



The MARCH

of CRIME

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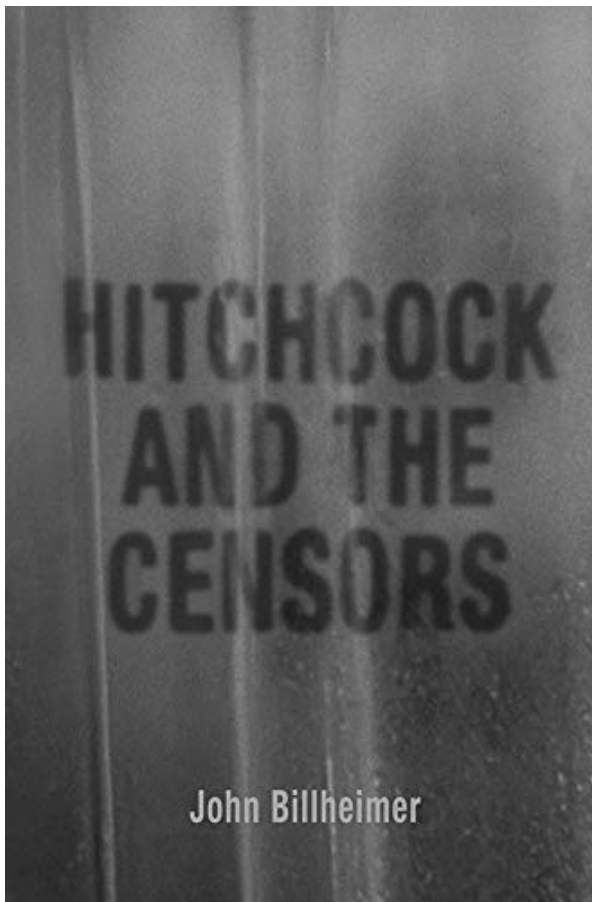


Mystery Writers of America

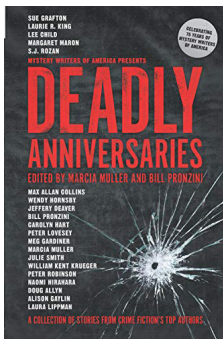
MWA announced the 74th Annual Edgar Allan Poe Awards on Twitter on April 30, 2020.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SoCalMWA MEMBER JOHN BILLHEIMER!

BEST CRITICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL



Out now from MWA:



Deadly Anniversaries

Edited by
Marcia Muller
&
Bill Pronzini

Featuring stories by
Sue Grafton, Laurie R. King,
Lee Child, S.J. Rozan, &
Jeffery Deaver



The President's Rap Sheet

Jessica Kaye

Welcome to May 2020, when, thanks to coronavirus, most of us are still staying at home unless our work has been designated as essential. For those of you who have been designated an essential worker, thank you. There is huge appreciation for the many people making great sacrifices, the heroes of this pandemic: the men and women who are face to face with the public on a daily basis, as well as those working to contain and resolve this emergency.

Since our last newsletter, cases of the virus have soared. IRS did the unthinkable and extended the time both to file returns and pay taxes due. Congress passed bills granting stimulus payments. Applications for federal loans have been submitted by the bucketful. Face masks have become an important accessory.

The impact on our peers is also dramatic, albeit in ways that don't make headlines. Just yesterday, an author with a book coming out in a few weeks said she wasn't having the publishing experience she'd anticipated. I thought she meant something about her experience working with her publisher, or how she felt as she neared her pub date. That wasn't it at all. "There will be no Barnes and Noble events," she said. "No book tour." Everything she did to promote the book would be a virtual event.

And yet.

And yet, she immediately acknowledged her good fortune in having her health and a safe home and groceries in the kitchen.

We all know the sense of loss she is feeling. We had plans and expectations. Maybe you, too have a publication date without public appearances, or are sad that Boucheron was canceled. Your long-planned trip is now a daydream and dinner with friends has become dinner with friends via Zoom. Impromptu shopping trips are a thing of the recent past and bringing your own grocery bags to Trader Joe's is impermissible.

We also know her self-awareness. We miss what we had planned and expected while simultaneously feeling grateful for what we do have.

In that vein, here at SoCalMWA we are keeping the home fires burning by planning for online presentations. We miss our get-togethers but we are grateful for our ability to get together online. If you have an idea for a great speaker or virtual event, drop me an email.

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The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

Since I moved to Northern California five years ago, I feel like I have one foot NorCal and the other in SoCal. When I see my writing buddies at conferences or edit this newsletter, I still feel very much a part of the SoCal community, and yet my daily life is pretty much all NorCal all the time. I like it that way, even if I have quite a bit of FOMO when I see all of the fun things SoCal does without me.

But with the changes brought about by the pandemic, that split-in-two feeling has all but disappeared. A weekly cocktail hour with SoCal friends and other writers around the country connects me so that the distance is only apparent when I hear the wild turkeys gobble-gobbling outside my office window (in Venice, it was gun shots and helicopters flying overhead).

Virtual Noir at the Bars and other online appearances make it possible to participate in events that I never would've been able to attend if they hadn't been forced online. For example, Murder and Mayhem in Chicago recently conducted their one-day conference through Crowd Cast and I spent a pleasant Saturday listening to some of my favorite authors talk about their books.

Another friend organized a series of interviews on Facebook to launch her debut novel. I loved being able to tune in live to see her talk about her book. She even did a pub quiz-type interview with another author friend. Fun stuff.

It makes me wonder why we weren't doing this all along.

Things will get back to some version of normal in the coming weeks and I'm looking forward to that. But I also hope we retain at least some of the connection we've achieved during this strange time, because in some ways, I feel more a part of the writing community than ever before.

To think, all it took was a global pandemic.

A note about Bouchercon 2020's cancellation: I served as registrar for this event for the last three years. The fact that it won't be happening is a loss to the community this year and a personal loss for me. I'm still working through that (both literally and figuratively, as there are lots of loose ends to tie up). While it's been fabulous meeting virtually, I can't wait to see all of you in person and I'm so sad it won't happen in Sacramento.

Until 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.

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**Join the SoCalMWA
Discussion Group**

groups.io/g/MWA-SOCAL
(members only)

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OVER the TRANSOM

RIGGED, **DP Lyle's** next Jake Longly comedic thriller will be out on May 19. Additionally, SUNSHINE STATE, Jake Longly #3, will be released in paperback on May 12. [More info here.](#)

Georgia Jeffries invites all lovers of unconventional mystery to shelter-at-home with MWA's ODD PARTNERS anthology (Ballantine 2019), a "book that will challenge expectations" according to the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. Her story "What Would Nora Do?" is cited as "a domestic tragedy that segues brilliantly into absurdist comedy." See author Jervey Tervalon's April 2020 review [here](#).

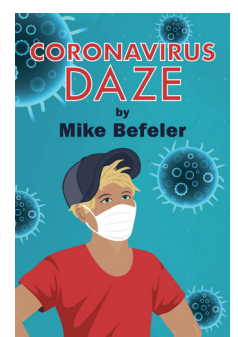
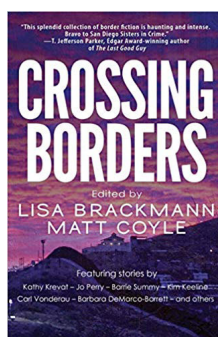
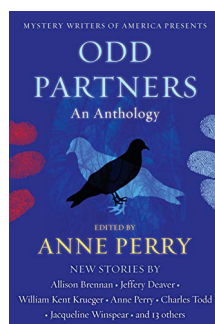
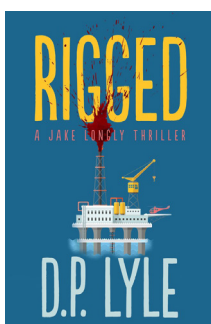
CROSSING BORDERS, an anthology by the San Diego Chapter of Sisters in Crime, is now available. Edited by **Lisa Brackmann** and **Matt Coyle**, the stories of CROSSING BORDERS explore the ways everyday people cross many types of borders—between countries, life and death, normal and paranormal, and more. "This splendid collection of fiction is haunting and intense. Bravo to San Diego Sisters in Crime." —**T. Jefferson Parker**, Edgar-award winning author of THE LAST GOOD GUY

Sheila Lowe's latest book, PROOF OF LIFE (Beyond the Veil paranormal mysteries), is out in audiobook. Sheila also has free codes for some of her Forensic Handwriting Mysteries available. Anyone interested in a free code to listen, send a request. First come, first served: sheila@sheilalowe.com.

MURDER IN THE CARDS by **Tony Piazza** has been nominated for a 2020 RONE Award in the Mystery category by *InD'Tale Magazine*. Voting will occur during the week of May 11. It had already received two awards for excellence in 2019.

Mark Bruce placed another Minerva James story with *Black Cat Mystery Magazine*, "Minerva James and the Hounds of Hades." It will be published this year.

Mike Befeler has published an uplifting and humorous story about a boy keeping a journal during the Coronavirus outbreak titled, "Coronavirus Daze." Tad, a middle school student in Southern California, must deal with the boredom of being stuck at home with his parents during the Coronavirus pandemic and has a life transforming experience when he makes an unexpected discovery. Get it on [Amazon Kindle](#) or [email Mike](#) for a free copy.



OVER the TRANSOM

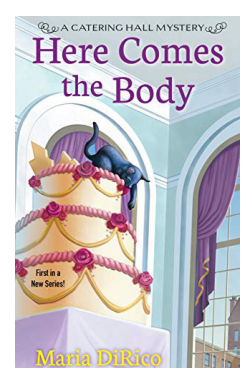
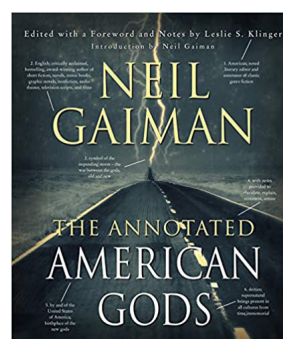
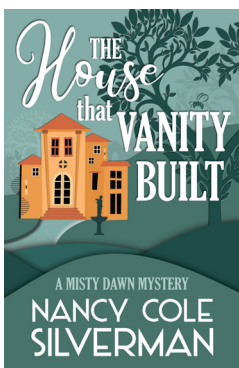
In the year that marks the 40th anniversary of the publication of *FLOWERS IN THE ATTIC* by V.C. Andrews, Gallery Books has signed a four-book deal for the next four novels, all ghostwritten by **Andrew Neiderman**. The deal is brokered by Alec Shane of Writers House and extends publications well into 2022. The first title, *OUT OF THE RAIN*, is the story of a five-year-old girl deserted at a rural railroad station by her recently widowed father. Additionally, Lifetime Networks has begun production of the next five V.C. Andrews novels in the Landry series. “Ruby,” three sequels, and the prequel will air this year. “Ruby” is about identical twin girls brought up separately in the Cajun and Creole worlds of Louisiana and marks the 15th straight adaptation of a V.C. Andrews novel for Lifetime. More television adaptation rights are in discussion.

Nancy Cole Silverman’s *THE HOUSE THAT VANITY BUILT*, book two of the Misty Dawn mysteries, will be released on May 12 from Henery Press.

Martin Roy Hill’s third Peter Brandt mystery thriller, *THE FOURTH RISING*, will be released by 32-32 North on May 10. The horrific murder of an old flame’s husband sets former war correspondent Peter Brandt on the hunt for hidden Nazi treasure. The search takes him down a bloody trail leading from the drug cartels of Mexico to a neo-Nazi training camp in the Southern California mountains, and unearths a decades-long conspiracy to create a new Fourth Reich and continue the Nazi Party’s plan for world domination.

Leslie S. Klinger’s latest tome, *ANNOTATED AMERICAN GODS*, an annotated edition of Neil Gaiman’s award-winning mystery/fantasy novel, was published by William Morrow on April 14. Klinger is also editing the Library of Congress Crime Classics series for the partnership of the Library of Congress and Poisoned Pen Press/Sourcebooks. The first two volumes, *THAT AFFAIR NEXT DOOR* by Anna Katherine Green and *THE RAT BEGAN TO GNAW THE ROPE* by C. W. Grafton, received starred reviews in *Publishers Weekly*.

Ellen Byron is busy changing from her winter to her summer sweatpants. In other news, *HERE COMES THE BODY*, the first book in her Catering Hall Mysteries (written as Maria DiRico), was featured in both *Woman’s World* and *Tea Time* magazines.



Member APPEARANCES

DP Lyle will appear at the following events in May (check websites for possible cancellations of in-person events):
Thursday, May 14, 5 p.m. PST—[Thorne and Cross: Haunted Nights LIVE! Interview, Authors on the Air Network](#).
Saturday, May 16, 3 p.m.—RIGGED Launch Party, Mystery Ink, 8907 Warner Ave. #135, Huntington Beach, CA ([mysteryink.com](#)).
Monday, May 18, 7 p.m.—[Mysterious Galaxy Virtual Event](#), reading from RIGGED and Q&A.
Tuesday, May 19, 6:30 p.m.—[Lit Up! OC A Virtual Event](#): Reading from RIGGED and Q&A.

Jeri Westerson will have her virtual launch for her 13th Crispin Guest Medieval Noir novel, *SWORD OF SHADOWS*, on May 10 at 3 p.m. on Facebook. Prizes, video reading, video presentation, and fun conversation. Facebook only. [Sign up here](#).

Sheila Lowe will be participating in a big book giveaway with MWA authors on May 9-10: [blackbirdwriters.com](#).

Prez Rap—[continued from page 2](#)

There is other free good stuff available to stoke your mystery-writing fire and quench your thirst for mystery-related events. Our sister chapters are planning virtual events and inviting all MWA members to attend. We just received notice that **Mystery in the Midlands**, a FREE virtual conference sponsored by SEMWA and the Palmetto Chapter of Sisters in Crime, will be held on Saturday, July 25 between 10–2:30 EDT. Moderated by Dana Kaye, it will feature Charlene Harris. Other panelists include John Floyd, Tara Laskowski, and Art Taylor (short stories), Alexia Gordon, Toni L.P. Kelner, and Gigi Pandian (paranormals), and Charlene Harris, Dana Cameron, and Jeffery Deaver (novels to screenplays). Although FREE to all MWA and SinC members, [registration is required](#).

See you back here next month. Until then, stay safe, stay well, stay home.

Jessica

Edgar Award Winners—[continued from page 1](#)

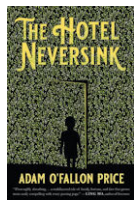
BEST NOVEL
THE STRANGER DIARIES
 by Elly Griffiths



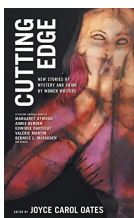
**BEST FIRST NOVEL BY AN
 AMERICAN AUTHOR**
MIRACLE CREEK
 by Angie Kim



BEST PAPERBACK ORIGINAL
THE HOTEL NEVERSINK
 by Adam O'Fallon Price



BEST SHORT SHORT STORY
“One of These Nights”
 by Livia Llewellyn (CUTTING EDGE)



BEST FACT CRIME
**THE LESS PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT US:
 A MYSTERY OF BETRAYAL, FAMILY SECRETS,
 AND STOLEN IDENTITY**
 by Axton Betz-Hamilton



BEST JUVENILE
**ME AND SAM-SAM HANDLE
 THE APOCALYPSE**
 by Susan Vaught



BEST YOUNG ADULT
CATFISHING ON THE CATNET
 by Naomi Kritzer



BEST TV EPISODE TELEPLAY
 Season 5, Episode 4—“Line of Duty,”
 Teleplay by Jed Mercurio

[More winners on page 8](#)

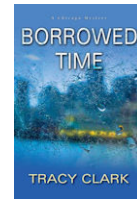
Edgar Award Winners—[continued from page 7](#)

ROBERT L. FISH MEMORIAL
 “There’s a Riot Goin’ On”
 by Derrick Harriell (MILWAUKEE NOIR)

**THE SIMON & SCHUSTER MARY
 HIGGINS CLARK AWARD**
THE NIGHT VISITORS
 by Carol Goodman



**THE G.P. PUTNAM’S SON’S
 SUE GRAFTON MEMORIAL AWARD**
BORROWED TIME
 by Tracy Clark



Crime
 CALENDAR

May 5 – [Queens of Mystery: Writer to Writer, Bay Book Festival Virtual Event](#)
 July 25 – [Mystery in the Midlands Virtual Event](#)
 October 3–4 – [Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, Los Angeles, CA](#)

The
 LAST WORD

“Problem was, if you told Minerva James not to do something, she’d probably do it twice.”

—Mark Bruce, “Not Quite As You Were Told”