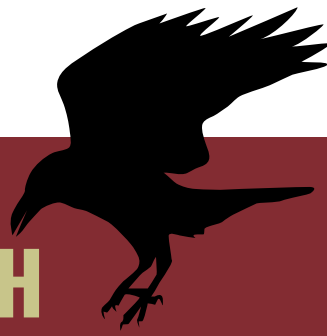


SEPTEMBER 2025

# THE MARCH OF CRIME

SoCalMWA's monthly newsletter.



## Author Reading Series

Thriller/Suspense

**An Evening with  
THRILLER/SUSPENSE  
AUTHORS**

The reader lineup will be announced soon!

**Thursday, Sept 25  
7-8:30 p.m.  
Crowdcast**

**Registration link  
coming soon**

SoCalMWA is pleased to continue our summer Author Reading series. In September we're featuring Thriller/Suspense writers (sign-ups already complete). We'll announce our lineup soon—in the meantime, save the date!

## What's inside

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## Inventing the Page

BY LESLIE S. KLINGER



Elsewhere in this issue, you'll find photos of our recent event, "Inventing the Page," a craft panel co-sponsored by SinCLA and held at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles on August 13. This was the second of what we hope will be an enduring series. Over 100 people attended, many not yet members of either chapter. The panelists were **Robert Crais**, Christopher Rice, and S. J. Rozan, moderated by Gregg Hurwitz.

In short, I thought it was the best panel on writing I've ever heard. The four writers are all friends, with a long shared history, and so the chemistry was palpable, the banter amusing. More importantly, there were some earnest conversations about the writer's life.

Bob Crais admitted that he's never satisfied with his writing. His publishers have to pry the manuscript from his hands, admonishing him that "we're going to print this now," to get him to stop rewriting. All of the others agreed: "The book is never done," said one of them. "If I could, I'd rewrite some of my earlier work." "Perfect is the enemy of the good" is a saying attributed to Voltaire, and these writers seemed to agree. Perfection is unattainable, and you have to move on. This is certainly encouraging for those of us whose writing is a long way from perfect!

Another interesting perspective was offered by Chris Rice, who told how being a writer had ruined his ability to enjoy a book or movie as others do. Instead, he finds himself always "working," thinking, "Well, that's an interesting choice that that director/writer made. I would have taken the story in a different direction." However, he admitted that this constant story analysis can also lead to ideas for his own work.

Someone else commented that the writer's life has turned them into a recorder. Each admitted that they are constantly taking notes on bits of conversation, random ideas, events, thoughts that may eventually appear in a book. This may be annoying, even scary, to their friends and associates, but it's a necessary evil for any writer.

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## This and That

BY HOLLY WEST

I have a few things:

1. Our search for a new *March of Crime* editor is over. I'll do an official introduction next month, but I wanted to express my gratitude to all of those who stepped up and volunteered. I had several great candidates, and with Les's help, we narrowed it down to one. Thank you all for your patience as we've completed this process.
2. If community was on my mind last month, it's *really* on my mind now. Bouchercon, the World Mystery Conference, is just around the corner, and I get to spend a week with some of my favorite people, nerding out about crime fiction. Almost done with my packing!
3. I want to thank Les for providing the write-up of the "Inventing the Page" event with **Robert Crais**, S.J. Rozan, Christopher Rice, and Gregg Hurwitz last month. An ailing pet prevented me from traveling to LA to see it, but I was very sorry to have missed it. Like last year's event (featuring Walter Mosley, Laurie R. King, **Michael Connelly**, and moderated by **Nicholas Meyer**) this year's panel gave attendees a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear legends of our genre talk about writing.

That's it from me this month. I look forward to seeing some of you this week in New Orleans!

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.

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<http://mysterywriters.org>



## Walter Mosley in Conversation with Steph Cha

Burbank Public Library

Easy Rawlins is back! Walter Mosley is launching his book tour in Burbank with a conversation alongside fellow L.A. crime fiction writer Steph Cha.



Meet the author for an evening celebrating his distinguished career and the release of *Gray Dawn*, the latest installment in the Easy Rawlins series. Copies will be available for purchase and signing, starting at 6 p.m.

**Tuesday, September 16**

**7–9 p.m.**

**Buena Vista Branch Library  
300 N. Buena Vista St., Burbank**

## Inventing the Page

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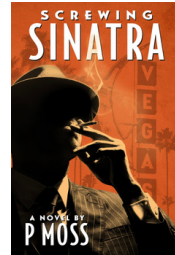
One of the most shocking revelations of the evening was Bob Crais's disclosure that he often writes chapters of his books out of order, as the scene comes to him. None of the writers admitted to outlining (except S. J. Rozan, who explained that on the books she's co-written with John Nee, he has created an outline—as might be expected from a writer with a strong background in comic books). All agreed that their stories are character-driven, not plot-driven—perhaps an astonishing confession from mystery writers!

This is, of course, far from a complete report on the evening. The conversation was over an hour long, followed by lively questioning (and of course, book sales—thanks to the stalwart Debbie Mitsch). We're very grateful that these amazing authors took the time to share their thoughts with us. Thanks, too, to the many volunteers from SinCLA, who handled ticket sales and the door, and especially to Nancy Cole Silverman, president of SinCLA, whose unstoppable enthusiasm for the series has kept us going!

Les



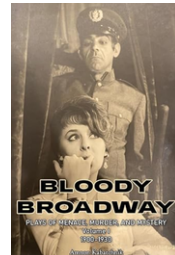
**Lisa Morton's** short story, "What We Found Beneath Mount Etna," appears in the new anthology *Scaring and Daring*, out now from [HarperCollins](#).



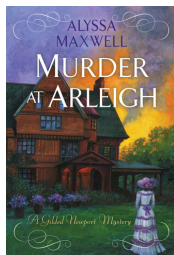
*Screwing Sinatra*, the latest alternate history crime thriller by **P Moss**, follows Frank, JFK and gangster Sam Giancana as they conspire to steal the 1960 presidential election.



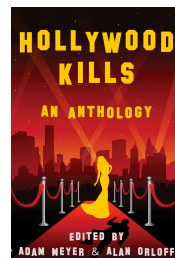
**Sheila Hansberger's** new novel, *Runaway Artist*, was released on August 31: Artist Brooke Arnelletta witnesses a stabbing behind the upscale gallery for which she interns and runs away to avoid discovery by the perpetrators. Will evil find her? [More info here.](#)



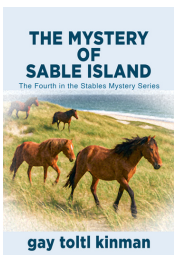
**Amnon Kabatchnik's** new book, *Bloody Broadway* Volume 1, covers plays of menace, murder, and mystery that premiered in New York City during the early decades of the twentieth century. Available now.



Reporter, sleuth, and new mother Emma Cross Andrews comes to the aid of a distraught wife who's convinced her husband is trying to kill her. *Murder at Arleigh*, by **Alyssa Maxwell**, A Gilded Newport Mystery #13. Available in hardcover, ebook, and audio.



**Gary Phillips** has a short story, "What Ned Said," in *Hollywood Kills: An Anthology*. (Level Best Books). Phillips based it on Grief Tech, a company that uses AI to generate avatars of deceased loved ones. The protagonist is having a beer with his recently departed mentor who mentions his accidental death was murder...and who did it.



In **Gay Toltl Kinman's** *The Mystery of Sable Island*, Doc Vet takes the three 11-year-olds to a horse breed exhibition. Brochures stolen from the venue show up at a magic show. Why? Available on Amazon.

**Patrick H. Moore's** *Rogues & Patriots* was selected a Judges' Top Pick in the thriller category for Killer Nashville's 2025 Silver Falchion Awards. Patrick's new Nick Crane PI thriller, *Giant Steps* will be published on September 29: Nick and his crew fight Marguerite Ferguson and her team of insidious far-right billionaires.

# APPEARANCES & EVENTS

**Ellen Byron** will be participating in many events at Bouchercon 2025, including: Cozies & Cocktails, Wednesday, September 3, at 6:30 p.m. She'll also be one of the Anthony nominees (for *A Very Woodsy Murder*) honored at the Anthony Mixer, which will take place on Friday, September 5, at noon.



**Georgia Jeffries** enjoys an August 16 summer signing of *The Younger Girl* at the Barnes & Noble Americana in Glendale.

**Jeri Westerson** will be at the Sun City Author Fair Saturday, September 27, 10 a.m.–3 p.m., in her own booth with books for sale under tents at the Sun City Library parking lot. She'll also give a fifteen-minute talk with giveaways. Sun City Library, 26982 Cherry Hills Blvd., Sun City, CA.

On August 20, Elise Hart Kipness and **Jon Lindstrom** appeared together at Virginia Highland Books in Atlanta, GA to celebrate Elise's third installment of her Kate Green series, *Close Call*. The night was capped with all copies of both *Close Call* and Jon's debut, *Hollywood Hustle*, selling out.



In July, **Elle Jauffret**, author of the Agatha Award finalist, *Threads of Deception*, appeared at Comic-Con International, where she appeared on panels and signed books. At Bouchercon, her debut will be introduced by **Michael Connelly** at the Debut Authors Breakfast. Her short fiction also appears in *Dread Coast: SoCal Horror Tales*, a charity anthology featuring twenty-four writers (including *NYT* bestseller **Jonathan Maberry**), benefiting victims of the LA area wildfires.



Back Row L–R: Gene Desrochers, Dennis K. Crosby, **Elle Jauffret**. Front Row L–R: Stacia Deutsch, **Matt Coyle**, **Gary Phillips**.

**Meredith Taylor** will appear on the "What's Old Can Be New: the Appeal of Historical Mysteries and Thrillers," panel at Bouchercon 2025 on Friday, September 5 at 9 a.m. with moderator Decca Price, and a panel also including Alistair Kimble, New Orleans historian Alecia P. Long, Sujata Massey and **Karen Odden**.

At Bouchercon 2025, **Jennifer J. Chow** will participate in the following events on Friday, September 5: Anthony Mixer (12 p.m.), the "It's All Fun and Games Until Someone Crimes! Why We Love Cozies" panel (4 p.m.), and the Underrepresented Authors Reception (1 p.m.). On Saturday, September 6, she'll be signing at the MWA booth at 1 p.m.

**Matt Coyle** will be at "Beer & Brats: 4 Mystery Authors Share their Secrets" with Deborah Holt Larkin, Carl Vonderau, and **Marjorie McCown** at Lightening Brewery in Poway on Thursday, Sept. 25 at 6:00 pm.



## Inventing the Page Photos

August 13, 2025



# CRIME CALENDAR



2025

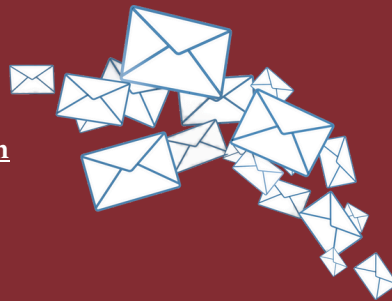
September 3–7: Bouchercon, New Orleans, LA

September 25: Author Readings—Thriller/Suspense

November 20: Author Readings—Noir, Crowdcast

*For events without links, save the dates, and we'll send details as soon as they're available.*

If you know of an event that belongs on the Crime Calendar, email [themarchofcrime@gmail.com](mailto:themarchofcrime@gmail.com) with the info.



# THE LAST WORD



“A detective in love is insufferable.”

*The Big Empty*

An Elvis Cole and Joe Pike Novel

by **Robert Crais**