

Left Coast Crime 2025

Denver, Colorado



March 13–16, 2025

Westin Denver Downtown



Luis Montez

Denver, CO

Rocky Mountain High Jinks 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.

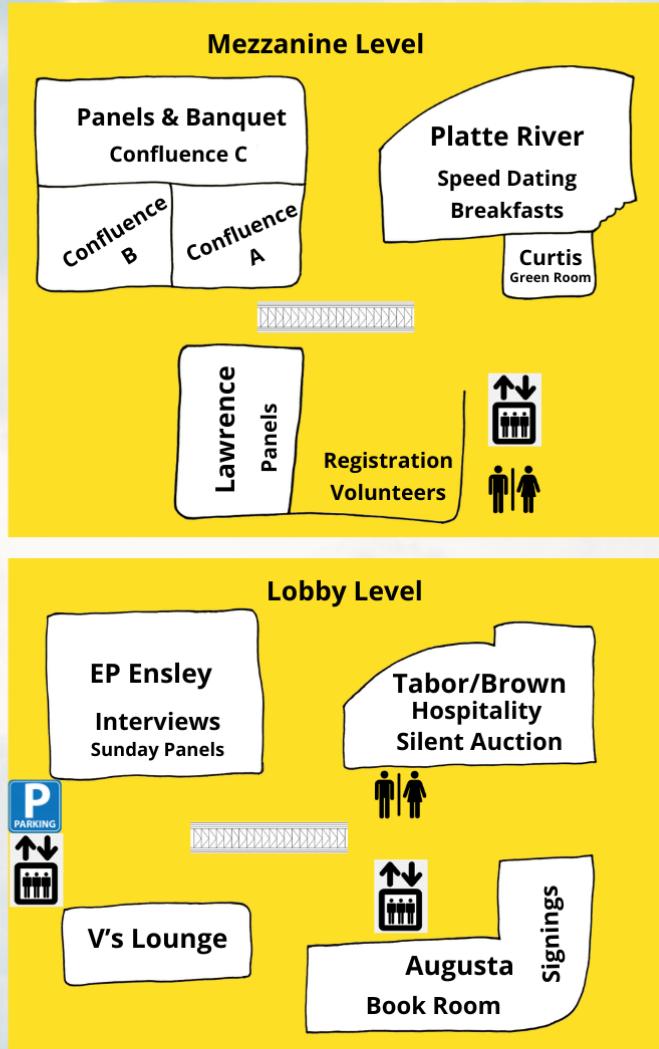
LCC Panels

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 about Left Coast Crime conventions.

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 the Left Coast Crime table and talk to us!





Welcome to Rocky Mountain High Jinks! Left Coast Crime #35 in Denver, Colorado

We hope you have a wonderful time at the convention, and also exploring outside the hotel. The mile-long pedestrian-friendly (please excuse construction) 16th Street Mall is right outside the hotel. Historic Larimer Square, a picturesque city block of restaurants and shops, is only a couple of blocks away. The wonderfully preserved Union Station is a short walk northish. Near the station is the Museum of Contemporary Art, and not far away the Confluence of the South Platte River and Cherry Creek, which is why Denver popped up here. The State Capitol building and Denver Public Library are at the other end of 16th Street. There's a Money Museum at the Federal Reserve Bank and the Denver Mint happens to be here. And the Denver Art Museum, a Police Museum, and a Firefighters Museum. Whew!

For those of you coming from anywhere near sea level, remember this is the Mile-High City, and oxygen is in shorter supply than you are used to. Walking and talking at the same time can be a challenge until you acclimatize, especially when climbing a flight of stairs or hill. If you feel short of breath, and/or get a headache, sit down and rest and read a book. There should be plenty of those around! Drink plenty of water and take care when drinking alcohol, which makes it harder to adjust to the altitude.

Putting on an all-volunteer convention is a challenging task and there are many people working behind the scenes. We can't survive without these Left Coast Crime regulars who step forward every year to make the convention a success: Mike Befeler (Meet-the-New Author Breakfast), Les & Leslie Blatt (Speed-Dating), Dotty Morefield (Registration), Baird Nuckolls (Author-Hosted Tables), Darrell Hoemann (Photography), Kathryn Rybka (Lefty Awards Banquet), Valerie Feldman (Quilt).

We especially want to thank a valiant group of locals who have been working with us, for what probably seems an eternity to them: Mary Birk, Becky Clark, Ann Dominguez, Galit Gottlieb, Holly Harris, Lori Roberts Herbst, Sue Hinton, Linda Joffe Hull, Cynthia Kuhn, Sandra Murphy, Celeste Porter, Lisa Brown Roberts, Cynthia Swanson, Kirsten Weiss. You will see their friendly faces at the Silent Auction, Volunteer Table, Author Signings, and the Colorado Mystery Merge Carnival Extravaganza on Friday evening.

Please give them a thank-you as well as the other volunteers helping throughout the convention. We need you all, so please stop by and let us know how you'd like to be involved in our upcoming convention in San Francisco (which also has a Mint)!

Lucinda Surber & Stan Ulrich
LCC 2025 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 Guests.** Covid and other viruses are always lurking, so you are welcome to take personal protective measures. Seating should be sparser than usual in panel rooms.

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Sisters
in Crime[®]

Where Writers *Belong*



Advocacy. Education.
Support. Community.
We're here for you.

www.SistersInCrime.org/join-us

Convention Overview

Wednesday, March 12

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM Early Registration opens in the Mezzanine Foyer
Registration continues Thursday 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM;
Friday & Saturday 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM; Sunday 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM)

Thursday, March 13

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Author Speed Dating in Platte River (Mezzanine Level)
9:00 AM – 6:00 PM Book Room & Author Signings in Augusta (Lobby Level)
12 noon – 4:00 PM Hospitality & Silent Auction in Tabor-Brown (Lobby Level)
12 noon – 5:45 PM Panels & Interviews begin (see detailed schedule pp. 5-6)
6:15 PM – 7:30 PM Welcome Reception in Platte River: light appetizers, cash bar, Lefty Award Nominees recognized, and more

Friday, March 14

7:15 AM – 8:45 AM Meet the New Authors breakfast buffet in Platte River (Mezzanine 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 Augusta (Lobby Level)
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Hospitality & Silent Auction in Tabor-Brown (Lobby Level)

Saturday, March 15

7:15 AM – 8:45 AM Breakfast buffet in Platte River (Mezzanine Level)
9:00 AM – 6:00 PM Book Room & Author Signings in Augusta (Lobby Level)
9:00 AM – 4:45 PM Panels and Interviews continue (see detailed schedule pp. 9-10)
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM Hospitality & Silent Auction in Tabor-Brown (Lobby Level)
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM Silent Auction final bidding in Tabor-Brown
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM Cash bars in Confluence Foyer, meet and mingle while you wait
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Lefty Awards Banquet in Confluence Ballroom • Four Lefty Awards (see p. 71)
• Silent Auction winners posted (redeem winning bids after banquet)

Sunday, March 16

8:30 AM – 10:30 PM Hospitality & Silent Auction bid redemption in Tabor-Brown (Lobby Level)
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Book Room & Author Signings in Augusta (Lobby Level)
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Regular panels conclude (see detailed schedule p. 11)
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 2026 in San Francisco, where LCC was born!

- **Author Book Signings** are in the Book Room (Augusta) following each Panel and Interview.
- **Silent Auction** is ongoing in the Hospitality Room (Tabor-Brown) – 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 page 79.)
- **Volunteers:** If you'd like to help out, check in at the Volunteer Table on the Mezzanine Level near Registration. There's always something needs doing!
- **Hospitality** in Tabor-Brown – 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:** *Unknown, at press time.*
- **Book Exchange:** Please use only the designated exchange tables by the escalator on the Mezzanine Level (near Registration). Other items on the exchange table will be removed.
- **Promotions & Swag:** Please use the special tables on the Mezzanine Level for bookmarks & other promotional wonders, and let's keep it nice and neat!

INVITATION

COME MEET
ROCKY MOUNTAIN
MYSTERY WRITERS OF
AMERICA'S AUTHORS!



Just a few benefits of membership:

- In-Person & virtual chapter meetings
- Expert speakers
- Monthly newsletter
- MWA University
- Numerous program discounts
- Annual Edgar Awards
- Author and genre reader community
- And more!

WHERE

LEFT COAST CRIME
HOSPITALITY SUITE
(THERE ARE SNACKS AND
GIVEAWAYS!)

WHEN

SATURDAY
10AM - 1PM

Find out more on MWA National's website:
mysterywriters.org

Rocky Mountain MWA Chapter website:
rmmwa.org

Detailed Schedule

Note: Book signings take place in the Book Room – Augusta on the Lobby level – 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 front cover.

Thursday morning, March 13

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 Platte River (Mezzanine Level)*

Lunch Break (on your own)

Thursday afternoon

12:00 PM – 12:45 PM

LCC 101

Lucinda Surber (M), Leslie Blatt, Linda McNab, Janet Rudolph, Stan Ulrich • *Panel in Confluence A*

A Touch of Romance

Katherine Glover (M), Anne Louise Bannon, Michele Drier, Hal Glatzer, Dänna Wilberg

- *Panel in Confluence B*

Rural Settings

Elena Hartwell Taylor (M), Claire Booth, Wes Browne, Julie Holmes, Rosalie Spielman

- *Panel in Confluence C*

How Do You Know What's Funny?

Sarah Bresniker (M), Chris Dreith, Priscilla Paton, Karen A. Phillips, Kirsten Weiss • *Panel in Lawrence AB*

1:15 PM – 2:00 PM

Crime in Colorado

Marie Sutro (M), Patricia Raybon, Helen Starbuck, Cynthia Swanson, R Weir • *Panel in Confluence A*

Creating Believable Characters

Terry Shepherd (M), Jenny Dandy, Janet Dawson, Dwight Holing, Bruce Johnson • *Panel in Confluence B*

From Page to Screen

Paul Levine (M), Craig Faustus Buck, Peter Malone Elliott, Lee Goldberg, Paul Guyot • *Panel in Confluence C*

International Intrigue

T.O. Paine (M), Lance Charnes, Puja Guha, Ana Manwaring, Rob Samborn • *Panel in Lawrence AB*

2:30 PM – 3:15 PM

Behind the Badge: Writing Authentic Police Procedurals

Dana King (M), Bill Gormley, Charles Philipp Martin, Terry Odell, Carol Pouliot • *Panel in Confluence A*

Getting the Research Right

Peggy Townsend (M), Anne Da Vigo, Linda Joffe Hull, Leanne Sparks, Michal Strutin • *Panel in Confluence B*

Resistance in Crime Fiction: How Crime Fiction Can Take Risks & Still Entertain

Terry Shames (M), John Copenhaver, Robyn Gigl, Rob Osler, David Heska Wanbli Weiden

- *Panel in Confluence C*

Where To Start: Plot vs. Characters

Connie Berry (M), Jim Fusilli, Cindy Goyette, Cynthia Kuhn, Jason Powell • *Panel in Lawrence AB*

3:45 PM – 4:30 PM

Writing the Serial Killer

Wendy M. Barnhart (M), Lori Lacefield, James L'Etoile, Mark Stevens, Erika T. Wurth
• *Panel in Confluence A*

Writing About Difficult Subjects

Sandra Murphy (M), Peg Brantley, George Cramer, Alex Kenna, Amy Rivers • *Panel in Confluence B*

Been There, Wrote That

Gar Anthony Haywood (M), Tracy Clark, Matt Coyle, Glen Erik Hamilton, Wendall Thomas
• *Panel in Confluence C*

Animal Sidekicks

Meredith Taylor (M), Lori Roberts Herbst, Paty Jager, Kate Lansing, C.B. Wilson • *Panel in Lawrence AB*

5:00 PM – 5:45 PM

Fan Guest of Honor Grace Koshida Interviewed by Leslie Karst

• *Interview in EP Ensley (Lobby Level)* – No signing after interview

Thursday evening

6:15 PM – 7:30 PM

Welcome Reception • Platte River (Mezzanine Level)

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

Outside Phoenix, two gangs rule...
...and one police officer is caught in
the middle—Hector Miguel Navarro.

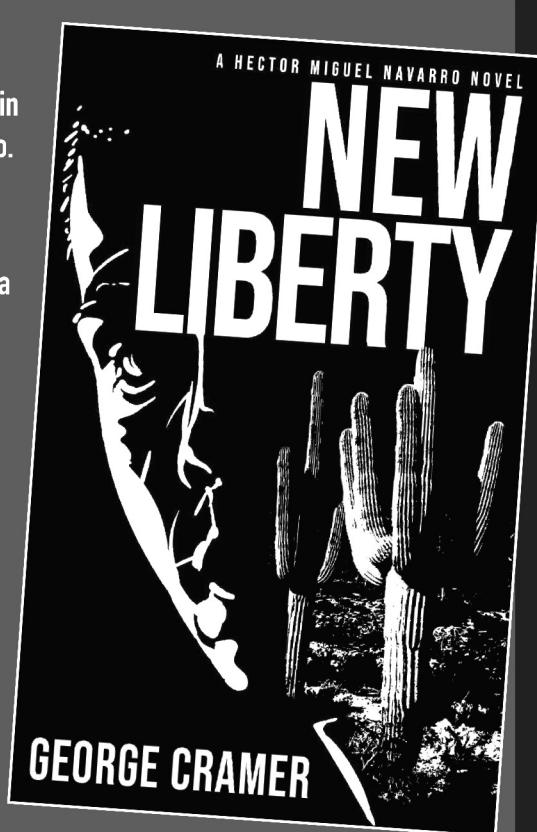
In a world of human trafficking,
drugs, and violence, two people's
lives are about to be intertwined in a
way where only one can survive.

"The arduous and dangerous
tasks of law enforcement
dealing with violent gangs
makes for a great story."

★★★★★ Amazon review

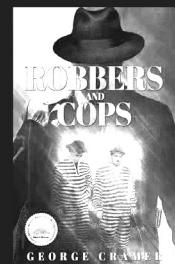
"This book takes you into a
world that you can see,
smell, and taste.

Very compelling reading."
★★★★★ Amazon review



UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Book II in the Hector Miguel Navarro police procedural series is scheduled for release in early 2026.

Also available



ROBBERS AND COPS
"A brilliant police
procedural covering
four decades of
criminal behavior and
the cops who ended it."

—Alec Peche, author of
Jill Quint MD, Forensic
Pathologist series



THE MONA LISA SISTERS
Lura Grisham Myer
lives a perfect life until
her world is ripped
apart. Reborn, forged
of pain and misery,
she battles to recapture
happiness with the help
of two orphans and a
mysterious stranger.



George Cramer

gdcramer.com

gdcramer@outlook.com

Friday morning, March 14

7:15 AM – 8:45 AM

Meet the New Authors Breakfast – Sponsored by Sisters in Crime • *Platte River (Mezzanine Level)*

Hosted by Mike Befeler, assisted by Les & Leslie Blatt – Program from 7:30 to 8:30

Breakfast buffet. All convention registrants welcome, seating limited

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Traditional Mysteries

Holly West (M), Erynn Crowley AKA Erynn Leigh, Sharon Lynn, G.M. Malliet, M.A. (Mary) Monnin

• *Panel in Confluence A*

Writing About Issues That Matter

Maria Kelson (M), Rhoda Berlin, Curtis Ippolito, D.M. Rowell, Kenneth Wishnia • *Panel in Confluence B*

Private Eyes: Historical & Modern

Randal Brandt (M), Matt Coyle, Harry Hunsicker, S.J. Rozan, Elena Hartwell Taylor • *Panel in Confluence C*

Art & Crime

Darcie Wilde (M), Connie Berry, Kara Lacey, Margaret Lucke, Nina Wachsman • *Panel in Lawrence AB*

10:15 AM – 11:00 AM

Law & Crime in the West

Will Neville-Rehbehn (M), Baron Birtcher, Ann Parker, Terry Shames, C.M. Wendelboe

• *Panel in Confluence A*

Mysteries for Younger Readers

Nicole Maggi (M), Wendy M. Barnhart, Pamela Beason, Dan Birk, Fleur Bradley • *Panel in Confluence B*

Lefty Debut Nominees

Lucinda Surber (M), Peter Malone Elliott, Cindy Goyette, Audrey Lee, Jennifer K. Morita, K.T. Nguyen

• *Panel in Confluence C*

The Paranormal

Michele Drier (M), Ron Cook, C. Jean Downer, Nichelle Seely, Rochelle Staab • *Panel in Lawrence AB*

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

Family Dynamics

Margaret Mizushima (M), Donna J. Evans, Lee Matthew Goldberg, Kate B Jackson, Carl Vonderau

• *Panel in Confluence A*

Noir: How Dark Can We Go?

Mark Stevens (M), Marco Carocari, Christa Faust, James D.F. Hannah, Scott Von Doviak

• *Panel in Confluence B*

Lefty Best Novel Nominees

Wendall Thomas (M), Claire Booth, Margot Douaihy, Rob Hart, Leslie Karst, James L'Etoile,

Duane Swierczynski • *Panel in Confluence C*

Lawyers & the Law

Joseph Reid AKA Parker Adams (M), Rhonda Blackhurst, Paul Levine, Shaun Perkins, Robert Smith

• *Panel in Lawrence AB*

Lunch Break (on your own)

Friday afternoon

1:30 PM – 2:15 PM

Guest of Honor Manuel Ramos interviewed by David Heska Wanbli Weiden

- *Interview in EP Ensley (Lobby Level)*

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

Crime in Small Towns: Setting, Secrets, Scandal

Glen Erik Hamilton (M), Rodney Carpentier, Becky Clark, Paty Jager, Tony Wirt • *Panel in Confluence A*

The Joys & Challenges of Writing Short Fiction

Vinnie Hansen (M), Francelia Belton, Susan Alice Bickford, Kerry Hammond, Tom Larsen

- *Panel in Confluence B*

Lefty Humorous Nominees

Janet Rudolph (M), Ellen Byron, Jennifer J. Chow, A.J. Devlin, Catriona McPherson, Rob Osler

- *Panel in Confluence C*

Using Real Life in Fiction

Sara J. Henry (M), Diana R. Chambers, Elizabeth Crowens, Marjorie McCown, Robin Somers

- *Panel in Lawrence AB*

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

Historical Sleuths

Holly West (M), Annamaria Alfieri, Mary Alyce (M.A.) Blume, Clare Broyles, Darcie Wilde

- *Panel in Confluence A*

Setting as Character

Tracee de Hahn (M), Susan Alice Bickford, Debra Bokur, George Gurney, Diane Schaffer

- *Panel in Confluence B*

Balancing Storytelling with Support of Basic Rights

Nina Simon (M), Mysti Berry, Tracy Clark, Margot Douaihy, Sara Paretsky • *Panel in Confluence C*

The Private Eye

Nichelle Seely (M), Tom Andes, Peter Colt, Dana King, John Shepphird • *Panel in Lawrence AB*

5:15 PM – 6:00 PM

Toastmaster John Copenhaver interviewed by Christa Faust

- *Interview in EP Ensley (Lobby Level)*

Dinner Break (on your own)

7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Mystery Merge Carnival Extraganza, hosted by Sisters in Crime Colorado • Event in Platte River

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 Platte River (on Mezzanine Level). 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 Confluence Ballroom. 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.

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**Saturday morning, March 15**  
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7:15 AM – 8:45 AM

Breakfast Buffet

All convention registrants welcome, seating limited • *Platte River (Mezzanine Level)*

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

The Readers Panel

Lucinda Surber (M), Grace Koshida, Janet Rudolph, Pat Sellers, Laurie Sheehan • *Panel in Confluence A*

The Great Outdoors

Pamela Beason (M), Jeff Ayers AKA AJ Landau, Scott Graham, Nicole Maggi, Peggy Townsend • *Panel in Confluence B*

Mysteries with Recipes

Daryl Wood Gerber (M), Leslie Budewitz AKA Alicia Beckman, Kim Davis, Maddie Day, Leslie Karst • *Panel in Confluence C*

Creating Strong Characters

Tom Larsen (M), Michael J. Cooper, Sue Hinkin, Claire M. Johnson, Meredith Taylor • *Panel in Lawrence AB*

10:15 AM – 11:00 AM

Killer Characters

Janet Dawson (M), Christine Carbo, Aaron Philip Clark, Leslie J Hall, Jennifer K. Morita
• *Panel in Confluence A*

Senior Sleuths

Elizabeth Crowens (M), Mike Befeler, Janet Finsilver, Julie A. Hennrikus, Ellen Kirschman • *Panel in Confluence B*

What Drives Someone to Murder?

Manuel Ramos (M), Gar Anthony Haywood, Maria Kelson, K.T. Nguyen, Raquel V. Reyes • *Panel in Confluence C*

Medicine & Forensics

Rochelle Staab (M), Ann Dominguez, DP Lyle, BJ Magnani, Cynthia Rice • *Panel in Lawrence AB*

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM

What Makes a Thriller Thrilling?

Jay Shepherd (M), Lee Goldberg, Glen Erik Hamilton, Jamie Mason, Joseph Reid AKA Parker Adams
• *Panel in Confluence A*

Unusual Protagonists

Karen A. Phillips (M), Lina Chern, A.J. Devlin, D.R. Ransdell, Ilene Schneider • *Panel in Confluence B*

Why Are Historicals so Appealing to Modern Readers?

Linda McNab (M), Rhys Bowen, John Copenhaver, S.J. Rozan • *Panel in Confluence C*

Mysteries with Animals

Mysti Berry (M), Nancy Coco, Catherine Dilts, Darlene Dziomba, J.C. Eaton (Ann Goldfarb)
• *Panel in Lawrence AB*

Lunch Break (on your own)

12:45 PM – 1:15 PM

Colorado Mystery Merge (SinC Colorado Anthology) Book Signing • Event in Augusta

Lefty Ballots due at 1:30

Saturday afternoon

1:30 PM – 2:15 PM

Guest of Honor Sara Paretsky interviewed by Leslie Budewitz

• *Interview in EP Ensley (Lobby Level)*

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM

The Craft of Writing

Margaret Lucke (M), Ellen Byron AKA Maria DiRicchio, Rob Hart, Nina Simon, Duane Swierczynski

• *Panel in Confluence A*

Amateur Sleuths

Tracee de Hahn (M), Glenda Carroll, Cynthia Kuhn, Cayce Osborne, Rosalie Spielman • *Panel in Confluence B*

A Bit of Magic

Kate Lansing (M), Jennifer J. Chow, Cate Conte, Daryl Wood Gerber, Gigi Pandian • *Panel in Confluence C*

Crime & the News

Pamela Beason (M), Ellen Byerrum, Christina Estes, Nancy Cole Silverman, Steve Stratton

• *Panel in Lawrence AB*

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM

Psychological Suspense: Delving into the Minds of Characters

Ellen Kirschman (M), Mary Birk, Vinnie Hansen, Audrey Lee, Catriona McPherson • *Panel in Confluence A*

Working Dogs

C.B. Wilson (M), Jodi Burnett, Kathleen Donnelly, Margaret Mizushima, Sheri Lewis Wohl

• *Panel in Confluence B*

The Changing World of Cozies

Leslie J Hall (M), Z.S. Diamanti, Emmeline Duncan AKA Kelly Garrett, Lisa Q. Mathews, Susan C. Shea

• *Panel in Confluence C*

The Thriller Genre

Lance Charnes (M), Michael Balter, Seeley James, Mike McCrary, Richard Meredith • *Panel in Lawrence AB*

Saturday evening

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Silent Auction Final Bidding • 5:00 – 6:00 in Tabor-Brown (Lobby Level)

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

Reception • Cash bars in Confluence Foyer (Mezzanine Level) • 5:30 – 7:00

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Lefty Awards Banquet

Hosted by Toastmaster John Copenhaver – Be sure to bring your Banquet Ticket • *Confluence Ballroom*

Sunday morning, March 16

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM

Using Humor To Define Character

Chris Dreith (M), Sarah Bresniker, Mindy Carlson, Heather Haven • *Panel in Confluence A*

Why We Write Thrillers

Puja Guha (M), Tom Farrell, Lana M. Fox, Walter Horsting, M. Stone Mayer • *Panel in Confluence B*

Noir: Examining the Dark Side

Tom Andes (M), Mark Bacon, Jon Bassoff, David Boop, Nik Xandir Wolf • *Panel in EP Ensley*

Author Support Services & Marketing

Lori Lacefield (M), Valerie Biel, Maddee James, Sara J. Henry, T.O. Paine • *Panel in Lawrence AB*

10:15 AM – 11:00 AM

Why Location Is Important

Mary Birk (M), Lawrence Allan, G.P. Gottlieb, Rita A. Popp, Addy Whitehouse • *Panel in Confluence A*

Talk to Us About Left Coast Crime

Left Coast Crime Standing Committee • *Conversation in Confluence B*

Visual Elements: Graphic Novels & Comics

Linda Joffe Hull (M), Dale Berry, Christa Faust • *Panel in EP Ensley*

Podcasting

Bill Gormley (M), Terry Shepherd, Marie Sutro, Dan White, Dänna Wilberg • *Panel in Lawrence AB*

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Guest of Honor Closing Panel

Leslie Karst (M), Sara Paretsky, Manuel Ramos, Grace Koshida, John Copenhaver • *Panel in EP Ensley*

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.



We at xuni.com have designed and maintained author websites for almost 30 years, specializing in customized WordPress sites for writers in all genres and for both debut authors and those with dozens of books. We are in the business of creating functional beauty and are best known for our attention to detail and amazing responsiveness to clients.



Out of 360+ clients, these 19 are at LCC!
We are here too and would love to meet you.
Catch us at the 9 am Sunday panel on marketing
or look for us hanging out with our clients!

Maddee & Riley



Scan code
for full color
beauty!



*Fly with us!
Blackbird Writers*

Anne Louise Bannon Carl Vonderau
Valerie Biel Jeff Nania
Joy Ann Ribar Sharon Lynn
Avanti Centrae Colleen Winter
Kathleen Donnelly Saralyn Richard
Nick Chiarkas T. K. Sheffield
Christine DeSmet Tim Chapman
John DeDakis John Hoda
G.P. Gottlieb Sharon Michalove
Laurie Stevens Margaret Mizushima
Amanda Marbais Sherrill Joseph
Laurie Buchanan Sheila Lowe
Tracey S. Phillips

blackbirdwriters.substack.com

SIGNS OF OBSESSION

A NOVEL



A.F. WHITEHOUSE

Guest of Honor: Sara Paretsky

by SJ Rozan

When I was asked to write this essay my first reaction was, "What an honor! But how can I do justice to Sara Paretsky?" My second reaction was, "How can I not be redundant? Who would come to a mystery conference who doesn't already know all about Sara Paretsky?"

Oh, maybe not the details: the number of books she's written (24 novels, plus various short story collections, non-fiction books, and books of essays); the awards (too many to list them all, but some stand out: Ms. Magazine's 1987 Woman of the Year award, The Cartier Diamond Dagger for Lifetime Achievement from the British Crime Writers Association, the Anthony Award for Lifetime Achievement given at Bouchercon, the Mystery Writers of America Grandmaster Award); the biographical stuff (born in Iowa, raised in Kansas, since then in Chicago, a Midwesterner through and through); her close to 50-year marriage to Dr. Courtney Wright. But who Sara Paretsky is – surely everyone knows that, right? The woman is a goddess! (Actually she is a Goddess – all Past Presidents of Sisters in Crime carry that title, for life.)

But there's more to who Sara is than that. Every now and then the right person comes along at the right time and things change. Sara was that person, the 80's was that time, and what changed was the world of crime writing.

In 1987 I wasn't even a beginner writer. I was a maybe-someday-I'll-try-to-be-a writer. I was a big reader, though, and if I did ever write I knew what I wanted to write was crime. So I was a member of MWA and I'd been going to the Edgars for a couple of years, sitting at a table way in the corner and gaping at giants. That year, during Edgar week, a meeting was held of women writers and readers interested in forming an organization to help put women writers on an equal footing with men, in terms of reviews, awards, advances, and generally being taken seriously. I heard about the meeting and, as a leftist, feminist, and general troublemaker, I went. As it turned out, that was the founding meeting of Sisters in Crime. Sara, of course, was there, as she had been at the Bouchercon in 1986 when the first such meeting was held – convened by her. She became the first SinC President, and steered the organization until its bylaws were written and adopted and the whole thing formalized at the Bouchercon the next year.

At that point I already knew who Sara was, of course. I'd read *Indemnity Only* when it came out, and then *Deadlock*, and *Killing Orders*. VI Warshawski was my kinda gal – tough, fearless, self-sufficient, but not a loner; a dog lover, an athlete, a musician, a great and loyal friend. A woman, rare in crime fiction in those days, who had sex and didn't die. In my mind she fit right into the PI

pantheon. Except she was a woman; but to me that wasn't a bug, it was a feature.

More than VI, though, what knocked me out in the cases Sara created for her was Sara's loud, clear declaration that the individuals who'd committed the actual crimes were not the only criminals. The institutions above them were to blame, the shadowy, usually white-collar world where it



was all about money, big money, and culpability could easily be shrugged off onto someone who was, yes, guilty – but not ultimately responsible.

Sara's been praised, and rightly so, for her creation of VI, who became a role model for the female PIs who followed (and, not so coincidentally, also became the icebreaker steaming through the frozen-to-women seas of equity in crime publishing); for her relentless championing of women in the world of books; for her help and her friendships and her support of other women.

But I think what she's done in the VI books is more than that.

The PI form has always been about a lone hero, a knight errant, getting posthumous justice for the little guy. That's its historical precedent and philosophical base. Those of us who love it, love it for that reason: we crave the idea that there's someone out there who can ride to the rescue, who can take our side against the forces arrayed against us. Even if they're too late to save us, they can get some kind of justice for us.

What Sara's done is to bring that abstract idea home to the cultural and the political. The reason the little guy needs posthumous justice is that real-life modern-day institutions have crushed him (or, of course, her). The system we live in creates the conditions for the individual to be devoured by it. Sara's work crystalizes the abstract clouds of injustice in the PI novel into the hard shards of established, systemic inequality.

Lovers of PI novels have always sensed that this systemic inequality was the problem. Chandler, Hammett, both MacDonalds, almost said it. But not quite. It took a

Midwestern dame who all her life has been on the side of the oppressed to say the quiet part out loud: people can be evil, but evil systems allow and even encourage them to operate. The people must be stopped but more critically, the systems must be changed.

To my mind, the most important of Sara's many vital contributions to the world of crime writing is acknowledging and insisting upon the role of institutional greed and wrongdoing in the crimes of individuals. Once you read her you can't unsee that. Chandler famously said of Hammett that he took murder out of the Venetian vase and dropped it into the alley. Sara Paretsky challenges us to lift our eyes from the corpse in the alley to the edifices along the avenue, and to consider what institutions there bear the real responsibility for the crime.

Thank you, Sara.

SJ Rozan, a native New Yorker, is the author of 20 novels, including 15 in the Lydia Chin & Bill Smith series, and eight dozen short stories.

		<p>V.I. Warshawski, attorney turned private eye, in Chicago:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indemnity Only (1982) Deadlock (1984) Killing Orders (1985) Bitter Medicine (1987) Blood Shot (1988) APA: Toxic Shock (1988) Burn Marks (1990) Guardian Angel (1991) Tunnel Vision (1994) Windy City Blues (1995) [SS] APA: V.I. for Short (1995) Hard Time (1999) Total Recall (2001) Blacklist (2003) Fire Sale (2005) Hardball (2009) Body Work (2010) Breakdown (2012) Critical Mass (2013) Brush Back (2015) Fallout (2017) Shell Game (2018) Dead Land (2020) Love & Other Crimes [SS] (2020) Overboard (2022) Pay Dirt (2024) 	<p>Other fiction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Taste of Life (1995) [SS] Ghost Country (1998) Bleeding Kansas (2008) <p>Non-fiction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing in an Age of Silence (2007)

Guest of Honor: Manuel Ramos

by Nicolás Kanellos and Cristelia Pérez

Hands down, Manuel Ramos is the most renowned Latino mystery writer, one who has made his mark beyond ethnic designations and inspired followers from throughout the noir, hard-boiled detective, and legal thriller world – for his novels cut across these genres. The numerous edition and re-editions of what is now a ten-book series attest to the popularity and staying power of his creations.

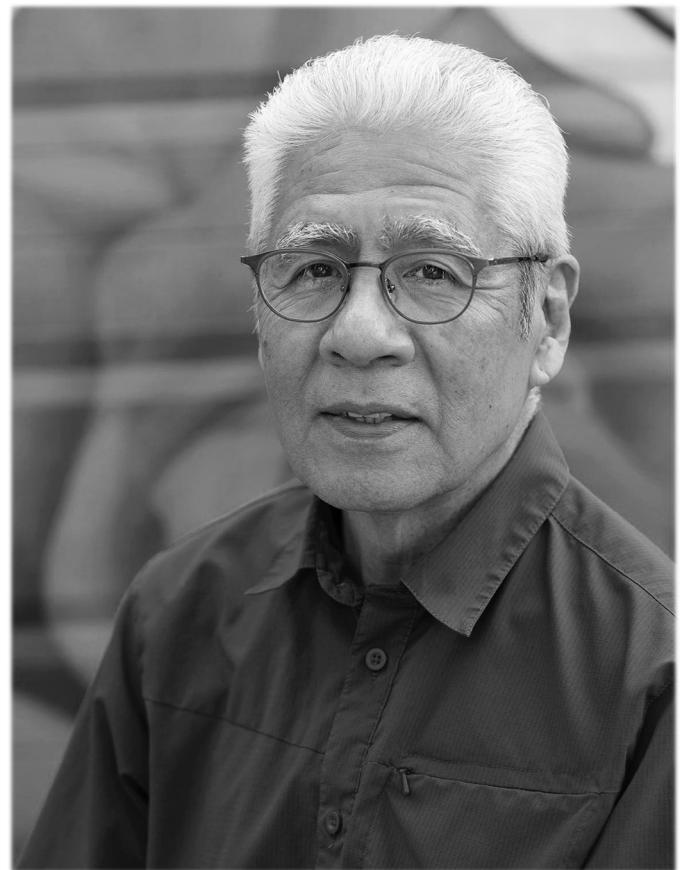
Born in Florence, Colorado, on March 6, 1948, Ramos bene-fited from a public education and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Colorado State University (1970) and a law degree from the University of Colorado (1973). Ramos has practiced law since then.

In the late 1980s, Ramos became more and more interested in literature, began reviewing books for the Denver media, and started writing. It was a natural for him to make the transition from his interest in the law to writing detective fiction; he also looked upon the medium as a way of understanding recent Chicano history and culture.

In 1993, Ramos published his first in the Luis Montez series of five books, *The Ballad of Rocky Ruiz*, in which the burned-out lawyer and middle-aged ex-Chicano civil rights activist Montez narrates his involvement in unraveling the mystery surrounding the murder of fellow activist Rocky Ruiz some twenty years earlier. In the next installment, *The Ballad of Gato Guerrero*, Montez is called upon to protect a deceased friend's family from a criminal gang. As in *Rocky Ruiz*, the setting is Denver and its Latino barrios, but here instead of the Chicano civil rights movement, the plot harkens back to the Vietnam War.

In *The Last Client of Luis Montez* (1996), Montez has to solve the murder of a legal client, which gives Ramos the excuse of reviewing and critiquing American life and culture in the 1990s. Despite the title of the former installment, Luis Montez lives on to continue detective work in *Blues for the Buffalo* (1997) as he searches for a Chicana writer, Rachel Espinoza, who has disappeared in Mexico; the plot takes a surprise turn for literary enthusiasts when her disappearance becomes linked to the real-life disappearance of Chicano writer Oscar Zeta Acosta in 1974. In *Brown-on-Brown* (2006), Montez gets involved in the Anglo-Hispanic conflict over water rights in the Colorado sand-dune country.

Ramos departed from the Montez mysteries in his *Mooney's Road to Hell* (2002), which now features private eye Danny Mora (Mooney) investigating the murder of an illegal immigrant in Denver; this allows Ramos to explore

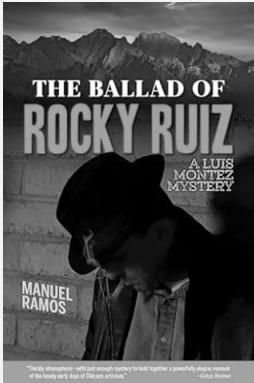


the whole underworld of labor smuggling, as well as revisit themes from the Chicano Movement.

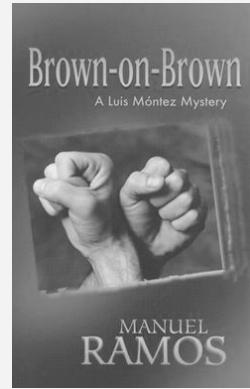
Manuel Ramos' second series of Rocky Mountain noir books are tied to the first but now feature the antihero Gus Corral, who had worked for Luis Montez in the first series. Moreso than in the first series, the narrator tracks the gentrification of the Mexican American barrio and ties the mysteries into current socio-political themes.

Among the awards garnered by Ramos are the University of California Irvine Chicano/Latino Prize (1991), a nomination for the Edgar Allan Poe Award given by the Mystery Writers of America (1993) and a Colorado Book Award (1994). Soon after the Luis Montez series went out of print at St. Martin's Press, Ramos was fortunate to have Northwestern University Press re-issue the four first volumes in the series, while the University of New Mexico Press has been issuing Ramos' newer works.

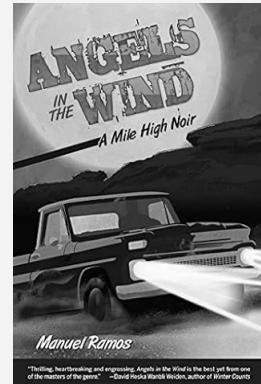
Nicolás Kanellos, Ph.D., Brown Foundation Professor, is Director of Arte Público Press. Cristelia Pérez, first marketing director for the press, inspired the Cristelia Pérez Award for Latino Young Adult Literature.



Luis Montez, attorney & former Chicano activist, in Denver:
The Ballad of Rocky Ruiz (1993)
The Ballad of Gato Guerrero (1994)
The Last Client of Luis Montez (1996)
Blues for the Buffalo (1997)
Brown-on-Brown (2003)



Gus Corral, ex-con and Denver PI, in the Mile High Noir series:
Desperado (2013)
My Bad (2016)
The Golden Havana Night (2018)
Angels in the Wind (2021)



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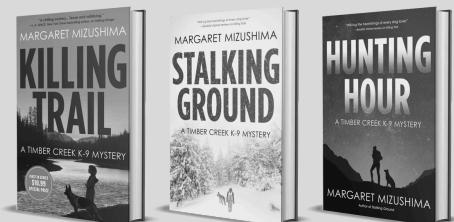
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—Deborah Crombie, *NYT* bestselling author

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—Hank Phillippi Ryan, *USA Today* bestselling author

“Mizushima has a gift when it comes to crafting immersive settings.”
—Associated Press

“It’s impossible not to fall in love with Robo.”
—Publishers Weekly, starred review

“Beautifully developed.”
—Library Journal, starred review



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Toastmaster: John Copenhaver

by Greg Herren

The first time I met John Copenhaver was on a diversity panel at Bouchercon in Toronto. He was new (not just to me but to the audience as well), his debut novel available only in ARC form, and as I listened to him talk – about writing, about being a queer writer, about what he was doing with his work – I became more and more interested in his writing. I read his incredible debut novel *Dodging and Burning*, and loved it so much I wished I could steal it and claim it as my own work.



The novel was smart, and beautifully written with gorgeous sentences exposing the hard truths about the scourge of this country's homophobic past. I added him to my list of "must-read" writers and he just gets better with each new book. He's won and been nominated for countless awards, including the Lefty, the Macavity, and the Lambda, his most recent was a New York Times Best of the Year selection, and he uses his remarkable talent to continue to explore and explain those dark times for queer people that he writes about – historical novels that are timeless, and just as fresh and current as anything set in the present day.

Since that first panel together, I've gotten to know John better as a person as well as a writer, and just get more impressed the more I learn. John not only is a talented crime writer, but he's a good person – the two don't always go together – and he cares about the community. He works with the Queer Crime Writers, has served on the Mystery Writers of America board of directors, and is always working to help raise the visibility of other queer writers.

I always feel smarter after talking to him or reading one of his books.

John is also a teacher, sharing with his lucky students his deep love of fiction and writing, and his

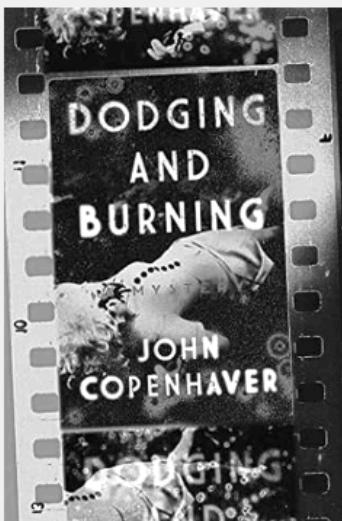
passion for books. Ask him about Patricia Highsmith sometime, and settle in for an intellection discussion of her work—breaking down imagery and symbolism and themes, queer coding in her work, and the themes of loneliness, brokenness, and the damage people do to each other—whether intentional or not. I could talk to John for hours about writing and books, and never be bored or lose interest.

Future generations will mark John as not only one of the best queer writers of our time, but one of the best writers, period.

I am very proud to call him a friend as well as a colleague.

And well done, Left Coast Crime, for selecting him as toastmaster. He is an excellent choice.

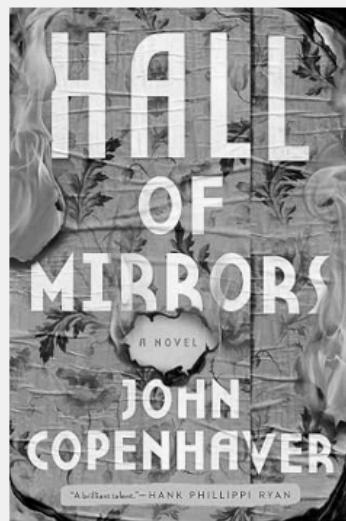
Greg Herren is an award-winning New Orleans author and editor. He writes two mystery series – the Chanse MacLeod and Scotty Bradley novels – as well as young adult fiction.



Non-series



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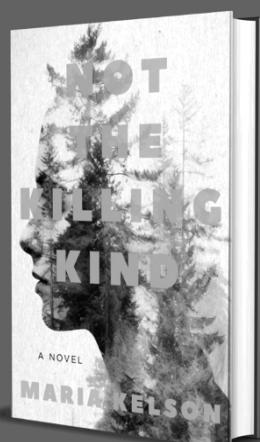
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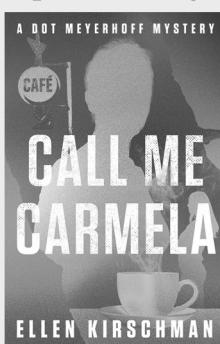
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Fan Guest of Honor: Grace Koshida

by Janet Rudolph

Some people have destination weddings; mystery fans have destination conventions. Grace Koshida, Fan Guest of Honor, goes beyond choosing a few restaurants, independent bookstores, and a couple of museums and galleries to accompany her Left Coast Crime experience. If you follow her on social media, you'll know she arrives at conventions early and leaves late spending time in the location. She knows the best places to stay before and after, the best

mysteries from all over the globe. And does Grace keep her opinion of books to herself? Nope. She has posted over 700 reviews online since she retired from a 27-year career with the Canadian Federal Government in 2016. She credits this to having more time to read. Her reviews can be found on NetGalley, Edelweiss, and Booksirens. She's also a vocal and visible mystery advocate on social media – she likes to spread the word about new authors!

But what about Conventions in Real Life? Denver is her 19th LCC! Tucson LCC in 2000 was her first. She says it's been a fun ride since then, going to LCCs in diverse locations such as Monterey, El Paso, Seattle, Denver, Kona, Los Angeles, Santa Fe, Monterey (again), Portland, Phoenix, Honolulu, Reno, Vancouver, San Diego, Albuquerque, and Bellevue. And, she keeps connected with authors and fans she meets at LCC through Facebook and other conventions.

Since there aren't many in-person bookstore events in Ottawa post-COVID, she attends 2-3 conventions a year. And talk about an amazing fan! Grace attends lots of Virtual book talks. She says she cut back post-COVID but she STILL watches several hundred events each year. By her own admission, she probably watches 12-15 book talks each month, which include First Chapter Fun with Hannah Mary McKinnon and Hank Phillipi Ryan, The Back Room, Poisoned Pen bookstore events, Rogue Women Writers' bimonthly event, Crime Time interviews with Hank Phillipi Ryan, and occasional podcasts. She listens to Authors on the Air with Pam Stack, now hosted by James L'Etoile; Twisted Passages with Marie Sutro; and Crime Wave with Bonnar Spring every week. And this is probably the tip of the iceberg!

But back to Grace herself. Grace describes herself as an introvert who can be gregarious with a small group of people. Yep, I can attest to that. Add to that, she is an avid walker. She's a member of the Capital City Walkers meetup group in Ottawa. They walk all year round, including during the long cold, snowy & icy Ottawa winters! Brrr...



restaurants, the most unique attractions, and terrific indie bookstores. Grace is an intrepid traveler, as well as the ultimate fan – of mysteries, locations, cultures, food, and so much more.

Just like her fondness for exotic and different cuisines and cultures, Grace approaches her reading in the same way. She's an eclectic reader. She likes cozy and comfortable crime novels, but also darker

One time when Grace was visiting San Francisco, we met at the Ferry Building on a Thursday, a market day. Grace knew which sandwich vendors were unique and fabulous, as well as which trucks and vendors had the best desserts! From there I joined her on a trek (for me), a gentle walk for her, to far-flung places in the City. She knew more venues and quirky places than I did, and how to get there, and I like to think of myself as a San Francisco aficionado. What an absolute treat! Spending time with Grace is to be treasured.

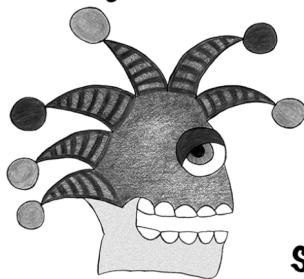
I mentioned that Grace likes food and food mysteries – and that reminds me that Grace in addition to ethnic foods, really likes CHOCOLATE. Who doesn't? Although she lives in Ottawa, several years ago I bumped into her at the San Francisco Chocolate Salon –what a surprise! Tasting chocolate together was such fun!

Writers and fans all love Grace, but she does have one enemy: Satan! Yes, this Canadian squirrel spends his time decimating the vegetables and herbs on her balcony. Follow Grace on social media to see how she tries to foil her nemesis. Satan the Squirrel makes getting an abundant veggie harvest very challenging.

So my advice to fans and authors here at LCC is to spend time with Fan Guest of Honor Grace Koshida. I hope you get a chance to chat with her and get to know her better at this convention, but if you don't, she's on social media. Follow her travels, read her reviews, interact at on-line events, and bask in "Grace Koshida, Fan Extraordinaire."

Janet Rudolph is the Editor of Mystery Readers Journal and blogs daily at MysteryFanfare.com and DyingforChocolate.com

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Annamaria Alfieri



Annamaria Alfieri's debut novel garnered praise from *The Washington Post*: "As both history and mystery *City of Silver* glitters." Of her *Strange Gods*, placed in 1911 British East Africa, the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* said "the flair of Isak Dinesen and Beryl Markham, the cunning of Agatha Christie and Elspeth Huxley." The series now includes *The Idol of Mombasa*, *The Blasphemers*, and *A Death on the Lord's Day*. Annamaria invites you 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 Award. His second novel, *Big F@!king Deal* was a Silver Falchion Top Choice in Comedy. The third in the series, *Go F@!k Yourself*, will be out in the fall. He holds an MFA in Playwriting from the University of Texas at Austin. He also performed improv, commedia, and clowning.

Insta @WriteLarryWrite & LawrenceAllanWrites.com

Tom Andes



Tom Andes wrote the detective novel *Wait There Till You Hear from Me*, forthcoming from Crescent City Books in 2025. His stories have appeared in dozens of publications including *Best American Mystery Stories 2012*, Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, and Santa Monica Review. He lives in Albuquerque, where he is a working musician, performing solo and with several bands. He's taught writing privately and at a bunch of places and also works in catering. His two acclaimed EPs of original songs will be rereleased on vinyl by Southern Crescent Recording Co. in 2025.

tomandes.com

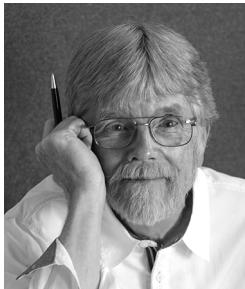
Jeff Ayers AKA AJ Landau



Jeff Ayers is the author of several books, including *Voyages of Imagination: The Star Trek Fiction Companion* for Simon and Schuster/Pocket Books. He has interviewed hundreds of authors for magazines, newspapers, and podcasts and has been a book reviewer for The Associated Press and Booklist. He currently reviews suspense thrillers and mysteries for Library Journal, Criminal Element, and firstCLUE. Jeff co-writes the National Park thriller series for Minotaur under the name A.J. Landau and co-writes the Jigsaw Puzzle Mysteries for Crooked Lane. He is a retired public librarian and former co-executive director for ThrillerFest. He lives near Seattle, Washington.

www.jeffayersbooks.com

Mark S. Bacon



On Thursday, March 13, Mark S. Bacon celebrates the publication of *The Woke and the Dead*, his fifth Nostalgia City mystery. Murder prompts a public war between a sunbelt governor and a theme park. He lambasts the park for its inclusiveness and tries to regulate it out of business. Nostalgia City theme park recreates a small town from the 1970s. Bacon gets some of his ideas from experience as a So. Calif. newspaper police reporter and as a copywriter for Knott's Berry Farm theme park. He taught university journalism in California and Nevada and is trying to teach his golden retriever to stop pulling the leash.

baconsmysteries.com

Michael Balter



Michael Balter is an award-winning author and a former entrepreneur. His debut novel, *Chasing Money*, won multiple honors, including the Best Indie Book Award for Crime Thrillers, the Feathered Quill Award for Best Mystery/Thriller, and the 2024 Crime Thriller of the Year Award from BestThrillers.com. Michael's first novel features two hapless businessmen, Marty and Bo, pitted against a ruthless Russian killer in a desperate search for \$10 million and a missing masterpiece. The sequel is based on a 2004 business deal Michael made with the Vatican, coincidentally the year of Italy's biggest mafia war. *The Vatican Deal* will be released this May.

mbalter.com

Anne Louise Bannon



Author Anne Louise Bannon's husband says that his wife kills people for a living. Bannon does mostly write mysteries, including the Old Los Angeles Series, the Freddie and Kathy series, and the Operation Quickline series. She has worked as a freelance journalist for magazines and newspapers, including the Los Angeles Times. She and her husband, Michael Holland, created the OddBallGrape.com wine education blog, and she co-wrote a book on poisons. She and her husband live in Southern California with an assortment of critters.

AnneLouiseBannon.com

Wendy M. Barnhart



International bestselling author Wendy M. Barnhart received her first library card at age two, and a few years later started writing her own stories. Her current project is about a female serial killer and the women who love her. Wendy is on the board of Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers, and is a member of the Colorado Authors' League, and the Author's Guild. She's a proud dog mom, team dark chocolate, and believes every dose of nature nurtures the soul. Wendy also champions pet adoption from rescues or shelters.

wendymbarnhart.com

Jon Bassoff



Jon Bassoff is the author of ten novels, including his latest, *The Memory Ward* (Blackstone Publishing). His mountain gothic novel, *Corrosion*, has been translated into French and German and was nominated for the Grand Prix de Litterature Policiere, France's biggest crime fiction award. His novel *The Drive-Thru Crematorium* has been adapted for the big screen with a filming date set for this summer. For his day job, Bassoff teaches high school English where he is known by students and faculty alike as the deranged writer guy. He is a connoisseur of tequila, hot sauces, psychobilly music, and flea-bag motels.

www.jonbassoff.com

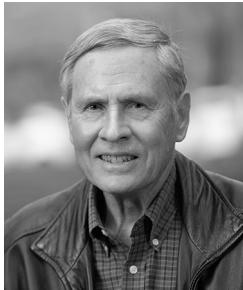
Pamela Beason



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

Mike Befeler



Mike Befeler is author of twenty-three books including *The Adventures of Sure Luck Holmes*, *A Mystery Yarn*, *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 continues to make his kids and grandkids groan with dumb dad jokes.

www.mikebefeler.com

Francelia Belton



Francelia Belton writes crime stories because committing a real one would disappoint her family. As a kid, she got hooked on shows like *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* and *The Twilight Zone*. Inspired by what amazing tales could be told in half an hour, she was naturally drawn to short fiction. Love, loss, and betrayal are reoccurring elements in her stories because why else do good people do bad things? Read more of her stories at: Francel.BE/Writing-Stories

Rhoda Berlin



After 25 years as a marriage and family therapist, Rhoda Berlin co-authored a non-fiction book about multicultural relationships. This revitalized her dream of writing fiction and, several years later, resulted in *See Me*, her first novel. Rhoda's professional experiences plus those as a second generation Korean American continue to inspire her. When not debating storylines and dialogue with characters populating her brain, Rhoda enjoys life with her husband in the Pacific Northwest.

rhodaberlin.com

Connie Berry



Connie Berry, ardent Anglophile and self-confessed history nerd, 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 Ohio and northern Wisconsin with her husband and adorable Shih Tzu, Emmie. Her latest novel, *A Grave Deception*, is coming in Fall 2025.

www.connieberry.com

Dale Berry



Dale Berry is an author, illustrator, commercial artist, and independent comics creator 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, and as his own imprint (www.myriadpubs.com). He and Phillips contributed the chapter on “Graphic Novels” to the Agatha award winning MWA Handbook *How To Write a Mystery*. Dale’s life includes time as a carnival barker, Pinkerton’s guard, professional stagehand, radio DJ and Cal State University fencing instructor. His work has been optioned for film and animation development. He’s currently shopping a non-fiction book, *Bullets and Balloons: Crime, Culture and Comic Book History*, and serves as Board Member At-Large for the Northern California chapter of MWA. He looks nothing like his photo.

Mysti Berry



Mysti writes short stories and edited *Low Down Dirty Vote*, three volumes of short stories that raised money for voting rights. Volume 3 was nominated for an Anthony award in 2023. Her next short story, “Nikki in a Box,” appears in the Down & Out Books anthology *Better Off Dead*, Volume 2, in December, 2025. Find Mysti sipping single-malt whisky or writing her first historical mystery, set during the 1938 Hilo Massacre – an era and location where Mysti’s real-life haole mother was born. She lives in San Francisco with husband Dale Berry and a cheerful black rescue cat, Rocket J. Squirrel.

Susan Alice Bickford



Susan Alice Bickford was born in Boston and grew up in Central New York. Eventually she migrated to Silicon Valley to work in high tech in a variety of engineering and managerial roles. Susan writes thrillers and suspense stories that are deeply embedded in the rural areas of New York State and New England, featuring resourceful female protagonists. Her short stories have appeared in several Sisters in Crime chapter and other publications. Her debut novel, *A Short Time To Die*, was nominated for Left Coast Crime Best Debut Novel. Her second novel, *Dread of Winter*, was nominated for an Edgar.

susanalicebickford.com

Valerie Biel



My stories for preteens to adults include the award-winning Circle of Nine fantasy series (inspired by Ireland’s stone circles) and my debut mystery novel, *Beyond the Cemetery Gate*. I use my powers for good to help authors navigate the crazy publishing world! I’m a Blackbird Writers’ founding member and a member of SinC. When I’m not at my computer, I’m probably wrangling my garden, reading multiple books per week, or traveling the world. I live in Wisconsin on a (tiny) piece of my family’s century-old farm, despite my teenage vow to get the heck out of dodge!

ValerieBiel.com

Dan Birk



Dan Birk is the author of *Confessions of a Dangerous Girl*, a YA spy thriller about a psychopathic teenage assassin trying to become a better person. Dan taught high school English in Vienna, Austria, and Brooklyn, New York, before selling out to become a lawyer. He now lives in Chicago with his wife and a very loud hound dog. In addition to the sequel to *Confessions*, Dan is currently working on a YA historical fantasy set at the University of Paris in the thirteenth century that centers on – what else – a mystery.

danbirkauthor.com

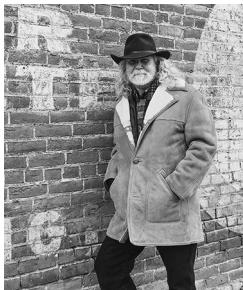
Mary Birk



Mary Birk, a former trial lawyer and avid gardener, lives and writes in Colorado. After graduating from law school, she moved from North Dakota with her late husband to Colorado where they raised their children and dogs, and together worked to turn two and a half acres into a high-country garden retreat. Ms. Birk has been named a Library Journal SELF-E Select author. Her Terrence Reid/Anne Michaels mystery series combines her love for gardening and passion for all things Scottish.

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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 is the author of the Ty Dawson series, described as “Longmire meets Yellowstone in the 1970s.” Birtcher has also been nominated for the Lefty, Nero, Foreword Indie, Claymore, Xanadu, 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*. NYT Bestselling author Don Winslow says, “You want to read Birtcher’s books, then you want to live in them.” facebook.com/BaronRBirtcher

Rhonda Blackhurst



Rhonda’s day job used to be wrangling criminals in the justice system. But now she has much more fun creating them. When she hears “That would never happen,” she knows that yes, it can, and it does! She’s the author of the Melanie Hogan Mystery Series, the Whispering Pines Romantic Suspense Duology, and the Spirit Lake Mysteries. She’s also a certified life coach. She can be found in her home office dreaming up new crimes and criminals with dark chocolate and coffee.

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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!

Mary Alyce (M.A.) Blume



When Covid abruptly ended her career as a theatrical tour publicist, M.A. Blume turned her flirtation with mystery writing into a fully committed relationship. Her short stories have been published in *Malice Domestic Mystery Most Diabolical* and *Black Cat Weekly*, and her current WIP was both a Silver Falchion Top Pick and Hugh Holton Finalist (2024). She serves as Vice President of SinC-Chicagoland and is a member of MWA national and Midwest. A lifelong Chicagoan who loves her city, she enjoys a beautiful day on the lake as much as a deviously crafted locked room mystery.

mabscriber.com

Debra Bokur



Frequently accused of drinking too much tea and getting lost deliberately, Debra Bokur is the author of the Dark Paradise Mysteries series (Kensington), and a professional voice actor who narrates for Audible. A contributing author to *Spreading the Word: Editors on Poetry* (The Bench Press, 2001), she's the former poetry editor at Many Mountains Moving literary journal, an award-winning journalist and editor, and longtime regular contributor to national publications including Global Traveler Magazine. She divides her time between Colorado and coastal Maine.

Substack Detours from Wonderland & Insta [debrabokur & debrabokur.com](https://debrabokur.com)

David Boop



David Boop is an author, editor, screenwriter and award-winning essayist. His novels include *She Murdered Me with Science* (sci-fi/noir) and *The Drowned Horse Chronicle* (weird western). David edited best-selling and award nominated weird western, space western, and pulp anthologies. In short fiction, he's worked with characters such as The Green Hornet, Kolchak, and Veronica Mars. He co-writes a thriller series set in the 80s called C.R.I.M.E. Pays, and the flash fiction Trace Walker Temporary Mysteries. Dave's influences include Rex Stout, Dick Francis, Michael Connolly, and Arthur Conan Doyle.

www.longshot-productions.net & FB @dboop.updates

Claire Booth



Claire Booth used to be a newspaper reporter, where she got to live all sorts of places and cover all sorts of crimes – the unusual, the sordid, the silly. She went from Nevada to Missouri to Washington, DC, South Florida, the Seattle region, and the Bay Area. Eventually, she decided it was time to leave newspapers. But she missed writing desperately (that sounds better than saying she missed crime), so she decided to start writing books. She is now the author of the acclaimed Sheriff Hank Worth mystery series, which is set in Branson, Missouri, and includes the Lefty-nominated *Home Fires*.

www.clairebooth.com

Rhys Bowen



Rhys Bowen is the New York Times bestselling author of the Molly Murphy and Royal Spyness historical mystery series. She now writes the Molly books with daughter Clare Broyles. She is also known for several internationally bestselling stand alone novels including *The Venice Sketchbook* (Edgar nominee) and *The Rose Arbor*, now nominated for a Mary Higgins Clark Award. Her books are translated into over thirty languages. Rhys was born and raised in England but now divides her time between California and Arizona.

Rhysbowen.com

Fleur Bradley



Fleur Bradley Visscher is the author of numerous short crime fiction stories and mysteries for kids, including award-winning *Daybreak on Raven Island* and *Midnight at the Barclay Hotel* (Viking/PRH), as well as the Double Vision trilogy (HarperCollins). She is a literacy advocate and speaks at educator conventions on reaching reluctant readers. Fleur lives in a cottage in the foothills of the Colorado Rockies with a cat named Floof.

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Randal Brandt



Randal Brandt is a librarian at The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, where he serves as Head of Cataloging and as Curator of the California Detective Fiction Collection. He is a member of the American Library Association's Rare Books and Manuscripts Section and the Northern California chapter of Mystery Writers of America.

[Ed. Note: Randal will be the Fan Guest of Honor at LCC #36 in San Francisco next February.]

Peg Brantley



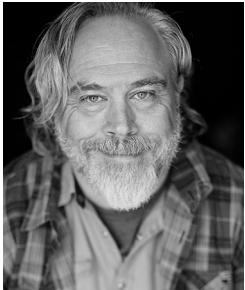
A Colorado native, award-winning suspense/thriller author Peg Brantley and her husband make their home southeast of Denver, sharing it over time with the occasional pair of mallard ducks and their babies, snapping turtles, peacocks, assorted other birds, foxes, a deer named Cedric, and currently a bichon named Quinn. With the intent to bring credibility to her stories, Peg graduated from the Aurora Citizens' Police Academy, participated in the Writers' Police Academy, has interviewed crime scene investigators, FBI agents, human trafficking experts, obtained her Concealed Carry Permit, studied diverse topics from arson dogs to Santeria, and hunted down real-life locations that show up in her books. pegbrantley.substack.com & www.pegbrantley.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 latest short story, "Mother Clucker," can be found in the 2024 Capitol Crimes Chapter Anthology, *Farm to Foul Play*. No librarians are involved in that story, only a bad boyfriend and some fancy chickens. She is working hard to finish her first novel, which was a finalist for the Claymore Award for unpublished manuscripts at Killer Nashville 2023. www.sarahbresniker.com

Wes Browne



Wes Browne lives within the Kentucky River Basin in Madison County, Kentucky. He has practiced law as a criminal defense attorney, prosecutor, and public defender in Appalachia for over 24 years. He also helps run his family's pizza shops. His novel *They All Fall the Same* was named one of 2025's biggest mystery or thriller releases by Goodreads and one of 2025's most anticipated books by Book Riot Read or Dead. His debut novel *Hillbilly Hustle* was named one of 17 recommended lockdown reads by Merriam-Webster in 2020.

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Clare Broyles



Clare Broyles is the co-author of the Molly Murphy series with her mother, Rhys Bowen. She is a music and math teacher at Villa Montessori School in Phoenix, as well as an AriZoni nominated theater composer and arranger and a member of a local improv troupe, The Outcasters. She lives in Phoenix with her husband and two goofy dogs. They have three children who have all flown the nest. Clare's latest novel is *Silent as the Grave* (Molly Murphy Book 21), released March 2025.

www.clarebroyles.com

Craig Faustus Buck



Craig Faustus Buck's short story "Home Game," was recently selected by Otto Penzler and John Grisham for their anthology *The Best Mystery Stories of the Year 2025*. Craig was a journalist before he moved into nonfiction books, co-writing two New York Times #1 best-sellers—one pop-psychology, the other pop-gynecology. He transitioned into television writing-producing, where he toiled for too many decades to admit. Now he's writing what he most loves to read: crime fiction. His short stories have been nominated for many awards. Publishers Weekly called his debut novel, *Go Down Hard*, "a solid romp through territory that Raymond Chandler first put on the map." He is currently shopping his next novel, *Go Down Screaming*.

Leslie Budewitz AKA Alicia Beckman



Leslie Budewitz tells stories about women's lives, seasoned with friendship, food, a dash of history, and a spoonful of mystery. She writes the Spice Shop mysteries set in Seattle's Pike Place Market, as well as the Food Lovers' Village mysteries and historical short fiction set in her native Montana. As Alicia Beckman, she writes moody suspense set in the Northwest. A three-time Agatha Award winner and past president of Sisters in Crime, she lives in NW Montana with her husband, the ghosts of half a dozen dogs and cats, and untold numbers of deer, bear, and chickadees.

www.lesliebudewitz.com

Jodi Burnett



Jodi Burnett is a Colorado native and a mountain girl at heart. She loves writing Mystery and Suspense Thrillers from her mountain home in the Colorado Rockies where she dotes on her dogs and horses, complains about her cows, and writes to create a home for her imaginings. She is the author of both novels and novellas over four series: The Flint River Series, FBI K9 Thrillers, Tin Star K9, and the US Marshal Thrillers. Her books are available in paperback, eBook, and audiobook formats. Inspired by nature and fascinating humans, Jodi fosters her creative side by writing, painting watercolors, quilting, crafting stained-glass, and traveling. She is a member of Novelists, Inc. and Sisters In Crime. jodi-burnett.com

Ellen Byerrum



Sometimes you chase the dream and sometimes the dream chases you. When one of those mysterious nighttime visions wouldn't let go of Ellen Byerrum, it became the first chapter of *Crook Tales for Two*, which took the 1st place prize for mystery/crime/detective fiction in the 2024 Colorado Independent Publishers Association's EVVY Awards. She is currently writing a sequel to this rollicking post-Prohibition screwball noir set in 1934 Manhattan. A former journalist in Washington, D.C., as well as a produced and published playwright, Byerrum also writes the Crime of Fashion Mysteries, two of which, *Killer Hair* and *Hostile Makeover*, were filmed for Lifetime.

www.ellenbyerrum.com

Ellen Byron AKA Maria DiRicio



Ellen transitioned from writing sitcoms to penning humorous mysteries and has never been happier. She's an Anthony nominee and recipient of multiple Agatha and Lefty awards. *A Very Woodsy Murder*, Golden Motel Mysteries #1, is nominated for a Best Humorous Mystery Lefty award. (Fun fact: the name of the first murder victim was inspired by three TV writers she detested. A fourth will be killed off in a future book.) Ellen is also an award-winning playwright, but considers working as a cater-waiter for Martha Stewart her most impressive achievement.

www.ellenbyron.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

Mindy Carlson



Mindy Carlson is the Silver Falchion Award-nominated author of *Her Dying Day*. She lives outside Washington, DC with her two kids, two cats, and one economist husband. There's nothing she loves more than a night in with a pot of tea, a sweater to knit, and a murder mystery on the TV. (Yes, she is basically a British Granny.) She also loves curling, baking, drag brunches, and procrastinating on big DIY projects.

www.MindyCarlson.com

Marco Carocari



Marco Carocari originally hails from Switzerland and now lives in the Californian desert. His debut novel, *Blackout*, was nominated for a Lefty and won TheNYCBigBookAward and Independent Press Award for Best LGBTQ Novel. His short stories appeared in the Malice Domestic, the Saints & Sinners Anthologies, as well as the forthcoming Bywater Books anthology *Crime Ink: Iconic*.

www.marcocarocari.com

Rodney Carpentier



Before releasing his debut novel, *Our Lady of the Overlook*, in 2024, R.L. Carpentier, III had worked in law enforcement for more than 18 years. He realized that the stable, cushy civil service lifestyle he was living was too mundane and decided that he'd add being an independent, self published author. His wife and pre-teen daughter could not be reached for comment for this bio, but in the AI-generated photos provided, they look supportive. Attempting to further complicate his life, R.L. is going to self-publish the second book in the Overlook Series this fall.

www.rlcarpentierwriter.com

Glenda Carroll



Better Off Dead, the fourth book in the Trisha Carson mystery series is out! I place my mysteries in or around water. This time is no different. Here's a teaser: "A gruesome boating accident in the cold waters of San Francisco Bay kills a prominent financier training for an open water swim. Amateur sleuth Trisha Carson hunts down the killer and locates more than one person seeking deadly revenge." I've been a long-time journalist and a professional communications manager. Currently I tutor first-generation, low-income high schoolers in English and History. I live in San Rafael, CA with my pup, McCovey.

glendacarroll.com

Diana R. Chambers



Diana R. Chambers was born with a book in one hand and passport in the other. She studied Asian art history at university, worked at a Paris translation agency, then began an export business in India. This led to Hollywood costuming... then scriptwriting until her characters demanded their own novels. Her latest, *The Secret War of Julia Child*, published by Sourcebooks Landmark, was a People magazine and Washington Post Best Book of 2024. A former president of SinC-NorCal, Diana lives in Sonoma County and Aix-en-Provence with her fellow-traveler husband, artist daughter, and Marco Polo the Cat. She continues to follow her stories around the world.

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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 international 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.

www.wombatgroup.com

Lina Chern



Lina Chern is the author of *Play the Fool*, winner of the 2024 Mary Higgins Clark Award and nominee for the 2024 Lefty and Anthony Awards. A sequel, *Tricks of Fortune*, is forthcoming in 2025. Other work has appeared in Mystery Weekly, The Marlboro Review, The Bellingham Review, Rhino, The Collagist, and Black Fox Literary Magazine. Lina 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.

Insta @linachernwrites & www.linachern.com

Jennifer J. Chow



Jennifer J. Chow adds magic to her mysteries, whether it's through enchanted pastries (Magical Fortune Cookie series), charming cousins (L.A. Night Market mysteries), or a snarky talking cat (Sassy Cat books). Jennifer blogs with other writers with a killer sense of humor at Chicks on the Case. Her supportive writing community includes Crime Writers of Color, Mystery Writers of America, and Sisters in Crime. She lives in resilient Los Angeles with her family. Sign up for her cozy connection newsletter, plus check out her Agatha, Lefty, and Lilian Jackson Braun Award-nominated books at www.jenniferjchow.com

Aaron Philip Clark



Aaron Philip Clark is the author of the International Thriller Writers Award-nominated Detective Trevor Finnegan series and has co-written and collaborated on works of fiction with rap artist and entertainment mogul Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson, Civil Rights Attorney and activist Benjamin L. Crump, and a variety of public figures and luminaries. Clark's forthcoming novels, *All the Smoke* (Amistad) and *The Bluest Nigh*, a Trevor Finnegan novel (Severn House), will be published in 2025. In addition to writing fiction and screenplays, Clark teaches a variety of creative writing courses at UCLA Extension and finds inspiration while exploring the many facets of Los Angeles.

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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 in her books. 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." She also wrangled the Colorado Mystery Merge anthology for SinC-CO. Visit her website for free books and short stories.

BeckyClarkBooks.com

Tracy Clark



Tracy Clark, a native Chicagoan, is the award-winning author of the Cass Raines Chicago Mystery series and the Detective Harriet Foster series, both set in Chicago. She is a multi-nominated Anthony, Lefty, Edgar, International Thriller Writers, Macavity, and Shamus Award finalist. Tracy is also the 2020 and 2022 winner of the G.P. Putnam's Sons Sue Grafton Memorial Award, the 2022 Sara Paretsky Award, the 2024 Lefty Award for Best Mystery Novel and the 2024 Anthony Award for Best Paperback Original. She is a member of Crime Writers of Color, Rogue Women Writers, Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime and sits on the boards of Bouchercon National and the Midwest Mystery Conference.

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Nancy Coco



USA Today Bestselling Author, Nancy Coco AKA Nell Hampton AKA Nancy Parra is the author of 40 published novels which include five mystery series: The Oregon Honey-comb Mystery Series (Kensington), The Candy-Coated Mysteries (Kensington), The Kensington Palace Mystery Series (Crooked Lane), The Wine Country Tours Mystery Series (Crooked Lane) The Gluten-free Baker's Treat Mysteries (Berkley Prime Crime), and The Perfect Proposal Mysteries (Berkley Prime Crime). Her writing has been called witty and her protagonists plucky by reviewers around the world. Nancy is a member of Sisters in Crime, and loves to hear from readers.

www.nancyjcoco.com

Peter Colt



Peter Colt is a 1996 graduate of the University of Rhode Island with a BA in Political Science. Colt was a 24-year veteran of the Army Reserve with deployments to Kosovo and Iraq as an Army Civil Affairs officer. He is currently a police officer in Providence, Rhode Island. He is married with two sons and two perpetually feuding cats. He is the author of the Andy Roark series of books, *The Off-Islander* (Kensington 2019), *Back Bay Blues* (Kensington 2020), and *Death at Fort Devens* (Severn House 2022), *The Ambassador* (Severn House 2023), and *The Judge* (Severn House 2024). He has also published short stories in Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine.

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Cate Conte



Liz Mugavero / Cate Conte is a bestselling mystery author, creativity coach, and lover of all things magical. She writes the Pawsitively Organic Mysteries as Liz Mugavero, and the Cat Café Mysteries and Full Moon Mysteries – filled with magic, witches, mystery and of course, cats – as Cate Conte. When she's not plotting fictional murders, she helps writers find their voice and finish their books through her The Creativity Lab and her Get Writing podcast. A firm believer in storytelling, intuition, and a little crystal magic, Liz knows creativity is most powerful when we embrace our inner magic.

www.cateconte.com

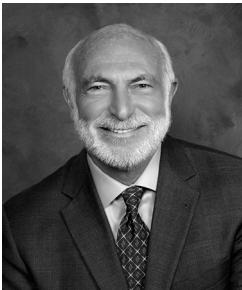
Ron Cook



Ron Cook, a native Californian, has written most of his adult life. He composed hundreds of songs as a rock musician, penned many manuals as a technical writer, and wrote dozens of short stories and poetry, as well as a dulcimer how-to-play book. After sort-of retiring, he has been writing novels, including his Charles Blue Paranormal Mystery series. The first three books, set in San Francisco, Santa Cruz, and England, feature warlock Charles Blue and his witch girlfriend, Bell. When not writing, Ron makes stringed instruments and furniture in his wood shop, goes to the gym, and (guilty pleasure) plays games on his tablet. Ron is a member of MWA and Sisters in Crime. His most recent book is *Time on Our Hands*.

www.roncook-author.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, *Wages of Empire*, and *Crossroads of Empire* set in WW1. Escaping high school, he emigrated to Israel and spent the next decade in study there. 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. He's currently on the lam in Northern California.

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John Copenhaver



John Copenhaver is an award-winning author whose latest novel, *Hall of Mirrors*, was selected as a New York Times Crime Novel of the Year. His debut, *Dodging and Burning*, won the 2019 Macavity Award for Best First Mystery, and *The Savage Kind* earned the 2021 Lambda Literary Award for Best LGBTQ Mystery. A passionate advocate for queer voices, Copenhaver is a founding member of Queer Crime Writers and serves as a board member of International Thriller Writers. A lifelong educator, he mentors aspiring writers in the Low-Residency MFA program at the University of Nebraska and teaches creative writing and literature at VCU. He lives in Richmond, Virginia, with his husband, artist Jeffery Paul Herryt.

www.johncopenhaver.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 began his forty-year investigative career in law enforcement and then moved into private and corporate investigations. He attended the Institute of American Indian Arts, earning his MFA-Creative Writing. Mr. Cramer conducted thousands of investigations throughout the Americas and Asia. He kept his investigative skills honed by volunteering as a Missing Person's investigator at a California Police Department. Book II in the Hector Miguel Navarro series is scheduled for release later this fall.

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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, an NYFA grant, Eric Hoffer Award, Glimmer Train Awards Honorable Mention, a Killer Nashville Claymore finalist, two Grand prize, and six First prize Chanticleer Awards. Crowens writes multi-genre alternate history, time travel, and historical Hollywood mystery in *Hounds of the Hollywood Baskervilles* and *Bye Bye Blackbird*. www.elizabethcrowens.com

Erynn Crowley



Erynn Crowley (writing as Erynn Leigh) is an Arizona-based writer with Midwestern roots. She writes character-driven traditional mysteries with a touch of suspense. Erynn's former career in urban planning/neighborhood revitalization provides abundant inspiration for world building, colorful characters and plot lines. When not at the keyboard writing, she is most likely reading, traveling, doing genealogy research, or dabbling in mixed media collage art.

erynnleigh.com

Jenny Dandy



Jenny Dandy writes the Houses of Crime Mystery series. A debut author at 65 with *The Brownstone on E. 83rd*, her second in the series, *The Penthouse on Park Avenue* releases at the end of April 2025. She graduated from Smith College with a degree in English Literature and from Lighthouse Writers Workshop Book Project with a completed manuscript. She lives and writes in the Rocky Mountains where she would never scam a dinner guest nor launder money for criminals.

jennydandy.com

Anne Da Vigo



Anne Da Vigo is an award-winning former police and court reporter who wrote about murder and mayhem for newspapers throughout California. Now she writes thrillers inspired by real events. *Night Flight* is her most recent thriller. It's particularly vivid for her because the horrendous airplane crash that inspired the book occurred in her home town of Denver, Colorado. In researching *Night Flight*, she visited sites still remaining that are connected to the murderer, John Gilbert Graham. She lives in Northern California, where she writes weekly with Monday Night Writers, a group she co-founded in 1994.

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Kim Davis



Kim Davis writes the Aromatherapy Apothecary cozy mystery series, with the first book, *Essentials of Murder*, released last fall. Recently she released the seventh book, *Chocolate Can Be Deadly*, in the award-winning Cupcake Catering cozy mystery series. Her mischievous mini goldendoodle and grand doggie star on the covers and on the pages. She also writes the Cinnamon, Sugar, and a Little Bit of Murder cozy culinary mystery blog, featuring reviews of cozy mysteries along with a recipe from the book, and photos of the prepared dish.

cinnamonsugarandalittlebitofmurder.com & kimdavisauthor.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*. Janet has written numerous short stories. She lives in Alameda, California.

www.janetdawson.com

Maddie Day



Maddie Day writes the Country Store Mysteries, the Cozy Capers Book Group Mysteries, the Cece Barton Mysteries, and the historical Dot and Amelia Mysteries. As besotted first-time Gram Edith Maxwell, she writes the Agatha-Award winning historical Quaker Midwife Mysteries and short crime fiction. She's a member of Mystery Writers of America and a proud lifetime member of Sisters in Crime. Maxwell/Day lives north of Boston with her beau and their cat Martin, where she writes, cooks, gardens, and wastes time on Facebook

wickedauthors.com & edithmaxwell.com

Tracee de Hahn



Tracee de Hahn received her B. Architecture and MA in history from the University of Kentucky. She practiced architecture before moving to Paris (which felt like the right choice) and upon return to the US ran a non-profit for planning and preservation. After another stint in Europe – this time in Venice and Lausanne subconsciously researching a book – she and her husband moved to California where she was assistant vice president of Alumni Relations at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Finally (big sigh) she turned to writing full time, and her mysteries set in Switzerland were published by Minotaur Books. She currently lives in Virginia and serves as president of Sisters in Crime, a community of writers everyone should join!

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A.J. Devlin



I reckon A.J. Devlin grew up in Greater Vancouver before movin' on down to SoCal for 7 years where he earned himself a rootin'-tootin' BA in Screenwriting from Chapman University and a mighty-fine MFA in Screenwriting from The American Film Institute Conservatory. After workin' with wussies in Tinseltown as a script-fella, AJ moved back to his ranch in Port Moody, BC, Canada where he now lives quietly wranglin' his two little ones, chasin' bears and deer with his hundred-pound alpine mountain dog DOOKABOOM, and tellin' tall tales with them "Hammerhead" Jed books. AJ proudly serves as a board member and marketing and fundraising delegate for the Federation of British Columbia Writers and Crime Writers of Canada.

www.ajdevlin.com

Z.S. Diamanti



Z.S. Diamanti is the award-winning author of the Stone & Sky series, an epic fantasy adventure and *Guard in the Garden*, the first book in the Fables of Finlestia cozy fantasy series. He attended college forever and has far too many pieces of paper on his wall. He's a USAF veteran and worked in ministry for over 10 years before pursuing creative endeavors full-time. He and his wife live in Colorado with their four children where they enjoy hikes, camping, and tabletop games.

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Catherine Dilts



Catherine Dilts was inspired to write a murder mystery after being tormented by a dreadful co-worker. She took out her homicidal frustration in a fictional format, resulting in her first short story sale. Author of the Rose Creek and Rock Shop mystery series, and write-for-hire projects with Annie's Fiction, she also continues writing short fiction. Ten of her stories appear in Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine. After a career in environmental compliance for a global corporation, Catherine now gets to write full time. Most of her fiction has a cozy mystery flavor.

www.catherinedilts.com

Ann Dominguez



When Ann told her parents she wanted to be a writer, they told her to get a back-up job. She became a doctor and has practiced medicine in Chicago, Colorado, Haiti, Thailand, and Guatemala. Her debut medical thriller, *The Match*, won the Colorado Gold award for Best Mystery/Fiction, and was followed by *Lost Things* and *The Code*, both in the Kate Deming Medical Suspense Series. She also writes short fiction and has a story in the 2024 Colorado Mystery Merge anthology. One day she hopes to finish a cup of tea before it gets cold.

anndominguezbooks.com

Kathleen Donnelly



Kathleen Donnelly writes the National Forest K-9 series and her first book for Harlequin's Romantic Suspense line, *Colorado K-9 Rescue*, will be released in September. Kathleen was a K-9 handler for Sherlock Hounds Detection Canines – a Colorado-based company. She retired from working K-9s, but continues to enjoy crafting realism into her fictional stories from her dog-handling experience. Her books have won several awards including the Pencraft 2024 Book of the Year, the Best Book award from the American Book Fest and have also been finalists for the Silver Falchions, Colorado Authors League Award and the CIBA Mystery and Mayhem Award.

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Margot Douaihy



Margot Douaihy, PhD, is a poet, crime writer, and educator. She is the author of the mysteries *Scorched Grace* and *Blessed Water*, both published with Gillian Flynn Books, and both named "Best Crime Novels of the Year" by The New York Times (2023 and 2024). The next mystery in her series, *Divine Ruin*, will be published in 2026. Margot is an assistant professor with Emerson College, and she is an active member of the Radius of Arab American Writers, Sisters in Crime, and the Mystery Writers of America.

www.margotdouaihy.com

C. Jean Downer



C. Jean Downer is a self-proclaimed expert in solving whodunnits, with thousands of books, television episodes, and movies to her reading and viewing credit, even her family refuses to watch murder mysteries with her... unless she zips it. C. Jean says if she could do it all over again, she'd trade her Ph.D. for a PI in a heartbeat. Instead, C. Jean writes the Sloane West Mysteries, a fast-paced paranormal detective series with a female sleuth who is a recovering cynic and fledgling witch tasked with solving crimes of the supernatural kind, and this second act brings her much joy.

cjeandowner.com

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 and spent better than 20 years as a reporter and editor at California daily newspapers. She writes traditional mystery series (The Amy Hobbes Newspaper Mysteries and The Stained Glass Mysteries) and paranormal romance (a 12-book series, The Kandesky Vampire Chronicles) as well as a stand-alone medical thriller, *Ashes of Memories*. She is the past president of Sisters in Crime chapters, Capitol Crimes and the Guppies, was co-chair for Bouchercon 2020, is the immediate past president of the NorCal chapter of SinC and will co-chair Left Coast Crime 2026 in San Francisco. She lives in Sacramento with a cat (of course!) www.micheledrier.me

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 *Fatal Brouhaha*, which comes out in March 2025 not long after LCC ends. She's also the author of the Halloween Bookshop Mystery Series, which launched with *Chaos at the Lazy Bones Bookshop* and includes *Mayhem at a Halloween Wedding*, coming in July 2025. When not writing, she spends her time seeking out new coffee shops and hiking trails to explore, frequently accompanied by her Great Pyrenees.

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Darlene Dziomba



Darlene combined her passion for the written word and animals into the Lily Dreyfus series. The books are written based on her experience as a volunteer at the Animal Welfare Association, a no-kill animal shelter in Voorhees, New Jersey. She is a member of Sisters in Crime, the Membership Chair for SinC Grand Canyon Writers, and serves as a mentor in the Sisters in Crime Mentorship program. Darlene lives in New Jersey with her four-legged best friend, Billie.

www.ReadDarlene.com

J.C. Eaton (Ann Goldfarb)



New York native Ann I. Goldfarb spent most of her life in education, first as a classroom teacher and later as a middle school principal and professional staff developer. Writing as J. C. Eaton, along with her late husband, James Clapp, they authored the Sophie Kimball Mysteries, The Wine Trail Mysteries, The Charcuterie Shop Mysteries, and the Marcie Rayner Mysteries. In addition, Ann has nine published YA time travel mysteries under her own name and three award-winning screenplays. When she's not catering to a demanding Chihuahua and two annoying felines, she's swimming to escape the Arizona heat, frequenting coffee shops, or finding herself tethered to her desk, writing!

www.timetravelmysteries.com & www.jceatonmysteries.com

Peter Malone Elliott



Peter Malone Elliott is a Lefty Award nominated novelist and Leo Award nominated screenwriter who pens propulsive psychological thrillers that often employ elements of horror. He is also a vastly experienced developmental editor who specializes in working with authors whose books have high film and TV adaptation potential.

Insta @pmewriter & pmelliott.com

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) at reporterestes & www.christinaestes.com

Donna J. Evans



On a drive to visit family in Colorado, Donna J. Evans brainstormed the concept for *Hunter on the Sly*, and protagonist Jean Branning was born. Like the author, Jean is a traditional, stay-at-home wife and mother with a big family, which is enduring upheaval following her husband's job loss. Since the author has nine children in real life, she thought it would be easy to manage writing only four kids into a book. However, she may have had recurrent thoughts of doing away with one or two of the fictional kids – not the real ones.

donnaevans.com

Tom Farrell



Tom Farrell has worked as a golf course starter, a chemist, and clerked at City Hall in Chicago, while attending law school and the local horse tracks. He is the author of The Wager Series, including the award-winning *Wager Tough* (Book One), *Wager Easy*, and *Wager Smart*. Eddie O'Connell and his uncle, a former Chicago homicide detective, solve murders for the mob's gambling boss with the understanding the killer will be turned over to the cops. The series offers an insider's view of gambling on sports, horse racing and poker, with a nod to the small-time player and the need for caution.

www.tomfarrellbooks.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. *The Get Off*, her final book in the Angel Dare series, will be released by Hard Case Crime just in time for LCC.

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Janet Finsilver



USA TODAY best-selling author Janet Finsilver and her husband reside in the San Francisco Bay Area. Janet loves animals and has one rescue dog named Roxanne (Roxie for short). Her protagonist, Kelly Jackson, is assisted by a group of crime-solving senior citizens, the Silver Sentinels. Dogs with special abilities romp through the pages of her mystery series. *Murder at Redwood Cove*, her first book, came out in 2013, and was followed by five more. The latest one, *Murder in the Wine Country*, released in 2020. Janet plans to write another Redwood Cove mystery. However, she has started a new series with the first book being *Murder in Crystal Springs*.

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Lana M. Fox



Lana M. Fox is a crime/thriller author from the Pacific Northwest. Her first book is a Mystery/Suspense titled *The Truth Will Set You Free*. Lana's second book is the first in her Hood River Valley Series, a crime/thriller titled *My Sister's Keeper*. The second book in the series is titled *Through Frozen Eyes*. Lana is excited to be here today because maybe she can figure out why her books keep getting darker and darker!

www.lanamfox.com

Jim Fusilli



Jim Fusilli is the author of 10 novels including *A Song for Katy Shayne*, *The Price You Pay*, and *Narrows Gate*, which George Pelecanos called "equal parts Ellroy, Puzo and Scorsese" and Mystery Scene magazine said "must be ranked among the half-dozen most memorable novels about the Mob." He's also host and executive producer of the popular podcast "Writers at Work." 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. He lives in New York City.

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Daryl Wood Gerber



Daryl Wood Gerber is the Agatha Award-winning and nationally bestselling author of the Literary Dining Mysteries, Aroma Wellness Mysteries, Fairy Garden Mysteries and Cookbook Nook Mysteries. As Avery Aames, she penned the popular Cheese Shop Mysteries. In addition, Daryl writes suspense novels, including the well-received *The Son's Secret*, *Girl on the Run*, and the popular Aspen Adams trilogy. Daryl has published a standalone Christmas romance, *Hope for the Holidays*, and her short stories have appeared in numerous anthologies. Fun Tidbit: as an actress, Daryl appeared in *Murder, She Wrote*. She loves to cook, garden, read, and walk her frisky Goldendoodle. Also she has been known to jump out of a perfectly good airplane.

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Robyn Gigl



Robyn Gigl is an author, attorney, and advocate. TIME Magazine selected her novel, *Survivor's Guilt*, as one of the 100 best Mystery and Thriller books of All Time. Her first novel, *By Way of Sorrow*, was called "quietly groundbreaking" by the NY Times and named one of the best crime novels of 2021 by CrimeReads. *Survivor's Guilt* was also named one of the best crime novels of 2022 by the NY Times, and won the Joseph Hansen Award for LGBTQ+ Crime Writing. Robyn's third novel, *Remain Silent*, was published in May 2023. Her fourth novel, *Nothing but the Truth* was published in June 2024 and was selected by the NY Times as one of the best crime novels of 2024.

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Hal Glatzer



Hal Glatzer is a native New Yorker, a longtime member of Sisters in Crime and Mystery Writers of America; he is Vice-President of MWA's New York chapter, and organizes the bimonthly authors' readings. Celebrated for well-researched historical mysteries in print and audio, Hal's latest novels – *The Nest* and *The Office Wife* – are present-day cozies with a unique and controversial twist. When Hal isn't working as an author he's an entertainer, performing the Great American Songbook from Tin Pan Alley and Broadway.

www.halglatzer.com

Katherine Glover



Katherine Glover is an award-winning playwright and journalist who will start writing her second novel this summer. She wrote her first novel in sixth grade, a YA mystery called "Mischief at the Mall," back when people used floppy discs. To her knowledge, there are no surviving copies.

katherinéglover.net

Lee Goldberg



Lee Goldberg is a personable, but talentless hack. How many people did he sleep with to become a #1 New York Times bestselling author? Nobody knows. He's written & produced a lot of TV shows you haven't seen unless you're living in a retirement home, are involuntarily celibate, or have an unhealthy addiction to the Hallmark Channel. 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. Even this photo of him has been HEAVILY photoshopped.

Lee Matthew Goldberg



Lee Matthew Goldberg is the Anthony, Lefty, and Prix du Polar nominated author of fourteen novels including *The Ancestor* and *The Mentor*, and *The Great Gimmelmans* along with his five-book Desire Card series. *Miles in Time* will be released in 2025. He's the publisher of the upcoming Fringe Press and lives in New York City.

LeeMatthewGoldberg.com

Bill Gormley



Bill Gormley is a recently retired Georgetown University Professor of Public Policy. For 33 years, he taught courses on public policy and bureaucratic politics. Gormley's first mystery, *Too Many Bridges*, a police procedural set in Pittsburgh, was published by Level Best Books in August 2024. It is a "wheredunit" that requires police to identify an unnamed bridge with nothing to guide them but an audio of muffled bridge sounds. Monthly, Gormley interviews criminologists and other social scientists about their cutting-edge research on police practices. The podcast, PROFS ON COPS, is available through Apple and Spotify.

www.billgormley.com

G.P. Gottlieb



G.P. Gottlieb's motto is, "Never pass up a piece of pie," but she's open-minded about pastries and other subjects. She authored the currently unavailable Whipped and Sipped Mystery Series (*Battered* 2019, *Smothered* 2021, and *Charred* 2023), and has published short stories in several anthologies and journals. She's also interviewed over 240 authors as literature podcast channel host for the New Books Network. To read her essays, check out her recipes, and see gorgeous photos of roasted vegetables, follow G.P. Gottlieb on Medium, Facebook, Instagram, or her website, GPGottlieb.com

Cindy Goyette



Armed with a handgun and a word processor, ICE Officer Cindy Goyette spent her nights creating fictional friends to help pass the lonely hours between border crossers. A portable black-and-white TV cancelled the unexplained noises coming from the ancient jail cells in the creepy basement. The resulting book will remain hidden in the closet, but she planted the seed and has written ever since. She is the author of The Probation Case Files Mysteries and The Wiggle Butt Manor Mystery series. *Obey All Laws*, her debut novel, received a Lefty nomination.

ccgoyette.com

Scott Graham



Scott Graham is the National Outdoor Book Award-winning author of the National Park Mystery Series, published by Torrey House Press. A special 10th Anniversary Edition of book one in the series, *Grand Canyon Sacrifice*, featuring a foreword by Anne Hillerman, will be released March 25, 2025. Scott is an avid outdoors person and advocate for public lands who lives in Durango, Colorado. In addition to his mysteries, Scott is the author of five nonfiction books. He has worked as a newspaper reporter, magazine editor, radio disk jockey, city councilor, and coal-shoveling fireman on the steam-powered Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

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Puja Guha



Puja Guha grew up and has worked all over the world, something she channels into her seven novels, with settings from New York to Madagascar to Iran. So far, she has traveled to over 60 countries, each of which she hopes to someday include in one of her novels. 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.

George Gurney



George L. Gurney is a native son of the Pacific Northwest, born in North Central Washington with one foot on the Canadian border. Working and travelling world-wide, his primary occupation was as a professional driver, operating anything on four or more wheels. Many of those jobs offered time to write, mostly short stories and magazine articles. Thirty of his years have been spent in Portland, OR, where he graduated from Portland State University. For the past ten years he's been in a special relationship with the protagonist of his nine book mystery series, Chinese/Samoan homicide detective, Alan Wang. Many days and nights putting together a class act of Police Procedural.

Paul Guyot



Paul Guyot has written and produced over 200 hours of television, serving as Co-Executive Producer and showrunner on series including *NCIS: New Orleans*, *Leverage*, *The Librarians*, and some you probably hated. He co-wrote the feature *Geostorm* (which grossed \$300 million worldwide), but don't hold it against him. In 2020 he adapted the book *Bitter Brew*, the true story of five generations of the Anheuser-Busch family, but it died a Pandemic death. In 2023 he adapted the Korean film *No Tears for the Dead* for CJ Entertainment. He is the author of *Kill the Dog: The First Book on Screenwriting To Tell You the Truth*, and just finished his debut novel, so be kind. He has been called the Ezra Pound of making old fashioned.

screenwritingtruth.com

Leslie J Hall



Leslie J. Hall the author of the Kaitlyn Willis Road Signs mysteries, a humorous, amateur sleuth series starring a Pacific NW code enforcement officer. Book 4, *Keep Out*, will be out later this year. Leslie 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 (or 3) in her hand. Leslie lives in Bremerton, WA with her husband and cat, Mia. Learn more about her writing and her classes at 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.

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Kerry Hammond



Kerry Hammond decided to give up the practice of law to commit crimes – on the page. Her work has appeared in several Malice Domestic Anthologies and one of those stories was chosen for inclusion in The Mysterious Bookshop Presents the Best Mystery Stories of the Year. Her love of travel means that her stories often take place in foreign locales she has visited, or wants to visit. She's a huge fan of the subtle surprise ending and is happiest when her readers don't see the twist coming.

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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 fiction has been nominated for the Anthony and Pushcart Prize, and has appeared in Best American Mystery and Suspense, Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, Vautrin, Rock and a Hard Place, and Shotgun Honey, and anthologies including *Eight Very Bad Nights*, *Playing Games*, and *Under the Thumb*. He lives in Louisville, Kentucky, where all the bourbon is.

www.jamesdfhannah.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. She also writes 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 seventy published short works. Level Best Books has re-issued *One Gun* this year and will publish her new suspense novel, *Crime Writer*, in 2025.

www.vinniehansen.com

Rob Hart



Rob Hart is the author of the USA Today bestseller *Assassins Anonymous*, as well as *The Paradox Hotel* and *The Warehouse*. He also wrote *Scott Free* with James Patterson, and the comic book *Blood Oath* with Alex Segura. His latest book is *Dark Space*, co-authored with Segura. His next books are *The Medusa Protocol*, available in June 2025, and *Detour*, co-written with *Manifest* creator and showrunner Jeff Rake, available in Spring 2026.

www.robwhart.com

Heather Haven



Heather was born in Sarasota, Florida, but isn't sure of when because calendars hadn't been invented yet. Her first book, *How To Ride a Pterosaur*, was a huge success among the Neanderthal set, although all that chiseling in stone gave her carpal tunnel syndrome. Her writing career includes newspaper columns, ad copy, theatrical plays, and comedy acts. With 18 books published, the last being *Bewitched, Bothered, and Beheaded*, her current WIP is the 11th of the Alvarez Family Murder Mysteries, *Cleopatra Slept Here*. You can find out more about Heather and her shenanigans at www.heatherhavenstories.com

Gar Anthony Haywood



Gar Anthony Haywood is the Shamus and Anthony award-winning author of fourteen novels and dozens of short stories. His crime fiction includes the Aaron Gunner private eye series and Joe and Dottie Loudermilk mysteries. His short fiction has been included in the *Best American Mystery Stories* anthologies four times and now appears in a collection from Marvel entitled *Captain America: The Shield of Sam Wilson*. His most recent novel, *In Things Unseen*, was published by Slant Books in December 2022, and would be best described as a thriller for fans of non-traditional Christian fiction.

garanthonyhaywood.com

Julie A. Hennrikus



J.A. (Julie) Hennrikus has ten published novels in three different series, all of which are cozy/traditional. Her most recent series was The Garden Squad series written as Julia Henry for Kensington. She has also written several short stories. In addition to writing, she is the executive director of Sisters in Crime, a crime fiction writing and advocacy group with over 4,000 members. Julie lives in Massachusetts. She blogs on WickedAuthors.com.

JHAuthors.com

Sara J. Henry



Sara J. Henry battled floods and a macular pucker last year (just as much fun as it sounds). She has two novels out from Crown (that won some awards) and is an acquiring editor for Crooked Lane Books and a relentless cheerleader for her authors, two of whom are up for Lefty Awards: Jennifer K. Morita's *Ghosts of Waikīkī* for best first and Rob Osler's *Cirque du Slay* for best humorous. Sara lives in Vermont with her fella, her son, 16 chickens, three dogs (one acquired accidentally), two cats, and a mouse in the vestibule that the cats stalk incessantly.

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Lori Roberts Herbst



Lori Roberts Herbst writes the Callie Cassidy Mystery series and the upcoming Seahorse Bay Mystery series. She is a former journalism teacher (so mind your grammar around her) and a former counselor (so expect to be silently analyzed). Lori serves as Board Secretary for Sisters in Crime and is a member of the SinC Colorado chapter and the Guppy chapter. After living in Dallas most of her life, she is now a resident of Colorado Springs, where those gorgeous mountain views perpetually distract her from her writing.

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Sue Hinkin



Sue Hinkin is the author of the award-winning thriller series, The Vega & Middleton Novels, featuring the investigative team of Los Angeles TV news journalist Bea Jackson and best friend, photographer Lucy Vega. A former Cinematography Fellow at the American Film Institute, Hinkin has worked in higher education and as a TV news photographer. Hinkin was one of the first women out in the field with a camera. Now living in Colorado, she was voted Rocky Mountain Fiction Writer's Writer of the Year. She is active in that organization as well as Sisters in Crime and the Rocky Mountain Chapter of MWA. She loves her friends and family, growing things, and long walks with her puffy white rescue dog, Harley.

www.suehinkin.com

Dwight Holing



Dwight Holing is the award-winning author of twenty books, including two popular mystery series: the acclaimed Nick Drake Mysteries and the witty Jack McCoul Capers. The ninth book in his Nick Drake series, *The Thunder Head*, releases on March 31. His genre-spanning work includes standalone novels, short story collections, and books on natural history, conservation, and outdoor travel. He lives beside a coastal river in California with his wife and two dogs who'd rather swim than walk.

dwightholing.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.

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Walter Horsting



At age nineteen, Walter Horsting started his first career as a teenage soundman in the music industry and formed a concert audio company. He engineered over three thousand live shows in ten years. Walter branched into media systems integration of government hearing rooms, military command rooms, entertainment complexes, and Fortune 500 headquarters. He has developed national and international business for leading media and technology providers for airports, smart cities control rooms, network control centers, and global briefing centers. Walter lives with his wife, Sherry, in Sacramento, California.

mildmanneredmen.com

Linda Joffe Hull



Linda Joffe Hull writes mystery and contemporary fiction under her own name and with author Keir Graff as Linda Keir. A former president of Rocky Mountain Fiction Writers and board member of Mystery Writers of America, Linda has written multiple novels set in and around the Denver metro area including *The Big Bang*, *Eternally 21*, *Black Thursday*, and *Sweetheart Deal*. Recent titles as Linda Keir include *The Swing of Things*, *Drowning with Others*, *The Three Mrs. Wrights*, and *The Royal Game*. Their newest collaboration, *I Did Not Kill My Husband*, will be available in April 2026.

www.lindajoffehull.com

Harry Hunsicker



Harry Hunsicker is the best-selling author of nine crime thrillers and numerous short stories, including his latest book, *The Life and Death of Rose Doucette*, which came out in October 2024. Hunsicker's work has been short-listed for both the Shamus and Thriller Awards. He also wrote a short screenplay about a hitman with irritable bowel syndrome, which was recently produced and earned numerous accolades. Hunsicker lives in Dallas with his wife, Alison.

www.harryhunsicker.com

Curtis Ippolito



Curtis Ippolito is a two-time Anthony Award, Macavity Award, and a Derringer Award finalist. He is the author of the San Diego-set crime novel *Burying the Newspaper Man*. Additionally, his short fiction has been published in prominent markets, including Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, Tough Crime, Vautrin Magazine, Dark Yonder, and Rock and a Hard Place magazine, among others. He's a member of Sisters in Crime, and serves as vice president of Partners in Crime, the San Diego chapter of Sisters in Crime.

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Kate B Jackson



When Kate B Jackson isn't writing about secrets, murder, and Sasquatch, she enjoys unearthing family scandals under the guise of ancestry research. An Agatha Award winner, Anthony Award finalist, and Silver Falchion Award nominated author of mysteries for kids and grownups, she lives in the Pacific Northwest with her husband and has four grown children. Her latest releases are the third book in her Cruising Sisters Mysteries series, *Frightened to Depths*, the second in her Chattertowne Secrets series, *Secrets in Pink*, and the third book in her award-winning Sasquatch Hunters series, *The Big Grey Man of Ben MacDhui*.

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Paty Jager



Paty Jager is the award-winning author of the Shandra Higheagle Mysteries, Gabriel Hawke Novels, and the Spotted Pony Casino Mysteries. All of her work has Western or Native American elements along with engaging storytelling, a strong sense of place, and well-developed characters. Riding horses and battling rattlesnakes, she not only writes the Western lifestyle, she lives it. Her books will keep you turning the pages until the very end.

www.patjager.net

Maddee James



Maddee James is the owner of xumi.com, a small, dynamic website development company which has created, designed, and maintained author websites since the late 90s (close to 30 years!). Her son Riley joined her in 2018. Though xumi.com clients span across all genres, they specialize in customized WordPress sites for mystery and thriller writers. (Fun fact: they have close to 20 clients at this Left Coast Crime!) They also support author branding through print and online ads, social media design, custom newsletters and other promotional materials. While they are in the business of creating functional beauty, they are best known for their individualized attention to clients and details, along with amazing responsiveness.

Seeley James



When I was ten, I read *Treasure Island* and thought: When I make stuff up, I get in trouble, so I should be a writer. But life had a few twists. At 19, I adopted a 3-year-old girl, later met and married the love of my life, and had two children. When I'd made all the gold I could eat, I finally pursued my dream career: writing action-adventures. I'm now sixteen books deep and loving it.

seeleyjames.com

Bruce Johnson



In over four decades of working in computer technology, Bruce published a dozen non-fiction books to help thousands of software developers build the websites people complain about. Then, in a surprising move, he pivoted to writing psychological thrillers. You know, because all authors are rich. "Deja Vu," his first short story, was published in the *Invasive Species* anthology in March 2024.

brucejohnsonauthor.com

Claire M. Johnson



My first novel, *Beat Until Stiff*, was nominated for a nice award, didn't win, but them's the breaks. Second novel, *Roux Morgue*, received a starred review from Publishers Weekly. Go me! My latest effort is a three-book series titled Fog City Noir. Published by Level Best Books, this series is set in Prohibition-era San Francisco and features Maggie Laurent, who hates her typewriter so much that she'd rather risk her life on San Francisco's mean streets than return to being a secretary. Book No. 1 is titled: *Fog City*.

www.clairemjohnsonwrites

Leslie Karst



Leslie Karst is the Lefty Award-nominated author of the Orchid Isle Mysteries *Molten Death* and *Waters of Destruction*, of the Sally Solari culinary mysteries, and of *Justice Is Served: A Tale of Scallops, the Law, and Cooking for RBG*. When not writing, you'll find her cooking, cycling, gardening, and observing cocktail hour promptly at five o'clock. Leslie and her wife and their Jack Russell mix split their time between Hilo, Hawai'i, and Santa Cruz, California. She's a proud blog member of Chicks on the Case and Mystery Lovers' Kitchen.

@LeslieKarst & LeslieKarstAuthor.com

Maria Kelson



If you're drawn to strong female leads, the beauty of the redwood country, moms who push it to the limit, or crime-fighting ESL teachers, Maria Kelson wrote *Not the Killing Kind* for you! She published poetry as Maria Melendez, then turned to crime writing to explore the dark side. *Not the Killing Kind* won the inaugural Eleanor Taylor Bland Award for Crime Fiction Writers of Color from Sisters in Crime. Maria grew up in northern California and has lived most of her adult life in High Plains states, including Colorado and Wyoming. Her next thriller is set in the Greater Yellowstone area.

mariakelson.com

Alex Kenna



Alex Kenna is a mystery writer, prosecutor, and amateur painter. Her first novel, *What Meets the Eye*, was a 2023 Shamus Award Finalist for best first P.I. novel. Her second novel, *Burn This Night*, was released in November 2024. Alex lives in Los Angeles with her husband, sons, and giant schnauzer, Zelda.

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Dana King



Dana King has written six private eye books – two received Shamus Award nominations – eight police procedurals, a standalone crime novel, and a Western. He's done all of this while wearing fingerless gloves in a freezing garret because that's what the great ones do, dammit. He was six-foot-one when he joined the Army 45 years ago and now refuses to be measured so he can continue to identify as "tall." He is currently expanding his Spanish, which he speaks with a Pittsburgh accent. You can learn more inane things about him on his web site and blog danakingauthor.com

Ellen Kirschman



Ellen Kirschman writes the five-book Dot Meyerhoff mystery series. Too dedicated for her own good, police psychologist Dot takes orders from no one, including her chief, and persists in solving crimes when she should be counseling cops—often using methods that would cost Ellen, a real police psychologist, her license. Ellen lives in California with her husband, whose entire life she's plagiarized for Dot's love interest, Frank. She adores Zumba, dogs, cats, and ice cream. A member of Mystery Writers of America, Sisters in Crime, and The Public Safety Writers Association, you can sign up for her occasional newsletter at her website.

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Grace Koshida



Grace Koshida is a Toronto native who has gone to Left Coast Crime since 2000 to thaw out from the long Canadian winters. When this bookish nerd is not reading or reviewing books, Grace likes to cook, eat, and travel extensively. She is the 2025 Denver LCC Fan Guest of Honor. More insights into Grace's past and bookish interests can be found in the Fan Guest of Honor essay on pages 19-20.

Cynthia Kuhn



Cynthia Kuhn writes the Starlit Bookshop Mysteries, which focus on a bookseller solving crimes in an artistic mountain community, and the Lila Maclean Academic Mysteries, featuring a professor-turned-amateur-sleuth. Her books have been Agatha Award and William F. Deeck-Malice Domestic Grant winners and were shortlisted for the Daphne du Maurier Award and Lefty Awards. Originally from upstate New York, she lives with her family in Colorado, where she is professor of English at Metropolitan State University of Denver.

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Lori Lacefield



Lori began her writing journey at the age of 14, making up stories about teens navigating the precarious world between childhood and adulthood. Those troubles seem tame compared to the entanglements of blackmail, murder, and misconduct her characters find themselves in now. Lori writes page-turning mystery thrillers including the FBI Local Profiler Series featuring Agent Frankie Johnson and the Women of Redemption Series featuring women who aren't perfect but perfectly kick ass when given a second chance. Lori is past president of the Rocky Mountain chapter of MWA and a member of Sisters in Crime. She loves coffee, books, music, yoga, Pilates, wine, travel, and most of all, dogs. She lives in Colorado with her pack.

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Kara Lacey



Kara Lacey is the author of the Camera Club Mystery Series, traditional whodunnit mysteries with a warm, cozy vibe. She lives in a quaint village nestled in the beautiful Green Mountains of Vermont – the inspiration for her novels. Like her protagonist, Kara is a photography enthusiast who also enjoys hiking, watching the sunrise, and curling up by the fire with a good book. When she's not at her laptop creating havoc for her characters, you'll find her rambling through the forest with her husband and incorrigible Labrador retriever, camera in hand.

karalaceyauthor.com

Kate Lansing



Kate Lansing grew up in Evergreen, Colorado, and earned a BS in Applied Mathematics from CU Boulder. It was in the early hours of the morning while working as a statistician that, an avid reader and lifelong-lover of books, Kate started penning her own novel. Four shelved manuscripts later, she signed a three-book deal with Berkley. Her debut novel, *Killer Chardonnay*, came out in May 2020, and was followed by the rest of the Colorado Wine Mysteries. Kate currently lives in Broomfield with her husband, daughter, and two mischievous kitties.

katel Lansing.com

Tom Larsen



Tom Larsen was born and raised in New Jersey and was awarded a degree in Civil Engineering from Rutgers University. He is the author of six novels in the crime genre. Tom's short fiction has appeared in Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine, Mystery Tribune, Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine, Black Cat Mystery Magazine, and Black Cat Weekly. Tom's stories have appeared in the anthology *Best Mystery Stories of the Year* (2022 & 2023) from Mysterious Press.

Audrey Lee



Audrey Lee started writing fiction at the young age of eleven, when she and her best friend co-authored a masterpiece set in London with the members of Depeche Mode, Wham!, and Duran Duran. Unfortunately, these spiral notebooks have yet to find a publisher evolved enough to understand the genius buried within. As a result, *The Mechanics of Memory* is her first published work. Audrey holds two degrees from UC Berkeley (Go Bears!) and spent over two decades in public education. When she isn't writing, Audrey is compulsively organizing, drinking a dirty martini, and missing her son (who abandoned her to attend college). Audrey is a finalist for Best Debut in the 2025 Edgar and Lefty Awards.

@audreyleeaauthor

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. *Served Cold* and *River of Lies* are his most recent novels.

www.jamesletoile.com

Paul Levine



Paul Levine has been a newspaper reporter, a trial lawyer, a law school lecturer, a television writer, and a novelist. Obviously, he cannot hold a job. The author of the Jake Lassiter and Solomon vs. Lord series of legal thrillers, Levine has won the John D. MacDonald Fiction Award and has been nominated for the Edgar, Macavity, International Thriller, Shamus, and James Thurber prizes. *Midnight Burning* (September 2025) features real-life friends Albert Einstein and Charlie Chaplin fighting Nazis in 1930's Hollywood. He also wrote twenty episodes of the CBS military drama *JAG* and co-created the Supreme Court show *First Monday* starring James Garner and Joe Mantegna.

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Margaret Lucke



Margaret Lucke flings words around in the San Francisco Bay Area. She writes tales of love, ghosts, and murder, sometimes all three in one book. Her latest 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. Peggy has published numerous short stories, and she edited Sisters in Crime NorCal's first anthology, *Fault Lines*. A teacher of fiction writing classes, Margaret also writes how-to books on writing craft. She's a former president of MWA NorCal.

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DP Lyle



DP Lyle is the Amazon #1 Bestselling; Macavity and Benjamin Franklin Award-winning; and Edgar, Agatha, Anthony, Shamus, Scribe, Silver Falchion, and USA Today Best Book Award-nominated author of 26 books, both fiction and non-fiction. He hosts the Crime Fiction Writer's Blog and the Criminal Mischief: The Art and Science of Crime Fiction YouTube/podcast series and is co-creator of the Outliers Writing University. He has worked with many novelists and with the writers of popular television shows such as *Law & Order*, *CSI: Miami*, *Diagnosis Murder*, *Monk*, *Judging Amy*, *Peacemakers*, *Cold Case*, *House*, *Medium*, *Women's Murder Club*, *1-800-Missing*, *The Glades*, and *Pretty Little Liars*.

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Sharon Lynn



Sharon Lynn was raised in Arizona but developed a profound connection to England when living there as a teenager, inspiring the setting of the award-winning Cotswold Crimes Mystery series. Nowadays, she spends half her time in Flagstaff, AZ. It is an International Dark City where lights are kept to a minimum so the Lowell Observatory can see stars. The nights are what she refers to as "werewolf dark" and provide the perfect inspiration for mysteries. The rest of the time, she lives on a boat in San Diego, where the changing ocean and foggy mornings conjure creativity.

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Nicole Maggi



Nicole Maggi is the author of *A Murder in Zion*, the first in the National Park Mystery Series (Oceanview Pub). She also penned *The Forgetting*, an International Thriller Writers Thriller Award Finalist, a Junior Library Guild selection, and a #1 Kindle Bestseller, as well as the YA contemporary *What They Don't Know*. Her debut YA fantasy series *The Twin Willows Trilogy* (Medallion Press), was called "reminiscent of Twilight and Harry Potter" by VOYA. When she's not writing, she's either driving her teenager to the mall or plotting her next escape to a National Park.

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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 (*The Queen of All Poisons*, *The Power of Poison*, *A Message in Poison*, *We'll Always Have Poison*) about a Boston physician recruited by the U.S. government as a covert assassin. 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

G.M. Malliet



G.M. Malliet is the author of three mystery series; over thirty short stories published in The Strand, Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, and Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine; and *Weycombe*, a standalone suspense novel. Her Agatha Award-winning *Death of a Cozy Writer* (2008), the first installment of the DCI St. Just mysteries, was named one of the ten best novels of the year by Kirkus Reviews. Many of her Max Tudor novels were Agatha finalists. A story featuring Max's village Nether Monkslip will appear in November.

gmmalliet.com

Ana Manwaring



DU class of '72, Ana Manwaring is the author of award-winning thrillers set in Mexico against the backdrop of organized crime and a memoir of living in Mexico, *Saints and Skeletons*. Her latest, *Kickback*, ripped from the headlines, explores Mexico's political corruption. Ana has target practiced with an Uzi, camped out in ancient Mexican ruins, and visited a Veracruz hooker cantina – as part of the research for the book she and her Mexican co-author are working on. Ana produces North Bay Poetics, a monthly poetry event, is the vice president of SINCNorCal, and co-chair of LCC 2026.

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Charles Philipp Martin



Charles Philipp Martin grew up in New York City in a musical family. After college he started a six-year paid vacation as a bass player in the Hong Kong Philharmonic, but eventually hung up his bow to become a newspaper columnist, magazine writer, and broadcaster. His weekly jazz radio show 3 O'Clock Jump was heard every Saturday in Hong Kong for some two decades. *Neon Panic*, his 2011 suspense novel, introduced readers to police Inspector Herman Lok. *Rented Grave* is his latest Inspector Lok novel. Martin now lives in Seattle with his cat Siggy and his wife Catherine.

neonpanic.com

Jamie Mason



Jamie Mason was born in Oklahoma City and grew up all over the Washington, DC area. She's most often reading and writing, but in the life left over, she enjoys films, Formula 1 racing, football, traveling, and, conversely, staying at home. Jamie lives with her husband and two daughters in the mountains of western North Carolina. She writes more whodunnits than whodunnits because the *why* in stories is her favorite part, and she is the author of *Three Graves Full*, *Monday's Lie*, and *The Hidden Things*.

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Lisa Q. Mathews



Lisa Q. Mathews began her publishing career editing Nancy Drew books. She was also a regular writer for Mary-Kate and Ashley and the Lizzie McGuire Mysteries. She currently pens whodunnits for adults featuring strong female characters and plenty of family, including the Irish Bed & Breakfast Mysteries (*The Jig Is Up*; *Buried in Shamrocks*). Her short story "Fly Me to the Morgue" was an Agatha Award finalist. Lisa blogs at Chicks on the Case and lives in New England, where she avoids all seafood. The "Q" in her name stands for "Quinn."

ChicksOnTheCase.com & LisaQMathews.com

M. Stone Mayer



The youngest of six, Stone grew up running around the forests of New England. He attended the University of Massachusetts, where he received degrees in wildlife and fisheries biology before traveling around the country working as a seasonal biologist. He eventually landed in Oregon to pursue environmental law at Lewis and Clark Law School. Combining these two professions, he has been working in the environmental policy and planning sector for over 25 years. His debut action thriller, *Ashes to Ashes*, weaves the places he's been into his writing to create a deep and stirring sense of place that he hopes resonates with the reader.

mstonemayer.com

Marjorie McCown



Marjorie McCown spent 27 years in Hollywood working on the costumes for movies such as *Forrest Gump*, *Apollo 13*, and *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*. Her film career inspired her Hollywood Mystery series of books set behind the scenes in the world of moviemaking. *Final Cut*, Book #1 in the series was an Amazon Editors' Pick in the best Mystery, Thriller, and Suspense category. *Star Struck*, Book #2 was published May 7, 2024.

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Mike McCrary



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

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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 twenty members in Richmond, B.C. Her solution to having too many books (is this really possible?) is to buy more bookcases.

Catriona McPherson



Serial awards-botherer, Catriona McPherson (she/her) was born in Scotland and immigrated to the US in 2010. She writes: preposterous 1930s private-detective stories about a toff; realistic 1940s amateur-sleuth stories about an oik; and contemporary psychological standalones. These are all set in Scotland with a lot of Scottish weather. She also writes modern comedies about a Scot out of water in a "fictional" college town in Northern California. *Scotzilla* – up for a Lefty! Thank you! – is number seven of what was supposed to be a trilogy. She is a proud lifetime member and former national president of Sisters in Crime.

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Richard Meredith



Raised on Cousteau documentaries, I dreamed for a life at sea. The Navy assisted by moving me from Michigan to California, where I remained to finish college. My career as a wildlife biologist has provided fodder for my writing. My novel, *Maskirovka – The Russian Science of Deception*, was based on my work in the petroleum industry. It made Kirkus Reviews list of 100 Best Indie Books of 2022. My years on commercial fishing boats formed the backdrop of my thriller, *The Crow's Nest*, which won the Silver Falchion Award for the Best Action-Adventure novel in 2021 at Killer Nashville. I am the Vice President of Capitol Crimes, the Sacramento area chapter of Sisters-in-Crime.

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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 veterinarian Cole Walker. There are nine books in the series, including the latest, *Gathering Mist*; book ten, *Dying Cry*, will release autumn of 2025. After retirement, Margaret and her veterinarian husband moved from Colorado to Washington's Olympic peninsula, where their German shorthaired pointers Hannah and Bertie are fascinated with looking for squirrels in the trees. Margaret and her husband mostly just enjoy the vast forests and the big trees, not necessarily the squirrels.

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M.A. (Mary) Monnin



Agatha Best First Novel nominee M.A. Monnin writes the Intrepid Traveler Mysteries, including her latest, *Death in St. George's*. Her short stories have appeared in Black Cat Mystery Magazine, Black Cat Weekly, and numerous anthologies. Like her heroine Stefanie Adams, Mary loves the adventure of foreign travel. If there's the chance to check out an archaeological site, so much the better for this avocational archaeologist and Air Force veteran. A member of ITW, MWA, SinC, SMFS, and the president of Mid-America Romance Authors. Mary lives in Kansas City, MO.

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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, *Ghosts of Waikīkī*, 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 plotting murder mysteries or pushing Girl Scout cookies, she enjoys reading, experimenting with recipes, leisurely hikes, Zumba, and Hot Hula.

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Sandra Murphy



Sandra Murphy is a versatile audiobook narrator known for her dynamic character voices, fierce comedic timing, and gripping storytelling in over 100 audiobooks. Based in Denver, Sandra specializes in narrating books set in the historic West and has a particular passion for mysteries, ranging from paranormal to thriller to cozy. In her time off, Sandra loves to hang out with her family cooking amazing food, laughing hysterically, and dancing in the kitchen. On those truly blessed occasions when deadlines are met and family well fed, you will find her relaxing in the backyard hammock – mystery in hand.

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Will Neville-Rehbehn



Will Neville-Rehbehn is Executive Editor and Co-Executive Director at Torrey House Press, a leading nonprofit indie publisher that champion writers and stories exploring our relationships with the past, present, and future of the ever-changing Earth. Will is looking to grow and diversify THP's list of genre authors, focusing on thrillers, mysteries, and potential series; speculative and literary ecofiction; and Native and Indigenous contemporary fiction. Writers of marginalized genders and/or voices historically underrepresented in publishing are particularly encouraged to submit or get in touch. Will lives in Salt Lake City with his husband and 8-year-old son, where he ends most nights reading until the Kindle falls from his hand.

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K.T. Nguyen



K.T. Nguyen is a former editor at Glamour magazine. Her debut psychological thriller *You Know What You Did* (Dutton 2024) received a starred review from Booklist and was named a People Magazine Best Book of April 2024 and featured in The Best Mystery and Thriller Books of 2024 by Elle magazine. Nguyen is a member of International Thriller Writers, Mystery Writers of America, Crime Writers of Color, and Sisters in Crime. When she's not writing, you'll find K.T. practicing Krav Maga, watching the Mets, or playing with her rescue terrier Alice. She lives just outside Washington, D.C.

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Terry Odell



Terry Odell began writing by mistake, when her son mentioned a television show and she thought she'd watch it so they'd have common ground for discussions. Now she's a multi-published, award winning author of over thirty novels, novellas, and short stories. She writes mysteries and romantic suspense, but calls them all "Mysteries With Relationships." Her awards include, among others, the Silver Falchion, the International Digital Awards, and the HOLT Medallion. A Los Angeles native, she moved to Florida where she spent 30 years in the heat and humidity. She now enjoys life with her husband and rescue dog in the cooler, dryer climate of the Colorado Rockies, where she watches wildlife from her windows.

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Cayce Osborne



Cayce Osborne is a writer, graphic designer, and cook/referee/chauffeur for two young humans who take way too many martial arts classes. Her debut novel *I Know What You Did* – with a hook Kirkus called irresistible – was released in 2023 by Crooked Lane Books, and is set in her hometown of Madison, WI. A recovering people pleaser, she spends her free time reading, traveling, cooking, and attempting arts and crafts of all kinds.

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Rob Osler



Rob Osler writes traditional mystery novels and short stories. Believing that relatability is as important as representation, he strives to showcase our shared humanity across individual identities. Rob's historical novel, *The Case of the Missing Maid*, is a USA Today Bestseller, earned a starred review from Publishers Weekly, and is an Amazon Editors Pick. His work has won the MWA Robert L. Fish Award and has been a finalist for the Edgar, Anthony, Agatha, Lefty, and Macavity Awards, as well as a CrimeReads Best of the Year. Rob resides in California with his husband and a tall gray cat.

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T.O. Paine



T.O. Paine is an award-winning author of fast-paced thriller suspense novels. He is a member of International Thriller Writers and holds a master's degree in computer information systems. His high-emotion novels focus on the consequences of his character's choices, resulting in spine-tingling, suspenseful twist endings. He has written and indie-published over five novels in the past eight years, obtaining a wealth of intense craft and book marketing experience. He has a Boston Terrier muse named Rudy, who is also a very bad life coach.

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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), the Jaya Jones Treasure Hunt mysteries (lighthearted adventures steeped in history), and the 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.

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Sara Paretsky



Sara Paretsky revolutionized the mystery world in 1982 when she introduced V.I. Warshawski in *Indemnity Only*. By creating a detective with the grit and smarts to take on the mean streets, Paretsky challenged a genre in which women historically were vamps or victims. V.I. struck a chord with readers and critics; *Indemnity Only* was followed by 20 more V.I. novels. Paretsky's work also opened doors for other writers. In 1986 she created Sisters in Crime, a worldwide organization to advocate for women crime writers, which earned her Ms. Magazine's 1987 Woman of the Year award. More accolades followed including Lifetime Achievements Awards from Private Eye Writers of America, MWA, and Crime Writers Association. saraparetsky.com

Ann Parker



Ann Parker writes the award-winning Silver Rush historical mystery series set in the 1880s American West. A Californian born and bred, Ann's fascination with the history and mythology of the West began when she was a child in the previous century, watching 1960s Westerns on her family's black-and-white television. Her most recent book, *The Secret in the Wall*, won a Western Writers of America Spur Award as well as a Will Rogers Gold Medallion Award, and is an Historical Novel Society Editors' Choice. In her spare time, she wrangles cats and works part-time at her local indie bookstore.

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Priscilla Paton



Priscilla Paton grew up on a Maine dairy farm, was an English professor, and now lives on the Wisconsin-Minnesota border with a view of eagles. She stays out of trouble by writing her award-nominated Twin Cities Mystery series, which features the bantering team of Deb Metzger and Erik Jansson. Her recent *When the House Burns* – sex, death, and real estate – follows *Where Privacy Dies* and *Should Grace Fail*. Her fourth, *In Blind Trust*, about the murder of a MedTech executive, is in progress. She participates in community advocacy programs.

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Shaun Perkins



Shaun Perkins developed a love for mystery and detection in her youth with the stories of Sherlock Holmes. She detoured into poetry and founded and still runs the Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry in the small town of Locust Grove. She has written a variety of books and is an avid mystery fan. Her latest book is *Cocktails, Coquettes and Cigarettes: Perry Mason Concoctions*, a breezy tour of all 82 Perry Mason books by Erle Stanley Gardner with a focus on the three Cs.

PoemLife.org & PerryMasonConcoctions.com

Karen A. Phillips



Karen A. Phillips writes humorous, fun, action-packed mysteries. Her characters are engaging and fearless. The Rocky Nelson Boxing Mystery series features an amateur sleuth who boxes ... and yes, she does take boxing lessons.

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Rita A. Popp



Rita A. Popp has never found desiccated human bones while hiking or a murdered professor when she worked as a university writer and editor. But she relished creating those inciting incidents for her first two Bethany Jarviss Mysteries, published in 2022 and 2024. Rita writes at home in Colorado and at the New Mexico cabin she shares with her husband and their golden retriever, Agatha. She owns crumbling collections of books by Christie, Sayers, Allingham, Marsh, and Keene. (And if you have Nancy Drew no. 14 for sale, contact her at ritapopp72@gmail.com)

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Carol Pouliot



A former language teacher and business owner, Carol Pouliot writes the acclaimed Blackwell and Watson Time-Travel Mysteries, traditional police procedurals with a seemingly impossible relationship between a Depression-era cop and a 21st-century journalist. With their fast pace and unexpected twists and turns, the books have earned praise from readers and mystery authors. Carol is a founding member of Sleuths and Sidekicks, four mystery writers who have banded together to share their love of mysteries, and Co-Chair of Murderous March. When not writing, Carol can be found packing her suitcase and reaching for her passport for her next travel adventure.

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Jason Powell



Jason Powell is an FDNY firefighter and author whose work has been published in *Slate*, and numerous online writing outlets. His debut novel, *No Man's Ghost*, will be released this May by Datura Books.

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Manuel Ramos



Manuel Ramos is the author of eleven novels and a short story collection. His short stories have been included in several anthologies. He has received awards and recognition for his writing including the Colorado Book Award and the Chicano/Latino Literary Award, and was a finalist for the Edgar and Shamus awards. Manuel is the co-founder of and regular contributor to the award-winning Internet magazine *La Bloga*, which deals with Latino literature, culture, news, and opinion. In 2021, Manuel was inducted into the Colorado Authors Hall of Fame & Recognize Authors. Manuel and his wife live in Denver.

www.manuelramos.com

D.R. Ransdell



D.R. writes from Tucson, Arizona, when she's not gallivanting about. Although she teaches composition at the University of Arizona, she moonlights in a mariachi band, which gives her plenty of ideas for potential victims. (So do her students, but she doesn't mention that in class.) Although *Dervla Alarms the Nanas* takes place in Tucson, the upcoming *The Cézanne Chihuahua* takes readers to one of her favorite spots, the French Riviera.

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Patricia Raybon



A writer of faith by day and mystery by night, Christy Award winner Patricia Raybon is author of the Annalee Spain Mystery Series and writes devotional content for Our Daily Bread. She won multiple awards for feature writing during her newspaper years at both The Denver Post and Scripps Howard's Rocky Mountain News. Mid-career she taught print journalism at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Patricia lives near Denver with her husband Dan, a retired educator. With two grown daughters and five grandchildren, they enjoy movies, popcorn, college hoops, Masterpiece Theatre Mysteries, and also spoiling their grand-dog Max.

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Joseph Reid AKA Parker Adams



Joseph Reid is the author of the bestselling Seth Walker series, featuring the air marshal-turned-investigator who solves crimes in and around aviation. Under the pen name Parker Adams, he has also published the high-tech heist novel *The Lock Box*. The son of a navy helicopter pilot, Reid chased great white sharks as a marine biologist before becoming a patent lawyer who litigates multi-million-dollar cases for high-tech companies. 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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Raquel V. Reyes



Raquel V. Reyes writes Latina protagonists. Her Cuban-American heritage, Miami, and Spanglish feature prominently in her work. *Mango, Mambo, and Murder*, the first in the Caribbean Kitchen Mystery series, won a Lefty for Best Humorous Mystery. It is in production to become the TV series *Miami Spice*. Her work has been nominated for Agatha and Anthony Awards and has won an International Latino Book Award Gold Medal. Raquel's short stories appear in various anthologies, including *The Best American Mystery and Suspense 2022*. She currently serves as Vice President of Sisters in Crime.

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Cynthia Rice



Mystery/thriller author Cynthia Rice is a physician living in the Milwaukee area. Her debut novel, *The Last Broken Girl*, a psychological suspense, was published in June 2024, and won the 2023 Claymore Award. She has a short story in an anthology published in February 2025, *Gone Fishin': Crime Takes a Holiday*. She is a member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, and International Thriller Writers. When she is not working on her next novel (or planning a fictional murder) she keeps busy traveling, as well as playing mediocre golf and tennis.

cynthiarice.com

Amy Rivers



Named 2021 Indie Author of the Year by the Indie Author Project, Boulder-based author Amy Rivers pens psychological suspense novels that incorporate important social issues with a focus on the complexities of human behavior. Amy was raised in New Mexico and now lives in Colorado with her family.

AmyRivers.com

D.M. Rowell



D.M. Rowell (Koyh Mi O Boy Dah), an enrolled citizen of the Kiowa Tribe, comes from a long line of storytellers within a Plains Indian culture that treasures oral traditions. After a 32-year career spinning stories for Silicon Valley corporations with a few escapes creating award-winning documentaries, Rowell started a new chapter writing the Mud Sawpole mysteries. The first, *Never Name the Dead*, was a 2023 Simon & Schuster Mary Higgins Clark Award Finalist. Publishers Weekly stated of the recently released *Silent Are the Dead*, “Rowell’s clever second whodunit... elegantly threads tangible details about tribal life into the action, which remains propulsive throughout.”

www.dmrowell.com

S.J. Rozan



Born in the Bronx, SJ Rozan lives in lower Manhattan. Her twenty novels and nearly 100 short stories have won multiple awards, including the Edgar, Shamus, Anthony, Nero, Macavity, and Japanese Maltese Falcon. She’s received two Life Achievement Awards, from the Private Eye Writers of America and the Short Mystery Fiction Society, making her worry about her projected longevity. SJ teaches an annual summer workshop in Assisi, Italy, and wants you all to come – www.artworkshopintl.com. Her newest book is *The Railway Conspiracy*.

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Janet Rudolph



Janet Rudolph is the Editor of the Mystery Readers Journal (www.mysteryreaders.org). She blogs daily at MysteryFanfare.com and DyingforChocolate.com, facilitates a weekly mystery book group, hosts Author Literary Salons, and has organized numerous mystery conventions. She is a founder of LCC and on the permanent Board. She has been Fan Guest of Honor at Left Coast Crime, Malice Domestic, and Bouchercon. She has received the Ellery Queen Award, the Hercule Poirot Award, the Anthony Award, the David Thompson Award, and the Don Sandstrom Award, among others. She’s a Chocolate Judge at International Chocolate Salons, an avid gardener, and photographer. She lives in Berkeley, CA, with her husband, two golden retrievers, and three cats.

Rob Samborn



Rob Samborn is the award-winning author of the Painted Souls dual-timeline thriller series, including *The Prisoner of Paradise*. In addition to being a novelist, Rob is a screenwriter, entrepreneur, and avid traveler. He’s been to forty-two countries and lived in five of them. As a restless spirit who can’t remember the last time he was bored, Rob is on a quest to explore the intricacies of our world and spin them into gripping tales. Originally from New York City, Rob lived in L.A. for twenty years before moving to Denver with his family. He’s represented by Park, Fine & Brower Literary Management.

www.robsamborn.com

Diane Schaffer



Diane Schaffer's debut mystery/suspense novel, *Mortal Zin*, was inspired by an award-winning Santa Cruz zinfandel winery where she participated in every step from planting to fermentation. The unique history of zinfandel, California's mystery grape, captivated her, and became the research basis for *Mortal Zin*. A recovering academic and long-time resident of Santa Cruz County, Diane now resides in Ashland, Oregon. When she isn't writing, she's hiking, kayaking, or reading mystery novels. (Diane encourages the IRS to continue allowing tax write-offs for the relentless wine-tasting essential to the veracity of the Mortal Zin Mystery series.)

www.mortalzin.com

Ilene Schneider



One of the first women rabbis ordained in the U.S., Rabbi Ilene Schneider is a retired Jewish educator and hospice chaplain. She has decided what she wants to be when she grows up: a writer. Despite spending her retirement (from earning a regular paycheck) birding, gardening, binge watching TV series, going to movies, traveling, crocheting, creating water colors, and over-sharing on Facebook, she is the award-winning author of the Rabbi Aviva Cohen Mysteries, of short stories, and of the non-fiction *Talking Dirty – in Yiddish?*, and creator of a website of questions and answers about Chanukah.

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Nichelle Seely



Nichelle Seely is an author, book coach, and developmental editor. She used to be an architect, but after more than twenty years she decided she would rather manage characters than contractors. As an author she completely ignores the advice to "stay in your lane." She writes both long-form and serial fiction. Her genres are crime, speculative, and memoir. She has lived in Oregon, Alaska, and now Colorado. She loves to travel and sample new stories and cuisines. She is currently working on the second book in the Audrey Lake Investigations series.

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Pat Sellers



Pat Sellers is not a writer. Other than a brief attempt at writing a mystery set on the moon when she was in junior high (it was the Apollo years), she can't remember writing anything other than papers in college and letters home to her parents. She is, however, a reader. When others list hobbies like skiing or quilting, she always put "reading". In her mid-20s, she discovered Sue Grafton and Sara Paretsky and her love of mysteries took off. Pat was raised in a suburb of San Francisco and graduated from San Diego State University with a degree in History. After a series of unremarkable jobs, she ended her working career with the best job ever – an elementary school librarian.

Terry Shames



Terry Shames is the award-winning author of eleven Samuel Craddock mysteries. In April 2024, she debuted the Jessie Madison thriller series, with *Perilous Waters. The Troubling Death of Maddy Benson*, October 2024 was an Amazon Editor's Pick. *Out of Control*, her first domestic suspense novel, was published in December, 2024. Terry lives in Southern California with her husband, her cute dog Monty, and her orange cat Max. She is a member of MWA, Sisters in Crime, International Thriller Writers, and the Texas Institute of Letters.

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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: The Dani O'Rourke Mysteries; two Burgundy mysteries; and the French Château murder series. The newest château novel was published in March 2024. They're all traditional-cozy hybrids, laced with humor. Susan lives with an adored cat, and has a son who's recently become a published crime fiction author and another who's a great editor.

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Laurie Sheehan



Laurie has been a member of Mystery Writers of America for 20 years, a journey that began with her in a flapper dress sipping cocktails in a cemetery. A trained archaeologist, she (of course) spends time navigating a labyrinth of intrigue working for the Department of Defense. In her spare time, she's making progress on her cozy mysteries, ably assisted by the cutest tubby kitty muse ever. When not plotting crimes, she can be found attending yacht rock dance parties with her husband (in the kitchen), reading, hiking, capturing images through a lens, getting dirt under her nails in the garden, or over-creaming her coffee.

Jay Shepherd



Jay Shepherd is a thriller writer and recovering lawyer from Boston. Law & Politics magazine once named him one of the “Top 100 Lawyers in New England.” He promptly left the law before anyone could ask for a recount. Jay was an inveterate blogger, back when blogging was a thing. He now serves as vice chair of the Bouchercon National Board, and his stint as treasurer of the MWA’s New England chapter led to fewer than expected indictments. Jay is the author of *Firing at Will* (Apress/Springer) and is currently writing a WWII thriller. He is a decent speller but a poor typist.

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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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John Shepphird



John Shepphird is a Shamus Award-winning author, two-time Anthony Award-finalist, and writer/director of television films. Novels include *Deception Specialist* (Jack O’Shea series book #1) and the Hollywood-themed thriller whodunnit *Bottom Feeders*. John’s short fiction has appeared in Alfred Hitchcock’s Mystery Magazine and various crime fiction anthologies. As director, films include *Jersey Shore Shark Attack*, *Chupacabra Terror*, *I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus*, and *Teenage Bonnie & Klepto Clyde*.

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Nancy Cole Silverman



After 25 years of mastering the art of talking (and occasionally listening) on Newstalk radio, Nancy Cole Silverman hung up her headphones to chase down fictional criminals instead. Her crime-focused novels have become the literary equivalent of a thrilling whodunit marathon, captivating readers across America and beyond. With a never-ending supply of coffee, wine, and her steadfast poodle, Nancy has penned the Carol Childs and Misty Dawn Mysteries (Henry Press), along with the Kat Lawson Mysteries (Level Best Books), and numerous short stories. For laughter, suspense, and perhaps a dash of chaos, visit ...

www.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 whodunnit was a Reese's Book Club pick, winner of the Lefty and Anthony awards for best first mystery novel, and a "best of 2023" selection for Amazon, Barnes & Noble, CrimeReads, and LibraryJournal. She's working on her second novel now. Before turning to fiction, Nina wore many hats: NASA engineer, slam poet, game designer, museum director, and nonprofit CEO. Her current obsessions include writing craft, con artists, rock climbing, beach volleyball, and the Arizona desert.

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Robert Smith



Bob served four years in the Air Force as a Russian Linguist in Security Service Command, a branch of the NSA, afterwards attending DePaul University and The John Marshall Law School. With over thirty years experience as a criminal defense lawyer in Chicago, he brings real-life experience to his novels. His *Running with Cannibals* won the 2022 CIBA Hemingway Award and *A Long Way from Clare*, a historical mystery set in 1903 Chicago, was named a category finalist for the 2024 Eric Hoffer Award. The author lives in Chicago and spends winter months wandering around warm climates behind his wife.

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Robin Somers



Robin Somers spent her middle years in Tuolumne County in the Sierra Nevada, where she wrote for the daily newspaper, taught high school English, and kept a horse. She is retired faculty at UC Santa Cruz, and volunteers at Canham Farm horse rescue sanctuary in Scotts Valley. Her latest book *Eleven Stolen Horses*, a Wild Horses Mystery (Sibylline Press 2024), won Finalist in the category of Best Westerns from Pacific Coast Book Review. *Beet Fields*, a murder mystery to be re-released this spring by Sibylline Press, was inspired by her son Joe Schirmer's organic farm, Dirty Girl Produce. She lives in Santa Cruz with her husband and spends a Mother Lode of time in the Sierra Nevada.

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Leanne Sparks



Leanne Kale Sparks spends her days with her first love – writing about murder and mayhem. Currently, she is working on the Kendall Beck Thriller Series featuring an FBI agent hunting down child abductors and murderers. But other stories are always buzzing around in her head, and new stories with intriguing characters are coming. The Rocky Mountains of Colorado is the backdrop of her stories and the place that will always be home. When not writing, she and her husband – who sleeps with one eye open – spend time reading and spoiling their German Shepherd and Corgi. And drinking wine.

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Rosalie Spielman



Rosalie Spielman is an award-winning author, mother, veteran, and retired military spouse. She finds joy in giving readers a humorous escape from the real world. In addition to other books and short stories, Rosalie writes the Hometown Mysteries series, set in Idaho. She is an active member of Sisters in Crime and the Military Writers Society of America, the latter of which awarded *Welcome Home to Murder* a gold medal in 2024.

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Rochelle Staab



Rochelle Staab is a Los Angeles mystery writer, blogger, and historian with a background in contemporary music and radio. An avid hiker, she has logged over 300 different hikes throughout Southern California learning local history from the ground up while searching for new spots to hide fictional corpses. Returning to the mystery conference circuit after an academic hiatus, she's looking forward to exercising her curiosity as a panel moderator. Blending mystery with the supernatural, a digital three-book omnibus of Rochelle's best-selling, Watson Award-winning Mind for Murder series can be purchased online at Amazon.

rochellestaab.blogspot.com & rochellestaab.com

Helen Starbuck



Helen Starbuck, no relation to the coffee bunch, is a Colorado native and an award-winning author of The Annie Collins Mystery Series and standalone romantic suspense set in Colorado. When not writing, you can find her ballroom dancing, gardening, traveling, reading books about strong women and interesting men, researching topics that would probably get her arrested if she was a murder suspect, and being a servant to her cat Bean.

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Mark Stevens



The son of two librarians, Mark Stevens is the author of *The Fireballer* (Lake Union, 2023) and the forthcoming *No Lie Lasts Forever* (Thomas & Mercer, 2025). He is also the author of The Allison Coil Mystery Series including *Antler Dust*, *Buried by the Roan*, *Trapline*, *Lake of Fire*, and *The Melancholy Howl*. *Trapline* won the Colorado Book Award for Best Mystery. Stevens has published short stories in Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine, Mystery Tribune, and *Denver Noir* (Akashic Books, 2022). Stevens also plays bass guitar in two rock bands in his hometown of Mancos, Colorado.

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Steve Stratton



Steve Stratton has worked at the White House as a communicator and as a member of the US Secret Service supporting the protection of the President, Vice President, and Presidential candidates. In the 80's Steve left D.C. for defense contracting and joined 20th Special Forces. Steve deployed on counter-drug and partner country training missions in South America while working a day job supporting the DOD and the intelligence community. Retired, Steve now writes, travels, and enjoys the Colorado outdoors. His latest book, *Caribbean Harvest*, published on January 14th.

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Michal Strutin



Michal Strutin discovered mysteries as a pre-teen, reading Edgar Allan Poe under the covers with a flashlight. She's read mysteries ever since. Now she's writing them. The first of her 16th-century trilogy, set in the eastern Mediterranean, will be published by Sibylline Press next year. Her first novel is *Judging Noa: A Fight for Women's Rights in the Turmoil of the Exodus*. She's authored eight books on natural history, worked as a journalist and an editor at national magazines, and is a research librarian. When scene transitions stump her, she weeds her garden to find the way forward.

michalstrutin.com

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 or playing with The Best Cat Ever. When 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. Lucinda hopes coming down from Santa Fe's 7000 feet altitude to Denver's 5280 feet will give her plenty of extra energy to run around the convention.

www.stopyourekillingme.com

Marie Sutro



Marie Sutro is a true crime junkie who never had a chance. She blames three prior generations of family service in the San Francisco Police Department for her habit. She's nowhere near as gutsy as the protagonist in her award-winning Kate Barnes series, and a bigger bookworm than those in her short stories. A sucker for mysteries, she has traveled as far as Iceland to chat about good stories with fun folks. Marie lives in Northern California and hosts Twisted Passages podcast. Her new novel, *Dark Reckonings*, will be out in the fall.

mariesutro.com

Cynthia Swanson



Cynthia Swanson is the New York Times and USA Today bestselling author of the standalone psychological suspense novels *Anyone But Her*, *The Glass Forest*, and *The Bookseller*, which is slated to be a movie produced by Julia Roberts. Cynthia is also the editor of the Colorado Book Award winning anthology *Denver Noir*. When she's not writing or editing, you can find Cynthia exploring historic sites around Denver and Colorado's Grand County as research for in-progress books, as well as supporting artists and creative communities everywhere.

Bluesky cynswanauthor & www.cynthiaswansonauthor.com

Duane Swierczynski



Duane Swierczynski is the New York Times bestselling and two-time Edgar-nominated author of eleven novels including his latest, *California Bear* (currently being developed as a feature for 20th Century Studios), as well as the graphic novels *Breakneck* and *Redhead*. Along with James Patterson, Duane co-created *The Guilty*, an Audible Original starring John Lithgow and Bryce Dallas Howard, and co-wrote the bestselling *Lion & Lamb*. His first short story collection, *Lush & Other Tales of Boozy Mayhem*, was recently published by Cimarron Street Books. A native Philadelphian, Duane lives in Southern California with his family.

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Elena Hartwell Taylor



Elena writes the dark and atmospheric Sheriff Bet Rivers Mysteries under the last name Taylor and the Eddie Shoes Mysteries, about a quirky Mother/Daughter crime fighting duo, under Hartwell. When she's not writing, she can be found wrangling several equines, including Boone the Giant Mule, and enjoying the sunsets from Paradise, the property she and her hubby own just south of Spokane, Washington. For more information, please visit www.elenataylorauthor.com and follow her on social media for fun videos of horses, dogs, cats, and Boone!

Meredith Taylor



Meredith Taylor tossed away her clinical psychology job (retired) and embarked upon crime. Well, on the page. She has worked with three anthologies from Sisters in Crime Los Angeles, including a story in *Avenging Angelenos*, editing *Entertainment to Die For* with Gay Toltl Kinman and Susan Rowland in 2023, and penning a story "Death Beat" for the recent *Angel City Beat*. A series featuring clinical psychologist Ali Marchant is in the works. Her home got through the recent disastrous Eaton Fire just fine, but it all was seriously non-fiction. If you are moved to donate to fire recovery, she knows good websites to suggest.

Wendall Thomas



Wendall Thomas writes the Lefty-winning and Anthony and Macavity-nominated Cyd Redondo screwball travel mysteries and short fiction about 90s Los Angeles. She teaches in the Graduate Film School at UCLA, lectures internationally on screenwriting, and has worked as a film and television writer. She's also been an entertainment reporter, was the director's assistant on *Young Guns*, adapted Wilkie Collins for PBS's *Wishbone*, sponsors a wildlife trail camera in Tasmania, and wrote the speech for Bonnie Raitt's induction into The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. You can also find her on the Murder Is Everywhere blog.

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Peggy Townsend



Peggy Townsend is an award-winning newspaper journalist who once took a flashlight to a knife fight. She has covered natural disasters and social injustice, and has met more murderers than is probably good for anyone. She also has written about remarkable people who inspire her to this day. She is the author of the recent wilderness thriller, *The Beautiful and the Wild*, and her newest mystery, *The Botanist's Assistant*, will be released in November 2025.

Carl Vonderau



Carl Vonderau grew up in Cleveland in a religious family that believed God could heal all illness. Maybe that's why he went to college in California. After majoring in economics and dabbling in classical guitar, he ended up with a career in banking. Carl has lived and worked internationally and has put his foot in his mouth in several languages. His first book, *Murderabilia*, won a Lefty for Best Debut. His next novel, *Saving Myles*, also won awards. Carl is on the board of the San Diego chapter of Sisters in Crime and a member of Blackbird Writers.

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Scott Von Doviak



Scott Von Doviak is the author of the Edgar and Anthony Award-nominated novel *Lowdown Road*, which Stephen King called “a fucking great story.” His debut novel *Charlesgate Confidential* was named one of the top 10 crime novels of 2018 by the Wall Street Journal. He spent two decades as a pop culture writer, including stints as a film critic for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and a TV reviewer for the Onion’s AV Club, authoring three nonfiction books along the way. He lives in Austin, Texas with his wife Robin and their dog Sully, who had other plans this week.

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Nina Wachsman



Nina Wachsman studied book illustration under Maurice Sendak at Parsons School of Design. She is currently heads up a digital marketing agency in New York City. Her historical mysteries set in 17th Century Venice, beginning with her debut novel, *The Gallery of Beauties* and followed by *The Courtesan’s Secret*, have been finalists for Agatha and Silver Falchion awards. The third book in the series, *The Courtesan’s Pirate* was published by Level Best Books in September 2024. She is a member of Sisters in Crime, Mystery Writers of America, Women’s Fiction Society, Short Mystery Fiction Society, and the Historical Novel Society.

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David Heska Wanbli Weiden



David Heska Wanbli Weiden, an enrolled citizen of the Sicangu Lakota Nation, is author of the novel *Winter Counts* (Ecco/HarperCollins), winner of numerous literary awards (including the Lefty) and named by Time magazine as one of the best mystery novels of all time. His short fiction appears in the anthologies *The Best American Mystery and Suspense Stories*, *Never Whistle at Night*, *Denver Noir*, *Midnight Hour*, *This Time for Sure*, and other anthologies. He’s Professor of English and Creative Writing at Stony Brook University in New York.

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R Weir



Award-winning Author R Weir lives in the Mile-High City with his family, where the Rocky Mountain High isn’t always achieved with an herbal substance. His writing delves into genres with gritty investigators exploring mystery, crime, suspense, and thrills. Featuring former US Marshal Hunter Divine, a dire, determined man searching for salvation. While private eye Jarvis Mann is tough and snarky, with as many faults as virtues. And his newest series, featuring retired police officer Donnie Steel and his K-9 partner Kogel, features characters exhibiting traces of R Weir’s sense of humor, though he’s not as tough and fearless. Though no evil stands a chance against his written word!

www.rweir.net

Kirsten Weiss



Kirsten Weiss writes laugh-out-loud, page-turning mysteries, and now a Tarot guidebook that’s a work of experimental fiction. Her heroes and heroines aren’t perfect, but they’re smart, they struggle, and they succeed. Kirsten writes in a house high on a hill in the Colorado woods and occasionally ventures out for wine and chocolate. Or for a visit to the local pie shop. Kirsten is best known for her Wits’ End, Perfectly Proper Paranormal Museum, and Tea & Tarot cozy mystery books. So if you like funny, action-packed mysteries with complicated heroines, just turn the page...

KirstenWeiss.com

C.M. Wendelboe



C.M. Wendelboe gave up penning short stories and a long career in law enforcement to write books. He immerses himself from traditional Old West novels to mysteries set during the Great Depression to contemporary mysteries set on Indian reservations and will answer any question on the writing business. Anytime. He can be seen wandering the hallways of Left Coast Crime or he can be reached at cmwendelboe@wyoming.com

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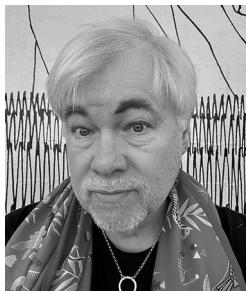
Holly West



Holly West (she/her) is the author of the Mistress of Fortune historical mystery series and the Anthony Award-winning editor of *Murder-A-Go-Go's: Crime Fiction Inspired by the Music of the Go-Go's* and *Killin' Time in San Diego*, the 2023 Bouchercon anthology. Her life goals include petting a dog on every continent, scoring a vintage Eames lounge at the thrift store (no knock-offs, please), and, eventually, retiring to a senior living community just like the one in Richard Osman's *The Thursday Murder Club*.

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Dan White



Dan White is the Creator and Host of the award winning podcast: OutWithDan. The podcast highlights LGBTQ+ Authors and Allies and spans all genres of writing. When not talking (when isn't he?), Dan enjoys traveling and reading and writing short & flash fiction. And if he doesn't say "hi" it's because he's lost in thought. Please interrupt that thought. He's mostly nice.

www.outwithdan.com

Addy Whitehouse



Addy (A.F.) Whitehouse is the author of the Dana Demeter Mystery Series. The first offering, *Signs of Murder*, was a finalist in the Indie Category of the 2022 Chicago Writers Association Book of the Year. The third in the series, *Signs of Obsession*, is a recent addition. Her books can be found at www.amazon.com/authorAFW. Addy and her husband, Bob Carty, live in Waukesha, WI.

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Däんな Wilberg



Däんな Wilberg is an award-winning filmmaker and author with a flair for suspense that keeps readers guessing. Her Borrowed Time series, starring psychic Suzanne Cash, is a thrilling blend of the paranormal, spine-chilling twists, and authentic characters. The Red Chair trilogy, showcases her ability to weave compelling, heart-pounding plots. With a background in scriptwriting and filmmaking, Däんな injects a cinematic quality into her stories, making them impossible to put down. Her unique voice and captivating plots make her a favorite among suspense enthusiasts. When she's not writing, she's likely plotting her next adventure – both on and off the page!

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Darcie Wilde



Darcie Wilde is an award-winning, genre-jumping, bestselling author of historical mysteries. Her Rosalind Thorne and Useful Woman mysteries are set in Regency-era England and are inspired by the stories of Jane Austen, while her upcoming novel, *The Heir*, is set in 1830s London and features the young Princess Victoria as a royal sleuth. When not writing she stitches, bakes, hikes, reads, and helps run a cooperative co-working community. Darcie lives in Michigan.

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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.

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Tony Wirt



Tony Wirt got his first taste of publication in first grade, when his essay on Airplane II: The Sequel appeared in the Lake Mills Elementary School's Creative Courier. He parlayed that success into a writing career that includes Amazon First Read Picks *Just Stay Away* and *Pike Island*, and the forthcoming *Silent Creek*. He's a graduate of the University of Iowa and spent nine years doing media relations in the Hawkeye Athletic Department. He's also been a sportswriter, movie ticket taker, and Dairy Queen ice cream slinger who can still do the little curly thing on top of a soft serve cone. Tony now lives in Minnesota with his family and loves everything about it except the Golden Gophers.

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Kenneth Wishnia



Kenneth Wishnia's novels have been nominated for the Edgar, Anthony, and Macavity Awards, and have made "best of the year" lists at Booklist, Library Journal, the Jewish Press, and the Washington Post. His last 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 – his latest novel, *From Sun to Sun*, takes on the world of biblical noir. So there.

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Sheri Lewis Wohl



Try to catch up to award-winning author, Sheri Lewis Wohl, when she's out running and you undoubtedly will because she's really really slow. When not working on completing half-marathons in all fifty states, the former human remains detection K9 handler is writing her stories filled with danger and the paranormal. Sheri, along with her trusty German shepherd, Deuce, makes her home in NE Washington State where there are plenty of mountains and forests. While she has yet to encounter a werewolf, vampire, or demon, she continues to keep a vigilant watch when the sun goes down and darkness falls.

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Nik Xandir Wolf



David M. Olsen (pen name Nik Xandir Wolf) is a writer, musician, and filmmaker. He is a graduate of Stanford's OWC program in novel writing and holds an MFA in creative writing from UC Riverside. His debut novel, *Shadow Valley*, was a #1 bestseller, and he is the series editor for the Surf Noir anthology series (*Dark Waves*) at Kelp Books. He resides on California's central coast where he surfs regularly and helps keep the ocean clean as a board member with Surfrider Foundation's Monterey Chapter.

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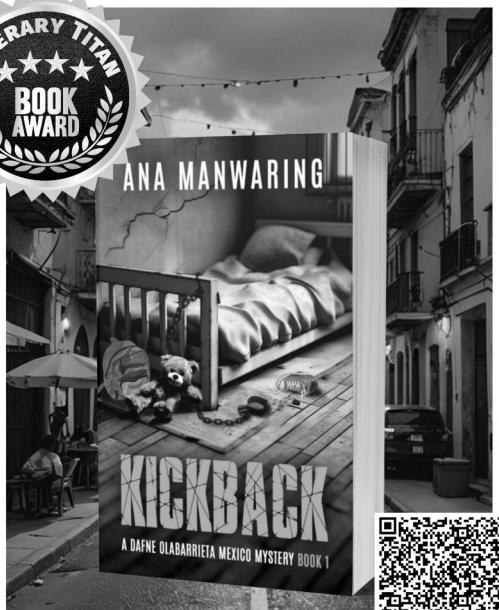
Erika T. Wurth



Erika T. Wurth's novel *White Horse* is a New York Times editors pick, a Good Morning America buzz pick, and an Indie Next, Target book of the Month, and Book of the Month Pick. She is both a Kenyon and Sewanee fellow, and Kenyon faculty. She's published in Buzzfeed, McSweeney's, The Writer's Chronicle, and is a narrative artist for the Meow Wolf Denver installation. She's an urban Native of Apache/Chickasaw/Cherokee descent and lives in Denver with her partner, niece, step-kids and two incredibly fluffy dogs. Her novel *The Haunting of Room 904* will be out with Flatiron books March 2025.

erikatwurth.com

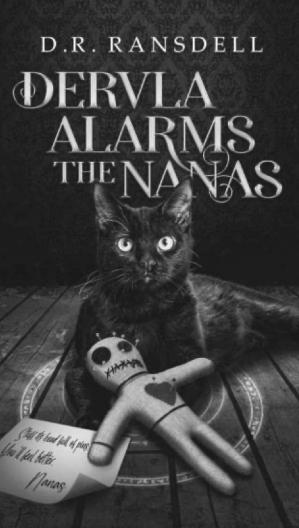
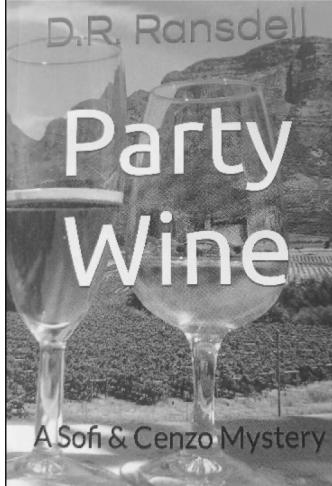
No good deed goes unpunished,
but in Mexico, do the bad?



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Left Coast Crime #35 in Denver

Welcome to the 35th annual Left Coast Crime Convention – *Rocky Mountain High Jinks!* 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 third 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.

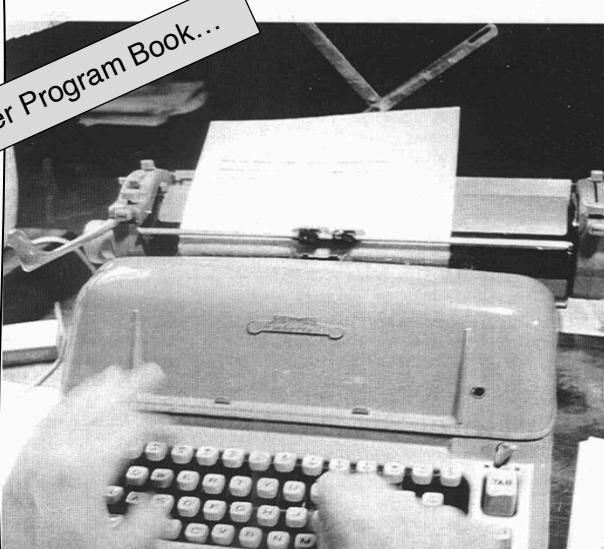
Left Coast Crime Honorees Through the Years					
Year	Place	Guests of Honor	Fan Guests of Honor	Toastmaster	Lifetime Achievement
1991	San Francisco, CA	Marcia Muller Bill Pronzini			
1992	San Francisco, CA	J.A. Jance Earl Emerson		James Lee Burke	
1993	Anaheim, CA	Susan Dunlap		Ann & Evan Maxwell	
1994	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 *	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 *	Tom & Enid Schantz	David Corbett	
2014	Monterey, CA	Cara Black Louise Penny Sue Grafton *	Sue Trowbridge	Brad Parks	Marcia Muller Bill Pronzini
2015	Portland, OR	Chelsea Cain Timothy Hallinan Philip Margolin *	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 *	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	
2026	San Francisco, CO	Robin Burcell Kwei Quartey	Randal Brandt	Leslie Karst	

* indicates "Special Guest"

Does anyone out there recognize this ancient relic?

A quiz from the 1996 Boulder Program Book...



Hard as it may be to believe this odd object was not uncovered by archeologists digging in some ancient ruin.

It was actually discovered in the office of one of the writers attending Left Coast Crime.

The writer refused to explain its purpose. After consulting a local psychic, we determined that it was some kind of talisman or good luck charm.

If rubbed in the proper places, it empowers its master with certain powers which can lead to awards and steady royalties.

Can you guess who is lucky enough to own this marvelous machine?

Hint: he/she has no interest in surrendering ownership.

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 (novel not in the other categories). Annual conventions no longer pick optional award categories.

Over the years, optional awards were 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.

2025 Lefty Award Nominees

Best Humorous Mystery

- Ellen Byron, *A Very Woodsy Murder*
- Jennifer J. Chow, *Ill-Fated Fortune*
- A.J. Devlin, *Bronco Buster*
- Catriona McPherson, *Scotzilla*
- Rob Osler, *Cirque du Slay*
- Richard Osman, *We Solve Murders*

Best Debut Mystery

- Peter Malone Elliott, *Blue Ridge*
- Cindy Goyette, *Obey All Laws*
- Audrey Lee, *The Mechanics of Memory*
- Jennifer K. Morita, *Ghosts of Waikīkī*
- K.T. Nguyen, *You Know What You Did*

Best Historical Mystery (set prior to 1970)

– The Bill Gottfried Memorial

- John Copenhaver, *Hall of Mirrors*
- Robert Dugoni, *A Killing on the Hill*
- Dianne Freeman, *An Art Lover's Guide to Paris and Murder*
- Laurie R. King, *The Lantern's Dance*
- Laura Jensen Walker, *Death of a Flying Nightingale*

Best Mystery (not in other categories)

- Claire Booth, *Home Fires*
- Margot Douaihy, *Blessed Water*
- Rob Hart, *Assassins Anonymous*
- Leslie Karst, *Molten Death*
- James L'Etoile, *Served Cold*
- Duane Swierczynski, *California Bear*

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 Mischief 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 Hambrock
- The Bangalore Detectives Club* by Harini Nagendra
- Devil's Chew Toy* by Rob Osler
- The Verifiers* by Jane Pek

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
- Secret Identity* by Alex Segura

2024 – Bellevue, Washington

Best Humorous Mystery

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

Best Debut Mystery

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

Best Historical Mystery (prior to 1970)

– The Bill Gottfried Memorial

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

Best Mystery (not in other categories)

- Hide* by Tracy Clark
- All the Sinners Bleed* by S.A. Cosby
- Odyssey's End* by Matt Coyle
- Everybody Knows* by Jordan Harper
- Face of Greed* by James L'Etoile
- The Raven Thief* by Gigi Pandian

Notes (?) or Autographs (??) or you can start your next mystery/thriller/spy/suspense/noir novel right NOW!

THIS SPACE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

Left Coast Crime 2025 Bookroom

The Book Room is located in Augusta, on the Lobby Level, where authors will be signing their books after panels and interviews.



author, author!

Author, Author! – based in Colorado Springs – specializes in online sales, special events, books for writers, and books for authors. *Author, Author!* is handling sales of traditionally published books, as well as consignment sales.

Web: www.author-author.net | *Phone:* 205-582-2750

Email: LB Hayden – Authorauthorbooks@gmail.com

Annual LCC Quilt Raffle

Our thanks to long-time supporter Valery Feldman who has been making and donating themed convention quilts since 1997! Purchase raffle tickets in the Bookroom. Do it now; why wait? Proceeds benefit this year's literacy charity (see below).

Acknowledgments

Thanks to our generous Rocky Mountain High Jinks sponsors!

- Sara Paretsky sponsored by Sisters in Crime
- Meet the New Authors Breakfast sponsored by Sisters in Crime
- Saturday Hospitality Room (10:00 AM - 1:00 PM) sponsored by Rocky Mountain MWA
- Saturday Hospitality Room (2:00-3:00 PM) sponsored by Sibylline Press

Our heartfelt thanks for Book Bag donations:

- *Publishers:* Brash Books, Level Best Books, Pegasus Books, Soho Crime, Source Books
- *Authors:* Mark Bacon, Debra Bokur, Jenny Dandy, Anne Da Vigo, Ana Manwaring, Ann Parker, Neil Plakcy, Connie Shelton, Joanna Campbell Slan, Darcie Wilde

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 Rocky Mountain High Jinks Charity

Each Left Coast Crime Convention raises money to support a local literacy organization with funds raised through silent and live auctions. The 2025 recipient is Brink Literacy Project.



Brink Literacy Project is devoted to utilizing the power of storytelling to positively affect the lives of people on the brink. Through our education, community, and publishing divisions, our nonprofit works worldwide to foster a love of literature, increase literacy rates, and use storytelling to empower underserved communities.

Our Education division delivers innovative literacy and storytelling programs with a focus on increasing literacy

rates and assisting personal development through storytelling. We have a strong focus on bringing our initiatives to low-income, low-literacy, and marginalized communities, whether that means teaching in prisons or creating completely original curricula to tackle low reading proficiency in our youth.

Through our Community division, Brink forges partnerships with universities and other humanitarian and literary organizations. As a global community of readers, writers, artists, students, and supporters, Brink brings people from diverse backgrounds together to celebrate the beauty and power of storytelling.

Contacts: www.brinklit.org & www.facebook.com/BrinkLit



Silent Auction Co-Chairs Lori Roberts Herbst and Sandra Murphy will be accepting donations for the Silent Auction and preparing them for display on Wednesday afternoon and all day Thursday.

Rocky Mountain High Jinks Committee & Crew

Co-Chairs: Lucinda Surber & Stan Ulrich

Treasurer: Stan Ulrich

Registrar: Stan Ulrich

Registration Supervisor: Dotty Morefield

Panel Programming: Lucinda Surber

Program Book: Stan Ulrich

Lefty Awards: Lucinda Surber & Stan Ulrich

Physical Awards: Sandra Murphy

Silent Auction & Hospitality: Lori Roberts Herbst
& Sandra Murphy

Volunteer Coordinator: Lucinda Surber

Author Speed-Dating: Les & Leslie Blatt

New Author Breakfast: Mike Befeler, assisted by
Les & Leslie Blatt

Banquet Table Sign-Ups: Baird Nuckles

Banquet Captain: Kathryn Rybka

Book Signing Managers: Mary Birk, Ann Dominguez,
Galit Gottlieb, Kristen Weiss

Volunteer Table Managers: Celeste Porter
& Linda Joffe Hull

Author-Reader Connections: Lucinda Surber

Photographer: Darrell Hoemann

Writing Workshop: Mary Birk & Sue Hinton

Book Bag Project: Mary Birk, Becky Clark, Galit Gottlieb,
Cynthia Kuhn, Celeste Porter, Lisa Brown Roberts

Hospitality Snacks Wranglers: Ann Dominguez,
Becky Clark, Sandra Murphy, Lisa Brown Roberts

Website & Social Media: Lucinda Surber

National Public Relations: Janet Rudolph

More Boulder Program Book fun!



This is the back of the book, stupid!

Either turn the book or yourself around before proceeding.

LEFT COAST CRIME IN YOUR CITY

Want to be more involved with Left Coast Crime?

Longing to have a convention in your home town?

We'd love to talk to you about all the options!

Talk to Lucinda or Stan at Registration or email lucinda@leftcoastcrime.org

**WANTED!!
(or...) MISSING!!**

[no reward]



These three attended LCC in Boulder way back in 1996. It is rumored that one or more of them are *here in Denver*. Take any necessary measures you deem appropriate.

Who's Here From Where

[Registrants thru 03/02/25]

Annmaria Alfieri • NY
 Lawrence Allan • CA
 Sarah J. Andersen • MN
 Carol Anderson • ID
 KSue Anderson • CO
 Traci Anderson • OR
 Tom Andes • NM
 Mary Lee Ashford • IA
 Colette Auclair • CO
 Jeff Ayers • WA

Mark Bacon • NV
 Becky Ballard • CO
 Michael Balter • MI
 Suzanne Balter • MI
 Anne Louise Bannon • CA
 Wendy M. Barnhart • CO
 Renee Bashor • OR
 Merida Bass • CO
 Jon Bassoff • CO
 Pamela Beason • WA
 Mike Befeler • CA
 Ruth Behling • CA
 Francelia Belton • CO
 Rhoda Berlin • WA
 Connie Berry • OH
 Dale Berry • CA
 Mysti Berry • CA
 Celeste Berteau • NM
 Susan Alice Bickford • CA
 Valerie Biel • WI
 Dan Birk • IL
 Mary Birk • CO
 Baron Birtcher • OR
 Randy Bixby • AZ
 Rhonda Blackhurst • CO
 Les Blatt • NJ
 Leslie Blatt • NJ
 Mary Alyce (M.A.) Blume • IL
 Debra Bokur • CO
 Deb Bomberry • CO
 David Boop • CO
 Claire Booth • CA
 Rhys Bowen • CA
 Bob Bowers • CO
 Jill Bowman • WA
 Fleur Bradley • CO
 Richard Brandshaft • WA
 Randal Brandt • CA
 Peg Brantley • CO
 Sarah Bresniker • CA
 Deborah Brewer • CO
 Wes Browne • KY
 Lisa Brown Roberts • CO
 Clare Broyles • AZ
 Angela Brunton • CA
 Craig Faustus Buck • CA
 Leslie Budewitz • MT
 Jodi Burnett • CO
 Ellen Byerrum • CO
 Ellen Byron • CA
 Christine Carbo • MT
 Lynn G. Carlson • WY
 Mindy Carlson • MD

Marco Carocari • CA
 Rodney Carpentier • NY
 Glenda Carroll • CA
 Judy Castleberry • NM
 Diana R. Chambers • CA
 Lance Charnes • CA
 Lina Chern • IL
 Jennifer J. Chow • CA
 Shari Clare • CA
 Aaron Philip Clark • CA
 Becky Clark • CO
 Pam Clark • WV
 Tracy Clark • IL
 Jessica Claypool • CO
 Nancy Coco • KS
 Anita Colby • CA
 Edna Marie Cole • CA
 Peter Colt • RI
 Cate Conte • MA
 Ron Cook • CA
 Michael J. Cooper • CA
 John Copenhaver • VA
 Alyson Corcoran • CO
 Betsy Cornwell • ME
 Ellen Covairt • CA
 Chip Cowell • TX
 Ronnye Cowell • TX
 Matt Coyle • CA
 George Cramer • CA
 Robin Crittenden • CO
 Elizabeth Crowens • NY
 Erynn Crowley • AZ
 Meagan Dallner • MT
 Mac Daly • CA
 Jenny Dandy • CO
 Anne Da Vigo • CA
 Jim Davis • WA
 Kim Davis • CA
 Nancy Davis • WA
 Patricia Davis • CA
 Janet Dawson • CA
 Maddie Day • MA
 Kathy Dean • CO
 Tracee de Hahn • VA
 Lynn Denley-Bussard • CA
 Kate Derie • OR
 Karen DeSantis • CO
 A.J. Devlin • BC
 Z.S. Diamanti • CO
 Vicki Diamond • WA
 Bill Diamond • WA
 Paul Dickson • BC
 Catherine Dilts • CO
 Ann Dominguez • CO
 Kathleen Donnelly • CO
 Margot Douaihy • MA
 C. Jean Downer • BC
 Marci Dragnich • CO
 Chris Dreith • CA
 Michele Drier • CA
 Emmeline Duncan • OR
 Paula Dunn • ID
 Darlene Dziomba • NJ

Peter Malone Elliott • NY
 Christy Emanuel • CA
 Scott Erickson • MT
 Christina Estes • AZ
 Carol Estness • MN
 Donna J. Evans • OR
 Tom Farrell • CO
 Christa Faust • WA
 Vallery Feldman • CA
 Janet Finsilver • CA
 Lisa Ford • CA
 Lana M. Fox • OR
 Jim Fusilli • NY
 Gay Gale • GA
 Matthew Galloway • CO
 Karen Gambach • OR
 John Garrison • CA
 Daryl Wood Gerber • CA
 Robyn Gigl • NJ
 Hal Glatzer • NY
 Katherine Glover • CA
 Lee Goldberg • CA
 Lee Matthew Goldberg • NY
 Ann Goldfarb • AZ
 Bill Gormley • VA
 G.P. Gottlieb • IL
 Cindy Goyette • WA
 Scott Graham • CO
 Paula Green • CA
 Shelley Griffing • IA
 Skye Griffith • CO
 Jeff Grund • CA
 Puja Guha • CO
 Susan Gunn • MT
 George Gurney • OR
 Paul Guyot • AZ
 Sage Hagy • IL
 Leslie J Hall • WA
 Glen Erik Hamilton • WA
 Kerry Hammond • CO
 Hannah Hankins • CO
 James D.F. Hannah • KY
 Vinnie Hansen • CA
 Rob Hart • NJ
 Heather Haven • CA
 Anne Hayes • NC
 Gar Anthony Haywood • CO
 Laurie Heath • UT
 Julie A. Hennrikus • MA
 Sara J. Henry • VT
 Lori Roberts Herbst • CO
 Flo Hernández-Ramos • CO
 Jeff Herrity • VA
 Lori Hetherington • CO
 Sylvia Hew • CA
 Charlotte Hinger • CO
 Sue Hinkin • CO
 Darrell Hoemann • IL
 Dwight Holing • CA
 Julie Holmes • MN
 Jenn Hooker • CA
 Julie Horner • AZ

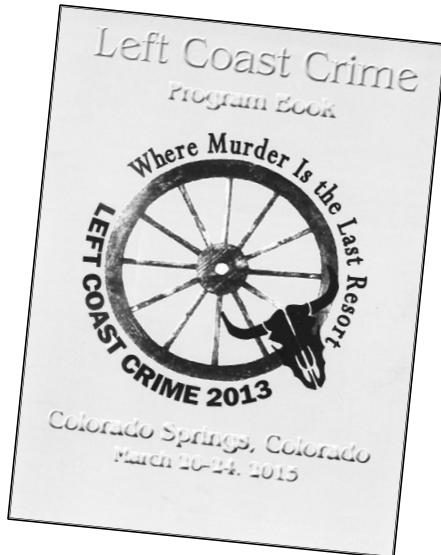
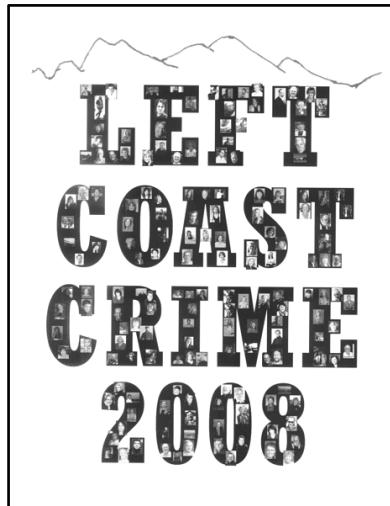
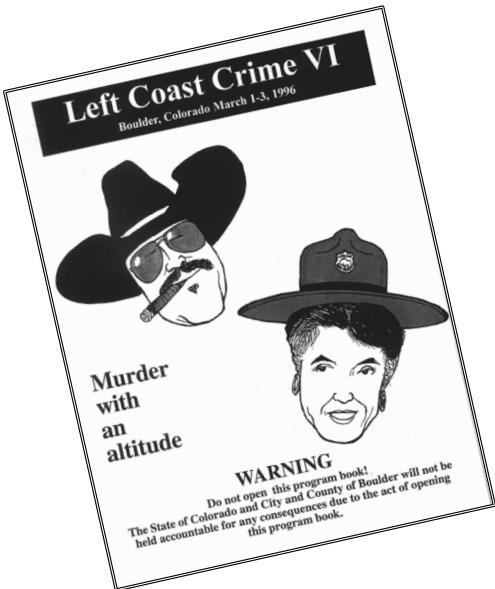
Walter Horsting • CA
 Regina Hott • PA
 Linda Joffe Hull • CO
 Harry Hunsicker • TX
 Curtis Ippolito • CA
 Sharon Ippolito • CA
 Kate B Jackson • WA
 Sue Jaffe • CA
 Paty Jager • OR
 Maddee James • CO
 Seeley James • AZ
 Gale Jesse • IL
 Bruce Johnson • ON
 Claire M. Johnson • CA
 Debra Johnson • CO
 Donna Johnson • WA
 Eric Johnson • KY
 Jan Johnson • AZ
 Michaella Johnson • CA
 Ellen Jordan • IA
 Anna Jorgensen • MN
 Karol Jump • WA
 Robert Justice • CO
 Pantelis Karaplis • BC
 Leslie Karst • CA
 Maria Kelson • WY
 Alex Kenna • CA
 Nancy Kern • CO
 Steven Kiel • NV
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 Dana King • MD
 Craig Kingsman • UT
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 Grace Koshida • ON
 Kim Krabill • WA
 Cynthia Kuhn • CO
 Lori Lacefield • CO
 Kara Lacey • VT
 Deborah Lacy • VA
 Kate Lansing • CO
 Tom Larsen • WA
 Aileen Latulippe • ON
 Audrey Lee • CA
 Theresa Lee • TX
 James L'Etoile • CA
 Paul Levine • CA
 Jenna Lincoln • CO
 Paulette Litz • CA
 David Loeb • AZ
 Christine Lovett • CA
 Margaret Lucke • CA
 Rebecca Lugones • FL
 Julie Luplow • CO
 DP Lyle • CA
 Sharon Lynn • AZ
 Riley Mack • CO
 Nicole Maggi • CA
 BJ Magnani • MA
 G.M. Malliet • VA
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 Jamie Mason • NC
 Mike Massarotti • CO
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 M. Stone Mayer • MN
 Jessica McConahey • CA
 Marjorie McCown • CA
 Mike McCrary • TX
 Maria McDonald • MD
 Caitlin McKenna • CO
 Prudence McKenney • AK
 Linda McNab • BC
 Catriona McPherson • CA
 Margaret Menzie • Netherlands
 Richard Meredith • CA
 Barbara Miller • WA
 Sandra Mills • CO
 Matt Misetich • CA
 Terry Misner Dubbs • KS
 Marie Mitchell • BC
 Nancy Mitchell • CA
 Nancy Mitchell • CO
 Margaret Mizushima • WA
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 JulieAnn Moe • CO
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 Sandra Murphy • CO
 Rebecca Nelson • MT
 Janet Nesheim • CO
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 Susan Nolen • WA
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 Terry Odell • CO
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 Matthew Porter • CO
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 Diane Schaffer • OR
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 Mona Smith • CA
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 Robin Somers • CA
 Leanne Sparks • TX
 Rosalie Spielman • MD
 Rochelle Staab • CA
 Helen Starbuck • CO
 Mark Stevens • CO
 Barbara Stewart • NY
 Steve Stratton • CO
 Michal Strutin • CA
 Lucinda Surber • NM
 Marie Sutro • CA
 Carol Swanson • CO
 Cynthia Swanson • CO
 Jeanne Swartz • AK
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 Angela Sylvaine • CO
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 Nina Wachsman • NY
 Laura Waisner • CO
 Mary Allyn Watson • TX
 Lisa Weddle • CA
 David Heska Wanbli
 Weiden • CO
 Kimberly Weir • CO
 R Weir • CO
 Alice Weiss • CO
 Kirsten Weiss • CO
 C.M. Wendelboe • WY
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 Dan White • CA
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 Erika T. Wurth • CO
 Marisa Young • MD
 Belinda Zander • CA



Memories – As we all know, the loss of book stores and independent sellers has accelerated in recent decades. Both Bouchercon and Left Coast Crime were largely the creation of specialty book stores and collectors who also sold and traded in the pre-Internet world. Some are among the booksellers at the first Colorado Left Coast Crime, in Boulder, March 1-3, 1996. Five booksellers were at LCC 2008 in Denver, and three at LCC 2013 in Colorado Springs. Rue Morgue was at all of them, as you might expect.

The Booksellers

The following dealers will have books and other items for sale in the North Ballroom. They are not to be confused with bears or other wildlife. You may feed them. Often.

Bryan Barrett
29127 Colorado Rd.
Hayward CA 94544
Used & new mystery books

Bella Luna Books
P.O. Box 260425
Highlands Ranch CO 80126
Tony Delcavo & Pam Moser
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Buffalo Medicine Books
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Gallup NM 87035
Ernie Bulow
Mysteries by Southwestern writers

Elsey Books
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Vero Beach FL 32962
Bill & Vi Elsey
Mystery first editions

Femmes Fatales
P.O. Box 3457
Lakewood CA 90712
Marisa Babjak-Wiggins
Mystery gift items

Fruit of the Tune Music
P.O. Box 440
Montclair NJ 07042
Michael Deueso
Kinky Friedman tapes, CDs, and memorabilia

Arthur Hackathorn
230 W. 6th Ave.
Denver CO 80204
Pulp magazines

Al & Vivian Jamieson
814 S. Nelson Way
Lakewood CO 80226
Mystery first editions

Kugelman & Bent
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Denver CO 80218
Michael Harvey
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Arvada CO 80004
Doug & Tami Lewis
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Mary Mason
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San Diego CA 92175
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Minneapolis MN 55405
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Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8JH
England
Thalia Proctor (representing Ralph Spurrier)
New British mysteries

Rue Morgue Bookshop
946 Pearl St.
Boulder CO 80302
Tom & Enid Schantz
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San Francisco Mystery Bookstore
4175 24th St.
San Francisco CA 94114
Bruce Taylor
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Rockville MD 20852
Nelson Freck
Mystery first editions

Sleuth of Baker Street
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Toronto ON M4G 3B7
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New British & American mysteries

Willow Creek Books
8100 S. Akron, Ste. 310
Englewood CO 80046
Don Colberg
Mystery first editions & new books

Malice Domestic® 37

Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center
Bethesda, Maryland, USA

April 25-27, 2025



Poirot Award
*Lucy
Worsley*



Guest
of Honor
*Marcia
Tally*



Lifetime
Achievement
*Donna
Andrews*



Toastmaster
*Gigi
Pandian*



Fan Guests of Honor
*Les & Leslie
Blatt*

Malice Remembers
Dorothy Gilman



... not everyone's cup of tea

Register at

malicedomestic.net

Left Coast Crime #36

February 26 - March 1, 2026

San Francisco, California

Robin Burcell

Guest of Honor

Kwei Quartey

Guest of Honor

Randal Brandt

Fan Guest of Honor

Leslie Karst

Toastmaster



Hyatt Regency San Francisco

The Hyatt Regency is located on the Embarcadero near the Ferry Building. The historic San Francisco Cable Car stops right outside the Hyatt, a free shuttle provides trips to the Presidio National Park, and the Embarcadero BART station is steps away. The 1898 Ferry Building is right across the street from the Hyatt, with a Marketplace packed with restaurants and shops. From the Port of San Francisco you can catch a ferry to Treasure Island, Angel Island, Alcatraz, Jack London Square in Oakland, and many other destinations. Hotel convention rate = \$249

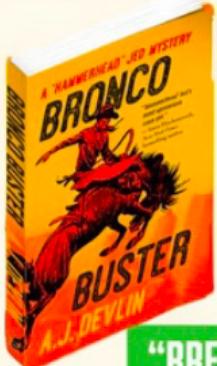
Registration

Registration includes a Welcome Reception, two special Breakfasts, the Lefty Awards Banquet, and admission to all panels and interviews. Convention Registration = \$299 through the close of LCC 2025.

leftcoastcrime.org/2026/

WWW . AJDEVLIN . COM

"MORE THAN A MYSTERY"



"TWISTY"



"THE WILDEST RIDE
OF THE YEAR"

"CLASSIC"



AWARDS
2024

"ROLICKING"

"ECCENTRIC"

"FUN"

"LOUD"

"MUST
READ"

"CRAZY" "ROMANTIC"

"RIOTOUS" "AMPED
UP"



"A THRILL RIDE"

"UPROARIOUS"

"SIMPLY OUTSTANDING"

"HILARIOUS"

"CINEMATIC"

"RAUCOUS"

"CRACKLING"

"CANADIAN PHENOM"

"MEANINGFUL"

"LEWD"

"CRINGEY"

"INSULTING"

"HEARTFELT"

"BRONCO BUSTER

"HAS IT ALL."

"PROFANE"

"ELEGANT"

"AMAZING" "WITTY"

"CHARMING"

"GRITTY"

"ELECTRIC"

"AN ORIGINAL WHODUNNIT SPECIAL"