

SCENE OF THE CRIME BOOKS

CASE FILE #13

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AUTHOR SIGNINGS:

There will be no author signings in the month of December due to the fact that people are just too busy getting ready for pm Christmas. Happy Holidays.

CHRISTMAS HOURS

Mon/Tues: Closed
Wednesday: 10 am to 6 pm
Thurs/Fri.: 10 am to 8 pm
Saturday: 10 am to 5 pm
Sunday: 1 pm to 5 pm

*We will be open until 8 p.m. starting Friday December 9th.

**Sunday December 18th –
Closed (Brody's Christmas
Recital)
Christmas Eve:** 10 a.m. to 2
p.m
Christmas- Closed
New Year's Eve- Closed
New Year's Day - Closed

NEW EVIDENCE:

GILES BLUNT: "BLACKFLY SEASON"

Detective John Cardinal is back in his third novel. A young woman comes out of the Algonquin Bay bush with a gunshot wound to the head. Cardinal becomes obsessed with finding out who she is and who wants her dead. The body of a local biker turns up in a cave and the two cases start to connect.

Part of a series called "World of Crime". This is the first book in the series - to be followed by a new Henning Mankell novel and new Fred Vargas novel. The series is designed to give the reader a chance to read the best authors from every country: Blunt from Canada, Mankell from Sweden and Vargas from Paris. Honestly, it's a neat way to travel the world without leaving the comfort of your own home.

Trade paper published by Vintage Canada in 2005. \$20.00

BARBARA CLEVERLY: "THE BEE'S KISS"

It is 1926 and Joe Sandilands is back from India - enjoying the frantic pleasures of Jazz Age London. When the body of Dame Beatrice Jagow-Joliffe is found bludgeoned to

death, Joe is sent by Scotland Yard to conduct a swift inquiry. As Joe digs into the victim's life, he finds three girlfriends who have committed suicide and a young lover. It isn't long before his superiors are telling him to close the case and surrender the file. First edition, published in 2005 by Constable and Robinson of London. **SIGNED by the author on the title page.** \$35.00

BARBARA CLEVERLY: "THE PALACE TIGER"

It is 1922 and a tiger has turned to man-eater. Joe Sandilands is sent off to help hunt this killer tiger. But Joe questions the real reason behind his being sent to India. It is his knowledge of weaponry which sets him off - the Holland rifle will be perfect for hunting tigers so why should he need the latest Browning M pistol?

First edition, published in 2004 by Constable and Robinson of London. **SIGNED by the author on the title page.** \$35.00

P.D. JAMES: "THE LIGHTHOUSE"

Adam Dalgliesh is called to Combe Island - just off the coast and filled with a history of bloodshed and piracy. But the island now caters to high authority executives who require privacy. Only one problem, one of them is found dead in a very bizarre way. Adam is told to solve the mystery quickly and discreetly.

First Canadian edition published in 2005 by Knopf Canada. \$36.00

DON'S PICKS:

I am just finishing **John Connolly's "Bad Men"**. I can honestly say that John just keeps getting better and better. If you don't mind your mysteries dark with a bit of the supernatural mixed in, then his Charles "Bird" Parker series is for you. He's one of my favorite writers.

I tried reading "**The White Lioness**" by **Henning Mankell** and just couldn't get into it. But I do have two or three customers that have been going nuts over his books. In the area of translated novels, I enjoyed **Karin Fossum's book "He Who Fears the Wolf"** a lot more.

Over the Christmas holiday's I plan on reading the following novels: **Zoë Sharp's "First Drop"**, **Fred Vargas' "Have Mercy On Us All"**, and **Duane Swierczynski's "The Wheel Man"**. But I am sure Jen and Brody will keep me busy traveling out to the malls and playing house guest as our families start coming over for Christmas. So we will see how much reading I'll get done.

SCENE OF THE CRIME'S MOST WANTED:

Let me introduce you to John Rain - A half-American, half-Japanese assassin. When killing people, it is best to specialize. John's specialty is making it look like you died of natural causes - and he's good at what he does.

Barry Eisler is the author of four John Rain novels and has just signed a contract to do two more with Putnam. It's like the old Travis McGee series. You read one and then suddenly you want to inhale the rest of the series.

I don't know much about Barry himself. He graduated from Cornell Law School and then spent the next three years working for the CIA's Directorate of Operations in Japan. After leaving the government, Barry moved to Tokyo to train at the Kodokan International Judo Center. He now lives in San Francisco. Needless to say if one of these author events Jen and I go to ever break out into a scrap, I'm on Barry's side no matter what side of the argument he's on.

The John Rain novels are very well written. It's written in the same vein as the early Elmore Leonard novels in the sense that it's one man against the world and oh boy did the world pick the wrong man to mess with.

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

JAMES ELLROY: "SILENT TERROR"

Mr. Ellroy's books have been made into some of the best movies: "L.A. Confidential" and "Brown's Requiem". Now in post-production is "The Black Dahlia, due to come out in summer 2006. "Silent Terror" is James Ellroy's fourth novel published in October 1986 and was later republished as "Killer on the Road". This was made into a short 11 minute film called "Stay Clean" starring Walter Coppage, Race Owen, Greg Kirsch and James Ellroy himself. It is considered the best Ellroy movie.

First edition paperback original published by Avon of New York. In fine condition.
\$90.00

KARIN FOSSUM: "CALLING OUT FOR YOU"

I know you've heard me talk about Karin in the past. I really think she is a great author and fans of Ian Rankin would enjoy her sense of place and characters. The only reason this one made this list is because I think in the future she is going to be one of three or four authors that are going to fill that gap when Rankin is done with Rebus. The other thing is that **SIGNED** Fossum novels are rare. Being from Norway, she doesn't get out this way much.

First edition trade paper original. Published by Harvill of London. In new condition.

Signed. \$70.00

Unsigned. \$25.00

JOHN D. MACDONALD: "THE BRASS CUPCAKE"

I think everyone has read the Travis McGee series. John D. MacDonald is one of the greatest pulp mystery writers of all time. His McGee series is always being reprinted and I can't tell you how many times I've heard people say they have read the complete series from start to finish. I'm one of them. "The Brass Cupcake" is John D. Macdonald's first novel. Up to this point, he'd been writing mostly for magazines. Copies of this book can be found going for \$200.00 Canadian and more. This copy is missing its first two pages but has the #124 making it a first edition. There are a couple of light creases and the clear lamination is peeling from the spine which in both cases are quite common. A perfect copy for a collector that doesn't want to pay \$200.00.

First edition paperback original published by Gold Medal. \$50.00

C.J. SAMSOM: "DISSOLUTION"

It's 1537 and England is just waking up to a world of rigged trials, new laws and the greatest network of informers ever. King Henry the VIII has proclaimed himself the Supreme Head of the Church and under orders from Thomas Cromwell a team of commissioners is sent out to investigate the monasteries. But on the Sussex coast, Cromwell's commissioner, Robin Singleton has just been found dead, his head severed from his body. His horrific murder is accompanied by equally sinister acts of sacrilege. Enter Matthew Shardlake, lawyer and long-time supporter of the reform. His duty is to uncover the truth behind the dark happenings at Scarnsea. But soon after he starts his investigation, he begins questioning everything that he hears and intrinsically believes.

C.J. Sansom won the "Ellis Peters Historical Dagger" for his second novel "Dark Fires" in 2005 and has another novel "Winter in Madrid" coming out in February and "Sovereign" in October of 2006.

First edition hardcover. Published by Macmillan of London in 2003. In new condition with wrap around ban. \$90.00

BOOK CLUB

I would like to announce that the "Scene of the Crime Book Club" voted on the best novel read by the club during the 2005 year.

This year's winner of the "Bloody Butcher Award" was Linwood Barclay's "Bad Move". In second place was Lyn Hamilton's "The African Quest".

And in a very close third place was Vicki Delany's "Whiteout".

We will be presenting the "Bloody Butcher Award" to Linwood at the December 8th book club meeting.

On Thursday November 10th, we met to discuss the novel "Curious Incident of the Dog at Night Time" by Mark Haddon. This novel was originally published as a young adult's novel but became so successful that the publishing company decided to publish an adult version. The book is written from the view of Christopher, a 13-year-old autistic boy. Christopher discovers the body of the poodle next door murdered. He then takes it upon himself to solve the murder.

Given that premise, you would think that this book is a murder mystery. It's not. It's more about Christopher's life and his struggle through it as it goes horribly wrong. We all agreed that we enjoyed the novel. It is definitely a good read. But don't pick it up if you want a good mystery.

What our club will be reading in 2006:

January – Steve Fisher "I Wake Up Screaming."

A script writer and a Hollywood starlet fall in love. But as her career grows their love is put on hold - until she turns up dead. The script writer becomes suspect number one - whether he's guilty or not.

February – Karin Fossum “Don’t Look Back.”

A sleepy village lies beneath the Kollen Mountain. A naked body is found at the top of the mountain. Enter Inspector Sejer whose investigation is turning up more and more suspects. This seemingly quite community suddenly has some dark corners and secrets. The first novel in the Inspector Sejer series.

Please remember the book club is open to everyone. There is no fee to join. All we ask is that you buy your book from us. To view future months selected by the book club please check the website and you’ll find a complete list of future and past titles.
www.murdermysteriesandmore.com.

THE GAME IS AFOOT:

Congrats to Patricia Pedersen who won last month’s contest!

NAME THE AUTHOR’S FIRST NOVEL.

Henning Mankell _____

Jason Starr _____

Rennie Airth _____

Giles Blunt _____

Linwood Barclay _____

James Lee Burke _____

Gwendoline Butler. _____

P.D. James _____

John Le Carre _____

Jeffery Deaver _____

Now I said first novel. Not first mystery novel -- so be careful.

FAN REVIEW:

Please remember anyone can submit a review for this section. If there is a novel that you’re telling everyone at work to pick up - let us know.

Michael Connelly: THE CLOSERS.

The following review is by Jeff Schofield.

First of all, I have not read any of Michael Connelly's books previous to this one. So I have no history with these characters or this author.

In "The Closers" Harry Bosch has returned to the L.A. Police department after a three-year retirement. He is brought back to the "Open-Unsolved Unit or cold cases to try to solve cases that have been on the books for many years. Reunited with his previous partner, Kiz Rider, they draw as their first case: the seventeen- year- old murder of a 16-year-old girl.

DNA plays a large role here, giving them a strong suspect and a big break in the case. But as they move along, the case takes them in several different directions including racism and departmental politics.

This is a great read with realistic police procedure, strong characterizations, a solid plot and superior writing.

I for one, hope that Harry Bosch doesn't retire again because I'm looking forward to his next case! To anyone who has not read Michael Connelly before, this is a great book to start with.

AFTER HOURS:

First, I would like to say thank you to Vicki Delany. "**Christmas with Vicki**" was a very nice event. It was awesome to have some time with friends and family and I look forward to the February murder mystery dinner that Vicki is writing the script for.

Well here we are. Christmas time. Time for "Charlie Brown's Christmas Tree". Time for (my favorite) "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" (the cartoon, because of Boris). We have the store decorated. The tree is up. Even though I now have a store full of books, when I was making my list for Santa I always seem to say "books". There is always something special about getting a book for Christmas. As Jen is cleaning up the Christmas mess and Brody is playing with his latest Batman tower, I find myself sitting on the couch skimming over the contents of my newly acquired book wondering what new adventure lay before me. That is, until the Christmas day football game comes on...

Happy holidays and best wishes for a wonderful Christmas season,

Don Longmuir