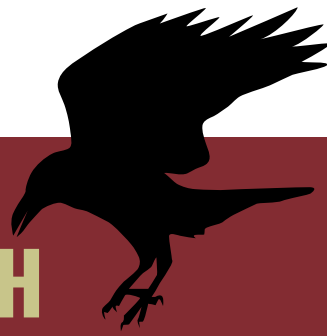


FEBRUARY 2023

THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



A Conversation with Louis Bayard

HOSTED BY ONA RUSSELL



LOUIS BAYARD
Author of *THE PALE BLUE EYE* &
NY Times Notable Author



ONA RUSSELL
SoCalMWA VP & Lit Hub's
"Authors in the Tent" Host



SoCalMWA Presents:

HISTORY, MYSTERY, & MORE: A CONVERSATION WITH LOUIS BAYARD

Hosted by Ona Russell

February 26, 2023
4 p.m. PT

Virtual Crowdcast Event

Join us on Sunday, February 26 at 4 p.m. on [Crowdcast](#) for a conversation with Louis Bayard, author of *THE PALE BLUE EYE*, hosted by SoCalMWA Vice President **Ona Russell**.

The talk will be wide-ranging: from conducting historical research to the art of reviewing to the wild success of the film adaptation of *THE PALE BLUE EYE*.

About Louis Bayard: In the words of the *NY Times*, Louis Bayard "reinvigorates historical fiction." His novels include *THE PALE BLUE EYE*, adapted into the global #1 Netflix release starring Christian Bale. He's been nominated for the Edgar and Dagger awards, and his story, "Banana Triangle Six," was chosen for *THE BEST AMERICAN MYSTERY STORIES*. He's also a reviewer and an instructor at George Washington University.

[> REGISTER NOW](#)



(Password: SOCALMWA)

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PRESIDENT'S RAP SHEET



February Resolutions

BY TRAVIS RICHARDSON



Dear Members,

As we head into February, I hope you've managed to keep some of your resolutions. I've kept a few, but unfortunately, I have not been able to hit my daily writing goals. But February is a new month and the following 334 days are new days waiting for us. We can always restart fresh...or put it off for another month. I'll shoot for the former, but have the latter in my back pocket, just in case.



On February 26, Edgar-nominated author and critic Louis Bayard will talk with our new Vice President, **Ona Russell**. I plan to watch the adaptation of "The Pale Blue Eye" on Netflix and see if I can find a copy of Louis' story "Banana Triangle Six" before the meeting.

Register here to attend what promises to be a great discussion.

Also, if you are interested in being at the Tucson Festival of Books on March 4 and 5, we will have a booth there. Please contact our Arizona board member Fred Andersen at fxandersen@msn.com and he'll hook you up.

Hoping all of you stayed dry during the rains and that you make progress in the new year (by as many means as needed).

Travis

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VICE PRESIDENT
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Twitter: [@socalmwa](https://twitter.com/socalmwa)
Facebook: [Like us](#)



Storytelling in Levels

BY HOLLY WEST



My husband and I are watching "The Last of Us" on HBOMax. As opinionated as I am, I don't feel confident analyzing and reviewing television shows, so this isn't that. Nor will there be any real spoilers, though if you're concerned about that, stop reading here.

"The Last of Us" is based on a video game I haven't played. This isn't surprising because I don't play many of them, and since I dislike stories set in a dystopian world, I'm unlikely to play them. So why am I watching a dystopian television show?



Two words: Pedro Pascal.

It turns out "The Last of Us" is pretty darned good (so is Pedro, if you're interested). I don't know if I'd notice it if I didn't know it was based on a video game, but it feels as if much of the story is told in levels as opposed to acts or other ways of organizing a story. The characters move into one landscape (or level), beat and/or escape the enemy, then move on to the next landscape. There are things to earn and discover along the way, secrets to uncover through exploration, and plenty of predators to contend with before they're able to get to the next level.

I don't mean to say that watching it is akin to watching someone play a videogame—it feels like a "normal" television-watching experience. And the January 29th episode gutted me. I'm still thinking about it, which is probably why I'm writing about it today. Anyway, if you're not watching already, you might want to give it a try.

Holly

The March of Crime

The March of Crime is the newsletter of the Southern 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 the SoCalMWA
Discussion Group

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

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New York, NY 10001
t. 212.888.8171
mwa@mysterywriters.org
<http://mysterywriters.org>



Tucson Festival of Books

MARCH 4–5, 2023

SoCalMWA is again sponsoring a booth at the Tucson Festival of Books. The festival this year is scheduled for March 4-5 on the University of Arizona campus. In addition to selling and signing your books, there are opportunities to take in a plethora of presentations, panels, and other events. To sign up for a booth appearance, contact [Fred Andersen](#).

CCWC 2023 Consult Fest Registration

JUNE 10–11, 2023

For an additional fee, registered attendees can submit up to 2000 words of their work, a brief summary, or even a list of questions they've always wanted to know about the industry, up to one month before CCWC.

Your material will be reviewed by professional editors who make their living from developing, acquiring, and publishing books in today's marketplace. Then, on Sunday, June 11, you will sit, safely, in-person, with that editor and discuss whatever you want to discuss.

This is an opportunity to gauge if your work is ready for publication without the threat of rejection, a chance to see what's working and what could use some work, to make a human connection in an industry that begins with a long line of closed doors.

To stalk our editors, reserve your spot, and get all the important details, [click here](#).

NOTE: To sign up for CCWC 2023 Consult Fest, you must first [register for CCWC](#).

California Crime Writers Conference

REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN

The California Crime Writers Conference is a joint production of the Sisters in Crime/Los Angeles and SoCalMWA and has been presented every other year since 2009.

The 2023 conference will take place Saturday, June 10–Sunday, June 11.

GUESTS OF HONOR



Rachel Howzell Hall



Deborah Crombie



Shamus Award Submissions

PRIVATE EYE WRITERS OF AMERICA

Following are the categories for the Private Eye Writers of America 2023 Shamus Awards for private eye novels and short stories first published in the United States in 2022.

DEADLINE: Submissions must be postmarked by **March 31, 2023**. No extensions can be given.

Shamus Committees will forward their final lists to the Shamus Awards Chair by May 31, 2023.

ELIGIBILITY: Eligible works must feature as a main character a person PAID for investigative work but NOT employed for that work by a unit of government. These include traditionally licensed private investigators, lawyers and reporters who do their own investigations, and others who function as hired private agents. These do NOT include law enforcement officers, other government employees, or amateur, uncompensated sleuths.

Independently published books (Indies) may be submitted to the Best Original Paperback P.I. Novel category.

SUBMISSIONS; Please send one copy of each eligible work to ALL members of the appropriate committee. Do NOT submit a book to more than one committee.

There is no application fee and no submission form, as a simple cover letter will suffice. If you have any questions, please e-mail JohnShepphird@yahoo.com BEFORE submitting.

CATEGORIES:

BEST HARDCOVER P.I. NOVEL: A book-length work of fiction published in hardcover in 2022 that is NOT the author's first published P.I. novel.

BEST FIRST P.I. NOVEL: A book-length work of fiction, in hardcover or paperback, first published in 2022 and that is the author's first published novel featuring a private investigator as a main character.

BEST ORIGINAL PAPERBACK P.I. NOVEL: A book-length work of fiction first published as a paperback original in 2022 that is NOT the author's first P.I. novel. Paperback reprints of previously published novels are NOT eligible.

BEST P.I. SHORT STORY: A work of fiction of 20,000 words or fewer. Stories first published in an earlier year and reprinted in a magazine, anthology, or collection in 2022 are NOT eligible.

[Committees on the next page](#)



Shamus Award Submissions

PRIVATE EYE WRITERS OF AMERICA

COMMITTEES:

BEST HARDCOVER P.I. NOVEL

Andrew S. McAleer (Chair)
121 Follen Rd
Lexington, MA 02421

Nora McFarland
1835 Skidaway Rd #107
Savannah, GA 31404

William Frank
3232 Calle Celestial
Santa Fe, NM 87506

BEST ORIGINAL PAPERBACK P.I. NOVEL

James D.F. Hannah (Chair)
3821 Nanz Avenue Apt. 4
Louisville, KY 40207

Greg Stout
1702 Greenbrier
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Jack Clark
4021 North Sawyer Ave
Chicago, IL 60618

BEST FIRST P.I. NOVEL

Matt Coyle (Chair)
3939 Clairemont Mesa Blvd
San Diego, CA 92117

SJ Rozan
302-A West 12th St #298
New York, NY 10014

BV Lawson
6312 Seven Corners Center
Box 257
Falls Church, VA 22044

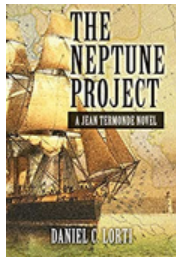
BEST P.I. SHORT STORY

Dennis Palumbo (Chair)
15300 Ventura Blvd., Ste. 402
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

Michele Bazan Reed
PO Box 994
Oswego, NY 13126

Stephen Zimcosky
3290 Warrensville Ctr Rd #404
Shaker Hts, OH 44122

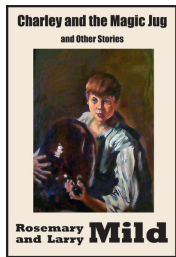
OVER THE TRANSOM



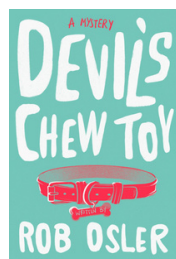
Daniel C. Lorti's THE NEPTUNE PROJECT is out now. Set in the 14th century, four men build an armed merchant ship and face formidable threats with potentially deadly consequences.



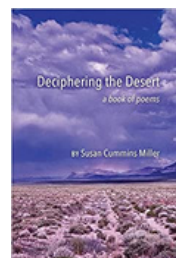
DEATH BY BUBBLE TEA, **Jennifer J. Chow's** first L.A. Night Market Mystery, has been nominated for the Lefty Award for Best Humorous Mystery.



Rosemary and Larry Mild bring you 23 new tales in CHARLEY AND THE MAGIC JUG AND OTHER STORIES. Climb with Charley up the Hungarian mountainside to a secret cave. Feel the shock waves in "Tsunami." Watch brothers devour a deadly dessert. And much more.



Rob Osler's novel, DEVIL'S CHEW TOY, is a 2023 Left Coast Crime Best Debut Novel nominee.

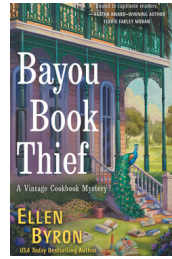


Susan Cummins Miller's latest poetry collection, DECIPHERING THE DESERT, has been released by Finishing Line Press.

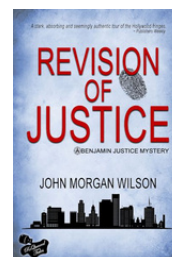
John Lansing signed contracts to write the pilot for "The Devil's Necktie," the first novel in his Jack Bertolino series. Andria Litto, the president of Amuse Entertainment, and Barbara DeFina, of Goodfellas and Casino fame, are on board to produce the series.



PLAYING DEAD, the second book in **Peggy Rothschild's** Molly Madison Dog Wrangler Mystery Series, comes out in hardback from Berkley/PRH on February 8.



Ellen Byron's BAYOU BOOK THIEF has been nominated for a Lefty Award for Best Humorous Mystery.



Following the reissue of **John Morgan Wilson's** Edgar-winning first novel, SIMPLE JUSTICE, ReQueered Tales is releasing his followup, REVISION OF JUSTICE (February 14), set in the cutthroat world of Hollywood screenwriting. The preface explores the "second novel curse" and why he trimmed some 30,000 words as he rebuilt his second Benjamin Justice mystery. Both are available in print and ebook through RQT and Amazon.



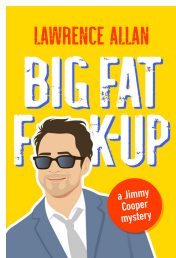
BEHOLD THE MONSTER: CONFRONTING AMERICA'S MOST PROLIFIC SERIAL KILLER, by **Jillian Lauren**, is now available for pre-order.

Tori Eldridge includes insights from her own Chinese ancestry and ninja training in her personal essay "The Agency of Modern Kunoichi: Women of Ninja Stealth and Perseverance" published in UNQUIET SPIRITS: ESSAYS BY ASIAN WOMEN IN HORROR, February 14 by Black Spot Books.

APPEARANCES & EVENTS



Sheila Lowe appeared for the third time at the Hillside Book Club in Ventura. Club members (photo attached) had read her latest paranormal suspense book, *The Last Door*, and had lots of questions and comments about the characters and the Afterlife. Amy Herron, who won a character name in the book played the Beethoven piano composition, *Fur Elise*, which plays an important role in the story.



Lawrence Allan appeared on the podcast "Out With Dan" discussing his book *BIG FAT F@!K-UP* and its upcoming sequel, *BIG F@!KING DEAL*. It can be found on [Spotify](#) and [YouTube](#).

Donis Casey's "Tell Me Your Story" is a monthly column in which successful mystery authors share how their life experiences have influenced their writing and path to publication. Donis's guest for February 2023 is **Tammy Kachler**. Tammy is the author of five *Kate Reilly Racing Mysteries*, a wildly original series that takes you inside the cockpit of a race car to experience the sights, sounds, sensations, and emotions of racing at the edge. [Listen here](#) on February 20.

Mystery Ink February 2023 Events: (7552 Warner Avenue #101, Huntington Beach)

Saturday, February 18, 1 p.m.: **David Putnam**, *THE SCORNED*
Off-site location: Fernhill Country Club, Graham & Warner, Huntington Beach. About the book: Ex-cop & con Bruno Johnson returns to LA from Costa Rica to help a friend's daughter but quickly learns things aren't as they seem.

Saturday, February 25, 1 p.m.: **ELLEN BYRON**, *WINED AND DINED IN NEW ORLEANS*
Off-site location: Fernhill Country Club, Graham & Warner, Huntington Beach. About the book: In the second *Vintage Cookbook Mystery*, Ricki has to help solve a murder, untangle family secrets, and grow her business, all while living under the threat of a hurricane that could wipe out everything from her home to Bon Vee.

In November 2022, **Janet Lynn** and **Will Zeilinger** were featured at a "Meet the Authors" event at the Huntington Landmark Development in Huntington Beach. Forty-eight attendees were present.

Barbara Pronin (*THE MINER'S CANARY*) will lead a workshop, "Plotting vs Pantsing: The Path to Your Novel" at the Southern California Writer's Conference in San Diego set for Feb. 17-19.

Kevin Milton, writer of the Black LGBTQ memoir *RED BITE MARKS ON MY CINNAMON SKIN*, placed second in the national talent search by the TV show, *America's Next Great Author*. His editor, **Elaine Ash**, discovered the show's open call via an online group announcement by SoCalMWA president, **Travis Richardson**, just days before the deadline. Ash and Milton worked on his pitch for his emotionally wrenching and sometimes violent story as a BDSM bottom right up until the midnight deadline for application.

CRIME CALENDER



- February 26: Ona Russell interviews Louis Bayard, Crowdcast
- March 16–19: Left Coast Crime, Tucson, AZ
- April 22–23: LA Times Festival of Books, Los Angeles, CA
- April 27: 77th Annual Edgar® Awards, New York, NY
- April 28–30: Malice Domestic, Bethesda, MD
- May 30–June 3: Thrillerfest XVIII, New York, NY
- June 10–11: California Crime Writers Conference, Los Angeles, CA
- August 30–September 3: Bouchercon, San Diego, CA

If you know of an event that belongs on the Crime Calendar, email themarchofcrime@gmail.com with the info.

THE LAST WORD



"Working in the world of intelligence and secrets has its advantages."

MERCY
by Brett Battles