

WHO DONE IT?

Volume 20, Issue 11

Nov-Dec 2017

What's Next
Dec 19
Waiting for the Cool
Read about It

Jan 22, 2018
Birthday Luncheon
Best Read of the Year

Vital Details
Meeting Time
2 PM except for special
events

Meeting Day
4th Mon. except on
holidays

Meeting Place
Community Room of
Public Library

Location
18181 Imperial Highway
Yorba Linda, CA

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DIARY OF A SNOW SHOVELER

December 8 - 6:00 PM It started to snow. The first snow of the season and the wife and I took our cocktails and sat for hours by the window watching the huge soft flakes drift down from heaven. It looked like a Grandma Moses Print.

December 9 We woke to a beautiful blanket of crystal white snow covering every inch of the landscape. What a fantastic sight! Can there be a more lovely place in the whole world? Moving here was the best idea I've ever had! Shoveled for the first time in years and felt like a boy again. I did both our driveway and the sidewalks.. What a perfect life!

December 12 The sun has melted all our lovely snow. Such a disappointment! My neighbor tells me not to worry- we'll definitely have a white Christmas. No snow on Christmas would be awful! Bob says we'll have so much snow by the end of winter, that I'll never want to see snow again.. Bob is such a nice man, I'm glad he's our neighbor.

December 14 Snow, lovely snow! 8 inches last night. The temperature dropped to -20. The cold makes everything sparkle so. The wind took my breath away, but I warmed up by shoveling the driveway and sidewalks. This is the life! The snowplow came back this afternoon and buried everything again. I didn't realize I would have to do quite this much shoveling, but I'll certainly get back in shape this way. I wish I wouldn't huff and puff so.

December 15 20 inches forecast. Sold my van and bought a 4x4 Blazer. Bought snow tires for the wife's car and 2 extra shovels. Stocked the freezer. The wife wants a wood stove in case the electricity goes out. I think that's silly..

December 16 Ice storm this morning. Fell on my ass on the ice in the driveway putting down salt. Hurt like hell. The wife laughed for an hour, which I think was very cruel.

December 17 Still way below freezing. Roads are too icy to go anywhere. Electricity was off for 5 hours. I had to pile the blankets on to stay warm. Nothing to do but stare at the wife and try not to irritate her. Guess I should've bought a wood stove, but won't admit it to her. God I hate it when she's right.

December 20 Electricity's back on, but had another 14 inches of the damn stuff last night. More shoveling! Took all day. The damn snowplow came by twice. Tried to find a neighbor kid to shovel, but they said they're too busy playing hockey. I think they're lying. Called the only hardware store around to see about buying a snow blower and they're out.. Bob says I have to shovel or the city will have it done and bill me. I think he's lying.

December 22 Bob was right about a white Christmas because 13 more inches of the white shit fell today, and it's so cold, it probably won't melt till August. Took me 45 minutes to get all dressed up to go out to shovel and then I had to piss. By the time I got undressed, pissed and dressed again. I was too tired to shovel. Tried to hire Bob who has a plow on his truck for the rest of the winter, but he says he's too busy. I think the asshole is lying.

December 23 Only 2 inches of snow today. And it warmed up to 0. The wife wanted me to decorate the front of the house this morning. What is she, nuts?!! Why didn't she tell me to do that a month ago? She says she did .

December 24 6 inches - Snow packed so hard by snowplow, I broke the shovel. Thought I was having a heart attack. If I ever catch the son of a bitch who drives that snow plow, I'll drag him through the snow by his balls and beat him to death with my broken shovel. Tonight the wife wanted me to sing Christmas carols with her and open our presents, but I was too busy watching for the damn snowplow.

December 25 Merry f---ing Christmas! 20 more inches of the damn slop tonight - Snowed in. The idea of shoveling makes my blood boil. God, I hate the snow! Then the snowplow driver came by asking for a donation and I hit him over the head with my shovel. The wife says I have a bad attitude...

December 26 Still snowed in. Why the hell did I ever move here? It was all HER idea. She's really getting on my nerves.

December 27 Temperature dropped to -30 and the pipes froze; plumber came after 14 hours of waiting for him, he only charged me \$1,400 to replace all my pipes.

December 28 Warmed up to above -20. Still snowed in. The BITCH is driving me crazy!!!

December 29 10 more inches. Bob says I have to shovel the roof or it could cave in. That's the silliest thing I ever heard. How dumb does he think I am?

December 30 Roof caved in. I beat up the snow plow driver, and now he is suing me for a million dollars, not only the beating I gave him, but also for trying to shove the broken snow shovel up his ass. The wife went home to her mother. Nine more inches predicted.

December 31 I set fire to what's left of the house. No more shoveling.

January 8 Feel so good. I just love those little white pills they keep giving me. Why am I tied to the bed?

READER'S REVIEWS

Susan

Follett, Ken: A Column of Fire 5.0 stars

This book culminates the trilogy of the Knightsbridge saga, this time focusing on the relations between Catholics and Protestants. As always, the people and the events of the times are cleverly interwoven so that the unfolding story of both are plausible, suspenseful and exciting to read about.

Bererson, Laurien: Wagging Through the Snow 3.75 stars

Cornwell, Bernard: The Last Kingdom 3.5 stars

Rough and bloody are the times of 8th century England, with the Danes invading and staying, fighting and winning more and more of the shires, until only Wessex remains free of the Danes. This is the pre-story of how England was before it was a united kingdom. Alfred is leading the Saxons and Angles against the fierce Danes. But, is he strong enough to win over them and unite the shires? On to the next in the saga.

Silva, Daniel: House of Spies 5.0 stars

Johnson, Craig : Western Star 4.75 stars

A little confusing with time flashes back and present.

Penny, Louise: Glass Houses 4.85 stars

Chitra

James, P.D.: Death of an Expert Witness [1977] [3.5]

Carbo, Christine: The Weight of Night [2017] [4.25]

Coben, Harlan: Don't Let Go [2017] . [4.25]

New Jersey cop Nap Dumas, is shocked to learn that fingerprints at the scene of a crime—belong to Maura Wells, Nap's high school sweetheart, who disappeared 15 years earlier. A few students back in high school were members of a Conspiracy Club. Nap begins tracking the surviving club members, it gradually becomes clear that someone is now trying to eliminate them. Good storyline and well written.

Ryan, Jennifer: The Chilbury Lady's Choir [2017] . [2.25]

As England enters World War II, the women left behind in the small, sleepy village of Chilbury must adapt to their quickly changing world. The story is related by way of journals and letters. Having watched "Foyle's War" I thought this book would be interesting – sadly disappointed. I had to constantly go back to see just whose letter or journal entry I was reading as many of the "voices" sounded the same. There were way too many plots and sub-plots

Jenoff, Pam: The Orphan's Tale [2017] . [3.25]

This is a Holocaust related story and deals with circus performers. There are two main characters – Noa & Astrid. Noa is a troubled teenager whose pregnancy leads to her parents casting her out. She seeks a means to support herself, and longs for the child she is forced to give up. Noa looks the perfect Aryan, but her baby does not. Her journey leads to the discovery

of a boxcar filled with infants. One of the babies seems familiar and she takes him and cannot let go of it. The tiny boy is circumcised. Astrid is an accomplished circus aerialist who starred in her Jewish family's circus for many years, then married a German officer. She and Erich shared a great passion, but it could not outlive the pressures put upon him as a Nazi. Noa eventually joins the circus. The two women become emotionally dependent upon one another, in a relationship that is often stormy. They are at the center of a large cast of characters, circus folks and townspeople. Several Jewish characters are part of the circus, having found a place to hide in it

Adler-Olsen, Jussi: The Scarred Woman [2017] [3.25]

The 7th book in the Department Q series. Carl Morck seeks a connection between the murder of an elderly woman and a similar crime more than a decade earlier. Rose, his assistant vanishes. A series of brutal hit-and-run murders targeting young women are connected with not only the cold case but perhaps also Rose's disappearance. All the female characters are portrayed as being morally bankrupt – did not like this at all – rather chauvinistic.

Laura

Atkinson, Kate: Case Histories (Jackson Brodie #1)

(4.00): It's not your typical mystery. It's really between a mystery and a contemporary novel. Detective Brodie takes on three cases which unravel at the end of the book. The author describes each individual's personalities and oddities in depth. The chapters take turns being narrated by the different characters and their alternate stories. Though you can pick up clues throughout the book it doesn't ruin the story. I loved the ending. The book is quirky, funning and touching..

Freeman, Brian: The Night Bird (Frost Easton Mystery #1)

(4.25): A psychological thriller and police procedural that is well written and suspenseful. It's regarding whether an individual's frightening memories or fears can be erased without changing their other memories or affecting their personalities. The themes are memory and time which I have always enjoyed reading and thinking about.

Mankell, Henning: The Dogs of Riga (Wallander #2)

(3.75): It was okay but why I enjoyed this book more than I did his first one is that it takes place in Latvia in the early 90's after the fall of the Berlin Wall. It gives one a vivid sense of the disintegration of the country at that time and delves into its politics and culture in a world controlled by the Soviet Union.

Yvonne

Gorman, Ed - Elimination - (2.5)

Political consultant works to elect Jessica Bradshaw to Congress. Too similar to our past election on 2016

Ramsey, Frederick - Scone Island (3.0)

Ike Schwartz, sheriff seeks a hideout on Scone Island, Maine.

Plot of CIA assassins becomes too far-fetched

Pam

Krueger, Wm Kent - Ordinary Grace (5.0)

Dexter, Colin - The Jewel that was Ours (5.0)

When an American tourist is found dead of a heart attack in the posh Randolph Hotel and an irreplaceable piece of ancient jewelry is missing, Inspector Morse begins an investigation

Dexter, Colin - Death in Now My Neighbor (5.0)

On the hunt for a sniper who shot a physical therapist as she sat sipping her morning coffee in her suburban home, Inspector Morse's search takes him from the striptease clubs of Soho to the courtyards of Oxford University.

Dexter, Colin - The Remorseful Day (5.0)

For a year, the murder of Yvonne Harrison has baffled Thames Valley CID. But one man has yet to tackle the case - and it is just the sort of puzzle at which Chief Inspector Morse excels. So why will he not lead the reinvestigation, despite two anonymous phone calls that hint at new evidence? Dexter's writing is wonderful .as is the TV series about Inspector Morse.

Nancy

Dexter, Colin - The Jewel That Was Ours - (4.0)

Karp, Larry - The Music Box Murders (3.75)

Dr Thomas Purdue buys a desirable music box. Charles O'Shacker , a restorer/friend takes possession of the box and is later found dead. Dr. Purdue sets out to find the missing box and to prove his friend was murdered.

Ishiguro, Kazuo -Nocturnes

Author is the 2017 Pulitzer Prize winner. .This is 5 interconnected short stories.

Kellerman, Jonathan and Jesse - Crime Scene (4.0)

Clay Edison, Deputy Coroner is investigating the death of Walter Rennert whose daughter begs him to prove that his fall was murder - not an accident. Slay's superiors tell him to close the case BUT...

Lescroart, John - The Fall (4.25)

Rebecca Hardy's first case is to defend a middle school teacher and an advocataae for foster children who is accused of murdering a 17 year old sister of his client.

Sears, Michael - Long Way Down #3 Jason Stafford 3.75

Philip Haly, an engineer working on a new biofuel is accused of insider trading. Jason must prove Philip is innocent. Lika-ble character, interesting look into a single dad raising an autistic son. But I'm tired of Jason running for his life and of his family being put in jeopardy.

Pryor, Mark - The Sorbonne Affair #7 - (3.75)

Hugo Marston and Lt. Camille ALerens team up to solve the murder of a hotel employee who was secretly bugging the

room of American author Helen Hancock.

Quartey, Kwei - Death by His Grace #5 -(3.75)

Katherine Yeboah's marriage to Solomon is all the talk of Accra high society. But when it becomes apparent that Katherine is infertile, Solomon's extended family accuses her of being a witch, hounding her until the relationship is so soured Solomon feels compelled to order Katherine out of the house they shared. Alone on her last night there, Katherine is brutally murdered by an intruder.

Karen

Pandian, Gigi - The Ninja's Illusion -#4 2017 - Japan - 4.25

Jaya Jones in Japan to help Sanjay cope with Magic show and the people involved hoping to repeat the Indian Rope Trick as well as find information about a 19th century Dutch trader of the East Indian company and his missing treasure.

Coleman, Reed Farrell - The Hangman's Sonnet 4.25

Jesse Stone is recovering from the death of Diana by being a drunk and must deal with upcoming festival to celebrate the birthday of a 40 year old missing tape recording gets Jesse to sober up and solve some crimes.

Mayor, Archer Trace #28- 2017 - Vermont - 3.5

Joe takes his mother out of state for medical recovery. Sam is acting chief of VBI and the team is hunting answers to minor problems -

Kent, Kathleen - The Dime 2017 --Texas - 3.0

Betty Rhyzyk, lesbian police officer in Dallas Texas investigation into drug traffic gets kidnapped by meth gang. Well written.. but not likely to read another. Tough Cop type

Les Becquets, Diane - Breaking Wild - 2016 -Colorado- 3.0

Amy Raye disappears in the Colorado wilderness- when hunting a deer (elk) Pru Hathaway and her dog join the hunt... ... Amy survives for 6 weeks and longer... before she is found.

Henry, April - The Girl I Used To Be -2016 -Oregon - 3.75

Olivia (born Ariel Benson) returns to home town when a bone of her father is found.. proving he had not killed his girlfriend and run. Olivia has been a word of the court until she become emancipated. She is seeking answers to her family

Masterman, Becky - A Twist of the Knife - 2017 #3 - - 3.25

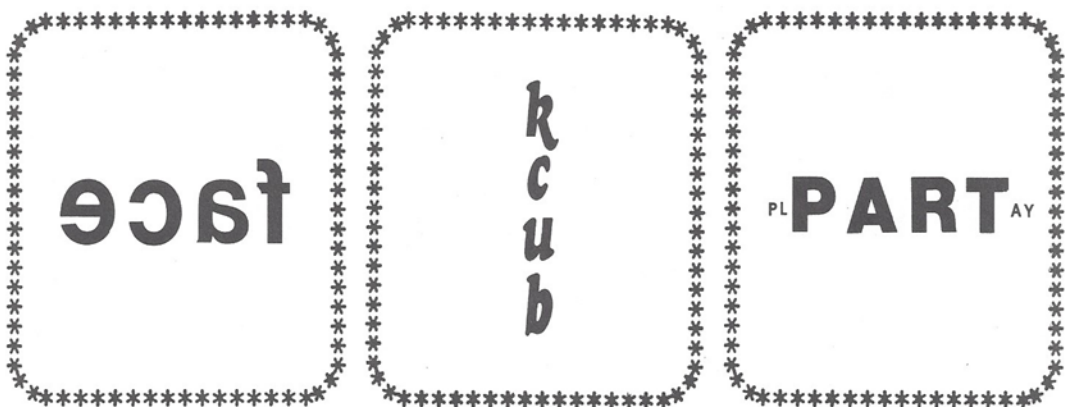
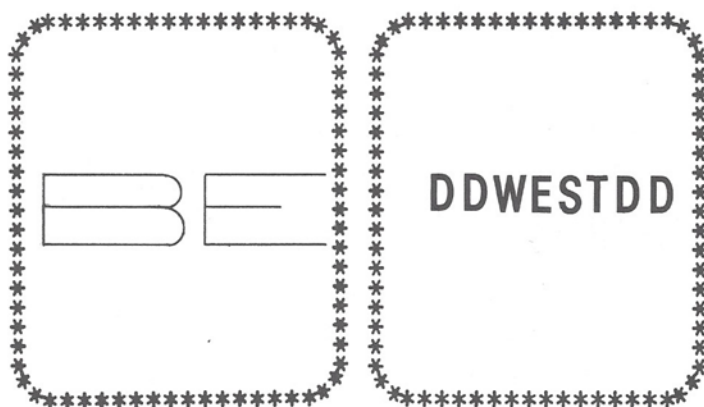
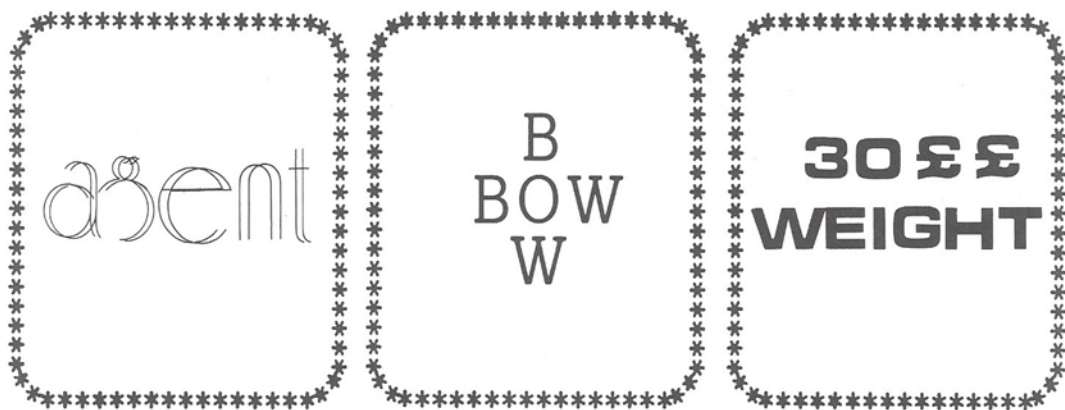
Brigid Quinn returns to Florida (from her home in Tucson) to her father's declining bedside and to help Laura (an agent who earlier saved her life) investigate the sentence of a man on death row. Two long coverages of death row executions..

Orenduff, J. Michael - The Pot Thief Who Studied Pythagoras - 2005 New Mexico - #1 - 4.0

Has all the components of a great read—an intricate plot, quirky characters, great dialog, and a surprise ending. Orenduff also captures New Mexico through humor, romance, and some philosophy

BOOKS DUE IN DECEMBER

- Ahnhe, Stefan - The Ninth Grave [Fabian Risk #2] [1st US edition]
- Archer, Winnie - Crust No One - (Bread Shop)
- Balzo, Sandra - The Importance of Being Urnest [Maggy Thorson #10]
- Bing, Stanley - Immortal Life
- Blackwood, Gary - Bucket's List (Charley Field)
- Bonner, Hilary - Deadly Dance [David Vogel #1]
- Brady, Eileen - Chained [Kate Turner, DVM #3]
- Celestin, Ray - Dead Man's Blues [Michael Talbot and Ida Davis #2] [1st US edition]
- Corrias, Pino - We'll Sleep When We're Old
- Crais, The Wanted (due December 26, 2017) [Elvis Cole & Joe Pike #17]
- Cross, A. J. - Something Evil Comes (Kate Hanson)
- Disher, Garry - Signal Loss [Hal Challis #7] [1st US edition]
- Doherty, Paull - The Mansions of Murder [Brother Athelstan #18]
- Eastman, Dawn - Unnatural Causes [Dr. Katie LeClair #1]
- Fowler, Christopher - Wild Chamber [Peculiar Crimes Unit #14]
- Furlong, Lisa - Splintered Silence (Bone Gap Travellers)
- Gilbert, Sheila - A Murder for the Books (Blue Ridge Library)
- Guild, Nicholas - The Macedonian
- Haddock, Nancy - A Crime of Poison (Silver Six)
- Hambly, Barbara - Murder in July (Benjamin January-#15)
- Hearon, Leigh - Unbridled Murder (Carson's Stables)
- Henshaw, Mark - The Last Man in Tehran [Kyra Stryker & Jonathan Burke #4]
- Hoag, Tami - The Boy [Nick Fourcade & Annie Broussard #2]
- Hyde, Katherine Bolger - Bloodstains with Bronte (Classics)
- Jaffarian, Sue Ann - Too Big to Die (Odelia Grey)
- Jonasson, Ragnar - Nightblind
- Kaaberbøl, Lene - A Lady in Shadows (Madeleine Karno)
- Kakasian, M. R. C. - Dark Dawn Over Steep House (Gower Street Detective)
- Kopfler, Pamela - Better Dead (B&B Spirits)
- Land, Jon - Strong to the Bone (Caitlin Strong)
- Leeson, Gail - Honey-Baked Homicide (Down South Café)
- L'Étoile, James - Bury the Past (Det. Penley)
- Lovesey, Peter - Beau Death [Peter Diamond #17]
- Lyle, D.P. - A-List [Jake Longly #2]
- Malane, Donna - My Brother's Keeper
- Maxwell, Alyssa - A Devious Death (Lady and Lady's Maid)
- Maxwell, Alyssa - A Pinch of Poison (Lady and Lady's Maid)
- McDermid, Val - Insidious Intent [Tony Hill & Carol Jordan #10]
- Mosby, Steve - You Can Run [NS]
- Oust, Gail - Ginger Snapped [Spice Shop #5]
- Page, Katherine Hall - The Body in the Casket [Faith Fairchild #24]
- Parra, Nancy J. - A Case of Syrah, Syrah [Wine Country #1]
- Rayne, Sarah - Chord of Evil (Phineas Fox)
- Roberts, Nora - Year One
- Rollins, James - The Demon Crown [Sigma Force #13]
- Ross, Barbara - Stowed Away (Maine Clambake)
- Savile, Stephen - Glass Town
- Schaffhausen, Joanna - The Vanishing Season
- Shelton, Paige - Comic Sans Murder (Dangerous Type)
- Simpson, Rosemary - What the Dead Leave Behind (Gilded Age)
- Smith, Karen Rose - Murder With Lemon Tea Cakes (Daisy's Tea Garden)
- Spain, Jo - With Our Blessing (Insp. Tom Reynolds)
- Sutton, Phoebe - Colorado Boulevard [Crush #3]
- Tantimedh, Adi - Her Beautiful Monster (Ravi, PI)
- Tata, A. J. - Direct Fire (Jake Mahegan)
- Tate, Clover - Live and Let Fly (Kite Shop)
- Tursten, Helene - Protected by the Shadows [Irene Huss #10]
- Wiley, Michael - Monument Road [Franky Dast #1]
- Winkler, Mark - My Name is Nathan Lucius



WHAT'S COOL IN DECEMBER

SUGGESTED READING LIST

Colored books not at YLPL

1222 by Anne Holt

Blood Hollow by Wm Kent Krueger - also Iron Lake

Capitol offense : a Nik Kane Alaska mystery /by Doogan, Mike.

Cover of Snow by Jenny Millchman

Gold mountain : a Klondike mystery / by Delany, Vicki, -

Ice Cold by Tess Gerritsen

Ice Hunt by James Rollins (e-book)

Impasse by Royce Scott Buckingham

In the shadow of the glacier by Delany, Vicki, **-CD only**

Lost angel / by Doogan, Mike.

Murder Among the departed : a constable Molly Smith novel / by Delany, Vicki,

Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie

Skeleton Lake : a Nik Kane Alaska mystery / by Doogan, Mike.

Smilla's Sense of Snow. By Peter Hoeg

Snow blind by PJ. Tracy

Snowblind by Christopher Golden

Snowblind by Ragnar Jonasson

Sun Storm by Asa Larsson

The bone seeker : an Edie Kiglatuk mystery / by McGrath, M. J., -#3

The boy in the snow / by McGrath, M. J., #1 -

The Cold Dish by Craig Johnson's—or Hell is Empty—or Spirit of Steamboat

The spirit and the skull by J.M. Hayes.

Through the Evil Days by Julia Spencer-Fleming or In the Bleak Midwinter

Under cold stone : a Constable Molly Smith mystery / by Delany, Vicki, -

Whisper to the Blood by Dana Stabenow) and others

White Corridor by Christopher Fowler

White heat : a novel / by McGrath, M. J., -#2

Antarctic settings

Black Ice by Matt Dickinson

Blood and Ice by Robert Masello

Frozen Solid by James M. Tabor

Ice Station by Matthew Reilly

In Cold Pursuit by Sarah Andrews

Out of the Ice by Ann Turner

South Pole Station by Ashley Shelby

The Winter Over by Matthew Iden -(Kindle)



Double agent—cross bow—30 pounds
overweight—belknap—West Indies—About
face—buck up—big part in a small play