

SCENE OF THE CRIME BOOKS

CASE FILE # 12

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AUTHOR SIGNINGS

Christmas with Vicki Delany

Saturday, November 26th

Scene of the Crime has invited its most popular author back, Oakville author Vicki Delany.

It will be our first evening author signing -

7 to 9 pm. It will be held the same night

as Bronte's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and all the stores in Bronte

are having a Christmas Open House.

Don't miss this chance to start your Christmas shopping early.

STORE HOURS

Monday - Closed

Tuesday - Closed

Wednesday 10 am to 6 pm

Thursday 10 am to 6 pm

Friday 10 am to 6 pm

Saturday 10 to 5 pm

Sunday 1 pm to 5 pm

NEW EVIDENCE:

CHARLES ATKINS: "THE CADAVER'S BALL"

All through medical school Ed, Peter and Beth have been the best of friends. At the Cadaver's Ball (the school's graduation celebration) Ed confidently asks Beth to marry him - only to find out that she has already said yes to Peter. Ed's life explodes. From that point on Ed's only goal is to make Beth realize that she made a mistake - until a pregnant Beth is killed in a car accident with Peter at the wheel. Now Ed wants to destroy Peter.

First edition, hardcover, published by Thomas Dunne Books. \$34.00

MICHAEL CONNELLY: "THE LINCOLN LAWYER"

Michael Connelly plunges into John Grisham territory and the book reviewers say that he does it very successfully. Mickey Heller is a Lincoln Lawyer, a criminal defense attorney who operates out of the back of his Lincoln town car - defending everyone from bikers to drunk drivers. A Beverly Hills playboy chooses Heller to defend him and just as Heller starts to think that this is an easy case someone close to him is murdered

Second edition, hardcover, published by Little Brown. \$37.00

ANNE PERRY: "THE CHRISTMAS GUEST"

This is the third novel in the Christmas series by Anne Perry. You might remember Mariah Ellison as the vinegar-tongued Grand Mama from the Charlotte and Thomas Pitt

series. When Charlotte and Thomas make plans to spend a Christmas vacation in Paris, Grand Mama is forced to spend Christmas in chilly, wind-swept Romney Marshes with Charlotte's parents, Caroline and Joshua Fielding. Soon after Grand Mama's arrival, Maude Barrington (Joshua's cousin) shows up to stay as well. But when Maude turns up lifeless in bed Grand Mama senses foul play and assumes the role of amateur detective. First edition, hardcover, published by Ballantine Books. \$24.00

LEMONY SNICKET: "THE PENULTIMATE PERIL"

This is the twelfth book in the Baudelaire orphans' series. It is what Lemony Snicket calls the next-to-last book in the series. It involves a harpoon gun, a roof-top sunbathing salon, two mysterious initials, three unidentified triplets, a notorious villain and an unsavory curry.

First edition, hardcover, published by HarperCollins. \$17.00

DUANE SWIERCZYNSKI: "THE WHEEL MAN"

Fans of Richard Stark Beware - this book will be calling to you. Lennon is a mute Irish getaway driver who has fallen in with the wrong heist team on the wrong day at the wrong bank. Betrayed, his money stolen and his battered carcass left for dead, Lennon is on a one-way mission to find out who is responsible. This is the author's first novel and it is bound to be a hit.

First edition, hardcover, published by St. Martin's Minotaur. \$32.00

MINETTE WALTERS: "THE DEVIL'S FEATHER"

WOW. About a month ago I was invited to a luncheon with Minette Walters at the Harbour Castle Inn, Toronto. Not being one for dressing up and eating fancy finger foods, I sent Jen. Now I see that there is a similar event with Minette Walters in London, England and they are charging 60 pounds per person to attend - and Jen says I never give her anything. We have several copies of the Devil's Feather signed by Minette and we have signed paperbacks as well.

First Canadian Edition, hardcover, **SIGNED**, published by Macmillan. \$35.00

PAPERBACK'S

MARK BILLINGHAM – "Sleepy Head" Author's first novel. \$10.00

MAX ALLAN COLLINS – "The London Blitz Murders" # 5 in the Disaster Series. \$10.00

MAX ALLAN COLLINS – "The War of the Worlds Murder". #6 in the Disaster Series. \$10.00

P.D. JAMES – "Cover Her Face" Author's first novel. \$15.00

P.D. JAMES – "A Mind to Murder" Author's second novel. \$15.00

P.D. JAMES – "An Unsuitable Job for a Women" First novel in the Cordelia Grey \$15.00

QUINTIN JARDINE – "Blackstone's Pursuits" First Blackstone novel. \$10.00

MORAG JOSS – "Half Broken Things" Fourth novel by this author. \$10.00

MINETTE WALTERS – "The Tinder Box" Novelette. \$8.00

GILLIAN WHITE – "Copycat" \$12.00

DON'S PICKS

Where to start? I've read Mark Haddon's "Curious Incident of the Dog at Night Time" for our book club. I enjoyed this novel. The main character is an autistic boy who discovers the dead body of the dog next door. He throws himself whole-heartedly into the case because a person who kills a dog must really be a bad person. The only problem is that while investigating this case he opens up a whole boat-load of other issues. This was a young adult's novel that was so successful that they decided to make an adult novel out of it. I truly liked this novel.

I also read the latest novel in the Hard Case Crime series. I was really looking forward to this one because it was by Stephen King. I have not cared for the books Stephen King has been writing as of late. But I do enjoy his short fiction and when he drops the whole horror act, he writes really well. The movie, Stand By Me, was made from the story "The Body" found in the collection called "Different Seasons". The movie "The Green Mile" was a series of novelettes called "The Green Mile". Basically you get the picture. The book is not bad, the writing is well done and you seem to turning pages hoping to find an answer. I'm not sure I got the idea behind the book and was generally disappointed in it. I suggested this one to the book club to see if they feel the same way. We can only wait and see.

SCENE OF THE CRIME'S MOST WANTED

This month I would like to introduce you to Scene of the Crime's very own **Vicki Delany**. Now I realize that most of you may already know who Vicki is. She launched her novel "Scare the Light Away" with us back in April with great success. She remains one of our best selling authors to date. She was present at the first book club meeting as our guest author as we read and critiqued "Whiteout", Vicki's first novel. When the book club votes for the first annual Crime Scene Award for their favorite novel I would place bets that Vicki is in the top three.

She was the runner up for the Bloody Words short story contest for her story "My Seat". In 2000, her novel Whiteout was a semi-finalist for the Chapters' Robertson Davies First novel competition. Later in 2000, the book won an EPPIE award for best mainstream novel published electronically.

In 2005, she published "Scare the Light Away" by Poisoned Pen Press. To my delight (even though she warned the book club that her editor made her change the character and cut 3000 words) I feel the book remained Vicki's.

Time and time again when speaking to someone who has read her novels, every one always says her sense of place is one of the best. You can be sitting in a lunch room in the middle of a factory reading one of her novels then suddenly you can smell the pine-scented air from the trees. Your eyes will pick up the sparkle as the sun reflects off the lake and you can hear the loons calling to each other somewhere in the distance.

Vicki explained that even though the books feature different characters, the two already published all happen around the same town - Port Hope which when reading the books could be any small town in Northern Ontario. The books will all feature a different season. I'm looking forward to the next novel.

I have read both of Vicki's novels and consider her one of my favorite authors.

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Here are a couple of collectables books in our store:

AGATHA CHRISTIE: "ARE YOU HAPPY? IF NOT CONSULT MR. PARKER PYNE"

This is a weird one - and sort of an accidental discovery by me. When you look up Parker Pyne in any price guide or bibliography of Agatha Christie, it always says the first edition of the Parker Pyne stories was published in 1934 in England by Collins who was Agatha's publisher at the time. When the hard cover was published in 1934, it featured six Parker Pyne stories. But I have a Cosmopolitan that was published in 1932 with the first four stories - not listed in any of the bibliographs that I could find.

First edition published by Heart's International of New York. In very good condition.
\$110.00

ERIN HART: "HAUNTED GROUND"

Not wanting to sound like the only things that are collectable are 100 years old and worth 1000's of dollars, I wanted to add this one. Published in 2003, it is the author's first novel. It is set in Ireland and the book's storyline involves the discovery of a "Bog Body" or rather just the head. Similar to finding a mummified body in the artic, these bodies are well-preserved because they were buried in peat. Every so often, the bog spits one of these well-preserved bodies out and this time it happens on the property of one Hugh Osborne, a gentleman whose wife and son have recently disappeared. Could it be that the "bog body" is the scientific find of the century or could it be the dismembered head of Hugh Osborne's wife? One of my favorite books.

First edition published by Scribner's of New York. SIGNED by the author on the title page. \$50.00

DONNA LEON: "DEATH AND JUDGEMENT"

This is Donna Leon's fourth novel in the Guido Brunetti series. Published in 1995 by Harper Collins of New York, Brunetti is investigating the death of a banker who was shot to death aboard a train. Only Brunetti thinks it was more than just a robbery gone wrong. Later there is the death of a high-powered accountant. Brunetti finds a connection between an informative prostitute, a pair of eye glasses and an illicit videotape which show Brunetti the real horrors of Venice.

First edition published by Harper Collins of New York in 1995. \$350.00

BARBARA SERANELLA: "NO HUMAN INVOLVED"

The character, Munch Mancini Munch, goes in to pay a \$20 bar tab but finds out the friendly gentleman sitting beside her is a cop waiting to arrest her in connection with the murder of her abusive father "Flower George" Mancini. Cleverly, Munch manages to

stay out of jail but Detective St. John finds a connection between Munch and a massacred teen. Now his top priority is to find Munch before it is too late.
First edition published by St. Martin's Press in 1997. SIGNED and dated by the author in September 1997, a month after publication. \$95.00

THE GAME IS AFOOT:

Thanks to last month's winners Patricia Pederson and Elaine De Bonis.

This month our game will feature award-winning books and the year the award was won. Good Luck!

Raymond Chandler's "The Long Goodbye" received an Edgar for best novel in what year?

Jonathan Kellerman's "When the Bough Breaks" won an Anthony award for best first novel in what year?

Elizabeth George's "A Great Deliverance" won an Anthony for best first novel in what year?

In what year did Michael Crichton's "A Case of Need" win an Edgar for best novel?

P.D. James' "Black Tower" won a Silver Dagger in what year?

In the year that Patricia Cornwell won an Anthony for best first novel, who won best novel and for what book?

AFTER HOURS:

November is shaping up to be a busy month. On Saturday November 26, the merchants of Bronte will host a Christmas Open House. Over 40 businesses have committed to holding unique events in the store during this day. There will be tea tasting at Thyme in a Basket and food sampling at Country Fare Catering. At Scene of the Crime, Susan Chorney from Positive Changes Hypnosis will join us for her open house from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. She will talk about the benefits of hypnosis regarding your health and will also have copies of her book "Memoirs of a Hypnotist". You can check out her web site at www.susanchorney.com. Just for something different.

From 7 to 9 p.m. that night, just following the Bronte Tree Lighting Ceremony in Bronte Park, Oakville author Vicki Delany will be personalizing copies of her two novels. If you know someone who collects books or just likes a good read -- a personalized book can make the perfect Christmas gift.

When making your Christmas list, don't forget our wrapped and ready "Basket Case" for that hard to buy for reader or tea drinker on your list. Choose 5 paperback mysteries and four teas or we can do it all for you. We can also do themed baskets -like a Sherlock

Holmes basket, Minette Walters basket, a cozy mysteries basket or Hard Case Crime basket. Your price for the wrapped basket, 5 mysteries and the teas is \$60.00.

Finally, as most of you know Scene of the Crime Books celebrated its 1st year anniversary on Saturday October 29th. I would personally like to thank everyone who came out that night - it was a huge success. A special thanks goes out to Country Fare Catering who supplied the awesome food and Thyme in a Basket who supplied the tea. Most importantly, thanks to all the customers and authors who have supported us over the past months – it has been appreciated.

Book Club

Dates to remember:

Thursday November 10th – we will discuss Mark Haddon’s “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time”. 7 p.m. at the store. Snacks and beverages will be provided. All are welcome.

Thursday December 8th – we will discuss Stephen King’s “The Colorado Kid”. 7 p.m. at the store. Snacks and beverages will be provided. All are welcome.

Happy Christmas shopping,

Don Longmuir