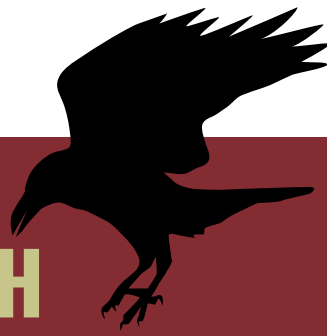


AUGUST 2024

THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



What's inside

[Inventing the Page Event p. 1](#)

[President's Rap Sheet p. 2](#)

[Editor's Corner p. 3](#)

[Shamus Award Noms p. 4](#)

[Over the Transom p. 5](#)

[Appearances & Events p. 6](#)

[Update Your Listing p. 6](#)

[Event Pics p. 7](#)

[Crime Calendar p. 8](#)

[The Last Word p. 8](#)



ONE WEEK LEFT!

See the biggest event for mystery and thriller fans in SoCal this summer! Inventing the Page at the Skirball Cultural Center's Magnin Auditorium. Michael Connelly, Laurie R. King, and Walter Mosley will discuss craft, technique, inspiration, and how they handle the business of writing about murder. Author and film director Nicholas Meyer will moderate.

August 7, 2024, at 7 p.m.
Skirball Cultural Center, Magnin Auditorium
2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA.

Tickets are just \$35 (fees apply) and nearly sold out.

[Buy Tickets](#)



Timeless Stories

BY LESLIE S. KLINGER



I'm just back from speaking at a conference called "Sherlock Holmes at 50," celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota. I've spoken there before, but this time, I was the keynote speaker at the banquet.

The organizers suggested "The Future of Sherlockiana and Sherlockian Conferences" as the topic for my talk. Before offering my predictions, however, I spoke about how I got here. In 1968, after reading hundreds of science fiction novels, I got turned on to Sherlock Holmes as a result of a fortuitous gift—*The Annotated Sherlock Holmes* by William S. Baring-Gould. This led me to read other mystery classics—Sayers, Christie, Hammett, Chandler, Ross Macdonald, and the like.

In the mid-1990s, my wife urged me to try writing some Sherlockian scholarship—a common pastime among fans. Eventually, I decided to take on re-annotating the Holmes Canon, and then, miraculously, I was approached by W. W. Norton & Co. to do it for them. Now, having edited or authored some 85+ books, I'm deep into a second career, running parallel with my law practice. When I think about the little steps down a long road that brought me here, I'm astonished!

Now for my grand prediction: One hundred years from now, we'll still be reading the original Sherlock Holmes stories. Why?

First, like all good crime fiction, the Holmes stories are not just about puzzles or dangerous situations—they're about a relentless pursuit of justice. By 2124, we probably still won't have achieved a just world, so we'll still need writers of crime fiction to make it seem possible.

Second, fundamentally, the Holmes stories are tales of the friendship between Holmes and Watson. That friendship has been mirrored for me in the relationships I've formed in Sherlockian circles and MWA. In 2124, we'll still be hungry for that human connection, a connection portrayed in the best of your writing.

So, if you want your books to be read in 2124, look no further than the Holmes stories for models of timeless writing.

Les

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Leslie S. Klinger

VICE PRESIDENT
TBD

TREASURER
Sarah M. Chen

SECRETARY
Holly West

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fred Andersen
Edward Arno
Ona Russell
Gay Tolt Kinman
Terri Nolan
Gary Phillips
Jennifer Younger

PRESIDENT EMERITUS
Travis Richardson

Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter

c/o Leslie S. Klinger
10866 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 1500
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Contact: info@socalmwa.com
Website: <http://socalmwa.com>
Twitter: [@socalmwa](https://twitter.com/socalmwa)
Facebook: [Like us](#)



Presumed Innocent

BY HOLLY WEST

This week, my husband and I finished the last episode of AppleTV's limited series "Presumed Innocent," based on Scott Turow's 1987 novel of the same name. Jake Gyllenhaal plays Rusty Sabich, a talented prosecutor on trial for murdering his lover, also a prosecutor. While it started off a bit slow, we were hooked after a couple of episodes, and overall, it was compelling television.

Seeing the show prompted us to watch the movie version this past weekend. It came out in 1990 and starred Harrison Ford in the lead role. I never saw the movie, so I was curious to see how/if they were different. Note: I haven't read the book, either.

There were *many* differences between the two, and they were fascinating. I suppose you could say that both were of their time. 1990s-era thrillers hold a special place in my heart, as I spent a lot of time in movie theatres during that time. But one can't deny the casual misogyny, sexism, racism, and homophobia they portrayed. The 1990 version of "Presumed Innocent" was steeped in these things (primarily misogyny and sexism) from nearly the first scene.

Culturally, most of us are in a different place now, and it's clear that the makers of the 2024 version understand this. We've stepped away from tropes like the evil femme fatale getting what's coming to her, and Ruth Negga, who plays Rusty's wife Barbara in the new production, has a much stronger voice than Bonnie Bedelia's Barbara does. The story is essentially—but not entirely—the same, but the new version is much more nuanced.

Now, I want to read the book to see how it differs from both of the filmed versions. While I suspect it's closer to the 1990 production in its attitudes, novels always allow more space for character and plot development.

Aside from all of this, I'm currently preparing to moderate a panel at Bouchercon and enjoying the reading I'm doing for it. Can't wait to see some of you in Nashville!

Holly

The March of Crime

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 the SoCalMWA
Discussion Group

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

NATIONAL OFFICE
Mystery Writers of America
1140 Broadway #1507
New York, NY 10001
t. 212.888.8171
mwa@mysterywriters.org
<http://mysterywriters.org>



Shamus Award Nominees

SUBMITTED BY JOHN SHEPPHARD

The winners will be announced at the Bouchercon Opening Ceremonies in Nashville, Tennessee, on Thursday, August 29, 6:30– 8 p.m. (Delta Ballroom A, floor 2) at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center.

BEST ORIGINAL HARDBACK P.I. NOVEL

- Hard Rain* by Samantha Jayne Allen (Minotaur Books)
- Go Find Daddy* by Steve Goble (Oceanview Publishing)
- The Mistress of Bhatia House* by Sujata Massey (Soho Crime)
- The Bell in the Fog* by Lev AC Rosen (Forge Books)
- Heart of the Nile* by Will Thomas (Minotaur Books)

BEST ORIGINAL PAPERBACK P.I. NOVEL

- Drums Guns 'N' Money* by **Jonathan J. Brown** (Down & Out Books)
- Gillespie Field Groove* by **Corey Lynn Fayman** (Konstellation Press)
- The Truth We Hide* by Liz Milliron (Level Best Books)
- Bring the Night* by J.R. Sanders (Level Best Books)
- Liar's Dice* by Gabriel Valjan (Level Best Books)

BEST P.I. SHORT STORY

- “Errand for a Neighbor” by Bill Bassman (January/February 2023, *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*)
- “Beyond Belief” by Libby Cudmore (May 2023, *Tough*)
- “The Soiled Dove of Shallow Hollow” by Sean McCluskey (January/February 2023 *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*)
- “Imperfect Data” by Bob Tippee (January/February 2023, *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*)
- “Making the Bad Guys Nervous” by Joseph S. Walker (2023, *Black Cat Weekly #102*)

Special thanks to Private Eye Writers of America Shamus Award judges David Bart, O’Neil DeNoux, Lori Duffy Foster, **Gay Tolti Kinman**, Andrew McAleer, Paul McGoran, **Patrick H. Moore**, Richie Narvaez, Jim Nesbitt, Stephen D. Rogers, Kevin Burton Smith, and Rosalie Spielman.

The March of Crime

The March of Crime is the newsletter of the Southern California Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America.

Editor: Holly West

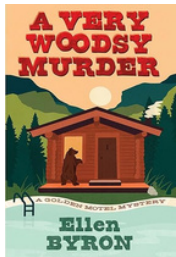
Opinions expressed herein are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter.

Contact us at:
themarchofcrime@gmail.com

Join the SoCalMWA
Discussion Group

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

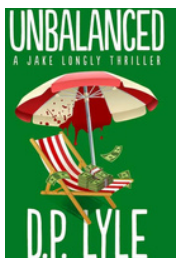
NATIONAL OFFICE
Mystery Writers of America
1140 Broadway #1507
New York, NY 10001
t. 212.888.8171
mwa@mysterywriters.org
<http://mysterywriters.org>



A Very Woodsy Murder, the first book in Ellen Byron's Golden Motel Mysteries, launched on July 23 from Kensington Publishing. FirstClue listed it as a Book of the Week, and it received a starred review from *Library Journal*.



Patrick H. Moore's PI thriller, *Rogues & Patriots*, starring LA PI Nick Crane (Down & Out Books), was named a finalist in the 2024 American Fiction Awards in the General Thriller Category.



D.P. Lyle's *Uncultured* (Jake Longly #7) will be released on August 6. His book *Cultured* (Jake Longly #6) is a 2024 Silver Falchion Award nominee (Best Comedy).



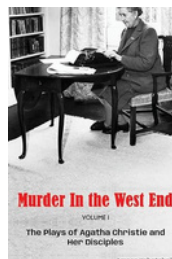
Thriller Magazine (Volume 5, Issue 1, July 2024) reprinted the supernatural mystery "Most Evil" by Peter DiChellis. The story originally appeared in the anthology *Busted! Arresting Stories from the Beat* (Level Best Books, 2017).



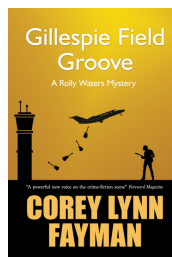
Rebecca Roque's debut YA thriller, *Till Human Voices Wake Us*, has been named the 2024 Winner of the National Indie Excellence Award in Teen Fiction.



Tori Eldridge's thriller short story, "Rock and Roll Ain't Noise Pollution," is out in the *Back in Black* anthology. Edited by Don Bruns and featuring a stellar group of contributors, including Andrew Child and a new Jack Reacher short, the anthology features one story for each song from the seminal hard rock album of the same name. Tori's story was highlighted as one of the standouts in a *Kirkus* review.



Reviewer Carol Thompson of *Readers Favorite* described Amnon Kabatchnik's latest book in glowing terms. "Whether you're a theater enthusiast or a mystery lover, *Murder in the West End* is a treasure trove of information and a captivating read."



Corey Lynn Fayman's fifth Rolly Waters mystery, *Gillespie Field Groove*, is a finalist for the 2024 Shamus Awards in the Best Original Paperback P.I. Novel category.



APPEARANCES & EVENTS



To celebrate the launch of *A Very Woodsy Murder*, Golden Motel Mystery #1 and her upcoming release of *French Quarter Fright Night* (Vintage Cookbook #3), **Ellen Byron** will be in Conversation with **Naomi Hirahara** at Vroman's Bookstore, 695 E. Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena, on August 13 at 7 p.m. Ellen and **Rachel Howzell Hall** will chat about their recent releases via Mystery Ink at the Coffee Tale, 7561 Center Avenue, Huntington Beach, at 1 p.m. on August 17.

August 1-5, **Sheila Lowe** is giving away free copies of *Written Off*. Serial killer Roxanne Becker is behind bars, and the professor who was writing her story is dead. Called to Maine to retrieve the manuscript, handwriting expert Claudia Rose uncovers an appalling secret and several motives for murder. Then, a man claiming to be the professor's heir shows up with a handwritten will. Book #7 of the Claudia Rose Forensic series.

Donis Casey's "Tell Me Your Story" guest for August is **Christina Estes**, whose debut novel, *Off the Air*, received the Tony Hillerman Prize for Best First Mystery set in the Southwest. The book is inspired by Christina's award-winning reporting career. Read Christina's story August 20-31 on Donis's [website](#).



Elle Jauffret will present "Autopsies: A Legal Perspective" at Killer Nashville (August 22-25). Her upper middle-grade novel, *Crash Fashion* ("Yellowjackets" meets "Project Runway"), has been selected as a finalist for the 2024 Claymore Award.





ALA Conference



Naomi Hirahara and Gary Phillips sign at the Soho booth.

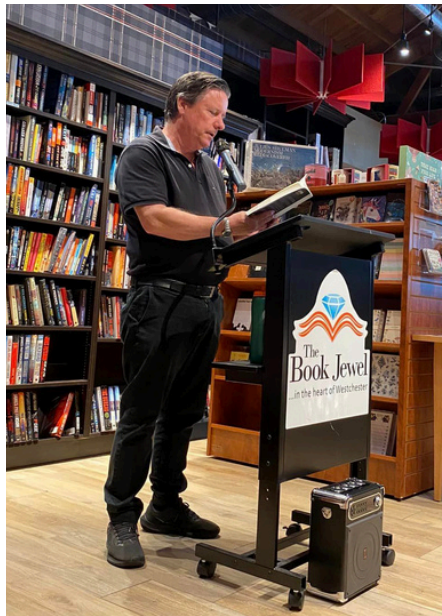


Lee Goldberg and Rhys Bowen

Noir at the Bar



Ellen Byron

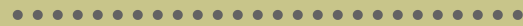


John Shepphird



Terry Shames

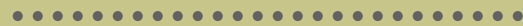
CRIME CALENDER



- August 2–September 8: Agatha Christie’s Murder After Hours, N. Hollywood, CA
- August 7: Inventing the Page: Connelly, King, & Mosley, Los Angeles, CA
- August 22–25: Killer Nashville, Franklin, TN
- August 28–September 1: Bouchercon, Nashville, TN
- September 15: Joint Meeting with SoCalMWA & PWA, Virtual Event
- September 26–29: Sleuthfest, St. Petersburg, FL
- September 28: Men of Mystery, Long Beach, CA
- October 5: Gumbo Party, Los Angeles, CA
- November 7–10: Noircon, Palm Springs, CA

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

THE LAST WORD



“Like the Boy Scout I’d once been, I do my best to be prepared when I’m on a job, to be ready for anything. But could I have anticipated a puppy? Sure, I’d seen the photo of the Rin Tin Tin lookalike in the agency’s Yellow Pages advert. But a dog manning the office in the middle of the night? When I was planning my break-in, puppies just weren’t on my mind.”

“Villains, Vipers, and Dogs”
Mystery Magazine, May 2024
by **A.D. Price**