

Who Done It?

Volume 22, Issue 12

November - December 2019



What's Next

December 16–
Christmas Short Stories
or a classic (Meeting on
3rd Monday)

January 27rd
Meeting will be at a res-
taurant of our choice.
We will be meet at the
restaurant at 1:15 P.M..
DID IT GET BETTER?

February 24
T Jefferson Parker, Matt
Coyle and/or Raymond
Chandler

March 23
Time for a bit of the
Green—Irish Authors

April 27
Earth Day-
Environmental
Mysteries
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

A Christmas Mystery Lecture

Let us address ourselves to that curious paradox of detective fiction known as the “Christmas” mystery. The most curious thing about it is that it exists at all. Christmas is supposed to be the time of peace, of joy and love, when Macy and Gimbel shake hands, suddenly repentant Scrooges toss bills in Salvation Army kettles, families are reunited and children are on their best behavior. Why spoil such warm scenes with a petty theft, much less a murder?

The cynic will answer with one word: money. Being the high-minded people we are however, we shall ignore the base suggestion that authors write merely to sell.

Instead, let us consider that Christmas is joined with crime for historical, indeed theological accuracy. One of the wise men brought myrrh, an embalming spice. Herod celebrated the first Christmas with a mass killing of babies. Even mistletoe has a criminal record; it was the murder weapon used to kill balder, the most loved of the Norse gods. And the Puritan fathers of Massachusetts made the celebration of Christmas itself a crime, punishable by a five-shilling fine.

It becomes apparent that in real life, then crimes do occur at Christmas. Good will may increase, but so does the homicide rate. By some strange quirk of human nature, the same season that fills the stores and churches also fills the jails and morgues – and motivates the mystery writer like no other holiday could ever hope to.

Christmas mystery novels fit into three categories. The first is a Christmas mystery by courtesy only. It is really there an excuse for assembling a group of people. The second category features, more often than not, police procedurals. Private detectives and nosy old ladies may go home for the holidays, but for the police it's just another busy day, what with pickpockets and shoplifters working the Christmas rush. In these novels the Christmas background offers a depressing commentary on the kind of world in which peace is so frequently converted to death.

The third and perhaps most effective is the one in which the crime, or detection, to both, could take place in no other season. The accouterments of Christmas are necessary to the novel's success. These tend to feature Santa Claus or some other popular Christmas motif.

In closing remember that Dickens created not only that syrupy tale A Christmas Carol, but also set Edwin Drood at Christmas time. So, Bah, humbug to all, and to all a good fright.

(found somewhere on the internet many years ago—unable to find again)

Inside you will find...

What We Read	Page 2
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What We Read

(Due to the fact that somehow I forgot Monday is the meeting and I had not yet started the newsletter this report is only titles and ratings. Mea Culpa.)

YVONNE

THE SLEEPING DALL by Jeffery Deaver - 4.75
BETRAYAL OF TRUST by J A Jance - 4.25
CLAWBACK by J A Jance - 4.5
THE GIRLS OF ATOMIC CITY by Denise Kiernan - 4.5

THONE

A lot of LAW AND ORDER SVU

SUSAN

THE VANISHED MAN by Jeffery Deaver - 3.50
LAND OF WOLVES by Craig Johnson - 4.5
THIS TENDER LAND by William Kent Krueger - 5.0
DACHSHUND THROUGH THE SNOW by David Rosenfelt - 4...5
SWORN TO SILENCE by Linda Castillo - 3.75

SANDY

THE LOST GIRLS OF PARIS by Pam Jenoff - 4.0
THE TEETH OF THE TIGER by Tom Clancy - 3.0
BREACH OF DUTY by J A Jance - 4.0
THE CUTTING EDGE by Jeffery Deaver -4.0
DEAD OR ALIVE by Tom Clancy - 3.5
THE GUILTY by David Baldacci - 4.0
HELLS CORNER by David Baldacci
THE HAMILTON AFFAIR by Elizabeth Cobbs - 3.5

PENNY

BLUE MOON by Jeffery Deaver - 5.0
THE PARIS WIFE by Paula McCain - 5.0
LOST GIRLS OF PARIS by Pam Jenoff

PAT

THE NEVER GAME - 4.0

PAM

THE NEVER GAME by Jeffery Deaver - 5.0
THE A LIST by J A Jance - DNF
THE NIGHT FIRE by Michael Connelly - 5.0

NANCY

THE NEAVER GAME by Jeffery Deaver -4.0

UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY by J A Jance - 4.25
THE LONG CALL by Ann Cleeves - 4.75
A MEASURE OF DARKNESS by Jonathon and Jesse Kellerman - 4.5
OLD BONES by Preston and Child - 3.5
THIRTEEN by Steve Cavanagh - 3.75

MARCIA

LOVE AND DEATH AMONG THE CHEETAHS by Rhys Bowen - 5.0
EDGE OF EVIL by J A Jance - 4.0

KIM

LADY IN THE LAKE by Laura Lippman
THE NEVER GAME by Jeffery Deaver - 4.25
BLUEBIRD, BLUEBIRD by Attica Locke -4.0
HEAVEN, MY HOME by Attica Locke - 4.0

KAREN

BEFORE WE WERE YOURS by Lisa Wingate -4.0
LAND OF WOLVES by Craig Johnson -4.0
THE LONG CALL by Ann Cleeves 4.5
THE BITTEREST PILL by Reed Farrel Coleman -4.0
A MERCIFUL DEATH by Kendra Elliot - 3.75
A BITTER FEAST by Deborah Crombie - 4.75
THE SECRETS WE KEPT by Lara Prescott - 4.75
THE SHAPE OF NIGHT by Tess Gerritsen - 3.75
DEATH IN FOCUS by Anne Perry - 3.9
WOMEN TALKING by Miriam Toews - 3.25
SINS OF THE FATHERS by J A Jance - 3.7
ICE COLD HEART by P J Tracy - 4.8
THE NIGHT FIRE by Michael Connelly - 5.0
WHAT ROSE FORGOT by Nevada Barr - 3.75

CHITRA

FIDDLING WITH FATE by Kathleen Ernst - 4.0
THE STORYTELLER'S SECRET by Sejal Badani - 3.75
THE LOTTERY TICKET by Jules Verne -4.0
JENNY by Sigrid Undset - 3.75
WOMEN TALKING by Miriam Toews 3.75
A BETTER MAN by Louise Penny -4.25

ANNE

THE NICKEL BOYS by Colson Whitehead - 5.0
QUEEN OF THE NIGHT by J A Jance - 3.75
DEADLY STAKES by J A Jance - 3.0
MARILYN and ME by Lawrence Schiller - 5.0

Due in December

(I didn't find anything on this list that I couldn't live without. Will be reading my Kindle this month)

Murder Ink (Victoria Square Mystery, book 6) by Lorraine Bartlett and Gayle Leeson (Dec 31)

The Murals [NS] by William Bayer - In this multi-layered psychological mystery, photographer Jason Poe is transfixed by a disturbing set of murals he encounters in the attic of an abandoned house, and resolves to uncover the secret behind them.

Beating About the Bush [Agatha Raisin #29] by M.C. Beaton

Trace of Evil [Natalie Lockhart #1] by Alice Blanchard (Dec 3) - first in an evocative new series about a small New York town, its deeply held secrets, and the woman determined to uncover them, no matter what the cost.

Nine Elms (Kate Marshall, book 1) by Robert Bryndza (Dec 1) -Kate Marshall was a promising young police detective when she caught the notorious Nine Elms serial killer. But her greatest victory suddenly became a nightmare.

Crossroad [NS] by W.H. Cameron On a desolate road in the Oregon high desert, an apprentice mortician stumbles upon a horrific car crash--and into a vortex of treachery, long-buried secrets, and growing menace.

City of Pearl [Aelf Fen #9] by Alys Clare (Dec 10) - historical

Genesis [Laurie Montgomery #11] by Robin Cook (Dec 3)

Brewed Awakening [Coffeehouse #18] by Cleo Coyle (Dec 3)

Lost Tomorrows [Rick Cahill #6] by Matt Coyle (Dec 3) A phone call thrusts Rick Cahill's past and all its tragic consequences into his present

Murder in Rat Alley [Sam Blackman #7] by Mark de Castrique

Murder on Cape Cod (Cozy Capers Book Group Mystery, book 1) by Maddie Day

Sidewalk Saint [Foggy Moskowitz #3] by Phillip DePoy

Good Girls Lie by J T Ellison (Dec 30)

When Old Midnight Comes Along [Amos Walker #28] by Loren D. Estleman

The Wives by Tarryn Fisher (Dec 30) Imagine that your husband has two other wives

Verse and Vengeance [Magical Bookshop #4] by Amanda Flower (Dec 10)

The Lonely Hour [Arthur Bryant & John May #16] by Christopher Fowler

Now You See Them [Magic Men #5] by Elly Griffiths

Murder for Good [Ellie Quicke #20] by Veronica Heley

Poppy Harmon and the Hung Jury [Poppy Harmon #2] by Lee Hollis -Lee Hollis is the pen name for a brother and sister writing team

Impolitic Corpses [Quint Dalrymple #8] by Paul Johnston

The Bells of Hell [NS] by Michael Kurland

Just Watch Me by Jeff Lindsay (Dec 3) Riley Wolfe is a master thief, expert at disguise, and not averse to violence when it's needed.

Shatter the Night [Gemma Monroe #4] by Emily Littlejohn

The Janes [Alice Vega #2] by Louisa Luna

How the Dead Speak [Tony Hill & Carol Jordan #11] by Val McDermid (Dec 3)

Puddin' on the Blitz [Pennsylvania-Dutch #21] by Tamar Myers

Treachery [Giordano Bruno #4] by S.J. Parris [1st US edition]

Overthrow [Dan Lenson #19] by David Poyer (Dec 3)

Music Macabre [Phineas Fox #4] by Sarah Rayne

Cold Heart Creek (Detective Josie Quinn, book 7) by Lisa Regan (Dec 2)

The Network [Jack Logan #1] by L.C. Shaw -(Dec 17) A pulse-pounding, page-turning thriller involving corruption, secrets, and lies at the very deepest levels of government and media. (Author writes under her real name, Liv Constantine

Thin Ice [Beth Rivers #1] by Paige Shelton (Dec 3)

Winter Grave [Embla Nystrom #2] by Helene Tursten - In this thrilling mystery set in rural Sweden, Detective Inspector Embla Nystrom must solve a murder case and find two missing children before the small town takes matters into their own hands.



Book Awards at Bouchercon and the UK Daggers

DEADLY PLEASURES MYSTERY MAGAZINE has announced the winners for the 2019 Barry Awards:
Best Novel: *NOVEMBER ROAD*, by Lou Berney (Morrow)
Best First Novel: *THE CHALK MAN*, by C.J. Tudor (Crown)
Best Paperback Original: *THE RUIN*, by Dervla McTiernan (Penguin)
Best Thriller: *SAFE HOUSES*, by Dan Fesperman (Knopf)
Dan Sandstrom Award for Lifetime Achievement in Mystery Fandom: Jeff Pople

MYSTERY READERS INTERNATIONAL has announced the 2019 Macavity Award winners
Best Novel: *NOVEMBER ROAD*, by Lou Berney (Morrow)
Best First Novel: *DODGING AND BURNING*, by John Copenhagen (Pegasus)
Best Historical Mystery: *THE WIDOWS OF MALABAR HILL*, by Sujata Massey (Soho Crime)

2019 ANTHONY AWARDS

Best Novel - *NOVEMBER ROAD* by Lou Berney
Best First Novel - *MY SISTER, THE SERIAL KILLER* by Oyinkan Braithwaite
Best Paperback Original Novel - *UNDER A DARK SKY* by Lori Rader-Day

THE PRIVATE EYE WRITERS OF AMERICA (PWA) has announced the winners for the 2019 Shamus Awards
Best PI Novel: *WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE*, by Kristen Lepionka, featuring Roxane Weary
Best First PI Novel: *THE BEST BAD THINGS*, by Katrina Carrasco, introducing Alma Rosales
Best Original PI Paperback: *THE QUESTIONABLE BEHAVIOR OF DAHLIA MOSS*, by Max Wirestone, featuring Dahlia Moss

I'm pleased to see NOVEMBER ROAD get more awards. Certainly won my highest rating of the books I've read of those on these lists. But then I'd only read two of the other winners,

But considering the UK winners.... Not a one have I read. Don't even know if any are available at YLPL

THE CRIME WRITERS' ASSOCIATION OF BRITAIN (CWA) has announced the winners for the 2019 Dagger Awards

CWA Gold Dagger: *THE PUPPET*, by M.W. Craven (Constable)
CWA John Creasey (New Blood) Dagger: *SCRUBLANDS*, by Chris Hammer (Wildfire)
CWA Gold Dagger for Non-fiction: *THE SPY AND THE TRAITOR*, by Ben Macintyre (Viking)
CWA Ian Fleming Steel Dagger: *TO THE LIONS*, by Holly Watt (Bloomsbury)
CWA International Dagger: *A LONG NIGHT IN PARIS*, by Dov Alfon; translated by Daniella Zamir (MacLehose Press)
CWA Historical Dagger: *DESTROYING ANGEL*, by S.G. MacLean (Quercus)
Dagger in the Library: Kate Ellis
Debut Dagger (by an uncontracted writer): *WAKE*, by Shelley Burr
Best Crime and Mystery Publisher of the Year: No Exit Press (Oldcastle Books)
Diamond Dagger Recipient: Robert Goddard



TIME FOR SOME FUN

bit **MORE**

GENE

DICE
TROUBLE
DICE

W E D

THE WEATHER
FEELING

INJURY
+ INSULT

SPRINGFALL

mbyewhoirnk d

Subject: New Technology Breakthrough

Introducing the new Bio-Optic Organized Knowledge device, trade-named -BOOK. BOOK is a revolutionary breakthrough in technology: no wires, no electric circuits, no batteries, nothing to be connected or switched on. It's so easy to use, even a child can operate it.

Compact and portable, it can be used anywhere - even sitting in an armchair by the fire - yet it is powerful enough to hold as much information as a CD-ROM disc.

Here's how it works:

BOOK is constructed of sequentially numbered sheets of paper (recyclable), each capable of holding thousands of bits of information. The pages are locked together with a custom-fit device called a binder which keeps the sheets in their correct sequence.

Opaque Paper Technology (OPT) allows manufacturers to use both sides of the sheet, doubling the information density and cutting costs. Experts are divided on the prospects for further increases in information density; for now, BOOKS with more information simply use more pages. Each sheet is scanned optically, registering information directly into your brain. A flick of the finger takes you to the next sheet.

BOOK may be taken up at any time and used merely by opening it.

BOOK never crashes or requires rebooting, though, like other devices, it can become damaged if coffee is spilled on it and it becomes unusable if dropped too many times on a hard surface. The "browse" feature allows you to move instantly to any sheet, and move forward or backward as you wish. Many come with an "index" feature, which pin-points the exact location of any selected information for instant retrieval.

An optional "BOOKmark" accessory allows you to open BOOK to the exact place you left it in a previous session - even if the BOOK has been closed. BOOKmarks fit universal design standards; thus, a single BOOKmark can be used in BOOKs by various manufacturers. Conversely, numerous BOOK markers can be used in a single BOOK if the user wants to store numerous views at once. The number is limited only by the number of pages in the BOOK. You can also make personal notes next to BOOK text entries with optional programming tools, Portable Erasable Nib Cryptic Intercommunication Language Stylis (PENCILS).

Portable, durable, and affordable, BOOK is being hailed as a precursor of a new entertainment wave. BOOK's appeal seems so certain that thousands of content creators have committed to the platform and investors are reportedly flocking to invest. Look for a flood of new titles soon.

'BOOK TECHNOLOGY REBUTTAL

RE: The new Bio-Optic Organized Knowledge device, trade-name "BOOK."

You should be warned that, re: the message quoted above, this BOOK technology has serious shortcomings in user outcomes which, while not apparent from an immediate usability analysis, seriously impair its market desirability. Research shows that prolonged and repeated exposure to this BOOK technology causes users to become contemplative, reflective, and, in severe cases, it can induce bouts of concentration and focused thinking, with common side effects that include swelling of the imaginative and/or analytical portions of the brain. Such swelling can impede market-critical emotio-cognitive functions like the impulse-purchase quadrant of the cerebellum.

In one overlooked period of history, the installed user base of this BOOK technology spread with almost epidemic speed. This period, known in BOOKish techno-jargon as the Renaissance, saw that after the introduction of BOOK there were unpredictable outbursts of individual and collective creativity. But, as the record clearly shows, this BOOK technology has no useful market outcome, in that during the entire period of the Renaissance, historians can find no evidence of a single initial public stock offering (IPO).'

METAPHORS FROM STUDENTS

Every year, English teachers from across the country submit their collections of actual analogies and metaphors found in high school essays. These excerpts are published each year to the amusement of teachers across the country. Here are some winners.....

1. Her face was a perfect oval, like a circle that had its two sides gently compressed by a Thigh Master.
2. His thoughts tumbled in his head, making and breaking alliances like underpants in a dryer without Cling Free.
3. He spoke with the wisdom that can only come from experience, like a guy who went blind because he looked at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it and now goes around the country speaking at high schools about the dangers of looking at a solar eclipse, without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it.
4. She grew on him like she was a colony of E. coli, and he was room-temperature Canadian beef.
5. She had a deep, throaty, genuine laugh, like that sound a dog makes just before it throws up.
6. Her vocabulary was as bad as, like, whatever.
7. He was as tall as a six-foot, three-inch tree.
8. The revelation that his marriage of 30 years had disintegrated because of his wife's infidelity came as a rude shock, like a surcharge at a formerly surcharge-free ATM machine.
9. The little boat gently drifted across the pond exactly the way a bowling ball wouldn't.
10. From the attic came an unearthly howl. The whole scene had an eerie, surreal quality, like when you're on vacation in another city and Jeopardy comes on at 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30.
11. Her hair glistened in the rain like a nose hair after a sneeze.
12. The hailstones leaped from the pavement, just like maggots when you fry them in hot grease.
13. Long separated by cruel fate, the star-crossed lovers raced across the grassy field toward each other like two freight trains, one having left Cleveland at 6:36 p.m. traveling at 55 mph, the other from Topeka at 4:19 p.m. at a speed of 35 mph.
14. They lived in a typical suburban neighborhood with picket fences that resembled Nancy Kerrigan's teeth.
15. John and Mary had never met. They were like two hummingbirds who had also never met.
16. He fell for her like his heart was a mob informant and she was the East River.
17. Even in his last years, Granddad had a mind like a steel trap, only one that had been left out so long, it had rusted shut.
18. The plan was simple, like my brother-in-law Phil. But unlike Phil, this plan just might work.
19. The young fighter had a hungry look, the kind you get from not eating for a while.
20. He was as lame as a duck. Not the metaphorical lame duck, either, but a real duck that was actually lame, maybe from stepping on a land mine or something.
21. The ballerina rose gracefully en Pointe and tended one slender leg behind her, like a dog at a fire hydrant.

Edward Gorey Game

S	L	C	R	O	R	R	O	h	T	A	O	L
H	D	I	M	V	e	U	S	L	E	E	C	H
R	e	T	O	S	M	I	O	F	C	H	D	U
I	N	O	O	L	u	F	T	E	R	f	E	T
E	W	R	D	G	L	N	n	u	e	b	t	p
K	O	E	n	L	Y	E	A	N	E	C	L	m
m	R	A	U	H	S	C	N	A	P	H	U	U
D	D	Y	R	L	A	u	d	e	i	D	A	L
E	b	F	i	L	I	E	A	G	N	D	s	A
K	H	M	Y	l	t	S	A	H	G	O	S	G
O	E	O	E	D	I	C	I	U	S	O	A	U
H	E	L	A	P	M	I	H	f	U	L	N	L
c	D	E	R	E	h	T	O	M	S	B	E	G

Hidden in the graph are the following words. To find them all, you may read horizontally, diagonally, vertically, frontwards and backwards. One word has already been circled to get you started.

- ASYLUM ANGUISH BLOOD CHOKED CREEPING DIED DOOM
 DROWNED ENNUI EROTIC FRETFUL ASSAULTED MOROSE
 GLUGALUMP SLIME HORROR GHASTLY SMOTHERED THUG
 LEECH IMPALE SUICIDE SHRIEK LOATH



Word Puzzle Answers

Little bit more — hygiene — trouble in
 paradise — dead end — feeling under
 the weather — adding insult to injury —
 Spring ahead, Fall behind — a little be-
 hind in my work