

SCENE OF THE CRIME BOOKS

CASE FILE # 14

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Book Appraisal Day: Have you every wondered what your collection of books is worth? After several requests from customers, I will be offering a **free Book Appraisal Day** at the store on **Sunday January 22nd from 1 to 5 p.m.** Don't be shy – bring your books in (limit of 4 per person) and I will do my best to give you an accurate assessment of their worth.... Also coming soon, **Book Collecting 101** seminar on **Thursday February 16th from 6 to 7:30 p.m.** Cost is \$10 per person and includes coffee, tea, snacks and handouts. Must pre-register by Thursday February 9th.

Country Fare Catering and Scene of the Crime Books are working together to organize a **Murder Mystery Dinner with Oakville author Vicki Delany**. Vicki is writing the script and the local merchants (such as myself) will be the actors. We haven't determined the price of the tickets or how many will be sold -- but it will be held at the **Bronte Yacht Club** (almost right next door to the store). We are planning to have the dinner theatre event in **mid-to late February**. If interested please contact the store for more details.

Scene of the Crime books along with the **Oakville Historical Society** plan to have **Toronto author, Maureen Jennings** give a speech and sign books at the well-known **Sovereign House** (located just on the other side of the Bronte Creek). This house was formerly the home of **Mazo De La Roche**, one of Canada's most famous authors. Her stories were set in the late 1860s to early 1900's just like Maureen Jennings' novels.

Of course we can't forget the release of **Peter Robinson's** new book in May 2006 called **"Piece of My Heart"** -- another Allan Banks mystery.

Don't forget local author, **Vicki Delany's** novel **"Scare the Light Away"** will be coming out in paperback and also expect the release of a new mystery. Burlington author, **Linwood Barclay's** **"Bad Guys"** also comes out in paperback in April and **"Bad Dog"** will be available in September.

NEW EVIDENCE:

MAX ALLAN COLLINS: "ROAD TO PURGATORY"

Part 2 to the movie "Road to Perdition". It's 1942 and we find Michael O'Sullivan deep in the jungles of Bataan fighting the Japanese. When he returns home, Michael becomes Michael "Satariano" and starts working his way through the steps of the mob. With his only friends -- Eliot Ness and a lovely nightclub singer -- Michael embraces his father's memory to battle the mob from within, leaving bodies and broken lives in his wake.

Second edition, published by William Morrow of New York in 2004. \$35.00

We also have this book in a paperback edition from Harper Torch. \$10.00

If you liked "Road to Perdition", you might like other **Max Allan Collins** titles.

Nathan Heller is a 1930's ex-Chicago cop who turns private eye and opens the A-1 detective agency.

"Stolen Away" – paperback \$10.00 Heller is pulled into the Lindbergh baby-napping case by Charles Lindbergh himself.

"Dying In The Post-War World" – hardcover 1st edition signed \$30.00. A collection of short stories featuring Nathan Heller.

"Majic Man" – hardcover 1st edition signed \$30.00. Heller is doing a favor for retiring Secretary of Defense James Forrestal, who thinks someone is out to get him. Heller uncovers information on a group called the "Majestic Twelve". UFO's weren't the only thing the US government can make disappear in the desert of New Mexico.

"Angel in Black" – hardcover 1st edition signed \$30.00. Heller is called to a horrible murder scene in Los Angeles. As he stands at the murder scene, the newspaper reporters dub the murder "The Black Dahlia Case". Heller soon realizes he knows the girl. How can he explain to the police what he knows about the girl -- that only days before her murder she contacted him -- without making himself a suspect?

PAPERBACKS

NELSON DEMILLE - **"NIGHTFALL"** One of our best selling hard covers of 2005. Unsatisfied with the answers, two members of the Federal Anti-Terrorist Task Force set out to re-open the TWA Flight 800 case. Together they hunt for the crucial video and race toward an elusive truth even more horrifying than the crash itself. \$10.99

BARBARA FRADKIN – **"FIFTH SON"** Fourth novel in the Inspector Green series by one of Canada's best mystery authors. \$14.00

JOHN D. MACDONALD – **"THE DEEP BLUE GOOD-BY"** The first Travis McGee novel. When it comes to tough guy novels, this is the series – it is also one of the greatest series ever written. \$9.00

JOHN D. MACDONALD - “**THE GREEN RIPPER**” The nineteenth Travis McGee novel. McGee takes on a case to save a young woman from a religious cult. This is one of my all-time favorite novels. \$10.00

ED MCBAIN – “**THE GUTTER AND THE GRAVE**” Fifteenth novel in the “Hard Case Crime Series” originally published as “I’m Cannon – For Hire” under the pen name Curt Cannon. This is the first appearance of this novel under the name Ed McBain \$9.00

JAMES PATTERSON – “**LONDON BRIDGES**” The tenth Alex Cross mystery. The killers from Patterson’s past books “Pop Goes the Weasel” and “The Big Bad Wolf” join forces in this novel. \$10.00

ELIZABETH PETERS – “**CROCODILE ON THE SANDBANK**” First novel in the Amelia Peabody series. \$10.00

ELIZABETH PETERS – “**THE SNAKE, THE CROCODILE AND THE DOG**” The seventh Amelia Peabody mystery. \$10.00

PETER ROBINSON – “**STRANGE AFFAIR**” The latest Inspector Banks mystery. \$10.00

ALEXANDER MCCALL SMITH – “**THE NO.1 LADIES DETECTIVE AGENCY**” The first in the Mama Ramotswe mystery series. \$19.00

ALEXANDER MCCALL SMITH – “**THE SUNDAY PHILOSOPHY CLUB**” First novel in the Isabel Dalhousie series – main character is the editor of the Review of Applied Ethics and occasional sleuth. \$20.00

DON’S PICKS:

I am slowly reading the collection “**Like A Charm**” which includes stories written by **Karin Slaughter, Mark Billingham, Lee Child, John Connolly, Peter Robinson and our very own Kelley Armstrong**. I am not completely through the novel yet -- but the premise of the book is that all the stories contain the element of a charm bracelet. So far Kelley Armstrong’s story bats the rest of them out of the park! All the stories have been well-written and original -- an excellent read.

I also started to read (Canadian author) **Louise Penny’s novel “Still Life**” and have instantly fallen in love with the tone and sense of place of the book. I would first label the book as a “police procedural” but found tones of a “cozy mystery” in it. It is a read that could possibly unite two groups -- the English Ian Rankin followers as well as the small town cozy lovers who enjoy M.C. Beaton. Very promising. I am looking forward to the next shipment of her books because during Christmas we completely sold out – (even the copy I was reading).

One book I did finish was **Zoe Sharp’s “First Drop**”. This is the fourth book in the series and the only book to be published in the States first. I thought the writing was very good, the action non-stop. But I found she referred to the three previous books way too much and felt almost ripped off that I hadn’t read them first. I look forward to reading

more from Zoë Sharp. The story revolves around a female ex-British military Special Forces officer named Charlie Fox. Her lover owns a security firm which hires her. Soon they are called to Florida to cover for another firm. Right away things don't add up. Charlie is assigned to baby sit a teenage brat - but when they step off one of the rides a man opens fire on them. Charlie quickly gets the brat out of the park and into their car and heads for home. Only there's nobody home. Everyone has vanished. Now it's Charlie and the kid versus dirty cops, punks and everyone else out there. If this book had been made into a movie 20 years ago, I would have picked Charles Bronson to play Charlie Fox.

SCENE OF THE CRIME'S MOST WANTED:

This month I would like to feature one of England's top ladies of crime -- **M.C. Beaton**. Now I know many of you are sitting there saying "I know everything there is to know about M.C. Beaton." or "I've read everything she has ever written." It is possible.

But did you know she has her 22nd Hamish Macbeth mystery coming out in February and she has written 17 Agatha Raisin mysteries -- as well as 7 other series (a total of 46 novels)? There are the other non-series novels (68 in total) as well as 4 collections of short stories. She has written under the following pen names: **Marion Chesney, Sarah Chester, Helen Crampton, Ann Fairfax, Marion Gibbons, Jennie Tremaine and Charlotte Ward**.

Her real name is **Marion McChesney** and she was born in Scotland in 1936. Most of the novels mentioned above are Regency Romance. But recently she has started a series of Edwardian-mysteries under the name Marion Chesney. There is a new novel coming out in April called "**Our Lady of Pain**" - it will be the fourth in the series. (By the way, I'm working my tail off trying to get the first three books in the series.) So if you interested in giving this series a try, let me know and I'll call you as the books come in.

M.C. Beaton will be appearing at the **2006 Bouchercon** in late September. For more details check out the Bouchercon web site at www.bouchercon.com

COLLECTOR'S CORNER:

ROBERT CRAIS: "THE MONKEY'S RAINCOAT"

First edition paperback original of the author's first novel. Published by Bantam of New York in August of 1987. The UK hardcover edition was published by Piatkus in 1989 and the American hardcover came out in 1993 by Doubleday. First novel in the Elvis Cole series. One slight reading crease on the spine of the book. In fine condition. \$90.00

LYN HAMILTON: "THE XIBALBA MURDERS"

First edition paperback original of the author's first novel and the first novel in the Lara McClintoch series. If you don't already know Lara, she is the former owner of a Toronto Antiquities store and her travels to find rare artifacts unearth old mysteries and create

new motives. Four light creases on the spine and one light crease on the front cover. In very good condition on what is becoming an extremely rare book. \$20.00

JAMES PATTERSON: “ALONG CAME A SPIDER”

First edition hardcover of the first Alex Cross mystery made into the movie of the same name. Published by Little Brown in 1993. In fine / fine unread condition. \$90.00

ROBERTA ROGOW: “THE PROBLEM OF THE MISSING MISS”

First edition hardcover of the first novel in which Arthur Conan Doyle and Reverend Charles Dodgson (a.k.a. Lewis Carroll, author of Alice in Wonderland) team up. A great little concept that has since become a great little series. Published by St. Martin’s Press in 1998 in fine / fine unread condition. SIGNED by the author on the title page. \$65.00

BOOK CLUB

Review by Donald Longmuir: **“The Colorado Kid” by Stephen King**

Out of fifteen book club members, only about five readers liked this novel. Everyone agreed it had no place in the Hard Case Crime series. Stephen King himself says that this book is more “blue” than “noir”.

The story is simple: two old-time reporters are explaining an unsolved case to a young university student doing her co-op at their newspaper. A man is found dead on a beach by two joggers - and there are no easy answers from there on in. It takes years before answers slowly start to trickle in.

I can’t begin to explain what the problem with the novel is with out giving away its only secret. I recommended the novel to the book club because I read all the rave reviews and upon reading the book myself (and not enjoying it) thought the storyline might have just gone over my head.

There was no violence, no sex, no swearing. Nothing. A nice safe read. There is nothing in this book that would give anyone with a heart condition anything to worry about. So in that sense it’s a very good novel.

In the past, a few customers and I have talked about King and his writing abilities. “The Body” (which later became the movie Stand by Me) “Green Mile”, “Rita Haywood and The Shawshank Redemption” later became “Shawshank Redemption”. When the man wants to write, he can do it very well.

But in the end, reading such novels as “It”, “The Stand” and the “Dark Tower” series, I’ve come to the conclusion the Mr. King can write very lengthy novels but can’t end them.

Read Stephen King’s “The Colorado Kid” and see if I’m wrong.

What the Club is reading and reviewing in 2006:

January: Steve Fisher “I Wake Up Screaming” -Thursday January 12th

February: Karin Fossum “Don’t Look Back” - Thursday February 9th

March: PD James “Cover Her Face” - Thursday March 9th

April: Linwood Barclay “Bad Guys” -Thursday April 13th

May: Richard Stark “The Mourner”- Thursday May 11th

June: Rex Stout “Fer-De-Lance” – Thursday June 8th

July: Erin Hart “Haunted Ground” – Thursday July 13th

***All meetings are held at the store and begin at 7 p.m. Coffee, tea and snacks are provided. All are welcome.**

Jenn and I would like to thank all the book club members for their lovely Christmas gift – a membership to the Canadian Crime Writers Association. Your thoughtfulness and generosity means more than words can say.

THE GAME IS AFOOTE:

No one won the last contest. So let's try something different.

Winter/ Christmas themes. Fill in the missing bit. First email newsletter returned wins and the first mailed hardcopy brought in to the store wins. And you thought Christmas was over!

1. R.D. Wingfield Night _____.
2. Christmas with the Kranks was originally entitled _____ by John Grisham.
3. C.J. Box's third novel featuring Joe Pickett. _____
4. James Burke was a former CIA Intelligence Officer and a FBI agent. His first novel was _____.
5. Mary Higgins Clark and her daughter Carol Higgins Clark combined talents to write this first novel in the Regan Reilly and Alvira Meehan series. _____.
6. Hercule Poirot had the Adventure of the _____ and a Selection of Entrees.
7. Marian Babson had the _____ Deaths of Christmas.
8. The only Hamish Macbeth not titled Death of A/An, _____.
9. Joanne Fluke has this deadly recipe for murder The Sugar _____ Murders.
10. Christmas Journey, Christmas Visitor and Christmas Guest are all written by this author. _____

AFTER HOURS:

I know we've just cleared Christmas and we haven't even gotten our heads together yet. But don't forget **Valentines Day -- all customers purchasing paperback or hardcover books for their sweetheart from Feb 1st to 14th will receive a chocolate surprise courtesy of Scene of the Crime Books.**

Also our "**Crime Baskets**" could make your Valentine's Day shopping experience a little sweeter. **Five books for the price of four, all packaged in a nice neat little basket with an assortment of tea bags from "Thyme in a Basket"**. What a great combo. Come in and check one out. We can do anything -- a Peter Robinson Basket, a Horror Basket or Canadian Author's Basket. It's your choice. Make one up yourself or buy a pre-made one.

Speaking of baskets, we have a wonderful "**Tea with PD James**" **Basket Contest** courtesy of **Random House Canada**. The basket includes several PD James paperbacks,

teas, mugs and much more. Come in and fill out a ballot. The lucky winner will be chosen February 1st.

Join the Hard Case Crime Club. This is an idea started by several of my regular customers and it seems to be catching on. Over the last year, publishing house **Hard Case Crime** has been releasing a very popular paperback series. Some of the titles include: **Wade Miller's "Branded Woman"** (which hasn't been seen print in almost 50 years) as well as some original stories such as **"The Confession" by Domenic Stansberry** (which won an Edgar Award for best paperback of 2004). In 2006, it looks like Hard Case Crime will be releasing one title a month. Join our Hard Case Crime Club and every time a new book comes out we'll notify you by phone or email. Or prepay for the books and we will ship a new novel to your door every month. Call and ask for details.

Special Occasion Registry: Have you ever been driving home after work on Friday night and realized Sunday is Mother's Day? Or someone's birthday? We have the solution. If that certain someone loves mysteries, come register him/her at Scene of the Crime and we will make sure there is a book delivered on time for that special occasion. Now imagine coming home and realizing you forgot Saturday it is your wife's birthday -- your thinking you are dead. But when you walk in the door she hugs you and thanks you for the book that arrived from Scene of the Crime Books. You forgot but we didn't. (I should write for Hallmark)

STORE HOURS:

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 10 a.m. 6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday: 1 to 5 p.m.

Monday and Tuesday: Closed

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND ALL THE BEST,

Don, Jenn and Brody