

# Who Done It?

Volume 20, Issue 12

Dec. 2017-Jan 2018



## What we will be reading in 2018

### What's Next

Jan. 22  
Birthday luncheon at Marie Callender's on La Palma and Imperial 1:30 PM  
Best Read of the Year?

Feb 26  
Bone up on Mysteries

March 26  
Owen Laukkanen

April 23  
Read a Masterpiece

May 21 Third Monday  
Mette Evie Harrison

### 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

News Editor  
ktlbevers@roadrunner.com

All author information can be found by googling the author's name on the internet.

The results are in—so unless I can't find a list for the month ...we will be reading:

- Jan Annual Luncheon at Marie Callenders –Favorite in 2017
- Feb Bone up on Mysteries
- March Owen Laukkanen
- April Read a Masterpiece (art or artists)
- May Mette Evie Harrison
- June Take a Trip (Plane, Train or Boat)
- July Michael Sears
- Aug A Bit of History - Check out the 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- Sept. The “Khans” Ausma Zehanat and Vaseem
- Oct BLACK in the title
- Nov Time to check the Award Winners (2017)
- Dec Japan --as a setting or by an author from Japan

### FYI

I compiled an eleven page document with the various Best of Lists which has short information about most titles (except Louis Penny and Michael Connelly). My guess is that all of us are aware of the books by those two authors. I will send that as a separate document to those who are interested.

After finishing the list I observed there were zero “cozy” type mysteries on the list. This seems unfair and I will keep looking for a list that includes that sub-genre of mystery.

Lastly, I admit to reading only 14 of the 107 different titles on the list. Some I still want to read, but probably won't get them read before 2018—if then.

### Inside you will find...

List of the Best Crime Novels from 2017 —by twelve different sources	Pages 2-3
This and That	Page 3
Word Puzzle	Page 4
Our Reading in November	Page 5

## BEST OF 2017

This List is combined from WASHINGTON POST, KIRKUS REVIEWS,  
NEW YORK TIMES, PUBLISHERS WEEKLY, OLIVE COGDILL, NPR, SEATTLE TIMES,  
THE LIBRARY JOURNAL, GOOD READS, BOOKPAGES and W&J

- A Cast of Vultures** by Judith Flanders  
**A Conspiracy in Belgravia** by Sherry Thomas  
**A Legacy of Spies** by John le Carre -2  
**A Rising Man** by Abir Mukherjee- 2  
**An Echo of Murder** by Anne Perry  
**Arrowood** by Mick Finlay,  
**Behind Her Eyes** by Sarah Pinborough - 2  
**Besieged** by A. J. Tata.  
**Beyond the Bright Sea** by Lauren Wolk  
**Blame”** by Jeff Abbott (Grand Central).  
**Bluebird, Bluebird** by Attica Locke - 5  
**Bonfire”** by Krysten Ritter (Crown Archetype).  
**Dangerous to Know** Renee Patrick,” (Forge).  
**Defectors** by Joseph Kanon  
**Earthly Remains** by Donna Leon  
**Eat Only When You’re Hungry** by Lindsay Hunter.  
**Enemy of the Good** by Matthew Palmer.  
**Exposed** by Lisa Scottoline  
**Fierce Kingdom** by Gin Phillips - 4  
**Final Demand.** By Deborah Moggach (Overlook) ...  
**Flashmob** by Christopher Farnsworth.  
**Girl in Snow.** By Danya Kukafka (Simon & Schuster) .  
**Glass Houses** by Louise Penny - 6  
**Golden Prey** by John Sandford  
**He Said/She Said”** by Erin Kelly (Minotaur).  
**Her Every Fear** by Peter Swanson.  
**History of Wolves** by Emily Fridlund  
**Home Sweet Home.** By April Smith (Knopf) ...  
**House of Spies** by Daniel Silva  
**Ill Will** by Dan Chaon  
**Insidious Intent”** by Val McDermid (Grove/ Atlantic).  
**Into the Water** by Paula Hawkins  
**Keep Her Safe** by Sophie Hannah  
**Last Breath** by Robert Brynoza  
**Lies She Told** by Cate Holahan  
**Little Deaths** by Emma Flint - 3  
**Long Black Veil** by Jennifer Finney Boylan.  
**Maggie Murders** by Anthony Horowitz - 4  
**Mississippi Blood** by Greg Iles - 2  
**Murder in Mayfair** by D. M. Quincy  
**Murder in Saint-Germain** by Cara Black  
**My Darling Detective** by Howard Norman.  
**Never Let You Go** by Chevy Stevens  
**Nine Lessons** by Nicola Upson  
**Not A Sound** by Heather Gudenkauf. - 2  
**Origin** by Dan Brown  
**Paradise Valley”** by C. J. Box (Minotaur).  
**Persons Unknown** by Susie Steiner  
**Prussian Blue** by Philip Kerr  
**Quicksand** by Malin Persson Giolito.  
**Righteous** by Joe Ide - 4  
**Say Nothing** by Brad Parks  
**Secrets in Death** by J.D. Robb  
**Shadow Man.**by Alan Drew  
**She Rides Shotgun** by Jordan Harper  
**Shining City** by Tom Rosenstiel.  
**Silent Child** by Sarah Denzil  
**Six Four** by Hideo Yokoyama  
**Sleep No More** by P.D. James - 2  
**Spook Street** Mick Herron,.  
**Stillhouse Lake** by Rachel Caine  
**Strange Practice** (A Dr. Greta Helsing novel) by Vivian Shaw  
**Swimming Lessons** by Claire Fuller.  
**The Alice Network** by Kate Quinn.  
**The Blinds”** by Adam Sternbergh  
**The Breakdown** by B.A. Paris  
**The Child** by Fiona Barton  
**The Cuban Affair** by Nelson DeMille  
**The Disappearance of Adèle Bedeau.** By Graeme Macrae Burnet (Arcade) ...

## This and That

**The Driver** by Hart Hanson. - 2  
**The Dry** by Jane Harper - 3  
**The Fallen** by Ace Atkins (Putnam).  
**The Fifth Element** by Jorgen Brekke  
**The Force** by Don Winslow - 4  
**The Fourth Monkey** by J.D. Barker  
**The Freedom Broker** by K.J. Howe (Quercus).  
**The Ghost Writer** by Alessandra Torre  
**The Girl Before** by J.P. Delaney  
**The Good Daughter** by Karin Slaughter - 2  
**The Last Mrs. Parrish** by Liv Constantine (Harper)  
**The Late Show** by Michael Connelly -2  
**The Lightning Men** by Tomas Mullen  
**The Long Drop** by Denise Mina -2  
**The Lost Ones** by Sheena Kamal (William Morrow).  
**The Marriage Lie** by Kimberly Belle  
**The Marsh King's Daughter** by Karen Dionne).  
**The Midnight Line** by Lee Child  
**The Night Bird** by Brian Freeman  
**The Nine-Tailed Fox** by Martin Limon  
**The Painted Queen** Elizabeth Peters & Joan Hess  
**The Pearl Thief** by Elizabeth Wein.  
**The Roanoke Girls** by Amy Engel (Crown).  
**The Seventh Function of Languages** by Laurent Binet.  
**The Smack** by Richard Lange  
**The Switch** by Joseph Finder  
**The Thirst** by Jo Nesbo  
**The Twelve Lives of Samuel Hawley** by Hannah "Tinti."  
**The Twilight Wife** A.J. Banner,  
**The Vanishing Season** by Joanna Schaffhausen .  
**The Western Star** by Craig Johnson  
**Two Kinds of Truth** by Michael Connelly 3  
**UNSUB** by Meg Gardiner  
**Vicious Circle** by C. J. Box -2  
**Watch Me Disappear** by Janelle Brown.  
**Wolf's Revenge** by Lachlan Smith  
**Wonder Valley** by Ivy Pochoda (Ecco)  
**Y Is for Yesterday** by Sue Grafton (Putnam)

(Numbers behind titles indicate how many lists the title is on).

The Wolfe Pack, a Nero Wolfian fan club, announced that **WITH 6 YOU GET WALLY**, by Al Lamanda won the 2017 Nero Award as the best American Mystery written in the tradition of Rex Stout's Nero Wolfe

Les Whitten died on December 02 in Adelphi, Maryland. He was probably best known as a top legman to investigative reporter Jack Anderson. However, he was also a poet and translator of Baudelaire, as well as an author of a dozen thriller novels, including **PROGENY OF THE ADDER** (Doubleday, 1965), featuring a DC cop; **MOON OF THE WOLF** (Doubleday, 1967), dealing with a werewolf in Mississippi in 1938. He was 89.

Joan Hess died on November 23 at her new home in Austin, Texas. The former art teacher started writing romances to make money, but her nicely-plotted unsold romance novels lacked romance. She switched to mysteries and wrote **STRANGLER PROSE** (St. Martin's, 1986), the first in the series featuring Claire Malloy, a small-town bookstore owner in Farberville, Arkansas. The Malloy series lasted till **PRIDE V. PREJUDICE** (Minotaur, 2015). She had another series featuring Arly Hanks, a small-town police chief in Maggody, Arkansas, starting with **MALICE IN MAGGODY** (St. Martin's, 1987). She also created the third series under the Joan Hadley pseudonym, featuring Theo Bloomer, a former spy and retired florist, with two titles in the mid-1980's. Her several novels and short stories were nominated for a number of mystery awards such as Agathas, Anthonys, and Macavitys.. Her last novel is **THE PAINTED QUEEN** (Morrow, 2017), which she completed after her close friend Elizabeth Peters (aka. Barbara Mertz, 1927-2013) had died leaving this Amelia Peabody novel unfinished. She was 68

The Mystery Writers of America has chosen Jane Langton, William Link and Peter Lovesey as the 2018 Grand Masters for their "important contributions to this genre," as well as "for a body of work that is both significant and of consistent high quality."

The 2018 Raven Award recipients are The Raven Bookstore in Lawrence, Kansas, celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2017, and Kristopher Zgorski, the founder of the crime fiction book review blog, BOLO Books.

They will receive their awards at the Edgar Awards Banquet to be held in New York City on April 26, 2018.

Rosie—work hand-in-hand—Tennyson

Going on a diet—Andes—to sum up—exokcut—Ring Around the

# Word Puzzle

going  
DIET

& dddd

M M  
U U  
S S

P L I C I T  
L I C I T  
P L I C I T

zzzz

WORK  
HAHANDND

10ASUN

# What We Read

## **Chitra**

Kuriantzick, Joshua - A GREAT PLACE TO HAVE A WAR (America in Laos in the 1960's - 3.5

DeBuys, William - THE LAST UNICORN - 3.75

Roy, Arundhati - THE MINISTRY OF UTMOST HAPPINESS -

Todd, Charles - A CASUALTY OF WAR - 3.0

Kremmer, Christopher - BAMBOO PALACE

Penny, Louise - GLASS HOUSES - 3.75

LaPena, Shari - THE COUPLE NEXT DOOR - 4.0

Brown, Dan - ORIGIN - 4.0

Fadiman, Anne - THE SPIRIT CATCHES YOU AND YOU FALL DOWN - 4.5

Towles, Amor - A GENTLEMAN IN MOSCOW - 3.0

Khounta, Penelope - LOVE BEGAN IN LAOS - 3.75

Simone, Naima - SECRETS AND SINS: MALACHIM - 2,75

Grisham, John - THE ROOSTER BAR -3,5

## **Karen**

Mayne, Andrew - THE NATURALIST - 5.0

Connelly, Michael - TWO KINDS OF TRUTH - 4.00

Barclay, Linwood - PARTING SHOT - 3.0

Hallinan, Timothy - FOOL'S RIVER - 4.5

McKinty, Adrian - RAIN DOGS - 3.0

Ritter, Krysten - BONFIRE 4.0

Weir, Andy - ARTEMIS - 4,0

Francis, Felix - PULSE - 4.5

Eskens, Allen - THE DEEP DARK DESCENDING - 3.75

Moore, Graham - THE LAST DAYS OF NIGHT - 5.0

## **Laura**

Atkinson, Kate - ONE GOOD TURN - 3.5

Sanders, William D. - ONE SECOND AFTER

Llosa, Mario Vargas - THE FEAST OF THE GOAT -

Alvarez, Julia - IN THE TIME OF BUTTERFLIES

## **Nancy**

Mina, Denise - THE LONG DROP

McPherson, Catriona - THE REEK OF RED HERRINGS - too gruesome

Barry, Flynn - UNDER THE HARROW - 4.25

Kuhn, Cynthia - THE SEMESTER OF OUR DISCONTENT- 3.75

Stanley, Michael - DYING TO LIVE (#5) - 4.25 - Botswana

McCall Smith, Alexander - THE HOUSE OF UNEXPECTED SISTERS - 3.75

Ng, Celeste - LITTLE FIRES EVERYWHERE - 5.0

Coben,, Harlan - DON'T LET GO - 4.0

## **Pam**

Pandian, Gigi - NINJA'S ILLUSION- 4.5

Casey, Donis - HORNSWAGGLED - 5.0

Casey, Donis - DROP EDGE OF YONDER - 5.0

Casey, Donis - THE SKY TOOK HIM - 5.0

Casey, Donis - CRYING BLOOD - 5.0

## **Yvonne**

McKinty,, Adrian—POLICE AT THE STATION AND THEY DON'T LOOK FRIENDLY—4.5

Ziskin, James W.—HEART OF STONE—3.2

## Due in January, 2018

**Anderson, James.** *Lullaby Road* (RH, 26.00) Jan. When trucker Ben Jones finds an abandoned, mute Hispanic child on a remote stretch of highway through the Utah desert, he and his eccentric neighbors vow to find out what happened and the whereabouts of the parents.

**Ashley, Jennifer.** *Death below Stairs* . The cook in an aristocratic Mayfair house calls in the help of an enigmatic enquiry agent when her assistant is found murdered in the first of a Victorian series.

**Black, Lisa -** *Perish* (Gardiner and Renner)

**Blaedel, Sara.** *Night Women* . Copenhagen police detective Louise Rick investigates a human trafficking ring bringing women in from Eastern Europe after a woman is found with her throat slit and a newborn baby is found abandoned in the first of a trilogy.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Running Girl*

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Stone Angel* .

**Bradley, Alan.** *The Grave's a Fine and Private Place* Flavia is recovering from a family tragedy, and what better to take her mind off her sorrow than the discovery of a human body during a boating trip with her sisters.

**Brennan, Allison -** *Breaking Point* (Lucy Kinkaid)

**Burke, Alafair.** *The Wife* . In a novel of psychological suspense a woman must decide how much she must give up in order to defend her husband, who has been accused of sexual misconduct by two women, one has now disappeared.

**Burke, James Lee.** *Robicheaux* . Investigating a homicide case, Robicheaux realizes that he may have killed the victim, a man implicated in the death of his beloved wife in the first in this series for five years.

**Eisler, Barry -** *The Night Trade* (Livia Lone)

**Elgar, Emily.** *If You Knew Her* A woman who is in a coma after having been struck by a car has secrets that she has kept from everyone, even her family, but another hospital patient who suffers from lock-in syndrome recognizes her and knows that she remains in danger—but has no way to communicate what he knows in a debut thriller.

**Finn, A.J.** *The Woman in the Window* . A debut novel of psychological suspense about a child psychologist suffering from agoraphobia becomes obsessed with the family that lives across the park from her Manhattan townhouse, and when she witnesses a stabbing in the house, no one believes her. Great plot twists.

**Freeman, Brian -** *The Voice Inside* (Frost Easton)

**Furlong, Susan.** *Splintered Silence* . A former Marine MP suffering from PTSD and her canine partner return to her home in the mountains of Tennessee where she discovers a

body in the woods and finds herself part of an investigation into the Irish group known as the Travellers.

**Hahn, Tracee de. -** In a debut set in Lausanne, a police detective investigating the murder of a British art assessor killed at an elegant estate is trapped with the owners, their guests, and servants during a blizzard in a satisfying locked-room mystery.

**Housewright, David.** *Darkness, Sing Me a Song* -Twin Cities PI Taylor Holland is hired by a wealthy and socially prominent woman when she is accused of murdering her son's fiancée.

**Kovac, Christina.** *The Cutaway* A television news producer investigates the disappearance of a Georgetown lawyer in a tangled world of cover-up and corruption. An excellent debut.

**Love, Melissa Scrivener.** *Lola* The secret leader of a South Central LA gang is the girlfriend of the putative leader, and as war heats up between rival drug cartels, she is smart and ruthless enough to ensure their survival in a brilliant debut with a fascinating protagonist.

**Massey, Sujata.** *The Widows of Malabar Hill* . Set in Bombay in the 1920s, this series debut features the first female solicitor in the city, hired to execute the will of a wealthy Muslim mill owner, who left three widows all of whom signed over their inheritance to a charity, leaving them with nothing to live on. Perfect for those of us who love *The Raj Quartet*.

**Petrie, Nick.** *Light it Up* . War veteran Peter Ash agrees to help the daughter of an old friend whose Colorado security business guarding marijuana and cash shipments is being attacked by highwaymen. Petrie is a favorite of mine.

**Pryor, Mark -** *Dominic* (Hollow Man)

**Shalit, Jonathan de.** *Traitor* A debut thriller featuring a young Israeli spy who agrees to spy for the CIA, not realizing that the agent who is his control is in fact a Russian mole, who is turning the intel over to the Kremlin. This is written by a Mossad agent.

**Shames, Terry.** *A Reckoning in the Back Country* Police chief Samuel Craddock investigates the death by canine of the owner of a vacation home in the area, a case that may be tied to a dog-fighting ring.

**Siger, Jeffrey.** *An Aegean April* Inspector Kaldis is called in when a wealthy landowner on the island of Lesbos is found murdered after proposing a bold new way to stop the refugee -trafficking trade from Turkey)

**Vaughan, Sarah.** *Anatomy of a Scandal* . A successful British politician stands accused of rape, and while his wife is convinced that he is innocent, the prosecuting attorney is convinced that he is guilty as charged in a powerful novel that is part courtroom thriller and part portrait of a marriage.