



The
MARCH

of CRIME

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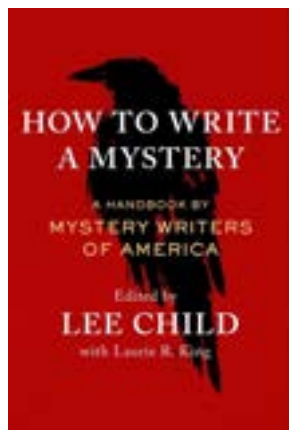
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HOW TO WRITE A MYSTERY



Featuring essays by SoCalMWA members Naomi Hirahara, Rachel Howzell Hall, Gary Phillips, Allison Brennan, & T. Jefferson Parker, plus tips from Gay Toltl Kinman & Tom Sawyer

SoCalMWA Crowdcast Events Channel

While the world (including our small part of it) is gearing up to see each other in person again, SoCalMWA is busy behind the scenes planning more events, including a possible in-person Gumbo Party hosted by **Bill Fitzhugh** and his wife, Kendall, in September or October. Stay-tuned for an (anonymous) member survey about this event and additional details about upcoming virtual events.

In the meantime, did you know you can view SoCalMWA's previous virtual events on Crowdcast? [SoCalMWA has their own channel](#) on the Crowdcast platform where you can find these links:

[Dennis Palumbo—Writing and Keeping or Staying Calm During These Stressful Times](#)

[An Afternoon with Pulitzer Prize Winning Journalist and Author Christopher Goffard](#)

[Love Letter to LA History, featuring Ona Russell, Naomi Hirahara, Rachel Howzell Hall, and Ryan Gattis](#)

[Keep this link handy for future events and recordings.](#)



The President's Rap Sheet

Jessica Kaye

Summer is here. Lazy days (what are those?), hot sunlight, cold coffees, summer fruits, and firecrackers every night in Los Angeles—not that those explosives are saved for the 4th of July anymore. If you live almost anywhere in the city, you hear them nightly. It is not one of my favorite things about LA but it seems to be here to stay. It is a bit of a mystery to me exactly who loves setting these off and what about loud noise from before sundown to into the small hours of the night is some kind of fun. My cat is not a fan.

I want to applaud our events committee, which has been putting together really stellar online presentations. These are still available for viewing on our Crowdcast channel, so if you missed them or want to watch again, by all means, please do.

The folks involved in planning include **Jennifer Younger**, our board VP and a creative force behind the ideas and inviting the terrific speakers we have had; **Ona Russell** and **Nancy Cole Silverman**, who have both contributed concepts and hosted presentations; **Travis Richardson** and **August Norman**, both of whom have been our stellar behind the scenes stars, sending out emails so you can register for the event, manning the technology to provide the audio and video to you as smoothly as possible.

More virtual events are coming, so stay tuned.

When will we return to in person meetings? It is too soon to tell. We look forward to that so let's say we are cautiously optimistic.

On that note, **Bill Fitzhugh** and his wife Kendall are willing to host the gumbo party again this year. Last year's was canceled, of course, but barring an upsurge in Covid-19 infections, this may actually happen. We are thinking of holding the event in late September or some time in October.

Attendees must be vaccinated.

In order to gauge whether you, our members, are ready to come together in person, please keep your eyes open for a survey which will ask whether you would be willing to attend. These surveys are anonymous. We will collate the data but not know who replied. If there are enough folks willing to get together in person, we may go forward with the event.

For now, stay safe and stay cool.

Jessica

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SoCalMWA Discussion Group

- Member introductions
- Ideas for book launches & other book promotion
- Publishing insights & tips
- Book deal announcements
- Blog post promotion & discussion
- Book reviews
- Support & Networking
- And more!

[SUBSCRIBE HERE](#)



The EDITOR'S CORNER

Holly West

Happy Summer!

This morning, I went to a local coffee shop and, for the first time in well over a year, I spent some time writing amid the sounds of clinking cups, chatting coffee drinkers, and other writers/workers who were sneaking out of their home offices to be among people again. One guy took a phone call while I was there and he wasn't shy about letting those around him know his business. And you know what? I was so happy to be back in public that I didn't mind at all.

I'm sure my tolerance for loud phone-talkers will wane soon, but for now, I simply enjoyed the ambiance.

Other than that, I'm working hard on my WIP. Recently stuck, I took a day to write a logline for the project and discovered the overall story was a little bit weak. Not great news when you've been working on a book for several months! But sometimes, those are the moments where you realize why you've been languishing. Why things aren't quite working. While I can't say I'm 100% back on track, a long discussion with my husband about my plot helped to strengthen the story and it's much more compelling now.

How are your summer projects going?

I'm also curious how many of you plan to go to New Orleans for Bouchercon. I signed up reluctantly, thinking there's no way it would actually happen, so why bother? But now it seems like all systems go. I hope that continues to be the case as we get closer to the end of August. I know the pandemic isn't over yet, but as someone who is vaccinated I feel so much more positive about the future than I did when the year started. I hope it's that way for you, too.

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

A GLIMMER OF A CLUE, book two in the Fairy Garden Mystery series by **Daryl Wood Gerber**, will be released by Kensington Books in July.

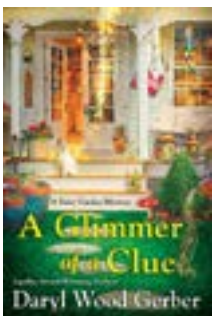
The audiobook version of **Dan Bronson's** SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME is now available from Amazon/Audible. Veteran voice actor Jack Daniel narrates this hard-boiled mystery set in Hollywood in 1947, a book *New York Times* best-selling author Philip Margolin has described this way: "Reading SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME is like watching THE BIG SLEEP or THE MALTESE FALCON."

From **Les Klinger**: L.A. Theatre Works released an audio theatre version of "The Murder of the Links," starring Alfred Molina as Hercule Poirot on July 1. In this new, LATW commission, BBC Radio's Kate McAll adapts the classic whodunnit. Detective Hercule Poirot receives an urgent letter from Paul Renauld, summoning him to France. When he arrives, Poirot and his companion Hastings are too late, and to complicate things, certain facts just don't add up. [Available for purchase here.](#)

Andrew Kaplan's new political thriller, BLUE MADAGASCAR, was released (in all formats including audiobook) on June 30 from Smugglers Lane Press. When a bystander is killed during a jewel heist on the French Riviera, it triggers a worldwide hunt by intelligence agencies for something the dead man left behind. A new female protagonist, U.S. Special Agent Casey Ramirez, is catapulted into a deadly cat-and-mouse chase to find the dead man's secret before it's too late.

Shannon Baker is happy to announce that after a long break, a new addition to the Kate Fox mystery series will launch August 10. EASY MARK, the fourth in the series by SRP, follows new sheriff, Kate Fox, as she tries to keep her troublesome younger brother from being charged with murder. STRIPPED BARE, the first book, is now available in audio from Podium with the amazing Megan Tusing narrating.

Michael Elias's thriller YOU CAN GO HOME NOW (HarperCollins) arrived in paperback on June 23. Nina Karim, a young Queens detective, seeking to avenge the assassination of her father by an anti-abortion terrorist, is drawn into a series of cold case murders of men with ties to a battered women's shelter. "... a thrilling examination into the power of revenge. I had several gasp-out-loud moments while reading." —Ellen LaCorte, author of THE PERFECT FRAUD



OVER the TRANSOM

Melinda Loomis had two short stories published in June. “Christine Thirteen,” the story of a revenge years in the making, appears in the Sisters in Crime/Los Angeles anthology AVENGING ANGELENOS published by Down & Out Books. “The Legend of Bahama Bobby,” about an elusive, artistic serial killer, is included in THE FISH THAT GOT AWAY from the Guppies Chapter of Sisters in Crime and published by Wildside Press.

Corey Lynn Fayman’s most recent novel, BALLAST POINT BREAKDOWN, won top honors at the 2021 San Diego Book Awards, selected as best Published Mystery/Suspense Fiction and also receiving the Geisel Award for overall best-in-show.

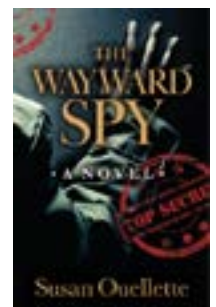
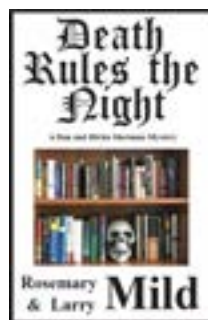
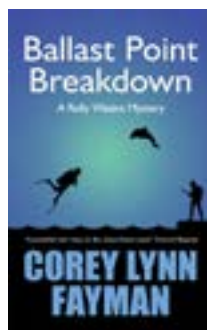
Martin Roy Hill’s latest Peter Brandt thriller, THE FOURTH RISING, was named Best in Category for suspense in the 2020 Chanticleer International Book Awards. This was the second honor won by THE FOURTH RISING, which was also named the 2020 Best Mystery by the Best Independent Book Awards earlier this year. The audiobook for Hill’s Linus Schag, NCIS, thriller, THE BUTCHER’S BILL, was released in June.

Rosemary and Larry Mild are delighted to announce the publication of DEATH RULES THE NIGHT, their fourth Dan & Rivka Sherman mystery. Copies of a tell-all book on a prominent Annapolis family have disappeared from The Olde Victorian Bookstore and all local libraries. Dan wants to know why. Who is hiding the family secrets? Can stalkings, break-ins—and murder force Dan to stop investigating? Rivka fears for his life. Meanwhile, a retired truck driver is ready to confess sins he committed twenty years ago. Will his confession break open the case? And bookstore clerk Ivy hears gossip that could derail her wedding.

The You-Solve-It mystery “Face the Music” by **Peter DiChellis** appeared in *Mystery Weekly Magazine* (June 2021).

ISLAND OF THIEVES, **Glen Erik Hamilton’s** sixth novel in the award-winning Van Shaw series, will be released on July 27 from William Morrow. While working a new security gig on a privately-owned island, former Army Ranger Shaw stumbles across a murdered foreign national and quickly becomes both the prime suspect and the prey in a deadly cross-country pursuit. *Publishers Weekly’s* starred review: “Edgar-finalist Hamilton has never been better.”

THE WAYWARD SPY by Susan Ouellette took the gold medal in the thriller genre at the recent Independent Publishers Book Awards. **Elaine Ash** was freelance development editor.



Private Eye Writers of America
SHAMUS AWARD NOMINEES

Best Original Private Eye Paperback

FAREWELL LAS VEGAS by Grant Bywaters (Wild Rose Press)
ALL KINDS OF UGLY by Ralph Dennis (Brash Books)
BRITTLE KARMA by Richard Helms (Black Arch Books)
REMEMBER MY FACE by John Lantigua (Arte Publico)
DAMAGED GOODS by Debbi Mack (Renegade Press)

Best Private Eye Short Story

“A Dreamboat Gambol” by O’Neill DeNoux (*Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*)
“Mustang Sally” by John M. Floyd (*Black Cat Mystery Magazine*)
“Setting the Pick” by April Kelly (*Mystery Weekly Magazine*)
“Show and Zeller” by Gordon Linzer (*Black Cat Mystery Magazine*)
“Nashua River Floater” by Tom MacDonald (*Coast to Coast Noir*)

Best Private Eye Novel

WHAT YOU DON’T SEE by Tracy Clark (Kensington)
DO NO HARM by Max Allan Collins (Tor Forge)
BLIND VIGIL by **Matt Coyle** (Oceanview)
HOUSE ON FIRE by Joseph Finder (Dutton)
AND NOW SHE’S GONE by **Rachel Howzell Hall** (Tor Forge)

Best First Private Eye Novel

SQUATTER’S RIGHTS by Kevin R. Doyle (Camel Press)
DERAILED by Mary Keliikoa (Epicenter Press)
I KNOW WHERE YOU SLEEP by Alan Orloff (Down & Out Books)
THE MISSING AMERICAN by **Kwei Quarty** (Soho Press)
WINTER COUNTS by David Heska Wanbli Weiden (Ecco)

With many thanks to the judges: Colleen Collins, O’Neill DeNoux, **Dennis Palumbo**, April Kelly, James D.F. Hannah, Clive Rosengren, Mary Keliikoa, David Thompson, **Matt Coyle**, Andrew McAleer, Ron Katz, and Burton Smith.

Submitted by **Gay Toltl Kinman**, Chair, Private Eye Writers of America Awards



Member
APPEARANCES

Sheila Lowe has been invited to speak to the MN Twin Cities chapter of Sisters in Crime. She'll be discussing the "Clark Rockefeller" murder case in which she testified as a handwriting expert. On the 15, she will be a guest on Molly Weston's blog, "Molly on Mysteries," and will be starting a month-long Goodreads Giveaway of her new book, *DEAD LETTERS* (releases on 8/3).

Jennifer J. Chow will be in conversation with Abby Collette and Terrie Moran in a Queens Public Library panel on [Thursday, July 8 at 1 p.m. PT](#) and at a Virtual Authors Festival with Chicks on the Case sponsored by North Brunswick Library on [Tuesday, July 20 at 4 p.m. PT](#).



The
LAST WORD

"Rebuilding your life is like remodeling an old house.
You don't know whether to knock down walls or put up more."

—Shannon Baker, *BITTER RAIN*