

SCENE OF THE CRIME BOOKS

CASE FILE #15

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER: I'm really excited about this event. **Scene of the Crime Books** has teamed up again with Bronte's **Country Fare Catering and Oakville Author Vicki Delany**. Ms. Delany has scripted the murder and Country Fare Catering will treat our taste buds for dinner. The actors will be volunteers made up of local merchants. I know Vicki has already pegged me as one of the characters. So get out your deer stalking cap and your magnifying glass because we're taking you North to the Yukon to test your powers of detection.

\$50.00 per person.

Date: Saturday March 4th at the Bronte Yacht Club

Final date of registration: Saturday February 25th. Contact us for more information on times and menu.

BOOK COLLECTING 101: In this seminar, I plan to cover several topics including identifying first editions (I'll take you through some of the more typical publishing companies) and condition/protection of books. All in all, it should be a great night of shop talk.

\$10.00 per person covers coffee and snacks.

Date: 6 p.m. on Thursday February 23rd.

Final date of registration: Friday February 17th.

MAUREEN JENNINGS: In the last newsletter I mentioned an event with **Maureen Jennings and the Oakville Historical Society**. The response I've received since then has been awesome. We are still in the planning stages and the event will coincide with the release of Jennings' latest book "**Vices of My Blood**" in **April**. More details to follow.

DA VINCI CODE: As some of you already know the Da Vinci Code is upwards towards the 100th printing in hardcover. Get ready because after a four-year-wait, the book will soon be released in paperback! Now don't panic. The word

throughout the book industry is that it will sell out fast. So call us to reserve your copy now. **Date of release: Tuesday March 28th.**

NEW EVIDENCE:

CHARLES TODD: "A LONG SHADOW"

Inspector Rutledge has gone from being the hunter to be hunted. He is called to investigate a vicious attack on a village constable - or is he being lured out for another reason?

This is the ninth mystery in the Inspector Rutledge series. Set in post war England in 1919, it is one of the best historical series around. I read "**Test of Wills**" shortly after it came out and enjoyed it thoroughly. Fans of Ian Rankin's Rebus series will enjoy this series if they don't mind the historical elements.

Rebus and Rutledge are both very troubled and tragic figures.

First edition, hardcover published by Harper Collins. \$35.00

Also in stock are:

"**Wings of Fire**" The second novel in the series. First edition signed by both Charles Todd and Caroline Todd (his mother who helps him write the series.) \$45.00

"**Watcher's of Time**" The fifth novel in the series. Signed by both authors. \$30.00

JO NESBO: "DEVIL'S STAR"

A young woman has been murdered in her Oslo flat. One of her fingers has been severed and behind her eyelid a small red diamond has been placed. The diamond was cut into the shape of a pentagram, the devil's star. Detective Harry Hole is assigned to the case with his long-time adversary Tom Waler. Harry must drag himself out of his drunken stupor and get to work.

Second edition trade paper of the author's first novel. Published in Norway in 1997. This novel won the Glass Key Award and became an instant success.

\$33.00

P.J. PARRISH: "AN UNQUIET GRAVE"

The bulldozers have come to raise an old Michigan Sanitarium and its forgotten cemetery. But when they unearth the grave of Claudia Olsen they find the body of a stranger instead. Everyone is asking questions that can't easily be answered. But the question that sticks in Kincaid's mind is "What has become of Claudia Olsen?" That question sends Kincaid down the dark tunnels below the asylum and into hell.

P.J. Parrish is one of my favorite authors. Their novels are always nominated for either an Edgar or Anthony award for best paper back novel and they just miss winning every year. First edition paperback \$10.00

PAPERBACKS:

C.C. BENISON: "DEATH AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE" Pseudonym of Douglas Whiteway, a Winnipeg journalist. His character is "Jane Bee" - a Canadian housemaid for the Queen in Buckingham Palace. First in series and winner of the Arthur Ellis Award for best first mystery. \$10.00

C.C. BENISON: "DEATH AT SANDERINGHAM HOUSE" Second in series. \$10.00

C.C. BENISON: "DEATH AT WINDSOR CASTLE" Third in series. \$10.00

MARION CHESNEY: "SNOBBERY WITH VIOLENCE" Better known in the mystery world as M.C. Beaton. This is the first Edwardian mystery written under this name. (for more details on this author see the "Most Wanted" section in last month's newsletter.) \$9.99

MARION CHESNEY: "HASTY DEATH" The second novel in the Edwardian series. \$9.99

RUTH DUDLEY EDWARDS: "CARNAGE ON THE COMMITTEE" This is the tenth novel in the Robert Amiss series. \$10.00

QUINTIN JARDINE: "ALARM CALLS" This is the eighth Oz Blackstone mystery. \$10.00

RICK MOFINA: I've restocked the complete Ted Reed and Walt Sydowski series. There are still a few signed copies left of "Be Mine, No Way Back and The Dying Hour."

DOMENIC STANSBERRY: "MANIFESTO FOR THE DEAD" A noir mystery featuring writer Jim Thompson as the main character. Trade paper. \$20.00

DOMENIC STANSBERRY: "THE LAST DAYS OF IL DUCE" A hard core noir. Trade paper. \$20.00

DON'S PICKS:

Ok, I've kept busy over the last month. I read M.C. Beaton's "Death of a Village". It's a Hamish Macbeth mystery. At first I found it too airy. I didn't care for the character development and felt the story was basically just slapped together. I trudged through it and by the end found myself laughing at the

quirkiness of Macbeth and the fact that he just can't seem to get a break. I enjoyed it but probably won't put M.C. Beaton on my list of future reads.

I also read **Richard Stark's "The Score"**. I've read Stark before (Nobody Runs Forever) and I liked everything about his novels. The characters are always coming up with new ways to surprise you. "The Score" features all of Stark's background characters - but my favorite background character is Grofield. Despite being a regular to the criminal world, he still gets a clouded mind when women step into the picture. I'm looking forward to the republication of **"Lemon's Never Lie" by Hard Case Crime in July**. 100% Grofield.

Finally I read **Wade Miller's "Branded Woman"**. This novel was originally published in 1952 under the same name. Wade Miller is the product of two authors Bob Wade and Bill Miller - who was responsible for the movie "Touch of Evil". I enjoyed this book right from the opening chapter. The main character is one of the strongest female characters I've ever come across. She has vengeance on her mind and will stop at nothing to get it - it was all brass knuckles and teeth.

SCENE OF THE CRIME'S MOST WANTED:

Thank you for all the feedback on last month's M.C. Beaton article. This month I would like to look at an author a little closer to home.

Toronto author, Lyn Hamilton writes the Lara McClintoch series. Lara is a former antiques dealer who, in later novels, re-opens an antiques shop with her ex-husband. In Hamilton's first novel *"The Xibalba Murder"* (the x is silent) Lara is called to Mexico to help a friend with a mysterious project. When her friend disappears, Lara finds herself trying to solve an ancient mystery before falling victim to a present-day evil.

"The Xibalba Murder" was nominated for best first novel and was nominated for best novel overall. In 2003 after the cancellation of the show, the "Murder She Wrote" series continued with six movies. One of which was the **"Celtic Riddle"** Lyn's fourth novel.

In June, Scene to the Crime Books welcomed Lyn as our Book Club guest. She dazzled everyone with her charm and stories. The group was so impressed by her that they requested to read her novel **"The African Quest"** and wanted to have Lyn come back. Lyn has already written nine mysteries in the Lara McClintoch series and has the tenth coming out on **April 6th called "The Orkney Scroll"**.

COLLECTOR'S CORNER:

HENNING MANKELL: "FACELESS KILLERS" First edition hardcover of the first Kurt Wallander mystery. Translated from Swedish, the American edition precedes the British by three years. Published by The New Press of New York in 1997. In fine / fine condition \$120.00

WALTER MOSLEY: "WHITE BUTTERFLY"

First edition of the third Easy Rawlins mystery -- rumored to be the hardest to find. Published by Norton of New York in 1992. In fine / fine condition. \$175.00

THOMAS PERRY: "BIG FISH"

This is a hardcover review copy of Thomas Perry's third novel. It is price-clipped and stamped Not For Resale on the bottom of the book and on the title page. A very rare item. Published in 1985 by Scribner's of New York. In fine / fine and in possibly unread condition. \$70.00

RUTH RENDELL: "LIVE FLESH"

First edition of this Gold Dagger award winner for best novel. SIGNED by the author on the title page. Published by Hutchinson of London in 1986. \$70.00

BOOK CLUB:

Steve Fisher's "I Wake up Screaming" review by: Don Longmuir

When we voted on the book there were 12 members in attendance: seven people enjoyed the book, two people thought it was so-so and three people that said they did not enjoy the book.

The book **"I Wake Up Screaming"** involves a screen writer who falls head-over-heels for Vicky Lynn, a secretary at the Hollywood Studio he works for. She is so beautiful that our main character starts to get a few of his buddies to invest in her movie career. Before you know it Vicky is a rising star and is soon found dead. Our character quickly learns that he is the prime suspect - guilty or not. The language is out-dated and the book could be considered a period piece written in 1940. But it has all the grit and style of an old pulp.

Steve Fisher, the author of the novel, died in 1980. He worked on everything from "Lady in the Lake" and "Tokyo Joe" to one of my favorite series "Kolchak the Night Stalker." When I spoke to the editor of Hard Case Crime about this book becoming one in their series, he told me that when Fisher died the publishing industry lost track of the rights to his novels. It could be lost forever.

"I Wake Up Screaming" by Steve Fisher published in 1940 by Bestseller Mystery Magazine. In very good condition. \$30.00 (There is only 1 copy left.)

"I Wake Up Screaming" by Steve Fisher published in 1960 by Black Lizard. In fine unread condition. \$10.00 (I have 5 copies left)

WHAT THE CLUB IS READING AND REVIEWING IN 2006.

February: Karin Fossum "Don't Look Back" Thursday February 9th.

March: P.D. 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.

August: John D. Macdonald "The Green Ripper" Thursday August 10th.

BLOODY BUTCHER AWARD: Congratulations to **Linwood Barclay** for winning Scene of the Crime Book Club's "**Bloody Butcher Award**". At the end of last year, book club members voted on which book they enjoyed most over the past year. Linwood Barclay's book "**Bad Move**" was chosen as the favourite and we presented him with his award in December.

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

THE GAME IS AFOOTE:

Thank you to last month's winners: Michael Buck and Christina Connor.

This month I challenge you to fill-in-the-blanks and team up the characters with the appropriate authors.

CHARACTER

AUTHOR

Louis Kincaid

Zack Walker

John Cardinal

Sister Frevisse

Nathan Heller

Porfiry Rostnikov

Jacqueline Daniels

Nick Morrelli

Jack Reacher

Myron Bolitar

Good Luck!

It was brought to my attention that I have forgotten to include the answers in the following month's issue. Sorry, it totally slipped my mind. Here are the answers to last month's contest:

#1 Frost. #2 Skipping Christmas. #3 WinterKill. #4 A Present for Santa. #5 Deck The Halls. #6 Christmas Pudding. #7 Twelve. #8 Highland Christmas. #9 Cookie. #10 Anne Perry.

AFTER HOURS:

Can you believe this weather? I keep teasing Jen's dad that he'll be picking cherries on the farm by mid-March.

Don't forget "Valentines Day". If there is someone special in your life, stop by and pick them up a basket of books. Five books for the price of four, tea and cookies. Remember: between Feb 1st to the 14th shoppers will receive a chocolate rose (with each purchase) to give to his/her sweetheart. Books and chocolate - some people would think they have died and gone to heaven. A couple of hard covers may cost the same as 12 roses - but the books won't be dead in a week's time.

STORE HOURS:

Monday/ Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday/ Thursday/Friday: 10am to 6pm

Saturday: 10am to 5pm

Sunday: 1 to 5pm.

***Note: Thursday February 16th, I will be closing at 5:00 p.m. as I am scheduled to talk at a Sisters In Crime meeting about up coming trends in the book industry.**

Happy Hearts Day,

Don, Jen and Brody Longmuir