



ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER – SISTERS IN CRIME

# THE NOOSELETTER

Volume XII, Number 2 — March/April 2018

## †The President's Corner†

Hello, Mystery Lovers:

I can't believe it's already March! I'm still way back about mid 2017, and I feel like I've been sucked into a time warp. So what else is new?

I can tell you Croak & Dagger has been a busy bunch of people. Last fall a select few of us were able to visit the local office of the FBI. We spent a very happy couple of hours learning from the experts stuff we can either use in writing our mysteries or enhance our reading of them. Our very busy Janet Greger has also arranged that we tour the Albuquerque Police Department's Forensic Lab this coming week. That will also add to our knowledge and enjoyment of mysteries.

The next "Really Big Thing" is our all-day conference featuring our Sisters in Crime provided speaker, Jan Burke (see page 5). Ms. Burke is the Edgar Award winning author of a whole string of mystery novels. The majority of them are the Irene Kelly series, about a journalist who manages to get herself involved in some pretty dangerous situations. This all happens on Saturday, May 17, at the Unitarian Church here in Albuquerque.

This conference is called "Evidently," and everyone is invited to attend. There is an impressive list of speakers also appearing that day so check it out (page 4). The church is located at the southwest corner of Carlisle and

Candelaria. More information and details are available here in the Nooseletter (and soon on our website), so keep reading.

Croak & Dagger members' books are still being featured at libraries in Albuquerque and surrounding communities. Many thanks to Ann Zeigler, Janet Greger, Joan Saberhagen, and Gloria Casale for all the work they've done keeping this traveling display going. Some others have helped along the way, and thanks to them too!

I hope to see everyone at our March 27 meeting. Daylight Saving Time will be upon us by then, so at least you can arrive there in daylight!

*Pat Wood*  
*President & Membership Chair*

### **Don't Miss It!** **Tuesday, March 27, at 7 p.m.**

Our March speaker will be writer and C&D member Babs Langner talking about her new mystery, *The Chocolate Murder*.

Babs received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Nebraska, where she was on the staff of the college newspaper. She intended to make journalism her career, but became a teacher instead. She taught English Lit at Highland High in Albuquerque for many years and now enjoys writing mysteries, a genre she's loved since childhood.

**Coming up:  
Tuesday, April 24, at 7 p.m.**

Our April speaker will be our own **Charlene Bell Dietz**, talking about her "Flapper" mystery series; her first book, *The Flapper, The Scientist, and The Saboteur*, won the 2016 NM-AZ First Book Award; the latest is *The Flapper, The Imposter, and The Stalker*.

Born and raised in the Rocky Mountains, Charlene now lives a few miles from Torreon. She traveled the U.S. as an educational consultant after she retired as a school administrator and years of teaching. Her writing includes published articles, children's stories, and award-winning short stories.



Sisters in Crime was founded in 1986.

*The mission of Sisters in Crime shall be "to promote the ongoing advancement, recognition, and professional development of women crime writers."*

*And our motto is: "SinC up with great crime writing!"*



Sisters in Crime **Guppies**

SinC Guppies is an online writer's support group. Guppies come from across the United States and Canada. They have different occupations and avocations, but they share a passion for writing mysteries and a common goal of getting published.

The Mystery Analysis Group is a book discussion group aimed at discussing the craft. For more information, go to [www.sinc-guppies.org](http://www.sinc-guppies.org).

Check out the Croak & Dagger Website ([www.croak-and-dagger.com](http://www.croak-and-dagger.com)) for all your Croak & Dagger information needs:

- Upcoming Programs
- Meeting Schedule
- Membership Form
- Speakers Bureau
- Links to Mystery Websites & Websites for Your Favorite Croak & Dagger Authors
- *The Nooseletter* Archive

REMEMBER: All the above provide opportunities for free publicity for members. Contact our website maven, Susan Zates (address below) for more information or with an idea for a blog article. Get your name out there wherever you can!

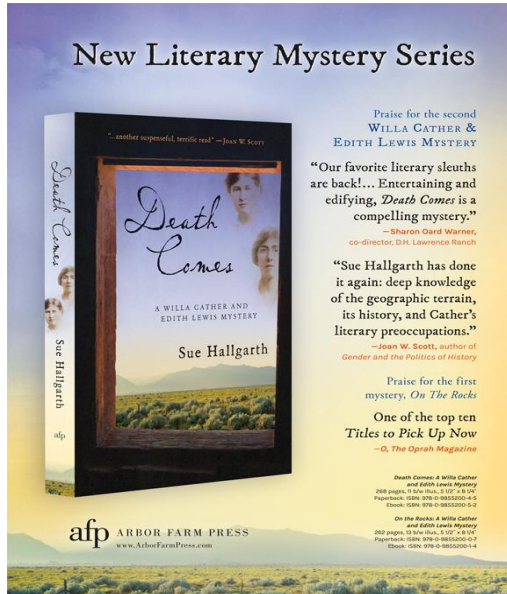
AND: All members are invited to join the Croak & Dagger Yahoo group, an online gathering place for mystery writers. Join in! Log on to C&D's web page ([www.croak-and-dagger.com](http://www.croak-and-dagger.com)) and click on the link to moderator Nancy Varian for instructions. Exchange news and information about mystery books, movies, etc., as well as online courses.

### **The Line Up**

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## Noose News

**New Literary Mystery by Sue Hallgarth**  
C&D member Sue Hallgarth's new mystery novel, *Death Comes*, is now on Amazon.



The series started with *On the Rocks: A Willa Cather and Edith Lewis Mystery*. Sue is a Willa Cather and Edith Lewis scholar. A former faculty member and administrator at Empire State College/State University of New York and William Woods University, she held a fellowship (1994-1995) from the American Council of Learned Societies to work on a biography of Willa Cather, and she was a visiting fellow at Princeton University and Rutgers University.

Since moving to New Mexico in 1997, she has lived on an acre in Corrales with her partner of 30 years; their household includes two horses, a miniature donkey, ten chickens, and five dogs. Check out Sue's website at [www.suehallgarth.com](http://www.suehallgarth.com).

### C&D Members!

Your *Nooseletter* wants to hear news of your latest releases, good news of any kind, and all about that terrific mystery you just read. Email news and reviews to the address on page 2.

You are invited to participate in the **12th Annual Authors for Literacy Event** sponsored by the Moriarty Community Library and the Read "Write" Adult Literacy Program, taking place Saturday, April 28, from 9 to 4, at the Moriarty Civic Center, 202 S. Broadway, Moriarty, NM 87035.

Booth space for participating authors to sign and sell their books is \$10, with proceeds to benefit the Read "Write" Adult Literacy Program. Continental breakfast is provided; lunch is available on site at your own expense.

As in the past, the objectives of the event include raising awareness of adult literacy-related issues in New Mexico, recruiting volunteer tutors for the Read "Write" Adult Literacy Program, and providing an opportunity for the community to meet some of New Mexico's authors.

To sign up, or for additional information, please call 505-832-2513 or e-mail [moriartyauthorsevent@gmail.com](mailto:moriartyauthorsevent@gmail.com).

**The Great C&D Library Adventure** makes stops at not one, but two city libraries in March, thanks tireless promotion and organization by Ann Ziegler and her band of elves. Having just departed the Erna Ferguson branch (photo below), our traveling display moves on to the Juan Tabo and North Valley branches. At North Valley, it will share space with Rudolfo Anaya, no less. The branch is celebrating Anaya's birthday this month, and will soon change its name in honor of the celebrated Chicano author.





# EVIDENTLY



## AN ALL-DAY WRITERS' WORKSHOP WITH JAN BURKE

Croak and Dagger, the Albuquerque chapter of Sisters in Crime, will host a writers' workshop on May 19 with a special focus on evidence. So many details of investigation, evidence collection, and lab work are wrong on television shows. We'll show you what's right.

Saturday, May 19, 2018 — \$50 All Day  
@ First Unitarian Church, Carlisle & Comanche  
\$10 discount for Sisters in Crime members  
\$10 discount for registrations before 1 April  
\$5 discount if you do not want the box lunch  
\$10 surcharge for registrations after May 14 (and at the door)

### KEYNOTE/FEATURED SPEAKER – JAN BURKE

#### Planned Sessions Include:

Forensics and Physical Evidence	Reality Check
Headed to the Courtroom	Poisons: Do it. Spot it.
Professional Protagonist	Exoneration & Rehabilitation
Amateur Protagonist	Master Criminal & Detective

#### Planned Speakers/Panelists also Include:

Anne Hillerman	Joe Badal
David Morrell	John Trestrail
John Duran, DA	Rob Kresge
Katherine Rosoff, APD analyst	

**For more information and to register, go to: [www.Croak-and-Dagger.com](http://www.Croak-and-Dagger.com)**

Or mail your name, address, phone and email contacts, box  
lunch preference, and check to:  
Croak and Dagger

P.O. Box 92483; Albuquerque, NM 87199-2483

*Box lunch sandwich choices: Roast Beef, Turkey, Vegan  
(special requests will be considered)*



# Jan Burke to Visit the Duke City!

Jan Burke is a critically acclaimed and national bestselling author of fourteen books—twelve of crime fiction, a supernatural thriller, and a collection of short stories. She won one of crime fiction's top honors, the Edgar® Award for Best Novel, for *Bones*.

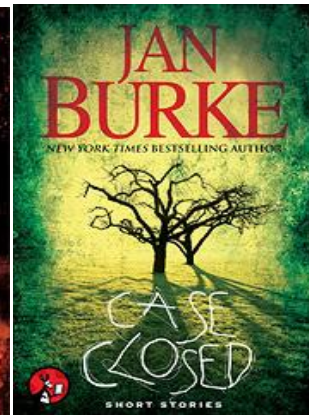
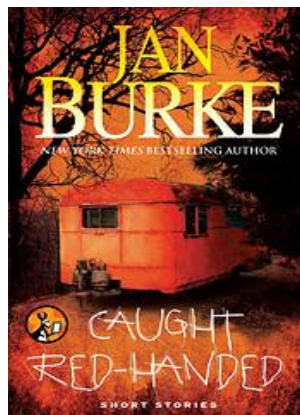
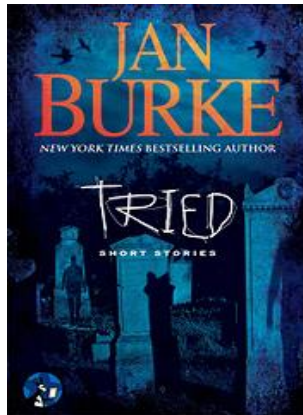
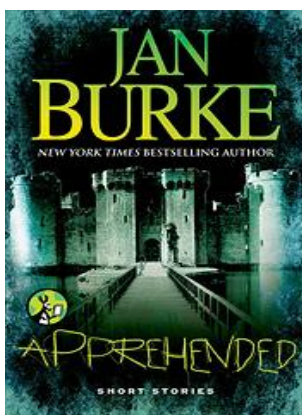
Jan was born in Texas, but has lived in Southern California most of her life, often in coastal cities—several of which combine to make up fictional Las Piernas, where her series character, reporter Irene Kelly, works and lives. She attended California State University, Long Beach, and graduated with a degree in history.

She wrote her first book, *Goodnight, Irene*, in evenings after work and submitted it unsolicited to Simon & Schuster, which published it in 1993. This distinguished house has published her novels since that time.

Her short stories have appeared in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*, and numerous anthologies and other magazines. Her books and stories have garnered Edgar, Agatha, Macavity, EQMM Readers and RT Booklovers awards, and nominations for the Anthony, Barry, Nero, and other awards.

Her books and stories have been published in many languages and have been optioned for film and television. Her novels have appeared on the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestseller lists. She is the cohost, with D.P. Lyle, of *Crime and Science Radio*.

For a more detailed biography, visit Jan's [Press Kit](#) and choose the long version.



# ***Four Rules of Writing Cops: How to Avoid the WRIAMY Pile***

*by Lee Lofland, reprinted with permission of the author*

Have you done the unthinkable? Are there words in your latest tale that could send your book straight to someone's "Wouldn't Read In a Million Years" (WRIAMY) pile? How can you avoid such disaster? you ask. Fortunately, following these four simple rules could save the day:

1. **Use caution** when writing cop slang. What you hear on TV may not be the language used by real police officers. And what is proper terminology and/or slang in one area may be totally unheard of in another. A great example are the slang terms Vic (Victim), Wit (Witness), and Perp (Perpetrator). These shortened words are NOT universally spoken by all cops. In fact, I think I'm fairly safe in saying the use of these is not typical across the U.S., if at all.

2. **Simply because** a law enforcement officer wears a shiny star-shaped badge and drives a car bearing a "Sheriff" logo does not mean they are all "sheriffs." Please, please, please stop writing this in your stories. A sheriff is an elected official who is in charge of the department, and there's only one per sheriff's office. The head honcho. The Boss. All others working there are appointed by the sheriff to assist him/her with their duties. Those appointees are called DEPUTY SHERIFFS. Therefore, unless the boss himself shows up at your door to serve you with a jury summons, which is highly unlikely unless you live in a county populated by only three residents, two dogs, and a mule, the LEO's you see driving around your county are deputies. *Andy was the sheriff (the boss) and Barney was his deputy.*

3. **The rogue detective** who's pulled from a case yet sets out on his own to solve it anyway. I know, it sounds cool, but it's highly unlikely that an already overworked detective would drop all other cases (and there are many) to embark on some bizarre singlehanded quest to take down the infamous serial killer/cannibal I.B. Cookinpl.

Believe me, most investigators would gladly lighten their case loads by one or more. Besides, to disobey orders from a superior officer is an excellent means of landing a fun assignment (back in uniform on the graveyard shift ) directing traffic at the intersection of Dumbass and Mistake.

4. **Those of you who've written scenes where a cocky FBI agent** speeds into town to tell the local chief or sheriff to step aside because she's taking over the murder case du jour...well, get out the bottle of white-out because it doesn't happen. The same for those scenes where the FBI agent forces the sheriff out of his office so she can set up shop. No. No. And No. The agent would quickly find herself being escorted back to her guvment vehicle.

The FBI does not investigate local murder cases. I'll say that again. The FBI does not investigate local murder cases. And, in case you misunderstood ... *the FBI does not investigate local murder cases.* Nor do they have the authority to order a sheriff or chief out of their offices (in case you can't see me right now, I'm giving a big roll of my eyes).

## ***Believable Make-Believe***

Okay, I understand you're writing fiction, which means you get to make up stuff. And that's cool. However, the stuff you make up must be believable. Not necessarily fact, just believable. Write it so

your readers can suspend reality, even if only for a short time. Your fans want to trust you, and they'll go out of their way to give you the benefit of the doubt. Really, they will. But for goodness' sake, give them something to work with—without an info dump, give readers a reason to believe/understand what they've just seen on your pages. A tiny morsel of believability goes a long way.

But if you're going for realism, then please do some real homework. I say this because I recently began reading a book and I'd barely made it halfway through the first chapter when I tossed it into my WRIAMY pile. This was an ARC a publisher sent me to review, by the way.

It was obvious the author was going for realism, and it was also painfully obvious that the writer's method of research was a couple of quick visits to the internet and maybe a viewing of one or two of the old Police Academy (comedy) movies.

So, is there a WRIAMY pile in your house? Worse ... have you written something that could land one of your tales in someone's "Wouldn't Read In a Million Years" pile of unreadable books? If so, perhaps it's time to change your research methods.

A great means to assist in adding realism to your work is to, of course, attend the Writers' Police Academy! Registration for the 2018 WPA, our 10th anniversary blowout, opens on February 18, 2018. You will not want to miss this thrilling experience. It is THE event of the year!

*Lee Lofland is the author of the Writer's Digest bestselling book Police Procedure and Investigation, a Macavity Award nominee for best non-fiction mystery. Lee is a former police detective and nationally acclaimed expert on police procedure and crime-scene investigation. He is the founder and host of the annual Writers' Police Academy, of which Sisters in Crime is a major sponsor.*

*For more valuable tips, go to: <https://www.leelofland.com/incorrect-cop-stuff-found-books>.*

## **The 2018 Writers' Police Academy is THE event of the year!**

The 10th annual Writers' Police Academy offers an exciting and heart-pounding interactive and educational hands-on experience for writers to enhance their understanding of all aspects of law enforcement, firefighting, EMS, and forensics. This is our 10th anniversary so expect the largest and most thrilling event we've produced to date. The lineup is unbelievable!

### **When:**

August 9-12, 2018

### **Where:**

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College  
International Public Safety Training Academy  
Green Bay, Wisconsin

*As always, there's far too much to see and do in a single weekend, so get plenty of rest, wear comfortable shoes, and prepare to be blown away by **THE** event of a lifetime!*

*For more information, go to: <http://www.writerspoliceacademy.com/conference/>*

# Reviews

## Rob's Random Shots

**Carl Hiaasen** is a best-selling author who focuses on Florida crime and who is right behind Lee Childs' Jack Reacher series in terms of sales and devoted fans. Hiaasen was lauded by iconic New Mexico mystery author Tony Hillerman as "the Mark Twain of the crime novel."

Never heard of him? Here are short synopses of some of Hiaasen's novels I've read recently. He doesn't use the same protagonists every time, but many have been in more than one book. He even has a fictional former governor of Florida make unexpected appearances. The Gov goes by the name of Sking now and lives off the land in the Florida everglades. Is Hiaasen's work this weird? You have no idea.

*Native Tongue, Vision*, 2004, 481 pp (PB)

Two bumbling crooks steal a couple of really rare imported rodents and try to sell them to an owner of a second-rate Florida theme park. Through negligence, a talented killer whale dies in the theme park's swimming pool. How can the owner dispose of the corpse, and can he use the rare rodents to replace the whale as the park's number-one attraction?

Absurd, yes? We find out that the owner is a sleazy former criminal who fled to Florida after ratting out his boss, who has had inept killers looking for him for years. Bad publicity for the former Mafioso. For readers, trademark Hiaasen hilarity ensues. ♦

*Skinny Dip, Vintage Crime, Black Lizard Reprint edition*, 2016, 480 pp (PB)

Chaz Perrone doctors water samples so his client, an agribusiness tycoon, can continue dumping fertilizer into the Everglades. When Chaz suspects his wife Joey has figured out his scam, he arranges to take her on an overnight large ship cruise and surreptitiously pushes her overboard.

He never knew Joey was a standout swimmer in college. She manages to stay afloat by clinging to a floating bale of marijuana probably dumped by pot smugglers. She is rescued by loner and self-appointed protector of Florida Mick Stranahan (a character Hiaasen uses in other novels). Mick convinces Joey to continue to play missing, then appear as a ghost as the duo screw with Chaz's mind until he screws himself with his Mafia-linked patron. ♦

*Razor Girl, Vintage Crime, Black Lizard Reprint edition*, 2017, 400 pp (PB)

This is the most recent Hiaasen novel I've read and it features another Stranahan appearance. Characters include a runaway sleazebag patriarch from a "reality show" called Bayou Brothers and an array of Floridians often working at cross purposes, including a fired cop who'd like to get back on the force, a Mafioso trying to retrieve his bimbo fiancée's engagement ring, two giant Sumatran pouched rats who make unfortunate forays into local restaurants, another young woman whom Stranahan rescues, and a seven-foot albino hit man who has a weed whacker in place of a severed left hand (yes, you read that right). ♦

—Rob Kresge ([rkresge777@comcast.net](mailto:rkresge777@comcast.net))

### Key:

PB = Mass Market Paperback

TP = Trade paperback

HC = Hardcover

Note: Editions likely to be available at the library or your local used-book emporium are given. Most titles also available as e-books.

*The Pact* by Jodi Picoult. Avon, 1998, 496 pp (PB).

Don't be put off by the subtitle on the cover that tells you this is "a love story." It is, but only secondarily (or even third- or fourth-ly). It's a suspense story involving a killing.

The suspense lies in whether Chris murdered his girlfriend Emily or she committed suicide, with or without Chris's help, and why both did what they did. This is not a spoiler, by the way: the gun goes off in the first paragraph.



Chris and Emily were the children of two couples who lived across the street from each other for years and shared their lives. Their children were born mere months apart, and both families watched them grow up and become like brother and sister, then best friends, then lovers. Everyone expected Chris and Emily to get married one day.

But then Emily dies and Chris is arrested for her murder. The Hartes and the Golds, no surprise, have a falling out. No one knows who to blame, or even for what. The author unravels the truth in masterful fashion, feeding the reader just enough new insight in each chapter to keep you glued to the pages.

I found the really amazing part of the story to be the way Picoult conveys a real sense of what the characters are feeling, particularly poor Chris, who's confined to jail for months before his trial. This is definitely not what he's used to, and the way he changes in confinement is harrowing but believable. I never quite got Emily's motivation, but overall the characterization is even better than the plot of *The Pact*. ♦

—Linda Triegel ([ljt23@earthlink.net](mailto:ljt23@earthlink.net))

***The Gray and Guilty Sea*** by Scott William Carter. Flying Raven Press, 2011, 268 pp (PB).

This is the first in the Garrison Gage mystery series set on the Oregon coast. Gage is an ex-private investigator who escaped to the other side of the country after his wife was brutally murdered in New York and Gage himself beaten badly enough that he still limps painfully.

Trying to forget the past, he escapes into his ocean-side bungalow, crossword puzzles, and misanthropy. But when he finds a young woman's body washed up on the beach, his conscience won't let him forget her either, and he's drawn back into his old job to solve the girl's murder.

There are a number of colorful characters living in Barnacle Bluffs, even apart from Gage, and they won't let him sink into self-recrimination and isolation. Carmen, the local newspaper editor, takes a shine to him (which he reluctantly reciprocates). He's roped into

looking after the teenaged Zoe when her grandmother, his former housekeeper and neighbor, makes him promise he will on her deathbed. His best pal Alex, bookstore-owner and ex-FBI agent, helps him analyze clues in the case and won't let him give it up.

The plot moves along nicely, but almost the best part of the story is the atmosphere. The Pacific coast is so sensually described that you can almost feel the fog and the rocky shore. A good read. ♦

—Linda Triegel ([ljt23@earthlink.net](mailto:ljt23@earthlink.net))

**Series mysteries:**

**All reviews by Susan Zates**

**NOTE:** Print publisher noted; most also available (and/or read by the reviewer) in e-format.

***Aunt Dimity and the Duke*** by Nancy Atherton. Penguin, 1995, 304 p (PB)  
(Second book of the Aunt Dimity mystery series, set primarily in late 20th century England)

This book introduces a new protagonist, Emma Porter. An amateur gardener, Emma escapes a failed long-term relationship with a trip to England, to enjoy a summer tour of English gardens. She accepts a summer job offer to restore a garden at Penford Hall in Cornwall in time for a big celebration.

Grayson Alexander, duke of Penford Hall, is restoring its former glory, remembered from his boyhood. He's searching for the lantern that is part of a ten-year legend. As Emma learns the history of Penford Hall, she becomes uneasy about the influx of wealth enabling the restoration that coincided with a suspicious death.

Widower Derek Harris works long hours on carpentry and construction jobs, to distract himself from his grief and provide for his son and daughter, Peter and Nell. All three look forward to the summer, when Derek will be working in Cornwall to restore Penford Hall, and they can get away from their sad life in Oxford.

Working together at Penford Hall, Emma and Derek become fast friends. Together they solve the mystery of what happened at the Hall.

A sweet and romantic mystery with gentle touches of the supernatural (not only Aunt Dimity, but also the Cornish legend). ♦

***Blacklist*** by Sara Paretsky. Berkley Reprint edition, 2004, 480 p (PB)  
(Book 11 of the V.I. Warshawski mystery series set in Chicago in 2002)

In the wake of 9/11, the US was in a major witch hunt for terrorists. Private eye V.I. takes a case from an attorney client whose mother insists there are intruders at night in an empty mansion in a wealthy suburb. Staked out on the property in the dark, V.I. chases an intruder, falls into a pond, and discovers a dead body, that of a black reporter who was tracking events from 1950's anti-Communist days.

The police in the wealthy suburb don't care about the death of a black man; they are concerned with finding a teenage Arab dishwasher, who they are certain is a terrorist.

V.I. can't stand to see a crime going unpunished, so she begins to investigate what the reporter was tracking, a plot device to introduce the usual soapbox rant on social injustice: the wealthy are treated much differently than working people by the police (get away with crimes); talented black artists and writers are discriminated against by white racists; the Red Scare ruined the lives of anyone suspected of Communist affiliation or sympathy; the modern-day War on Terror has a parallel effect on Arabs living in the US.

V.I. has many adventures, breaks laws, aids the suspected terrorist, confronts the wealthy families hiding their past secrets, evades police and the FBI. It's a long, long book, with many subplots. ♦

***A Dark and Stormy Night*** by Jeanne M. Dams. Severn House Reprint edition, 2011, 192 p (HC)  
(The 10th book of the Dorothy Martin mystery series set in late 20th century England)

Dorothy and her husband attend a country house weekend party that goes tragically wrong. A record-breaking storm wreaks havoc and

strands the guests. As they attempt to clear away fallen trees so they can leave, they uncover a skeleton.

From other guests and the servants, Dorothy learns a great deal about the history of the immediate area, including the history of the family that lived in Branston Abbey for a century. When another crime occurs, clearly she has learned too much and uncovered too many secrets for safety.

Since they are still stranded, the killer must be one of them. Dorothy's intuition leads her to the culprit, despite the lack of hard evidence. A gentle and leisurely read, the violence all occurring off-stage. ♦

***Three Can Keep a Secret*** by Judy Clemens. Poisoned Pen Press, 2005, 244 p (HC)  
(Book 2 of the Stella Crown mystery series set in contemporary Pennsylvania farming country)

When Stella hires a new farmhand, a widow with a young daughter, troubles begin. Strangers spray nasty graffiti on her barn, Social Services comes to check if the daughter has a proper environment, and Stella gets an anonymous phone call suggesting the widow killed her husband. Stella really likes the woman and wants to give her the benefit of the doubt, but since her farm business is at stake, she needs to investigate Lucy's past to know the truth.

Stella's Harley-Davidson is in the shop for repair. Shop owner Lenny, a good friend, begins acting strangely, clearly haunted by a terrible secret. He refuses to tell, but introduces her to a good friend from his past, who sells motorcycle parts. When both Lenny and his partner are attacked, Stella is compelled to investigate long-ago events.

Stella's very dear friend Abe wants to move their close relationship into romance and marriage.

As if all that isn't enough to deal with...a tornado hits.

As in the first book, Stella is repeatedly hit hard with misfortune, until she ferrets out the truth to resolve all the mysteries. A bit farfetched (once again) that so much could happen nonstop to one person, but enjoyable reading nonetheless. ♦

## AGATHA AWARD NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

The Agatha Awards, named in honor of Agatha Christie, are nominated and voted on by Malice Domestic fans. The Agatha Awards honor the traditional mystery — books best typified by the works of Agatha Christie. The 2017 Awards are given in 2018 for books published in 2017. Catch up on your reading now!

### 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



### Best Short Story

“Double Deck the Halls” by Gretchen Archer  
“Whose Wine is it Anyway” by Barb Goffman  
“The Night They Burned Miss Dixie’s Place” by Debra Goldstein  
“The Library Ghost of Tanglewood Inn” by Gigi Pandian  
“A Necessary Ingredient” by Art Taylor

### Best Nonfiction

*From Holmes to Sherlock: The Story of the Men and Women Who Created an Icon* by Mattias Boström  
*The Story of Classic Crime in 100 Books* by Martin Edwards  
*American Fire: Love, Arson and Life in a Vanishing Land* by Monica Hesse  
*Rewrite Your Life: Discover Your Truth Through the Healing Power of Fiction* by Jessica Lourey  
*Manderley Forever: A Biography of Daphne du Maurier* by Tatiana de Rosnay

### Best Children’s/Young Adult

*City of Angels* by Kristi Belcamino  
*Sydney Mackenzie Knocks ‘Em Dead* by Cindy Callaghan  
*The World’s Greatest Detective* by Caroline Carlson  
*Audacity Jones Steals the Show* by Kirby Larson  
*The Harlem Charade* by Natasha Tarpley

## 2018 MEETING DATES

Tuesday, March 27, 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 24, 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday, May 19:  
Tuesday, May 22, 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, June 26, 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, July 24, 7:00 p.m.

### Meetings are free to the public.

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held every fourth Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m., at the North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center at 7521 Carmel Avenue NE, north of Paseo del Norte and west of Wyoming. Check our Web site, [www.croak-and-dagger.com](http://www.croak-and-dagger.com), for schedule changes and upcoming programs.

### Summary of Findings

The *Nooseletter* is the internal organ of the Croak & Dagger (Albuquerque) chapter of Sisters in Crime (SinC). Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and editors. ♦

## †Nooseletter Submissions†

*Croak & Dagger* friends are encouraged to contribute articles, reviews, and essays on aspects of mystery writing *and* reading for publication consideration. Information on relevant conferences or events is also welcome. Especially let us know if you have published a new book or story, or have an upcoming local author event. (Unbridled enthusiasm for your own mystery book is encouraged here.)

**Length:** Articles should average 500 words, but short items and ideas for sources are also welcome.

**Deadlines:** Publication is every other month, starting in January. Submission deadlines are the last day of the month *prior* to publication: Feb 28, April 30, June 30, Aug 31, Oct 31, and Dec 31.

**The Living and the Dead:** As a general policy, articles and information should focus on living authors rather than dead ones, but that's not set in concrete shoes. Articles about specific historical development of the crime-mystery writing genre, for example, would be welcome.

**Submissions:** Please submit via e-mail to [newsette@earthlink.net](mailto:newsette@earthlink.net), with "Nooseletter" in the subject line. The *Nooseletter* is distributed to all members electronically. ♦

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## *Still not a member of Sisters in Crime?*

\$20/year brings mystery to your life! The Albuquerque *Croak & Dagger* chapter welcomes mystery fans who want to enjoy felonious fun, absolutely criminal companionship, and sensational speakers.

Benefits of membership in the *Croak & Dagger* chapter include a subscription to our *Nooseletter*, close contact with local mystery writers, and fun events with other mystery fans. Come hear our next program speaker and meet the gang. We promise to bring mayhem and murder into your life!

*Croak & Dagger* members must also be members of the national organization of Sisters in Crime. For information on joining SinC, go to <http://www.sistersincrime.org>. For information about your local chapter, contact our membership chair at [pwood73@comcast.net](mailto:pwood73@comcast.net)