

August 2018



The
MARCH

of CRIME

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Present:

T. JEFFERSON PARKER

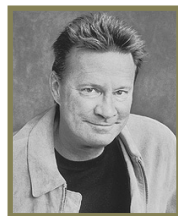
in conversation with

Glen Erik Hamilton

Sunday, August 26

1 p.m.

T. Jefferson Parker won the Edgar award three times—for the novels SILENT JOE and CALIFORNIA GIRL, as well as for a short story. He's the author of more than two-dozen novels. He wrote his first novel, LAGUNA HEAT, while working as a reporter. It was published to rave reviews and made into an HBO movie starring Harry Hamlin, Jason Robards, and Rip Torn. His new novel is SWIFT VENGEANCE, the focus of our talk.



Irvine Ranch Water District Community room*
15500 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine

Open to the public.

No charge (donations gladly accepted)

RSVP: secretary@ocsistersincrime.org by Thursday, August 23.

** Disclaimer: The Irvine Ranch Water District neither supports nor endorses the cause nor activities of organizations that use the District's meeting rooms, which are made available as a public service.*

Bouchercon 2018 **Passport to Murder**

September 6–9
St. Petersburg, FL

[More info](#)

Save the Date! **SoCalMWA Gumbo Party**

Saturday, October 27

Hosted by Bill & Kendall
Fitzhugh

Tam Luncheon **Cold Case Investigation**

Sunday, November 4

[More info](#)

Congratulations to **THE OBAMA INHERITANCE**, edited by **Gary Phillips**, which is up for an Anthony Award in the anthology category.

My apologies for not including it in the list of nominees that appeared in the July issue of *The March of Crime*.



The President's Rap Sheet

Glen Erik Hamilton

A quote from the Canadian literary polymath Anne Carson: *"I write to find out what I think about something."*

It's heartening news that even the most accomplished writer might leap into a story or essay without having a firm grasp on where she intends to go. This is a step beyond choosing not to outline specific logical points or story elements—we'll save a discussion of plotting vs. pantsing for another time—Carson implies that she might not even know what her argument or theme is before her fingers hit the keyboard. She trusts that the act of writing is enough to lend ideas the beginnings of clarity. She looks at what she has captured, decides what's wheat and what's chaff, and picks the best path forward.

My eighth-grade teacher was right, darn him. Theme *is* a critical component of any literature worth reading. But while Mr. Eyman had us begin work by deciding on a unifying subject, Ms. Carson refutes that approach—of course, she isn't hampered by a fifty-three-minute class length—and encourages us to trust the fundamental idea to come forth as we write.

When planning a book, I'll noodle over what trouble my lead characters might get into and how the experience will change them. I think a lot about what happens, but not what the book's really about. That I discover, like a magic trick my subconscious has pulled on me, during the first full reading of the manuscript. My debut novel, PAST CRIMES, revealed itself as a story about forgiveness. Rewrites allowed me to color in the theme that was already waiting there. I worried that the trick wouldn't work again, but it has. And from what other writers have told me, that little miracle is not so unusual. Themes often don't appear until the draft is done, like a reflection in a puddle formed after a storm. Sometimes we need a whole book, a whole cast, a whole plot, to explain simple truths. Even to ourselves.

We may be in the dog days of summer, but there's plenty to keep our chapter off the couch. August 25 brings the San Diego Festival of Books, August 26 is our joint meeting with the Orange County chapter of Sisters in Crime with special guest T. Jefferson Parker ([see page one for details](#)), and Bouchercon is just around the corner and across the nation in St. Petersburg, Florida in early September. If you're making the trek, look for me in the bar. Umbrella drinks will be my theme for the trip.

Glen

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The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

I just read Glen's Prez Rap and now I'm re-thinking my life.

Okay, maybe not my *life*, exactly, but certain aspects of my writing life are now subject to scrutiny. For the past couple of weeks I've been planning a new novel and much of that time has been spent thinking about how I'll structure it, including figuring out its theme before I start writing it in earnest.

Have I been doing it all wrong?

Perhaps, but after many starts and stops on another project I've worked on for several years, it occurred to me that one of my problems is that I haven't hit upon a writing process I trust. Finishing a draft has never been a problem for me, but revising that draft is a major stumbling block. To combat this, I've decided I'm going to plan and plot my new novel thoroughly prior to writing that first draft. So far I'm enjoying the work so I'll likely continue this in spite of Glen's great advice. That might change, of course. He's got a lot more experience than I do.

But isn't this one of the main reasons we join professional groups like MWA? To swap stories and advice about what works and doesn't work for us? It certainly is for me.

I hope to see many of you at Bouchercon in St. Petersburg, FL next month!

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:
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Join our SoCalMWA Yahoo! Group

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

FRESHBLOOD

SoCalMWA welcomes its new and returning members:

Amy E. Britt
Carol Hughes
Grant Kunishige
Karen Randau
Mike Robertson



OVER the TRANSOM

Lee Goldberg has signed a new, two-book deal with Amazon Publishing/Thomas & Mercer, which kicks off with *LOST HILLS*, the first in a new series featuring Eve Ronin, the youngest female homicide detective in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, to be released in fall 2019. This is the second series Goldberg has sold to T & M, following his #1 Amazon Charts and *Washington Post* bestseller *TRUE FICTION*, which launched in April 2018, and the sequel, *KILLER THRILLER*, which will be released in February 2019.

Howard Michael Gould's debut novel, *LAST LOOKS*, comes out on August 14. The audiobook is read by John Michael Higgins. [Click here for related appearances.](#)

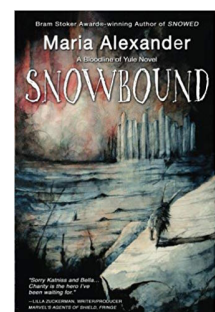
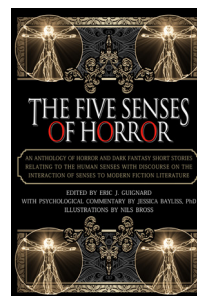
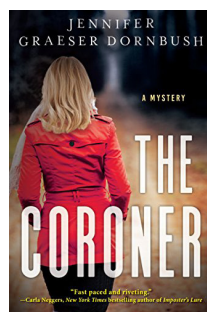
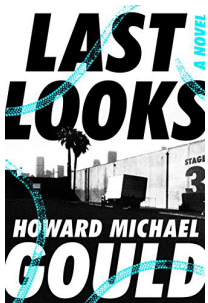
Dennis Palumbo is happy to share that the audiobook of his latest Daniel Rinaldi thriller, *HEAD WOUNDS*, is now available on Blackstone Audio.

Writer, speaker, and forensic specialist **Jennifer Dornbush's** debut novel, *THE CORONOR*, will be released on August 7 by Crooked Lane Books. When a surgical resident returns to her small hometown after more than a decade away, she's confronted with issues from her past and a mystery from the present. Jennifer, the daughter of a medical examiner, investigated her first fatality when she was eight. She's also the author of *FORENSIC SPEAK: HOW TO WRITE REALISTIC CRIME DRAMAS*, hailed as a north star to creating authentic crime dramas.

Editor **Eric J. Guignard** announces the publication of *THE FIVE SENSES OF HORROR*, an anthology of horror and dark fantasy stories, including psychological commentary by Jessica Bayliss, Ph.D. Illustrated by Nils Bross.

Craig Faustus Buck has a drabble (a short story of exactly 100 words) in *DRABBLEDARK: AN ANTHOLOGY OF DARK DRABBLES*, published in July and available on Amazon. It is an expansion of his 50-word short story "The Hatbox," that first appeared in the micro-fiction lit mag *Blink-Ink* #23 in April, 2016. Also, Craig's short story, "Pongo's Lucky Day," will be published in Noircon's journal *Retreat from Oblivion* on August 6.

Maria Alexander's Arctic YA thriller, *SNOWBOUND*, will be released by Ghede Press on September 8. This is the highly anticipated sequel to *SNOWED*, which won the 2016 Bram Stoker Award® for Superior Achievement in a Young Adult Novel and was a 2017 Anthony Award nominee in the Best Children's/YA Novel category. Ghede Press will be releasing a Revised Edition of *SNOWED* on August 1. *SNOWED* and *SNOWBOUND* are Books 1 and 2 of the Bloodline of Yule Trilogy. Book 3 is slated for release mid 2020.



OVER the TRANSOM

HOLLIS FOR HIRE, the second volume of short stories featuring redoubtable L.A. PI Nate Hollis who began in comics and crossed over to prose is out now. All original stories by MWA Grand Master Sara Paretsky, Edgar winner **Naomi Hirahara**, Anthony nominated **Sarah M. Chen**, noir and magic realist Scott Adlerberg, new pulpster Phillip Drayer Duncan and Hollis' creator **Gary Phillips**—plus two reprints by him only seen previously in a limited incarnation. From Pro Se Productions.

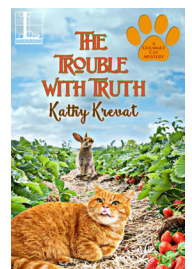
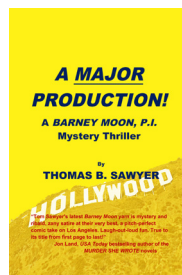
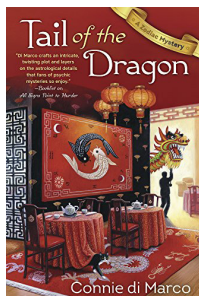
Vicki Stiefel's third entry in The Afterworld Chronicles, CHEST OF TIME, releases August 14. When her teenage ward goes missing, Mage Clea Reese must confront a fae adversary who steals the Chest of Time, leaving Clea near death. With her life now at stake, Clea's allies must retrieve the Chest before Clea dies. If The Key Mage falls, the new Key's brutal ambitions will spell a dark end for humankind. Clea's lover James leads the multifaceted team on a quest that takes them through lands both Magic and Mundane. But their greatest enemy? Time itself.

Connie di Marco's third book in the Zodiac Mysteries, TAIL OF THE DRAGON, will be out on August 8. San Francisco astrologer Julia Bonatti never thought murder would be part of her practice but when her former boss and current client asks for help she agrees to go undercover at his law firm. Three people have received death threats and the only common denominator between them is a case long settled—the infamous Bank of San Francisco fire. Before she can unmask the killer, two people are dead and her own life is in danger.

Thomas B. Sawyer's Barney Moon, P.I. novels, A MAJOR PRODUCTION! and CROSS PURPOSES, are now available from [Barnes & Noble](#). Kindle editions are available at Amazon.

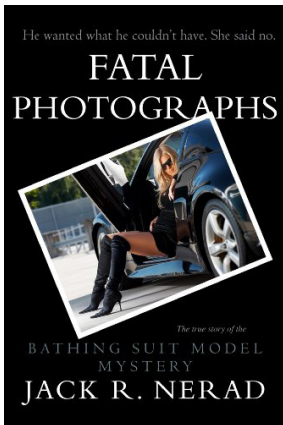
Kaira Rouda's BEST DAY EVER, with a new cover, is out in paperback on August 21 in the US and Canada. BEST DAY EVER also is being released in an ebook collection of chilling thrillers, titled KEEP ONE EYE OPEN, featuring novels by Mary Kubica, Heather Gudenkauf, Graeme Cameron and Rouda. The collection is available for preorder now, and out on August 13. A sneak peek of Rouda's March 2019 novel, THE FAVORITE SISTER, is included in the collection.

Kathy Krevat's THE TROUBLE WITH TRUTH, second in the Gourmet Cat Mystery series by Lyrical/Kensington, is now out. Colbie Summers, owner of Meowio Batali's Gourmet Cat Food, must solve the murder of a rich housing developer to keep her young employee out of jail—and safe from the killer.



Member APPEARANCES

Howard Michael Gould will appear at Barnes & Noble Bookstore in Studio City on August 14 and at Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore in San Diego on August 19 to celebrate the release of his debut novel, *LAST LOOKS*.



Jack R. Nerad recently appeared in an episode of “People Magazine Investigates: Crimes of Fashion” on Investigation Discovery. Nerad is the acknowledged expert on the murder of model Linda Sobek, and he wrote the definitive book on the case: *FATAL PHOTOGRAPHS: THE BATHING SUIT MODEL MURDER* (Avon, Kindle.) The TV episode chronicling the murder is available on-demand and will be frequently re-run.

Catharine Riggs will be a panelist on a Bouchercon panel entitled, ‘Shiny and New—Debut Authors,’ scheduled for Saturday, September 8, at 3 p.m. at the Vinoy Renaissance in St. Petersburg, Florida. The panel will include moderator Donna Andrews and authors Matthew Farrell, Caz Frear, Aimee Hix, and P. J. Vernon. The presentation coincides with the launch of Riggs’ debut novel, *WHAT SHE GAVE AWAY*.



While **Lee Goldberg** was at Thrillerfest in NYC in July, he finally met his two doppelgangers... WABC weatherman Lee Goldberg and thriller author Lee Matthew Goldberg (see photos).



Lee Goldberg with WABC weatherman Lee Goldberg



Lee Matthew Goldberg and **Lee Goldberg**.

Crime CALENDAR



Save the Date!

Luncheon at the Tam O'Shanter

Sunday, November 4

12 p.m.

COLD CASE INVESTIGATION!

THE COLDER THE CASE, THE HOTTER THE STORY

In 1986, Sherri Rasmussen was murdered in her home. Despite a thorough investigation, no suspect was arrested and the case remained unsolved for 23 years. In 2009, Det. Robert Bub directed detectives to re-examine the case. DNA testing and a vigorous reworking of the case led detectives to a shocking suspect.

Author **Terri Nolan** will interview the investigators who cracked the case. Join SoCalMWA on November 4 for an inside look into how the LAPD finally got justice for Sherri Rasmussen. RSVPS will open in early October. [More info.](#)

More to Come!

September 6–9 – [Bouchercon, St. Petersburg, FL](#)

October 27 – [SoCalMWA Gumbo Party, Los Angeles, CA](#)

November 4 – [Luncheon at the Tam, Los Angeles, CA](#)

The LAST WORD

“Revenge is a dish best served cold, or so it’s been said in many cultures and various ways. I’m not sure I agree. I’ve always imagined that impulse arising from a hot cauldron of bubbling poisonous hatred, an anger nurtured and folded in upon itself for so long its force is a volcanic eruption. Hot, Plutonian, exploding from the depths of the psyche.”

—Connie DiMarco, TAIL OF THE DRAGON