T. Jefferson Parker was born in Los Angeles and has lived all his life in Southern California. He was educated in public schools in Orange County, and earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of California, Irvine, in 1976. His writing career began in 1978, with a job as a cub reporter on the weekly newspaper, The Newport Ensign. After covering police, city hall and cultural stories for the Ensign, Parker moved on to the Daily Pilot newspaper, where he won three Orange County Press Club awards for his articles. All the while he was tucking away stories and information that he would use in his first book.

Parker's first novel, *Laguna Heat*, was written on evenings and weekends while he worked as a reporter, and was published to rave reviews and made into an HBO movie starring Harry Hamlin, Jason Robards and Rip Torn.

Parker's following novels -- all dealing with crime, life and death in sunny Southern California -- were published to rave reviews and appeared on many bestseller lists. His writing has been called "potent and irresistible" (Los Angeles Times), and "resonant, literate and powerful" (Kirkus). The New York Times wrote that "T. Jefferson Parker is a powerhouse writer." Writing in the Washington Post, critic Carolyn See called *The Triggerman's Dance* "a masterpiece."

Parker's *Silent Joe* won the Edgar Award for best mystery in 2001, as well as the coveted Los Angeles Times Book Prize for mysteries. Three years later, *California Girl* won the Edgar for best mystery once again. In 2008, Skinhead Central won Parker his third Edgar, this time for best short story.

Parker's recent six crime novels -- *L.A. Outlaws*, *The Renegades*, *Iron River*, *The Border Lords*, *The Jaguar* and *The Fabulous and the Dead* all feature Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Charlie Hood, and deal with dangers along the U.S./Mexico border. Lionsgate has bought the rights to bring Charlie Hood to the big screen.

In 2014, moved by the young Marines returning from Afghanistan through Camp Pendleton, Parker wrote *Full Measure*. This story, about a young man returning from bloody combat and trying to find his place in a changed America, .


When not working, Parker spends his time with his family, hiking, fishing, beachcombing, exercising his dogs. He cannot pass by a body of water without wanting to fish it. He also enjoys rock hounding, cycling and being outdoors.

(Continued on page 4)
What We Read

SUSAN

BIG BOOK OF CHRISTMAS MYSTERIES:
The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - Typical Holmes. Short, terse, and enjoyable.
The Price of Light by Ellis Peter - Brother Cadfael helps those who need it without disrupting their lives.

OTHER READS:
The Lost Girls of Paris by Pam Jenoff - 4.0 stars
The Red House Mystery by A.A. Milne - 2.75 stars
The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell by Robert Dugoni - 4.25 stars
Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owen - 5 stars
The Path Between the Seas by David McCullough - 3.0 stars
The Guardians by John Grisham - 4.0 stars
Pray for Silence by Linda Castillo - 4.0 stars


CHITRA

Maddow, Rachel - BLOWOUT - Corrupted Democracy, Rogue State Russia and The Richest, Most Destructive Industry on Earth - 2019 - 3.75
Ruete, Emily - MEMOIRS OF AN ARABIAN PRINCESS FROM ZANZIBAR - 1907 - 3.5
Harty, Aidan - THE ZANZIBAR CHEST - A Story of Life, Love and Death in Foreign Lands - 2003 - 4.0
Kamkwamba, William and Mealer, Bryan -- THE BOY WHO HARNESSED THE WIND - Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope - 2009 - 4.0

THE BIG BOOK OF CHRISTMAS MYSTERIES
Christie, Agatha - The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding


BOBBI

Penzler, Otto - CHRISTMAS IN THE MYSTERIOUS BOOKSHOP-2010 - 4.5
Each Christmas for 17 years, Penzler commissioned a short story set in his bookstore. This was a compilation of those stories. Some were humorous, some suspenseful, all were enjoyable.
Penzler, Otto, editor - THE BIG BOOK OF CHRISTMAS MYSTERIES -2013 - 5.0
Will finish the book before Christmas. -very good so far

Redling, S. G. - THE WIDOW FILE - 2014 - 5.0
Dani a data analyst with an elite security firm, possesses the unnerving ability to read people by the trash they leave behind. Receipts, parking tickets, the detritus of daily life - if you leave it behind, she will figure you out. Her latest case involves high-tech industrial espionage at a corporation with ties to the military. But when a team of assassins sweeps through the firm, stealing all files and killing her coworkers, Dani narrowly escapes.

May, Peter - FREEZE FRAME -2010 - 4.75
A promise made to a dying man leads forensics ace Enzo Macleod, a Scot who's been teaching in France for many years, to the study which the man's heir has preserved for nearly twenty years. The dead man left several clues there designed to reveal the killer's identity to the man's son, but ironically the son died soon after the father

Keith, Ellen - THE DUTCH WIFE - 2018 - (historical) 4.75
The Dutch Wife braids together the stories of three individuals who share a dark secret and are entangled in two of the most oppressive reigns of terror in modern history. This is a novel about the blurred lines between love and lust, abuse and resistance, and right and wrong, as well as the capacity for ordinary people to persevere and do the unthinkable in extraordinary circumstances.

PAM

THE BIG BOOK OF CHRISTMAS MYSTERIES
The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding - Agatha Christie - 4.0
Dancing Dan's Christmas - Damon Runyon - 4.0
The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle - Arthur Conan Doyle - 3.75
Dead on Christmas Street - Jooohn D MacDonald - 3.75
And All Through the House - Ed McBain - 3.75
A Christmas Tragedy - Agatha Christie - 4.0

Patterson, James and Maxine Paetro - 18th ABDUCTION - and 19th CHRISTMAS MURDER (Women's Murder Club) - 3.0
Read because they were available. Losing interest in this series

Isles, Greg - CEMETERY ROAD - 2.0
“Turkey of the Year” - Got as far as 100 pages and stopped.

Grisham, John - THE GUARDIANS - 4.0
Guardian Ministries, a nonprofit run by Cullen Post, lawyer and Episcopal minister, accepts only innocence cases at a time. Post travels the country fighting wrongful convictions and taking on clients forgotten by the system. With Quincy Miller, though, he gets far more than he bargained for. Powerful, ruthless people murdered Keith Russo, and they do not want Quincy Miller exonerated.
PENNY
Quinn, Spencer - THE RIGHT SIDE - 5.0++
A novel about a deeply damaged female soldier home from the war in Afghanistan who becomes obsessed with finding a missing girl, gains an unlikely ally in a stray dog, and encounters new perils beyond the combat zone. LeAnne Hogan went to Afghanistan as a rising star in the military, and came back a much lesser person, mentally and physically. Now missing an eye and with half her face badly scarred, she can barely remember the disastrous desert operation that almost killed her. Enthralling, suspenseful, and psychologically nuanced, The Right Side introduces one of the most unforgettable protagonists in modern fiction.

Quinn, Spencer - THE DOG WHO KNEW TOO MUCH - 4.5
Canine narrator Chet and his human companion Bernie are hired to find a kid who has gone missing from a wilderness camp in the high country. The boy's mother thinks the boy's father - her ex - has snatched the boy, but Chet makes a find that sends the case in a new and dangerous direction. This series a humorous take on the link between man and beast.

YVONNE
THE BIG BOOK OF CHRISTMAS MYSTERIES
Klavan, Andrew - The Killer Christmas - 3.5
Frank, m Pat - The Christmas Bogey - 4.5
Cox, Edmund - A Christmas Camp - 4.5
Page, Norvell - Crime's Christmas Carol - 2.0
Lovesey, Peter - The Haunted Crescent - 2.0
Comings, m Joseph - Serenade to a Killer - 3.0
Lowe, Sheila - PROOF OF LIFE - 3.0
After recovering from amnesia five years ago, Jessica Mack never told anyone she had started hearing voices from the spirit world. Now, forced to use her “gift” to help find missing four-year-old Ethan Starkey, she can no longer ignore the voices.

KAREN
Reacher has jumped the shark and killed all of two rival (Albanian and Ukrainian) gangs. Time to move on from this killing machine.

Easley, Warren - NO WAY TO DIE -2019 - #7 - Oregon coast - 4.0
Cal and daughter are vacationing on Oregon Coast when they meet the grandmother of a convicted teen in the Salem prison. The boy confessed after and the next day took back his confession. The Claxton’s decide to free the boy…. By investigating the murder. With several leads, an attempt on their lives and other problems, it looks unlikely they will be able to solve the original murder.

Francis, Felix - GUILTY, NOT GUILTY - 2019 (K) England - 4.75
The Honorable William Herbert Millgate Gordon-Russell (Bill Russell) is accused of killing his wife and he is sure her brother who found the body did. After finally proving he had an airtight alibi, Bill learns more about the brother-in-law who soon makes attempts on his life. There is a trial and twists. One easy

Berry, Connie - A DREAM OF DEATH - #1 2019 (A) Scottish island - 4.0
A recently published novel about island history has brought hordes of tourists to the small Hebridean resort community. On the guest list is American antiques dealer Kate Hamilton. Kate returns reluctantly to the island where her husband died, determined to repair her relationship with his sister, proprietor of the island’s luxe country house hotel, famous for its connection with Bonnie Prince Charlie.

Munier, Paula - BLIND SEARCH #2 - 2019 (K) - Vermont - 5.0
Mercy and her rescue dog Elvis hunt a missing autistic boy and run into a murdered woman. With Troy and his dog, Mercy takes on solving several crimes. Great read.

NANCY (I lost Nancy’s report)
THE BIG BOOK OF CHRISTMAS MYSTERIES
Christie, Agatha - The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding
Marsh, Ngaio - Death on the Air
Clark, Mary Higgins - That’s the Ticket

ROBB
Robb, Candace - THE LADY CHAPEL - 5.0
It is 1365, and Owen Archer is called upon by Archbishop Thoresby to exercise his skills as detective. While the city

(Continued on page 4)
of York celebrates Corpus Christi, a man is murdered. His severed hand is delivered to Gilbert Ridley, a merchant, and Owen is sent to investigate.

Imrie, Celia - SAIL AWAY - 5.0
Suzy Marshall is discovering that work can be sluggish for an actress over 60 - even for the former star of a 1980s TV series. So when she's offered the role of Lady Bracknell in The Importance of Being Earnest in Zurich, it seems like a godsend. Until, that is, the play is abruptly cancelled in suspicious circumstances, and Suzy is forced to take a job on a cruise ship to get home.

Comley, M. A. - JUSTICE AT CHRISTMAS - 2.5
Santa is dead... Or is he?
DI Lorne Simpkins investigates the murder of a man wearing a Santa suit in the week leading up to Christmas

SANDY
THE BIG BOOK OF CHRISTMAS MYSTERIES
Christie, Agatha - The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding - 0
Runyon, Damon - Dancing Dan's Christmas - 4.5
MacDonald, John D. - Dead on Christmas Street - 5.0
Ellin, Stanley - Death on Christmas Eve - 4.0
McBain, Ed - And All Through the House - 4.0
Lochte, Dick - Mad Dog - 5.0
Symons, Julian - The Santa Claus Club - 4.0
Henry, O. - A Chaparral Christmas Gift - 5.0
Christie, Agatha - A Christmas Tragedy - 4.0

Doiron, Paul - MASSACRE ROAD - 4.0
Maine Game Warden Mike Bowditch and Elizabeth Morse whose mission to save the Maine wilderness may have incited a murder. On an unseasonably hot October morning, Bowditch is called to the scene of a bizarre crime: the corpses of five moose have been found senselessly butchered on the estate of, a wealthy animal rights activist who is buying up huge parcels of timberland to create a new national park.
Matt Coyle is the author of the best-selling Rick Cahill crime novels. He knew he wanted to be a crime writer when he was fourteen and his father gave him the simple art of murder by Raymond Chandler. He graduated with a degree in English from University of California at Santa Barbara. His foray into crime fiction was delayed for thirty years as he spent time managing a restaurant, selling golf clubs for various golf companies, and in national sales for a sports licensing company.

Writing at night for over a decade his debut novel, Yesterday’s Echo, was finally published in 2013. The wait was almost worth it as it won the Anthony Award for Best First Novel, the San Diego Book Award for Best Mystery, the Ben Franklin Award for Best New Voice in Fiction.

Matt’s second book in the Rick Cahill series, Night Terrors, was a Bookreporter.com Reviewers’ Favorite Book of 2015 and was an Anthony, Shamus, and Lefty Award finalist.

Dark Fissures (Cahill #3), was a finalist for the Macavity and Lefty awards and was a 2016 Top Pick for Bookreporter.com.

Blood Truth (Cahill #4) was a Shamus, Lefty Award finalist, a Foreword Reviews Book of the Year Silver Award winner for Thriller/Suspense, and a top pick by Bookreporter.com for Best Mysteries of 2017.

Cahill #5, Wrong Light, was a Lefty Award and San Diego Book Award finalist and has been nominated for a Shamus Award. It was also a top pick by Bookreporter.com for Best Mysteries of 2018.

Lost Tomorrows, Matt’s sixth Rick Cahill novel, came out in December.

His short story, The #2 Pencil, was a finalist for a Derringer and Macavity Award.

Matt lives in San Diego with his yellow Lab, Angus, where he is writing his seventh crime novel.

Q&A with Matt

When did you first know you wanted to become a mystery writer?

When I was about fourteen and my father gave me THE SIMPLE ART OF MURDER by Raymond Chandler. It only took me about thirty years to realize that you actually had to write something to become a writer.

Can you describe your writing process?

Not really, but I'll try. I don’t outline before I begin a new book. My protagonist, Rick Cahill, is a private investigator so I try to come up with a case that he’ll become emotionally attached to. That’s the only way to make things interesting for me and, hopefully, the reader. I want Rick to have to risk something in following the case to its conclusion.

How long do you plan to write Rick Cahill novels?

I love writing Rick. I can’t imagine not writing him. He’s a part of me. The messed up part that reminds me that things can always get worse. However, I’m approaching the stage in my career where I have to consider writing other things. I plan to write a standalone or begin another series soon. I hope to be able to continue to write Rick for as long as people want to read about him.

Who have been some of your writing influences?

Raymond Chandler
Ross Macdonald
Ernest Hemingway
Lawrence Block
Jefferson Parker
Robert Crais
Michael Connelly

The last three on the list have not only influenced me as a writer, but they’ve personally given my career a boost with book blurbs and some behind the scenes advice about the writing business. Another writer I greatly admire is Megan Abbott. Her writing is so rich and lyrical that I get lost in her language. It also makes me realize that I’d better stay in my lane.

What has surprised you most about writing?

A couple things: How giving the mystery writing community is and the amount of marketing I have to do on my own. Writing is a business and we are all competing for readers’ attention and booksellers’ shelf space, so it would make sense not to help your competitors. Mystery writers are the exact opposite. Most everyone gives of themselves to help a fellow writer on whatever level. We all want to make it to the top, but almost every one of us is willing to offer a hand up to the next writer. I came into this business and realized I’d have to do a lot of my own marketing. I just didn’t realize how much. But, it’s part of the business of writing and I’ve learned to welcome its challenge.
In 2017 Raymond Chandler was a featured author in July. The two pages about him will be printed and made available to any who might want to review the information. I will only list his books and note which might be available at YLPL.

Philip Marlowe
1. **THE BIG SLEEP** (1939)
2. **FAREWELL, MY LOVELY** (1940)
3. **THE HIGH WINDOW** (1942)
4. **THE LADY IN THE LAKE** (1943)
5. **THE LITTLE SISTER** (1949)
6. **THE LONG GOODBYE** (1953)
7. **PLAYBACK** (1958)

1 and 2 are on order as a single book
4-7 are in a combination book—two copies

THE SIMPLE ART OF MURDER (1950)
TROUBLE IS MY BUSINESS (1939) A collection of short stories is also available

If none of the selected authors appeal here is a very short list of the over 200 attending authors that are currently represented in the library
Rhys Bowen
Lisa Brackmann
Ellen Byron

**Donis Casey**
Lee Goldberg
Naomi Hirahara

**William Kent Krueger**
Lori Rader-Day
Catriona McPherson

The Names in **Red** are on my favorite list

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Lee Child has announced that he is retiring and handing the writing duties of the Jack Reacher series over to his younger brother **Andrew Grant** on the condition that Andrew changes his surname to Child. Andrew is an established thriller writer in his own right. Lee Child (real name: James Grant) has just been asked to sit on the judging panel for the 2020 Booker Prize, and is looking for the visually big actor to play Jack Reacher for the Amazon Prime TV series, as well as is serving as the the general editor for a forthcoming 21st century edition of Mystery Writers of America’s classic handbook, WRITING MYSTERIES. The next and 25th Reacher novel, **THE SENTINEL** (Transworld UK), written by Lee Child and Andrew Child, will be out coming October.

M.C. Beaton (real name: Marion Chesney Gibbons) died on December 30, 2019 after a short illness. The Glasgow-born bestselling prolific writer was so fed up with writing a great many Regency romances under her real name (Marion Chesney) and several pseudonyms that she started to write two detective series featuring Hamish Macbeth and Agatha Raisin under the M.C. Beaton pen-name. Hamish (pronounced HAY-mish) Macbeth, a quick-witted but unambitious police constable in Lochdubh, Scotland, debuted in DEATH OF GOS-SIP (St. Martin’s, 1985), while Agatha Raisin, a retired advertising executive in Carsely, England, was first introduced in AGATHA RAISIN AND THE QUICHE OF DEATH (St. Martin’s, 1992). The both series have been adapted for television: "Hamish Mcbeth," starring Robert Carlyle as the title role, was broadcast between 1995 through 1997, and "Agatha RAisin," starring Ashley Jensen, started in 2016 and recently got renewed. The latest Macbeth novel was BEATING ABOUT THE BUSH (#34; Grand Central, 2019), and the latest Raisin novel was THE DEAD RINGER (#29; Minotaur, 2018), with a couple of more (HC#35: DEATH OF LOVE; and AR#30: HOT TO TROT; both in 2020) are coming. By the way Beaton hated to be called "the queen of cozy crime." She was 83.

Left Coast Crime 2020 has announced the nominees for the 2020 Lefty Awards. The nominees in the best mystery novel category are as follows:

YOUR HOUSE WILL PAY, by **Steph Cha**
BORROWED TIME, by **Tracy Clark**
LOST TOMORROWS, by **Matt Coyle**
THEY ALL FALL DOWN, by **Rachel Howzell Hall**
HEAVEN, MY HOME, by **Attica Locke**
Due in February 2020

The number at the end of each book is the date the book is due to be released.

Armstrong, Kelley - ALONE IN THE WILD (Rockton #5)
Bannalec, Jean-Luc - THE KILLING TIDE [Georges Dupin #5]
Barber, Kathleen - FOLLOW ME
Berry, Steve - THE WARSAW PROTOCOL (Cotton Malone #15)
Block, Lawrence - THE BURGLAR IN SHORT ORDER - (Bernie Rhodenbarr #12)-29
Bowen, Rhys - ABOVE THE BAY OF ANGELS - 11
Brennan, Allison - THE THIRD TO DIE
Coffin, Bruce Robert - WITHIN PLAIN SIGHT (John Byron) -4
Doherty, Paul - DARK QUEEN WAITING (Margaret Beaufort) - 4
Dolan, Harry - THE GOOD KILLER - 4
Dugoni, Robert - A COLD TRAIL (Tracy Crosswhite #7)4
Finch, Charles - THE LAST PASSENGER (Charles Lenox Mysteries, #13)-18
FitzSimmons, Matthew - ORIGAMI MAN (Gibson Vaughan) -18
Freeman, Brian - THIEF RIVER FALLS
Gardiner, Meg - THE DARK CORNERS OF THE NIGHT (Unsub) - 18
Greaney, Mark - ONE MINUTE OUT (Gray Man #9)-18
Griffiths, Elly - THE LANTERN MEN (Ruth Galloway #12)
Grippo, James - THE BIG LIE (Jack Swyteck #16) -25
Hannah, Sophie - PERFECT LITTLE CHILDREN
Hood, Joshua - Robert Ludlam's THE TREADSTONE RESURRECTION (Jason Bourne) - 25
Kellerman, Jonathan - THE MUSEUM OF DESIRE (Alex Delaware #35) 4
Kent, Kathleen - THE BURN [Betty Rhysyk #2]
Kubica, Mary - THE OTHER MRS
MacNeal, Susan Elia - THE KING’S JUSTICE (Maggie Hope #9) -25
Moore, Graham - THE HOLDOUT -18
Mosley, Walter - TROUBLE IS WHAT I DO (Leonid McGill-#6) - 25
Oates, Joyce Carol - NIGHT. SLEEP. DEATH. THE STARS
Pinborough, Sarah - DEAD TO HER

Preston & Child - CROOKED RIVER (Pendergast) -4
Rader-Day, Lori - THE LUCKY ONE - 20
Rice, Luanne - LAST DAY
Robb, J.D. - GOLDEN IN DEATH (IN DEATH, book 50)
Sigurdardottir, Yrsa - THE ABSOLUTION [Children's House #3] -11
St. James, Simone - THE SUN DOWN MOTEL
Straley, John - WHAT IS TIME TO A PIG? [Cold Storage #3]
Thomas, Russ - FIREWATCHING (Adam Tyler) 25
Todd, Charles - A DIVIDED LOYALTY (Inspector Ian Rutledge #22)-4
White, Randy; Wayne - SALT RIVER [Doc Ford #26] -11

There are not many titles that are catching my eye this month. I know my daughter will be getting the 50th book in the J. D, Robb series. I do enjoy the Kelly Armstrong Rockton series and there are several authors I read occasionally, but with the Convention in early March I will turn my reading to authors that will be there.

I’ve been told the library is starting to prepare their list of books for the opening day of the new library. We may see a slow down in the availability of new mystery books so I hope you will look to Canyon Hill and Placentia is you want library books. Of course I pretty much visit Amazon a lot. The Book Carnival is good for touring authors. Just saw Kwei Quarty there and bought a book… which I may give to the library after the move. It is the start of a new series.

Just found a new book that was not listed and is now available at Amazon. I somehow missed the “Handbook” too.

Tarquin Hall was followed with some fun several years ago and it is with joy to see his has some new books available.