

May 2017



The
MARCH

of CRIME

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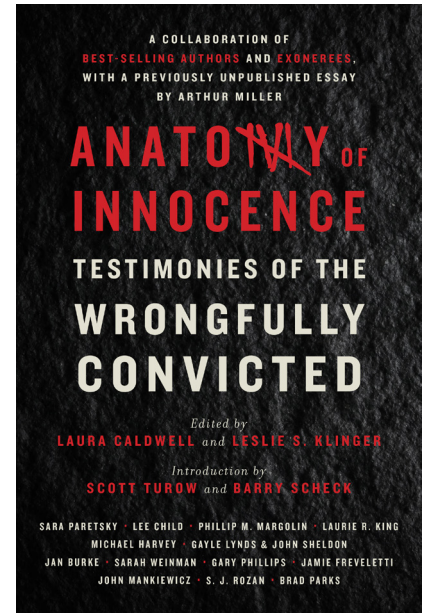
Tam Luncheon
Sunday, May 21 at 12 p.m.

ANATOMY OF INNOCENCE: Testimonies of the Wrongfully Convicted

SoCalMWA is thrilled to welcome bestselling authors Laura Caldwell and **Leslie S. Klinger** for a discussion of their newly published anthology, ANATOMY OF INNOCENCE: TESTIMONIES OF THE WRONGFULLY CONVICTED.

The collection pairs exonerates with well-known crime writers in order to give voice to these more than a dozen men and women who were wrongfully convicted, sentenced, and imprisoned before finally, years later, being exonerated.

Laura and Les will be joined by contributor **Gary Phillips**; Adam Grant and Paula Mitchell of Loyola Law School's Project for the Innocent; and exonerates William Dillon and Andrew Wilson, each of whom spent decades in prison for murders they didn't commit.



California Crime Writers Conference

June 10–11
Culver City, CA

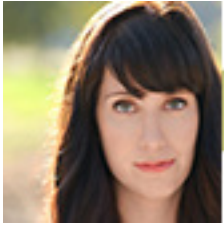
[Conference Program](#)

[TAM O'SHANTER RESTAURANT](#)

2980 Los Feliz Blvd, Los Angeles CA 90039
Noon–2:30 p.m. (doors open at 11:30 a.m.)

Members \$20
Guests \$30

[Reserve your spot now!](#)



The President's Rap Sheet

Elizabeth Little

This Friday I boarded a plane from JFK to LAX, and I was, very unusually, glad to be going home.

It only took seven years for this to happen.

When I first moved to LA from New York, I was the worst kind of cross-country transplant. I complained constantly: about the traffic, the bagels, the water, the actors, the Grove, the bagels. I suspect I was insufferable, but my friends here were all too polite to say what they were undoubtedly thinking: “Dude, we get it: You used to take the subway. Good for you.”

My concerns weren't all so superficial, though. I also worried that, by leaving what I considered to be the epicenter of the publishing industry, I risked doing damage to my career—a concern similar to those I hear from writers who are querying agents (“But don't I want a New York agent?”) or weighing offers from editors (“But don't I want a New York publisher?”). These are reasonable questions. New York is, after all, home to the biggest houses, the biggest agencies, the biggest print media outlets. There is, without a doubt, a comparative advantage to having business ties to the Big Apple.

That said, I don't think I'd have a career in crime fiction if I hadn't moved away. Because, for me, it's possible to be too wrapped up in the business, to be so hypersensitive to the edicts and whims of the Big Five that you lose your creative agency, your spirit of adventure. I needed to put actual physical distance between me and the pub-lishing industry before I could figure out what I really wanted to write.

I returned to this thought again and again last week at the Edgars, which, yes, take place in New York and, yes, are heavily attended by New York writers, editors, and agents, but which is also ultimately a celebration of mystery writers from across the country and around the world. I was taken aback by how much it meant to me that I was there as part of that latter group, as a representative of a crazy, beautiful, bagel-less wonderland I never thought I wanted any part of and that now I call home.

I believe it's essential for anyone with an interest in the book business to keep tabs on industry-related news from New York. But I would also caution any new writer to avoid a preoccupation with the place. The city isn't the be-all and end-all we some-times make it out to be. At the end of the day, you don't need to be in New York to be a writer: You need to be wherever your inspiration is.

Elizabeth

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The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

Next month, I'll be heading to Los Angeles for the California Crime Writers Conference. This is the third time I've served as registration chair, working alongside **Sarah M. Chen**, the conference's treasurer, to coordinate the registration of two hundred writers and aspiring writers. I'm happy to see so many SoCalMWA members registered, along with quite a few new names—those who are eager to learn from Southern California's vast pool of crime fiction talent.

In 2009, mine was one of those new names. It was my first writers conference and I remember it so well. **Jeri Westerson** gave a talk about researching historicals, a subject of prime interest to me since I was in the process of writing my first novel, a mystery set in 17th-century London. In **Gary Phillips's** and **Bill Fitzhugh's** presentation, they challenged attendees to write a brief synopsis of their plots. Elevator pitches, if you will. **Naomi Hirahara**, who I believe was a co-chair of the conference that year, was a constant presence throughout the weekend. She was the person who initially brought me into the planning of future conferences by asking me to be the Manuscript Critique Coordinator for the 2011 CCWC.

Most of all, I remember being so intimidated by all these people. I'm not a person who goes forth with confidence. So it still kind of boggles my mind that I now call each one of them, and many more I haven't named, friends.

If you're attending the conference this year and you're feeling a little nervous because you don't know anyone, you'll find me at the registration desk with a smile on my face, ready to greet you. I've been in your shoes! Give me a little nudge and I'll be happy to introduce you around.

I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Holly

The March of Crime is the newsletter of the Southern California Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America.

Editor: [Holly West](#)

Opinions expressed herein are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter.

Contact us at:
themarchofcrime@gmail.com

Join our SoCalMWA Yahoo! Group

Email SoCalMWA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to join
(members only)

OVER the TRANSOM

Timothy Hallinan's first self-published book in six years, *PULPED*, will come out May 1. It features the over-educated detective from his 1990s Simeon Grist series. Hallinan will continue to be published traditionally as well: The eighth Poke Rafferty Bangkok Thriller, *FOOLS' RIVER*, will be published by Soho in October.

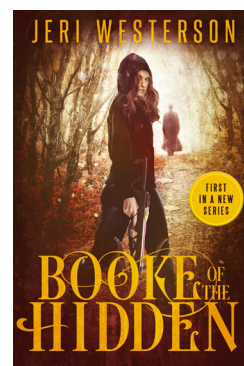
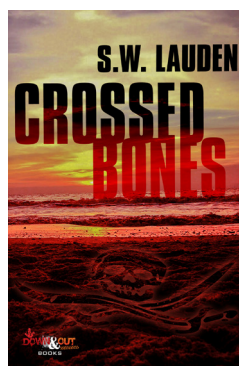
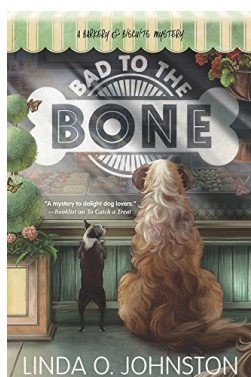
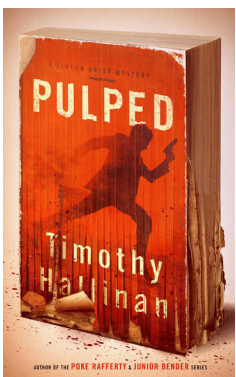
Gay Toltl Kinman has two new stories in the *Vengeance is Mine* series: In “The Chu Case,” Mrs. Chu seeks justice for her daughter, Juli, who was murdered by her abusive husband. Acquitted in a criminal trial and now free, he can't be tried for the same crime so V.I.M. seeks another way to bring him to justice—legally. In “The George Case,” Mr. Phin Sing George hires Angie Shay and Lara Chisholm, owners of the *Vengeance is Mine* P.I. Agency, to find out who murdered their eleven-year-old daughter. The police want to arrest a neighborhood registered pedophile for the murder, but Angie and Lara take a different approach.

Linda O. Johnston's third *Barkery & Biscuits* Mystery, *BAD TO THE BONE*, will be released in May.

CROSSED BONES, the second *Tommy & Shayna Crime Caper* novella by **S.W. Lauden**, is available May 1 from Down & Out Books. This follow up to *CROSSWIRE* features two star-crossed lovers in search of treasure in a modern day North Carolina town populated by drug-dealing pirate impersonators and vicious bikers. “With his new novella that is as raw as it is fun, S.W. Lauden brings a surprising, unforgettable voice to the contemporary crime scene.” — Steph Post, author of *LIGHTWOOD*.

Known best for her mysteries, NYT best selling author **Jenn McKinlay** branches out into a “fun and charming” romantic comedy. Seven years ago, Mackenzie “Mac” Harris fled her hometown of Bluff Point, Maine, after being left at the altar—and secretly seeking solace in the arms of her best friend's off-limits brother Gavin Tolliver. Now she's back to attend her best friend's wedding. When Mac rescues a stray puppy named Tulip, only Gavin, the town's veterinarian, can help. With a starred review from *Booklist* and four stars from *RT*, this series is already generating buzz.

Jeri Westerson has revealed the cover for her new urban fantasy *BOOKE OF THE HIDDEN*, a new series and new genre for her. See more about the series at <http://www.jerwesterson.com/booke-of-the-hidden-series>.



OVER the TRANSOM

Craig Faustus Buck's short story "Aftermath," a psychological suspense thriller in 700 words, was nominated for a Derringer Award in the Flash category. His short story "As Ye Sow," a noir tale of doomed mail-order romance, was selected to be in this year's Bouchercon anthology, PASSPORT TO MURDER.

James Scott Bell's new Mike Romeo thriller has just been released. From the posh beaches of Malibu to the dark corners of LA's fight game, ROMEO'S HAMMER is another heart-whamming rush in the series that is "sharp as a switchblade" (Meg Gardiner, *New York Times* bestselling author).

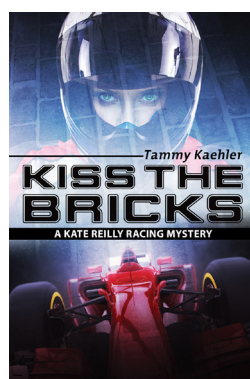
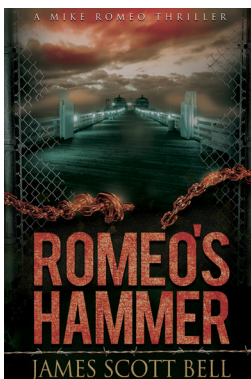
KISS THE BRICKS, the fifth in **Tammy Kaehler's** Kate Reilly Mystery Series, releases May 2. This entry finds racecar driver Kate at the famed Indianapolis 500 motor race, preparing to run the biggest race of her life and fending off comparisons to another female driver who supposedly committed suicide 30 years prior. Kate narrows down the clues to two murders—one past, one present—all while fighting for her voice and identity in the storm of media attention. But will the past stay buried or will history repeat itself and leave Kate fighting for her own life?

UNCORKING A LIE, the second book in the Sommelier Mystery Series by **Nadine Nettmann**, will be published on May 8. It follows sommelier Katie Stillwell as she investigates a counterfeit bottle of wine. Chapters are paired with wine recommendations.

Paul D. Marks's story "Twelve Angry Days" appears in the May-June issue of *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*, out now.

An interview with **Martin Roy Hill** about his forthcoming thriller, THE BUTCHER'S BILL, was published by *Mystery Tribune*. Martin's Vietnam War horror story "The Other Enemy" was published in the latest issue of *Devolution Z*.

Sarah M. Chen's book, CLEANING UP FINN, has won a Silver IPPY award for Best Regional Fiction in the West-Pacific category.



OVER the TRANSOM

Taffy Cannon is both pleased and relieved to announce the publication of *SIBCARE: THE TRIP YOU EVER PLANNED TO TAKE*, a book she hopes none of her friends and colleagues will ever need. The book grew out of her experiences caring long distance for her brother who became disabled at 51. It's intended to get you started on whatever family road you find yourself travelling, with resources for more information. It's also loaded with info that applies to all caregiving. SibCare.org

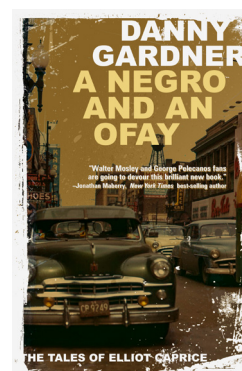
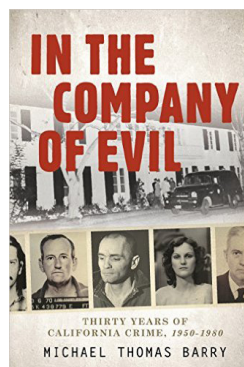
Michael Thomas Barry's *IN THE COMPANY OF EVIL: THIRTY YEARS OF CALIFORNIA CRIME, 1950-1980* (Schiffer, 2016) was recently awarded a bronze medal in the 2017 Independent Publishers Book Awards in the West-Pacific: Best Regional Non-Fiction category.

The anthology *BUSTED! ARRESTING STORIES FROM THE BEAT* (Level Best Books), released this April, includes the mystery-horror tale "Most Evil" by **Peter DiChellis**.

The May/June issue of *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* includes **Robert S. Levinson's** short story "Rosalie Marx is Missing," in which Las Vegas P.I. Vincent Riverbend is hired to find her, a search that leads him deep into the world of Vegas-style glitter and gangsters.

Coming May 15 from Down & Out Books, **Danny Gardner's** highly anticipated *A NEGRO AND AN OFAY*, which ForeWord reviews says "is candid, unflinching, and full of gallows humor" and "a bright new entry in the genre."

Maria Alexander's paranormal mystery and YA debut, *SNOWED*, won the 2016 Bram Stoker Award for Superior Achievement in a Young Adult Novel.



Member APPEARANCES

Jeri Westerson will be at the following locations: Monday, May 1—Glendale Central Library Author Book Festival. She'll be doing a reading at 5:30 p.m. and selling books. Plenty of other authors will be there as well. Come on down! 222 E Harvard St, Glendale, CA 91205 / Friday, May 5, 3 p.m. PST—A special Facebook Only Event: “Stuck At Home While My Friends Are At Romantic Times.” Watch for links and details at JeriWesterson.com. She'll be available for questions and a giveaway! / Saturday, May 27, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., she'll be speaking at the Sisters in Crime Central Coast meeting at the Nipomo Library 918 W Tefft St, Nipomo, CA 93444. Free to the public! Books for sale.

Craig Faustus Buck will be reading at the grand opening of the newly refurbished Glendale Central Library on May 1, 4:45 p.m. The free celebration will feature many local authors and is open to the public from 3-7 p.m.

Authors **S.W. Lauden** (CROSSED BONES), **Danny Gardner** (A NEGRO AND AN OFAY), **Sarah M. Chen** (CLEANING UP FINN), and Nolan Knight (THE NEON LIGHTS ARE VEINS) will be reading and signing books for the Crimewave event at Gatsby Books, 5535 E. Spring Street in Long Beach on Saturday, May 27 at 5 p.m.

Georgia Jeffries will be speaking at the California Crime Writers Conference June 10-11 in Culver City. Her panel is: “Writing for the Screen or the Page: Techniques and Differences,” Saturday, June 10, 9:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. Joining her on the panel are fellow authors/screenwriters **Phoef Sutton**, Wendall Thomas, and moderator **Ellen Byron**.

Tammy Kaehler will discuss and sign her new book, KISS THE BRICKS, at a number of events throughout May: May 7, 2 p.m., at The Poisoned Pen (Scottsdale); May 13, 1 p.m., at Mysterious Galaxy (San Diego); May 20, 4 p.m., Mystery Ink (Huntington Beach); May 25, 11 a.m., at Carmel Clay Public Library (Carmel, IN); and May 26 and 28 wherever you can find her at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway!

Mike Befeler will be giving a book talk about his international thriller, THE TESLA LEGACY, at the Iacoboni Library, 4990 Clark Street, Lakewood, CA, on Monday, June 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Join authors **Laurie Stevens**, **Naomi Hirahara**, **Jeri Westerson**, **Linda O. Johnston**, **Craig Faustus Buck**, and more, as they read excerpts of their books at the Glendale Central Library grand reopening and Author Fair May 1.

Paul D. Marks, **Connie Di Marco**, **Laurie Stevens**, and Dr. Elizabeth Harris will discuss the importance of setting in novels on May 13 at the Platt Library in West Hills.

Nadine Nettmann will be signing her new novel, UNCORKING A LIE, at Mysterious Galaxy's Birthday Bash on May 13.

Member APPEARANCES

Writer Types crime and mystery podcast co-hosts Eric Beetner and **S.W. Lauden** are doing their first live podcast event on Saturday, May 6, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. They'll be putting some of your favorite LA-based authors on the hot seat, including **Glen Erik Hamilton, Danny Gardner**, and Christa Faust. Come watch them squirm for your chance to win prizes! Free and open to the public. Book Show LA, 5503 N Figueroa St, Los Angeles, California 90042. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1188137677950334/>

MISCAST

Do you like your crime fiction hardboiled as a ten-minute egg? Do you like your cozy as sweet as Grandma's apple pie? How about hearing the hardest boiled authors you know reading about the cat who solved the crime? Or listening to a cozy author describe death with a rusty knife?

Join us for Miscast on a freaky Friday night before the California Crime Writers Conference starts, to hear authors of all genres switch places and read each other's work. You'll hear voices you know and love, reading the opposite of what they write.

Come on down to the Culver Club in the DoubleTree lobby for a drink, a few laughs, and maybe a blush or two from our readers. It will be a reading like no other.

Featuring authors **Glen Erik Hamilton, Harley Jane Kozak, Matt Coyle, Elaine Ash, Jeri Westerson, Daryl Wood Gerber, S.W. Lauden**, and Kate Carlisle.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Friday, June 9
8–10 p.m.
Culver Club

DoubleTree by Hilton
6161 West Centinela Avenue
Culver City, CA

Call for Donations

2017 California Crime Writers Conference Silent Auction and Raffle



Here's an opportunity to bring attention to your work while raising money for the 2017 CCWC charities, the Libros Schmibros Lending Library and the California Forensic Science Institute. Auction and raffle donations are tax deductible.

Donation ideas:

- A character name in your next book or story.
- A critique of a short story or the first three chapters or more of a novel.
- A signed copy of your latest book, out-of-print book, anthologies you've appeared in, or signed copies of the first two or three books of your series.
- Signed ARCs or a copy of an original manuscript with notations.
- Authors writing in multiple genres: a basket of a book from each genre.
- E-book authors can create fun gift certificates for redemption via email from the seller of the winner's choice.
- Short story authors: a basket of magazine issues with your stories in print.
- Themed baskets: If your work centers on a topic, profession, craft, or hobby, include items connected to the theme or characters.
- Baskets for readers: your work along with products for reading on vacation, in bed, or in the tub.
- Baskets for writers: writing books, notepad, pen, dictionary, chocolate, timer.

Sample 2015 CCWC basket:

Polyester Press Basket #2: Mad for Mod Series, \$55

Blue basket with 1 copy PILLOW STALK, ARC of THAT TOUCH OF INK, Rock Hudson & Doris Day movie collection boxed set, daisy pen, box of chocolates, assorted candies, and Polyester Press bookmark.

If you plan to donate to this year's auction, contact gaydegani@gmail.com or laurie@lauriestevensbooks.com by April 15 with a detailed list of items and fair market value for tax purposes. We will email you a confirmation.

Donated items must be received by us no later than June 3, fully assembled in containers or baskets with an itemized list and catchy title. The auction committee will wrap containers in cellophane and add the bow.

Deliver to:

Gay Degani and Laurie Stevens, Auction Committee Co-chairs
95 Columbia Street
Pasadena, CA 91105

You may also drop off baskets at the [Sisters in Crime/LA](#) May 7 chapter meeting.

NOTE: Baskets will NOT be accepted at the conference.

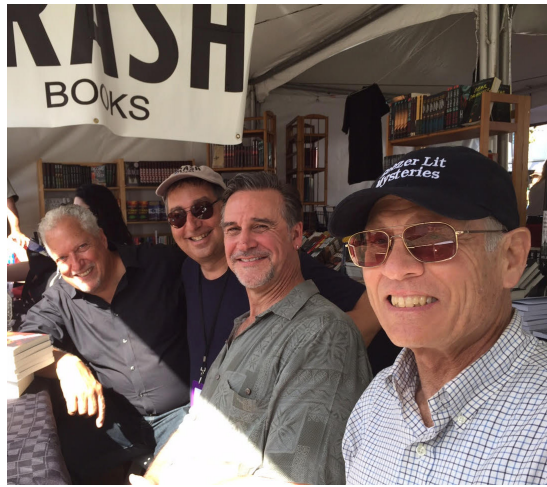
Thank you for supporting these worthwhile causes!

You Oughta Be in Pictures

LA Times Festival of Books



L - R: Former B&N Events Coordinator Lita Weissman, **Gar Anthony Haywood**, **Lee Goldberg**, Laura Lippman, and Megan Abbott



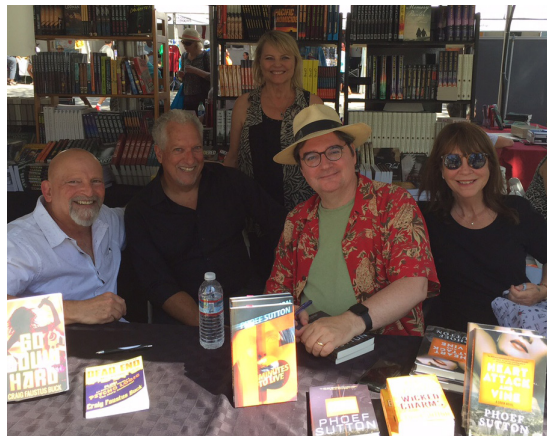
L - R: Mark Rogers, **Lee Goldberg**, Phillip Thompson, and **Mike Belefer**



L - R: **Lee Goldberg**, Eric Jerome Dickey, Chris Farnsworth, Gregg Hurwitz, and Daniel Suarez



L - R: **Tim Hallinan**, Christopher Farnsworth, and **Lee Goldberg**



L - R: **Craig Faustus Buck**, Mark Rogers, Mystery Ink Owner **Debbie Mitsch**, **Phoef Sutton**, and **Cara Black**



L - R: **Connie Di Marco**, **S.W. Laudén**, **Matt Coyle**, and **Wendall Thomas**



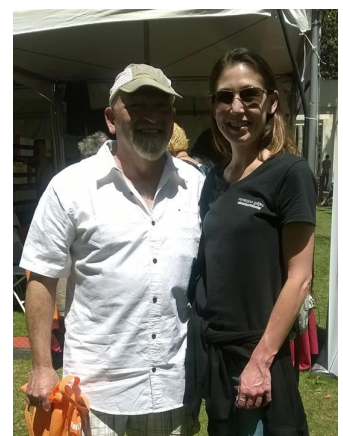
Jeri Westerson, AKA **Haley Walsh** at the California LGBTQ Authors booth.



Josh Stallings and **Travis Richardson's** daughter, **Pauline**, in a stare off.



L - R: **Phoef Sutton**, **Maria Alexander**, and **Patricia Smiley** at the MWA booth.



Craig Faustus Buck and **Sarah M. Chen**

Crime CALENDAR

May 21 – [SoCalMWA Tam Luncheon \(program TBD\), Los Angeles, CA](#)
June 10–11 – [California Crime Writers Conference, Culver City, CA](#)
July 11–15 – [ThrillerFest XII, New York, NY](#)
July 16 – [2nd Annual BBQ Bookswap, Los Angeles, CA](#)
July 23 – [Joint SoCalMWA/Sisters in Crime OC Meeting, Irvine, CA](#)
October 7 – [SoCalMWA Gumbo Party, Los Angeles, CA](#)
October 12 – 15 – [Bouchercon World Mystery Conference, Toronto, Canada](#)
November 4 – [Murder and Mayhem Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI](#)
December 10 – [SoCalMWA Holiday Party, Los Angeles, CA](#)

The LAST WORD

“Be careful, Achille. You may find the salons of the rich and powerful more treacherous than the back alleys of Montmartre.”

—Gary Inbinder, THE HANGED MAN