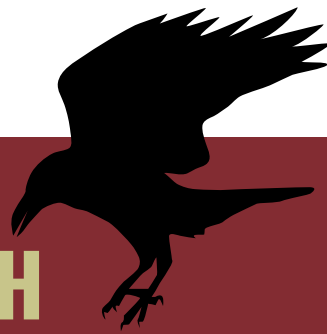


SEPTEMBER 2022

# THE MARCH OF CRIME


SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



## CIA: Fiction vs. Reality

SEPTEMBER EVENT

SoCalMWA TAM LUNCHEON:



RESERVATION DEADLINE 9/22 [socialmwa.com](http://socialmwa.com)

**CIA: FICTION VS. REALITY**  
**COVERT ACTION & THE MORALITY OF ESPIONAGE**  
 with Adam Sikes

Sunday, September 25  
 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
 Tam O'Shanter  
 2980 Los Feliz Blvd.  
 Los Angeles

The CIA makes for great fiction. But have you ever been curious about what the CIA actually does vs. how it's portrayed in books and on screen? Join us for a presentation and discussion with Adam Sikes, author of the international espionage thriller, LANDSLIDE, and a former intelligence officer with the CIA.

Questions? Email [Travis](mailto:Travis).

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT BY SEPTEMBER 22**

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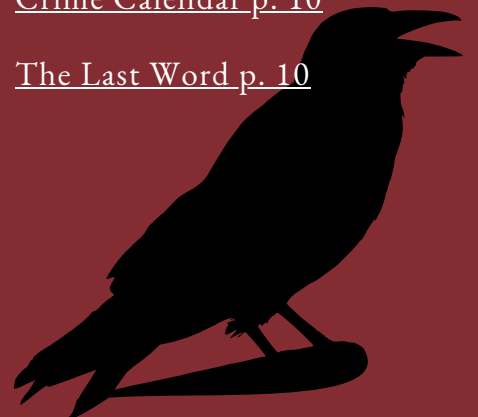
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# PRESIDENT'S RAP SHEET



## Happy Labor Day

BY TRAVIS RICHARDSON



We are in September and several of you are heading out to Bouchercon in Minneapolis. I hope all of you have a wonderful time. This will be the first year in over ten years that I will miss the world's largest mystery fan conference (when it is running). Earlier this year I went to Left Coast Crime and the Edgars®, but it was hard to justify one more conference, and coming down with COVID from a family reunion in the middle of the summer didn't help either. Be sure to tell everybody hello for me.

Speaking of conferences, the California Crime Writer's Conference will happen next year June 10–11 and registration is now open. Please note that the website is still being updated. If you have not attended CCWC before, I highly recommend it. This is a one-of-a-kind hands-on writer's conference with registration limited to 200 people. Tracks at the conference include the craft of writing, insights into the publishing industry, and talks from specialists involved in the crime-fighting world such as forensic experts and police.



We also hope to see you on September 25 to hear former CIA paramilitary agent and author **Adam Sikes** discuss his time with the agency, dispel some myths about the CIA, and other issues you've always wanted to know. Unfortunately, we cannot record this event due to the sensitive nature of the material. (If you'd like to find some previous talks you can find some [here](#).) We will have the talk at the historic Tam O'Shanter in Atwater Village at 11 a.m. [More details are here](#).

And finally, save room in your belly for **Bill Fitzhugh's** Gumbo Party on October 1. Please look for an RSVP email later this month.

That's it for now. Happy Labor Day!

Travis

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## Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter

c/o Jessica Kaye  
8840 Wilshire Blvd.  
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

Contact: [info@socalmwa.com](mailto:info@socalmwa.com)  
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## Bouchercon Prep

BY HOLLY WEST



It's officially Bouchercon prep season at the West House. My husband knows this because he keeps getting email notifications of all the money I'm spending on new clothes and other "essentials."

I've attended every Bouchercon since 2009. It was in Indianapolis that year and the absolute highlight was meeting Sue Grafton at the Shamus Award dinner. We talked at length about how much I loved her (lol) and she gave me some advice on writing my first novel. It was an experience I'll never forget.



This year, I'm hosting the New Author Reception, which I'm delighted about. I remember how fun it was to be a debut author back in 2014 and I hope this year's group loves it. Stop by and meet the new authors if you're attending Bouchercon next week!

In other news, I'm trying not to think about the fact that it's going to hit 111 degrees this Labor Day weekend. To use a phrase oft-over-used at my house, "I DID NOT SIGN UP FOR THIS."

I hope to see many of you next week in Minneapolis.

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](mailto:themarchofcrime@gmail.com)

Join the SoCalMWA  
Discussion Group

[groups.io/g/MWA-SOCAL](https://groups.io/g/MWA-SOCAL)  
(members only)

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1140 Broadway #1507  
New York, NY 10001  
t. 212.888.8171  
[mwa@mysterywriters.org](mailto:mwa@mysterywriters.org)  
<http://mysterywriters.org>

## Shamus Award Winners

FOR WORKS PUBLISHED IN 2021

### BEST ORIGINAL HARDBACK P.I. NOVEL

**FAMILY BUSINESS** by **S. J. Rozan** (Pegasus)

**RUNNER** by Tracy Clark (Kensington)

**LAST REDEMPTION** by **Matt Coyle** (Oceanview)

**PAY OR PLAY** by **Howard Michael Gould** (Severn House)

**HEAD CASE** by Michael Wiley (Severn House)

### BEST ORIGINAL PAPERBACK P.I. NOVEL

**EVERY CITY IS EVERY OTHER CITY** by **John McFetridge**  
(ECW Press)

**THE BURDEN OF INNOCENCE** by John Nardizzi (Arte Público Press)

**ANGELS IN THE WIND** by Manuel Ramos (Coffeetown Press)

**AN EMPTY GRAVE** by Andrew Welsh Huggins (Swallow Press)

### BEST FIRST P.I. NOVEL

**LOST LITTLE GIRL** by **Gregory Stout** (Level Best Books)

**PORNO VALLEY** by Phillip Elliot (Into the Void)

**A DEADMAN'S EYES** by Lori Duffy Foster (Level Best Books)

**SUBURBAN DICKS** by Fabian Nieza (Putnam)

**THE ARRANGEMENT** by M. Ravenel (Chikara Press)

### BEST P.I. SHORT STORY

**SWEEPS WEEK** by **Richard Helms** (EQMM July/August)

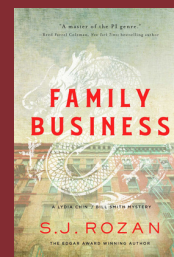
**DISPOSABLE WOMEN** by Michael Bracken (ToughCrime.com)

**SIXTEEN LIES** by Matt Goldman (EQMM September/October)

**ORO DE TONTOS (FOOL'S GOLD)** Tom Larsen (AHMM  
November/December)

**THE HIDDEN PLACES** by Linda Stansberry (EQMM May/June)

The Private Eye Writers of America thanks the awards committee Ted Fitzgerald, Mary Keliikoa, Terence Faherty, David Housewright, Brendan DuBois, Dana King, Michael Bracken, Michael Wiley, M. Ruth Myers, **Gary Phillips**, Vy Kava, and Laura Oles.



## FRESH BLOOD



### TERRI MAUE

Terri Maue has been in love with words for as long as she can remember. She still thinks stories are akin to magic wands with the power to create worlds. Her debut novel, *KNIFE EDGE*, will be released in 2023 by an imprint of Epicenter Press. Zee Morani, an opinion columnist who dreams of breaking into serious journalism, is onto the biggest story of her career when her interviewee winds up dead, provided she can survive to write it.

## WRITING TIPS



### FROM ALLISON BRENNAN

Aspiring writers always ask me what I wish I'd known at the beginning of my career that I know now. There are two things:

1. It doesn't get easier. While some books are "easier" to write than others, you will always be trying to write better, craft stronger stories, make each book superior to the last. The plus side? With time and experience, you'll find ways to overcome the struggle.
2. Write what you love. If you write to market, you'll always be chasing your market. Write what you love, then edit it to fit a market. You'll never please all the readers all the time, but if you please yourself then edit ruthlessly, you'll find *your* readers.

Taken from "Spear the Monster," by **Allison Brennan**. [Read in full here](#). Subscribe for writer's life stories, research tidbits, short stories, book reviews, writing workshops, and more.

# 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

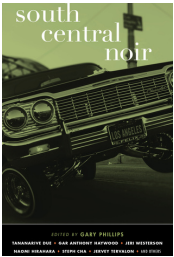


Deborah Crombie





Apple TV+ recently announced that its highly anticipated *Shantaram* series will debut globally on October 14. Starring Charlie Hunnam and based on the novel SHANTARAM by Gregory David Roberts, the series is created by Steve Lightfoot and Eric Warren Singer. **Ken Kristensen** serves as one of its writers and producers.



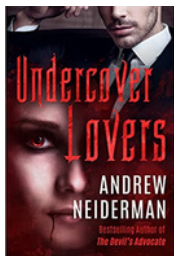
SOUTH CENTRAL NOIR, edited by **Gary Phillips**, will be released on September 6. Featuring stories by **Steph Cha, Naomi Hirahara, Gary Phillips, Jeri Westerson, Désirée Zamorano**, and many more.



The next volume in the Library of Congress Crime Classics series, ROOM TO SWING, by Ed Lacy, will be out on Oct. 4. Winner of the 1958 Edgar® for Best Novel, this features Toussaint Moore, the first Black private investigator in American crime fiction, framed for a murder in Harlem. Edited by **Leslie S. Klinger**, the edition is published by the partnership of the Library of Congress and Poisoned Pen Press.



Multiple Bram Stoker nominee **Hal Bodner** blends *The Matrix*, Roger Rabbit, and Jean Paul Sartre in the hilarious yet thought-provoking "I Am the Ink", the very first story in NOIR, available now on Amazon and from [zombiesneedbrains.com](http://zombiesneedbrains.com).



**Andrew Neiderman's** UNDERCOVER LOVERS, published by OpenRoadMedia, is now available. It's the story of a CIA agent who falls in love with and eventually employs a beautiful vampire who is an international fashion model by day.

**Ellen Byron** is under contract with Kensington Publishing to write a fifth and final Catering Hall mystery. She writes the series under the pen name Maria diRico.

**Lisa Morton's** short story "Murder in Xanadu" will appear in the Sisters in Crime LA's 2023 anthology ENTERTAINMENT TO DIE FOR.

"Careful What You Wish For," a short story by **Nancy Cole Silverman**, has also been accepted for the ENTERTAINMENT TO DIE FOR. The collection will be out next spring.

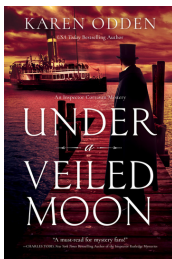
**John Peyton Cooke's** new short story, "The Open House," appears in NIGHT TERRORS, VOL. 21 (Scare Street) on September 1. <https://amzn.to/3QRsiKX>

**Lee Goldberg's** crime novel, CALICO, told in two parallel narratives that ultimately collide in an action-packed conclusion—with a startling twist, has sold to Rachel Slatter at Severn House, in a nice deal, for publication in November 2023 by Amy Tannenbaum at Jane Rotrosen Agency.





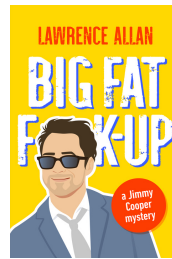
**Adam Sikes'** debut espionage thriller, **LANDSLIDE**, releases September 20. US Marine veteran Mason Hackett can't forgive himself for what happened fifteen years ago—those killed, those lost, the lives ruined. But when the face of his dead friend flashes on the television screen and he hears whispers of a CIA operation gone bad, Mason embarks on a perilous journey across Europe to war-torn Ukraine to uncover the truth and the fate of a friend.



*USA Today* bestselling author **Karen Odden's** latest Victorian mystery, **UNDER A VEILED MOON**, comes out on October 11. In its starred review, *Publisher's Weekly* says it's "An exceptional sequel... Odden never strikes a false note."



Book three in **Sheila Lowe's** Beyond the Veil paranormal suspense series, **THE LAST DOOR**, will be published on October 1.



**Lawrence Allan's** debut novel **BIG FAT F@!K-UP** won the 2022 Claymore Award in the comedy category at Killer Nashville.



**Craig Faustus Buck's** story "The Shabbos Goy," a tale of Orthodox murder alibied by God, was published in **JEWISH NOIR II: TALES OF CRIMES AND OTHER DARK DEEDS**, with an introduction by Lawrence Block (PM Press, August 23).



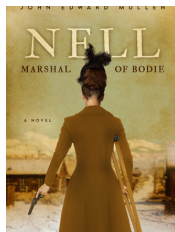
From **Gay Toltl Kinman:** The Shooter Mystery Short Story series explores the aftermath of a mass shooting at an airport. Sylvia, Celeste, Sonja, Sybil, Trudy, Simone and Liana each tell their story of this life-changing experience. Cover by Peggie Chan. On Kindle and Amazon or order from your favorite bookstore.



# APPEARANCES & EVENTS



**John Mullen** will be throwing a Book Launch Party for his historical mystery, *NELL: MARSHAL OF BODIE*, on September 24 at 2 p.m. at Mysterious Galaxy in San Diego. Ann Parker, author of the award-winning Silver Rush mystery series, says "Mullen portrays the late 19th-century gold rush town of Bodie, California, with a nuanced and enthusiastic eye, while weaving a twisty mystery."



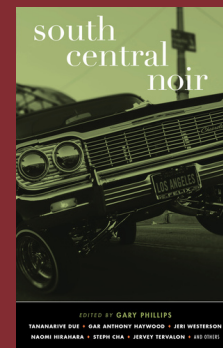
**FIND TORI ELDRIDGE - SEPTEMBER 8-10**

- THUR, 5:30PM:** New Authors Reception
- FRI, 10:15AM:** Anthony Award Nomination Panel - Best Paperback/eBook/Audiobook
- FRI, 7:00PM:** Crime Writers of Color Reception
- FRI, 8:30PM:** Noir at the Bar
- SAT, 1:45PM:** Kick-Ass Female Protagonists
- SAT, 3:00PM:** A Blender of Mind Benders - Mixed-Genre Mysteries
- SAT, 7:00PM:** Anthony Awards Banquet

**Rob Ossler** will participate in the "Humor and Crime" and "Pets and Cozies" panels at Bouchercon.

**Sheila Lowe** will celebrate the release of *THE LAST DOOR* with a launch party at Mystery Ink in Huntington Beach on October 1 at 1 p.m. On Sunday, October 2, Connie DiMarco will join her at Book Carnival at 2 p.m. to discuss her latest Zodiac Mystery, *SERPENT'S DOOM*.

**Gary Phillips** invites everyone to the launch of *SOUTH CENTRAL NOIR*, an anthology of original stories on Saturday, September 3, 11–1 p.m. at the Southern California Library—an archive of "People's History," 6120 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles. *PW* stated, "The 14 tales in this strong entry in Akashic's noir series focus on the robust past and present of one of the most notorious areas not just in Southern California but the country." **Steph Cha**, **Gar Anthony Haywood**, **Naomi Hirahara**, **Jeri Westerson** and editor **Phillips** are among its contributors.



**Jeri Westerson** will be at the following locations for the launch of the newest Akashic Book's Noir Anthology series, *SOUTH CENTRAL NOIR*, edited by **Gary Phillips**. Jeri's short story "The Last Time I Died" is included: Saturday, September 3, 11 am – 1 pm at the Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research, 6120 S. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, and Thursday, September 8, 7:30 pm, Skylight Books, 1818 N. Vermont Ave, Los Angeles.

**Karen Odden** will be appearing virtually at Warwick's Bookstore in La Jolla/San Diego on Wednesday, October 12 at 4 p.m. PT to launch her new Victorian mystery, *UNDER A VEILED MOON*. [More information.](#)





## SoCalMWA Out & About



Craig Westerson shoots the series book trailer for Jeri Westerson's the King's Fool mysteries.

## July Book Swap



# CRIME CALENDER



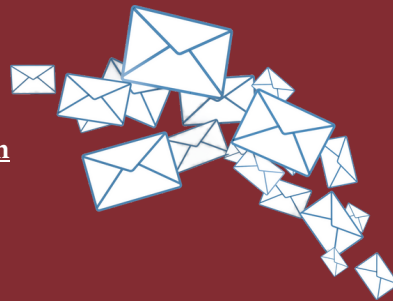
More dates will be added as info becomes available.

SEPTEMBER 8–11: Bouchercon, Minneapolis, MN

SEPTEMBER 25: Tam Luncheon, Los Angeles, CA

OCTOBER 1: Gumbo Party, Los Angeles, CA

If you know of an event that belongs on the Crime Calendar, email [themarchofcrime@gmail.com](mailto:themarchofcrime@gmail.com) with the info.



# THE LAST WORD



"Bama Carter had gone to meet his maker. And judging by the left-behinds, he'd been helped along some."

"Bama Carter Gets Rode"

by J.R. Parsons (*AHMM* Jan/Feb 2022)