

April 2019



The
MARCH

of CRIME

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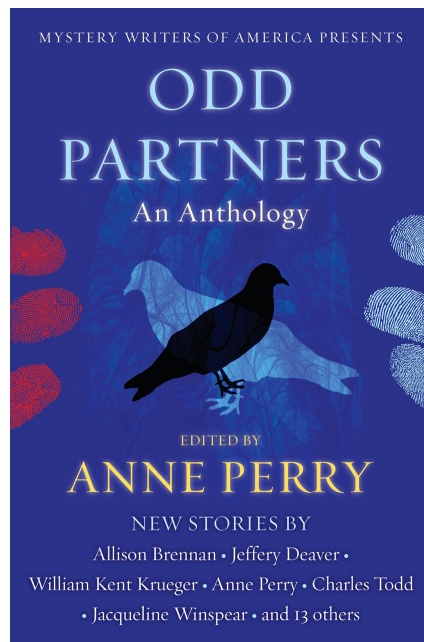
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MWA PRESENTS

ODD PARTNERS

Edited by
International Bestselling Author
Anne Perry

Unlikely pairs join forces to crack intriguing cases in a new MWA anthology edited by *NYT* bestselling author Anne Perry, featuring original stories by MWA members like Jeffrey Deaver, William Kent Krueger, Jacqueline Winspear, and Ms. Perry herself, as well as SoCal's own **Georgia Jeffries** and **Lisa Morton!** On sale April 23.

MWA is giving away 25 advance copies of *ODD PARTNERS* on Sunday April 14 at the LA Times Festival of Books, to be signed by Anne Perry and our SoCal contributors!

California Crime Writers Conference

Schedule Update
Agents & Editors

June 8–9
Culver City

[More Info](#)

- Ballantine Books has graciously offered 25 galley copies of *ODD PARTNERS* to promote MWA at the *LA Times* Festival of Books.
- Numbered tickets will be distributed by a SoCalMWA board member at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 14. First come, first served, but some preference may be given to festival attendees who are not already members of MWA.
- The anthology authors—Anne Perry, Georgia Jeffries, and Lisa Morton—will begin signing copies at noon, and are scheduled to attend until 1 p.m. Mystery Ink plans to have stock of other works by our contributors available for sale as well.

See you at the festival!



The President's Rap Sheet

Glen Erik Hamilton

Writing on the run: I'm starting this month's Rap Sheet in my Vancouver hotel room just after Left Coast Crime has concluded. If I listen very intently, I can hear the sound of hundreds of writers frantically stuffing dirty socks and fresh books into their suitcases as checkout time draws nigh. I'll continue my draft at the airport and with luck finish it before I reach home. YVR to SEA to BUR, then delivering XOXO to the family.

Left Coast is always a delight—small enough to spend considerable time with many good friends (never all of them, regretfully), but large enough to discover new writers and new readers every time, adding to the circle. The conference was particularly enjoyable for me this year, as it bridged the gap between the Northwest and Southern Cal halves of my book tour. There's nothing as energizing as hearing other writers speak on panels and talking to other fans of the genre. I'll come home eager to sink my teeth into the next chunk of work, once I'm done chewing this delicious Canadian maple toffee.

Of course, there's a natural counterbalance to the creative rejuvenation gained at the conference: All those late nights in the hotel bar. If I finish this Rap before we hit Seattle, I can nap on the second leg of the trip. There's some real inspiration.

Our chapter has a hat trick of fun immediately ahead: *LA Times* Festival of Books in April (still a few signing times left!), our second luncheon of the year on May 19 (watch for details on that soon!), and the California Crime Writers Conference June 8–9, co-hosted by SoCalMWA and Sisters in Crime LA.

Need another push to join us at [CCWC](#)? Last night our guest of honor Catriona McPherson won the Lefty Award for Best Humorous Mystery for the first in her new series, SCOT FREE. Catriona is as witty in person as she is on the page. Make your registration to meet her and the equally acclaimed Tess Gerritsen, author of the Rizzoli and Isles mysteries, before the convention is sold out.

All Best,

Glen

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The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

I was pleased to receive so many announcements from members this month. New book deals, great reviews, career highlights—you all have been busy!

As I write this, I'm deep into preparations for my upcoming trip to Vancouver for Left Coast Crime, which will have passed by the time the newsletter gets sent out. My main task is putting the final touches on the panel I'm moderating (the annual sex panel, hoo boy), but, if I'm honest, I'm more concerned about figuring out which clothes to pack.

<Pause while I attend LCC>

I'm back! Left Coast Crime was a whirlwind of fun and I'm delighted to report that my packing game was on-point. But more than that, I fed off the energy and enthusiasm of my fellow attendees like a writing-vampire and I'm ready and able to get back to work.

More than once, I had conversations with people who admitted they felt socially awkward at conferences. Funny enough, these same people always seem to be completely at ease! And when I admitted my own social ineptitude, they refused to believe it. So the next time you're hesitant to go to a conference because people scare you, consider the fact that we all kind of feel like that to one extent or another. We're writers, after all. Most of us are hard-pressed to ever leave the house.

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)

TMOC Needs You!

TMOC is looking for articles (500–700 words) on subjects of interest to SoCalMWA members. This includes craft, marketing, and all aspects of publishing.

Content shouldn't be overtly promotional, but rather instructional or informational.

Include a brief bio (100 words or less) and a headshot or cover image.

Send your questions and/or pitches to themarchofcrime@gmail.com.

FRESHBLOOD

SoCalMWA welcomes its new and returning members



Tori Eldridge

Tori Eldridge is a Honolulu-born writer of mysteries, thrillers, and dark suspense. Her debut novel, *THE NINJA DAUGHTER: A Lily Wong Ninja Mystery* (11/5/2019), was inspired by her debut short story, “Call Me Dumpling,” which was featured in *Suspense Magazine’s* Best of 2014. Her subsequent short stories appear in several anthologies, and her screenplay “The Gift” earned a semi-finalist place for the prestigious Academy Award Nicholl Fellowship. Tori is a Hawaiian-Chinese-Norwegian modern-day ninja who holds a fifth-degree black belt in To Shin Do Ninjutsu and has traveled the USA teaching seminars on the ninja arts, weapons, and women’s self-protection.

Beth Elliott

Nova Jacobs

John McMahan

2019 California Crime Writers Conference

Saturday, June 8–Sunday, June 9, 2019

Doubletree Hilton in Culver City

The 2019 California Crime Writers Conference, co-sponsored by SoCalMWA and Sisters in Crime/Los Angeles, is gearing up to be an exciting weekend.

In addition to keynote speeches by our two guests of honor, Tess Gerritsen and Catriona McPherson, they’ll each teach a session on creative writing. Plus, we’re taking advantage of our proximity to Hollywood to bring in producers and screenwriters to discuss book options, adaptations, and what to do when Hollywood calls. All of this in addition to craft panels, forensic workshops, and the fun and fellowship you’ve come to expect from CCWC.

Registration and hotel blocks are NOW OPEN!

[Click here for registration info](#)

OVER the TRANSOM

Sherri Leigh James's newest mystery, *BLOOD RED*, was released by Black Hawk Press as a trade paperback on March 8 (eBook coming April 5). This new series introduces Cissy Huntington, interior designer to the rich and famous. When her husband disappears, and all their assets are seized or frozen—even the jet—Cissy returns to designing interiors. Inspection of her first client's Beverly Hills mansion leads to several shocking discoveries including a body in the library. A sexy homicide detective, famous movie stars with annoying entourages, and Cissy's young adult daughter all contribute to the humor while solving the murder. Learn more at sherrileighjames.com.

GAME TOWN, the fifth and final Skylar Drake Murder Mystery by **Janet Elizabeth Lynn** and **Will Zeilinger** is scheduled for release in April.

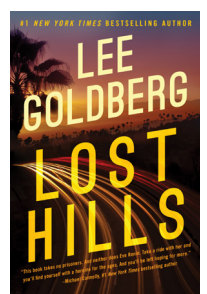
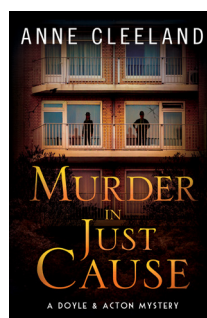
DP Lyle's next Jake Longly comedic thriller, *SUNSHINE STATE*, will be out on May 21. He has also signed a deal with Suspense Publishing for a new series. The first in the Cain/Harper series titled *SKIN IN THE GAME* will be out in October. Listen to his podcast series, "Criminal Mischief: The Art and Science of Crime Fiction." Details: <http://www.dplylemd.com/criminal-mischief.html>.

MURDER IN JUST CAUSE, **Anne Cleeland's** latest Doyle & Acton Scotland Yard mystery, is now available in kindle and print through Amazon. More info at annecleeland.com.

A top review by *Kirkus Reviews* called *THE MASK OF MIDNIGHT* by **Laurie Stevens** "a taut thriller with complex characters and an unforgettable villain."

Lee Goldberg just signed with Amazon Publishing/Thomas & Mercer to write a sequel to his upcoming police procedural *LOST HILLS* (Sept 2019) featuring Los Angeles Sheriff's Department homicide detective Eve Ronin, a character that Michael Connelly calls "a heroine for the ages."

Mike Befeler's sports mystery novel, *PARADISE COURT*, will be released by Encircle Publications May 1. While vacationing on Maui with his wife, Mark Yeager makes two discoveries: a pickleball court and a dead body. Things go downhill as he becomes a suspect in a murder investigation, his wife is kidnapped, and he gets crosswise with a local crime boss. He must sort through a cast of suspects to find the killer, rescue his wife, and stay alive. This is a sequel to *COURT TROUBLE*.



OVER the TRANSOM

2019 marks **Anne Perry's** 40th anniversary as a writer. An Edgar Award-winner and an international and *NY Times* bestselling author, her debut novel, *THE CATER STREET HANGMAN*, has never been out of print. *DEATH IN FOCUS*, the first of an all-new mystery series set in pre-WWII Europe, will be published in September 2019 and is now available for pre-order. Anne's film, "Put Your Heart on the Page: An Introduction to Writing," can be [viewed on Amazon Prime](#).

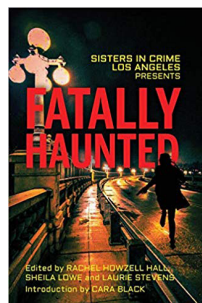
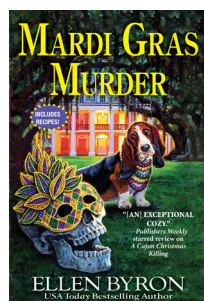
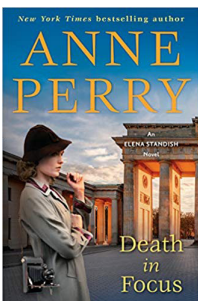
Season Two of "Happy!" premiered on SyFy on March 27. **Ken Kristensen** serves as writer and Executive Story Editor. This season, Nick (Chris Meloni) and Happy (Patton Oswalt) attempt to solve the mystery behind a psychotic Easter Bunny terrorizing New York.

MARDI GRAS MURDER, the fourth book in **Ellen Byron's** Cajun Country Mystery series, is nominated for an Agatha award in the category of Best Contemporary Novel.

Writing under her nom de plume Quentin Banks, **Maria Alexander** has released her thriller satire, *NO RHYME GOES UNPUNISHED*, Book 1 in the Cake Files. Someone is killing the worst poets in L.A., and only LAPD homicide detective Henry Cake can stop him. But how can he catch the killer when nobody wants him caught? Available as an Amazon Exclusive. "A damn funny book"—**David Putnam**, author of the Bruno Johnson Thrillers.

Sisters in Crime/Los Angeles announces the release of *FATALLY HAUNTED*, tales of obsession and revenge in the city of the angels, edited by **Rachel Howzell Hall, Sheila Lowe, and Laurie Stevens**. Contributors include **A.P. Jamison** and **Jennifer Younger**. Copies will be available for pre-release sales at the *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books, with the official release on April 29. Down and Out Books is the publisher.

Rachel Howzell Hall's standalone thriller *THEY ALL FALL DOWN* (Forge) will be out April 9 in hardcover, digital, and audio. Delighted by a surprise invitation, Miriam Macy sails off to a luxurious private island off the coast of Mexico with six other strangers. Surrounded by miles of open water in the gloriously green Sea of Cortez, Miriam is soon shocked to discover that she and the rest of her companions have been brought to the remote island under false pretenses—and all seven strangers harbor a secret.



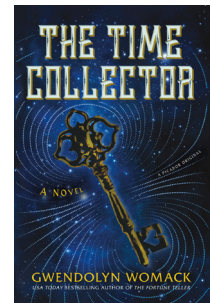
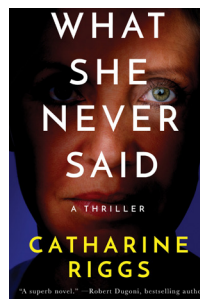
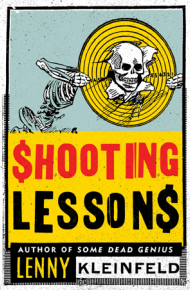
OVER the TRANSOM

Lenny Kleinfeld's *SHOOTING LESSONS* is the third in a series of black comedy procedurals set in Chicago. A gunman is methodically murdering drivers who work for the world's largest ride-hail service. And America's most powerful gun rights lobby is funding a flashy multimedia campaign to gut concealed carry permit restrictions in Illinois. And Det. Mark Bergman's work is being hampered by the sudden celebrity he's acquired by shooting a number of bad guys. March 31 from Niaux-Noir Books.

Thomas & Mercer launches **Catharine Riggs's** second thriller in her Santa Barbara Suspense series in September and the book is now available for pre-order. *WHAT SHE NEVER SAID* delves into the mystery behind a series of unusual deaths at a wealthy retirement community, raising doubts and revealing old secrets. *NY Times* bestselling author Robert Dugoni called her debut, *WHAT SHE GAVE AWAY*, "a superb novel from a unique writer with a distinctive voice. Honest, terrifyingly believable." Visit the author online at catharineriggs.com.

John McMahon's debut novel, *THE GOOD DETECTIVE*, received a review in the *NY Times* Review of Books. Read it here: [Going Rogue with Marilyn Stasio](#).

Gwendolyn Womack's latest novel, *THE TIME COLLECTOR*, publishes April 16 with PicadorUSA/Macmillan. The story is a romantic thriller about two psychometrists who can touch objects and see the past. The pair become embroiled in saving a group of fellow psychometrists who are researching out-of-place artifacts that challenge the time-lines of recorded history. Find out more about the book at gwendolynwomack.com.



Member APPEARANCES

Glen Erik Hamilton will be appearing as part of the launch tour of his fourth Van Shaw thriller *MERCY RIVER* at: Book Carnival in Orange, CA on Sunday, April 7 at 6 p.m., at Warwick's in La Jolla on Tuesday, April 9 at 10 a.m. ("Coffee with an Author"), and at Mysterious Galaxy in San Diego on Saturday, April 13 at 3 p.m. as a guest of Sisters in Crime SD. A full list of appearances on Glen's tour is at glenerikhamilton.com/events.

Member APPEARANCES

DP Lyle will launch his next Jake Longly thriller, *SUNSHINE STATE*, at Mystery Ink in Huntington Beach on Saturday, May 25 at 3 p.m. He will be interviewed by Maddie Margarita and sign at Book Carnival on Saturday, June 1 at 2 p.m. He will discuss *SUNSHINE STATE* at the Sisters in Crime, Orange County meeting on May 26 at 2 p.m. Details: <http://www.dplylemd.com/events.html>.

Wendall Thomas will be reading from and signing *DROWNED UNDER* at 2 p.m. on April 27 at Book Carnival (348 S Tustin St, Orange, CA 92866) and at 7:30 p.m. on April 29 at The Last Bookstore in DTLA (453 S Spring St, Los Angeles, CA 90013). To secure your place at the April 29 event, pre-order the book [here](#).

Jeri Westerson will be signing books at the following locations: Tuesday, April 9, Noon: Artesia Library Sisters in Crime panel. “Why and How We Write Mysteries” with writers **Matt Coyle, Pamela Samuels-Young**, moderated by **Anne Louise Bannon**. 18801 Elaine Ave, Artesia, CA 90701. Books for sale. / Sunday, April 14, late afternoon: *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books, Sisters in Crime Booth #367. Jeri will be signing books for two hours at the end of the day. Buy books and chat. It’s at the beautiful USC campus in Los Angeles.

Holly West will appear with Alison Arngrim (TV’s Nellie Oleson) to celebrate the release of *MURDER-A-GO-GO’S: CRIME FICTION INSPIRED BY THE MUSIC OF THE GO-GO’S* on April 17 at 7 p.m. at The Last Bookstore. Contributors **Sarah M. Chen, S.W. Lauden, Travis Richardson, Nadine Nettman, Josh Stallings**, and **Wendall Thomas** will also be there to sign books, play some 80s trivia, and to celebrate the music of the Go-Go’s. Secure your place at this event by pre-buying the book [here](#) by April 3. Note: Net proceeds from the sale of this book benefit Planned Parenthood.

Christina Hoag will be reading and discussing her noir novel *SKIN OF TATTOOS* as part of the literary series “Why There Are Words” at Studio 333, 333 Caledonia St., Sausalito, April 11, 7:15 p.m.

Ellen Byron will be signing copies of her Cajun Country Mystery series at the Louisiana Festival of Books on Saturday, April 13. She’ll be at the SinCLA table at noon and the SoCalMWA table at 1 p.m.

Barbara DeMarco-Barrett will interview Gregg Hurwitz at Literary Orange (Newport Beach) on April 6, and on April 14, she’ll interview Joyce Carol Oates at the *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books (Bovard).

August Norman will launch his debut thriller, *COME AND GET ME: A Caitlin Bergman Novel*, in Orange County on Saturday, April 6 at 4 p.m. at Mystery Ink in Huntington Beach, and on Saturday, April 13 at 2 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Burbank. For more info, www.augustnorman.com.

Gwendolyn Womack will be launching her latest thriller, *THE TIME COLLECTOR*, in New Orleans at Garden District Book Store on April 16 at 6 p.m. She’ll be reading and signing at Murder By the Book in Houston, TX on Saturday, April 20 at 3 p.m. and will be back in LA for a reading and signing at Book Soup on Thursday, April 25 at 7 p.m. Visit gwendolynwomack.com/events/ to see her full calendar. Reservations are welcomed but not required.



The California Crime Writers Conference, June 8-9, 2019, is thrilled to announce our guest editors and agents:

California Crime Writers Conference

Editors and Agents



We'll also have Hollywood guests ranging from development executives to producers to screenwriters. The first panel is set: **Ellen Byron** (Cajun Country Mystery Series) will interview television drama writers and showrunners including:

Adam Belanoff (Major Crimes)
 Antoinette Stella (Rizzoli & Isles)
 Scott Williams (NCIS)
 Valerie C. Woods (Queen Sugar)

We're also excited to announce that our schedule is firming up. Forensic guests will include a private eye and a presentation on recognizing potential suicide bombers; craft panels will include Visual Storytelling, Killer Dialogue, and Creating a Series Hero; and marketing/business panels will include Beyond Trad Publishing: New Frontiers, as well as How to Build a Long Career.

In addition, the marvelous Tess Gerritsen will teach a workshop on "How to Find Your What-If," which looks at homing in on the great idea for your plot, vs. struggling with the so-so ideas. And Catriona McPherson will teach "Deep in a Bowl of Porridge," an in-depth look at one specific, crucial skill in mystery-writing: the hiding of clues.

For more information or to register for CCWC 2019, check out our website, <https://ccwconference.org>. Got questions? Email us at ccwconference@gmail.com. See you in June!

All guests subject to availability.

Crime
CALENDAR

April 13–14 – [LA Times Festival of Books, Los Angeles, CA](#)

May 3–5 – [Malice Domestic, Bethesda MD](#)

June 8–9 – [California Crime Writers Conference, Los Angeles CA](#)

July 9–13 – [ThrillerFest XIV, New York NY](#)

October 31–Nov 3 – [Bouchercon, Dallas TX](#)

The
LAST WORD

“When you’ve hijacked someone else’s dream, at least keep that shit clean.”

—Rachel Howzell Hall, *THEY ALL FALL DOWN*