

WHO DONE IT?

Volume 21, Issue 2
February-March 2018



Owen Laukkanen

What's Next

March 26
Owen Laukkanen
Sophie Hannah

April 23
Read a Masterpiece
Art or Artists

May 21
Matte Evie Harrison

June 25
Take a Trip
Planes, Trains or Boats

July 23
Michael Sears
and/or
Michael Stanley

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

Laukkanen's 2012 debut, **THE PROFESSIONALS** earned rave reviews from critics and readers alike. The story of four recent university graduates who turn to kidnapping in a failing job market, *The Professionals* was hailed as, "a brutally beautiful piece of work" by *New York Times* bestseller John Sandford, "a high-octane adrenaline and gunpowder-fueled rocket ride" by bestseller C.J. Box, and, "a first-class thriller by a terrific new voice" by John Lescroart. *Mystery Scene Magazine* called it one of the year's best debuts, while *Kirkus Reviews* named it one of the top 100 novels of the year.

Laukkanen's second is **CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE**, which reunites FBI Special Agent Carla Windermere and Minnesota state investigator Kirk Stevens in another explosive blockbuster. *Kirkus Reviews* raves, "Fans of crime thrillers shouldn't miss this or anything else with Laukkanen's name on the cover. The writing is so crisp, the pages almost turn themselves," while *Booklist* writes, "Laukkanen has clearly avoided the sophomore slump."

Laukkanen was born in Vancouver, British Columbia and raised in Windsor, Ontario. He graduated from the University of British Columbia with Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in creative writing in 2006. After graduation, finding work proved to be a challenge. He even applied to work as a driver for an escort agency, thinking it might provide interesting material for a novel.[Finally he came across an ad in Craigslist looking for a writer to report on the World Series of Poker. Although he knew nothing about poker, he was hired by PokerListings.com and jet-setted around the world for the next three years covering matches in exotic locales like Monaco and Macau

THE NOVELS

The Professionals (2012)
Criminal Enterprise (2013)
Kill Fee (2014)
The Stolen Ones (2015)
The Watcher in the Wall (2016)
The Forgotten Girls (2017)^[n]
Gale Force -out in May 2018

Inside you will find...

Current Award Nominations	Page 2
Sophie Hannah	Page 3 - 5
Some Other Stuff	Page 5
Books due in March	Page 6

AWARD NOMINATIONS IN 2018

THE BARRY NOMINATIONS

Best Novel

THE LATE SHOW, Michael Connelly
THE MARSH KING'S DAUGHTER, Karen Dionne
EXIT STRATEGY, Steve Hamilton
THE FORCE, Don Winslow)
PRUSSIAN BLUE, Philip Kerr
MAGPIE MURDERS, Anthony Horowitz

Best First Novel

THE DRY, Jane Harper
SHE RIDES SHOTGUN, Jordan Harper
THE LOST ONES, Sheena Kamal
THE IRREGULAR, H. P. Lyle
A RISING MAN, Abir Mukherjee
MY ABSOLUTE DARLING, Gabriel Tallent

Best Paperback Original

SAFE FROM HARM, R. J. Bailey
THE DEEP DARK DESCENDING, Allen Eskens
HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE, Kellye Garrett
THE DAY I DIED, Lori Rader-Day
BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS, Kristi Belcamino
SUPER CON, James Swain

Best Thriller

GUNMETAL GRAY, Mark Greaney
SPOOK STREET, Mick Herron
THE FREEDOM BROKER, K. J. Howe
THE OLD MAN, Thomas Perry
UNSUB, Meg Gardiner
TRAP THE DEVIL, Ben Coes

LEFTY AWARD NOMINATIONS

Lefty for Best Humorous Mystery Novel. The nominees are:

Donna Andrews, *Gone Gull*
Ellen Byron, *A Cajun Christmas Killing*
Marla Cooper, *Dying on the Vine*
Cynthia Kuhn, *The Art of Vanishing*
Cindy Sample, *Dying for a Diamond*

Lefty for Best Historical Mystery Novel :

Rhys Bowen, *In Farleigh Field*
Jennifer Kincheloe, *The Woman in the Camphor Trunk* (
Renee Patrick, *Dangerous To Know*
Priscilla Royal, *The Proud Sinner*
Jeri Westerson, *Season of Blood*

Lefty for Best Debut Mystery Novel.

Susan Alice Bickford, *A Short Time To Die*
Kellye Garrett, *Hollywood Homicide*
Wendall Thomas, *Lost Luggage*
Nancy Tingley, *A Head in Cambodia*
Kathleen Valenti, *Protocol*

Lefty for Best Mystery Novel (not in other categories).

Matt Coyle, *Blood Truth*
William Kent Krueger, *Sulfur Springs*

Louise Penny, *Glass Houses*
Terry Shames, *An Unsettling Crime for Samuel Craddock*
James W. Ziskin, *Cast the First Stone*

AGATHA AWARDSS

Best Contemporary Novel

Death Overdue by Allison Brook
A Cajun Christmas Killing by Ellen Byron
No Way Home by Annette Dashofy
Take Out by Margaret Maron
Glass Houses by Louise Penny

Best Historical Novel

In Farleigh Field by Rhys Bowen
Murder in an English Village by Jessica Ellicott
The Paris Spy by Susan Elia MacNeal
Called to Justice by Edith Maxwell
Dangerous To Know by Renee Patrick

Best First Novel

Adrift by Micki Browning
The Plot is Murder by V.M. Burns
Hollywood Homicide by Kellye Garrett
Daughters of Bad Men by Laura Oles
Protocol by Kathleen Valenti

2018 EDGAR AWARD NOMINATIONS

BEST NOVEL

The Dime by Kathleen Kent –
Prussian Blue by Philip Kerr –
Bluebird, Bluebird by Attica Locke
A Rising Man by Abir Mukherjee (
The Twelve Lives of Samuel Hawley by Hannah Tinti)

BEST FIRST NOVEL BY AN AMERICAN AUTHOR

She Rides Shotgun by Jordan Harper
Dark Chapter by Winnie M. Li
Lola by Melissa Scrivner Love
Tornado Weather by Deborah E. Kennedy
Idaho by Emily Ruskovich

BEST PAPERBACK ORIGINAL

In Farleigh Field by Rhys Bowen
Ragged Lake by Ron Corbett
Black Fall by Andrew Mayne
The Unseeing by Anna Mazzola
Penance by Kanae Minato
The Rules of Backyard Cricket by Jock Serong

THE SIMON & SCHUSTER MARY HIGGINS CLARK AWARD

The Vineyard Victims by Ellen Crosby
You'll Never Know Dear by Hallie Ephron
The Widow's House by Carol Goodman
Uncorking a Lie by Nadine Nettmann
The Day I Died by Lori Rader-Day

SOPHIE HANNAH



Sophie Hannah is an internationally bestselling crime fiction writer. Her crime novels have been translated into 34 languages and published in 51 countries. Her psychological thriller *The Carrier* won the Specsavers National Book Award for Crime Thriller of the Year in 2013. In 2014 and 2016, Sophie published *The Monogram Murders* and *Closed Casket*, the first new Hercule Poirot mysteries since Agatha Christie's death, both of which were national and international bestsellers. Sophie's novels *The Point of Rescue* and *The Other Half Lives* have been adapted for television as *Case Sensitive*, starring Olivia Williams and Darren Boyd. Sophie is also a bestselling poet who has been shortlisted for the TS Eliot award. Her poetry is studied at GCSE and A-level throughout the UK. Sophie is an Honorary Fellow of Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge. She lives in Cambridge with her husband, two children and dog.

The Bookseller Profile

Agatha Christie is the world's bestselling novelist, famously outsold only by the Bible and Shakespeare. Over her 56-year writing career, which began in 1920, she penned 80 crime novels, 33 of them starring perhaps her greatest creation; a portly Belgian detective with a meticulously waxed moustache and an unshakable belief in the ability of his "little grey cells".

It's a brave author who takes on Christie's mantle but Sophie Hannah, a bestselling crime author in her own right, has risen to the challenge. *The Monogram Murders* (HarperCollins, September) is the first Hercule Poirot mystery to be written by a different author, with the full backing of Christie's family.

I met Hannah in a bar in Covent Garden—a very apt setting, she points out, given Christie's *The Seven Dials Mystery* and the fact we are around the corner from "The Mousetrap", the play which is currently in the extraordinary 62nd year of its record-breaking run. It soon becomes clear Hannah is a massive fan of Christie. She read her first Christie aged 12 (*The Body in the Library*) and by the age of 14 she had devoured them all, relying on her father to pick them up at second-hand book fairs.

But the considerable leap from being a fan to actually writing the new Poirot began with a conversation between Hannah's agent Peter Straus and an editor at

HarperCollins.

Discussing the trend for continuation novels, Straus "off the top of his head" suggested his author would be perfect if there were to be a new Agatha Christie novel. Historically the Christie family had always been against the idea of anyone writing new books but, by a happy coincidence, they were starting to think the time might be right.

The decision was clinched by Hannah's idea for the plot—a "high-concept mystery and solution" that she came up with a few years earlier, but had been unable to lever into to her own contemporary psychological crime series. "I thought, 'I can really imagine Poirot, standing there with the suspects, delivering this very high-concept solution'. It's perfect for Poirot in a way that wasn't quite perfect for Simon Waterhouse, my regular detective." Mathew Prichard, chairman of Agatha Christie Limited and Christie's grandson, was impressed: "Sophie's idea for a plot line was so compelling and her passion for my grandmother's work so strong, that we felt that the time was right for a new Christie to be written."

Hannah was originally supposed to supply a 10–20 page synopsis of the plot for approval by various people (at Agatha Christie Limited and HarperCollins), but it was a 100-page plan by the time she had finished—essentially the whole novel in note form. Although she counts seven people as being involved in the approval and then the editing process—which sounds a bit of a nightmare—she says: "We all agreed about the vision. There was never any, 'Am I allowed to do this? No.' There was none of that because we all agreed that we wanted Poirot to be absolutely Agatha Christie's Poirot. There was going to be no messing about with Poirot as Agatha Christie created him."

In preparation for writing *The Monogram Murders*, she re

(Continued on page 4)

MORE ABOUT SOPHIE HANNAN

-read all of the Poirot novels again. “It was less weird than you might think, writing someone else’s character because I just know Poirot so well. So in a way there’s no reason why I should find him harder to write about than a character I’ve invented. For me it was easy, I know him so I know what he’s likely to say in a range of situations. It was such a joy to do.”

The Monogram Murders is set mostly in London in 1929 (chosen specifically because there were no Poirot novels between 1928 and 1932, so the detective is “unaccounted for”). It opens in a coffee house, where a terrified young woman confides to Poirot that she is in terrible danger; somebody is trying to kill her. But once she is dead, she insists, justice will have been done, and she begs Poirot not to find and punish her killer. Later that night, Poirot learns three guests at a fashionable London hotel have been murdered, and he starts to wonder if there might be a connection between those deaths and the young woman in the coffee house . . .

“It was really important to me, when I was putting together my plot, that no one should be able to guess what was going on before Poirot reveals the solution,” says Hannah, explaining that Christie was hugely influential in her own development as a crime writer. “Agatha got into to my literary DNA so early that I feel I’m of the same school of crime writing, although our novels are very different.” She cites the apparently impossible opening mystery pioneered by Christie (“she would very rarely start with just a dead body”) and her fiendishly clever plots (“her top priority is the story and keeping people guessing”).

Taking on such a beloved literary character is always a risk and Hannah has already had to field disapproval from some Christie fans. “People who say, ‘oh it’s a cynical money-making ploy’ presumably wouldn’t say that about commercial fiction writers who write a book every year . . . storytelling has been monetised for a long time, and that doesn’t only apply to continuation novels.

“This has been creatively the most exciting and the most energising project I’ve worked on for a quite a long time. The reason that it doesn’t worry me if people say ‘down with this sort of thing’ is that I know that my motives couldn’t be better. I’ve loved doing it.” In any case, she reckons that “I’m so insignificant compared to [Christie and Poirot]; I don’t feel I have

the power to do any harm. Even if I wrote the worst book ever everyone would just say ‘oh that silly writer’, and Poirot and Agatha would remain famous and brilliant. So there’s no downside for Agatha. I was willing to take the risk because the only person I was risking was me.”

Despite the work involved in the devilish plotting, she found one aspect of writing *The Monogram Murders* easier than her own crime series: “Golden Age crime novels just tell the story,” she says. “Contemporary crime novels go to great lengths to create the illusion that the reader is somehow just witnessing the events but no one is telling them a story. If you can just tell a story, without pretending you’re not telling a story, it makes it so much easier to write a book.

“The hardest thing was just making sure that everything—everything about the writing and the story and the other characters—was good enough for Poirot. I wouldn’t have wanted to write a book with Poirot in it that I didn’t feel was good enough. He deserves the best.”

Sophie answers when there will be more Simon and Charlie

A lot of people have asked me when the next Simon and Charlie novel will appear. The last one was *The Narrow Bed*, which ends on an enormous Liv-and-Gibbs-related cliffhanger. I realise it must seem almost sadistic of me not to make sure that my very next book was a Culver Valley one, so that all those loose ends could be promptly tied up.

I’ve known for some time what the next Simon and Charlie book should and must be. I have much of the plan for it in my head. It’s an idea I have loved and nurtured for years. Its working title has always been *Recognition*, though I’ve already been warned that I probably can’t call it that. Whatever it ends up being called, I am desperately keen to write it. It’s based on one of the best ideas I’ve ever had.

The thing is...a lot of research is needed before I can get started on it – more research than I’ve done for any of my other books (apart from *A Room Swept White*, which was inspired by real-life cases of mothers convicted of murdering their own babies.) And I don’t currently have the time to do that research. I could at any point over the last year or so have crammed it in...

CONCLUSION OF SOPHIE HANNAH

but I didn't want to. It felt unsatisfactory and wrong to consider doing that. So I decided that I would wait and write *Recognition* when I was good and ready, and had enough time to do the research properly.

I *think* that means that I will write it in 2019, and publish it in 2020. So, if you're one of the people waiting for the next Simon and Charlie book – don't worry, it really is on its way. Just a little more slowly than usual! My next novel after *Did You See Melody?* will be my third Hercule Poirot novel (as yet untitled), followed by another standalone, *Haven't They Grown* (click the title to read more) and then, finally, it will be *Recognition's* turn (or whatever it ends up being called) and Simon and Charlie will be back to entertain and frustrate you!

Series *Simon Waterhouse, a detective constable, and Charlie (Charlotte) Zailer, a detective sergeant, in rural England, Culver Valley Crime*

1. [Little Face](#) (2006)
2. [Hurting Distance](#) (2007) aka *The Truth-Teller's Lie*
3. [The Wrong Mother](#) (2007) in fiction
4. [The Other Half Lives](#) (2009) aka *The Dead Lie Down*
5. [A Room Swept White](#) (2010) aka *The Cradle in the Grave*
6. [Lasting Damage](#) (2011) aka *The Other Woman's House*
7. [Kind of Cruel](#) (2012)
8. [The Carrier](#) (2013)
9. [The Telling Error](#) (2014) aka *Woman with a Secret*
10. [The Narrow Bed](#) (2016)

Hercule Poirot Mystery

continued from the original series by [Agatha Christie](#)

1. [The Monogram Murders](#) (2012)
2. [Closed Casket](#) (2016)
3. [The Mystery of Three Quarters](#) (2018)

Novels

[Gripless](#) (1999)

[Leaving and Leaving You](#) (1999)

[Cordial and Corrosive](#) (2000)

[The Superpower of Love](#) (2001)

[The Orphan Choir](#) (2013)

[A Game for All the Family](#) (2015) in fiction

[Keep Her Safe](#) (2017) in fiction

OUR BEST OF 2017

Chitra -

THE LATE SHOW by Michael Connelly

DON'T LET GO by Harlan Coben

Nancy

BEFORE WE WERE YOURS by Lisa Wingate

LITTLE FIRES EVERYWHERE by Celeste Ng

THE TEA GIRL OF HUMMINGBIRD LAND by Lisa See

Pam

WEIGHT OF NIGHT by Christine Carbo

Yvonne

THE DIVIL IN WHITE CITY by Eric Larson

STALKING GROUND by Margaret Mizushima

BUFFALO JUMP BLUES by Keith McCafferty

Karen

THE FREEDOM BROKER by K.J. Howe

THE HOLLOW MEN by ROB McCarthy

THE OUTSIDER by Anthony Franze

BLOOD FOR WINE by Warren C. Easley

Pearls of Wisdom

from *BUTTER MY BUTT AND CALL ME A BISCUIT*

Never kick a cow patty on a hot day

Revenge: Two wrongs don't make a right, but they sure do make it even.

Don't hit a hornets' nest with a short stick

Never smack a man chewin' tobacco.

Excuses are like armpits—everyone has got at least two, and they both stink.

He's about as sharp as mashed potatoes

He's meaner than a fryin' pan full of rattlesnakes

He's so rich, he buys a new boat every time his old one gets wet.

Even a blind squirrel finds an acorn now and then

He couldn't pour rain out of a boot if the directions were written on the heel

Self-centered: She wouldn't go to a funeral unless she could be the corpse

BOOKS DUE IN MARCH

Allen, Amanda - **Santa Fe Mourning (Santa Fe Revival)** In a debut mystery set in 1922, a wealthy New York artist and war-widow moves to Santa Fe,

Berry, Steve - **The Bishop's Pawn [Cotton Malone #13]** U.S. operative Cotton Malone case involves a stolen Double Eagle coin, but actually contained confidential documents relating to the assassination of Martin Luther King .

Bohjalian, Chris - **The Flight Attendant [NS]** A flight attendant wakes up in a hotel in Dubai after a night of too much drinking, she doesn't realize at first that the man she spent the night with is dead, stabbed, and when she does, she can't remember what happened.

Box, C. J. - **The Disappeared [Joe Pickett #18]** Joe Pickett is asked to look into the disappearance of a British female executive who went missing during a stay at a dude ranch, but he discovers that the case may be related to problems that falconers are having—even though their permits are in order

Fox, Candice - **Crimson Lake [Crimson Lake #1] [1st US edition]** A disgraced Sydney homicide detective whose trial for the rape and attempted murder of a 13-year-old girl is surprisingly dismissed for lack of evidence, moves to Queensland where he goes to work for a PI investigating the disappearance of a best-selling author.

Gaind, Arjun - **Death at the Durbar -#2 (Maharajah)** The Maharaja Mysteries are perfect reading for fans of Tarquin Hall, Barbara Cleverly, and the late HRF Keating - and Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Coyle. Also #1 **A Very Pukka Murder: (Maharajah Mystery)**

Gaylin, Alison - **If I Die Tonight [NS]** When a high-school football hero is run down by stolen car, the story that she hears from the car's owner doesn't make sense to the local policeman, but as she is digging for the truth,

George, Elizabeth - **The Punishment She Deserves [Inspector Lynley #20]** DI Lynley and DS Havers return to face their most sinister of murder cases

Jance, J. A. - **Duel to the Death [Ali Reynolds #13]** Ali Reynolds must solve the case of a rogue A.I. program that is the target of an accountant with ties to a Mexican drug cartel

Lansdale, Joe R. - **Jackrabbit Smile [Hap Collins & Leonard Pine #11]**

Leon, Donna - **The Temptation of Forgiveness [Guido Brunetti #27]** Commissario Brunetti investigates a suspicious accident that leads him to uncover a longstanding scam with disturbing unintended consequences

Mackintosh, Clare - **Let Me Lie [NS]** In a novel of psychological suspense the adult daughter of a couple who

committed suicide decides to investigate her parents' deaths, but she soon discovers that nothing was as it appeared.

Margolin, Phillip - **The Third Victim** In the first of a new series, a newly hired attorney and her boss, a legendary criminal defense attorney who might be struggling with early-onset Alzheimer's take on the defense of an attorney accused of the kidnap, torture, and murder of two young women,

Miller, Emma - **Plain Confession (Amish)** When Rachel Mast returned to Stone Mill, Pennsylvania, she unwittingly became a bridge between the closed Amish community and the Englisher police. Now, as she prepares for her wedding, she's drawn into an investigation that could end in a different ceremony—her funeral .

Parks, Brad - **Closer Than You Know [NS]** In a novel of psychological suspense a young mother loses custody of her child after the discovery of cocaine in her house, and, although she swears that she had no knowledge of it, she is arrested, but the prosecuting attorney on the case is also working the case of a serial rapist and she begins to suspect a connection.

Pronzini, Bill - **The Bags of Tricks Affair**

Rice, Christopher - **Bone Music (Burning Girl, book 1)**

Rosenfelt, David. **Fade to Black** A New Jersey state police officer who suffers from amnesia due to a work injury reinvestigates a case he had solved three years ago at the behest of a man in his support group who later turns up dead, and finds ties to drug thefts at a local hospital.

Scott, J. Todd. **High White Sun** . In the second in this western series, newly-elected Sheriff Cherry and his new recruits must solve the murder of a local Rio Grande guide while they are targeted by the Aryan Brotherhood and another white supremacist group.

Sharpe, Tess. **Barbed Wire Heart**. The daughter of a Northern California drug king, now running a shelter for abuse victims, decides that the only way to survive is to put two warring drug families out of business, which she begins to do by blowing up meth labs .

Webb, Debra - **The Longest Silence (Shades of Death)** "The twists and turns in this dark, taut drama make it both creepy and compelling."

Winspear, Jacqueline - **To Die but Once [Maisie Dobbs #14]** Maisie Dobbs is asked in 1940 to look into the death of a 15-year-old apprentice painter who worked for a company hired by the British government to paint RAF facilities with a new fire-retardant.'