

WHO DONE IT?

Volume 23, Issue 3

April May June 2020



EARTH DAY – ENVIRONMENT

What's Next

March 23
Irish Authors

April 27
Earth Day/
Environment

May 18
Week early due to Holiday
Earth Day continued

June 22
Edgar winning authors
Past and maybe Present

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

One of the magazines I subscribe to (MYSTERY READERS JOURNAL) has just published an entire issue on environmental mysteries. This magazine asks authors to submit articles on a chosen topic. Many of my favorite authors have articles in this issue. The editor, Janet Rudolph, also prepared a list of books last year's Earth Day. Following this list, I will add the Earth Day list (which includes many I forgot to include here.

Sandi Ault -Jamaica Wild: resource-protection agent for the Bureau of Land Management, in northern New Mexico. Jamaica has a pet wolf. Latest book, WILD MYSTIC was published in 2018

Nevada Barr - Anna Pigeon: park ranger at various national parks in the USA. #19 in series was published in 2016

C.J. Box - Joe Pickett: game warden in the Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming. There are now 20 books in the series. Latest is LONG RANGE

Dave Butler-- Jenny Wilson is a hard-edged, caustic-witted warden from Banff National Park. Newest book in series IN RHINO WE TRUST is set in Africa. (Susan found it too unsettling to finish, I gave it a 5.0

Christine Carbo -Glacier National Park series with a different protagonist in each book. The most recent was A SHARP SLITUDE out in 2018.

Paul Doiron—Mike Dowditch, game warden in Maine. THE IMPOSTER, a novella due in May and ONE LAST LIE, a novel due in June

Scott Graham—National Park series with Chuck Bender an archaeologist. His 6th is this paperback series, MESA VERDE VICTIM is due in June.

Joseph Heywood's books feature conservation detective Grady Service in The Woods Cop series. The 11th, BAD OPTICS was published in 2018. He has a new historical mystery series, Lute Bapcat, a Michigan game Warden in 1913

Inside you will find...

Environment mystery authors to read	Page 1-3
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MORE ENVIRONMENT MYSTERY AUTHORS

(Continued from page 1)

William Kent Krueger –Cork Conner series –Each book's title is a location in Minnesota and is a part of the story. No book of Kent's has ever received less than 4.75.

Keith McCafferty –Sean Stranahan, fisherman and ex P.I. in Montana . Has a new book (#8) coming in August, **BANGTAIL GHOST**

Skye Kathleen Moody has a series with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agent Venus Diamond . The last book in the series was **FROSTLINE**, written in 2014

Kwei Quartey –first series with Darko Dawson a police inspector in Ghana deals with the culture there. **He** has started a second series—which I will be reading before we meet, **THE MISSING AMERICAN** (2020)

Ben Rehder – John Marlin, game warden in Blanco County, Texas - a rather humorous series. His 13th, **FREE RIDE** was published in March. This is Texas style Carl Hiaasen, with game warden John Marlin

Kirk Russell writes environmental mysteries featuring John Marquez, a Department of Fish and Game special Operations inspector. Last book in series , written in 2013 was **DIE-OFF**. His new series features a bomb expert - may not be about the environment. **GONE DARK** deals with terrorists bringing down the LA power grid.

Janet Rudolph's Earth Day List 2019

Edward Abbey's **The Monkey Wrench Gang' Hayduke Lives!**

Suzanne Arruda's **Stalking Ivory**

Sarah Andrews' **Em Hansen Mystery series**

Sandi Ault's **Wild Inferno; Wild Indigo; Wild Penance; Wild Sorrow**

Shannon Baker's **Tainted Mountain; Broken Trust; Tattered Legacy; Skies of Fire**

Nevada Barr's **Track of the Cat; Ill Wind; Borderline; and others**

Pamela Beason's **Sam Westin wildlife biologist series**

C J Box's **Winterkill; Open Season; Below Zero; Savage Run; Out of Range; Trophy Hunt; Free Fire; In Plain Sight**

James Lee Burke's **Creole Belle**

Rex Burns' **Endangered Species**

Dave Butler -**Full Curl**

Robin Cook's **Fever**

Ann Cleeves' **Another Man's Poison**

Michael Crichton's **State of Fear**

James Crumley's **Dancing Bear**

Janet Dawson's **Don't Turn Your Back on the Ocean**

Karen Dionne's **Boiling Point; Freezing Point**

Paul Doiron's **The Poacher's Son; Trespasser; Bad Little Falls; The Bone Orchard and others**

Aaron J Elkins' **The Dark Place; Unnatural Selection**

Bill Fitzhugh's **Pest Control; The Exterminators**

G M Ford's **Who in Hell is Wanda Fuca?**

Jamie Freveletti's **Dead Asleep**

Sara Hoskinson Frommer's **Death Climbs a Tree**

Jean Craighead George's **The Missing 'Gator of Gumbo Limbo; Who Really Killed Cock Robin?; The Case of the Missing Cutthroats** (young readers)

Chris Goff's **A Rant of Ravens; Death of a Songbird; A Nest in the Ashes**

Scott Graham's **Mountain Rampage, Yellowstone Standoff**

Robert O. Greer's **The Devil's Hatband**

Beth Groundwater's **Deadly Currents; Wicked Eddies**

Jean Hager's **Ravenmocker**

Sue Henry's **Termination Dust**

Joseph Heywood's **Blue Wolf in Green Fire, Ice Hunter, Chasing a Blond Moon**

Carl Hiaasen's **Skinny Dip; Stormy Weather; Sick Puppy; Strip Tease; Scat; Star Island**

Tony Hillerman's **The Blessing Way**

Peter Hoeg's **Smilla's Sense of Snow**

William Kent Krueger's **"Cork O'Connor" series**

Donna Leon's **Death in a Strange Country; About Face; Earthly Remains**

2 John D MacDonald's **Barrier Island** (and other titles)

(Continued from page 2)

Ross Macdonald's **Sleeping Beauty**

Jassy Mackenzie's **The Fallen**

Margaret Maron's **High Country Fall, Shooting at Loons, Up Jumps the Devil, Hard Row**

Karin McQuillan's **Deadly Safari, Cheetah Chase, Elephant's Graveyard**

Deon Meyer's **Blood Safari, Thirteen Hours**

Kirk Mitchell's **High Desert Malice, Deep Valley Malice**

Skye Kathleen Moody's **Blue Poppy, and other Venus Diamond mysteries**

Marcia Muller's **Cape Perdido**

Sara Paretsky's **Blood Shot**

Brad Parks' **The Player**

T. Jefferson's Parker's **Pacific Beat**

Kwei Quartey's **Murder at Cape Three Points**

Kirk Russell's **Shell Games**

Jessica Speart's **Bird Brained, Blue Twilight, Gator Aide, Tortoise Soup**

Dana Stabenow's **A Cold Day for Murder, A Deeper Sleep, A Fine and Bitter Snow, Midnight Come Again, A Taint in the Blood, and many others**

John Stanley's **The Woman Who Married a Bear, The Curious Eat Themselves,**

Mark Stevens' **Buried by the Roan**

Judith Van Gleson's **"Neil Hamel" series**

Betty Webb's **Desert Wind**

Randy Wayne White's **White Captiva;**

Carl Hiaasen—**Stormy Weather, Scat**

John D Mac Donald —Travis McGee series often centered on threatened nature

Ross Macdonald —Lew Archer series and many articles on environmental causes.

The Mystery as Environmental Soapbox

by William Kent Krueger

It's naïve to believe that an author's work shouldn't reflect the controversies abroad in the world. The deep concerns we have as human beings are braided into all our thoughts and actions, including our creative endeavors. When I sit down to write a story, I'm often motivated by some pressing issue about which I hold strong beliefs. Because I live in Minnesota, which contains some of the most beautiful and pristine places on earth, threats to the environment are often in the forefront of my thinking.

In Minnesota, as in so many other areas, the threats abound. Climatic change is wreaking havoc on the land and the wildlife here. Winters are no longer the long, bitterly cold depths

of legend. As a result, moose are permanently migrating north out of the state, seeking cooler climes in Canada. Lake Superior—so cold that, as Gordon Lightfoot ably pointed out, it “never gives up its dead” — is warming, which poses significant danger to the indigenous fish population. The threats are not only climatic but commercial as well. The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, more than a million square miles of deep forests, crystal-clear lakes, and fast, clean-running rivers, has for years been the site of a contentious battle over the mining of heavy metals, an enterprise that poses a potentially catastrophic threat to the area's delicate ecological balance.

I've used these issues as motivating factors in several of my Cork O'Connor novels, most notably *Manitou Canyon*, published in 2016, and *Desolation Mountain*, which came out two years later. I firmly believe that the unique appeal of mysteries provides a viable soapbox from which to speak out to readers about these important issues. A lot of folks won't even begin to wade through an academic or polemic publication about an ecological or political issue. But couch the threats in the context of a good, compelling mystery and you've got a hook with the potential to pull even the most reluctant through a bit of necessary enlightenment.

I'm not alone in my use of mystery as soapbox. In the 1960s, John D. MacDonald railed against the devastation of the Florida wetlands wrought by the real estate boom, most famously in his novel *A FLASH OF GREEN*. John Grisham, C. J. Box, Nevada Barr, Joseph Heywood, and a slew of other writers in our genre have composed narratives with an environmental issue at the heart of the story. These novels succeed not only in engaging and maintaining a reader's interest—always the first order of business for a writer—but also in laying out a better understanding the environmental threats involved.

Okay, I do occasionally get notes from readers who disagree with my point of view. That's fine. In fact, that's great, but it means that they've read the work, and although they may not agree with my stand, at least they've heard me out.

Stories can affect people in ways that a polemic never will. They are, admittedly, an emotional appeal. Of course, a good mystery has to be satisfying on a completely logical level, but it can also go much deeper than conscious, analytical thought. A good story reaches all the way to the reader's heart. My own belief is that if real change is going to occur, that's where it has to begin, in our hearts. So I plan to keep on writing stories that shout out an emotional warning about threats to our environment, to endangered wildlife, and to any other of the precious natural treasures at risk because of the greed or ignorance of those who wield political or financial power. I do love my soapbox.

WHAT WE READ

Yvonne

Chandler, Raymond - PLAYBACK - - Philip Marlowe #7 - 4.75
Chandler, Raymond - THE LADY IN THE LAKE - Philip Marlowe #4 - 4.5

Val

Parker, T. Jefferson - FULL MEASURE - Patrick and Ted Norris on San Diego avocado ranch - 3.75

Susan

Russo, William - CHANCES ARE - no action, just thoughts - 2.75
Kureger, William Kent - THE DEVILS BED - stand alone political thriller/romance -3.0
Stanley, Michael - FACETS OF DEATH - prequell 'dEctive Kukbu - 5.0
Butler, Dave - IN RHINO WE TRUST Jenny Wilson in Africa - DNF
Grisham, John - THE ACCOMPLICE - Theo Boone #7 legal thriller- 4.75
Castillo, Linda - entire Kate Burkholder series - all 11 plus one novella - 4.75

SWORN TO SILENCE
PRAY FOR SILENCE
BREAKING SILENCE
GONE MISSING
HER LAST BREATH
THE DEAD WILL TELL
HIDDEN SECRETS
AFTER THE STORN
AMONG THE WICKED
DOWN A DARK ROAD
A GATHERING OF SECRETS
SHAMED

Sandy

Parker, T. Jefferson - PACIFIC BEAT - 1991 Stand alone deals with Newport Bay pollution - 4.0
Parker, Robert B finished Raymond Chandler's POODLE SPRINGS - Philip Marlowe in Palm Springs - 3.5
Chandler, Raymond - THE BIG SLEEP - 1939 - Philip Marlowe - a classic - 4.5
Parker, Robert B. - FAMILY HONOR - 1999 - first Sunny Randall - 4.5
Parker, Robert B - GUNMAN'S RHAPSODY - 2001 - a look at the OK Corral gunfight - 4.5
Beaton, M. C. - THE QUICHE OF DEATH - first Agatha Raisin novel - 5.0
Parker, T. Jefferson - L.A. OUTLAWS - 2008 - first of the Charlie Hood series - 5.0

Penny

Burrell, Teresa - THE ADVOCATE'S BETRAYAL - Sabre Orin Brown, San Diego attorney - 4.0
Estleman, Loren - DON'T LOOK FOR ME - Amos Walker, Detroit policeman - 3.0
Parker, T. Jefferson - THE FAMOUS AND THE DEAD - Charlie Hood, Los Angeles sheriff deputy - 3.0

Pat

Patterson, James—THE LAKE HOUSE (+movie) 4.0

Pam

Parker, T. Jefferson - THE LAST GOOD GUY - Roland Ford P I in San Diego - 4.5
Parker, T. Jefferson - FULL MEASURE - Patrick and Ted Norris on avocado ranch in San Diego -4.0
Galbraith, Robert (K.K. Rowling - LETHAL WHITE #4 - Cormoran Strike in London - 2.5
Child, Lee - BLUE MOON - Jack Reacher #24 - 4.5

Nancy

Gilman, Dorothy - MRS POLLIFAX UNVEILED - #14 in Damascus - 3.75
Buck, Pearl S. - THE WOMAN WHO WAS CHANGED and other stories - 5.0
Lalami, Laila - THE OTHER AMERICANS -National Book Award Finalist - Moroccans in CA - 4.0
Scottoline, Lisa - SOMEONE KNOWS -a stand alone was DNF
Johnson, Craig - LAND OF WOLVES - Walt Longmire #15 - 4.25
Barr, Nevada - WHAT ROSE FORGOT - a stand alone with a nursing home escape - 3.0
Alfon, Dov - A LONG NIGHT IN PARIS -2020 -spy thriller with Commissaire Leger of the Paris police - 4.0
Coyle, Matt - YESTERDAY'S ECHO - first Rick Cahill book - 4.0
Parker, T. Jefferson - THE LAST GOOD GUY -2019- Roland Ford in Fallbrook - 4.25
Grisham, John - THE GUARDIANS - a group for innocent projects - 4.5
Stanley, Michael - FACETS OF DEATH - 2020 - prequel of Detective Kubu series - 4.5
Castillo, Linda - AFTER THE STORM 2015 - #7 in Kate Burkholder Amish county - 3.75
Quarty, Kwei - THE MISSSING AMERICAN - 2020 - #1 in Emma Djan series in Ghana - 5.0

Kim

Perry, Thomas - VANISHING ACT Jane Whitefield 4.0
Perry, Thomas - DANCE OF THE DEAD - Jan Whitefield #2 - 4.0
Hamilton, Steve- "Riddle Island" short story in Alex McKnight series in Michigan - 4.0

Karen (includes March)

Armstrong, Kelley - ALONE IN THE WILD - #5 in Rockton, Canada series - 5.0
Ault, Sandi - WILD MYSTIC #5 Jamaica Wild and wolf, Mountain in New Mexico - 4.0
Box, C. J. - LONG RANGE - #20 Joe Pickett - - 4.8
Cha, Steph - YOUR HOUSE WILL PAY - Korean and Black families in Los Angeles - 4.25
Coyle, Matt - LOST TOMORROWS - #6 Rick Cahill - in Santa Barbara - 4.5
Elliot, Kendra - THE LAST SISTER -#1 in Columbia River series - 4.5
Hauty, Chris - DEEP STATE - political thriller with an intern at the White House - 4.5
Heller, Peter -THE RIVER - thriller set on Maskwa River in Canada - 4.25
Hunt, Margo - BURIED DEEP - thriller in Florida - 3.5
Johansen, Iris and Roy - HINDSIGHT - #7 in Kendra Michaels, recovered blind person - San Diego - 3.25
Goldberg, Lee - LOST HILLS #1 Eve Ronin LA- 4.5
London, Jack - THE CALL OF THE WILD - 1915 -Buck(a dog) in Alaska 4.75
Mofina, Rick - MISSING DAUGHTER stand alone in Syracuse, NY - 4.0
Orenduff, Michael J. THE POT THIEF WHO STUDIED THE WOMAN AT OTOWI CROSSING - Hubie studies Edith Warner - 3.5
Pandian, Gigi - THE GLASS THIEF - #6 in Jaya Jones - set in San Francisco, Paris and Cambodia - 4.25
Reid, Joseph - TAKEOFF- #1Seth Walker, air marshal - 4.75
Riva, Peter - KIDNAPPED ON SAFARI #3 Pero and Mbuno in Kenya and Tanzania - 4.5
Shelton, Paige - THIN ICE - stand alone in Alaska - 4.0
Snow, B.F. - THE CASE OF THE TENACIOUS TIBETAN #21 in dog hotel series set in upstate NY - 2.75
Taylor, Jodi - JUST ONE DAMN THING AFTER ANOTHER - #1 in Chronicles of St. Mary's (fantasy) - 5.0
Wendt, Charles N - BY DOG ALONE - #2 Kelton Jager and K-9 dog in Virginia - 3.75

Chitra (includes March)

Alexander, Tasha - DEATH IN ST. PETERSBERG - 2017 - A Lady Emily Mystery: - 3.75
Alexander, Tasha - A TEMBLE BEAUTY - 2016 - A Lady Emily Mystery in Santorini - 4.0

Alexander, Tasha - IN THE SHADOW OF VESUVIUS - 2019 - A Lady Emily Mystery -in Pompei - 4.25
Ben Bassat, Dafna Vitale - MY NAME IS VITTORIA - 2020 - 4.25 - based on true story of Jewish Holocaust Survivor
Boyd, Clare - MY PERFECT WIFE - 2020 - 3.75
Correa, Armando Lucas: THE GERMAN GIRL [2016] 4.0
Dray, Stephanie & Kamoie, Laura - MY DEAR HAMILTON: A Novel of Eliza Schuyler Hamilton - 2018 - 4.95 - favorite of the month
Hutchinson, Ty - SUITCASE GIRL - 2017 - Abby Kane FBI Thriller #7 - 4.00
Johansen, Iris - NO EASY TARGET - 2017 - 3.75
Kaur, Rupi - MILK AND HONEY - 2014 - 2.75
Kelly, Martha Hall - LOST ROSES - 2019 - 4.00
Ogawa, Yoko - THE HOUSEKEEPER AND THE PROFESSOR - 2009 - 4.00
Penny, Louise - STILL LIFE - 2005 -Chief Inspector Gamache - 3.75
Redondo, Dolores - ALL THIS I WILL GIVE TO YOU - 2018 - 4.25 -
Riva, Peter: KIDNAPPED ON SAFARI [2020] #3 Pero and Mbuno in Tanzania -3.75
Sacerdoti, Daniela - THE ITALIAN VILLA - 2020 - 3.50
Theroux, Paul- -THE LAST TRAIN TO ZONA VERDE: My Ultimate African Safari - 2013 - Namibia & Angola - 4.00
Wesson, Rachel - ORPHAN TRAIN ESCAPE - 2018 - Hearts on the Rails # 1 - 4.25

Bobbi

Coye, Matt - NIGHT TREMORS - 2015 - Rick Cahill #2 - San Diego - 5.0
Parker, T. Jefferson - THE BLUE HOUR - 1999 - Merci Rayborn #1 - Orange County, CA - 5.0
Parker, T. Jefferson - BLACK WATER - 2002 -Merci Rayborn #3 -Orange County - 5.0
Estleman, Loren D - JITTERBUG - 1995 - A Detroit Mystery #6 - 4.75
Ephron, Hallie - THERE WAS AN OLD WOMAN - 2013 - a domestic noir - 4.75
Befeler, Mike - THE BACK WING - 2013 - a retirement home mystery - 4.0
Befeler, Mike - MYSTERY OF THE DINNER PLAYHOUSE -2015 -a cozy stand alone - 3.75
Owens, Delia - WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING - 2018 Barkley Cove, N. Carolina marsh girl - 5.0
Ide, Joe - HI-FIVE - 2020 - I Q mystery #4 - East Long Beach CA - 4.75

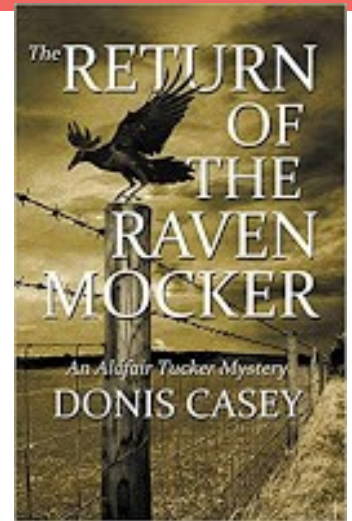
Anne

Chandler, Raymond - TROUBLE IS MY BUSINESS - Philip Marlowe in Los Angeles-1940's - 5.0

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO

BY DONIS CASEY

In 2017, I wrote a novel called **Return of the Raven Mocker**, which was set during the **influenza pandemic of 1918**. No one knows for sure how many died in the flu pandemic, but modern estimates put the number at somewhere between thirty and fifty million people worldwide. Unlike today's health emergency, the Spanish flu mainly killed young people, and was so virulent that a person would be fine in the morning and dead by nightfall. But like now, once the disease began to spread, whole communities tried to quarantine themselves. People would mark their doors with a red "X" to let their neighbors know the family was infected. There were few doctors available because of the war, so like today, nurses were the absolute heroes, keeping people fed and looked after, and often falling ill themselves.



One of the primary research materials for my novels is always the newspapers of the time, and it was fascinating to see what people knew in 1918 and when they knew it. From the perspective of 100 years on, we know how things turned out. But, like now, they had no cure and no idea what was going to happen. In the early days of the pandemic, the government actually encouraged the press to downplay the seriousness of the situation, because the war was still going on and nothing was to be allowed to interfere with war production! (Substitute "economy" for "war production. Sound familiar?) Eventually, factories all over the United States were no longer able to stay open because most of their workers were ill, and the stories in the papers began to change radically, printing all kinds of weird and generally useless advice about how to avoid becoming sick.

More than a few people died from being dosed with turpentine, coal oil, mercury, ox bile, chicken blood, and other unmentionable home remedies they were given by their well-meaning caretakers. There are modern scientists who believe that some of the deaths in the epidemic were caused by aspirin poisoning rather than the disease. Aspirin was relatively new on the market, and folks may have figured that if a little aspirin was good for fever and aches, then eating whole handfuls every hour was even better if you were really sick.



However, when you have no cure, there are old remedies that can actually be useful.

Garlic really does have antibiotic properties, and was used a lot as a treatment during the 1918 flu outbreak. I found a recipe for garlic soup in an early Twentieth Century cookbook that was guaranteed to cure the flu. (Disclaimer - it probably didn't cure the flu, and probably won't cure COVID-19) It called for 24 cloves of garlic to be simmered for an hour in a quart of water. That sounds like it would kill any germ that dares to try and infect you.

Ginger tea is practically a cure for nausea. Boil a slice of fresh ginger in a cup of water until the water turns golden and sip it hot. I like to sweeten mine with honey.

Dry burned toast (just charred on top) is excellent for an upset stomach and diarrhea. Well-cooked, soft rice is easy to digest, and if you simmer one part raw rice in seven parts liquid for forty minutes to an hour, the rice ends up creamy and soft and practically pre-digested.

Onion is antibiotic as well. My great-grandmother swore that placing a bowl of raw onions in a sick room would absorb the ill-humors. Here is a story that was told to me by the person to whom it happened: when he was a young boy, he developed such a severe case of pneumonia that the doctor told his mother that he was not going to survive. In an act of desperation, his mother sliced up a raw onion and bound it to the bottoms of his feet with strips of sheet, then put cotton socks on him. In the morning, his fever had broken, his lungs had cleared, and the onion poultice had turned black. Is that what saved him? I don't know. But that didn't keep me from using the idea in my book.

In fact, I found a number of remedies that called for binding something to the feet. An 1879 cookbook recommended taking a large horseradish leaf, placing it on a hot shovel to soften it, then folding it and fastening it in the hollow of the foot

with a cloth bandage. I also found foot-poultice recipes that used burdock leaves, cabbage, and mullein. All the above are guaranteed to “alleviate pain and promote perspiration”.

Chicken soup really, really does help. Your mother says so, and so does science.

My grandmother’s favorite remedy for fever, cold, or flu, was a hot toddy. She swore that this never failed to break a fever and rouse a sweat. A hot toddy is made thus:

- 1 teacup hot water
- juice of half a lemon
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 jigger Scotch whiskey

My grandmother was so enamored of this curative that she made it often, just as a preventative.

A DEBUT NOVEL THAT SOUNDS LIKE MY CUP OF TEA

WILDLAND by Rebecca Hodge
Crooked Lane Books, February 2020,
Reviewed by Sarah Prindle

Kat Jamison, a widow in her fifties, escapes to a cabin in the Blue Ridge Mountains after learning that her breast cancer has returned. Her daughter, Sara, encourages her to pursue treatment, but Kat isn’t certain she has what it takes to go through chemotherapy again.

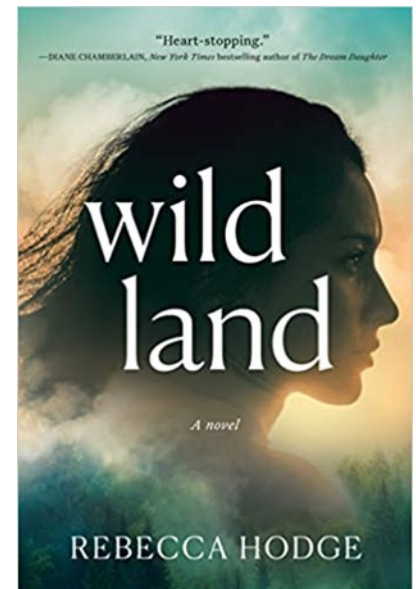
But soon Kat faces another serious threat, and this time her life is not the only one at stake. A drought and an ill-timed lightning strike start a fearsome wildfire that quickly blocks the route down the mountain. The approaching fire forces Kat to flee deeper into the forest, and with her two dogs and two children, nine-year-old Nirav and 12-year-old Lily, who have become separated from their parents.

Meanwhile, the children’s fathers, Malcolm and Scott, start a risky rescue mission below the fire-line, putting aside their differences to save their kids. As both groups struggle for survival, they are forced to reach deep inside themselves to find the courage they need to make it through the fire.

Each character in . WILDLAND has an intriguing backstory and a distinctive personality, which adds dimension to an exciting premise. The scenes are vividly detailed, from Kat’s and the children’s frantic flight through the smoke-filled forest to the deafening noise inside a rescue helicopter. As the novel progresses and the situation become increasingly desperate, the suspense and action sequences will hook even the most restless of readers.

Author Rebecca Hodge doesn’t shy away from the grim realities of forest fires or cancer, but she still manages to infuse the book with hope. It’s this hope that keeps Kat going despite countless obstacles, and that will keep readers turning the pages, eager to find out what happens to all the characters. WILDLAND is a suspense novel that brilliantly explores themes of perseverance, survival, and responsibility, showing how destruction can strike without warning, but also how the bonds forged in tough times can turn strangers into family. WILDLAND is a pulse-pounder with heart, and highly recommended.

Yes, I’ve purchased in on Kindle... hope to read it sometime soon.



NEWS FROM THE GUMSHOE SITE

Left Coast Crime 2020 announced the winners for the 2020 Lefty Awards after LCC 2020 was abruptly cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic, as follows:

Best Humorous Mystery Novel: SCOT & SODA, by Catrina McPherson

Best Historical Mystery Novel: THE SATAPUR MOONSTONE, by Sujata Massey

Best Debut Mystery Novel: MURDERABILIA, by Carl Vonderau

Best Mystery Novel: LOST TOMORROWS, by Matt Coyle

The Mystery Writers of America (MWA) has announced that both the **Edgar Awards** banquet and the symposium are cancelled, due to the coronavirus pandemic. The MWA is still discussing how to announce the Edgar winners.

The Los Angeles Times Festival of Books has been postponed to the weekend of October 03 - 04.

Clive Cussler Dies

Clive Cussler died on February 24 at his home in Scottsdale, Arizona. The former advertising director's first novel, THE MEDITERRANEAN CAPER (1973), introducing marine engineer Dirk Pitt, an Edgar nominee for best paperback, and the second novel, ICEBERG did not fare well, but the third adventure novel, RAISE THE TITANIC hit the New York Times bestseller list, and was turned into the 1980 movie of the same name starring Richard Jordan as Dirk Pitt. After this, he produced Dirk Pitt novels every year or every two years. Since the 18th Pitt, BLACK WIND, Clive's son Dirk Cussler has been co-writing Pitt novels. Recently Clive launched several other series: The Numa Files, featuring Kurt Austin, co-written with Paul Kemprecos or Graham Brown; The Oregon Files, co-written with Graham Brown, Jack DuBrul, or Boyd Morrison; Isaac Bell series, featuring early-20th-century private investigator, co-written with Justin Scott; The Fargo Adventures, featuring husband-and-wife treasure hunters Sam and Remi Fargo, co-written with Grant Blackwood, Thomas Perry, Russell

Blake or Robin Burcell. The 11th Bell novel, THE TITANIC SECRET, will be published by Putnam this September. He was 88.

Robert Dugoni Wins Spotted Owl

Friends of Mystery, a mystery fan club based in Portland, Oregon, has announced that Robert Dugoni won the 2020 Spotted Owl Award for THE EIGHTH SISTER as the "best mystery written by an author whose primary residence is in the Pacific Northwest." The winning novel is his first novel featuring Charles Jenkins, a former CIA case officer. This is Dugoni's second Spotted Owl Award win, following THE 7TH CANON, a stand-alone.

Walter Satterthwait Dies

Walter Satterthwait died on February 25 of complications from COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and congestive heart failure in a nursing home near Seattle, Washington. The Pennsylvania-born ex-bartender made his writer debut with COCAINE BLUES, an adventure novel about a drug dealer on the run. WALL OF GLASS, a Shamus award nominee, was the first novel introducing Joshua Croft, a private investigator working under his boss Rita Mondragon in Santa Fe. The Croft series ended with the fifth novel, ACCUSTOMED TO THE DARK. In 1989, he also penned MISS LIZZIE, featuring Lizzie Borden three decades after her acquittal of the double-murder of her father and stepmother. Lizzie also stars in NEW YORK NOCTURNE. Another historical series of his features Pinkerton agents Phill Beaumont and Jane Turner, starting with ESCAPADE, an Agatha award nominee, and ending with the third novel, CAVALCADE. His historical novel, DEAD HORSE, was a standalone about mystery writer Raoul Whitfield's mysterious and interesting later life. He was 73.

Several media services are offering a month of free streaming.:

Acorn.tv CBS All Access Hulu
Sling TV Sundance Now and
BritBox.

Go to mysteryscenemag.com for details