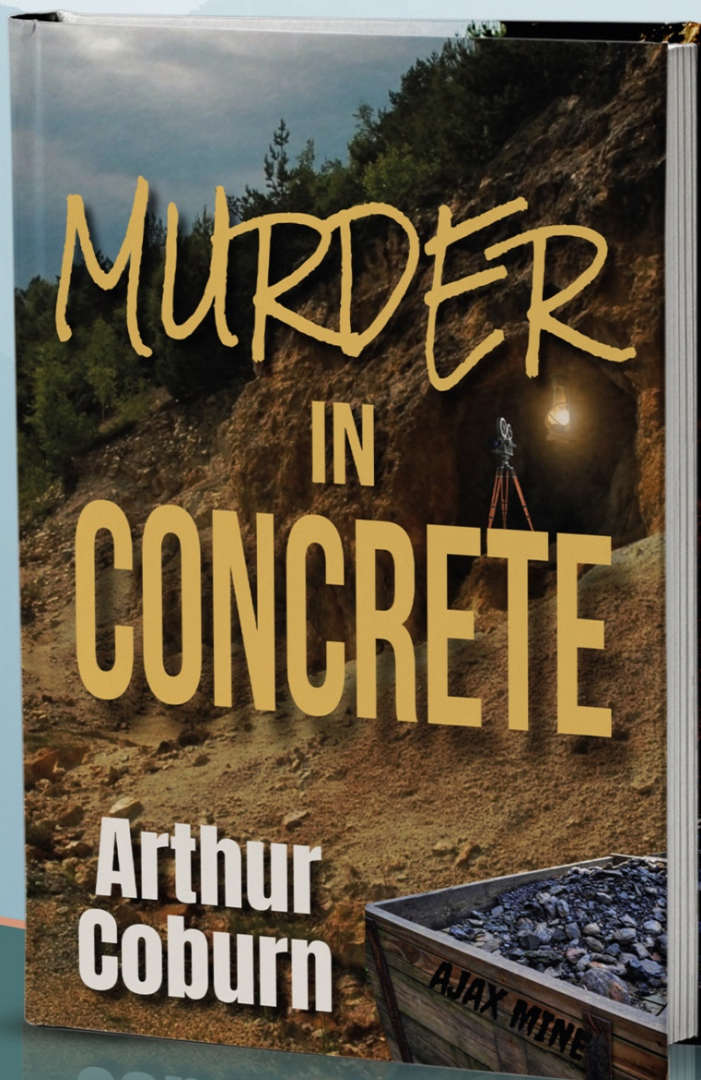
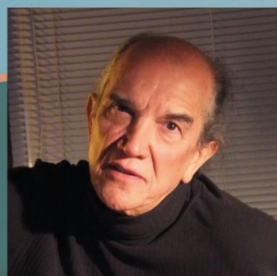
Now, Arthur Coburn invites readers to immerse themselves in his latest novel, *Murder in Concrete* by The Wild Rose Press.

This novel is a testament to Coburn's mastery in weaving suspense and drama. The narrative follows Charlie, a character who confronts life's ordinary challenges like high school gossip and rivalry. However, her life is upended by the shocking murder of her mother and the mysterious disappearance of her father. Struggling to find balance, Charlie relies on therapy to make it to college. It's here that her journey takes a dramatic turn. Spotting her missing father in a film, she races to Los Angeles, desperate for answers.

Charlie's quest leads her to a low-budget zombie movie production in the desolate desert. The crew's revelation that her father is dead only fuels her determination. Her investigation introduces her to a plethora of enigmatic characters, from an aging film star to a man who writes in cryptic Russian Cyrillic. Each encounter brings Charlie closer to a truth, possibly one she's unprepared to face.

Murder in Concrete is more than a mystery novel; it's a labyrinthine journey through the complexities of human emotions and the relentless pursuit of truth. Coburn's experience in film editing is evident in his narrative style – precise, engaging, and visually evocative. His deep understanding of cinema adds a unique dimension to his storytelling, making the scenes leap off the page. The novel is a thrilling ride, perfect for fans of mystery and suspense, and an excellent choice for anyone who appreciates well-crafted narratives with depth and intrigue.

Website: arthurcoburn.com





Welcome to Seattle Shakedown!

Welcome to beautiful Bellevue, Washington, for Seattle Shakedown 2024! We are thrilled to have you here for four days of murder, mayhem, and mingling. This year's program includes 68 panels and interviews with over 270 author participants. Buckle up for a good time!

This year's charity is Page Ahead whose aim is to create book oases in the greater Seattle area. Bidding for the silent auction is open until 6:00 Saturday evening, so bid early and bid often. In addition to the auction, we've put together a special anthology of 14 killer short stories set in the Pacific Northwest. We invite you to the launch and special signing event on Saturday at 12:30 in the Book Room.

Thanks to Stan Ulrich and Lucinda Surber whose skillful shepherding kept us on track through the last year of planning, as well as the multitude of on-site day of volunteers who help run this con through the weekend. We'd never have gotten this together without Scotti Andrews, Larry Keeton, and Leslie Hall. And, we can't thank Kate Jackson enough for her amazing social media outreach!

Many thanks to Bill Cameron for designing the logo and the cover of the anthology and to local craftsman Rick Saada for his creation of the Lefty Awards.

Bellevue is only a short hop across the lake from Seattle proper, and our convention hotel is close to a variety of restaurants and amenities. With all the fabulous programming, you'll likely want to stay close during the convention, but we hope you've booked some extra time to enjoy the beauty of the Puget Sound. You're here during cherry blossom and tulip season, so we hope you get to see some local color while you're here!

Laurie Rockenbeck
David B Schlosser
Brian Thornton
LCC 2024 Co-Chairs



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- **Check for Notices** by Registration for news, programming changes, etc....
- **Don't Forget To Vote!** Put your Lefty Ballot in the box at Registration 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 (where you'll also need your dinner ticket).
- **Uninvited Guest.** The Covid virus is still lurking so you are encouraged to take personal protective measures. Seating should be sparser than usual in panel rooms. Masks are optional – use your own judgment and be safe!

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Where Writers Belong



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book sales, we've got you.**

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Convention Overview

Wednesday, April 10

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM Registration *begins* in Evergreen Foyer on Lobby level
Registration *moves* to Grand Ballroom Foyer on Second Floor, Thursday 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM; Friday & Saturday 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM; Sunday 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM)

Thursday, April 11

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Author Speed Dating in Evergreen D-I (Lobby Level)
11:00 AM – 6:00 PM Book Room & Author Signings in Grand H-K
12 noon – 4:00 PM Hospitality & Silent Auction in Evergreen ABC (Lobby Level)
12 noon – 5:45 PM Panels & Interviews begin (see detailed schedule pp. 5-6)
6:15 PM – 7:15 PM Welcome Reception in Evergreen D-I: light appetizers, cash bar, Lefty Award Nominees recognized, and more
8:30 PM – 10:30 PM Dance Party hosted by Toastmaster Wanda M. Morris

Friday, April 12

7:15 AM – 8:45 AM Meet the New Authors breakfast buffet in Evergreen D-I (Lobby Level)
9:00 AM – 6:00 PM Panels and Interviews continue (see detailed schedule pp. 7-8)
9:00 AM – 6:00 PM Book Room & Author Signings in Grand H-K
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Hospitality & Silent Auction in Evergreen ABC (Lobby Level)

Saturday, April 13

7:15 AM – 8:45 AM Breakfast buffet in Evergreen D-I (Lobby Level)
9:00 AM – 6:00 PM Book Room & Author Signings in Grand H-K
9:00 AM – 4:45 PM Panels and Interviews continue (see detailed schedule pp. 11-13)
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Hospitality & Silent Auction in Evergreen ABC (Lobby Level)
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM Silent Auction final bidding in Evergreen ABC to 6:00; then cash bars in Evergreen Foyer
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Lefty Awards Banquet in Evergreen Ballroom • Four Lefty Awards (see p. 97)
• Silent Auction winners posted (redeem winning bids after banquet)

Sunday, April 14

8:30 AM – 10:30 PM Hospitality & Silent Auction bid redemption in Evergreen ABC (Lobby Level)
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Book Room & Author Signings in Grand H-K
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Regular panels conclude (see detailed schedule p. 14)
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Guests of Honor closing panel (*no signing afterward*)

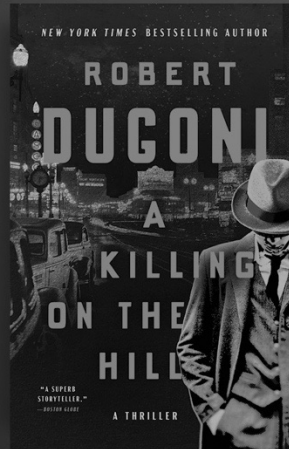
So long... Travel safely and we'll see you at LCC 2025 in Denver, CO – Rocky Mountain High Jinks!

- **Author Book Signings** are in the Book Room, Grand H-K, following each Panel and Interview.
- **Silent Auction** is ongoing in the Hospitality Room (Evergreen ABC) – Thursday afternoon to Saturday 6:00 PM. 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, see p.105.)
- **Volunteers:** If you'd like to help out, check in at the Volunteer Table in the Grand Foyer near Registration. There's always something needs doing!
- **Hospitality** in Evergreen ABC – Coffee, tea, snacks, and conversation. See hours above.
- **Breakfast seating is limited.** First-come, first-served at the breakfast buffets on Friday & Saturday.
- **Don't Forget To Vote!** Your Lefty Awards Ballot was in your registration envelope. Deposit your ballot in the Ballot Box at Registration by 1:30 PM Saturday.
- **Shipping Services:** FedEx will take packages in Larch (3rd Floor), Saturday 10 :00 AM to 5:00 PM, and Sunday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- **Book Exchange:** Please use only the designated exchange table in the Grand Foyer. Other items on the exchange table will be removed.
- **Promotions & Swag:** Please use the special tables in the Grand Foyer for bookmarks & other promotional wonders, and let's keep it nice and neat!

Amazon Publishing Congratulates

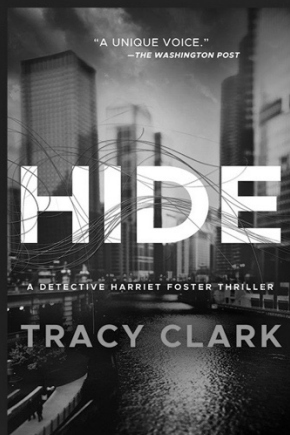
Robert Dugoni

Guest of Honor



Tracy Clark

Lefty Nominee, Best Mystery Novel



THOMAS & MERCER

amazon publishing

Detailed Schedule

Note: Book signings take place in the Book Room, Grand H-K , immediately following a panel or interview. Panel appearances are subject to change. See the Pocket Guide for the latest printed information. For room locations, see the hotel map on the inside back cover.

Thursday morning, April 11

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Author Speed Dating

Hosted by Les & Leslie Blatt, with 40 Authors, limited seating for 144 Fans • *Special Event in Evergreen D-I*

Lunch Break (on your own)

Thursday afternoon

12:00 PM – 12:45 PM

Ready for My Close Up: Mysteries Set in LA

D.A. Gaslin (M), Elizabeth Crowens, Jon Lindstrom, Gary Phillips, Lee Goldberg • *Panel in Grand AB*

Left Coast Crime 101

Lucinda Surber (M), Leslie Blatt, Colleen Glynn, Linda McNab • *Panel in Grand C*

TL;DR Won't Be a Problem Here: Satisfying Short Reads

Stephen D. Rogers (M), Stephen Buehler, Doug Levin, Michael Allan Mallory, Bobby Mathews
• *Panel in Grand EF*

Are You Full Yet? Culinary Mysteries

Vera HC Chan (M), Wendy Church, J.C. Eaton (Ann Goldfarb), Claire Johnson, Ana Manwaring
• *Panel in Grand G*

1:15 PM – 2:00 PM

The Bluest Skies You've Ever Seen Are in Seattle: Getting the Locale Right

Robert J. Binney (M), Leslie Budewitz AKA Alicia Beckman, Leslie J Hall, Kate Jackson, Mike Sherer
• *Panel in Grand AB*

Qu'est-ce que c'est: Psycho-thrillers

Holly West (M), Jeff Ayers, Christine Carbo, Michele Drier • *Panel in Grand C*

Twenty Panels in One!

Robert Lopresti (M), Ellen Byron AKA Maria DiRico, David Corbett, Julie Hennrikus AKA Julia Henry, Matt Witten • *Panel in Grand EF*

Hot, Hot, Hot: Mysteries Set in Tropical Locations

Annamaria Alfieri (M), Baron Birtcher, Leslie Karst, Eric Redman, Rosalie Spielman • *Panel in Grand G*

Our thanks to Amazon Publishing for
sponsoring the Opening Reception



LCC thanks
Sisters in Crime
for sponsoring the
Meet the New
Authors Breakfast
on Friday morning

**Sisters
in Crime®**

2:30 PM – 3:15 PM

The Secret Habits of Writers: Routines, Superstitions & Lucky Pens

Glen Erik Hamilton (M), Megan Abbott, Lisa Lutz, Wanda M. Morris, Duane Swierczynski

• *Panel in Grand AB*

An American in... Writing About Ex-Pats

Lance Charnes (M), Connie Berry, Alice K. Boatwright, Yves Fey, Andromeda Romano-Lax

• *Panel in Grand C*

Unexplainable vs. Unexplained: Paranormal Elements in Mysteries

C. Jean Downer (M), Jennifer J. Chow, Margaret Lucke, Liz Mugavero AKA Cate Conte, Angela M. Sanders

• *Panel in Grand EF*

Debut Authors: First Time Authors Share Their Stories

Jennifer K. Morita (M), Michael Balter, Maria Barrs, Angela Crook, Charlotte Morganti • *Panel in Grand G*

3:45 PM – 4:30 PM

Pitch-Black: The Noir Panel

Kat Richardson (M), Craig Faustus Buck, Christa Faust, Brian Thornton, Sam Wiebe AKA Nolan Chase

• *Panel in Grand AB*

Writing Known Characters: Authors using fictional and real-life people

Pamela Beason (M), Maria Alexander, Vicki Delany, Hal Glatzer, Laurie R. King • *Panel in Grand C*

Can Death Be Funny?

Heather Haven (M), Lawrence Allan, Lina Chern, Libby Klein, Jo Perry • *Panel in Grand EF*

Murder Between the Stacks: Biblio Mysteries

Dale Ivan (M), Sarah Bresniker, Lynn Cahoon, Roz Noonan, Joyce Yarrow • *Panel in Grand G*

5:00 PM – 5:45 PM

Fan Guest of Honor Fran Fuller talks with JB Dickey & Amber Miner • in Grand AB

Discussion of life, books, and working at the Seattle Mysery Bookshop

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**Thursday evening**  
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6:15 PM – 7:15 PM

Welcome Reception Sponsored by Amazon Publishing • Evergreen D-I

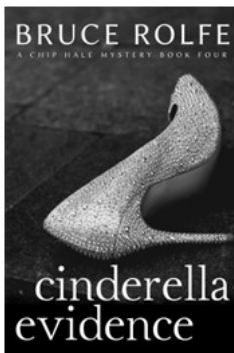
Greetings, light snacks, cash bar, Lefty Award nominees introduced ... and more

Dinner Break (on your own)

8:30 PM – 10:30 PM

Dance Party hosted by Toastmaster Wanda M. Morris • Special Event in Evergreen D-I

Wear your dancing shoes and bring a drink from the bar!



Book 4
cinderella evidence
A Chip Hale Mystery
...more skeletons in the closet than shoes.
Follow Bruce at:
brucerolfe.com and on
f chiphalehandyman



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Come see Allegory's own Elena Hartwell Taylor at LCC

All In The Family: Mother/Daughter, Father/Son,
Sister/Sister etc. Sleuths

Sunday @ 9 a.m. in Grand G

Friday morning, April 12

7:15 AM – 8:45 AM

Meet the New Authors Breakfast – Sponsored by Sisters in Crime • in *Evergreen D-I*

Hosted by Mike Befeler, with the assistance of Les & Leslie Blatt – Program from 7:30 to 8:30

Breakfast buffet. All convention registrants welcome, seating limited

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

A Cop by Any Other Name: Law Enforcement in Other Roles Besides Local/State/Federal

Dwight Holing (M), Paty Jager, Sheri Lewis Wohl, Mark Zeid • *Panel in Grand AB*

This Ain't Perry Mason: Getting Legal Details Right in Fiction

Cassandra Myers (M), Judith Ayn, Warren Easley, Robyn Gigl, McCracken Poston, Jr. • *Panel in Grand C*

Lefty Humorous Nominees

Lucinda Surber (M), Jennifer J. Chow, Lee Matthew Goldberg, Leslie Karst, Wendall Thomas

• *Panel in Grand EF*

The Whole Package: Crime Across a Variety of Formats

Gary Phillips (M), Dale Berry, Shaun Harris, Al Warren • *Panel in Grand G*

10:15 AM – 11:00 AM

Every Story Is a Mystery: The Proof Is in the Panel

Alyssa Bones (M), James T. Bartlett, DK Coutant, Cindy Goyette, Adam Plantinga • *Panel in Grand AB*

Book Buzz: You Know... That One Book...

Olivia Day Wallace (M), Megan Beatie, Terry Shepherd, Dänna Wilberg, Frank Zafiro • *Panel in Grand C*

Lefty Debut Nominees

Lucinda Surber (M), Lina Chern, Margot Douaihy, Nina Simon • *Panel in Grand EF*

Murder Is My Side-Gig: Interesting Jobs for Our Sleuths

Julie Holmes (M), Jenny Andersen, Jason Powell • *Panel in Grand G*

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

Stiff Upper Lip: Why We Love British Mysteries

Emma Dakin (M), Nicholas George, Sharon Lynn, Holly West, Marty Wingate • *Panel in Grand AB*

There's No Gum on My Shoe: The Modern PI

Lisa Bush (M), Pamela Beason, Mark Coggins, James D.F. Hannah, Tim Maleeny • *Panel in Grand C*

Lefty Best Novel Nominees

Libby Fischer Hellmann (M), Tracy Clark, Matt Coyle, James L'Etoile, Gigi Pandian • *Panel in Grand EF*

Not My Day Job: Amateur Sleuths

D.R. Ransdell (M), Marco Carocari, Heather Haven, Cayce Osborne, Karen A. Phillips • *Panel in Grand G*

Lunch Break (on your own)

Friday afternoon

1:30 PM – 2:15 PM

Toastmaster Interview: Wanda M. Morris Interviewed by Tracy Clark

Wanda M. Morris (I) • *Interview in Grand AB*

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Blood on the Badge

J. Schuberth (M), Claire Booth, Mike Lawson, James L'Etoile, Shawn Wilson • *Panel in Grand AB*

Combat, Cyanide & Codebooks: War & Espionage in Crime Fiction

Puja Guha (M), Michael J. Cooper, Libby Fischer Hellmann, Adam Sikes, Iona Wishaw • *Panel in Grand C*

Lefty Historical Novel Nominees

Linda McNab (M), Cara Black, Susanna Calkins, Dianne Freeman, Cheryl A. Head, Naomi Hirahara • *Panel in Grand EF*

Why We Can No Longer Avoid Politics in Fiction (as if we ever could)

David Corbett (M), Mysti Berry, John Copenhaver, GP Gottlieb, Terry Shames • *Panel in Grand G*

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

Many Bites, Different Apples: Writing Multiple Series

Lee Goldberg (M), Tracy Clark, Robert Dugoni, J.A. Jance, Gigi Pandian • *Panel in Grand AB*

Slang Me: Dialogue Through History

Sarah Niebuhr Rubin (M), Sarah M. Chen, Tessa Floreano, Jeanne Matthews, Ann Parker • *Panel in Grand C*

Talking About Tough Topics: Addiction, Mental Illness, PTSD, etc.

Amy Rivers (M), Becky Clark, George Cramer, Alex Kenna, A.K. Ramirez • *Panel in Grand EF*

Mix It Up: Writers Who Bend Genres

Rob Osler (M), M.H. Callway, Stephanie K. Clemens, Rob Hart, Kat Richardson • *Panel in Grand G*

5:15 PM – 6:00 PM

Guest of Honor Megan Abbott Interviewed by Christa Faust • *Interview in Grand AB*

Dinner Break (on your own)

Convention Breakfasts and the Lefty Banquet

Both convention breakfast buffets 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 breakfast in Evergreen D-I. If you've stayed up too late the night before, feel free to sleep in. On Friday morning, Mike Befeler will host the famous and long-running Meet the New Authors Breakfast, sponsored by Sisters in Crime.

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 nametag holder, so don't lose it! You'll need to show your ticket at the door to the Evergreen Ballroom. Please be sure to have your ticket handy so that everyone can enter with as little fuss and feathers as possible. If you bought an Extra Banquet Ticket for your companion, that ticket was included in your registration envelope and will be needed for your companion's admission.



KENSINGTON'S ALL-DAY AUTHOR AUTOGRAPHING SESSIONS

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM PT

THE HOSPITALITY SUITE at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue on Seattle's Eastside

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Lynn Cahoon
FIVE FURRY FAMILIARS

Becky Clark
FATAL SOLUTIONS

Tracy Clark
RUNNER

Nicholas George
A DEADLY WALK IN DEVON

Liz Ireland
MRS. CLAUS AND
THE TROUBLE WITH TURKEYS

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Robyn Gigl
REMAIN SILENT

Dianne Freeman
A NEWLYWED'S GUIDE TO
FORTUNE AND MURDER

McCracken Poston Jr.
ZENITH MAN

Darcie Wilde
THE SECRET OF
THE LADY'S MAID

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Cynthia Baxter
GAME OF CONES

Vicki Delany
STEEPED IN MALICE

Maria DiRico
THE WITLESS
PROTECTION PROGRAM

Libby Klein
MISCHIEF NIGHTS
ARE MURDER

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Mary Burton
THE DOLLMAKER

J.C. Eaton
RAILROADED 4 MURDER

Roz Noonan
PUZZLE ME A MURDER

Angela M. Sanders
GONE WITH THE WITCH

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Christin Brecher
MUGSHOTS OF MANHATTAN

Cate Conte
WITCH WAY OUT

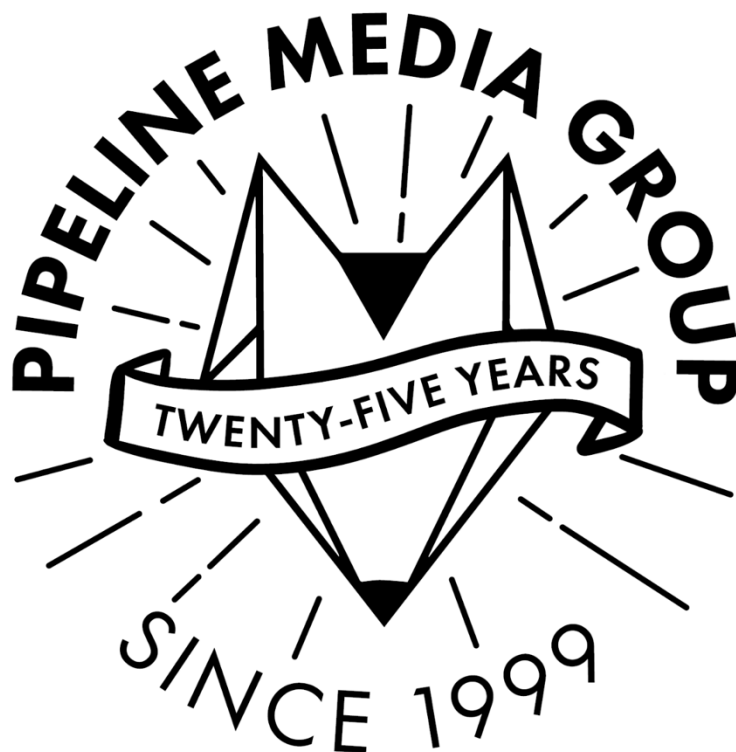
Emmeline Duncan
DEATH UNFILTERED

Cheryl Hollon
DEATH A SKETCH



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**Saturday morning, April 13**  
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7:15 AM – 8:45 AM

Breakfast Buffet

All convention registrants welcome, seating limited • *Evergreen D-I*

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Forensics Before CSI: Crimes Before Technology

Meredith Taylor (M), Susanna Calkins, Dianne Freeman, Candace Robb, Darcie Wilde • *Panel in Grand AB*

“The Past Is Never Dead. It’s Not Even Past.” Writing Historical Mysteries

Terry Shames (M), Janet Oakley, Scott Phillips, Nancy Cole Silverman, Steve Weddle • *Panel in Grand C*

Weren’t Women Already Strong? The Strong Woman Trope

Scotti Andrews (M), Valerie J. Brooks, Margot Douaihy, Stacie Grey, Susan C. Shea • *Panel in Grand EF*

Not Your Grandma’s Cozy: How the Subgenre Is Changing

Leslie J Hall (M), Cathy Ace, Cheryl Hollon, Katherine Bolger Hyde, Charlotte Stuart • *Panel in Grand G*

10:15 AM – 11:00 AM

Fran & Friends Talk About Books

Lucinda Surber (M), Fran Fuller, Grace Koshida, Kim Krabill • *Panel in Grand AB*

Not Just Stock: Creating Secondary Characters with Dimension

Glenda Carroll (M), Liz Bass, Michael Bracken, A.J. Devlin, Sarah Tomlinson • *Panel in Grand C*

Upper Left: NW-Centric Crime

Kris Calvin (M), Colin Conway, Emmeline Duncan AKA Kelly Garrett, Glen Erik Hamilton, Jamie Lee Sogn
• *Panel in Grand EF*

The Whole Story in a Single Sitting: Short Fiction that Satisfies

Vinnie Hansen (M), Chris Dreith, Smita Harish Jain, Merrilee Robson, Steve Steinbock • *Panel in Grand G*

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

Nothing Soft About It: Hardboiled Crime Fiction

Larry Keeton (M), Matt Coyle, Jeff Esterholm, Jim Fusilli, Robby Henson • *Panel in Grand AB*

Devils in the Details: Research Panel

Al Warren (M), Joe Clifford, Christina Estes, Dale Ivan, BJ Magnani • *Panel in Grand C*

The Straw that Stirs the Drink: The Villain Panel

Brian Thornton (M), Thomas Perry, Rob Pierce, S.J. Rozan, David B. Schlosser • *Panel in Grand EF*

All Over the Map: International Mysteries

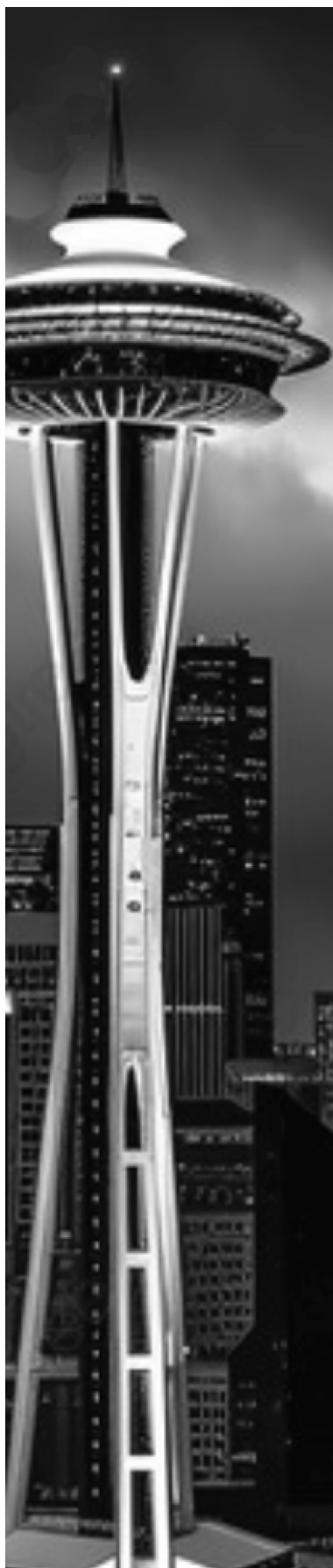
Bobby Mathews (M), Cara Black, Yi Shun Lai, Charles Philipp Martin, Carl Vonderau • *Panel in Grand G*

Lunch Break (on your own)

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

Launch Party and Signing of the LCC Anthology, *The Killing Rain* • *Special Event in Book Room*

Lefty Ballots due at 1:30



The Killing Rain

Edited by JIM THOMSEN

Foreword by MEGAN ABBOTT

SAM WIEBE
CAYCE OSBORNE
ROBBY HENSON
BEV VINCENT
DBSCHLOSSER
ROZ RAY
ROBERT J. BINNEY
TOD GOLDBERG
SMITA HARISH JAIN
CHARLES PHILIPP MARTIN
JOHN BOSWORTH
HAL GLATZER
BONNAR SPRING
FRAN FULLER

**Launch Party
And Signing
Saturday, April 13
12:45-1:30 PM
LCC Book Room**

Proceeds of this anthology benefit LCC 2024 Charity:



Saturday afternoon

1:30 PM – 2:15 PM

Guest of Honor Robert Dugoni Interviewed by Gracie Doyle & Barbara Peters

Robert Dugoni (I) • *Interview in Grand AB*

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

The Female Art of Murder

Roz Ray (M), Mary Burton, Lisa Bush, Michelle Chouinard, Janet Dawson • *Panel in Grand AB*

Ghost of Honor: Introducing the World of John Okada and No-No Boy

Naomi Hirahara (M), Frank Abe, Shawn Wong • *Panel in Grand C*

Balancing Crime and Family

Baer Charlton (M), Harriet Cannon, Sharon Dean, Mary Keliikoa, Mia P. Manansala • *Panel in Grand EF*

A Threat to Justice Everywhere: Writing About Social Justice Issues

Rich Ehisen (M), Gwen Florio, Cheryl A. Head, Curtis Ippolito, Priscilla Paton • *Panel in Grand G*

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

Literary Chills

Samantha Skal (M), Peter Malone Elliott, Lee Matthew Goldberg, Carol Orange, Joseph Reid AKA Parker Adams • *Panel in Grand AB*

Friends, Frenemies & Family: Good for Drama & Comedy

Ellen Byron AKA Maria DiRico (M), Christin Brecher, Sydney Leigh, Linda Norlander, Rob Osler
• *Panel in Grand C*

Not Dead Yet: Older Sleuths in Mystery

Arthur Coburn (M), Mike Befeler, Paula Charles, Ellen Kirschman, Susan McCormick • *Panel in Grand EF*

What Makes Fiction “Historical”?

Michael Munro (M), Kimberly Giarratano, Karen Odden, James Lincoln Warren, Kenneth Wishnia
• *Panel in Grand G*

Saturday evening

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Silent Auction Final Bidding • 5:00 – 6:00 • in Evergreen ABC

Silent auction items may be redeemed after the Lefty Awards Banquet and on Sunday morning.

Reception • Cash bars in Evergreen Foyer 5:30 – 7:00

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Lefty Awards Banquet

Hosted by Toastmaster Wanda M. Morris – Be sure to bring your Banquet Ticket • *Evergreen Ballroom*



*Our thanks to Kensington Books for
sponsoring Friday in the Hospitality Room*

*



*LCC thanks
Pipeline Media Group
for sponsoring
Saturday in the
Hospitality Room*

Sunday morning, April 14

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Cats & Dogs & Birds, Oh My! Animals In Mystery

C.B. Wilson (M), Cynthia Baxter, Margaret Mizushima, Joanna Campbell Slan, Wendall Thomas
• *Panel in Grand AB*

Setting as Character

Kate Jackson (M), Lance Charnes, Marjorie McCown, Stephen D. Rogers, Laura Jensen Walker
• *Panel in Grand C*

The Red Pen Experts: Editors Panel

Ti Locke (M), David Downing, Juliet Grames, Zoe Quinton, Cynthia Swanson • *Panel in Grand EF*

All In the Family: Mother/Daughter, Father/Son, Sister/Sister etc. Sleuths

RK Olson (M), Carola Dunn, Christina Romeril, Nina Simon, Elena Hartwell Taylor • *Panel in Grand G*

10:15 AM – 11:00 AM

Writing for the TikTok Generations: Millennials, Gen-Z & YA

Kelly Vincent (M), Alyssa Bones AKA Sue Pepper, Dori Butler, Will Neville-Rehbehn

Talk to Us About Left Coast Crime

LCC Standing Committee • *Discussion in Grand AB*

Is It Indie or Is It...

Julie Hennrikus AKA Julia Henry (M), Shelley Adina, Puja Guha, Vinnie Hansen, Laurie Rockenbeck
• *Panel in Grand EF*

Hitting the Right Note: Musical Mysteries

Erynn Leigh (M), Gerald Elias, Winona Kent, Erica Miner, D.R. Ransdell • *Panel in Grand G*

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Guests of Honor Closing Panel

John Copenhaver (M), Robert Dugoni, Fran Fuller, Wanda M. Morris • *Panel in Grand AB*

Left Coast Crime Conduct Policy

Left Coast Crime is a fan convention, dedicated to creating a friendly, welcoming, and inclusive atmosphere in which all members of the community can celebrate their love of books. We are dedicated to the safety, security, and enjoyment of all attendees, and as such, the convention should be free of discrimination or harassment based upon an individual's sex, race, ethnicity, national origin, age, religion, or any other legally protected characteristics. All attendees are expected to abide by this policy.

Harassment is behavior that alarms or threatens, or is unwelcome or offensive to the person it is directed at. Examples of harassing behavior include unwanted physical contact, comments or foul language of an offensive or sexual nature, sexual propositions, sexual jokes or remarks, obscene gestures, and displays of pornographic or sexually explicit pictures, drawings, or caricatures, intimidation, stalking, following, harassing photography or recording, and false accusation of harassment.

Any attendee asked to stop harassing behavior is expected to comply immediately. If you feel that you or another attendee has been harassed or discriminated against on the basis of sex, race, national origin, ethnic background, or any other legally protected characteristic, you should, if you are comfortable doing so, explain the behavior to a member of the Left Coast Crime committee, a member of the hotel staff, or both. All complaints of unlawful harassment will be handled in as discreet and confidential a manner as is possible under the circumstances. If no Left Coast Crime committee member is available, or if you feel it would be dangerous (such as in the case of an immediate physical threat) to inform such person, you should immediately contact the police.

Guest of Honor: Megan Abbott

Always Good for Her Word

by E.A. Aymar

To read a Megan Abbott book – any Megan Abbott book – is to experience the promise of writing.

Like many of you, I read and reread thrillers far beyond my age growing up. The religion-soaked Brotherhood of the Rose series by David Morrell. The relentlessly ambitious thrillers of Leon Uris, so thick they barely fit in my hand. Murderous novels I received from a monthly subscription about a ruthless vigilante named Mack Bolan. Twisty spy tales from Alistair MacLean. I loved these books, particularly as a young boy, and read them without any sense of critique. Only enthusiasm. The purest form of artistic enjoyment.

And I remember being told, when I studied writing as an undergraduate in college, that these thrillers were not serious, nor were they good, and I was shamed into studying the American canon of classic literature.

I loved what I learned – Hemingway and Fitzgerald and Welty and O'Connor and so many others – and, upon graduating, I wanted to do the proper thing and write my own canonical novel. But that wasn't what my heart wanted. I still wrote – every day for hours after my day job ended – but, in truth, that writing was somewhat aimless. I was learning to write, but not how to write what I wanted.

Then I discovered Megan Abbott.

She'd been buzzy ever since her Edgar-winning debut, *Die a Little*, but it was *Queenpin* that I first read. I remember seeing the cover at a bookstore and being transfixed – an illustration harkening to the golden era of noir, but with a woman in the forefront, a femme fatale clearly intended to be more than a reductionist cliché. A nondescript man stood behind her. And behind them, the defiant silhouette of another woman, larger-than-life, shadowing those two. I picked up the book, curious, opened it to the first page.

I want the legs.

That was the first thing that came into my head. The legs were the legs of a twenty-year-old Vegas showgirl, a hundred feet long and with just enough curve and give and promise. Sure, there was no hiding the slightly worn hands or the beginning tugs of skin framing the bones in her face. But the legs, they lasted, I tell you. They endured.

Those were the first words. The protagonist observing another woman in a club. A mix of obsession and admiration. Straightforward, yet someone still concealing. A blend of old-timey noir (legs a hundred feet long) and a wistful sense of modernity (they endured). Something that hinted at horror, but only in a way to let the reader know the severity of what was to come.



I stumbled into a chair at that bookstore and didn't put the book down until I'd read the last words. I finished *Queenpin* with the same flushed feeling I'd had after reading the final words in Faulkner's *The Wild Palms*. O'Connor's "A Good Man Is Hard To Find." Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room*. You know the feeling – the sense that someone has done something different with what you love, and your love has been deepened and changed in the most wonderful ways. It's the barely restrained adolescent excitement of a first kiss. The moment when you understand a form of music. The fullness of your heart when you're praying to a God in whom you devoutly believe.

A page in my life had turned.

This was what I had sought. This was writing on par with the fictional (in more than one way) American canon, but it captured the excitement of the thrillers I used to read. It was the best of both worlds. It was the best of literature.

Hillier and Lippman and Massey and Morris, writers who destroy canon and write fearlessly and ceaselessly inspire me, but Abbott was the first.

And she's always remained among the best. Abbott endures.

This, even as her writing changed. Her fifth novel, *The End of Everything*, saw a turn from those noir-reminiscent books to suburban thrillers. That novel was commercially considered "psychological fiction" (although genre distinctions are never neat) and, even if it was a departure, it wasn't one that felt particularly abrupt.

Abbott's staccato pacing was, as always, gorgeous. The particular dynamic she explores so well remained ferociously alive – the relationship between two girls or women, and how that relationship is defined by power and love. Her keen, enviable insight into her characters.

It seemed to me, with this book and others that followed, that Abbott had discovered a unique match for her love of noir and new literary interests – the perilous, changing nature of teenage girls. She played with the danger of competition that can devour those relationships. Jealousy and admiration, how one provokes the other. A curiosity about sex and its confusing, often heartbreaking, search for control.

This was ground I'd rarely seen covered in crime fiction, certainly not to this degree. And she wrote about in clear-eyed, heartbreaking detail, from the complicated duo of Addy and Beth in the TV-adapted *Dare Me*, or the unsettling examination of group dynamics in the multiple-award winning *The Fever*, Abbott produced a string of novels that dug into a particular section of the damaged American psyche.

In her more recent novels, those teenage protagonists have become adults, but adults who are still uncertain. *Beware the Woman*, her latest, tells the story of pregnant Jacy and her husband Jed as they visit Jed's father in Michigan. An incident leads to a growing sense of uncertainty and fear in Jacy, particularly concerning her past. A

sense of claustrophobia, eerily synchronized to Jacy's pregnancy and relationships with the men in the novel, turns the tension unbearable. It's classic Abbott, even as her cool, relentless eye scans new ground.

And the love! The first pages speak gloriously of wild love, the kind we don't often read. Crime fiction is, after all, often about endings, an examination of how they lead to uncertain new beginnings. If there is love, we write of its dissolution. But Abbott doesn't shy from the rapture of those early days in a relationship, two people lost in each other, sex their secret language.

Of course, as *Beware the Woman* develops, complications occur. *You always marry a stranger*, Jacy's mother tells her, and these words inform the novel, as this theme has always informed Abbott's work since the early days of *Queenpin*. The shaky loss when you realize, suddenly, you truly don't understand someone.

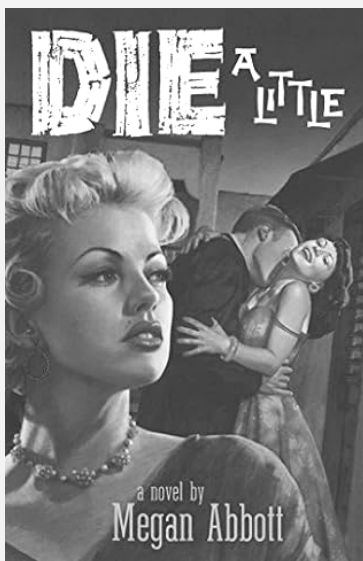
Art is kinetic memory. Writing, photography, painting, music, dance – all these are attempts to capture something we have, or once had. It's the futility of driving a stick into the earth and hoping that weathered stick will remain. We remember our pasts and write about them, hopeless and hopeful, teaching ourselves tricks to make those memories clear.

I will always remember sitting in that bookstore, a young writer both hopeless and hopeful, reading something I'd never come across. That memory is enchanted. One of those rare moments when your love is irrevocably deepened. When you see the possibilities.

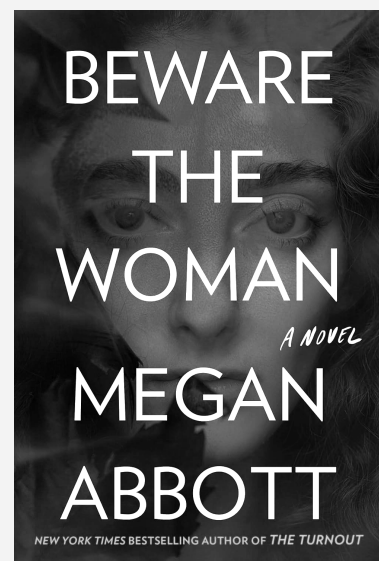
Megan Abbott's writing is nothing less than a promise to the potential of literature.

And she's always good for her word.

Multiple Anthony Award-nominee E.A. Aymar's latest novel is When She Left.




Die a Little (2005)
The Song Is You (2007)
Queenpin (2007)
Bury Me Deep (2009)
The End of Everything (2011)
Dare Me (2012)
The Fever (2014)
You Will Know Me (2016)
Give Me Your Hand (2018)
The Turnout (2021)
Beware the Woman (2023)




Leslie Budewitz
Maddie Day
Peg Cochran
Leslie Karst
Libby Klein
Lucy Burdette




LESLIE
BUDEWITZ



MADDIE
DAY




PEG
COCHRAN




Mystery
Lovers'
Kitchen

Mystery writers cooking up crime . . . and recipes!




CLEO
COYLE




VICKI
DELANY



MOLLY
MACRAE




LESLIE
KARST




LIBBY
KLEIN



LUCY
BURDETTE



MAYA
CORRIGAN



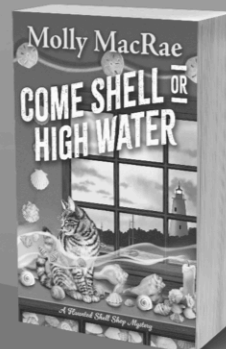
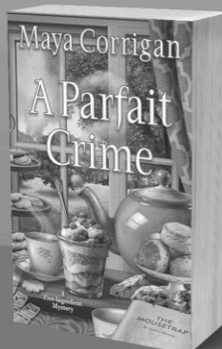
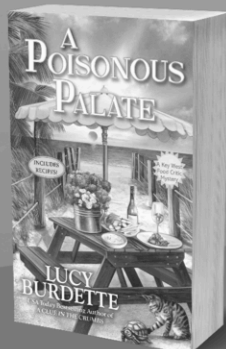
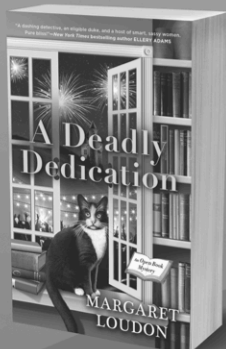
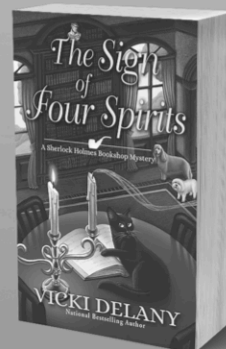
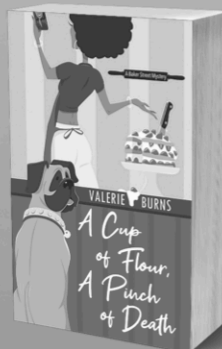
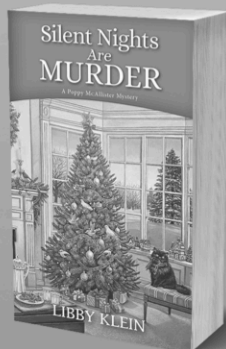
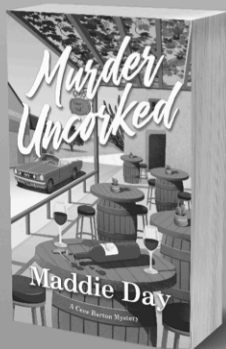
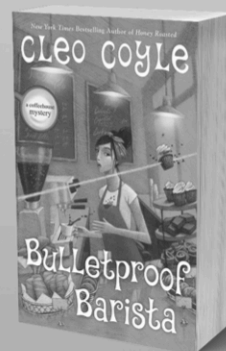
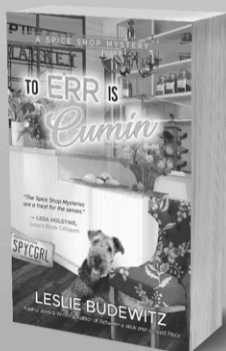
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Vicki Delany
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Sisters in Crime

PUGET SOUND

Welcome to Left Coast Crime 2024 in Seattle!



Sisters in Crime Night at Third Place Books in Lake Forest Park, January 2024

The Puget Sound chapter of Sisters in Crime offers support and inspiration to writers at every stage of their journey from page 1 to publication. All are welcome to join us!

Our activities include monthly programs (now usually on Zoom), group readings, dinners and other gatherings.

Visit pugetsoundsinc.com for details about joining, upcoming events, or signing up for our mailing list.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUSPENSE

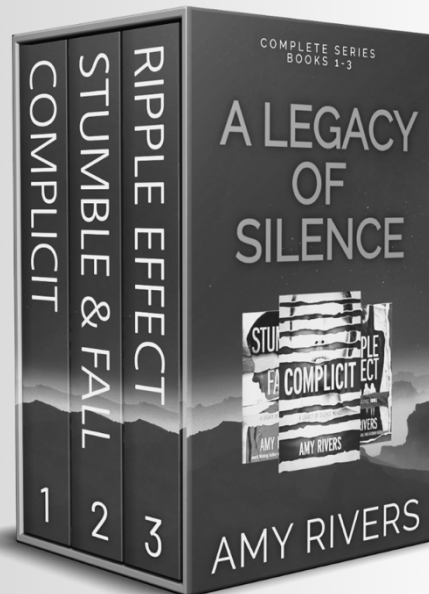
WITH A FOCUS ON SOCIAL ISSUES

2022 RMFW WRITER OF THE YEAR

2021 INDIE AUTHOR OF THE YEAR

"The importance of this story cannot and should not be overlooked. Amy Rivers has tackled a difficult topic with kindness and compassion."

- IndieReader Reviews



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Guest of Honor: Robert Dugoni

by Jeff Ayers

It feels like Robert Dugoni and I have lived a lifetime together, and I guess we have. I first met Bob at a Puget-Sound-based writer's conference 20 years ago. My first book (not a thriller) had just been sold to Simon and Schuster, and we shared the dream of a career doing what we loved. I loved his first novel, *The Jury Master*, featuring his magician attorney, David Sloane, who never loses. Standing the test of time, it remains a classic legal thriller - like Perry Mason on steroids. We became fast friends, and I devoured *Damage Control*, his stand-alone featuring Dana Hill, an attorney who has been hit with grief and bad news hard, and *The Cyanide Canary*, his nonfiction book with Environmental Protection Agency Special Agent, Joseph Hill-dorfer, exposing the truth behind a toxic exposure.

We both attended one of the first Thrillerfests held in New York City and made a plan to meet for dinner. I was staying in a hotel far from the conference venue and schlepping my books and materials back and forth on the subway and sidewalks of New York. On my first night in my accommodations, I discovered the walls moved when the lights went off. I ran into Bob in the lobby of the conference hotel the next day as I was heading back to the land of cockroaches, and he offered up the spare bed in his room to save me. "I have five brothers. I've never had my own room in my life." I jumped at the chance. That first night, as we lay in our beds with lights off at 9:00 PM, Bob's voice came through the dark: "Jeff, we are losers. What are we doing? We are in New York." We got up and explored Times Square together, discussing our love of writing and the joy of being in a vibrant city like New York, staying out until 1:00 AM. Those starry-eyed tourists never would have believed that one day I would become a co-executive director for the conference we were attending and that Bob would reach the stratosphere as Amazon's top-selling author.

But let's not skip ahead just yet. We continued to share a room at every ThrillerFest as his career took off with more David Sloane novels. We explored the city together, and I met his wonderful wife and family.

Spending time with them at the One World Trade Center and the Statue of Liberty are memories I will always treasure. We encouraged each other through the bumps of our careers, both of us struggling with our day jobs - me as a librarian and him as an attorney no longer enamored with the law. He asked me to read a couple of new novels in the early stages that he felt would never see the light of day. I could see that *The 7th Canon* - a legal thriller set in 1980s San Francisco that deals with justice and the Catholic Church, and *The Extraordinary*

Life of Sam Hell - a literary novel that explores the life of an extraordinary character born with red pupils, were too good not to be published. Both were. Sam Hell is a particular favorite of mine - I wanted to hug Sam and tell him that everything would be OK. This is Bob's strength - he crafts emotionally resonant characters that draw you in and make you genuinely care for them.

Over time, Bob finally started getting the recognition he deserved. Thomas and Mercer Publishing of Amazon picked him up and his idea for a new series starring a homicide detective named Tracy Crosswhite. Bob eagerly told me her story on a cab ride from

the airport to a ThrillerFest. As he was going on about Tracy's sister and where her body was buried, I noticed out of the corner of my eye that the hands of the cab driver were quaking on the steering wheel. I briefly stopped Bob to reassure the driver, "It's OK - We are thriller writers." "Oh, Thank God!" was the relieved reply, and we all laughed. That's the kind of talented storyteller Bob is. Readers loved Crosswhite too, and ten books later, she is still going strong as a realistic character who struggles to navigate work and family life.

In 2019, Thomas and Mercer asked me to interview Bob for an event at a local Seattle-area winery to celebrate the release of *The Eighth Sister*, his first spy thriller featuring former CIA officer Charles Jenkins, who also was a prominent character in his David Sloane series. My heart was full as we conversed in front of a packed house, celebrating this book and his career. Bob was kind enough to return the favor recently,



interviewing me at our local bookstore and lending his star power to support the publication of my first thriller from a major publisher. This is just one example of how Bob supports other writers. His is also one of the most popular writing instructors in the country, sharing his knowledge and experience.

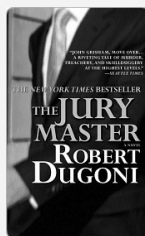
Bob has continued to impress and excite readers with new series and characters, including the Charles Jenkins series, a new series featuring Keera Duggan, a former Seattle prosecutor who ends up working at her father's defense law firm, and this year, William Schumacher, a reporter in 1933 Seattle covering the "Trial of the Century" during the Great Depression and Prohibition. *Publishers Weekly* recently wrote in a starred review, "Dugoni scores a decisive win with this tale of greed, lust and bloodshed: it's chock-full of expertly drawn characters and plenty of historical lore, and its note-perfect noir atmosphere could accommodate James Cagney. Here's hoping this gets the series treatment." It will.

Bob's writing has also explored new eras with two other historical standalones, one about the horrors of the Vietnam War titled *The World Played Chess* and the to be released, *Hold Strong*, A World War II saga based on true event. He displays an extensive range in his writing, encompassing history, legal thrillers, literary novels, espionage, elaborate puzzles, nonfiction, and exploring themes of injustice. He can build suspense like nobody's business and hasn't written a bad book yet. Comparisons to John Grisham, John Irving, and Michael Connelly are well-deserved, but his books are unique. At the top of his game, he is one of the best writers in the business today. I'm truly blessed to call Bob a friend, and I cannot imagine anyone more deserving of being the a Left Coast Crime Guest of Honor.

Jeff Ayers is the Co-Executive Director of Thrillerfest. His latest book is Leave No Trace, co-authored with Jon Land under the joint pseudonym A.J. Landau.

**David Sloane,
Seattle lawyer:**

The Jury Master (2006)
Wrongful Death (2009)
Bodily Harm (2010)
Murder One (2011)
The Conviction (2012)

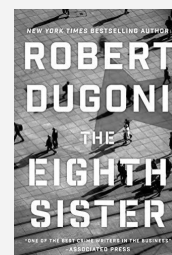


Non-series:

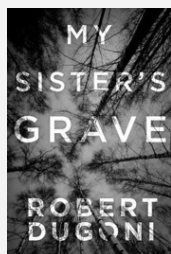
Damage Control (2007)
The 7th Canon (2016)

**Charles Jenkins, retired CIA,
now security consultant:**

The Eighth Sister (2019)
The Last Agent (2020)



Tracy Crosswhite, Seattle homicide detective:



My Sister's Grave (2014)
Her Final Breath (2015)
In the Clearing (2016)
The Trapped Girl (2017)
Close to Home (2017)
A Steep Price (2018)
A Cold Trail (2020)
In Her Tracks (2021)
What She Found (2022)



Keera Duggan, Seattle prosecutor:

Her Deadly Game (2023)
Beyond Reasonable Doubt (Oct. 2024)

Other fiction:

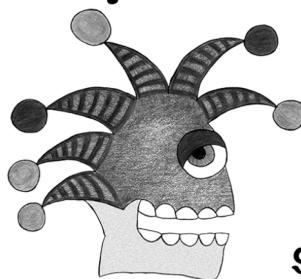
The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell (2018)

Scan for a good time



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Toastmaster: Wanda M. Morris

by Yasmin Angoe

When I was asked to write this essay about Wanda M. Morris, I told her it would be my honor, and I thanked her for asking me because it means something when someone asks you to write about them. Means, they trust you, and you now have some serious responsibility resting on your shoulders. I was given an opportunity to talk about someone I care about and respect.

And it took me a while to get started because there is so much to say about Wanda but not nearly enough word count to say it.

I wrestled with what I wanted those reading this (and it had better be everyone at LCC) to know about Wanda, whom I've had the pleasure of getting to know for several years. For example, how she doesn't curse and has a kind word about many. I like to rile her up, purposely saying salacious things when we talk or in a text that will make her "clutch her pearls" (if you don't know what this means, ask someone from the South). I strive for the response text from her saying, "OMG, I literally just screamed!" To which I reply, "Mission accomplished." My evil plan is to say something so outrageous one day that the only thing Wanda can do is let out a cuss word or two. Then, I will have arrived.

Wanda and I became writing besties in 2021, when we realized that we were debuting around the same time and that we were in this game together, not knowing what the hell we were doing or what was going to happen. We share a lot of commonalities: married, professionals, kids, and debuting as a second career after many life detours and stop signs. Back then, we didn't know writing was a real job or that it could be attainable by us. We also secretly wrote our books without telling anyone in our families until really late in the game. We had worried that they wouldn't understand. Worried that we'd fail. And from those shared fears and dreams of debuting at a stage in our lives where we had both taken a chance, leaping into an abyss of the unknown, AKA the publishing world, a deep friendship, a sisterhood, emerged.

So, what is it about Wanda? The first that comes to mind is that you can hear her before you see her. Her laugh is joyful and infectious and automatically makes you join in. She is thoughtful, genuine, and caring. She

makes others feel comfortable and welcome. She always has an open heart and is willing to help. In a world and industry where what you see might not be at face value, with Wanda what you get is more than you could imagine. I don't say that lightly or because we're friends IRL. I say that because I have seen Wanda in action—on panels

discussing the stylistic choices and narrative structure of her books, from behind podiums delivering a tearful thank you to her husband Anthony for his unwavering support (and his side gig as her photographer) as she accepts her awards, on podcasts and articles discussing the challenging topics she covers, or out to dinner celebrating fellow writers in their successes. It is often said that there is a slice of a writer's real life in every story they tell. While Wanda hasn't discovered a dead body at her job (at least not that she'll admit to), her experiences as an attorney inspired *All Her Little Secrets*, a story that dealt with racism, sexism, and family dynamics.

Having worked as a corporate attorney in the legal departments of some of America's Fortune 500 companies and law firms and having served as President of the Georgia Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel, where she established a female empowerment program known as the Women's Initiative, Wanda has been the only Black attorney in the room, has felt unseen, was unheard, and has been discounted.

Even in the sophisticated world of corporate America, where she holds memberships with both the American and Georgia State Bar Associations and is a graduate of the Yale Writer's Workshop and Robert McKee's Story Seminar, racism and sexism, both implicit and explicit, still runs rampant, and Wanda has encountered both. Her experiences of often being "the only one of us in the room" resonates with nearly every Black woman, and of it, Wanda says that she has worked "in toxic offices that underestimated the value that women and people of color can bring to the workplace." Well, jokes on them because Wanda and her protagonist Ellice Littlejohn, both persevered, and 2023, Wanda delivered the keynote address at the American Bar Association's Annual Labor & Employment Law Conference in Seattle.



Wanda became a mystery/thriller writer because of her love of the genre and because it allowed her to “explore themes of hope and redemption through the inhumanity of criminal behavior.” When asked where her ideas come from, Wanda says that she writes about themes and ideas that are important to her. What she found was that she learned those same themes and ideas were important to her readers as well. Themes of love and loss and ideas from her novel, *Anywhere You Run*, a historical thriller, of the struggle for voting rights and equality in 1964.

In 2022, Wanda won the Lefty Award for Best Debut Mystery Novel and was a finalist for the Georgia Author of the Year for Best First Novel for the critically acclaimed *All Her Little Secrets*, which was also optioned by *Showtime* and executive produced and starring Emmy-award winning actress Uzo Aduba. *Anywhere You Run* was named one of “Fifteen Standout Historical Fiction Books to Read This Year” by Oprah Daily, was a Good Morning America Buzz Pick, and won the 2023 Anthony award for Best Historical Novel, Georgia Author of the Year for Best Mystery, and the 2023 Lefty award for Best Historical. *Anywhere You Run* was long-listed for the Mark Twain American Voice in Literature Prize.

Sounds very fancy, but if you sat down and chatted with Wanda, you’d likely never know about any of this because she is so humble about it all. She gets quite shy, and if you’re not careful, you’ll suddenly find the conversation has become about you and all that you are doing. Maybe it’s the lawyer in her – the ability to get others to spill the beans. Wanda always says how she never expected any of this success, even as she toiled away writing in airports between work trips and at every free moment she had during the thirteen years it took for her to write her first book. It’s that lack of expectation that makes Wanda surprised and even more thankful to everyone who has supported her and her books.

Despite everything, Wanda remains down to earth. She is the same Wanda from before she was published who still sits in the car rider line of her youngest son’s school to pick him up. She’s the same mom who packs him for his Boy Scout trips and events or worries over her daughter, an editor living in New York, when her daughter’s sick. She’s the same friend who’ll text at eight in the morning to check that you’re ready to start working or, during a lunch break, will shoot over a message that she’s going to have some retail therapy after a tough day of writing.

And she’s the same writer who settles down in her office to pen the stories we love to read. She contemplates every word, ensuring that what she pens on the page is exactly like the movie that runs through her mind. Sidenote—when I say “pens” I mean it literally. Wanda first writes her books longhand. Wild right? Ask her about it if you see her around.

She dedicates herself to giving back to the communities she’s grown up in and to the writing community. She sits on the Board for International Thriller Writers. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc., a historically Black sorority with roots in service, and she is an active member of Crime Writers of Color and Sisters in Crime.

Wanda is a brilliant storyteller whose stories come from her soul. Throughout the centuries, in parts of West Africa, the role of the teller of stories was a prestigious one, and we called these storytellers griots. Griots traveled from village to village reciting dazzling stories of all kinds. They captivated the audience, delivering messages of life learning, about political issues and strife happening at the time, and ancient stories about the gods. They gave warnings of impending danger. They were the means of communication and when the griots arrived, every villager would stop what they were doing to hear them speak and be in those fantastical worlds spun by the famed griots, if only for a moment. When I read Wanda’s books, when I listen to her speak, whether it be delivering an address or just chatting in conversation, I am captivated and look forward to hearing them, just like those villagers.

Wanda may get weepy when she reads this (she’s emotional; please grab her a tissue or two). She will say I am just being kind. She’ll try to downplay her accolades and divert the attention elsewhere....

But don’t let her. When you see her during LCC, tell Wanda she’s done well. Tell her she deserves all the good things and to relish every moment. Because she does deserve it, really and truly. That Wanda is standing before you is a testament of her hard work, the strength of her impactful words, and why Wanda, the griot, the teller of stories, is this year’s Toastmaster. Thank you for the honor, Wanda.

Yasmin Angoe, a first-generation Ghanaian American, completed her Nena Knight thriller series in 2023. Not What She Seems will be released in September.

All Her Little Secrets (2021)

Anywhere You Run (2022)

What You Leave Behind
(due June 18, 2024)



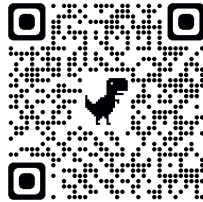
Do you want to connect with fellow mystery writers, but you don't want to leave your house? Or you live too far from your nearest writers org to attend in person?

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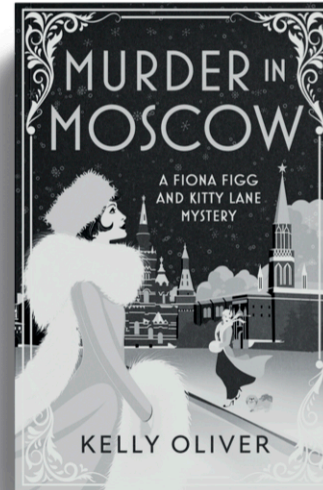
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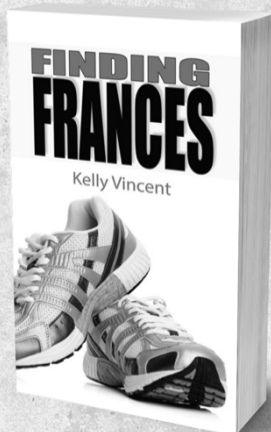
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Fan Guest of Honor: Fran Fuller

by Brian Thornton

I honestly can't recall the first time I met my friend Fran Fuller. I know where it was, though. At the late, lamented Seattle Mystery Bookshop.

Fran worked at this Northwest beacon of literary excellence for nearly fourteen years (2004-2017). A life-long reader, she parlayed her love for the written word and a previous job in Minnesota working for Half-Price Books, into her gig at Seattle Mystery Bookshop, and in so doing, helped change the face of crime fiction in the region.

Like so many of the icons (Cher, Madonna, Oprah, Adele), this year's Left Coast Crime Fan Guest of Honor quickly came to be identified by a single name. This especially among the writers themselves, and even more so among the out-of-town contingent. During those years when book tours were far more frequent than they are these days, Seattle Mystery Bookshop played host to a near-constant stream of visiting authors doing the I-5 Shuffle (either from Portland to Vancouver, or from Vancouver to Portland). And with so many of them making a point of stopping in at SMB to sign stock and meet readers, the word got out, and stayed out: if it was your first time at Seattle Mystery, "Ask for Fran."

Fran at SMB was so many things to so many people. Equal parts bookseller, raconteur, emcee, den mother, and the gentlest of literary critics, Fran influenced so many readers in so many directions. Possessed of an encyclopedic knowledge of the crime fiction landscape, friendly with authors and fans alike, Fran was one of the constants that made Seattle Mystery Bookshop what it was: a one-of-a-kind independent bookstore that managed to stand out in a sea of independent literary enterprises. No surprise, then, that Seattle Mystery Bookshop founder the late Bill Farley once said to me that hiring Fran was "one of the smartest things I ever did."

I can believe that.

Brian Thornton is the Seattle author of 12 books – most recently the three-novella collection Suicide Blonde. His short fiction has appeared in many publications.



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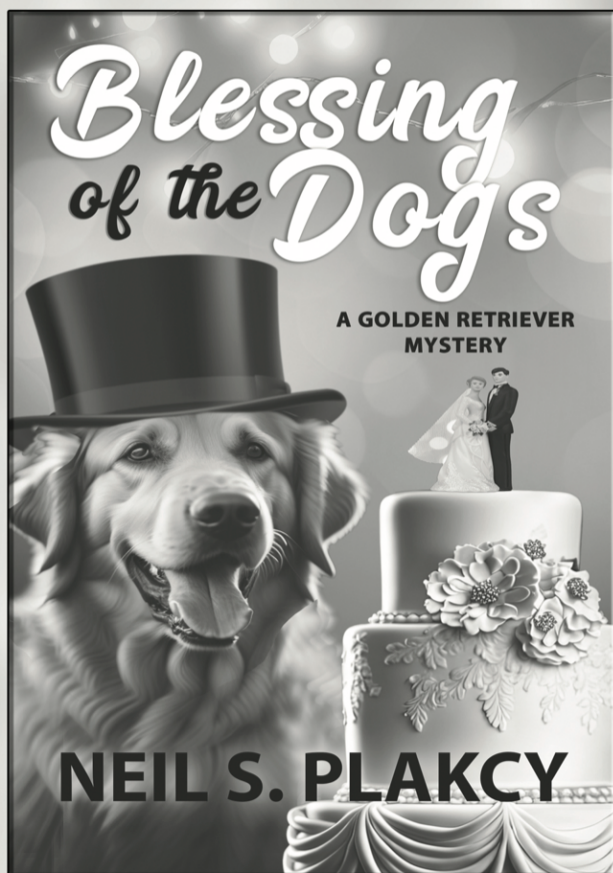
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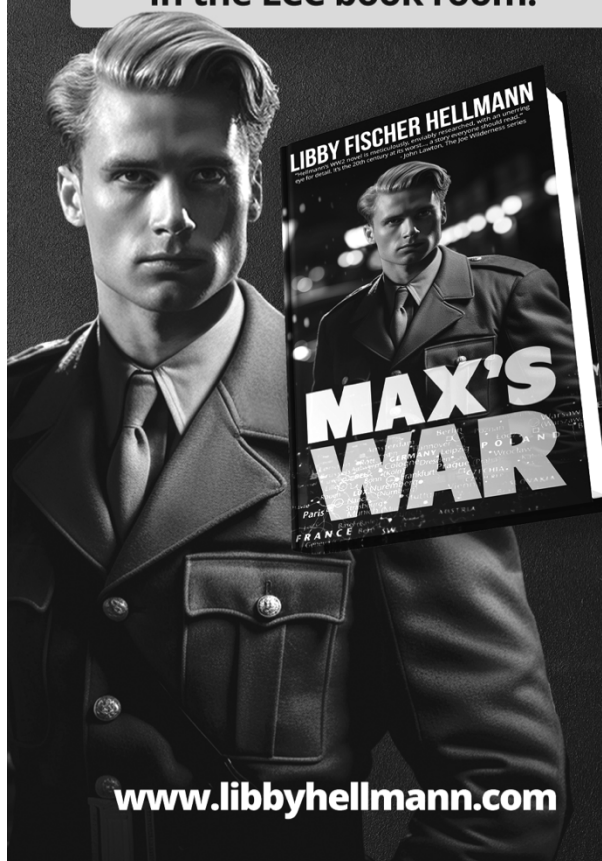


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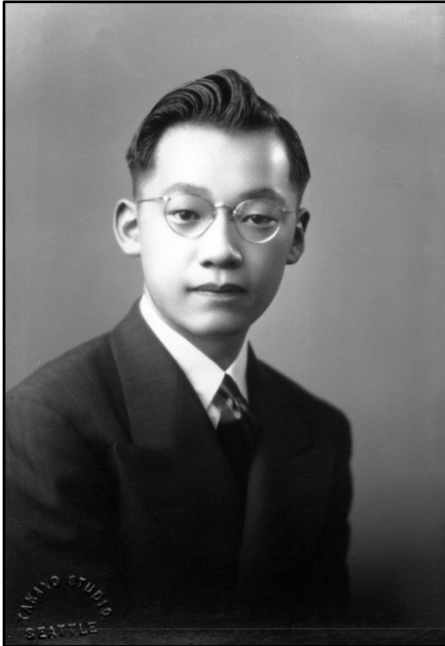


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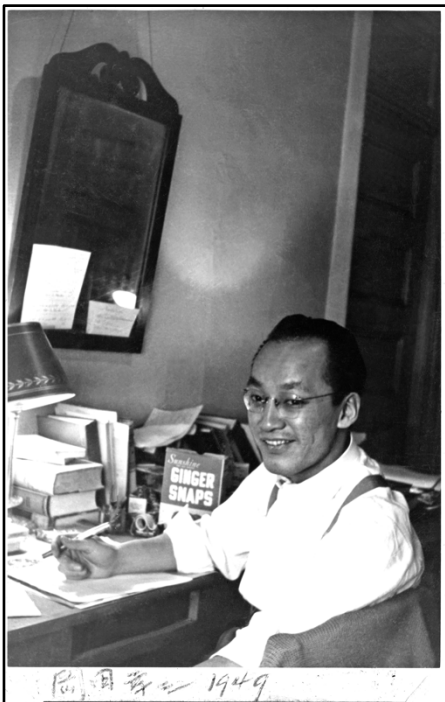
Ghost of Honor: John Okada

Who Killed Japanese America?

by Frank Abe



In his last days as a student before the mass incarceration, Okada posed for a portrait at Takano Studio in Chinatown. (Roy Kumasaka)



*Okada enrolled at Teachers College in New York City to get a master's degree to teach English. It was here he reportedly sketched the first scenes for *No-No Boy* in early 1949. (Yoshito Okada family)*

At the heart of John Okada's 1957 novel *No-No Boy* is a murder mystery: Who killed the hopes and dreams of a community in 1942?

My friends in the Japanese American community may recoil at this characterization of their mass exclusion from the West Coast in World War II and the years of incarceration that followed. They will argue we are a resilient people who rebounded from the immense losses of freedom, property, education, and from madness. But something died there nevertheless, and that is the emotional terrain Okada explores.

His protagonist, Ichiro Yamada, is a young man who never harmed any person. Yet as the novel opens he is a criminal who served hard time at the McNeil Island federal penitentiary:

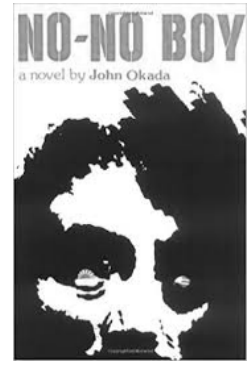
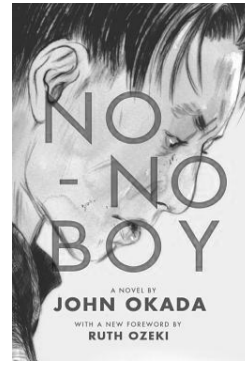
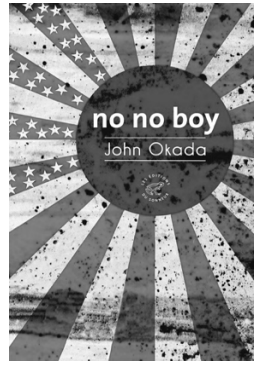
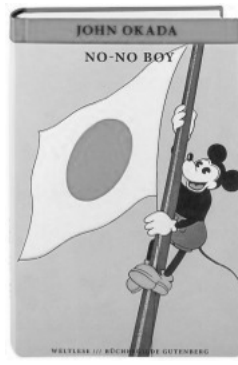
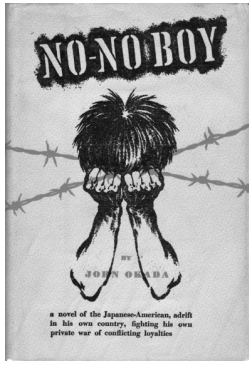
Two weeks after his twenty-fifth birthday, Ichiro got off a bus at Second and Main in Seattle. He had been gone four years, two in camp and two in prison.

Walking down the street that autumn morning with a small, black suitcase, he felt like an intruder in a world to which he had no claim. It was just enough that he should feel this way, for of his own free will, he had stood before the judge and said that he would not go in the army. At the time there was no other choice for him. That was when he was twenty- three, a man of twenty-three. Now, two years older, he was even more of a man.

Christ, he thought to himself, just a goddamn kid is all I was. Didn't know enough to wipe my own nose. What the hell have I done? What am I doing back here? Best thing I can do would be to kill some son of a bitch and head back to prison.

Call it Seattle noir. Ichiro is both a perpetrator of the crime of refusing to be drafted from inside an American concentration camp, and a detective interrogating his own reasons for fighting the government to prove a point and why this so enrages the volunteers and draftees of his own age. It is a mystery Okada could not neatly resolve at the time of writing, but his novel frames the right questions as it examines the confused and divided community Japanese Americans rebuilt upon their return from camp to the Coast.

The author would die young in 1971 at the age of 47, never knowing how his mystery would be solved, but the answer to the question of who killed the Japanese American community is now known to us, having kick-started the popular campaign for redress and reparations here in Seattle in 1978. In 1988, the President formally apologized on behalf of the nation for its wartime racism and war hysteria. He also apologized on behalf of a predecessor in office for what a congressional fact-finding commission obliquely called "a failure of political leadership."



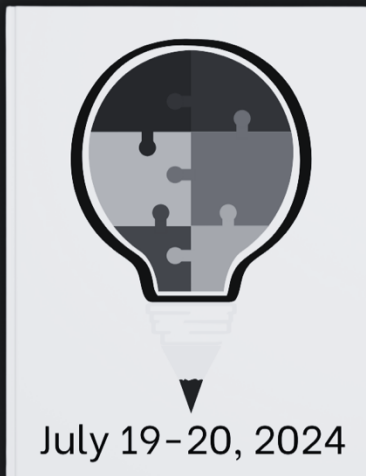
The author himself was something of an enigma when rediscovered in 1971 by fellow panelist Shawn Wong, who would republish the novel as part of a campaign to recover and reclaim an authentic Asian American literature. It's a story he will share at our panel celebrating Okada as your 2024 "Ghost of Honor." Our panel chair, Lefty and Edgar Award–winner author Naomi Hirahara, was introduced to *No-No Boy* in college through the Okada House, a residence hall at Stanford University named after the writer in that period of literary self-discovery. She will share how impressed she was to learn Okada had served with the Military Intelligence Service in WWII yet chose to center a character who had made a very different choice – a challenge for any author who sets out to explore a personally unlivable experience.

"This is a story which has never been told in fiction and only in fiction can the hopes and fears and joys and sorrows of people be adequately recorded," Okada once wrote to his publisher. We thank Left Coast Crime for recognizing the personal and imaginative world of Seattle native John Okada and look forward to seeing you at this convention.

Frank Abe is writer and co-editor of John Okada: The Life and Rediscovered Work of the Author of No-No Boy (2018)

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Rain City Revelation

by Glen Erik Hamilton

Pssst. Hey you. You with the keyboard. You wanna plot a crime? Need just the right place? Or maybe you've already taken a stab at it, and now you have to dispose of a troublesome corpse. Have I got a city for you....

Welcome to Seattle. Among the nation's fastest-growing, most educated, most literate, and greenest cities – in both natural beauty and carbon footprint – as well as a place to get some damn fine coffee, Diane. (That's a Twin Peaks reference, for those unfamiliar.)

Not coincidentally, Seattle is also one of America's most expensive, most economically unequal, and most passionately conflicted towns. Are we treehuggers or tech bros? Kurt Cobain or Frasier Crane? Adapting to survive or holding tight to our storied history?



If crime sprouts from need and opportunity, the Emerald City is rich soil. The region has seen waves of boom and bust since it was a territory – and likely before, in the thousands of years during which the Duwamish and other peoples settled this land. The last century and a half brought timber, the gold rush, shipbuilding, aerospace, software, e-commerce, and biotech. Overlapping sine curves of prosperity and desperation. Whether a story requires billionaires or gig economy workers, high-rise penthouses or tent camps for the unhoused, Seattle has them within a few blocks of one another. Spitting distance, if you will.

Out of the city, a writer will find no end of dramatic settings. Snowcapped mountain ranges to the east and the west. A thousand square miles of rain forest. And a whole lot of ocean. Deep, dark woods and deep, dark water. Remote enough to bury or sink what should never be found.

My favorite locale for concocting crime is the San Juan Islands, just off the Washington coast. Hundreds of bits of land, ranging from lush forested isles with tourist towns and state ferry service to barren rocks poking out of the sea. Beautiful, wild, windswept. The San Juans are also a jumping-off point to cross the Canadian border. That could mean sightseeing in quaint Victoria or making a midnight passage with your boat's running lights blacked out.

Seattle's waterways are more than just scenic background or places for an easy afternoon sail. They are the city's silent highways. Its unguarded entry points. And in the largest port north of Los Angeles, they are how business gets done. Between three and four million cargo containers going in or out every year. Who knows what might be concealed within a few of those 20-foot steel boxes?

Like Manhattan and San Francisco, Seattle is hemmed in by water. Nowhere to go but up. Any real estate within the city not already redeveloped is likely just waiting on the plans to be approved. Local newspaper columnist Emmett Watson coined the term "Lesser Seattle" in the late 1950s as a way of satirizing and combating uninhibited growth. (The hero of my series, Van Shaw, attended the fictional Watson High School as a nod to the late curmudgeon.) Emmett might blanch at what's become of the Ballard enclaves of Nordic fishermen or Jackson Street's jazz clubs. Then again, he'd likely love the restaurants and the art that has bloomed from our increasingly diverse and outspoken communities.



What of Seattle's most famous feature? No, not the Space Needle, though it is worth a visit. The rain, brothers and sisters. Perhaps surprisingly, Seattle has less precipitation than New York City or Houston or all of Florida. But the city takes its sweet time about it. Drizzle, not downpour. Most days are overcast and about half have rain of one form or another.



Slick streets and huddled citizens. Fog to shroud dark deeds and a chill that can seep to the bone. Weather that kills us softly. An ideal climate for writers to take shelter, and to scheme.

And when the clouds finally roll away and the sun pays a visit? The Emerald City positively gleams. Greens and blues so brilliant they make you gasp. Mount Rainier looks close enough to touch. My recommendation if you've got a couple of hours to kill before your flight home:

The Japanese Garden in the Washington Park Arboretum, just across the floating bridge from Bellevue. Cherry trees in full blossom and giant koi in the pond.

Don't sleep on Seattle. It's got everything that a crime writer could want. Now pass me that frozen salmon. I think a fish could make a great blunt instrument...

Photo credits:
Bainbridge ferry Martin Bydalek,
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Glen Erik Hamilton grew up aboard a sailboat in Seattle, only occasionally falling over the side. Whenever the boat drifted on calm seas, he would raid his parents' bookshelves for pulp paperbacks, material that permanently warped his young mind. Glen's crime thrillers have been published in a dozen countries and likely smuggled into many more
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—Carla Coupe, editor of *Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine*, member of the *Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes* and *The Baker Street Irregulars*.

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Pike Place Market: Magic in the Heart of the City

by Leslie Budewitz

I fell in love with Seattle's Pike Place Market as a wide-eyed college freshman just a few years after residents voted to save the Market from "urban removal." It was funky and vibrant, and I adored every inch of it. I made it my mission to eat my way through the place, and since it's constantly changing, I'll never be finished.

In the late 1970s, not every corner was clean; not every pillar and post stood upright. The Market is an amalgam of buildings erected over the decades bearing history-laden names like the Economy Market, the Sanitary Market (no horses allowed!), and the Soames/Dunne Building. Suburban growth and the economic downturn that hit the city hard had taken their toll. Many farm stalls and shop fronts stood empty. Some days, it's said, pigeons outnumbered potatoes.

Will the last person leaving Seattle turn out the lights? – 1970s billboard

After a years-long public campaign, voters approved the creation of the Pike Place Market Historical District in 1971, later the first mixed residential and commercial use project named to the National Historic Register. The mission was clear: Preserve Seattle's history. Foster the direct link between the region's farmers and food producers to the community they fed. Provide public services and low income housing. And do it with Northwest style!

And while the Market was coming back to life, a few ghost stories emerged as well: The early Market Master who wore a top hat and loved to dance and who, some say, can still be seen dancing past upper story windows. The orphaned stable boys who slept in the hallways and now occasionally toy with shop merchandise at night. The ghosts of men murdered for bounty money who haunt the old mortuary, but are appeased by a pitcher of beer left out at night.

When I was a college kid trekking down the hill from Seattle University to prowl the cobbled streets, behind-the-scenes renovations were upgrading the structures and utilities. The Preservation and Development Authority was busy ensuring that farmers could sell their produce, fishermen their catch, bakers their breads and rolls. The PDA helped stabilize and grow existing businesses and incubate new ones. They created the network of arts and crafts vendors who fill the daystalls in the Main Arcade, and established funding sources for the community foundation that provides social services.

Later, as a young lawyer working downtown, I developed a simple routine: Twice a week, I walked to the Market. Bought a slice of pizza at DeLaurenti's on the corner of First and Pike. Stood at the newsstand browsing newspapers and magazines from around the world with my eyes—hands off until my pizza was gone. Strolled down to Market Spice for a sample cup of tea redolent with orange and cloves. Watched salmon fly at Pike Place Fish, where men (and later women) in rubber boots and aprons sang, joked, and tossed the catch through the air. ("Crab for Montana!" they called back and forth when my visiting mother made a purchase. She was mortified and delighted.) I tasted food and flavors I had never known.

Then I went in search of a cookie, nibbling while listening to street-corner musicians, marveling at the man who rolled his painted piano along the sidewalks. I bought books and scarves from merchants in the lower levels known as "Down Under" and earrings and a Hmong quilted pillow from Market artists. I bought fruit and vegetables, bread and cheese and coffee, and occasionally, flowers.



The Market is home to more than seventy-five farmers, two hundred shops and restaurants, two hundred craftspeople known as daystallers, a score or more of buskers ranging from musical trios to balloon artists, and nearly five hundred residents, all on nine acres. Not to mention ten million visitors a year. — *Between a Wok and a Dead Place*

As Seattle has changed, so has the Market. Neighborhood groceries offer more variety than in years past. Weekend farmers' markets dot the city. But Pike Place—which is both the main street and the name locals use—continues to thrive. The focus remains a direct-to-consumer farm connection, served up alongside a dizzying array of shops and restaurants. Artistic delight has become a bigger part of the experience. Light fixtures take the shape of cast aluminum figures who climb the walls, globes in hand. Tile walls celebrate flora and fauna. No one knows the point of the disgusting bit of psychogrunge that is the Gum Wall, but it adds color and story nonetheless.

My Spice Shop mysteries are an example of the urban or city-based cozy, a subgenre built around a community within a community. The Market embodies that perfectly. My goal has always been to convey the literal and figurative flavor of the place. To create a world where the reader can taste the food, meet the people, and smell the salt air tinged with coffee and salmon, all while absorbed in a mystery that means something, in a story that could be set nowhere else.

"It's the Market. Anything can happen here." — *Pepper Reece, in Assault and Pepper*

After more than a century, Pike Place Market remains the heart and soul of Seattle—and its stomach. I hope you'll make a visit while you're here, on foot or on the page, to experience the magic for yourself.



Leslie Budewitz lives and writes in NW Montana, but a piece of her heart will always walk beside the ghosts along the cobbles of Pike Place.

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Why not play along? I pushed the pin into the doll's head.

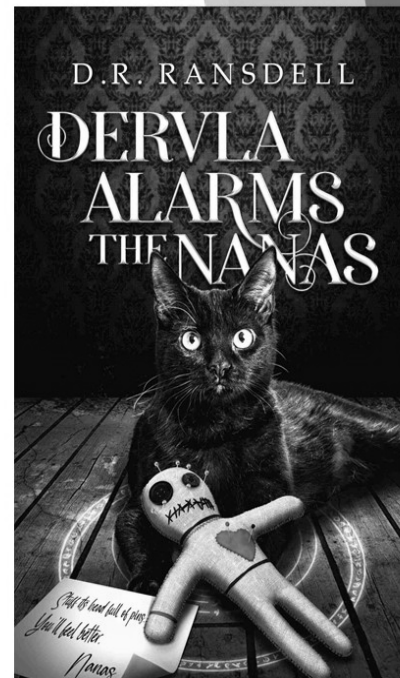
"Try again," Mari said. "Use more umph."

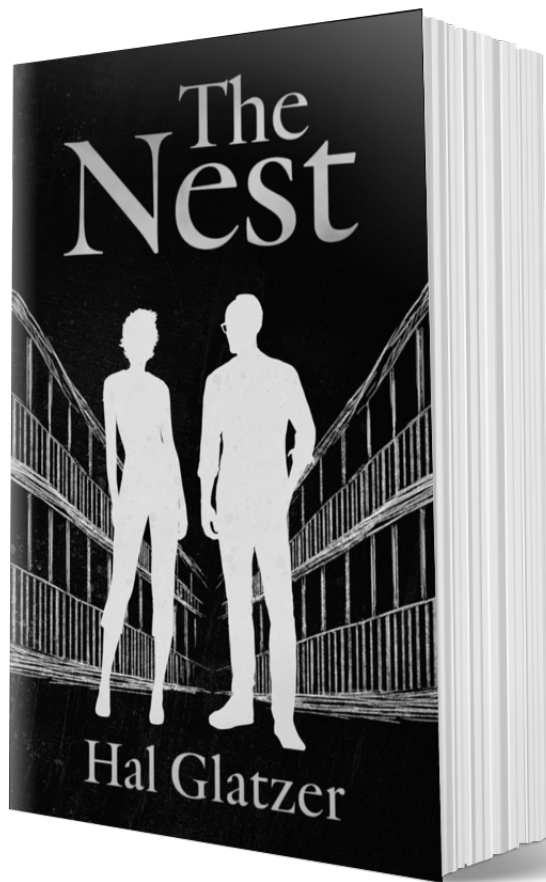
I stabbed the doll eight or nine times.

"You see!" cried Lula. "Whether it works or not, it still feels good."

Not good. Terrific.

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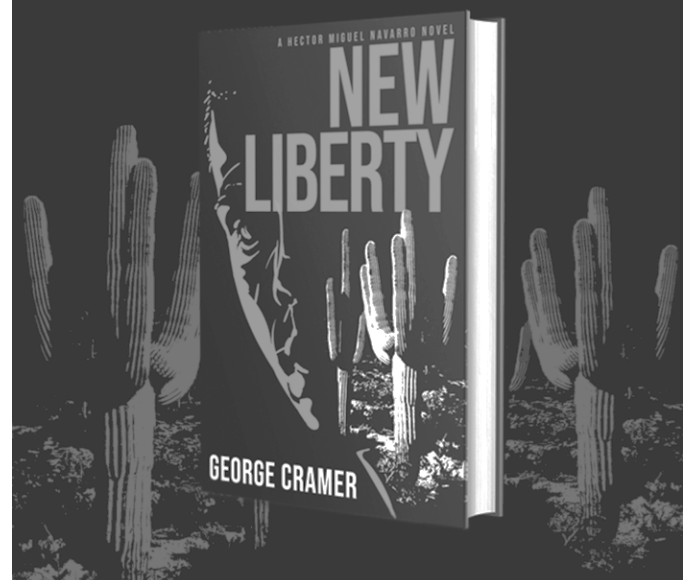
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expose our own.**

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The Pacific Northwest: A Natural Environment for Thrillers, Murders, and Mysteries

Thomas P. Hopp

The setting of a story contributes so much to mystery and thriller tales that it is hard to imagine some of them without their backdrops. Sherlock Holmes without the fog, grit, and horse poo of turn-of-the-century London? Philip Marlowe without the mean streets, sleazy bars, and sleazier wanton women of LA? Recently, a few authors have successfully tapped the lush green environment of the Pacific Northwest for their settings. But it seems this neck of the woods has been neglected compared to the great urban centers of the East Coast, the many fabled South, the frozen North, tornado-crossed Great Plains, the dry gulches of the American West, or the palm-dotted vistas of the Southwest.

The Pacific Northwest has been the setting for a number of highly successful mystery stories and authors. I won't play favorites by picking one or several of our most prominent authors or characters, especially since I have another point to make:

This corner of America remains a largely underutilized resource for mystery and thriller authors. The gloomy recesses of our evergreen forests, the roaring power of our cold North Pacific Ocean, the icy ramparts of our brooding volcanoes, and the searing heat of our desert canyons have only begun to be tapped as places to get lost – or lose a body – in.

Mount Rainier's snow-clad slopes have claimed many a mountaineer over the years. Victims have been swept off cliffs or plunged into deep glacial crevasses. And ice isn't Rainier's only threat. This volcano isn't really extinct. It could quite literally blow its top with little warning beforehand. Rather unfortunate for anyone trying to reach the summit or picnicking on lower slopes. And then there's Mount Saint Helens. Of 57 people who disappeared in its 1980 eruption, 26 have never been found. What if one of them were to erode out of a stream bank with a knife in their back? Wow. Talk about your cold case.

And how about Dry Falls in Eastern Washington? Nowadays, it's an imposing enough sight: a horseshoe shaped 400-foot-tall cliff topped by a dusty plateau. But it once was a colossal waterfall. During the Ice Ages, the entire mile-wide Columbia River plunged off it, making a cataract that put Niagara to shame, more than twice its height and hundreds of times its volume. Okay, okay, so the icecap melted, and the river has long-since found another course. But just as Niagara is noted for victims plunging to their deaths every now and then, Dry Falls' awesome escarpment would make a dramatic lovers' leap. Or, what if that lover didn't leap, but was pushed?

Then there's the Cascadia Subduction Zone, the offshore geological fault that runs along the Northwest Coast from Oregon to Alaska. It's the place where the Pacific Ocean floor is being overrun by the edge of the North American Continent—a truly colossal crack in the earth, which represents a source of potentially lethal power of almost unimaginable dimensions. Every thousand years or so, that crack ruptures, unleashing earthquakes as powerful as 9.0 magnitude, and massive tsunamis. Fabulous grist for writers of natural-disaster thrillers! Take your pick: a devastating earthquake, or a seacoast-engulfing tidal wave with a 12-minute arrival time, or landslides, dam bursts, highway bridge collapses, and on and on.

I've personally exploited a few of these ecological niches in my own writings, but I've got good news for fellow authors—there's still plenty of room for more great tales set on or in the brooding forests, towering skyscrapers, dark ocean depths, geological faults, and looming volcanoes that surround us here.

Thomas P. Hopp is a biotechnology consultant and author living near Seattle, and a former President of the MWA Northwest Chapter. www.thomas-hopp.com

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Remembering Tom Schantz (1944-2023)



“Out of print – Tom Schantz” wrote daughter Sarah announcing Tom’s death at home in Colorado last June. Sarah said she’d promised to use those words, so appropriate for her father, a journalist, writer, avid reader, and bookseller.

For many years it was always Tom and Enid. Enid died in August 2011, not long after Left Coast Crime in Santa Fe that Tom had engineered. Tom and Enid were the Fan Guests of Honor at the Colorado Springs LCC in 2013. The program book essay:

Almost everybody in the mystery world has made one important stop on their way to fame, and that stop was the bookstore on the Boulder mall known as Rue Morgue. The proprietors of said bookstore are ubiquitous, and were pretty much known by the name Tom&Enid, irretrievably linked. Left Coast Crime would probably not exist if not for Tom and Enid.

About the earliest days of Left Coast Crime, Tom wrote in his program book essay on Enid for the 2012 LCC in Sacramento: “Bryan Barrett is fond of saying that they were about to give up on the idea of holding the first Left Coast in San Francisco when our check reserving space in the book room showed up.”

Tom and Enid met at the Iowa Writers Workshop in 1969, and started a bookstore in upstate New York called the Aspen Bookhouse (anticipating moving back to Colorado), specializing in mysteries. In Boulder, they changed the name to The Rue Morgue and operated the store until selling it in 2000. As Tom relates:

We operated out of our basement and the back room of a comic book-science fiction store. We changed our name to The Rue Morgue to better suit our specialty and opened a small shop... on less than a shoestring. The landlord wanted a token ten dollar deposit on the space and we gave him cash, not sure that we could keep that high a balance in our checking account. The store would move [several times] and eventually become one of the largest and most successful mystery bookstores in the world.

Before Enid’s death, they were a fixture in many convention bookrooms. They chaired Left Coast Crime in Boulder in 1996 and Bouchercon in Denver in 2000. They received a Raven Award from Mystery Writers of America in 2001. Along with Barbara Peters, Jim Huang, and others, they established the Independent Mystery Booksellers Association, which gave the Dilys Award to titles IMBA booksellers “most enjoyed selling.” The Dilys was usually announced at Left Coast Crime conventions, from 1992-2014, when IMBA ceased operations.

The Lefty Award originated at LCC 1996 in Boulder, which was chaired by Tom and Enid. The very first Lefty was created using an imprint of Enid’s left hand. In 1997, they launched The Rue Morgue Press, which reprinted over 150 classic mystery novels. Tom remembered:

In those days, used mystery books from the Golden Age were plentiful and cheap and not in wide demand, except by thrifty readers. Booksellers kept first editions in dusty back rooms and rejoiced when we came to town looking for them.... We would come back from buying trips with our Volvo station wagon crammed with boxes of old mysteries, to be shelved and cataloged posthaste to pay back the short-term loans we were always taking out from our little local bank....

Today, it seems like the passing of an era....



Ed. Note: We (Lucinda & Stan) first met Tom and Enid in the bookroom at LCC in Los Angeles in 2010, where they were running their Rue Morgue sales and handling our credit card sales of registrations for the next LCC in Santa Fe. Tom convened the annual meeting of the Standing Committee in the space between our tables after the bookroom had closed. He was decisive and direct, as recruited convention chairs can attest. At the annual meeting around a table at La Fonda in Santa Fe on Sunday morning, Tom declared us to be the “permanent” Lefty Awards Committee; of course, nothing is permanent, but we’ve been managing Leftys ever since. We didn’t know Enid was ill. Tom dropped out of attending mystery conventions, with the 2013 LCC in Colorado Springs, where he and Enid were the Fan Guests of Honor, and that’s the last time we saw him.

Remembering Marvin Lachman (1932-2023)

Millions of people read mysteries, but there will never be more than a relatively small number, perhaps several thousand, who enjoy reading, writing, and talking about mysteries and attending conventions. If you're reading this..., you're probably one of them.

That's how Marv Lachman concluded his preface to *The Heirs of Anthony Boucher*, his detailed history of mystery fandom. Marv started attending mystery conventions in 1973, with the fourth Bouchercon in Boston. Many of you will remember him as "mystery's unofficial obituarist" through the years, chronicling the deaths of people important to the mystery community in Bouchercon and Left Coast Crime program books. He was a prolific reviewer and columnist, for example, writing a regular column on short stories for Janet Rudolph's *Mystery Readers Journal* for over 40 years.

His encyclopedic knowledge of the mystery field is apparent in books such as the Edgar-winning *Encyclopedia of Mystery and Detection* (co-authors Chris Steinbrunner, Otto Penzler & Charles Shibuk). *A Reader's Guide to the American Novel of Detection* (1993) was also nominated for many awards, as was *The American Regional Mystery* (2000). He was co-author and co-editor of *Detectionary* (1971).

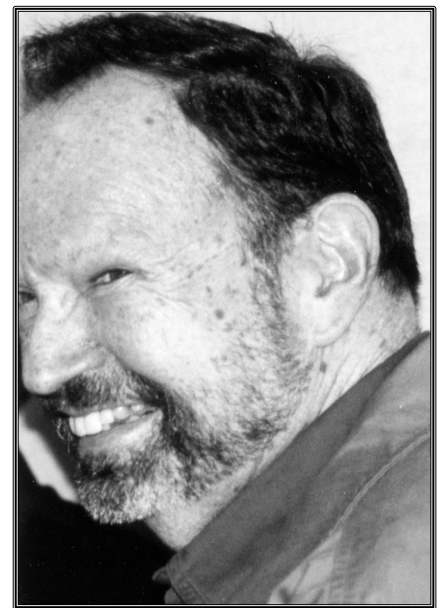
Marv was the 2011 Fan Guest of Honor at Left Coast Crime in Santa Fe, and true to form he wrote a brief essay on "New Mexico and Its Mystery Writers" for the program book. Marv and Carol Lachman had moved from New York to Santa Fe in 1988, so he was a local hero by 2011. He was also to be found selling his books in the La Fonda Hotel bookroom, right next to Tom and Enid Schantz, who were managing the bookroom that year.

As Janet Rudolph reported in her program book essay on Marv, the "ultimate mystery fan":

Asked about his favorite mysteries, it should come as no surprise to those who know him or read his columns and reviews, that they are strong on plot and puzzle. His favorites authors are Ellery Queen and Agatha Christie. He's a huge fan of short stories, and he applauds Edward D. Hoch as the best at writing stories in which the clues were fairly placed for readers wanting to solve the mystery.... He says, "my reading tastes have not changed, so I still find books from the 'Golden Age' between the World Wars to be the most satisfying. It all started when I read a Rex Stout mystery at age eleven and became hooked."

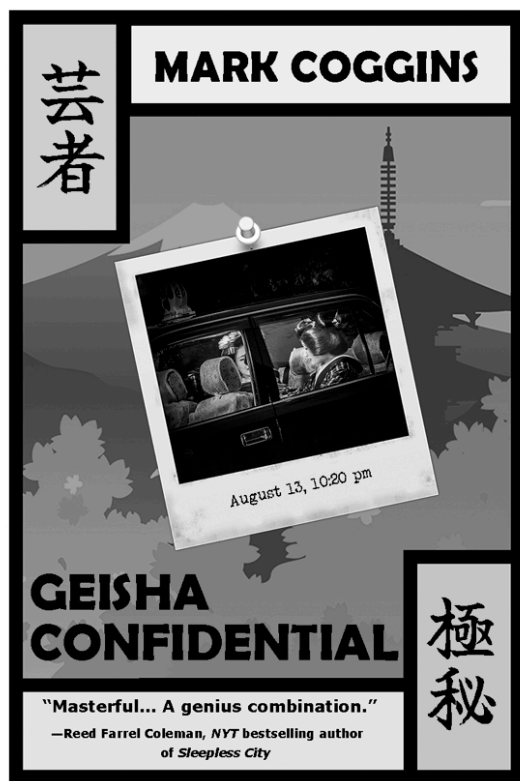
Marv has also been a Fan Guest of Honor at other conventions, including the 1984 Bouchercon in Chicago. He was honored with a Raven Award in 1997, given by Mystery Writers of America for "outstanding achievement in the mystery field outside the realm of creative writing."

When Marv died in late October, there were many tributes and remembrances posted on the Internet, quite a different world from the one that inspired Marv, when fans such as Allen Hubin, mailed out *The Armchair Detective*. Marv concluded the 2019 edition of his *Heirs* book with this thought: "[T]hough reading material is increasingly available on the internet, the desire to hold a mystery in one's hands will never vanish."



Elusive Marv – picture he provided for the Santa Fe program book

Ed. Note: We met Marv when we were working on our first LCC convention at Santa Fe in 2011 and have bumped into both Carol and Marv around town ever since, particularly at Friends of the Santa Fe Library events. They were specially involved with the Friends bookstore at the Southside Library, and Marv would cull donations to pass onto us for Friends online sales. We were happy to see Marv in his element at the 50th Bouchercon in Dallas in 2019, appearing on panels, chatting with all and sundry, and signing the revised edition of The Heirs of Anthony Boucher. Our last email communication was in March 2023 when I was looking for an obituary Marv had written for a British publication on Bryan Barrett, memorialized in the Tucson program book.



Someone is trying to murder Japanese bar hostess Coco Ono. Tokyo's transphobic police won't investigate, so she turns to American private eye August Riordan. Riordan is a complete fish out of water in Japan—doesn't know the language, isn't on speaking terms with sushi, hasn't even traveled outside the US—but Coco has been told Riordan makes things happen.

And happen they do: from the minute Riordan's size 12 Florsheims hit the ground in Tokyo, he is fending off attackers. Riordan and Coco are drawn into a conspiracy involving multiple yakuza clans, popular celebrities, and politicians at the very highest level of government. The bizarre crime they find at the center rattles the country's power structure and jeopardizes both their lives.

A roiling *chankonabe* (sumo wrestler stew) of love hotels, cryptocurrency fraud, "soapland" brothels and the Japanese Adult Video industry, *Geisha Confidential* is an immersive exploration of a culture like no other and a must-read for fans of international crime fiction.

"Masterful... A genius combination."

—Reed Farrel Coleman, *NYT* bestselling author of *Sleepless City*



"Witty, razor-sharp."

—John Billheimer, Edgar award-winning author of the Owen Allison and Lloyd Keaton series



"Sly, wry humor ... a fine entry in a unique series."

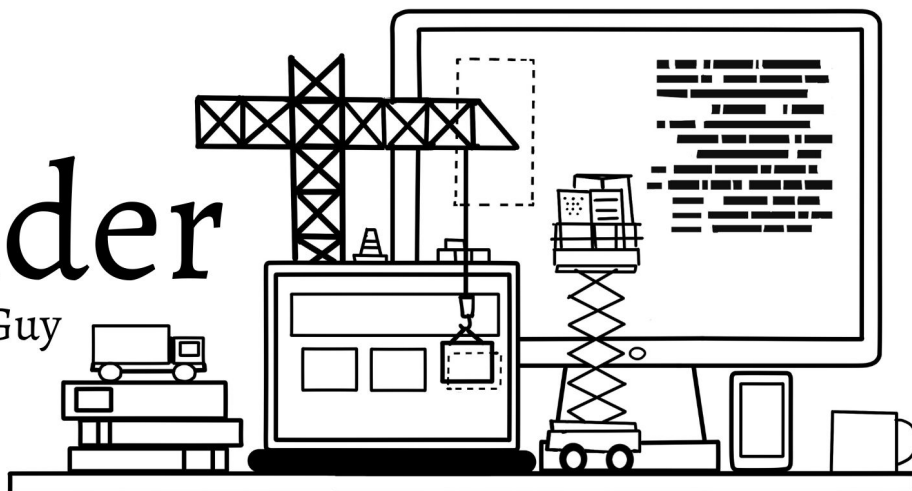
—*New York Journal of Books*



If you need help hiding a body, look elsewhere. But if you need help with your author website, try:

Nate Hoffelder

The Author Website Guy



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Program Participants

- For a general schedule of Special Events, Interviews, Panels, etc., see page 3. A detailed schedule starts on page 5.
- The Pocket Program includes an alphabetical index of appearances by each of the participants.
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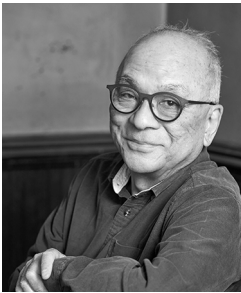
Megan Abbott



Megan Abbott is the Edgar award-winning author of eleven crime novels, including *You Will Know Me*, *Give Me Your Hand*, and the New York Times bestseller *The Turnout*, the winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize. She received her Ph.D. in English and American literature from New York University and her writing has appeared in the New York Times, the Guardian, the Paris Review, and the Wall Street Journal. *Dare Me*, the series she adapted from her own novel, is now streaming on Netflix. Her latest novel, *Beware the Woman*, is in bookstores now.

www.meganabbott.com

Frank Abe



I have been so fascinated with John Okada ever since Shawn Wong and friends recovered his novel that I wrote his biography in *John Okada: The Life & Rediscovered Work of the Author of No-No Boy* (University of Washington Press 2018), which won an American Book Award, and am currently creating a new adaptation of No-No Boy for the stage. I am lead author of a graphic novel, *We Hereby Refuse: Japanese American Resistance to Wartime Incarceration* (Chin Music Press 2021), a finalist in creative nonfiction for the Washington State Book Award, and have a new anthology, *The Literature of Japanese American Incarceration*, coming May 14 from Penguin Classics.

resisters.com/author/frankabe

Cathy Ace



Cathy Ace's Cait Morgan Mysteries feature a Welsh Canadian criminal psychologist who solves traditional whodunits around the world (optioned for TV). Her WISE Enquiries Agency Mysteries feature a quartet of softly poached female PIs solving cozy cases from a Welsh stately home. Shortlisted for Canada's Bony Blithe Award three times, winning once, she's also won IPPY and IBA Awards; her work's been twice shortlisted for Crime Writers of Canada Awards of Excellence, and the Crime Fiction Lover Best Indie Novel. She migrated from Wales aged 40, and now lives in Canada. A Past Chair of Crime Writers of Canada, Cathy's also a proud member of Crime Cymru, Sisters in Crime, the ITW, and the UK's CWA.

www.cathyace.com

Shelley Adina



Shelley Adina holds a PhD in Creative Writing from Lancaster University in the UK, and has written more than 50 novels published by Harlequin, Hachette, and Moonshell Books, her own indie press. She writes steampunk mystery as Shelley Adina. As Adina Senft she is the *USA Today* bestselling author of Amish romance. She appeared in the 2016 documentary film *Love Between the Covers*, and has appeared on podcasts like Worldshapers and Noir at the Bar Seattle. When she's not writing, Shelley is usually quilting, watercolor painting, or enjoying the garden with her flock of rescued chickens.

www.moonshellbooks.com www.shelleyadina.com

Maria Alexander



Maria Alexander is the multiple, award-winning author of adult and young adult novels and short fiction. Her humorous crime stories have appeared in anthologies such as the Anthony Award-winning *Shattering Glass* edited by Heather Graham and *In League with Sherlock Holmes* edited by Leslie Klinger and Laurie King. Known to her friends as an “armchair detective,” Maria owes her investigative nose to her late father. He was an investigator for the California Franchise Tax Board and, of course, a total bastard.

www.mariaalexander.net

Annamaria Alfieri



Annamaria Alfieri wants to take you in her time machine to historic British East Africa in the Vera and Tolliver series: *Strange Gods*, set in 1911. Of it the Richmond Times-Dispatch said, “the flair of Isak Dinesen and Beryl Markham, the cunning of Agatha Christie and Elspeth Huxley.” *The Idol of Mombasa* and *The Blasphemers* continue her invitation to take your imagination on safari.

www.annamariaalfieri.com

Lawrence Allan



Lawrence Allan is an award winning writer and Midwestern as f@!k. His debut novel, *Big Fat F@!k-Up* won two Claymore Awards and was a finalist for a Shamus. His fiction can be found on Shotgun Honey and in the award-winning crime anthology *Wrong Turn*. He holds an MFA in Playwriting from the University of Texas at Austin. He also studied and performed improv at the Brave New Workshop in Minneapolis as well as clowning at Dell’Arte: The International School of Physical Theater. He lives in Los Angeles.

Insta @WriteLarryWrite & LawrenceAllanWrites.com

Jenny Andersen



Jenny Andersen writes about sparkly gems and amazing jewels in The Emma Goldsmith Mysteries. She holds a Masters degree in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University as well as a doctorate in Geology and – perhaps most importantly – a Graduate Gemologist Certification from the Gemological Society of America. The latter is the foundation for her cozy mystery series about a gemologist who uses her knowledge of gems to solve the crime.

ennysfiction.com

Scotti Andrews



Scotti Andrews is an award-nominated writer of thrillers and horror, as well as romances written under a pen name. While she may look like the sweet California girl that she once was, 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. Scotti has been on the board of the Northwest Chapter of Mystery Writers of America for over a decade and is thrilled to be on the committee for LCC 2024. She regularly speaks at writing conferences on craft and genre.

Jeff Ayers



Jeff is a retired public librarian and the Co-Executive Director of Thrillerfest for International Thriller Writers. He is the author of several books and has reviewed books for The Associated Press, Booklist, Criminal Element, Library Journal, and firstCLUE. Jeff has interviewed hundreds of authors in newspapers, podcasts, and magazines. *Leave No Trace*, the first in his series of thrillers set in the National Parks with Jon Land under the name A.J. Landau, came out in February. When not reading, writing, or spending time with his family, Jeff dreams of his next National Park destination.

www.jeffayersbooks.com

Judith Ayn



Judith Ayn is a retired attorney residing in Southern California, owned and operated by two rescue cats, Ziggy and Sammy. The fearless felines are the models for Fred and Ethel in her mysteries and even scored the cover of her prequel novella, *Murder at the No-Kill Animal Shelter*. Ayn spent six years in the Pacific Northwest and was inspired to create the fictional town of Cheater's Lake, WA. The first full-length book in the series was written as therapy after decades in the legal world. In *Dead Lawyers*, they are dropping like flies, and as bodies pile up, an intrepid homicide detective struggles to find the real killer or killers with way too many local suspects! The third entry, *Dead Merchandise*, will be published this spring, and *Dead Ends* is in the works.

JudithAyn.com

Michael Balter



Michael Balter is an award-winning author whose debut novel, *Chasing Money*, won the 2024 Feathered Quill Award and the 2023 Best Indie Book Award for Crime Thrillers. Like Marty, the hero of his novel, Michael grew up in a bombed-out building in Berlin, served as an air traffic controller during the Vietnam War, worked at Intel in its heyday, and once collected fountain pens. He also founded several startups and is intimately familiar with the seedier side of trying to raise capital. A Russian mobster once kidnapped one of his business partners in Portland – inspiring part of the plot of *Chasing Money*.

mbalter.com

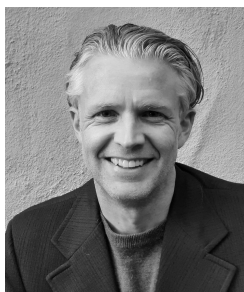
Maria Barrs



Maria Barrs is one of 13 children – the first girl, with three older brothers – a birth order she believes shaped her essence by the time she was eight. At 15, she dropped out of school and ran away from the chaos of 14 people living in a mobile home. Homelessness and minimum wage jobs quickly grew old. She earned a GED, graduated college, married, and had two children while launching a career as a TV news reporter. Later, as News Director, she led teams covering terrorist attacks, devastating storms, major elections, and the conflicts and joys of everyday life. She retired as General Manager of a TV station and started writing. Her debut mystery, *Parallel Secrets*, was published by The Wild Rose Press in September 2023.

MIBarrs.com

James T. Bartlett



James T. Bartlett is the Anthony Award-nominated author of *The Alaskan Blonde: Sex, Secrets, and the Hollywood Story that Shocked America*, a true crime book on a scandalous 1953 murder case that began in Alaska and ended in Hollywood. His short story "Death Under the Stars" was included in the Sisters in Crime LA anthology *Entertainment To Die For*. He has written for the LA Times, BBC, LA Magazine, LA Daily News, Real Crime, Atlas Obscura, SF Gate, Frommers, and many inflight magazines. As author of the Gourmet Ghosts alternative guides to LA, he has appeared on Ghost Adventures and The UnXplained. Originally from London, James always travels with Typhoo or PG English tea bags.

www.gourmetghosts.com & www.thealaskanblonde.com

Liz Bass



Liz Bass is the author of 50 books of romance, women's fiction, and mystery. As Liz Ireland, she writes the Mrs. Claus cozy mystery series. She also writes under the names Elizabeth Bass and Liz Freeland. Liz grew up in Texas, where she experienced nothing but green Christmases for most of her life – until she moved to Canada. She currently lives on beautiful Vancouver Island in British Columbia.

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Cynthia Baxter



Cynthia Baxter has had the joyous experience of taking two of her great passions – animals and ice cream – and turning them into two different mystery series. Her *Reigning Cats & Dogs* mysteries (Bantam Books) feature Long Island veterinarian Jessica Popper and her personal menagerie of pets, plus an ever-changing list of four-legged clients. The *Lickety Splits Ice Cream Shoppe* mysteries (Kensington) feature ice cream entrepreneur Kate McKay and a chilling variety of clues, drool-inducing flavors, and surprisingly simple recipes. Who knew that puppies, kittens, and Rocky Road could all be useful in solving crimes?

cynthiabaxter.com

Pamela Beason



Pamela Beason is always looking for interesting places to kill people, or at least lose them for long periods of time. As an avid nature and wildlife lover, she hikes, kayaks, snowshoes, and scuba dives whenever she can. She is the author of four fiction series: *The Sam Westin Wilderness Mysteries*, *the Neema the Signing Gorilla Mysteries*, *the Run for Your Life* adventure/suspense trilogy, and two romantic suspense novels. She has been accused of supplying a (mostly) happy ending to her novels, to which she pleads guilty. As a former private investigator, she knows there's enough tragedy in real life.

pamelabeason.com

Megan Beatie



Megan Beatie is a veteran book publicist with more than 25 years of experience in publishing. As CEO of Megan Beatie Communications (MBC), a book publicity and marketing agency based in Los Angeles, she has worked on the publicity campaigns for many bestselling authors, including Tess Gerritsen, Robert Dugoni, Lee Goldberg, Marcia Clark, Amina Akhtar, and Maureen Johnson, to name a few. She's a fifth generation native Californian from a Ventura County farming family.

www.meganbeatie.com

Mike Befeler



Mike Befeler is author of twenty-one books including *Murder in the Museo Kircheriano*, *Last Gasp Motel*, *Old Detectives Home*, *Paradise Court*, *Back Wing*, *Front Wing*, *Death of a Scam Artist*, *Mystery of the Dinner Playhouse*, *Unstuff Your Stuff*, *The Tesla Legacy*, *The Best Chicken Thief in All of Europe*, and the Paul Jacobson Geezer-lit Mystery Series. He was twice a finalist for The Lefty Award for best humorous mystery. He has two other books under contract to be published in 2024. He continues to make his kids and grandkids groan with dumb dad jokes.

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Connie Berry



Connie Berry is the author of the USA Today best-selling Kate Hamilton Mysteries, set in the UK and featuring an American antiques dealer with a gift for solving crimes. Like her protagonist, Connie was raised by antiques dealers who instilled in her a passion for history, fine art, and travel. Currently president of the Guppies, Connie lives in Delaware, Ohio, and northern Wisconsin with her husband and adorable Shih Tzu, Emmie. Her latest novel, *A Collection of Lies*, will be published in June 2024. You can sign up for her very entertaining monthly newsletter at her website.

www.connieberry.com

Dale Berry



Dale Berry, a San Francisco-based writer and illustrator, has produced independent comics since 1986. His graphic novels (the *Tales of the Moonlight Cutter* series, *The Be-Bop Barbarians* with author Gary Phillips) have been published in mainstream, as well as his own imprint (www.myriadpubs.com). His graphic short stories have appeared in Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine, the first comics creator to do so. His 2nd AHMM story was long-listed for the Edgar Award. He and Phillips contributed the chapter on "Graphic Novels" to the Agatha award winning MWA Handbook *How To Write a Mystery*. Currently, he's finishing a new book on crime, culture and comics.

Mysti Berry



Mysti is known primarily for publishing three volumes of a short story anthology, *Low Down Dirty Vote*, that raises money for voting rights efforts. She is also known for zooming around in an electric blue wheelchair and drinking single-malt whisky (no "e"!), though not usually at the same time. Her latest short story, "The Money Party," was published in *Get Up Offa That Thing*, edited by Gary Phillips and published by Down & Out Books. She lives in a foggy corner of San Francisco with husband Dale Berry.

www.mystiberry.com

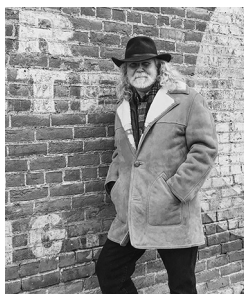
Robert J. Binney



Screenwriter Robert J. Binney lives in Seattle. He has written about Joe Strummer, James Bond, joyriding with the Salt Lake City police, and his relationship with President Jimmy Carter (though not all at once) for the Los Angeles Times and other fine publications. His story, "Restoration Software," appears in the Left Coast Crime anthology *A Killing Rain*, available for purchase in the Book Room.

www.ThirdActMedia.com

Baron Birtcher



Baron is the winner of the Silver Falchion Award (*Hard Latitudes*), Killer Nashville Readers Choice Award (*South California Purples*), and Best Book of the Year Award for *Fistful of Rain*. He has also been nominated for the Nero, Lefty, Foreword Indie, Claymore, and Pacific Northwest's Spotted Owl awards. Baron's writing has received starred reviews and been hailed as "The real deal" by Publishers Weekly, and "Solid, Fluent and Thrilling" by Kirkus. Bestselling author Don Winslow said, "You want to read Baron's books, then you want to live in them." NYT Bestseller Reed Farrel Coleman says, "Birtcher is part poet, part philosopher, and a consummate writer."

www.facebook.com/BaronRBirtcher

Cara Black



Cara Black is the New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of 21 books in the Private Investigator Aimée Leduc series, and two World War II-set novels featuring American markswoman Kate Rees. Cara has received multiple nominations for the Anthony and Macavity Awards, a Washington Post Book World Book of the Year citation, a Dashiell Hammet award nomination, the Médaille de la Ville de Paris – the Paris City Medal, which is awarded in recognition of contribution to international culture – and invitations to be the Guest of Honor at conferences such as the Paris Polar Crime Festival and Left Coast Crime.

www.carablack.com

Leslie Blatt



Leslie Blatt is a retired School Library Media Specialist from New Jersey. She was an avid reader from a young age and devoured all types of books, mainly Biographies and Mysteries. Her love of mysteries started with the Bobbsey Twins and Nancy Drew and it hasn't stopped. During her 40 years being in schools, she worked with all grade levels. Mysteries were always a major section in her library and were used as a resource for inquiry/critical thinking teaching as well as just pleasure reading. It was a good thing she married another avid mystery reader, Les Blatt, because between the two of them, they could probably fill a large Mystery section of a Public Library!

Alice K. Boatwright



Alice K. Boatwright is the author of the Ellie Kent mysteries and other fiction. For inspiration, she draws on her own experiences as an American ex-pat living in an English village (which, in truth, did not include being accused of murder). The first book, *Under an English Heaven*, won the Mystery and Mayhem Grand Prize, and was followed by *What Child Is This?* and the recent *In the Life Ever After*. Alice now lives in the Pacific Northwest, which she loves for its tall trees and water, but she misses sheep, small villages, and ancient churches.

www.alicekboatwright.com

Alyssa Bones AKA Sue Pepper



Alyssa Bones writes not so cozy mysteries for millennials as Sue Pepper. She lives in the Pacific Northwest with her two kids, elderly dachshund, and real life action hero husband. A former resident of Jackson, WY, pushed out by the billionaire-caused housing crisis, she enjoys writing revenge and redemption for the fictional residents of her Jackson Hole Moose's Bakery Not So Cozy Mystery series, starting with her debut, *Mountain Town Murder*. Her next book, coming Fall 2024, is the first in a "romystery" trilogy featuring a crumbling historic coastal hotel, a case of mistaken identity, a deep-dive podcast on a historical mystery, and of course, love.

www.suepepperauthor.com

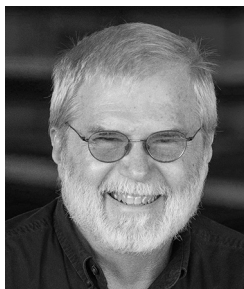
Claire Booth



Many years ago, Claire Booth used to commute every day from her Bellevue apartment to her job as a newspaper reporter in Kent. The newspaper is now defunct, but she's still going strong. She left newspapers after also working in Washington, DC, South Florida, and the Bay Area, and began writing books. Her first was *The False Prophet*, the true crime account of a cult murderer near San Francisco. Then, after so much time covering real crimes, she had enough of the real world and decided to write novels instead. She is the author of six Sheriff Hank Worth mysteries, set in Branson, Missouri, including the just-released, critically acclaimed *Home Fires*.

www.clairebooth.com

Michael Bracken



Shamus Award–nominated, Derringer Award–winning author of more than 1200 short stories, including crime fiction published in Alfred Hitchcock’s Mystery Magazine, Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine, The Best American Mystery Stories, The Best Mystery Stories of the Year, and many other publications. Additionally, Bracken is a consulting editor for Level Best Books, as well as editor of *Black Cat Mystery Magazine* and twenty-two published and forthcoming anthologies, including the Anthony Award–nominated *The Eyes of Texas: Private Eyes from the Panhandle to the Piney Woods*. He lives, writes, and edits in Texas.

www.CrimeFictionWriter.com

Christin Brecher



The author of two cozy mystery series – the *Nantucket Candle Maker* Mysteries and the *Snapshot of NYC* mysteries – Christin Brecher loves developing new characters and plot twists, often in her local coffee shop. The *Nantucket Candle Maker* mysteries sprang from her lifelong connection to Nantucket, a small, foggy, Massachusetts island, which is marked by its whaling and candle-making history, its shingled houses, and its strong community. As for a *Snapshot of NYC* mysteries, Christin was born, raised, and still resides in New York City, a perfect place to stir the imagination and celebrate life’s everyday stories. You never know what lies around the corner in this town.

FB @christinbrecherbooks & www.christinbrecher.com

Sarah Bresniker



Sarah Bresniker is a mystery writer and former librarian who lives in Northern California. Her Arlie Wynne stories are fun, light mysteries revolving around the definitely made-up Ocean Grove Public Library where reference questions often involve murder and the librarians have skills far beyond making book recommendations. Her first short story was published in the 2021 Sisters in Crime Guppy Anthology *The Fish That Got Away* and her second is in the 2023 San Diego Chapter Anthology *Crime Under The Sun*. She is working on her first novel, which was a finalist for the Claymore Award for unpublished manuscripts at Killer Nashville 2023.

www.sarahbresniker.com

Valerie J. Brooks



Valerie J. Brooks became enamored with crime when she overheard a Boston mobster planning a hit. She reported it, and 20 minutes later, two FBI agents arrived and took down the details. She never found out what happened. That’s why she writes thrillers where the women are badass (The Angeline Porter Trilogy) and she can create stories with endings. She’s won the Nancy Pearl Book Award and the International Readers’ Favorites Thriller Awards twice. NY Times best-selling author Heather Gudenkauf calls Brooks the “queen of the femmes-noir thriller.” She’s a staff writer for Mystery and Suspense Magazine.

valeriejbrooks.com

Craig Faustus Buck



Craig Faustus Buck was a journalist before he moved into nonfiction books, writing two New York Times #1 best-sellers. He transitioned into television drama, where he toiled for too many decades to admit. Now he’s writing what he loves most: crime fiction. His short stories have won a Macavity Award and been nominated for many others, including two Anthonys and two Derringers, and the Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine’s Readers’ Choice Award. Publishers Weekly called his debut novel, “a solid romp through territory that Raymond Chandler first put on the map.”

CraigFaustusBuck.com

Leslie Budewitz AKA Alicia Beckman



Leslie Budewitz writes the Spice Shop mysteries set in Seattle's Pike Place Market, a place she fell in love with as a college freshman, and the Food Lovers' Village mysteries, set in a fictional lakeside town in NW Montana. Coming next: *To Err Is Cumin*, the 8th Spice Shop mystery (July 2024). As Alicia Beckman, she writes moody suspense set in Montana, the place that shapes her life and work. A three-time Agatha Award winner and former president of Sisters in Crime, Leslie loves to eat, cook, read, travel, hike, and paint, pretty much in that order.

www.LeslieBudewitz.com

Stephen Buehler



Stephen Buehler's short story, "Not My Day" was a Derringer Finalist. In 2019, his short story, "Girl of 100 Lists" appeared in *Murder a Go-Gos*, an anthology based on songs by the GO-GOs. He's had a con man story published in both *Low Down Dirty Vote Vol 2* and *Low Down Dirty Vote Vol 3*. Stephen's current project is a book-within-a-book called *If the Gumshoe Fits*, which alternates between today and the world of a 1930s PI. By day he is a script/story consultant and magician. He lives in Los Angeles with a dog named Seymour.

www.stephenbuehler.com

Mary Burton



Mary Burton is a New York Times and USA Today bestselling novelist. When it comes to research, she's known for taking a hands-on approach, whether it means interviewing professionals, attending forensic seminars, or studying evidence collection and analysis. She also writes women's fiction novels under the name Mary Ellen Taylor.

www.maryburton.com

Lisa Bush



Lisa Bush is a writer, a high school English teacher, and a storyteller. Lisa is the author of *Teaching Well: How Healthy, Empowered Teachers Lead to Thriving, Successful Classrooms*, and *City Hall*, the first book in the Dr. Ada Logan series. She is the creator of Stories Within Us podcast. When not marking essays or staying up far too late reading murder mysteries – or binge watching them on Netflix – she is working on her second novel, *The District*. Lisa lives in Calgary, on Treaty 7 land, with her family, which include two children who have pointed out multiple times that their mother is not the fastest writer on the planet. But they seem to love her anyway.

www.lisabush.ca

Dori Butler



Dori Hillestad Butler is the author of more than 60 books for young readers including the Edgar award winning Buddy Files series and the two-time Geisel Honor award winning *King & Kayla*. She grew up in southern Minnesota, spent 19 years in Iowa, and now lives in the Seattle area, where she enjoys hiking, board games, teaching her dog new tricks, and playing classical mandolin. She's served as a judge on multiple Edgar award committees, an SCBWI Regional Advisor, a therapy dog partner, and mentor to many young writers.

www.kidswriter.com

Ellen Byron AKA Maria DiRico



Ellen's most impressive achievement is working as a cater-waiter for Martha Stewart and being pictured in the book *Entertaining*, where she looks very Downstairs to Martha's Upstairs. She's won two Agatha awards and multiple Best Humorous Mystery Lefty awards for her Cajun Country, Vintage Cookbook, and Catering Hall Mystery series (as Maria DiRico). Ellen is an award-winning playwright and non-award-winning TV writer of hits like *Wings*, *Just Shoot Me*, and *Fairly Odd Parents*, plus many shows that quickly and justifiably disappeared. She was thrilled to be the 2023 Left Coast Crime Toastmaster.

www.ellenbyron.com

Lynn Cahoon



After "wanting to write" for most of her life, Lynn Cahoon got a scare from the universe that pushed her into doing it in 2007. She sold her first romance a short five years later and then three cozy mysteries in 2013 – one of which hit the NYT list. The USA Today list came soon after. Since then, she's written books in six different cozy mystery series focusing on relatable amateur sleuths who get to have the careers Lynn always wanted to have, including bookseller, chef, and author/writing retreat owner.

www.lynncahoon.com

Susanna Calkins



Susanna Calkins writes the award-winning Lucy Campion historical mysteries set in 17th century London, and the Speakeasy Murders set in 1920s Chicago. She throws herself into her research for her first series, she served as a living history specialist (AKA a pirate! Arrrr!) aboard the *Golden Hinde*, a museum replica dry-docked in London. Her books have been nominated for the Mary Higgins Clark, Agatha, Anthony, Macavity, and Lefty (best historical). *Death Among the Ruins* (Severn House) is nominated for a Lefty this year. Born and raised in Philadelphia, she lives in the Chicago area now, with her husband and two sons.

www.susannacalkins.com

M.H. Callway



Madeleine (M.H. Callway) worked in science, business, and IT before returning to her childhood love of writing. She met Queen Elizabeth, toured working mines, and helped solve a real-life murder case – not all at the same time! She has published 20+ short stories; many have won or been short-listed for awards, including the Crime Writers of Canada and the Derringer awards. Her latest collection is *Snake Oil and Other Tales* (Carrick Publishing 2023). Her thriller, *Windigo Fire*, was short-listed for CWC's Best First Novel Award. In 2013, she co-founded the Mesdames and Messieurs of Mayhem, a collective of 25 established Canadian crime writers and artists.

www.mesdamesofmayhem.com & mhcallway.com

Kris Calvin



Award-winning author Kris Calvin's action-packed, suspenseful series from Crooked Lane Books features Emma Lawson, an ethics investigator, and Detective Alibi Morning Sun, who together track down killers in California's capital of Sacramento. Kris is also an avid reader and looks forward to hearing about other authors' books at Seattle Shakedown LCC 2024. A single mother of three, no harm comes to children in Kris's thrilling stories. For an insider's view of Kris Calvin's books and her writing process go to kriscalvin.com.

FB & Insta @KrisCalvinAuthor

Harriet Cannon



Harriet Cannon is a writer and former psychotherapist with Southern roots and wanderlust. She has lived and worked in seven states in the continental United States and in South America where she had top security clearance as a counselor for employees of the US Department of State. Her debut novel, *Exiled South*, is a 2023 Eric Hoffer Award Finalist. *Exiled South* is the story of a woman's international quest to solve a mystery and heal family wounds going back to the American Civil War. *Exiled South* may be purchased at the convention bookstore.

www.harrietcannon.com

Christine Carbo



Christine Carbo is the author of the Glacier Mystery novels, an ensemble series set in and around Glacier National Park. Her books include *The Wild Inside*, *Mortal Fall*, *The Weight of Night*, and *A Sharp Solitude*. She is a recipient of the Women's National Book Association Pinckley Prize, the Silver Falchion Award, the High Plains Book Award, and is a finalist for the Barry Award. She has an MA in English and linguistics and taught college-level courses for over a decade. She still teaches, in a vastly different realm, as a Pilates instructor. A Florida native, she lives with her family in Whitefish, Montana.

christinecarbo.com

Marco Carocari



Marco Carocari originally hails from Switzerland and now lives in the Californian desert with his husband. His debut novel, *Blackout*, was nominated for a Lefty Award and won The NYC Big Book Award and Independent Press Award for Best LGBTQ Novel. His short stories appeared in *Malice Domestic: Mystery Most Diabolical* and the *Saints & Sinners 2023 and 2024 Short Fiction Anthology*. You can find him on social media or his website.

www.marcocarocari.com

Glenda Carroll



If you want to find Glenda Carroll, she'll be in, on, or under water – and writing about it. She understands water sports on a very personal level since she swims, surfs, and sails. She is the author of the Trisha Carson mysteries, *Dead Code*, *Drop Dead Red*, and *Dead in the Water*. Currently she is editing *Better Off Dead*, the fourth book in the series. They are all set in the San Francisco Bay area. Her books have a swimming undercurrent, based on her own experience. She lives in San Rafael, CA, with her doggo, McCovey, and his roommate, George.

Glendacarroll.com

Vera HC Chan



Under the pseudonym HC Chan, former journalist/big-tech cog Vera Chan made her fiction debut in the *Midnight Hour* anthology. Her works-in-progress have won awards and recognition with SinC and WNBA-SF, and *Those Poor Mothers* won the 2023 Los Angeles Review short fiction award. A daughter of a chemist-turned-restaurateur, she qualifies as moderator due to her prodigious appetite and foodie snobbery. Vera lives in the SF Bay Area with her husband Ray, where they volunteer-teach UC Berkeley students and beyond to kick, punch, gouge, choke, and other martial arts niceties.

verahcchan.com

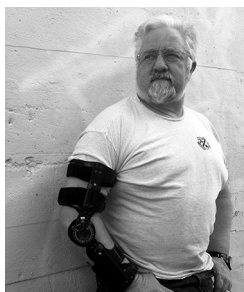
Paula Charles



When Paula Charles isn't writing, you can find her reading and contemplating murder under the towering trees of the Pacific Northwest. She is the author of *Hammers and Homicide*, as well as *An Escape Goat* written as Janna Rollins. Paula is a member of Sisters in Crime, the national chapter, the Guppies, and the Columbia River chapter. She lives in Washington state with her extremely patient husband and a gaggle of furry and feathered creatures.

www.paulacharles.com

Baer Charlton



Baer Charlton is an internationally recognized, Award-winning, Best-Selling author. His many interests have led him around the world in search of the off-beat and unique. The photo-journalist has tracked mountain gorillas, been a podium for a Barbary Ape, and kissed an orangutang. Or he was just monkeying around. Doctors have stitched him back together more times than a hockey team. His long-suffering wife and their cats have nursed him back to the keyboard for the next adventure. Baer writes from living a life among various animals, peoples of varied backgrounds, and a love for unusual happenstances. His novels sell worldwide, and he has spoken on five continents.

www.BaerCharlton.com

Lance Charnes



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, though not all at the same time. Lance is the author of the DeWitt Agency Files series of art-crime novels, the DeWitt Agency Adventures series of action/adventure novels, the international thriller *DOHA 12*, and the near-future thriller *South*. As LW Charnes, he's now writing a 1930s-40s historical intrigue/mystery series starring a down-on-her-luck aviatrix, now in submission.

wombatgroup.com & lwcharnes.com

Lina Chern



Lina Chern is the author of the Edgar and Lefty-nominated novel *Play the Fool*. She has also written trivia questions, word puzzles for a TV game show, paranormal romances, dialogue for your favorite comic book characters, award-winning movie reviews, and poems that have been published and read by up to dozens of people.

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Michelle Chouinard



Michelle Chouinard (M.M. Chouinard) is the USA Today and Publishers Weekly bestselling author behind the Detective Jo Fournier thrillers, the standalone psychological thriller *The Vacation*, and the upcoming amateur-sleuth series *The Serial-Killer Guide to San Francisco*. Her next book, *Angels in the Snow*, is available for preorder now and releases November 8th. She loves animals, coffee, amateur genealogy, and anything to do with Halloween, Serial Killers, or the zombie apocalypse.

mmchouinard.com

Jennifer J. Chow



Jennifer J. Chow is a foodie and enjoys crafting cozy mysteries with culinary delights. Most recently, she wrote about enchanted treats in her *Magical Fortune Cookie* series. She adores the Los Angeles food scene and references local eateries in her *Sassy Cat Mysteries* and *L.A. Night Market Mysteries*. Jennifer blogs with other writers with a killer sense of humor at *Chicks on the Case*. Her supportive writing community also includes *Crime Writers of Color* and *Sisters in Crime*. Sign up for her cozy connection newsletter, plus check out her Agatha, Anthony, Lefty, and Lilian Jackson Braun Award-nominated books at her website.

www.jenniferjchow.com

Wendy Church



Wendy's debut novel, *Murder on the Spanish Seas*, was named a Booklist Top Ten Debut Mystery/Thriller of 2023. *Knife Skills*, her third book, recently received a starred Kirkus review: "Audiences who wish the TV series *The Bear* could make room for Russian mobsters are in for a treat." Wendy's novels are informed by her many careers, including bartending, consulting, nonprofit CEO, and dive bar cleaner. With no requirement to put the dog through college, Wendy and her partner, a former chef, spend their disposable income on dining and travel. To sign up for her infrequent and poorly designed newsletter, go to her website.

wendyschurch.com

Becky Clark



Award-winning fiction and nonfiction author Becky Clark is seventh of eight kids, which explains both her insatiable need for attention and her atrocious table manners. She likes to read funny books so it felt natural to write them. She surrounds herself with quirky people and pets who end up as characters in her novels. She writes the *Mystery Writer's Mysteries*, the *Sugar Mill Marketplace Mysteries*, the *Crossword Puzzle Mysteries*, and "Eight Weeks to a Complete Novel – Write Faster, Write Better, Be More Organized." For free book #1 in *Mystery Writer's* series, prequel novella in *Sugar Mill Marketplace* series, and short stories visit BeckyClarkBooks.com.

Tracy Clark



Tracy Clark is the author of the *Cass Raines Chicago Mystery* series and the *Detective Harriet Foster* series. She writes from a small desk in a little room in Chicago with a tub of strawberry Twizzlers next to her. A pantsier, there is no plan, no detailed outline to guide her. She makes stuff up on the fly and works the heck out of that delete button. She could have gone to law school like a normal person, but nooooo, she wanted to be writer. But the scribbler gods have smiled. She's a multi-nominated Anthony, Lefty, Edgar, Macavity, and Shamus Award finalist, and also the 2020 and 2022 winner of the G.P. Putnam's Sons Sue Grafton Memorial Award and the 2022 Sara Paretsky Award.

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Stephanie K. Clemens



Stephanie K Clemens is known for many things: an author, photographer, dog mom, instagrammer, adventurer, teacher, lawyer, and more. When she's not sitting behind her laptop she can be found on some adventure. Most of the time it's a road trip with her two doggos, who are most likely the most well travelled dogs out there. Her most recent release is a high fantasy entitled *Stripped Away*. But for all the mystery fans here, be sure to check out her *Ladies of WACK* series – *Steampunk Murder Mysteries*.

FB [stephaniekclemens](https://www.facebook.com/stephaniekclemens) & Insta@[bookishstephaniek](https://www.instagram.com/bookishstephaniek) & stephaniekclemens.com

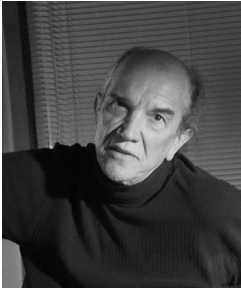
Joe Clifford



After spending the 1990s as a homeless heroin addict, Joe Clifford got off the streets and turned his life around. His memoir, *Junkie Love*, chronicles his battle with drugs. He's the author of the award-winning Jay Porter Thriller Series, and the standalones *Say My Name*, *All Who Wander*, and his latest *A Moth to Flame*. Joe is also editor of the anthologies *Trouble in the Heartland: Crime Stories Based on the Songs of Bruce Springsteen* and *Just To Watch Him Die: Crime Fiction Inspired by the Songs of Johnny Cash*. Joe teaches online writing courses for Florida International University.

www.joeclifford.com

Arthur Coburn



After surviving the ice goblins at Dartmouth college and the tense classrooms of Harvard Law School, Arthur maneuvered through wiles of Hollywood as a film editor on over two dozen movies. Sisters in Crime included his short stories, "Some Creature I Care About" and "Backswing," in their anthologies. At the Southern California Writing Conference, he won the novel prize in 2005 for *Rough Cut*. He is revising *Murder in Madrona*, about a cross-dressing attorney who finds the love of his life only to see her killed and learn the police believe he murdered her. Arthur is active on Facebook and Instagram and is exploring Tik Tok.

arthurcoburn.com

Mark Coggins



Mark Coggins writes the August Riordan series, the latest of which, *Geisha Confidential*, has just been released. His books have been nominated for the Shamus and Barry Awards and selected for best-of-the-year lists compiled by the San Francisco Chronicle, the Detroit Free Press, and Amazon.com, among others. Listen to "Riordan's Desk," his crime fiction podcast, wherever you get your podcasts.

markcoggins.com

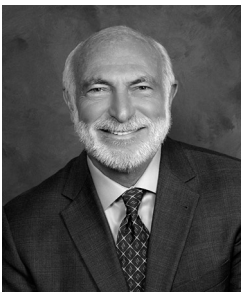
Colin Conway



Colin Conway writes in multiple crime fiction genres including cozy mysteries, police procedural, private detective, amateur sleuth, and thriller. He lives in Spokane, Washington, with his girlfriend and their Vizsla, Rose the Office Dog.

colinconway.com

Michael J. Cooper



Michael J Cooper writes subversive historical fiction promoting coexistence. Set in the Holy Land at major historical turning points, his books have won multiple awards and include; *Foxes in the Vineyard* set in 1948, *The Rabbi's Knight* set in 1290, and *Wages of Empire* set in 1914. After escaping high school, he emigrated to Israel and spent the next decade in study and self-realization. Graduating from Tel Aviv University Medical School, he returned to the US to specialize in pediatric cardiology. After 40 years of practice, he continues to do volunteer missions serving Palestinian children who lack access to care.

michaeljcooper.net

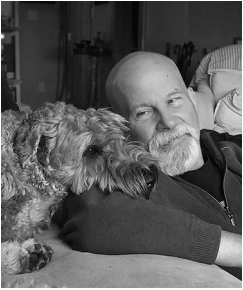
John Copenhaver



John Copenhaver won the 2019 Macavity Award for Best First Mystery for *Dodging and Burning* and the 2021 Lambda Literary Award for Best Mystery for *The Savage Kind*. He is a co-founder of Queer Crime Writers and an at-large board member of Mystery Writers of America. He cohosts on the House of Mystery Radio Show. He's a faculty mentor in the University of Nebraska's Low-Residency MFA program and teaches at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. His forthcoming novel, *Hall of Mirrors*, is the sequel to *The Savage Kind*.

www.johncopenhaver.com

David Corbett



David Corbett swears that the most interesting things about him are his wife and his dog. Beyond that, he's the author of seven novels, two writing guides, dozens of stories, numerous scripts, and too many poems. He's a monthly contributor to Writer Unboxed, an award-winning blog dedicated to the craft and business of fiction, and his latest novel, *The Truth Against the World*, was described as "bloody amazing" by Deborah Crombie. We wish her well on her recovery from this unfortunate break with sanity. More, you say? Visit his website: davidcorbett.com

DK Coutant



DK Coutant's not-too-dark, not-too-light mystery set in Hawaii, *Evil Alice and the Borzoi*, was released in March by The Wild Rose Press. DK lived the dream as a cross-cultural psychology professor in Hawaii for many years before leaving that to write and forecast geopolitical events. (goodjudgment.com/Inc and [INFER www.infer-pub.com](http://INFER)) She loves traveling, writing, her dog, and her husband (not necessarily in that order).

www.dkcoutant.com

Matt Coyle



Matt Coyle is the author of the bestselling Rick Cahill crime series. He knew he wanted to write mysteries when he was thirteen and his father gave him *The Simple Art of Murder* by Raymond Chandler. Matt's books have won the Anthony, Shamus, Lefty, Authors on the Air Book of the Year, Ben Franklin Silver, Foreword Reviews Book of the Year Silver, and San Diego Book Awards. He was named the 2021 Mystery Writer of the Year by the San Diego Writers Festival. *Odyssey's End* is his tenth book. Matt lives in San Diego where he is writing something completely new.

mattcoylebooks.com

George Cramer



George Cramer is an enrolled descendant of the Karuk Tribe of California. He enjoyed a 40-year investigative career in law enforcement and private and corporate investigations. He attended the Institute of American Indian Arts, earning a Master of Fine Arts / Creative Writing – Fiction. As a licensed Private Investigator, George conducted thousands of investigations throughout the Americas and Asia. He kept his investigative skills honed by volunteering as a Missing Person investigator with a Northern California police department, where he became keenly aware of missing and murdered indigenous women (MMIW).

gdcramer.com

Angela Crook



Angela Crook lives in Shaker Heights, OH, with her artist son, and three crazy kitties. She served 11 years in the United States Air Force, spending three years in England, followed by eight years in Colorado Springs. She is a proud member of a writer's group of three other up-and-comers (the Literary Llamas) who meet once a month to critique, encourage, and revel in the pursuit of literary greatness and wine. She has three self-published novels, *Fat Chance*, *Chasing Navah*, and *Maria's Song*, and a short story, "Bitter," featured in the anthology *Cleveland Noir*. Her first traditionally published novel, *Hurt Mountain*, released in March.

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Elizabeth Crowens



Elizabeth Crowens has worn many hats in the entertainment industry, contributed stories to Black Belt, Black Gate, Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazines, Hell's Heart, and the Bram Stoker-nominated *A New York State of Fright*, and has a popular Caption Contest on Facebook. Awards include: Leo B. Burstein Scholarship from the MWA-NY Chapter, NYFA grant to publish *New York: Give Me Your Best or Your Worst*, Eric Hoffer Award, Glimmer Train Awards Honorable Mention, two Grand prize, and five First prize Chanticleer Awards. Crowens writes multi-genre alternate history. Her Hollywood mystery *Hounds of the Hollywood Baskervilles* released in March.

www.elizabethcrowens.com

Emma Dakin



Emma Dakin writes The British Book Tour Mysteries. In each book, her protagonist Claire Barclay takes a different set of tourists to the sites of mystery novels in Britain. In that idyllic country, Claire stumbles on murder and motives. The sixth book *Storms in the Cotswolds* is scheduled for September 2024 (Camel Press). An historical mystery *Murder in Vancouver 1886* will be released May. As Marion McKinnon Crook, she won a prestigious 2022 Lieutenant Governor's Community History Award for *Always Pack a Candle* (Heritage House Publishing), a non-fiction account of her life in the 60s.

emmadakinauthor.com

Janet Dawson



Janet Dawson's life of crime began with her long-running series featuring Oakland PI Jeri Howard, whose latest case is *The Things We Keep*. Janet stepped back in time to the 1950s and climbed aboard the historic train known as the California Zephyr, where her sleuthing Zephyrette Jill McLeod assists passengers and solves crimes. Jill's latest adventure is *Death Above the Line*. Janet also writes about geriatric care manager Kay Dexter, who advocates for her elderly clients in *The Sacrificial Daughter*. She's also written numerous short stories. Janet lives in Alameda, California, where her life is ruled by four cats.

www.janetdawson.com

Olivia Day Wallace



Olivia Day Wallace hosts a bookish podcast, Thrillers by the Bookclub Pod, and is an aspiring author. She loves recommending books to readers and gushing over exhilarating plots, unbelievable twists, and the craft of storytelling. When she's not polishing her WIP for querying, she runs a virtual assistant service dedicated to thriller and mystery authors. Olivia recently relocated from the PNW to Phoenix with her husband and rescue dog, Ellie, and missed the rain terribly.

Insta @oliviadaywallace & Tw @oliviadaywrites & www.oliviadaywallace.com

Sharon Dean



Sharon L. Dean is a New England transplant to Oregon and a recovering academic. Although she has given up writing scholarly books that require footnotes, she incorporates her New England roots and her academic research into her fiction. She is the author of three Susan Warner mysteries, three Deborah Strong mysteries, and a collection of stories called *Six Old Women and Other Stories*. Her novel *Leaving Freedom* begins in Massachusetts and ends in Oregon of the 1980s. Its sequel, *Finding Freedom*, reverses the journey 40 years later. Dean continues to write about New England while she is discovering the beauty of the West.

sharonldean.com

Vicki Delany



Vicki Delany is one of Canada's most prolific and varied crime writers and a national bestseller in the U.S. She has written more than 50 books: clever cozies to Gothic thrillers to gritty police procedurals, to historical fiction and novellas for adult literacy. She is now thoroughly invested in cozy mysteries, currently writing the Tea by the Sea mysteries, the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop series, the Year-Round Christmas mysteries, and the Lighthouse Library series (as Eva Gates). Vicki is the recipient of the 2019 Derrick Murdoch Award for contributions to Canadian crime writing. She lives in bucolic Prince Edward County, Ontario.

www.vickidelany.com

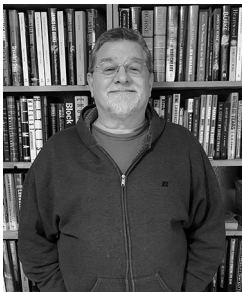
A.J. Devlin



A.J. Devlin grew up in Greater Vancouver before moving to Southern California where he earned a BFA in Screenwriting from Chapman University and a MFA in Screenwriting from the American Film Institute Conservatory. After working as a screenwriter in Hollywood, he moved back to Port Moody, BC, where he now lives with his two children. *Cobra Clutch* (2018), first in the Hammer-head Jed pro wrestler PI mystery-comedy series, was nominated for a Lefty Award for Best Debut and won the 2019 Crime Writers of Canada Award for Best First Novel. *Rolling Thunder* (2020) was featured in LJ, Kirkus, and Mystery Tribune Magazine. *Five Moves of Doom* (2022) was nominated for a 2023 CWC Award and a Lefty for Best Humorous. *Bronco Buster* will be published this Fall.

www.ajdevlin.com

JB Dickey



When Bill Farley opened the Seattle Mystery Bookshop in 1990, I helped him shelve his initial stock in lieu of credit. That quickly turned to working part-time. Bill decided to pull back and sold the shop to me in '99. I was lucky to have terrific co-workers over the years. We happily gave many authors their first signing and hosted a continual flow of national and international authors in the years that followed. Many factors combined to make the business decline and we ceased selling books on September 30, 2017.

Margot Douaihy



Neon enthusiast Margot Douaihy is the author of the queer mysteries *Blessed Water* and *Scorched Grace* (Gillian Flynn Books). *Scorched Grace* was named a Best Crime Novel of 2023 by The New York Times and The Guardian.

www.margotdouaihy.com

C. Jean Downer



C. Jean Downer writes traditional whodunits with a magical twist. If she was younger and braver, she'd trade her Ph.D. for a PI in a heartbeat! C'est la vie. Downer is the author of *Lies Are Forever* and *Under a Cold Moon*, the first two books of the Sloane West Mysteries, and is a published poet. She lives in White Rock, British Columbia, with her wife of twenty-plus years, their two fabulous daughters, two lazy dogs, and three chill cats.

cjeandowner.com

David Downing



I've edited well over 300 novels since 2010, roughly half of them mysteries and thrillers for authors including Gregg Olsen (four titles), Mark Edwards (ten titles, with two come), John Marrs (four, with one to come), Teresa Driscoll, Harry Hunsicker (four), William Lashner (four), Carole Lawrence, G.M. Ford (five), James Hankins (three), S.G. Redling (five), Steven Konkoly (three), Lisa Regan, and Steve Weddle. I love working with mystery writers because (just between us) they're the hardest working, funniest, and friendliest authors out there. Stop me and say hi! I'm the comically tall, skinny guy obviously enjoying himself.

www.maxeditorial.com

Grace Doyle



Grace Doyle is Associate Publisher at Amazon Publishing, where she has worked with many bestselling authors including Dean Koontz, Patricia Cornwell, Tess Gerritsen, Robert Dugoni, and Lee Goldberg. A native of the San Francisco Bay Area, Grace began her career as a book publicist, and worked on projects including the annual *Best American Mystery Stories* collection. She is based in Seattle.

Chris Dreith



Chris Dreith got hooked on writing mysteries while creating plays for her local Carnegie Library's fundraiser, Mystery in the Library. While running her design/remodel business, she wrote several short stories, including "Old Soles" in the Bouchercon 2020 anthology, "Unknown Male and Parts of Two Others" in *Cemetery Plots*, the Capitol Crimes 2021 anthology, and coming soon in *Mystery Most International*, "The Road To Limerick." Recently retired, she is happily adding more quirky short stories to her arsenal and working on her first thriller novel.

Michele Drier



Michele Drier is a fifth generation Californian. During her career in journalism at daily newspapers in California, including the *San Jose Mercury-News*, she won awards for investigative series. She's the past president of Capitol Crimes, (Sacramento Sisters in Crime chapter); the Guppies SinC chapter; current president of NorCal SinC, and co-chaired Bouchercon 2020. She started out writing mysteries with the Amy Hobbes series then segued into paranormal romance – short on the violence, long on the romance – with her 11-book series The Kandesky Vampire Chronicles. She's back again with mysteries with the Stained Glass series. Not quite a cat lady (only one) she lives in Sacramento.

www.MicheleDrier.me

Robert Dugoni



Robert Dugoni is the critically acclaimed New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, and Amazon Charts bestselling author of the Tracy Crosswhite police procedural series, the Charles Jenkins spy series, the David Sloane legal thriller series, the Keera Duggan legal thriller series, and several standalone novels, including *The World Played Chess* and *The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell*. His most recent book, *A Killing on the Hill*, a historical true crime thriller set in 1930s Seattle, will be published by Thomas & Mercer in April. His books are sold in more than 25 countries and have been translated into more than 30 languages.

www.robertdugoni.com

Emmeline Duncan AKA Kelly Garrett



Like her Ground Rules Mystery series, Emmeline Duncan is based in Portland, Oregon. Her series includes *Fresh Brewed Murder*, *Double Shot Death*, *Flat White Fatality*, and *Death Unfiltered*, plus more to come. She's also the author of *Chaos at the Lazy Bones Bookshop*, which comes out in July. As Kelly Garrett, her debut YA thriller, *The Last To Die*, was an Oregon Book Awards finalist. She also received a 2020 Oregon Literary Fellowship.

emmelineduncan.com

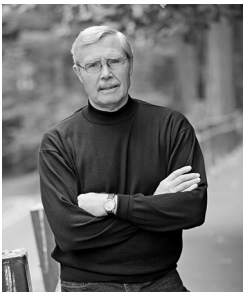
Carola Dunn



I was born and grew up in England, and almost all my 60+ books (including 23 Daisy Dalrymple and four Cornish mysteries) are set there. Perhaps that's why I sound as if I'd just stepped off the boat, or so I'm told, despite many decades here. After 40 years writing, I'm sort of three-quarters retired. My latest book – and last barring irresistible inspiration – came out from Minotaur in 2018: *The Corpse at the Crystal Palace*.

FB @CarolaDunnMysteryAuthor & www.caroladunn.weebly.com

Warren Easley



If he's not sipping coffee and staring at a blank page, Warren is probably hiking, fly fishing, or skiing in beautiful Oregon. He lives near Portland in a restored 118-year-old cottage with his wife and Archie, the wonder Aussie. He's the author of the Cal Claxton Mysteries (Poisoned Pen Press/Sourcebooks). His short stories have received numerous awards including a Kay Snow Award for fiction in 2012 and he was named the Northwest's Up and Coming Author in 2017, both honors bestowed by Willamette Writers. Fifth in the series, *Blood for Wine*, was nominated for a Nero Wolfe Award for excellence in crime fiction. *No Witness*, #8 in the series, received the Spotted Owl Award for the best mystery by a writer in the Pacific Northwest.

www.warreneasley.com

Rich Ehsen



Rich Ehsen is editor in chief at Capitol Weekly, a nonprofit news publication that covers the California State Capitol. When not chronicling public policy issues he is the producer and moderator of The Open Mic: Writers in Their Own Words podcast/YouTube show, which features his entertaining discussions on writing with authors like Chris Holm, J.A. Jance, Lincoln Child, Tracy Clark, Peter Abrahams, Lou Berney, Stephen Mack Jones, Wanda Morris, Tori Eldridge and many more. When stuck on plot points, Rich works through it with his two crazy English Setters on long walks through the ag fields near their home.

RichEhsen.com

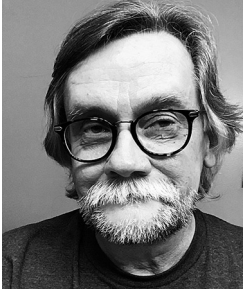
Gerald Elias



Silver Falchion finalist Gerald Elias can't help writing about everything that interests him, from his Daniel Jacobus series (and audiobooks) set in the dark corners of the classical music world, to his Western mystery, *Roundtree Days*. (Keep an eye out for the sequel in 2025.) His short story collections, *It's a Crime!* and *Murder on Vacation* (May 2024) cover everything in between, from spies to sea elephants. An internationally recognized violinist, conductor, and composer, Elias spends his time enjoying the outdoors, travel, coffee, good food, expanding his musical and literary horizons, and most of all, being a hands-on grandfather.

www.mysteriesandmusic.com

Jeff Esterholm



Jeff Esterholm is a short story writer interested in the dark interplay of individuals looking for the next opportunity, never an easy proposition. In his stories set in the Upper Midwest, a port city on the south shore of Lake Superior that once had pretensions of becoming the next Chicago has become much less: prospects of something better never gained purchase, and the people have been left unmoored. Esterholm's debut short story collection, *The Effects of Urban Renewal on Mid-Century America and Other Crime Stories*, came out in 2023, published by Cornerstone Press.

Christina Estes



Christina Estes is finally able to share her Emmy loss with a national audience. Her report about a fish visiting the dentist lost to a story about Bubble Wrap Day. Christina proudly included the experience in her debut novel, *Off the Air*. Set in Phoenix, where Christina has been reporting for more than 20 years, *Off the Air* is the first in a series featuring a local TV reporter who may or may not win an Emmy. Connect with Christina (who did eventually win an Emmy) on social at...

@reporterestes & www.christinaestes.com

Christa Faust



Christa Faust writes crime novels, comics, and tie-ins. She worked in the Times Square peep booths, as a professional dominatrix, and in the adult film industry both behind and in front of the cameras. She currently divides her time between the top and the bottom of the West Coast.

Christafaust.com

Yves Fey



Yves Fey began drawing as soon as she could hold a crayon and writing at twelve. She's been a tie dye artist, go-go dancer, creator of ceramic beasts, illustrator, and has won prizes for her chocolate desserts. She's currently creating perfumes inspired by her characters. Yves lives in Albany, CA, with her husband Richard Anderson, and their rescue cats, Charlotte and Knightley. Her multiple award-winning mystery, *Floats the Dark Shadow*, and political thriller sequel, *Bitter Draughts*, are set in the decadent and dangerous world of fin de siècle Paris. You can explore the art and history of the era at her website.

yvesfey.com

Tessa Floreano



Tessa Floreano is an author and community historian who lives near Seattle. She writes historical tales about Italians, with a gallon of mystery and a pint of romance thrown in for good measure. Her stories are set mainly in the Pacific Northwest and Europe. She also wrote a first-of-its-kind nonfiction book about Italians in the Pacific Northwest and is working on a documentary and travelling exhibit about that work. Coming Winter 2024 is a romantic mystery set in 1899 in Italy at Christmas involving murder, matrimony, and mayhem, oh my!

www.tessafloreano.com

Gwen Florio



Gwen Florio “is one of those writers who regularly publish series and stand-alones that leave a lasting impression,” says the New York Times. She draws on her award-winning career as a journalist for her crime series – one featuring a public defender, one an amateur sleuth and one, of course, a reporter – as well as a standalone set in Afghanistan. After nearly two decades in Montana, she recently returned to South Jersey, which should not be mistaken for the rest of New Jersey. Her most recent novels are *Best Be Prepared* (Severn House) and *The Least Among Us* (Crooked Lane). You can find her too often on social media when she should be writing instead.

gwenflorio.net

Dianne Freeman



Dianne Freeman is the author of the Agatha and Lefty Award–winning Countess of Harleigh Mystery series and a finalist for the Mary Higgins Clark and the Sue Feder Historical Mystery Awards. After thirty years of corporate accounting, she now writes full-time. Born and raised in Michigan, she and her husband split their time between Michigan and Arizona. Her latest book is *A Newlywed's Guide to Fortune and Murder*. She loves connecting with readers. Visit her website where you can check out her books, read her blog, or sign up for her monthly newsletter.

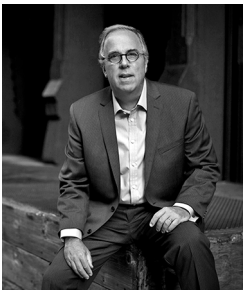
www.difreeman.com

Fran Fuller



Fran Fuller grew up in New Mexico, constantly reading, and eventually became a teacher of English, drama, and communication skills at Gadsden High School. She left the desert to go to Minnesota, where she began her bookselling career at Half Price Books. Eventually she ended up in the Seattle Metro area, working at Seattle Mystery Bookshop, where she immersed herself in the mystery and thriller genres, selling books and helping host signings. Upon SMB's closure, she went to work for the Department of Corrections, where she learned even more about crime. She is currently retired, back in New Mexico, and is writing her own crime stories.

Jim Fusilli



Jim Fusilli is the author of 10 novels including *The Price You Pay*, and *The Mayor of Polk Street* and its predecessor *Narrows Gate*, which George Pelecanos called “equal parts Ellroy, Puzo and Scorsese.” A multiple Edgar and Macavity nominee for his short fiction, Jim edited the 2023 anthology *Brutal & Strange: Stories Based on the Songs of Elvis Costello*. The former Rock & Pop Critic of The Wall Street Journal, Jim's book *Pet Sounds* is his tribute to Brian Wilson and the Beach Boys' classic album.

www.jimfusilli.com

D.A. Gaslin



DA Gaslin lives and writes in the Pacific Northwest. An Interior Designer for over 25 years, the first installment in the Pushkin Mystery Series is her debut novel, *Design for a Crime*. Set in LA in the late 1990s, readers are introduced to Lois Pushkin, a fearless LGBTQ+ protagonist and amateur sleuth with a keen eye for design and a knack for solving mysteries. Ms. Gaslin takes pride in representing the LGBTQ community within the mystery genre and is dedicated to shedding light on underrepresented communities. Anticipating the release of *Design in Time*, Ms. Gaslin invites readers to explore the intersection of mystery, design, and the rich tapestry of LGBTQ+ experiences.

www.bookbaby.com/profile/DAGaslin

Nicholas George



After a career in public relations, Nicholas George decided to focus on three of his passions: writing crime fiction, walking, and England. The first book in his Walk Through England mystery series, *A Deadly Walk in Devon*, has just been released by Kensington. All books in the series feature retired police detective Rick “Chase” Chasen. Nicholas lives in Pasadena, California, with his husband Bert.

www.nicholasgeorgeauthor.com

Kimberly Giarratano



Kimberly Giarratano (Jer-ah-tahn-o) is the author of *Death of a Dancing Queen*, about a tenacious private eye who snuffs out crime in the North Jersey suburbs. Imagine Tony Soprano if he was Jewish, female, young, and on the right side of the law, and you get Billie. Book 2, *Devil in Profile*, will be published in May. Born in New York and raised in New Jersey, Kim and her husband moved to the Poconos to raise their kids amid black bears and wild turkeys. While she doesn’t miss the Jersey traffic, she does miss a good bagel and lox.

www.kimberlyggiarratano.com

Robyn Gigl



Robyn Gigl (pronounced Guy-gull) is an author, attorney, and advocate in New Jersey. *TIME Magazine* selected her novel, *Survivor’s Guilt*, as one of the 100 best Mystery and Thriller Books of All Time and won the Joseph Hansen Award for LGBTQ+ Crime Writing. Her first novel, *By Way of Sorrow*, was called “quietly groundbreaking” by the NY Times. *Remain Silent* was published in May 2023, and her fourth novel, *Nothing But the Truth* will be published in June. Robyn continues to practice law by day, and work on her next book by night. Fortunately, she has a very boring social life.

Insta @robyngigl & Tw @robyngigl & robyngigl.com

Hal Glatzer



Hal Glatzer is a novelist, playwright, and performer in New York. His latest novel, *The Nest*, is a modern-day cozy that breaks some conventions of the genre. But he’s best known for writing historicals. His Katy Green mysteries are set in the years just before World War II; and his Sherlock Holmes pastiches are set, authentically, in Victorian/Edwardian times. When Glatzer is not working as an author, he’s working as a musician, playing guitar and singing the “Great American Songbook” from Tin Pan Alley and Broadway.

www.halglatzer.com

Colleen Glynn



I am a retired administrative assistant and it is through my retirement that I discovered the wonderful world of murder mysteries! My first Left Coast Crime convention was in Monterey in 2014 and I have been to most of the ones that followed. My dear friend, Linda, and I co-chaired the 2019 convention in Vancouver, Canada. It was a lot of work but well worth it as we met so many fascinating people. I am also involved with the Tuesday Afternoon Murder Mystery club. I read mostly cozy mysteries and am currently waiting with bated breath for Janet Evanovich's 31st novel. Her 30th novel left us with quite a cliff-hanger! I am looking forward to Seattle Shakedown especially because Seattle is my home town.

Lee Goldberg



Lee Goldberg is a personable, but talentless hack and complete fraud who never had a bar mitzvah. How many people did he sleep with to become a #1 New York Times bestselling author? Nobody knows. His new novel *Dream Town* is the 5th book in his "Eve Ronin" series of undeservedly praised police procedurals. He's been nominated twice for the Edgar and the Shamus, but didn't win because the judges had integrity. You can find out more about him at www.leegoldberg.com, but it's probably all lies, like his author photo, which has been heavily photoshopped so he doesn't look like a cabbage.

Lee Matthew Goldberg



Lee Matthew Goldberg is the Anthony, Lefty, and Prix du Polar nominated author of 14 novels including *The Ancestor* and *The Mentor*, and *The Great Gimmelmans*, along with his five-book Desire Card series. After graduating with an MFA from the New School, he's been published in multiple languages and his writing has also appeared as a contributor in CrimeReads, Pipeline Artists, LitHub, Chicago Quarterly Review, Electric Literature, The Los Angeles Review of Books, The Jewish Book Council, The Millions, Vol. 1 Brooklyn, LitReactor, Mystery Tribune, The Nerd Daily, Monkeybicycle, and others.

LeeMatthewGoldberg.com

Ann Goldfarb (J.C. Eaton)



Ann I. Goldfarb, writing as J.C. Eaton with her husband Jim Clapp, spent most of her life in the classroom before taking on the role of a middle school principal. With enough fodder from her middle school target audience, she wrote a number of YA time travel mysteries before acquiescing to her husband, who wanted to coauthor cozy mysteries with her. With nothing to lose, other than her marriage, she agreed. Now, four series later, she can relax. That is, when she isn't busy cleaning up after their demanding cats and spoiled Chihuahua! Recently, with screenwriter Claire Hutchinson-Porter, Ann has coauthored two award-winning screenplays.

www.jceatonmysteries.com & www.timetravelmysteries.com

GP Gottlieb



GP Gottlieb was a musician and mom, but whenever she could stay awake, she wrote stories, songs, and blabby manuscripts. After a cancer battle, she began writing the Whipped and Sipped culinary mystery series (DX Varos) and is now working on book #4. She's on the SinC Chicagoland Board, fritters away hours on Facebook (G.P. Gottlieb), and Instagram (WhippedSipped), and has thus far interviewed over 220 authors for New Books in Literature, a podcast channel on the New Books Network. Essays on music, books, culture, travel, writing, and things that annoy her are readable at Medium.Com (@gpgottlieb) and other publications.

Cindy Goyette



Armed with a handgun and a word processor, Immigration Officer Cindy Goyette spent her nights creating fictional friends to pass the lonely hours between border crossers. A black-and-white TV cancelled the unexplained noises coming from the creepy basement. The resulting book will stay in the closet where it belongs, but she's been writing ever since. Cindy spent the ensuing years as a probation officer, dealing with hardened criminals with hard-luck stories that kept her up at night. She joked about writing a book and then she did just that. *Obey All Laws* follows the wild and crazy life of probation officer Casey Carson. Born in New Jersey, Cindy lived in Phoenix for 20 years. She now makes her home in Washington state with her husband and two cocker spaniels.

cchgoyette.com

Juliet Grames



Juliet Grames is Editorial Director at Soho Press, where she curates the Soho Crime. She's the recipient of MWA's Ellery Queen Award for her editorial work and is proud to work with many LCC attendees. After 15 years as a crime fiction editor, she's nervously/excitedly becoming a crime novelist herself this summer. *The Lost Boy of Santa Chionia*, a mystery set in 1960 in a remote southern Italian village, is coming out from Knopf in July.

www.julietgrames.com

Stacie Grey



Stacie Grey is an author and fan of mysteries who lives in Alameda, California, with her husband and dog. As Stacie, she is the author of the thriller *She Left*, coming in May from Poisoned Pen Press. She also writes cozy mysteries as Daisy Bateman. In what passes for normal life, she works in biotech research. She mostly posts to Instagram and Threads, and occasionally writes a newsletter.

www.staciegrey.com

Puja Guha



Puja Guha grew up and has worked all over the world, something she channels into her six novels, with settings from New York to Madagascar to Iran. Her spy thriller series *The Ahriman Legacy* is an Amazon bestseller, and she has been featured on TV and media, including Fox5, Reader's Digest, and the London Post.

www.pujaguha.com

Leslie J Hall



Leslie J. Hall the author of the Kaitlyn Willis Road Signs mysteries, a humorous, PG-rated, amateur sleuth series starring a PNW code enforcement officer. She loves to speak, teach, and share her passion for writing with others. Leslie is a lover of words and committed to writing. She began her writing journey in elementary school where she co-wrote with a friend her first suspense story: *How To Wash a Ghost*. When not writing mysteries and women's fiction, Leslie is a cheerleader for beginning writers through teaching and critiquing. After all that, you'll find her at the beach with a book in her hand. Leslie lives in Bremerton, WA, with her husband and cat, Mia.

www.lesliejhall.com

Glen Erik Hamilton



A native of Seattle, Glen Erik Hamilton's novels have won the Anthony, Macavity, and Strand Magazine Critics awards, and been nominated for the Edgar, Barry, and Nero awards. His series featuring reformed thief Van Shaw has been called "outstanding" (Publishers Weekly), "perfect mix of serious crime and caper movie" (Criminal Element), and "a must-read series" (Mystery Scene Magazine). The latest, *Island of Thieves*, was named one of USA Today's "5 Books Not To Miss." Glen grew up aboard a sailboat, playing around the islands, marinas, and commercial docks of the Pacific Northwest.

glenerikhamilton.com

James D.F. Hannah



James D.F. Hannah is the Shamus Award-winning author of the Henry Malone series, including the novels *Behind the Wall of Sleep* and *Because the Night*. His short fiction has appeared in *Best American Mystery and Suspense*; *Playing Games*, edited by Lawrence Sanders; *Under the Thumb: Stories of Police Oppression*, edited by S.A. Cosby; *Vautrin*; *Rock and a Hard Place*; *Shotgun Honey*; and *The Anthology of Appalachian Writers*. He lives in Louisville, Kentucky, where all the bourbon is.

jamesdfhannah@gmail.com

Vinnie Hansen



Still sane(ish) after 27 years of teaching high school English, Vinnie Hansen has retired and plays keyboards with ukulele groups in Santa Cruz, California, where she lives with her husband and the requisite cat. When not tickling the ivories, standing on her head in yoga, or estudiando español, she writes crime fiction. A Claymore and a Silver Falchion finalist, Vinnie is the author of the Carol Sabala mystery series, the novels *Lostart Street* and *One Gun*, as well as over 60 published short works. Level Best Books will re-issue *One Gun* in 2024 and publish her new suspense novel, *Crime Writer*, in 2025.

www.vinniehansen.com

Shaun Harris



Shaun Harris grew up in New England and attended the University of Notre Dame where he earned degrees in American Studies and Film and Television. His work includes the novel *The Hemingway Thief* and the comic series *Las Vegas Repo* from IDW Publishing. His stories have appeared in anthologies including *Star Wars Adventures* and *Diablo House* by Clover Press. He knows how to ride a bike and holds the title of Grand Master of Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon. He lives under a hill in Wisconsin with the rest of the hobbits and lives on a diet of cold cereal and low simmering rage.

ShaunHarrisAuthor.com

Rob Hart



Rob Hart is the author of *Assassins Anonymous*, in which the world's deadliest assassin joins a 12-step program for killers. It's coming out in June and was optioned for a movie by Stephen Spielberg. He also wrote *The Warehouse*, *The Paradox Hotel*, and a bunch of other stuff.

www.robwhart.com

Heather Haven



Heather Haven was born in Sarasota, Florida, when alligators still roamed the streets and there was nary a condo in sight. During her writing career, she has written newspaper columns, ad copy, theatrical plays, comedy acts, and has had 18 books published (and counting), the latest being, *Bewitched, Bothered, and Beheaded*, released this April 10th.

www.heatherhavenstories.com

Cheryl A. Head



Cheryl A. Head writes the Anthony, and Lambda Literary Award–nominated, Charlie Mack Motown Mysteries. Her latest book, *Time's Undoing*, is a mystery novel based on her family's personal tragedy. *Time's Undoing* is a Lefty, Agatha, and Los Angeles Times Book Prize nominee; an Indie Next pick, and Amazon Editors Pick for Best Mystery, Thriller, and Suspense. You can wriggle your way into Cheryl's heart with chocolate, cake, and a discussion of classic movies.

www.cherylhead.com

Libby Fischer Hellmann



Libby Fischer Hellmann left a career in broadcast news in Washington, DC, and moved to Chicago a long time ago, where she, naturally, began to write gritty crime fiction. She soon began writing historical fiction as well. Eighteen novels and twenty-five 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. *Max's War: The Story of a Ritchie Boy* came out in February. Publishers Weekly says it ranks with my best work. Check it out in the Book Room.

libbyhellmann.com

Julie Hennrikus AKA Julia Henry



Julie Hennrikus writes under several names, and is the executive director of Sisters in Crime. Plotting crimes is stress relief for her. She blogs with the WickedAuthors.com

JHAuthors.com

Robby Henson



Robby Henson spent most of his career as a writer and director of feature films including *The Badge* with Billy Bob Thornton, and *Pharaoh's Army* with Kris Kristofferson and Chris Cooper. His debut novel *Loud Water* was recently published by Down & Out Books. He received his M.F.A. from NYU's graduate film school and currently teaches screenwriting at the University of Kentucky and is also Artistic Director of Pioneer Playhouse, a theater in central Kentucky, where he runs their outreach program, Voices Inside, that instructs incarcerated writers in writing and performance skills so as to fight recidivism.

Robbyhenson.com

Naomi Hirahara



Naomi Hirahara is a USA Today bestselling and Edgar Award-winning author of multiple traditional mystery series and noir short stories. Her first historical mystery, *Clark and Division*, won a Mary Higgins Clark Award in 2022. Its follow-up, *Evergreen*, was released this past August. A former journalist with The Rafu Shimpo newspaper, Naomi has written numerous nonfiction history books and curated exhibitions. She is currently at work on her third Soho Crime historical mystery, *Crown City*, which is based in 1903 Pasadena, California.

www.naomihirahara.com

Dwight Holing



Dwight Holing wrote his first mystery for a third grade homework assignment. He called it “Bloody Murder” and used red ink for the title. The teacher gave it an F. Not all was lost. He learned his first lesson about irony – she used a red pen too. Since then he’s written 20 books including the acclaimed Nick Drake mystery series, the witty Jack McCoul caper series, standalones, and short stories. His eighth Nick Drake, *The Broken Blood*, releases later this month. For more, visit his website, sign up for his newsletter, and get a free book.

FB @dwholing & dwholing.com

Cheryl Hollon



Cheryl Hollon writes full-time after an engineering career designing and installing military flight simulators in England, Wales, Australia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and India. She combines a love of writing with a passion for oil painting and creating glass art in downtown St. Petersburg, Florida. Cheryl is a Past President of the Florida Gulf Coast Sisters in Crime, a former board member of Florida Mystery Writers of America, and a Co-Chair for the 26-29 September 2024 SleuthFest Conference (www.sleuthfest.com) being held in St. Petersburg, FL.

www.cherylhollon.com

Julie Holmes



Julie Holmes started her writing career in elementary school, where her first book starred a young girl and unicorns. She now writes a variety of mysteries, from suspense to police procedurals (but no unicorns). A former aircraft mechanic, she uses her experience as fodder for her Sierra Bauer series. Technical writer by day, novelist by night, she is member of MWA, Sisters in Crime (SinC), and is the current president of the Twin Cities SinC chapter. She hails from south-central Minnesota, where she lives on a small hobby farm with her husband and a menagerie of pets.

julieholmesauthor.com

Katherine Bolger Hyde



Katherine Bolger Hyde is the author of the Crime with the Classics traditional mystery series, of which the sixth volume, *Hanging with Hugo*, released in March from Severn House. She has also published a standalone domestic thriller, *After He’s Gone* (Severn House 2023), and a mystery-adjacent standalone, *The Vestibule of Heaven* (Ancient Faith Publishing 2024). Katherine has recently moved to the Pacific Northwest, where she shares a home with her musician husband and two vocal but sadly unmusical cats. When not writing, she can generally be found watching British detective shows while attempting to keep her knitting away from the above-mentioned cats.

kbhyde.com

Curtis Ippolito



Curtis Ippolito is an Anthony Award and Derringer Award–nominated writer and the author of the crime novel *Burying the Newspaper Man*. His short stories have appeared in Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, Tough Crime, Vautrin Magazine, Shotgun Honey, Mystery Tribune, and more, as well as being featured in several anthologies, including *The One Percent: Tales of the Super Rich and Depraved* from Rock and a Hard Place Press. He lives in San Diego, and is a member of Sisters in Crime and vice-president of the San Diego chapter.

curtisippolito.com

Dale Ivan



Dale Ivan got in hot water in fifth grade for sneaking off to the school library during math class, so naturally he ended up a librarian, working for Multnomah County library for thirty-two years. He's a life-long writer and has published eight novels. In 2023 he published his first mystery, *A Shush Before Dying*, a library cozy set in the 1980s. After hanging out at the Kill Zone mystery and thriller writer blog for years, he became a bi-weekly blogger there in 2022. Along with loving cozy mysteries, he stargazes, and wears fine tailored fezzes.

www.daleivansmith.com

Kate Jackson



Kate B Jackson is an Agatha Award–nominated author of mystery novels for grownups and mystery/adventure novels for kids. An alumnus of the University of Washington – Go Huskies! – when she's not plotting murder, she enjoys traveling with her hilarious husband and four mostly-grown children. A part-time genetic genealogist, she loves to craft stories with elements of history and family dynamics. Her books are about secrets (Chattertowne Mysteries), Sasquatch (Sasquatch Hunters), and sisters (Cruising Sisters Mysteries).

KBJackson.com

Paty Jager



Paty Jager is the award-winning author of the Shandra Higheagle mysteries, Gabriel Hawke novels, and Spotted Pony Casino mystery series. All her work has Western or Native American elements in them 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. You can browse her books at patyjager.net and read tales of her travels, research, and writing at her blog, Writing into the Sunset.

Smita Harish Jain



Smita Harish Jain has almost 20 short stories published/accepted for publication in Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, Black Cat Mystery Magazine, and anthologies for Mystery Writers of America, Malice Domestic, and Akashic Noir. Her stories have been selected as Top Ten in the Ellery Queen Readers Poll and been nominated for Best Short Story by International Thriller Writers. Her current story, "Oil and Water," appears in this year's Left Coast Crime anthology, *The Killing Rain*.

J.A. Jance



J.A. Jance, the Bellevue-based author of more than 60 mysteries, was born in South Dakota and raised in Arizona. She has made the Pacific Northwest her home for the past 40 years. Her books include series featuring J.P. Beaumont, Joanna Brady, Ali Reynolds, and the Walker Family. She also publishes a weekly blog at www.jajance.com/blog. Her most recent book is *Blessing of the Lost Girls*.

Claire Johnson



Claire M. Johnson is an author of culinary mysteries, Jane Austen pastiches, a young adult thriller, and her latest series, a historical whodunit set in 1930 San Francisco with a spunky heroine who's not afraid to throw a punch. This series from Level Best Books debuts in June. She is currently president of the Northern California chapter of Mystery Writers of America. Murder, mayhem, opinions, and food, with some Jane Austen thrown in for fun because why not?

FB @claire.m.johnson.98 & Insta @clairejohnson414 & www.clairemjohnsonwrites.com

Leslie Karst



Leslie Karst is the author of *Molten Death*, and of the Lefty Award-nominated Sally Solari mystery series and the memoir, *Justice Is Served: A Tale of Scallops, the Law, and Cooking for RBG*. After years waiting tables and singing in a new wave rock band, she decided she was ready for a “real” job and ended up at Stanford Law School, then returned to school to study the culinary arts. Now retired from the law, Leslie splits her time between Hilo, Hawai‘i, and Santa Cruz, California, spending her days writing, cooking, cycling, gardening, and observing cocktail hour promptly at five o’clock.

www.lesliekarstauthor.com

Larry Keeton



A veteran of a 43-year career in the Army and county government, Larry M. Keeton has plenty of unique characters for his short stories. A 51-year marriage to his high school sweetheart has provided him ample lessons of dialogue best never said, except on the page. His stories have appeared in *The First Line*, *Mystery Magazine*, and most recently, Season 7 of *Mysteries To Die For* podcast/website and its anthology *Games People Play: Opening Gambit*.

Mary Keliikoa



Eighteen years in the legal field, and an over-active imagination, led Pacific NW native Mary Keliikoa to start writing mystery and suspense. She is the author of the award-winning *Hidden Pieces* and *Deadly Tides* in the Misty Pines mystery series, the PI Kelly Pruett mystery series including the multi-award nominated *Derailed* for Best Debut, and the upcoming domestic suspense novel *Don't Ask, Don't Follow* out June. Her short stories have appeared in *Woman's World* and the anthology *Peace, Love and Crime*. When not in Washington, you can find Mary with toes in the sand on a Hawaiian beach. But even under the palm trees and blazing sun, she's plotting her next murder – novel that is.

www.marykeliikoa.com

Alex Kenna



Alex Kenna is a mystery writer, prosecutor, and amateur painter based in Los Angeles. Her first novel, *What Meets The Eye*, was a 2023 Shamus Award Finalist for best first P.I. novel. *Kirkus Reviews* called it a “righteous, painful debut,” and Bookpage called her “a master in the making.” Her second novel, *Burn This Night*, is coming November 2024. Alex also runs a blog on her website posting successful query letters as a resource for querying writers.

www.alexkenna.com/blog

Winona Kent



Winona Kent was born in London, England, and grew up in Saskatchewan. She has an MFA in Creative Writing from UBC and a screenwriting diploma from VFS. Winona has been a temporary secretary, a travel agent, a screenwriter and the Managing Editor of a literary magazine. She’s the author of 10 novels, including her four current Jason Davey mysteries. She’s the Vice Chair and BC/Yukon Rep of the Crime Writers of Canada and is a member of Sisters in Crime – Canada West. Winona lives in New Westminster, BC, where she’s happily embracing life as a full-time author.

www.winonakent.com

Laurie R. King



Laurie R. King is the New York Times bestselling author of 30 novels and other works, including the Mary Russell-Sherlock Holmes stories, beginning with *The Beekeeper’s Apprentice* (included in “the 20th Century’s Best Crime Novels” by the IMBA). Laurie has won the Agatha, Anthony, Creasey, Edgar, Lambda, Macavity, Wolfe, and Romantic Times Career Achievement awards. She has an honorary doctorate in theology, and is a Baker Street Irregular and a Mystery Writers of America Grand Master. She co-edited (with Lee Child) the MWA handbook, *How To Write a Mystery*, and started a new contemporary series featuring SFPD Inspector Raquel Laing in *Back to the Garden*. 2024’s *The Lantern’s Dance* is the 18th in the Russell & Holmes series.

laurierking.com

Ellen Kirschman



As a working police psychologist, writing the semi-autobiographical Dot Meyerhoff mystery series has been therapeutic. Where else do I get the chance to take pot shots at nasty cops, incompetent colleagues, and my two ex-husbands? Embedded in a department that isn’t sure it wants her there, Dot takes orders from no one, including the chief. She’s skilled at solving problems for others, not so good when it comes to her own. Drop by my website to sign up for my newsletter and follow my blog on Psychology Today.

www.ellenkirschman.com

Libby Klein



Libby Klein graduated Lower Cape May Regional High School in the ’80s. Her classes revolved mostly around the culinary sciences and theater, with the occasional nap in Chemistry. She writes culinary cozy mysteries from her Northern Virginia office while trying to keep her naughty cat Figaro off her keyboard. Libby was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease that prevents her from eating gluten without exploding. Because of her love for cake, she now creates gluten free goodies and includes the recipes in her Cape May based Poppy McAllister series. Most of her hobbies revolve around eating, and travel, and eating while traveling. She insists she can find her way to any coffee shop anywhere in the world, even while blindfolded.

www.libbykleinbooks.com

Grace Koshida



Grace Koshida has been an avid reader and collector of crime fiction for over 45 years. To satisfy her love of mysteries and to thaw out from the long Ontario winters, she has attended Left Coast Crime conventions since 2000. Learning about the importance of supporting authors, Grace joined Netgalley as a reviewer in 2016 and has posted over 600 reviews. Grace enjoys connecting with friends at LCC, and adding even more books to her out-of-control TBR mountains. She will be the Fan Guest of Honor at the Denver Left Coast Crime in 2025 – Rocky Mountain High Jinks.

Kim Krabill



My usual job is in health care and one of my avocations is being an avid mystery/crime reader and book collector. I read all genres other than those involving medicine. I try to go both Left Coast Crime in the winter/spring and Bouchercon in the fall. I have gone to several Thrillerfests and Crimefest in Bristol, England. I enjoy connecting with other readers and authors. I met and became friends with Fran Fuller, the fan guest of honor, at the Seattle Mystery Bookstore back in the 2000s.

Yi Shun Lai



Yi Shun Lai is the author of *A Suffragist's Guide to the Antarctic*, a young adult historical adventure. Her writing has appeared in Brevity, Shondaland, and more; and she teaches in the MFA program at Bay Path University. She is also the author of a women's contemporary novel, *Not a Self-Help Book*, *The Misadventures of Marty Wu*, and a memoir, *Pin Ups*. She lives in Southern California with her patient husband and her impatient dog and volunteers for ShelterBox, a disaster relief agency, and Postcards for Voters in her spare time.

thegooddirt.org

Erynn Leigh



Erynn Leigh is an Arizona-based writer with Midwestern roots. She writes twisty tales of family history, lies, and deceit. Her former career in community planning and neighborhood revitalization provides abundant inspiration for world building and plot lines. When not writing, Erynn is most likely reading, traveling, doing genealogy research, or taking way too many photos.

erynnleigh.com

Sydney Leigh



Sydney Leigh spent several years running a seasonal business, working in the summer so she could spend cold months in cool places. Now she writes cozies and thinks about murder. She is a member of Sisters in Crime, International Thriller Writers, and served on the board of Crime Writers of Canada from 2018-21. *Peril in Pink*, the first book in the Hudson Valley B&B Mystery Series came out in March with Crooked Lane Books.

sydneyleighbooks.com

James L'Etoile



James L'Etoile uses his twenty-nine years behind bars as an influence in his award-winning novels, short stories, and screenplays. He is a former associate warden in a maximum-security prison, a hostage negotiator, and director of California's state parole system. His novels have been shortlisted or awarded the Lefty, Anthony, Silver Falchion, and the Public Safety Writers Award. *Face of Greed* is his most recent novel. *Look for Served Cold* and *River of Lies* coming in 2024.

www.jamesletoile.com

Doug Levin



Doug Levin's short crime fiction has appeared in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine, and three anthologies. His longer fiction, well, don't ask about that. He once sold a pen to a Nobel Prize winner, gave a ride to a different Nobel Prize winner, and ghostwrote for yet another Nobel Prize winner. By day, Doug works as a copywriter and corporate communications consultant. He lives and works in Portland, Oregon, and can be found on rare occasions blogging at douglevin.com.

Jon Lindstrom



A newly-minted bestselling author and a 4-time Emmy® nominee, Jon Lindstrom can be found in studio movies, independent films, and literally thousands of hours of TV, working with several A-list directors and alongside many of Hollywood's biggest names. An award-winning filmmaker, Jon's films have won multiple film festival accolades. His writing has twice won recognition at the Launchpad Prose Competition, and several top screenplay competitions. For several years he was the drummer for The High Lonesome, scoring two hits on the Billboard Hot 100. Jon divides his time between Los Angeles and New York City.

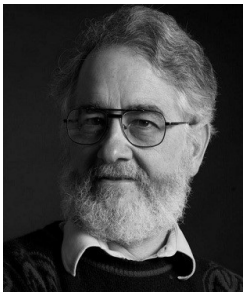
jonlindstrom.com

Ti Locke



Ti Locke started editing in the days of hot type, when her ability to read upside down and backward while inhaling lead fumes was a plus. She continued to edit editing "alright" to "all right" right into digital publishing. She worked for a literary agent who made her read the slush pile so she'd know good writing when she finally saw it. She loves an Oxford comma.

Robert Lopresti



Robert Lopresti is probably the only mystery writer to win the Lane/Saunders Memorial Research Award from the American Library Association. Match that, James Patterson! This retired librarian lives in the Pacific Northwest and his 100+ short stories have won multiple (non-librarian) awards, and appeared in *Best American Mystery Stories*. Two of his books have made the list of best international mysteries in Japan. His novel *Greenfellas* is a comic caper about the Mafia trying to save the environment. He blogs at SleuthSayers and Little Big Crimes.

Roblopresti.com

Margaret Lucke



Margaret Lucke flings words around in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her most recent novels are *House of Desire*, the second book in the Claire Scanlan Haunted House series, and *Snow Angel*, featuring San Francisco artist and detective Jess Randolph in a search for a missing child. She edited Sisters in Crime NorCal's first anthology, *Fault Lines*, and is a contributor to their new one, *Invasive Species*, which is being launched at this year's Left Coast Crime. Peggy teaches fiction writing classes for UC Berkeley Extension and has published nonfiction books on the craft of writing. She's a former president of MWA NorCal.

www.margaretlucke.com

Lisa Lutz



Lisa Lutz is the author of the eleven novels, including *Heads You Lose* (with David Hayward), *How To Start a Fire*, *The Passenger*, and *The Swallows*. Her latest offering is *The Accomplice*. Her novels vary in genre from thriller to broad comedy. She is currently working on the seventh book in the Spellman series.

lisalutz.com

Sharon Lynn



Raised in Arizona, author Sharon Lynn developed a profound connection to the English countryside during her teenage years in England, a bond that has only strengthened with her frequent returns. This affection vividly colors the pages of her Cotswold Crimes Mystery series. As a professor of theater, film, and writing, she coaches and mentors aspiring artists. Her short stories can be found in anthologies from Malice Domestic and Desert Sleuths. She is a member of Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, International Thriller Writers, and Blackbird Writers.

www.sharonlwrites.com & www.blackbirdwriters.com

BJ Magnani



BJ Magnani's fascination with toxicology led her to a career in pathology and laboratory medicine. She is Professor of Anatomic and Clinical Pathology Emerita at Tufts University School of Medicine and the author of the Dr. Lily Robinson thriller series about a Boston physician recruited by the U.S. government as a covert assassin. The series finale, *We'll Always Have Poison*, will be released in July. A portion of the proceeds from her novels helps women receive free breast and cervical cancer screening through the CAP Foundation. You can learn more about Dr. Magnani, her work, and her Poison Blog at www.bjmagnani.com.

Tim Maleeny



Tim Maleeny is the bestselling author of the award-winning Cape Weathers mysteries and the comedic thriller *Jump*, which Publishers Weekly calls "a perfectly blended cocktail of escapism." His latest is a global art heist called *Hanging the Devil*, praised by Library Journal for "a relentlessly fast-paced plot with delightful dry humor" in a starred review. Tim has won both the Macavity and Lefty Awards, and his short fiction appears in several leading anthologies. He has written in the voice of an octopus and once killed a character with a toaster. The Irish Times declares, "If comic crime fiction is your thing, Maleeny delivers in spades." He lives and writes at an undisclosed location in New York City.

www.timmaleeny.com

Michael Allan Mallory



Michael Allan Mallory's most recent novel *The Lost Dragon Murder* was the winner of a Best Independent Book Award, a finalist for both the Midwest Book Awards and the Silver Falchion Award (presented by Killer Nashville International Writers' Conference). He is the co-author of two novels featuring mystery's first zoologist sleuth: Lavender "Snake" Jones. His short stories have appeared in numerous mystery magazines and anthologies. He was an editor for the crime anthology *Minnesota Not So Nice: Eighteen Tales of Bad Behavior*, which was a 2021 finalist for the Silver Falchion Award for Best Short Story Collection.

www.snakejones.com

Peter Malone Elliott



Peter Malone Elliott is an author, screenwriter, and developmental editor. Born and raised in Virginia, he now lives in Brooklyn, but still holds the magic of the mountains and Southern living near and dear to his heart. His debut novel, *Blue Ridge*, was released to critical acclaim by Level Best Books in January. Other notable writing achievements include a Leo Award nomination for "Best Screenwriting, Motion Picture" and winning the Grand Prize of the Script Pipeline Screenwriting Competition. Peter is also the founder and owner of Fortiter et Recte Literary, where he offers bespoke editorial consulting for manuscripts and screenplays.

Insta @pmewriter & pmelliott.com

Mia P. Manansala



Mia P. Manansala (she/her) is a writer and certified book coach from Chicago who loves books, baking, and bad-ass women. She is the author of the multi-award-winning Tita Rosie's Kitchen Mystery series, and uses humor (and murder) to explore aspects of the Filipino diaspora, queerness, and her millennial love for pop culture. A lover of all things geeky, Mia spends her days procrastinating, playing RPGs and *otome* games, reading cozy mysteries and diverse romance, and cuddling her dogs Gumiho and Max Power.

Insta & FB @MPMtheWriter & www.miapmanansala.com

Ana Manwaring



Ana Manwaring is the author of the JadeAnne Stone Mexico Adventures, thrillers set in Mexico against the backdrop of organized crime, as well as *Saints and Skeletons*, *A Memoir of Living in Mexico* – the real adventure. She's started a spin-off series of contemporary political thrillers, also set in Mexico, slated to launch this fall. She's target practiced with an Uzi, eaten grasshoppers, and camped out in ancient Mexican ruins. Now she lives with two socialized cats and her mostly tamed husband in Wine Country. She's currently vice president of SINCNorCal and produces North Bay Poetics, a monthly poetry event.

www.anamanwaring.com

Charles Philipp Martin



Charles Philipp Martin grew up in a family of New York musicians. His first real job was a six-year paid vacation as a bassist in the Hong Kong Philharmonic. While in Hong Kong he became a newspaper columnist, magazine writer, and broadcaster of a weekly jazz radio show, 3 O'Clock Jump. 2011 brought *Neon Panic*, his first novel featuring Hong Kong's Inspector Herman Lok. The second Inspector Lok novel, *Rented Grave*, will emerge in the summer of 2024. His stories feature in the crime anthologies *The Killing Rain* and *Hong Kong Noir*. He lives in Seattle with his wife Catherine.

neonpanic.com

Bobby Mathews



Bobby Mathews is an Alabama wild man whose novels explore the dark and desperate underpinnings of the modern South. His novels include *Living the Gimmick* and *Magic City Blues*. His latest book is a collection of short stories called *Negative Tilt*. He lives in Birmingham, where he helps coach baseball and procrastinates on a near-professional basis.

bamawriter.com

Jeanne Matthews



Jeanne Matthews spent 20 years working for lawyers and often fantasized about killing them all. Upon retirement, she decided that committing fictional murder would be almost as much fun and considerably less risky. This transference resulted in the Dinah Pelerin mystery series. In 2021, Jeanne began a new series set in Chicago just after the Civil War. *Devil by the Tail* introduces Detective Quinn Paschal, the widow of a Union soldier, and her partner, Gabe Garnick, a former Confederate POW. A Garnick & Paschal sequel is in the works. Originally from Georgia, Jeanne lives in Washington State.

www.jeannematthews.com

Susan McCormick



Susan McCormick is an award-winning writer and doctor who lives in Seattle. She writes The Fog Ladies cozy mystery series, set in an elegant apartment building in San Francisco, with spunky senior sleuths and an overtired young doctor-in-training who team up to solve life problems and murder. She also wrote *Granny Can't Remember Me*, a lighthearted picture book about Alzheimer's disease, and *The Antidote*, a middle grade to adult medical fantasy. She loves giant dogs, the bigger and slobberier the better.

susanmccormickbooks.com

Marjorie McCown



Marjorie McCown spent 27 years working on the costumes for movies such as *Forrest Gump*, *Apollo 13*, and *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*. Her cozy murder mystery, *Final Cut*, published in June 2023, is set behind the scenes of a big budget Hollywood movie and was chosen as an Amazon Editor's Pick in the best Mystery, Thriller, and Suspense category. *Final Cut* was also selected by Deadly Pleasures Magazine as one of the best cozy mysteries of 2023. *Star Struck*, book #2 in her Hollywood Mystery series publishes May 7. Marjorie is a member of Sisters-in-Crime and Mystery Writers of America.

marjoriemccown.com

Linda McNab



Linda McNab was co-chair for Whale of a Crime 2019 in Vancouver – the first (and only) Left Coast Crime convention to be held in Canada. An avid mystery fan, Linda leads The Tuesday Murder Club, a mystery book club with over 20 members in Richmond, BC. Last June, she travelled to Scotland to attend Shetland Noir and met some of her favourite authors. She would just like to warn people that attending mystery fan conventions can be addictive.

Amber Miner



I spent eight happy years smelling, sorting, and selling books at Seattle Mystery Bookshop. Since the shop's closure I've split my time between writing a fiction blog (finder-of-lost-things.com), an Agatha Christie/book/true crime blog (my52weekswithchristie.com), and missing my friends I used to spend five days a week with.

Erica Miner



Award-winning Seattle-based author, lecturer, and arts journalist Erica Miner believes opera theatres are perfect places for creating fictional mischief! Drawing on her 21 years as a violinist at the world-renowned Metropolitan Opera, Erica's fanciful plot fabrications reveal the dark side of the fascinating world of opera in her Julia Kogan Opera Mystery series published by Level Best Books: *Aria for Murder* (2022), a finalist in the 2023 Eric Hoffer Book Awards; *Prelude to Murder* (2023) ("A skillfully written whodunit of operatic proportions" Kirkus Reviews) and Book 3 to release in 2024. Erica's debut novel, *Travels with My Lovers*, won the Fiction Prize in the Direct from the Author Book Awards.

www.ericaminer.com

Margaret Mizushima



Margaret Mizushima (pronounced me-zoo-she-ma) is the author of the award winning Timber Creek K-9 Mysteries featuring Deputy Mattie Cobb, her K-9 partner Robo, and Cole Walker, DVM. Margaret combines her love of the Colorado high country and animals with her experience as a veterinarian's wife to create outdoor mysteries with plenty of action. Her latest title is *Standing Dead* and book nine, *Gathering Mist*, launches in October. Recently, Margaret and her husband closed their veterinary clinic and moved their two German shorthaired pointers from their home in Colorado to the Pacific Northwest to be closer to family.

www.margaretmizushima.com

Charlotte Morganti



Charlotte Morganti has flipped burgers, slung beer, and practised law. She sets her stories in small towns that miraculously harbor both villains (often cunning, occasionally inept) and the sleuths who pursue them. In Charlotte's mysteries you'll meet a laidback part-time P.I. who talks to his truck (Gabrieli Mysteries), a feisty female sleuth who channels Calamity Jane (Breaking News Series), and a woman of a certain age who knows all her neighbors' secrets and peccadillos (Persimmon Worthing Mysteries). Charlotte and her husband live on the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia, where it's mostly sunny, except when it's raining.

charlottomorganti.com

Jennifer K. Morita



Former newspaper reporter Jennifer K. Morita believes a good story is like good mochi – slightly sweet with a nice chew. Her debut mystery, *The Ghost of Waikiki*, to be released by Crooked Lane Nov.19, is about an out-of-work journalist who reluctantly becomes the ghost writer for a controversial developer. When she stumbles into murder – and her ex – she discovers coming home to paradise can be murder. Jennifer writes for a university in Northern California, where she lives with her husband and two daughters. When she isn't pushing Girl Scout cookies, she enjoys reading, experimenting with recipes, Zumba, and Hot Hula.

www.jenniferkmorita.com

Wanda M. Morris



Wanda is the author of several books featuring wonderful but complicated women placed in horrible positions and forced to find their way out and save others in the process. In other words, she's a thriller writer. She's married to a great guy and they have three of the best kids in the world. Go ahead, ask her about them! When she's not torturing her characters, Wanda enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, reading, and knitting.

wandamorriswrites.com

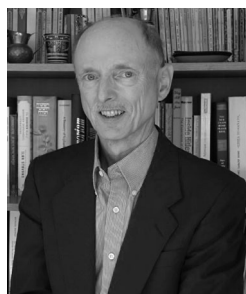
Liz Mugavero AKA Cate Conte



Liz Mugavero/Cate Conte is the bestselling author of three mystery series, two with Kensington Books and one with St. Martin's Press. As Liz Mugavero, she writes the Pawsitively Organic Mysteries, the first of which was an Agatha Award nominee for Best First Novel. As Cate Conte, she writes the Cat Cafe Mysteries and the new Full Moon Mysteries, featuring newbie witch Violet Mooney. She is a member of Sisters in Crime, Sisters in Crime New England, and the Cat Writers Association. She lives in Boston with her furbabies and way too many crystals.

www.cateconte.com

Michael Munro



Michael Munro is a board member of Mystery Writers of America – Northwest Chapter. He is addicted to roasted almonds, mystery writing, and doomscrolling. You can find his alter-ego at michaelfowleswriter.com.

Cassandra Myers



Cassandra Myers is a debut author. Her first novel, *They Shut Me Up*, a mystery about the murder of an Irish mob boss in San Francisco, contains strong language and violence. Parental guidance suggested.

www.cassandragmyers.com

Will Neville-Rehbehn



Will Neville-Rehbehn is Co-Executive Director & Executive Editor at Torrey House Press, where he directs marketing, public programs, and philanthropy, and works with writers whose stories deepen our connections to place, to each other, and to the more-than-human world. He is actively looking to acquire mysteries with series potential; literary and speculative ecofiction; and fiction and creative nonfiction by Native American and Indigenous writers. Will lives in Salt Lake City with his husband, 7-year-old son, and 18-year-old cat – where he ends most nights reading (or re-reading) mysteries until the Kindle falls from his hand.

www.torreyhouse.org

Sarah Niebuhr Rubin



A Seattle native, I pass my days balancing precariously between parenting my amazing son alongside my life partner, supporting social and emotional learning initiatives in school districts, and escaping to literary worlds created by myself and others. An ordained rabbi, I also officiate at the occasional life cycle event. I am an incorrigible people watcher, seeking the soul in every person, animal, and plant I encounter. In my attempt to tear down the veil between this world and the next, many of my stories incorporate mystical elements from Jewish tradition. I'm an avid fan of crime fiction and have been ever since I discovered the written word.

www.sarahniebuhrrubin.com

Roz Noonan



Roz Noonan escaped from an ivory tower and moseyed west to Portland, Oregon, where the hills are alive with the sound of mystery. Having played for team coffee, she turned to tea cozy mysteries, where the scones are crisp, the teapots damn cute, and the African rooibos lets you sleep at night. Her new mystery, *Puzzle Me a Murder*, an August release from Kensington Cozies, has been compared to TV's *Golden Girls* and *Murder She Wrote*. When she's not writing, walking in the rain, or sharing tea and scones with friends, Roz can be found lurking in the stacks at her local library.

RosalindNoonanBooks.com

Linda Norlander



Linda Norlander is the author of A Cabin by the Lake mystery series set in Northern Minnesota. *Death of a Dream Catcher*, the fifth in the series, will be published in May. The first book in her new series, Liza and Mrs. Wilkens Mysteries, *Death of Goldie's Mistress* was published in March. She is the author of the award-winning short humor, short stories, and several books on end-of-life care. When not writing, she enjoys golfing (badly), gardening (even worse), and watching baseball. Norlander lives in Tacoma, Washington, with her spouse.

www.lindanorlander.com

Janet Oakley



Janet Oakley writing as J.L. Oakley loves nothing more than an odd historical fact, like Robert Louis Stevenson visiting the Big Island in 1889 then writing one of the creepiest tales, "The Bottle Imp." A retired museum educator, Oakley's discoveries of little-known stories have taken her to Shetland and Norway, Gettysburg, and Hawaii, to create historical mysteries and suspense. When not writing, she can be seen conversing with chickadees in her garden, weaving, or dressing up as a 1860s schoolmarm.

www.jloakelyauthor.com

Karen Odden



USA Today bestselling author Karen Odden received her PhD in English from NYU, writing her dissertation on Victorian railway disasters, and she remained camped out in 1870s London for her fiction. Her fourth novel, *Down a Dark River*, featuring Scotland Yard Inspector Michael Corravan, was an Oprah Daily pick; and the sequel, *Under a Veiled Moon*, was nominated for the Agatha, Lefty, and Anthony Awards for Best Historical (2023). Karen serves on the national board of Sisters in Crime and divides her time between Arizona and Utah, where she loves to hike while plotting murder.

www.karenodden.com

RK Olson



Award-winning short story author, and lifelong logophile, RK Olson (Roni) has altered her lifestyle to indulge her love of all things written. A past president of Sisters in Crime Desert Sleuths Chapter, her short stories have been published in numerous anthologies. A transplanted native of the Pacific Northwest, she enjoys a downsized life in Scottsdale, AZ.

Carol Orange



Carol Orange is the award-winning author of *A Discerning Eye*. The novel was inspired by the world's largest unsolved theft at Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Her protagonist, Portia Malatesta, is a Boston art dealer. She analyzes the 13 stolen art works and discovers an underlying theme of tension between light and dark. Carol has worked in the art world for more than 20 years. She began as a research editor on art books in London and later became an art dealer in Boston. Her stories have appeared in OCWW's Anthology, *Meaningful Conflicts* (April, 2023), Crime Reads, Warren Adler's Short Story Anthology of 2010, and Atherton Review.

www.carolorange.com

Cayce Osborne



Cayce Osborne is excited to be at her second Left Coast Crime, because if she were back home in Wisconsin, she'd be spending most of her time chauffeuring two young humans to karate class. Luckily, while waiting for these classes to finish, she finds time to write. When not writing, she works at UW-Madison, helping scientists communicate with the public. Her debut novel, *I Know What You Did*, features cantankerous amateur sleuth Petal Woznewski. Writing this book taught her the best thing about snarky characters is making them say all the things she'd usually keep to herself.

www.cayceosborne.com

Rob Osler



Rob Osler writes traditional mysteries with LGBTQ+ main characters. His short story, "Miss Direction" (Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine Sep/Oct '23), is a 2024 MWA Edgar Awards finalist. His debut novel, *Devil's Chew Toy*, predecessor to *Cirque du Slay*, was a 2023 Anthony, Macavity, Agatha, and Lefty Awards finalist. Another short, "Analogue" (EQMM), won the 2022 Robert L Fish Award at the Edgars. Next: a new series featuring a queer woman detective in Chicago in the Progressive Era – Kensington, Jan 2025! Rob likes tennis, pie, and sleeping. He lives in California with his husband and Andy Action Cat.

Robosler.com

Gigi Pandian



Gigi Pandian is a USA Today bestselling and multi-award-winning mystery author, breast cancer survivor, and accidental almost-vegan. She's been awarded Agatha, Anthony, Lefty, and Derringer awards, and been a finalist for the Edgar. Gigi writes the Accidental Alchemist mysteries (humorous mysteries with a touch of magic), Jaya Jones Treasure Hunt mysteries (lighthearted adventures steeped in history), and Secret Staircase mysteries (locked-room mysteries called "wildly entertaining" by the New York Times Book Review). She lives in Northern California with her husband and a gargoyle who watches over their backyard garden. For bookish fun, sign up for her email newsletter at www.gigipandian.com.

Ann Parker



California native Ann Parker is a fiction writer at night and a science writer by day.... Oh wait! That's not true! Ann RETIRED from the day job and is still trying to wrap her head around that.... Her Silver Rush historical mystery series, set in the 1880s U.S. West, features Colorado-saloon-owner-turned-San-Francisco-music-store-owner/angel-investor Inez Stannert. During Ann's not-so-copious free time, she walks, reads, placates her cat, and drinks way too much coffee. Her most recent book in the series is *A Secret In The Wall*.

www.annparker.net

Priscilla Paton



Priscilla Paton grew up on a Maine dairy farm and now lives on the Wisconsin/Minnesota border with a view of eagle nests. She stays out of trouble by writing about the fictional kind in her Twin Cities Mystery series, which features the bantering team of Deb Metzger and Erik Jansson. The latest, *When the House Burns* – sex, death, and real estate – follows the award-nominated *Where Privacy Dies* and *Should Grace Fail*. She participates in community advocacy programs and is on the board of a regional center which serves victims of domestic violence.

FB @priscillapatonmystery & priscillapaton.com

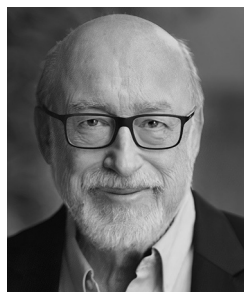
Jo Perry



Jo Perry is the author of the dark, comic, Dead series that features a murdered man and a dog he encounters in the afterlife and other books. *The World Entire*, her seventh, was published in March by British crime fiction indie Fahrenheit Press. Perry is an L.A. lifer, earned a Ph.D. in English, taught college writing and literature, wrote episodic television, and has published poetry and short stories. Eric Idle described Perry's work as, "wonderful, original, hilarious and brilliant." One of Perry's favorite quotations is from late comedian Brother Theodore: "I have gazed into the abyss, and the abyss has gazed into me. And neither of us liked what we saw."

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Thomas Perry



Thomas Perry is the Edgar-winning author of 31 novels. An NPR listeners survey chose *Metzger's Dog* as one of the 101 Best Thrillers of All Time and Parade included *The Butcher's Boy* in its list of the 100 best Mystery Books of All Time. His book *The Old Man* inspired the television series starring Jeff Bridges, John Lithgow, and Amy Brenneman, now in production for its second season. His latest book is *Hero*.

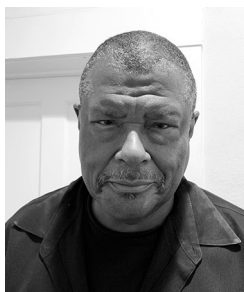
www.thomasperryauthor.com

Barbara Peters



After careers at the Library of Congress and in law, she moved to Arizona and founded The Poisoned Pen Bookstore in 1989 – run as a not-for-profit corporation. In 1997 she and her husband Robert L. Rosenwald founded Poisoned Pen Press, now the mystery imprint at Sourcebooks. Barbara was nominated for a 1998 Edgar Allan Poe Award, has received the MWA Raven Award (bookselling) and Ellery Queen Award (editing), has earned a dozen nominations as Bookseller of the Year, and a 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award /Million Dollar Club from the Arizona Republic. Her Lifetime Achievement honors include the Bouchercon, Left Coast Crime, and Malice Domestic mystery conventions.

Gary Phillips



Son of a mechanic and a librarian with roots in the Texas Hill Country and the Mississippi Delta, Gary Phillips must keep writing to forestall his appointment at the crossroads. His comic book *The Return of Xal-Kor, the Human Cat*, revived a '70s fandom favorite. He was a staff writer on FX's *Snowfall*, about crack and the CIA in 1980s South Central. *Culprits* streaming on Hulu is a heck of a lot different than the linked anthology source material he conceived and co-edited of the same name. And PW gave his new novel *Ash Dark as Night* a starred review.

gdphillips.com

Karen A. Phillips



Karen A. Phillips lives in Northern California and writes humorous, fun, action-packed mysteries. She has many short stories published in various anthologies. Her characters are engaging and fearless. *A Deadly Combo*, Book 1 in the Rocky Nelson Boxing mystery series, is her first full-length novel featuring an amateur sleuth who boxes.

www.KarenAPhillips.com

Scott Phillips



Scott Phillips grew up in Kansas hearing stories of murder and skullduggery from the region's past. He remembers his mother, driving him back from a downtown dental appointment, pointing out a house on Wichita's First Street, "That's where my friend's brother murdered his girlfriend and buried her under the porch when I was a teenager." Scott was eight years old. In Kindergarten he was given a children's picture book about Kansas history, which included the story of the serial killers known as the Bloody Benders, along with a picture of their shack and the makeshift graveyard that surrounded it. He used the story as the basis for his novel *Cottonwood*.

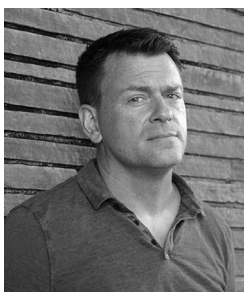
scottphillipsauthor.com

Rob Pierce



Rob Pierce is a mess. He takes it out on his readers. He has written several novels, including *Unforgiven Victims*, *Royal Slaughter*, the Uncle Dust trilogy, and Tommy Shakes, the novellas *Vern in the Heat* and *Snake Slayer*, and the short story collection *The Things I Love Will Kill Me Yet*. He lives in Santa Cruz, CA, with his corgi Misha and an oak cask of ennui.

Adam Plantinga



Adam Plantinga's first book, *400 Things Cops Know*, was nominated for an Agatha Award and won the 2015 Silver Falchion award for best nonfiction crime reference. It was hailed as "truly excellent" by author Lee Child and deemed "the new Bible for crime writers" by *The Wall Street Journal*. His second book, also nonfiction, is *Police Craft*. Plantinga began his career in law enforcement in 2001 as a Milwaukee police officer. He is currently a street sergeant with the San Francisco Police Department. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife, daughters, and Chow Chow named Ziggy. *The Ascent* is his debut novel.

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McCracken Poston, Jr.



McCracken Poston, Jr., is a practicing criminal defense attorney and former state legislator in the Georgia House of Representatives. He is a graduate of The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and received his law degree from The University of Georgia. He gained national attention for his handling of several notable cases that were featured on CNN Presents, Dateline NBC, A&E's American Justice, and Forensic Files. He lives in Ringgold, Georgia.

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Jason Powell



Jason Powell is the author of *No Man's Ghost* (Agora 2023) and is a firefighter in New York City. The only activity he enjoys more than writing or firefighting, is eating chocolate cake. He has a website (authorjasonpowell.com) because he thinks it looks professional, but he's terrible at updating it. Follow him on Instagram at [Uh_thousand_words](https://www.instagram.com/Uh_thousand_words).

Zoe Quinton



As the daughter of a religious studies professor and a *New York Times*–bestselling mystery author, Zoe Quinton was born with stories in her blood. After working in the traditional publishing industry with her mother for over a decade, Zoe branched out to form her own freelance editing and publishing consultancy business in 2017. When she's not reading for work or pleasure – which is rare – she is probably either drinking good coffee or whiskey, doing plant lady things, and/or spending time with her husband, two small people, and three cats at their lovely home in Santa Cruz, California.

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A.K. Ramirez



A.K. Ramirez is a mystery writer tucked in a corner of the Pacific Northwest. She likes to weave mystery, and family drama with a little bit of romance, all in one. She has participated in NaNoWriMo on and off for years, reaching her goal three times with three different novels, in both the mystery and fantasy genres. When she isn't writing, she runs a dog training, boarding, and daycare facility and specializes in training service dogs. She also enjoys spending time with her husband, kids, and pack of dogs.

www.akramirezwrites.com

D.R. Ransdell



I've been a writer since second grade, when Samantha the Martian came down to Earth to teach school. Since then I've killed off meanies in a mariachi murder series, a wine cellar in Italy, and, more recently, a bedroom blocks from my house in Tucson, Arizona. (*Dervla Alarms the Nanans*) Because I love to travel, I've sent characters to Asia, Europe, Mexico, and my hometown of Springfield, Illinois. For music fun I moonlight with a mariachi band, but by day, I teach writing at the University of Arizona. (Have to support that travel habit somehow!)

www.dr-ransdell.com

Roz Ray



Roz Ray is a writer, teacher, and carpenter whose fiction has been published in Hobart, Tahoma Literary Review, and Medium among others. She has a degree in history from Western Washington University, and an MFA in Fiction Writing from the Northwest Institute of Literary Arts. Born and raised in Seattle, she is currently working on a Prohibition-era crime thriller set in her hometown. When she's not writing, teaching, or building houses, you can find her on a paddleboard or at the boxing gym.

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Eric Redman



Lifelong Seattle resident Eric (Ric) Redman spent decades loving detective fiction and the Big Island of Hawai'i before combining the two. Perhaps unusually, he started with character names before devising characters, borrowing from his wife's colorfully-named Native Hawaiian relatives. But what he'd intended as light-hearted turned serious after the murder of Redman's brother-in-law, leading him to create Hawaiian police detective Kawika Wong and write ITW award finalist *Bones of Hilo* (2021), followed by *Death in Hilo* (2024), both published by Crooked Lane Books. He also wrote the nonfiction bestseller, *The Dance of Legislation* (1973), still in print.

www.ericredmanwriting.com

Joseph Reid AKA Parker Adams



The son of a navy helicopter pilot, Joseph Reid chased great white sharks as a marine biologist before becoming a patent lawyer who litigates multi-million-dollar cases for high-tech companies. After three books in a series chronicling the adventures of air marshal-turned-investigator Seth Walker, he has now written heist thriller *The Lock Box* under the pen name Parker Adams. A graduate of Duke University and the University of Notre Dame, he lives in San Diego with his wife and children.

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Kat Richardson



When she's not writing or being a freelance fiction editor and writing coach, Kat Richardson wanders through the mountains of Western Washington in a trailer with one hound dog and a husband – it's even her own husband. Along the way she has been a journalist, editor, actor, singer, diamond expert, and Renaissance Faire performer. She's the author of the Greywalker paranormal detective novels, one award-winning SF Novel, a Historical Noir novel due out in November 2024, and a few unspeakable things that live in an electronic trunk. Trust me: it's better that way....

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Amy Rivers



Amy Rivers is an award-winning novelist, the Director of Writing Heights Writers Association, and a green chile enthusiast. Her psychological suspense novels incorporate important social issues with a focus on the complexities of human behavior. Amy was raised in New Mexico (which is how she knows that New Mexico green chile is objectively the best) and now lives in Colorado with her husband and children. Her most recent release, *Ripple Effect*, is the final book in her A Legacy of Silence trilogy.

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Candace Robb



Candace Robb loves spending time in the 14th century, so much so that she's written three crime series set in the period, the Owen Archer and the Kate Clifford series set in York, and the Margaret Kerr series set in Scotland. She swears it's just happenstance that her longest running series, the Owen Archer (14 books and writing) stars a sexy one-eyed spy. Severn House has re-released the first 10 in the series for the US and Canadian markets, while also publishing the ongoing books, latest *A Fox in the Fold*. Candace lives in Seattle and considers York her second home.

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Merrilee Robson



Merrilee Robson has published over two dozen short stories in Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine, the People's Friend, Mystery Magazine, and other magazines and anthologies. Her traditional mystery, *Murder Is Uncooperative*, is set in a non-profit housing co-op. Merrilee has served on the boards of Sisters in Crime – Canada West and Crime Writers of Canada. She is a former member of the Vancouver Police Board, which provides civilian oversight to the Vancouver Police Department. She lives in Vancouver and spends a lot of time with at least one cat on her lap.

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Laurie Rockenbeck



As a part-time private investigator with a background in journalism, Laurie Rockenbeck takes notes on human behavior and the darker side of humanity to fuel her fiction. Her work features Seattle's only trans male homicide detective and a pro-domme turned PI. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from UC-Riverside-Palm Desert. When not writing, Laurie knits, cooks, reads, and spends time with her family.

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Stephen D. Rogers



Stephen D. Rogers is the author of *Shot to Death* and more than 800 shorter works. His website includes a list of new and upcoming titles as well as other timely information.

www.StephenDRogers.com

Andromeda Romano-Lax



Born in Chicago and now a resident of a small Canadian island 200 miles northwest of this conference, Andromeda Romano-Lax worked as a freelance journalist and travel writer before turning to fiction. Her first five novels, published in 11 languages, feature classical music, Nazi art theft, psychology scandals, artificial intelligence, and time travel. Only recently did she leap into writing suspense, a gratifying genre jump that she never saw coming. Her forthcoming novel, *The Deepest Lake*, a mother-daughter missing persons story set at a luxurious memoir retreat in Guatemala, will be published by Soho Crime in May.

www.romanolax.com

Christina Romeril



Christina Romeril is the author of the Killer Chocolate Mystery series. The Christmas series is set in Montana at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, one of her favorite places to visit. When she's not hiking, travelling, or eating chocolate, Christina loves to plot murders, especially by poisoning. When she's not plotting how to kill one of her characters she's coming up with ways to dispose of the body. Since her writing debut her husband's friends have been doing regular wellness checks on him.

www.christinaromeril.com

S.J. Rozan



Born in the Bronx, SJ Rozan lives in lower Manhattan. She's a graduate of Oberlin College and was a practicing architect. Her novels and short stories have won multiple awards, including the Edgar, Shamus, Anthony, Nero, Macavity, and Japanese Maltese Falcon. She's received Life Achievement Awards from the Private Eye Writers of America and the Short Mystery Fiction Society. Her stories have appeared in "Best Of" collections, and she's edited three anthologies. She teaches a fiction writing workshop in Assisi, Italy, in the summer; ask her about it. SJ's newest books are *The Mayors of New York* and *The Murder of Mr. Ma*.

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Angela M. Sanders



Angela M. Sanders is the author of the bestselling Witch Way Librarian cozy mysteries and the Joanna Hayworth vintage clothing mysteries. As Clover Tate, she wrote the Kite Shop cozy mysteries. When Angela isn't at her laptop, she's often lounging with a vintage crime novel or pontificating on how to make the perfect martini at home in Portland, Oregon.

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David B. Schlosser



Writing as dbschlosser, David B. Schlosser is a frequent moderator, panelist, and presenter at writing and strategic communications events. He has served boards of Editorial Freelancers Association, Mystery Writers of America, and Bouchercon. *Best American Mystery Stories 2020* republished "Pretzel Logic" after it appeared in *Die Behind the Wheel*. Since the mid-1980s, his fiction and non-fiction appeared in print and online under his and other's names. A Kansan who earned degrees in Texas and lived in a dozen states, he lives near Seattle with his wife and their dogs and works as a user experience design leader for a global tech company.

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J. Schuberth



J. Schuberth's obsession with crime, cons, and corruption stems from working in finance, and later as a historian of religion. While they love digging through the archives to find out what happened in the past, they find it much more fun to imagine what might have happened. They hold a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, and in June, will graduate from UC Riverside's low-res MFA, where they write period crime novels about women and queer characters who have a hard time following the rules.

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Terry Shames



Terry Shames writes the popular, award-winning Samuel Craddock series, set in the fictional town of Jarrett Creek, Texas, and featuring chief of police Samuel Craddock. The latest, *Guilt Strikes at Granger's Store*, was named one of Library Journal's top mysteries of 2023. *Perilous Waters*, the first in her new Jessie Madison thriller series, came out on April 2. *Booklist* says, "Sun, sand, sex and murder... The perfect escapist caper... The action is fast and furious, in this entertaining, keep-'em-guessing read featuring a feisty, likable heroine."

www.Terryshames.co

Susan C. Shea



Susan C. Shea has been writing since she was old enough to read. She left a career in non-profits to write crime fiction because it looked like more fun. It is! She writes three highly praised series all of which are available in one or more formats: The Dani O'Rourke Mysteries; two Burgundy mysteries; and the French Château murder series. The newest château novel was published in March. They're all traditional-cozy hybrids, laced with humor. Susan lives with two cats, blogs with some dynamite authors at 7CriminalMinds.

www.susancshea.com

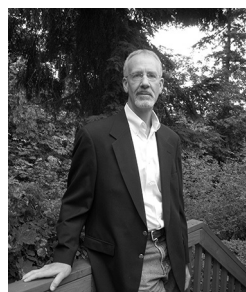
Terry Shepherd



Terry Shepherd is the author of the Jessica Ramirez Thrillers, The 221B Club stories for mid-grade readers, and the Covid-19 children's classic, *Juliette and the Mystery Bug*. Terry's short stories have been published in several anthologies. He is also a prolific book narrator and owns a publishing company focused on helping indie authors get their stories into wide circulation. He lives and writes on the ocean in Jacksonville, Florida.

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Mike Sherer



After stints as a manual laborer, dishwasher, bartender, restaurant manager, commercial photographer, magazine editor, and public relations executive, Michael W. Sherer decided life should imitate art and became a freelance writer and author. Mike is a member of International Thriller Writers and Mystery Writers of America, and is the author of *Mistaken Identity Stolen Identity*, and four books in the Seattle-based Blake Sanders series, including the Thriller Award-nominated *Night Blind*. Other books include the Tess Barrett YA thriller series and the Emerson Ward mystery series. Mike is now working on his 4th Tess Barrett novel and another Identity thriller featuring FBI Special Agent Jenny Roberts.

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Adam Sikes



Adam Sikes served for over twenty-five years in US national security and is a former paramilitary officer with the CIA and a US Marine Corps combat veteran. He has lived and operated in the Middle East, Central Asia, Africa, Europe, and Russia. Wherever he went, his books and notepads came with him, and his experiences now inform his writing. His first novel, *Landslide*, was published in September 2022 and is a spy thriller set in Ukraine. His latest novel, *The Underhanded*, released this month. Adam holds an M.A. in History from Georgetown University and resides in Southern California.

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Nancy Cole Silverman



After twenty-five years in news and talk radio, Nancy Cole Silverman retired to write fiction. Her Carol Childs Mysteries features a single mom whose day job as a reporter at an LA radio station often leads to long nights solving crimes. Her Misty Dawn series is centered on an aging Hollywood Psychic to the Stars, who supplements her day-to-day activities as a consultant to the LAPD. Silverman's newest series, The Kat Lawson Mysteries, is centered on a disgraced investigative reporter who finds herself working for an international travel publication as an undercover agent for the FBI.

NancyColeSilverman.com

Nina Simon



Nina Simon writes crime fiction about strong women. She is the New York Times–bestselling author of *Mother-Daughter Murder Night*. This big-hearted debut whodunnit was a Reese's Book Club pick and a "best of 2023" selection for Amazon, Barnes & Noble, CrimeReads, and Library Journal. Before turning to fiction, Nina wore many hats: NASA engineer, slam poet, game designer, museum director, and nonprofit CEO. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Nina now lives off-the-grid in the Santa Cruz Mountains with her family.

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Samantha Skal



A fan of the scary, mysterious, and suspenseful, Samantha Skal (she/her) is the Co-Director of ThrillerFest, the co-founder of Shadows & Secrets Writing Retreats (a series of thriller/mystery focused writing retreats; 2024's is in Salem, MA's most haunted hotel), and an Author Accelerator certified book coach who specializes in coaching mystery, thriller and suspense authors from novel planning through the delightful hell that is revision. An enthusiast of homemade sourdough and cheese of all kinds, Sam writes stories that keep her up at night and lives in the beautiful Pacific Northwest.

www.samanthaskal.com & www.shadowsandsecretsretreats.com

Joanna Campbell Slan



Joanna Campbell Slan is a high-functioning introvert. Conferences are a stretch for her. Winner of numerous awards, she's a NYT, USA Today, and Amazon bestselling author of nearly 80 books. Currently, she's juggling five series. Joanna was born in Florida, lives on a nearly deserted island in Florida, and plans to die in Florida, but not anytime soon. Get a free book and learn more by going to linktr.ee/JCSlan

Jamie Lee Sogn



Jamie Lee Sogn is a Filipina American author of adult thriller novels. She grew up in Olympia, Washington, studied Anthropology and Psychology at the University of Washington and received her Juris Doctor from the University of Oregon School of Law. Her debut novel, *Salthouse Place*, was published in Sept of 2023 and was longlisted for The Center for Fiction 2023 First Novel Prize. She is a "recovering attorney" who writes contracts by day and (much more exciting) fiction by night. While she has lived in Los Angeles, New York City, and even Eugene, Oregon, she now calls Seattle home with her family.

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Rosalie Spielman



Rosalie Spielman is an author, mother, veteran, and retired military spouse. She writes cozy mysteries for the multi-author Aloha Lagoon Mysteries series and her own Hometown Mysteries series, both by Gemma Halliday Publishing. She is happy to be providing an escape... one page at a time. She currently lives in Maryland with her husband in their rapidly emptying nest. For more information on her books or to subscribe to her newsletter, go to www.rosalie-spielman-author.com, follow her Facebook page (Rosalie Spielman author), or join her Facebook group, *You know the Spiel*. She looks forward to connecting with you.

Steve Steinbock



Steve grew up less than two miles up the street from this year's LCC hotel. He's a longtime mystery fan, reviewer, and historian of the genre. He's written for *Mystery Scene*, *The Strand*, *Mystery Readers Journal*, and *The Armchair Detective* (in case anyone remembers that amazing journal). He's former president of International Association of Crime Writers and has served as the mystery critic for *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* since 2011. Lately Steve has been spending his time translating Japanese mystery fiction into English. After living for three decades on the east coast, he recently returned to the Pacific Northwest.

Charlotte Stuart



In a world filled with uncertainty and too little chocolate, Charlotte Stuart spends her days writing character-driven mysteries, most with a smattering of humor and a dollop of adventure. Before focusing on writing, Charlotte left a tenured faculty position to go commercial fishing in Alaska and later became a partner in a management consulting group. She has won numerous awards, including 1st place in the Chanticleer Mystery and Mayhem Series contest for her *Discount Detective Mysteries*. Even though the protagonist in the series is a PI, the books are usually labeled "cozies." Why? It's a mystery.

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Lucinda Surber



Lucinda Surber has been reading mystery books and recommending them to anyone who will listen as long as she can remember. When she doesn't have her nose stuck in a book, Lucinda is usually teaching math, playing with *The Best Cat Ever*, or trying to keep her plants alive. Whenever they aren't helping with Left Coast Crime Conventions, 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

Cynthia Swanson



Cynthia Swanson recently discovered the word "taphophile" (one drawn to graveyards) and felt instantly seen. A Denver-based author of psychological suspense, Cynthia loves exploring themes of apprehension, history, and connections (both made and missed). She is the author of two novels: the New York Times bestseller *The Bookseller* (Harper 2015) and the USA Today bestseller *The Glass Forest* (Simon & Schuster 2018), as well as the editor of and a contributor to the Colorado Book Award-winning anthology *Denver Noir* (Akashic Books, 2022).

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Duane Swierczynski



Duane Swierczynski is the New York Times bestselling and two-time Edgar-nominated author of 15 novels including *Revolver* and *California Bear*, as well as the graphic novels *Breakneck* and *Redhead*. Along with James Patterson, Duane co-created the Audible Original *The Guilty*, starring John Lithgow and Bryce Dallas Howard, and co-wrote the private eye thriller *Lion & Lamb*. His first short story collection, *Lush & Other Tales of Boozy Mayhem*, was recently published by Cimarron Street Books. A native Philadelphian, Duane now lives in Southern California with his family.

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Elena Hartwell Taylor



Elena Hartwell writes the Eddie Shoes Mystery series about private investigator Eddie Shoes, who teams up with her quirky card-counting, poker-playing mother to solve murders. Writing as Elena Taylor, she also pens the Sheriff Bet Rivers Mysteries, which are much darker, atmospheric police procedurals. *All We Buried* is out now, and will be joined this summer by *A Cold, Cold World*. Elena also works as a developmental editor and industry expert with Allegory Editing, helping writers finish and polish manuscripts and navigate the publishing industry.

www.elenataylorauthor.com

Meredith Taylor



Meredith Taylor retired from clinical psychology to a life of crime – on the page, at least. She published a short story “Avenging Superheroes” in the 2021 Sisters in Crime Los Angeles anthology *Avenging Angelenos*. With Gay Toltl Kinman and Susan Rowland she edited the 2023 SinC LA anthology *Entertainment To Die For*, featuring an introduction by Sara Paretsky. Mysteries with Ali Marchant – therapist, professor, and reluctant sleuth – will arrive shortly. Once a theater major, she dabbles in vintage costume and vintage dance. Meredith lives in Los Angeles, where this year her (old) house needs to calm down, already.

Wendall Thomas



Wendall Thomas teaches in the Graduate Film School at UCLA, lectures internationally on screenwriting, and has worked as a film and television writer. Her first Cyd Redondo mystery, *Lost Luggage*, garnered Lefty and Macavity nominations for Best Debut mystery, *Drowned Under* was an Anthony Best Paperback Original and Lefty Best Humorous finalist, and *Fogged Off* and *Cheap Trills* have been nominated for Best Humorous Lefties. Her short fiction appears in anthologies including *Murder A-Go-Gos* and *Crime Under the Sun*, she’s adapted Wilkie Collins for PBS’s *Wishbone*, sponsors a wildlife trail camera in the Australian outback, and wrote the speech for Bonnie Raitt’s induction into The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

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Brian Thornton



Brian Thornton is the author of twelve books – most recently the three-novella collection *Suicide Blonde*. His short fiction has appeared in Alfred Hitchcock’s *Mystery Magazine*, *The Big Click*, *Shred of Evidence*, the Akashic Books anthology *Seattle Noir*, and the late, lamented *BULLET UK*. Most recently his story “The Catherine Wheel” appeared in *Murder Neat: A Sleuthsayers Anthology* (2024). He does all of his own stunts, loves the color blue and singing in the car with his wife and son, and lives in Seattle, where he has served numerous years as President of the Northwest Chapter for the Mystery Writers of America.

Sarah Tomlinson



Sarah Tomlinson, a former music journalist, has been a ghostwriter since 2008, penning more than 20 books, including five New York Times bestsellers. In 2015, she published the father-daughter memoir, *Good Girl* (Gallery Books). She wrote her *The Last Days of the Midnight Ramblers*, a rock 'n' roll whodunnit that is her first novel, in between assignments for a who's who of celebrity clients. You can find her online where you will learn that her favorite band is T. Rex.

sarahtomlinson.com

Kelly Vincent



Kelly Vincent wrangles data weekdays and spends the rest of their time playing with words. They grew up in Oklahoma, but have moved around quite a bit, with Glasgow, Scotland, being their favorite stop. They now live near Seattle with several cats who help them write their stories by strategically walking across the keyboard, with their first novel, the YA suspense *Finding Frances*, a fine example of this technique. Kelly's YA books have received several awards. Kelly has a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from Oklahoma City University's Red Earth program.

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Carl Vonderau



Carl Vonderau grew up in Cleveland. After majoring in economics and dabbling in classical guitar in college, he ended up with a career in banking. Carl has lived and worked internationally and put his foot in his mouth in several languages. He brought his banking expertise to his debut thriller, *Murderabilia*, as well as to his just-published novel, *Saving Myles*. *Murderabilia* won the Lefty Award for Best Debut. *Saving Myles* has won the Best Book award for mystery/suspense. Carl is president of the San Diego chapter of Sisters in Crime, a member of Blackbird Writers, and helps nonprofits through San Diego Social Venture Partners.

www.carlvonderau.com

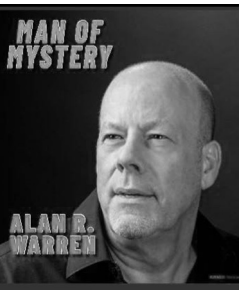
Laura Jensen Walker



Laura Jensen Walker always wanted to be a writer. She also wanted to see the world so joined the Air Force at nineteen and spent five glorious years in Europe. She ate snails in Paris, trod the steps of the Parthenon, skied (snowplowed) in the Alps, and belted out "Don't Rain on my Parade" on the ferry from Dover to Calais. Laura is the award-winning author of several books, including the Agatha-nominated *Murder Most Sweet*. Her historical debut, *Death of a Flying Nightingale*, releases in September. Anglophile Laura lives in California where she drinks tea and dreams of England

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Al Warren



Alan R. Warren is a Best-Selling Author and Producer/Host of the popular NBC Radio show *House of Mystery* on KCAA 106.5 FM Los Angeles & 1050 AM Palm Springs, and *Inside Writing* on KIXI 880 AM & KKNW 1150 AM Seattle. He's had 30 books published in the Non-Fiction Genre covering True Crime, Cults, Human Trafficking, History, and Memoirs for three different publishers. *The Killing Game* has been featured on several Television Shows such as HLN's *Very Scary People* with Donny Walberg, Oxygen Network's *Mark of a Killer*, and The Reelz Channel's *Killer Trophies*, and stars in the Prime's Three-Part Documentary called *Dating Death*. His book *Doomsday Cults: The Devil's Hostages* was featured on Vice's *Dark Side of the '90s*.

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James Lincoln Warren



James Lincoln Warren is a frequent contributor to Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine and Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, and the winner of the Wolfe Pack's 2011 Black Orchid Novella Award for a story written in the tradition of Rex Stout. His fiction runs the gamut from historical to contemporary, and from humor to hard-boiled. A past President of Mystery Writers of America's Southern California Chapter, he resides in Los Angeles.

Swordquill.com

Steve Weddle



Steve Weddle is the author of *The County Line*, an Amazon First Reads selection. His previous book, *Country Hardball*, which The New York Times called "downright dazzling," is a collection of connected short stories. A former newspaper editor, he is the cofounder of the crime fiction collective Do Some Damage, the cocreator of the noir magazine Needle, and has taught short story writing at LitReactor. He lives in Virginia with his family.

steveweddle.com

Holly West



Holly West (she/her) is the author of the Mistress of Fortune historical mystery series. She's written numerous short stories and edited the Anthony Award-nominated anthology, *Murder-A-Go-Go's: Crime Fiction Inspired by the Music of the Go-Go's*. Her novella, *The Money Block*, is available now from Down & Out Books. Most recently, she edited *Killin' Time in San Diego*, the 2023 Bouchercon anthology. She lives in Northern California with her husband and two spoiled dogs.

hollywest.com

Iona Whishaw



A passion for history and her family's WW2 intelligence work inform Iona Whishaw's period mysteries, which she writes in a disreputable pink fluffy bath robe, under the strong influence of tea. Iona grew up in Canada, Arizona, and Mexico. She won the 2021 Bony Blythe Light Mystery Award and she has been a finalist for the Duthie book prize and two Lefty Awards. Her tenth Lane Winslow book, *To Track a Traitor*, released in April '23 was the No.1 best-selling book in BC for 2023 and a Canadian best-seller. *Lightening Strikes the Silence*, book 11, comes out in May.

ionawhishaw.com

Sam Wiebe AKA Nolan Chase



Sam Wiebe is the author of the Wakeland novels, one of the most authentic and acclaimed contemporary detective series. His work has won the Crime Writers of Canada award and the Kobo Emerging Writers prize, and been shortlisted for the Edgar, Hammett, Shamus, Independent Publisher, and City of Vancouver book prizes. His latest novel, *Ocean Drive*, is a standalone crime thriller described as "a Pacific Northwest Fargo." Wiebe also writes (allegedly) as Nolan Chase, whose first mystery novel, *A Lonesome Place for Dying*, comes out in May.

samwiebe.com

Dänna Wilberg



“The best secrets are the most twisted.” Sarah Shepard’s quote best describes author Dänna Wilberg’s quest to unravel life’s mysteries with every keystroke, on every page. Her series, *The Red Chair*, *The Grey Door*, and *The Black Dress*, featuring psychotherapist Grace Simms, poses the question: “What do we really know about a person?” Dänna’s paranormal *Borrowed Time* series about a woman who acquires a psychic gift after a near-death experience, is filled with gems from Dänna’s own experience producing/hosting TV show “Paranormal Connection.” Her background as an award-winning script-writer and film-maker add to the magic of her storytelling.

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Darcie Wilde



Darcie Wilde is the bestselling author of the Useful Woman historical mysteries set in Regency-era England. She lives in Michigan with her husband and son. When not writing, she’s reading, travelling, quilting, embroidering, and collecting way too many recipes from the New York Times cooking section that she really hopes to try out one day.

www.darciewildeauthor.com

C.B. Wilson



The award-winning author of the Barkview Mysteries series, C.B. Wilson, has a serious thing about dogs. So serious that she has turned that canine fascination into a nine-book cozy pet mystery series. Set in the dog-friendliest city in America, the Barkview Mysteries follow a cat person’s journey to find the perfect dog. C.B.’s love of writing was spurred by an early childhood encounter with a Nancy Drew book where she precociously wrote what she felt was a better ending. After studying at the Gemology Institute of America, she developed a passion for researching lost, stolen, and missing jewels, which just happen to be found in the most unusual places.

FB & Insta @cbwilsonauthor & www.cbwilsonauthor.com

Marty Wingate



Marty Wingate writes mysteries and histories – all fiction and all set in Britain. Her new historical mystery series, *The London Ladies’ Murder Club*, is set in 1921 and inspired by the real-life Useful Women agency. She also writes the Potting Shed series and the Birds of a Feather mysteries in addition to standalone historical fiction. Marty prefers on-the-ground research whenever possible, and so she and her husband regularly travel to Britain, where she can be found tracing the steps of her characters, stopping for tea and a slice of Victoria sponge in a café, or enjoying a swift half in a pub.

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

Kenneth Wishnia



Kenneth Wishnia’s novels have been nominated for the Edgar, Anthony, and Macavity Awards. His short stories have appeared in Ellery Queen, Alfred Hitchcock, *Queens Noir*, *Long Island Noir*, *Send My Love* and a *Molotov Cocktail!*, and elsewhere. His novel, *The Fifth Servant*, won a literary award in Italy. So he’s got to get translated into Italian to win an award? Get with it, America! Sheesh! Oh, yeah – he’s launching his new novel, *From Sun to Sun* RIGHT HERE at LEFT COAST CRIME! So there. He teaches writing, literature and other deviant forms of thought at Suffolk Community College on Long Island.

www.kennethwishnia.com

Matt Witten



Matt Witten is a TV writer, novelist, playwright, and screenwriter who has written for many TV shows including *House*, *Pretty Little Liars*, *CSI: Miami*, and *Law & Order*. His thriller novel *The Necklace* has been published in seven languages and optioned for film by Leonardo DiCaprio, and his latest thriller *Killer Story*, about a true-crime podcaster, came out last year. Matt wrote four amateur sleuth novels, including the Malice Domestic Award-winning *Breakfast at Madeline's*, and has been nominated for two Edgars and an Emmy. His published stage plays include *The Deal*, *Washington Square Moves*, and *The Ties That Bind*.

www.mattwittenwriter.com

Sheri Lewis Wohl



Sheri Lewis Wohl lives on the other side of the mountains in NE Washington where she writes her stories of murder, mayhem, and all things paranormal. While she has yet to actually encounter a vampire, werewolf, or ghost, she never stops looking for them when darkness falls. A retired fed and former Humans Remains Detection K9 Handler, these days Sheri writes her stories of dark, dangerous, and delectable characters, runs half-marathons all over the U.S., and hangs out with her trusty German shepherds.

sherilewiswohl.com

Shawn Wong



Shawn Wong is the author of the award-winning novel *Homebase* and the novel *American Knees*, a romantic comedy that was made into an award-winning feature film. He is also the co-editor and editor of six Asian American and American multicultural literary anthologies, including the pioneering anthology *Aiiieeeee! An Anthology of Asian American Writers*. He is currently the Byron and Alice Lockwood Professor in the Humanities and Professor of English at the University of Washington. He has also taught numerous times at the UW Rome Center, because someone has to make the personal sacrifice to teach in Italy.

ShawnWongWrites.com

Joyce Yarrow



Hi! I'm Joyce Yarrow, author of suspense fiction recommended by Library Journal as "appealing to readers who enjoy unusual mysteries with an international setting." I was born in the SE Bronx and escaped to Manhattan, where I started my writing career by scribbling poems while riding the subway. I'm an avid bird watcher, as long as I can see them from my office window. Today, I reside in Seattle and my latest novels, *Zahara* and *the Lost Books of Light* and *Stolen Lives*, comprise two-thirds of a trilogy. Visit my website to learn more. I'd love to hear from you!

www.joyceyarrow.com

Frank Zafiro



Frank Zafiro writes gritty crime fiction from both sides of the badge. He was a police officer from 1993 to 2013, where he worked patrol, investigations, commanded K9 and SWAT, and retired as a captain. Frank has written more than 50 books, including his River City series, and collaborated with five different authors, including Colin Conway and Eric Beetner. In addition to writing, Frank hosts the podcast *Wrong Place, Write Crime*. He is an avid hockey fan and a tortured guitarist. He lives in Redmond, Oregon.

frankzafiro.com

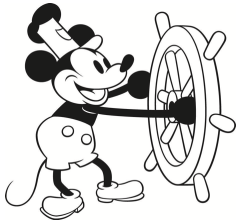
Mark Zeid



Mark Zeid is a retired Marine and former military police officer. He also spent many years doing free-lance writing for more than 20 publications. Now he is completely retired and spends his time sleeping in a recliner in front of the TV with a cat in his lap. In between naps, he writes mystery novels inspired by true events, some of which he actually investigated. For more information and humorous war stories, check out his website.

zeidsmysteries.com

Steamboat Willie

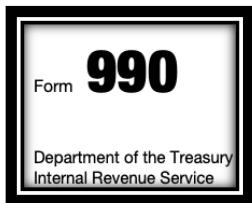


Now that I've been released from copyright, I'm finally free to catch up on things in the public domain, like mystery and crime fiction conventions. Try not to step on me in the hotel at Seattle Shakedown in Bellevue — maybe we'll meet up in Denver in 2025. if I can just maneuver my steamboat that far up the rivers...



from LCC 2007
Program Book

Jeffrey L. Grund



Last, but not least, the Left Coast Crime Standing Committee would like to express our thanks to Jeff Grund — formerly of Berkeley, now Alameda, CA — who since time nearly immemorial has voluntarily prepared our tax filings with the feds and relevant states. And he does this essential task cheerfully (as far as we can tell) and without complaint!



Specsavers

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Gala Awards Dinner

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- Last Laugh Award
- eDunnit Award
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- Best Crime Novel for Young Adults
- Thalia Proctor Memorial Award for Best Adapted TV Crime Drama

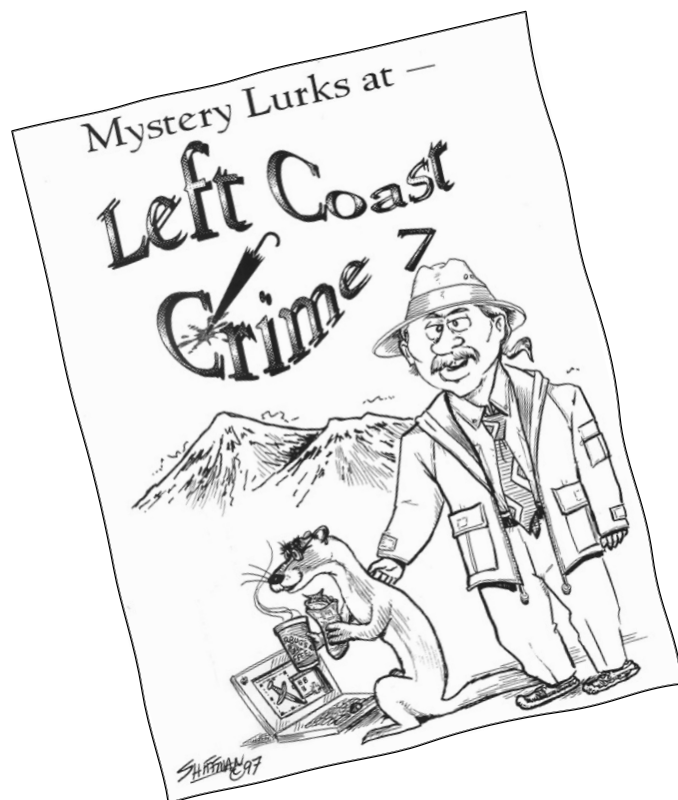
For more information or to sign up for newsletters visit the website
www.crimefest.com • email: info@crimefest.com • Venue: Mercure Bristol Grand Hotel

Left Coast Crime #34 in Bellevue

Welcome to the 34th annual Left Coast Crime Convention – *Seattle Shakedown!* The LCC 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 around the first quarter of the year, LCC provides an event where mystery fans can gather in convivial surroundings to pursue their mutual interests. Stay in touch with LCC at www.leftcoastcrime.org – browse the archives of past events, including copies of program books from all prior conventions, and watch for upcoming conventions.

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, AK	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 Thom 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	
2011	Santa Fe, NM	Margaret Coel Steven F. Havill	Marvin Lachman	Steve Brewer	Martin Cruz Smith
2012	Sacramento, CA	John Lescroart Jacqueline Winspear James Rollins <i>[SG]</i>	Noemi Levine	Harley Jane Kozak	

Year	Place	Guests of Honor	Fan Guests of Honor	Toastmaster	Lifetime Achievement
2013	Colorado Springs, CO	Craig Johnson Laura Lippman Lou Diamond Phillips <i>[SG]</i>	Tom & Enid Schantz	David Corbett	
2014	Monterey, CA	Cara Black Louise Penny Sue Grafton <i>[SG]</i>	Sue Trowbridge	Brad Parks	Marcia Muller Bill Pronzini
2015	Portland, OR	Chelsea Cain Timothy Hallinan Philip Margolin <i>[SG]</i>	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 William Deverell <i>[SG]</i>	Don & Jenn Longmuir	Cathy Ace	Sue Grafton <i>post.</i>
2020	San Diego, CA	Rachel Howzell Hall T. Jefferson Parker		Matt Coyle	
2021	<i>Nowhere/Everywhere</i>	<i>Covid-19</i>			
2022	Albuquerque, NM	Mick Herron Catriona McPherson	Kristopher Zgorski	Kellye Garrett	
2023	Tucson, AZ	Glen Erik Hamilton Sujata Massey	Dru Ann Love	Ellen Byron	J.A. Jance
2024	Bellevue, WA	Megan Abbott Robert Dugoni	Fran Fuller	Wanda M. Morris	
2025	Denver, CO	Sarah Paretsky Manuel Ramos	Grace Koshida	John Copenhaver	



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 – described only the award given for the best humorous mystery. 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, renamed in 2022 as the Bill Gottfried Memorial), 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 nominees are listed below. Be sure to deposit your paper Lefty Ballot in the ballot box near Registration by 1:30 PM on Saturday.

2024 Lefty Award Nominees

Best Humorous Mystery

- ☐ Jennifer J. Chow, *Hot Pot Murder*
- ☐ Lee Matthew Goldberg, *The Great Gimmelmans*
- ☐ Leslie Karst, *A Sense for Murder*
- ☐ Catriona McPherson, *Hop Scot*
- ☐ Cindy Sample, *Dying for a Decoration*
- ☐ Wendall Thomas, *Cheap Trills*

Best Debut Mystery

- ☐ Lina Chern, *Play the Fool*
- ☐ Margot Douaihy, *Scorched Grace*
- ☐ Josh Pachter, *Dutch Threat*
- ☐ Ana Reyes, *The House in the Pines*
- ☐ Nina Simon, *Mother-Daughter Murder Night*

Best Historical Mystery (set prior to 1970)

– The Bill Gottfried Memorial

- ☐ Cara Black, *Night Flight to Paris*
- ☐ Bruce Borgos, *The Bitter Past*
- ☐ Susanna Calkins, *Death Among the Ruins*
- ☐ Dianne Freeman, *A Newlywed’s Guide to Fortune and Murder*
- ☐ Cheryl A. Head, *Time’s Undoing*
- ☐ Naomi Hirahara, *Evergreen*

Best Mystery (not in other categories)

- ☐ Tracy Clark, *Hide*
- ☐ S.A. Cosby, *All the Sinners Bleed*
- ☐ Matt Coyle, *Odyssey’s End*
- ☐ Jordan Harper, *Everybody Knows*
- ☐ James L’Etoile, *Face of Greed*

History of Left Coast Crime Awards

1996 – Boulder, Colorado

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

1997 – Seattle, Washington

[No Award Given]

1998 – San Diego, California

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

1999 – Albuquerque, New Mexico

Lefty Award [humorous]

- ☑ *Four To Score* by Janet Evanovich

2000 – Tucson, Arizona

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

2001 – Anchorage, Alaska

[No Award Given]

2002 – Portland, Oregon

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

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

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

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

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

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

2008 – Denver, Colorado

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

2009 – Waikoloa, Hawaii

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

2010 – Los Angeles, California

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

2011 – Santa Fe, New Mexico

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

2012 – Sacramento, California

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

2013 – Colorado Springs, Colorado

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

2014 – Monterey, California

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

2015 – Portland, Oregon

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

2016 – Phoenix, Arizona

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

2017 – Honolulu, Hawaii

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

2018 – Reno, Nevada

Best Humorous Mystery

- ☑ *A Cajun Christmas Killing* by Ellen Byron
- Gone Gull* by Donna Andrews
- Dying on the Vine* by Marla Cooper
- The 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
- The Woman in the Camphor Trunk* by Jennifer Kincheloe
- Dangerous To Know* by Renee Patrick
- The Proud Sinner* by Priscilla Royal
- Season of Blood* by Jeri Westerson

Best Debut Mystery

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

Best Mystery (not in other categories)

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

2019 – Vancouver, British Columbia

Best Humorous Mystery

- ☑ *Scot Free* by Catriona McPherson
- Mardi Gras Murder* by Ellen Byron
- Hollywood Ending* by Kellye Garrett
- Nighttown* by Timothy Hallinan
- Death al Fresco* by Leslie Karst
- The Spirit in Question* by Cynthia Kuhn

Best Historical Mystery (prior to 1960)

– The Bruce Alexander Memorial

- ☑ *The Widows of Malabar Hill* by Sujata Massey
- Four Funerals and Maybe a Wedding* by Rhys Bowen
- The Long-Lost Love Letters of Doc Holliday* by David Corbett
- Island of the Mad* by Laurie R. King
- A Dying Note* by Ann Parker
- It Begins in Betrayal* by Iona Whishaw

Best Debut Mystery

- ☑ *A Lady's Guide to Etiquette and Murder* by Dianne Freeman
- Broken Places* by Tracy Clark
- Cobra Clutch* by A.J. Devlin
- The Woman in the Window* by A.J. Finn
- What Doesn't Kill You* by Aimee Hix
- Deadly Solution* by Keenan Powell
- Give Out Creek* by J.G. Toews

Best Mystery (not in other categories)

- ☑ *November Road* by Lou Berney
- Wrong Light* by Matt Coyle
- Kingdom of the Blind* by Louise Penny
- Under a Dark Sky* by Lori Rader-Day
- A Reckoning in the Back Country* by Terry Shames
- A Stone's Throw* by James W. Ziskin

2020 – San Diego, California

Best Humorous Mystery

- ☑ *Scot & Soda* by Catriona McPherson
- Fatal Cajun Festival* by Ellen Byron
- Murder from Scratch* by Leslie Karst
- The Subject of Malice* by Cynthia Kuhn
- Drowned Under* by Wendall Thomas

Best Historical Mystery (prior to 1960)

– The Bruce Alexander Memorial

- ☑ *The Satapur Moonstone* by Sujata Massey
- Murder Knocks Twice* by Susanna Calkins
- The Pearl Dagger* by L.A. Chandlar
- A Lady's Guide to Gossip and Murder* by Dianne Freeman
- The Body in Griffith Park* by Jennifer Kincheloe

Best Debut Mystery

- ☑ *Murderabilia* by Carl Vonderau
- The Ninja Daughter* by Tori Eldridge
- Miracle Creek* by Angie Kim
- One Night Gone* by Tara Laskowski
- Three-Fifths* by John Vercher

Best Mystery (not in other categories)

- ☑ *Lost Tomorrows* by Matt Coyle
- Your House Will Pay* by Steph Cha
- Borrowed Time* by Tracy Clark
- They All Fall Down* by Rachel Howzell Hall
- Heaven, My Home* by Attica Locke

2021 – The Unconvention in Limbo

Best Humorous Mystery

- ☑ *Murder in the Bayou Boneyard* by Ellen Byron
- Mimi Lee Gets a Clue* by Jennifer J. Chow
- Squeeze Me* by Carl Hiaasen
- The Study of Secrets* by Cynthia Kuhn
- The Pot Thief Who Studied the Woman at*
Otowi Crossing by J. Michael Orenduff
- Skin Deep* by Sung J. Woo

Best Historical Mystery (prior to 1970)

– The Bruce Alexander Memorial

- ☑ *The Turning Tide* by Catriona McPherson
- The Fate of a Flapper* by Susanna Calkins
- A Lady's Guide to Mischievous and Murder* by Dianne Freeman
- Riviera Gold* by Laurie R. King
- Mortal Music* by Ann Parker
- Turn to Stone* by James W. Ziskin

Best Debut Mystery

- ☑ *Winter Counts* by David Heska Wanbli Weiden
- Murder Goes to Market* by Daisy Bateman
- Derailed* by Mary Keliikoa
- Murder at the Mena House* by Erica Ruth Neubauer
- The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman
- The Lady Upstairs* by Halley Sutton

Best Mystery (not in other categories)

- ☑ *All the Devils Are Here* by Louise Penny
- What You Don't See* by Tracy Clark
- Blacktop Wasteland* by S.A. Cosby
- Blind Vigil* by Matt Coyle
- And Now She's Gone* by Rachel Howzell Hall

2022 – Albuquerque, New Mexico

Best Humorous Mystery

- ☑ *Mango, Mambo, and Murder* by Raquel V. Reyes
- Cajun Kiss of Death* by Ellen Byron
- Mimi Lee Cracks the Code* by Jennifer Chow
- Finlay Donovan Is Killing It* by Elle Cosimano
- How To Book a Murder* by Cynthia Kuhn
- Fogged Off* by Wendall Thomas

Best Debut Mystery

- ☑ *All Her Little Secrets* by Wanda M. Morris
- Who Is Maud Dixon* by Alexandra Andrews
- Blackout* by Marco Carocari
- The Other Black Girl* by Zakiya Dalila Harris
- Arsenic and Adobo* by Mia P. Manansala

Best Historical Mystery (prior to 1970)

– The Bill Gottfried Memorial

- ☑ *Clark and Division* by Naomi Hirahara
- The Cry of the Hangman* by Susanna Calkins
- The Savage Kind* by John Copenhaver
- The Bombay Prince* by Sujata Massey
- The Mirror Dance* by Catriona McPherson
- Death at Greenway* by Lori Rader-Day

Best Mystery (not in other categories)

- ☑ *Lightning Strike* by William Kent Krueger
- Runner* by Tracy Clark
- Razorblade Tears* by S.A. Cosby
- Last Redemption* by Matt Coyle
- Bath Haus* by P.J. Vernon

2023 – Tucson, Arizona

Best Humorous Mystery

- ☑ *Bayou Book Thief* by Ellen Byron
- Death by Bubble Tea* by Jennifer J. Chow
- Five Moves of Doom* by A.J. Devlin
- A Streetcar Named Murder* by T.G. Herren
- Scot in a Trap* by Catriona McPherson

Best Debut Mystery

- ☑ *Shutter* by Ramona Emerson
- Jackal* by Erin E. Adams
- Don't Know Tough* by Eli Cranor
- Other People's Secrets* by Meredith Hambrook
- The Bangalore Detectives Club* by Harini Nagendra
- Devil's Chew Toy* by Rob Osler
- The Verifiers* by Jane Pek

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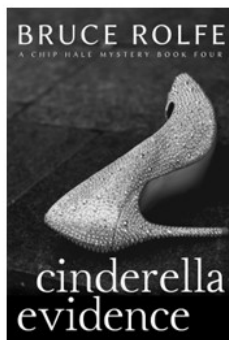
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Best Historical Mystery (prior to 1970)

– The Bill Gottfried Memorial

- ☑ *Anywhere You Run* by Wanda M. Morris
- A Bride's Guide to Marriage and Murder* by Dianne Freeman
- In Place of Fear* by Catriona McPherson
- Under a Veiled Moon* by Karen Odden
- The Secret in the Wall* by Ann Parker
- Framed in Fire* by Iona Wishaw

Best Mystery (not in other categories)

- ☑ *Like a Sister* by Kellye Garrett
- Back to the Garden* by Laurie R. King
- Dead Drop* by James L'Etoile
- Under Lock & Skeleton Key* by Gigi Pandian
- A World of Curiosities* by Louise Penny
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We especially appreciate all the volunteers who are moving boxes of books, stuffing book bags, helping at Registration, serving as Panel Room Monitors, working on the Silent Auction, helping in the Hospitality Room, and everywhere else!

The Seattle Shakedown Charity



Each Left Coast Crime Convention raises money to support a local literacy organization with funds raised through silent and live auctions. The 2024 beneficiary is Page Ahead Children's Literacy Program which works to close the literacy

opportunity gap that too often leaves children in communities of concentrated low income behind. Having access to books as a child is the foremost predictor of future academic advancement, even controlling for parental income and education level.

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The Committee at LCC #7 in Seattle 1997...

... and at LCC #17 in 2007

<p>Andi Shechter - Chair, Program Organizer, Program Book Thom Walls - Vice Chair and Dealers Room Organizer Beryl Kolafa - Treasurer Helen Keiser - Registrar, Booklist Judy Lyen - Hotel Liaison Mary Peretz - Hospitality Louise Saylor - Autographing Organizer, Booklist Stu Shiffman - Artist with Portfolio, Webmeister, Pocket Program Heidi Wolf - Green Room, Assistant to the Chair</p>	<p>Andi Shechter, Chair Helen Keiser Cathy Gallagher Peggy Baker Joan Huston Janet Rudolph Bryan Barrett Roberta Carlson Meg Chittenden Mary Kay Kare Sandra Kisner Leslie Budewitz</p>
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Sara Paretsky

Manuel Ramos

Grace Koshida

John Copenhaver



March 13–16, 2025

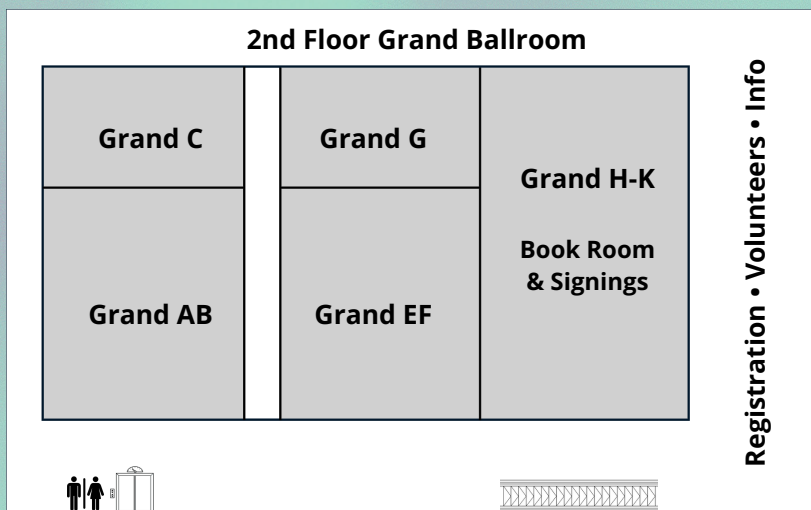
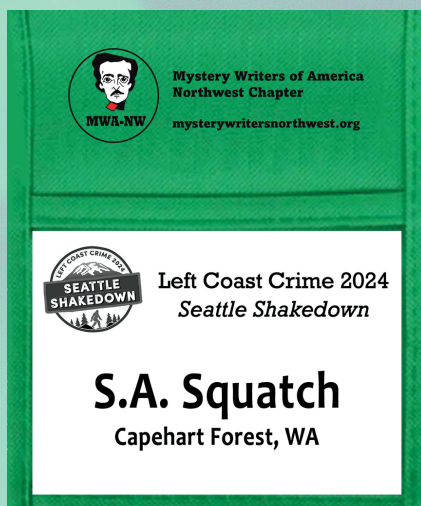
Westin Denver Downtown

Early Bird Registration: \$299 through April 15, 2024

leftcoastcrime.org/2025



Hyatt Regency Bellevue



Green Room: Balsam (2nd Floor) FedEx Shipping: Larch (3rd Floor)

Seattle Shakedown Name Tag

Please wear your convention name badge 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. Wearing your name tag also helps us all get to know each other.

New to Left Coast Crime? Stop by the Volunteer Table and volunteer! It's a great way to make new friends while helping our all-volunteer-run convention.

LCC Panels

Come to the *Left Coast Crime 101* panel on Thursday for more tips about enjoying the convention from experienced LCC attendees, and *Talk to Us About LCC* on Sunday morning to share your ideas.

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 relaxing and chatting in the Hospitality Room. Share your passion for the mystery/thriller genre!

Have questions or need help during the convention?

Visit the Registration Table or flag down any of the Seattle Shakedown committee members.

