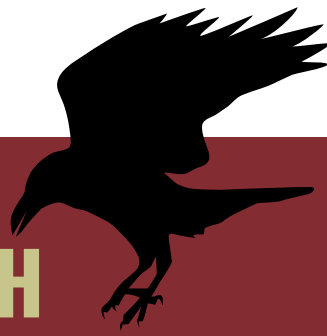


APRIL 2025

THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



Los Angeles Times Festival of Books

SoCalMWA Booth Sign-Ups

The *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books is coming up, and there are still time slots available to sign your books at SoCalMWA's booth (#363). Here are the remaining time slots:

Saturday, April 26

- 11–Noon (1 available)
- 12–1 p.m. (2 available)
- 2–3 p.m. (2 available)
- 3–4 p.m. (2 available)
- 4–5 p.m. (3 available)

Sunday, April 27

- 10–11 a.m. (2 available)
- 11–Noon (2 available)
- Noon–1 p.m. (2 available)
- 1–2 p.m. (1 available)
- 2–3 p.m. (1 available)
- 3–4 p.m. (3 available)
- 4–5 p.m. (3 available)

It's first come, first served, so choose your preferred spot now.

To sign up, contact Ona Russell at onarussell@gmail.com with the following information:

- Your desired time
- Your name
- Pen name (if applicable)
- Email address
- Current title (plus up to four backlist)
- ISBN #s
- Publisher
- Retail price

Note: Our bookseller sells consignment titles at 60/40% (60 for the author).

See you at the Festival!

What's inside

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A Shared Legacy

BY LESLIE S. KLINGER



My beloved wife Sharon died on March 6 after a long illness. I posted this news on my Facebook page, along with a picture of us together at the 2005 Edgar® banquet when I won for my *New Annotated Sherlock Holmes: The Complete Short Stories*. This was the only time she attended, but her presence symbolized our partnership.

Honestly, I'm here today at the helm of the Chapter because of her. In 1989, when we married, she got two unexpected gifts. The first was the addition of my two children to her family of three children; the second was a few thousand books! Then, in 1995, when (one too many times) I asked her what plans we had for the weekend, she said, "You know, you have all those books on Sherlock Holmes—why don't you go write something?" I followed her command and commenced writing amateur scholarship about Holmes. The first book of my work appeared in 1998, and, with Sharon's encouragement, I joined MWA in 1999.

In 2002, my work led to W. W. Norton reaching out to me to edit what would become the three-volume *New Annotated Sherlock Holmes*. Sharon was thrilled for me and convinced me that I could do this despite the heavy load of my law practice. To help, she proofread each of the fifty-six stories and four novels with me, not only being of immense assistance but also coming to understand my love for those tales. After I finished the Holmes volumes, I realized how much I loved writing. It was Sharon who suggested my next book, *New Annotated Dracula*. More books followed, and she proofread all of them—even my Lovecraft volumes, which she found to be truly weird. She was proud of the legacy we were creating for our children. It's no accident that each and every one of my books has acknowledged her as "the woman," as Holmes had it.

As I became more involved in MWA, becoming Chapter President in 2007, she was delighted to meet many of our wonderful members. We hosted several Christmas dinners at our home for the Chapter Board and spouses. We had planned to do this again last year, but her declining health made that impossible.

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Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter

c/o Leslie S. Klinger
10866 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 1500
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Contact: info@socalmwa.com
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Daughter of Time

BY HOLLY WEST

At Left Coast Crime in Denver this year, I was supposed to moderate a panel on traditional mysteries. Unfortunately, I lost my voice the previous day and had to find a replacement early the next morning. Luckily, I met G.P. Gottlieb on the escalator, and because I was frantic, I told this total stranger that I needed to find a moderator—*and fast*. She kindly volunteered and, using my script, did a lovely job presenting the panel. I am grateful to her for that.

One of the questions I'd prepared was: "Which classic mystery do you wish you had written?" Honestly, it was kind of a throw-away—something to fall back on if I ran out of other questions. But G.P. asked the panelists, and two of them mentioned Josephine Tey's *Daughter of Time*.

In it, Inspector Alan Grant investigates the mystery of King Richard III and the Princes in the Tower during his recovery from an on-the-job injury. Since my consumption of traditional/classic mysteries has been woefully lacking, the title was new to me. But I've always found the story of the two Princes in the Tower intriguing, so I decided to give it a try.

It did not disappoint! It combines two things I love: crime fiction and British history—my first novel, *Mistress of Fortune*, is a fictional retelling of the unsolved murder of a 17th century English magistrate. I've always believed that Richard III murdered his poor nephews, but is that a myth? Read the book to find out!

As I told my husband (who is English), I can't wait to see a British history category on Jeopardy now. For once in my life, I might be able to run a category that isn't Pop Culture.

I want to thank Elle Jauffert for contributing a thoughtful essay this month on the importance of the mindful portrayal of accents and other "non-standard" ways of speaking in our work.

Holly

The March of Crime

The March of Crime is the newsletter of the Southern California Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America.

Editor: Holly West

Opinions expressed herein are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Mystery Writers of America Southern California Chapter.

Contact us at:
themarchofcrime@gmail.com

Join the SoCalMWA
Discussion Group

groups.io/g/MWA-SOCAL
(members only)

NATIONAL OFFICE
Mystery Writers of America
1140 Broadway #1507
New York, NY 10001
t. 212.888.8171
mwa@mysterywriters.org
<http://mysterywriters.org>

OVER THE TRANSOM



Lee Goldberg's novel *Hidden in Smoke*, the third in his "Sharpe & Walker" series and a cross-over with his "Eve Ronin" series, will be released April 22.



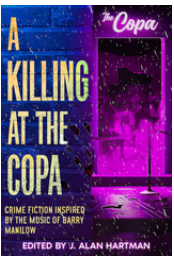
Perfect for fans of Jack Reacher and Joe Pickett, *Rockets' Red Glare* by Dick Lochte and William Webster is a fast-paced thriller that introduces Sage Mendiluze, a tribal lawman determined to stop a series of brutal murders in our national parks. C.J. Box praises its "Explosive nonstop action."



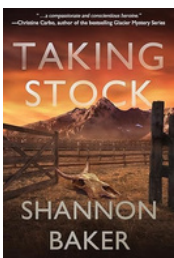
Topper Jones's second Thad Hanlon & Bri de la Guerra Mystery, *Oceano Beach Bedlam*, is now out in paperback and ebook. For an action-packed mystery with a dash of romance, [click here for links](#).



Dirty Deeds, the latest book in Linda Reid and Deborah Shlian's Sammy Greene thriller series, has just been released. Check out the five-star reviews at Akeso Press and [Amazon](#).



"A Connecticut Stalker," a new short story by Laurie Stevens, appears in the new anthology, *A Killing at the Copa* (White City Press) featuring crime fiction inspired by the songs of Barry Manilow. Fun stuff! Now available wherever books are sold.



Taking Stock, the next Kate Fox mystery by Shannon Baker, will release April 29 from Severn River Publishers. While acquiring Highland cattle at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Kate runs afoul of billionaires, gold diggers, and schemers.

Mark Bruce's story "Minerva James and the Wrath of Hera" will appear in the July-August issue of *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*. This is Minerva's fourth appearance in AHMM and her eleventh overall in magazines and anthologies.

Amnon Kabatchnik's *Murder in the West End: The Plays of Agatha Christie and Her Disciples* is a finalist in Reference for the Foreword Indie award.

SoCalMWA congratulates
Michael Connelly and Attica Locke for their
LA Times Book Prize nominations.

The 45th Annual *Los Angeles Times* Book Prizes
will take place on Friday, April 25, at 7 p.m.
at Bovard Auditorium.

[PURCHASE TICKETS](#)

APPEARANCES & EVENTS



Jeri Westerson will be at The Book Jewel Bookstore (6259 W 87th St., Westchester) talking about her King's Fool Mystery *Rebellious Grace* on Saturday, April 5, at 2 p.m. On April 19, at 1 p.m., she'll be at the Agoura Hills Library (29901 Ladyface Ct., Agoura Hills) for a Sisters in Crime event: "Four mystery authors chatting about their work." Jeri also has a [new blog](#) featuring interviews, articles, and guest posts. Published authors are encouraged to contact her for a guest post at jeriwesterson@gmail.com.



Patrick H. Moore, author of the Nick Crane PI series, will be live at the SoCalMWA booth at the *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 26. Patrick's Nick Crane thrillers, *27 Days* and *Rogues & Patriots*, will be on sale at the SoCalMWA booth.

Corey Lynn Fayman is offering to promote books by fellow SoCalMWA members in his newsletter, "The Sunburned Fedora." If you've got a book coming out (or one that recently came out), feel free to contact him at clf@coreylynnfayman.com or through his [website](#). Please include a 100-word description, book cover image, and buy link. Inclusion is free but not guaranteed. The deadline is the 10th of each month, and the offer is open through the end of the year. The newsletter goes out monthly to 7500+ subscribers.

In a blatant attempt to write off a fascinating experience under the guise of research, **Sheila Lowe** will be attending a séance with famed German physical medium Kai Muegge, who will be in Santa Barbara in early April. The event really will be background for her next *Beyond the Veil* book, *Lying in Bed*. Muegge is known for producing ectoplasm and apports from his eyes and other interesting locations.



Laurie Stevens will be discussing her novel, *The Return*, on April 19 at the Assistance League Author's Brunch, Woodland Hills, April 24 at the Brandeis National Committee Book & Author Event, Marina Del Rey, April 28 at Blue Mountain Bookstore, Laramie, WY, May 5 at the Rapid City Public Library, SD, and May 15 at the Great Falls Public Library, MT. Please check [Laurie's website](#) for details.

Terry Shames will be on a panel at the Anaheim Public Library Foundation Mystery Authors Luncheon on Sunday, April 6, with authors **Gary Phillips** and Adam Sikes, moderated by James Bartlett. Wednesday, April 30, at the MWA Edgar Week Symposium, Terry will be moderating a panel entitled "Do You Remember the First Time?" featuring authors Ash Clifton and Audrey Lee (Best First Novel nominees), Kai Lovelace and Anna Stolley Persky (Robert L. Fish Award nominees) and Alexis Stefanovich, (Best Paperback Nominee). Finally, at the Sacramento Book Festival, at the Shepard Garden Arts Center on Saturday, May 31, Terry will be on a "Thriller" panel from 10:50 –11:30 a.m.



Jamie Mason, Glen Erik Hamilton, and **Lee Goldberg** sign books at Left Coast Crime in Denver.



Georgia Jeffries and Anne Saller, owner of Book Carnival, celebrated the Orange County bookstore launch of *The Younger Girl* on March 23. At the *L.A. Times* Festival of Books, Georgia will be signing advance copies of her story, “Little Egypt”, in the anthology, *Made-in-LA, Volume 6: Hollywood Adjacent* (Resonant Earth Publishing, 7/1/25). Join her at Made-in-LA Booth 835 with other contributing authors. Georgia will also be signing copies of *The Younger Girl* at the MWA and SinC/LA booths.

IN MEMORIAM



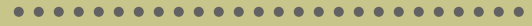
On February 28, 2025, acclaimed author Joseph Wambaugh passed away. He was known for transforming the police novel, bringing gritty realism and dark humor to works like *The Onion Field*, *The Choir Boys*, and *The Blue Knight*. Mr. Wambaugh is pictured here, circa 2007, with Dianne Emley, former SoCalMWA treasurer, in the SoCalMWA booth at the *LA Times* Festival of books.

A Shared Legacy continued from pg.2

That brings me to the point of all this: When a giant hole appeared in my life, it was family and friends who stepped in to fill it. I am very appreciative of all of the support from so many people. But I’ve also tried to stay true to Sharon’s mission for me. When, on the weekend after she died, the children were at the house, feeding me and helping me sort through what needed to be done, I realized that I had to finish a book that was due. I excused myself to spend the rest of the day wrapping up the project. I knew that’s what she would have wanted me to do.

That’s where MWA comes in. Not only does it encourage us to write—it gives us a foundation of friends and colleagues on which we can build. I hope that we can be there for you if the day comes that you need our support. In the meantime, give your loved ones a hug!

Les



Accents in Storytelling: a Reflection on Diversity and Representation

by Elle Jauffret

Close your eyes and try to remember the last time you heard an accent. What were the first assumptions that came to mind when you heard those accented phrases or words? Whatever you thought, your perception or judgment was likely shaped by both personal experience and the media.

Accents are used to establish a character in seconds. Think Gloria Pritchett’s passionate Columbian lilt in *Modern Family* or Kamala Nandiwadal’s Indian inflection in *Never Have I Ever*. Accents hint at a character’s background without the use of words or action scenes, reflecting society’s diversity. But accents aren’t simple tools to play with, as their portrayal leads to social categorization (the natural cognitive process by which we place individuals into social groups) and prompts conversations on authenticity, diversity, and stereotyping.

An intriguing phenomenon in the realm of speech patterns is Foreign Accent Syndrome (FAS), a rare speech disorder that causes a person to speak with an accent different from their native one. Their speech may sound as though it has an accent from a different region or even a foreign language. However, it is not an actual change in language but rather a distortion of speech patterns. This condition challenges our notion of linguistic identity and what it means to sound foreign or native.

Accents shape perceptions of intelligence and what it means to be American. Did you know that Americans speak roughly 30 major dialects of English and that there are more than 350 languages spoken in the United States? Consequently, the U.S. hosts a large number of accents, reflecting the country’s history and beautiful tapestry of cultures.

But, some accents, like the General American accent and the Queen’s English, have always had a superior status, gifting their speakers with assumed authority,

intellect, or prestige, while others suffer from opposite assumptions. This bias places individuals with “non-standard” accents under a microscope, their competence and presence being questioned. The concept of accent discrimination is an important matter that requires attention.

The same is true with speech disorders. Individuals with conditions like lisp, stutter, or dysarthria often face additional layers of judgment based on how they speak. Society attaches unfair assumptions about intelligence, capability, or even personality to those with speech impediments. It’s important to recognize that accents and speech impediments don’t easily disappear—they’re not something a person can simply choose to change or overcome through willpower alone. They are inherent aspects of one’s communication. This reality stresses the need for accurate and sensitive representation in our work, as it directly impacts the perceptions and treatment of individuals dealing with such challenges.

Research has shown that media representation of accents shape how we view the people who speak with them. When accents become punchlines or stereotypes, it’s not just harmless fun— such practice can fuel prejudice and keep harmful stereotypes alive. That is why storytellers need to handle accents with care and abandon the clichés in favor of authentic and nuanced representations.

Through our stories, we can challenge stereotypes, champion inclusivity, and celebrate the wonderful diversity of our world. By including characters with accents or speech disorders authentically and respectfully, we not only enrich our narratives but also contribute to a more compassionate and understanding society. ★



Elle Jauffret is a French-born American writer and former criminal attorney for the California Attorney General’s Office. Her debut novel, Threads of Deception, is a 2025 Agatha Award nominee.

CRIME CALENDAR



2025

April 25–27: Malice Domestic, Bethesda, MD

April 25–27: LA Times Festival of Books, Los Angeles

April 30: Edgar® Symposium, New York, NY

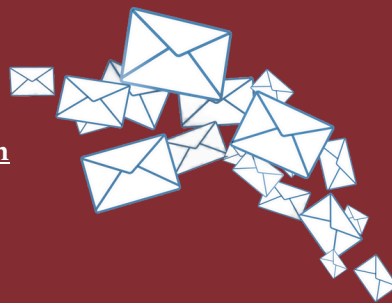
May 1: 79th Annual Edgar® Awards Banquet, New York, NY

May 14–18: Sleuthfest, St. Petersburg, FL

June 17–21: Thriller Fest XX, New York, NY

September 3–7: Bouchercon, New Orleans, LA

If you know of an event that belongs on the Crime Calendar, email themarchofcrime@gmail.com with the info.



THE LAST WORD



“So listen, Nick, listen to what happened next. Either I’m crazy or something weird is going on.”

Rogues & Patriots: A Nick Crane Thriller
by **Patrick H. Moore**