2015 Arthur Ellis Awards

Toronto May 28, 2015



Hosted by



comedian, actor and radio personality Allison Dore

The Derrick Murdoch Award

Known as the Chairman's Award when first presented in 1984, it was later renamed in honour of its first recipient, Derrick Murdoch.



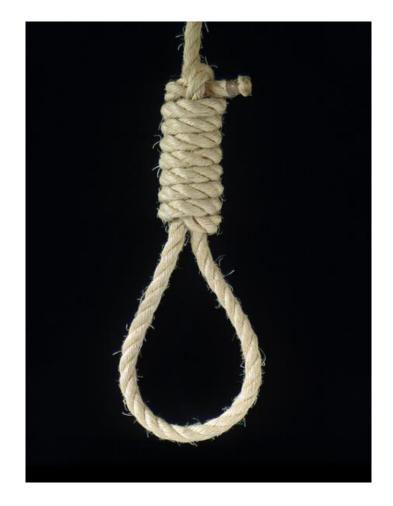
Crime Writers of Canada

The write kind of crime.



Sylvia McConnell

Sylvia McConnell is the former owner and publisher of Napoleon & Company, a Canadian trade publishing house in Toronto, Canada. In 2011, after twentytwo years of producing great Canadian fiction, Napoleon and *Company, which included the* imprint Rendezvous Crime, was sold to Dundurn Press. Since selling her company, Sylvia McConnell has been working as a freelance book editor, as well as an acquisitions editor.



Best Unpublished First Crime Novel

Sponsored by

Unhanged Arthur



DUNDURN www.dundurn.com

Ryan Aldred **Rum Luck**

Ben Cooper awoke in a Costa Rican prison cell to find that he had bought a bar on a beach – and was arrested on suspicion of murder. 'Rum Luck' is the first book in the Bar on a Beach series.



Ryan Aldred

When not writing, Ryan Aldred runs a small Canadian charity that supports education in Afghanistan, Tanzania, Uganda, and other at-risk regions. He previously worked as a defense analyst and continues to serve as a Sergeant in the Canadian Forces Reserve. Ryan and his family live in beautiful Prince Edward County, Canada. He's never met a beach he doesn't like.

Dave Butler **Full Curl**

When Banff National Park Warden Jenny discovers a dead bull elk, its antlers brutally removed, she begins a hunt for the killer that leads her to British Columbia and Washington State. Story lines of wildlife poaching and international drug smuggling intersect. In the end, Wilson is forced to contemplate the true meaning of justice.



Dave Butler

Dave Butler is a writer and photographer, as well as a professional forester and biologist, who lives, works and plays in the sunny valleys and mountains around Cranbrook, British Columbia. Dave's work has been published in magazines such as **Explore**, Canadian Geographic, BC Outdoors and British Columbia, and he has won numerous awards from the Outdoor Writers of Canada.

Dwayne Clayden **Crisis Point**

When Calgary Police Constable Brad Coulter's partner is killed following an armed robbery, he wants only one thing, to improve out-of-date police tactics. It's 1976 and the old boys' network doesn't share his vision. Under the often confrontational guidance of a veteran officer, Jerry Briscoe, Coulter wins a coveted position on the city's newly formed Tactical Support Unit.



Dwayne Clayden

Dwayne Clayden is a Paramedic with over 35 years in Emergency Services. A former police officer, Tactical Paramedic, and EMS Chief, he is an international speaker at EMS conferences and has published four textbooks for paramedics. He is a popular speaker at Calgary crime-writing events.

Bill Prentice Afghan Redemption

With the global medical marijuana industry booming, Colin McKenna invests millions to build a state-of-the-art facility in Afghanistan. Then everything goes sideways. A horrendous attack on an ancient mosque. A 10-year old boy unearths and steals a long-lost religious object. McKenna, the boy and the artefact are hunted across Europe to Canada for a final, murderous showdown.



Bill Prentice

A former advertising and marketing copywriter, speech writer for political and corporate leaders, and journalist for national publications, Bill has been writing for nearly four decades, mostly as a full-time freelancer. Early in his career, he wrote and sold two television scripts – a 30-minute drama and a two-hour action/adventure movie.

Elle Wild Strange Things Done

As winter closes in and the roads snow over in Dawson City, newly arrived journalist Jo Silver investigates the dubious suicide of a local politician, and discovers that not everything in the sleepy gold town is what it seems. Strange Things Done is a Klondike Noir that explores the old Yukon adage: "You con, I con, we all con."



Elle Wild

Elle Wild is a Canadian novelist and an award-winning filmmaker. She is currently living abroad, in an Edward Gorey-esque cottage in the English countryside. Wild wrote her debut novel, Strange Things Done, as part of a Masters program in Creative Writing at University of British Columbia. She work-shopped the story with Crime Writers of Canada in their Mentorship Program in 2014.

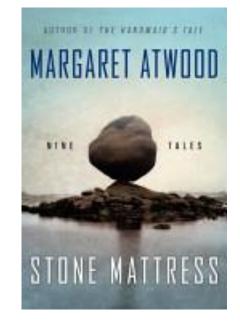




Best Crime Short Story Category

Margaret Atwood **Stone Mattress** McClelland & Stewart

A long-ago crime is avenged in the Arctic via a 1.9 billion-year-old stromatolite.







Margaret Atwood

Margaret Atwood is a Canadian poet, novelist, literary critic, essayist, and environmental activist. She is a winner of the Arthur C. Clarke Award and Prince of Asturias Award for Literature, has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize five times, winning once, and has been a finalist for the Governor General's Award several times, winning twice. In 2001 she was inducted into Canada's Walk of Fame.

Melodie Campbell **Hook, Line and Sinker** YMM/NorthWord

She's a gal in a bar looking to hook up with a guy. It will be last call for one of them... Revenge is the dish in this taut tale that won the YYM/NorthWord national short story contest.





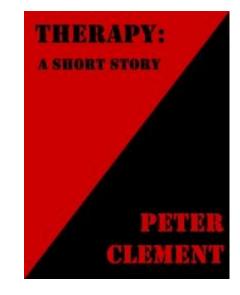


Melodie Campbell

Billed as Canada's "Queen of Comedy" by the Toronto Sun, Melodie Campbell achieved a personal best when Library Digest compared her to Janet Evanovich. Winner of nine awards, including the 2014 Derringer and Arthur Ellis Award for best novella. Melodie has over 100 comedy credits, 40 short stories, and seven novels.

Peter Clement **Therapy** Belgrave House

In this edgy tale of dark courage, murder and redemption told from a most unique perspective, the damage is deep and the crime unpardonable.



Belgrave House * * * romantic. mysterious. magical. ebooks



Peter Clement

Writing from a frame of reference of 20 years in the ER, Peter Clement has written eight books that bring readers inside the world of emergency medicine. With fastpaced action and true-to-life dialogue Clement gives a riveting view of science and medical practice in novels of stunning suspense. Madona Skaff **First Impressions** The Whole She-Bang 2 Sisters in Crime

Carol Nilstrom resigns her job at a gold processing plant before her pilfering habits are discovered. Hoping for a fresh start she moves to a remote northern BC mine site. Unfortunately her new supervisor's constant criticisms fuel her insecurities and she frequently leaps to conclusions – one too many times.





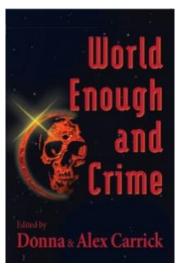


Madona Skaff-Koren was a research technologist and now writes full time. She's published several science-fiction and mystery short stories.

Madona Skaff

Kevin P. Thornton **Writers Block** World Enough and Crime Carrick Publishing

The fiendishly clever tale that asks the question all writers struggle with. In the cutthroat, dog eat dog world of crime fiction, how soon is too soon to introduce the killer beagle?

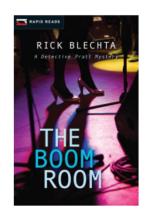


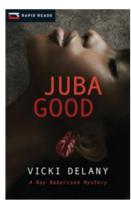


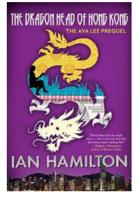


Kevin P. Thornton

Kevin Thornton is a writer for Keyano College and Chair of his local Arts Council Funding Committee. He has been a soldier, a contractor for the Canadian Military in Kabul, a newspaper and magazine columnist, a Director of the Crime Writers of Canada and a board member of NorthWord Literary Magazine and the Fort McMurray Public Library.





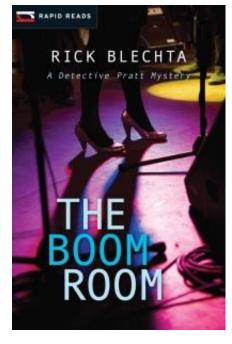




Best Crime Novella Category

Rick Blechta **The Boom Room** Orca Book Publishers

Detective Mervin Pratt is called in to assist at a murder scene at a popular nightclub. The manager has been stabbed to death in his office. The lead investigator, Detective Gordon, sees it as an open-and-shut case. He has the suspect, motive and even the murder weapon. But Pratt is unwilling to jump to conclusions.







Rick Blechta

Rick Blechta has been a musician all his life, and it shows in his writing. He brings a musician's viewpoint to the thriller genre in much the same way Dick Francis brought the expert horseman's eye. All of his novels have been praised for the "insider's knowledge of the music world which he injects into his plots." (*Canadian Book Review Annual*)

Vicki Delany **Juba Good** Orca Book Publishers

Juba, South Sudan. RCMP Sergeant Ray Robertson fears that a serial killer is on the loose. In a country plagued by years of extreme poverty, civil war, and the struggle to establish a functioning government, he knows that it's up to him and his Dinka partner, John Deng, to find the killer before he strikes again.





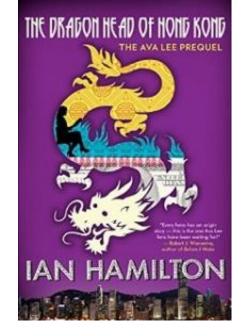


Vicki Delany

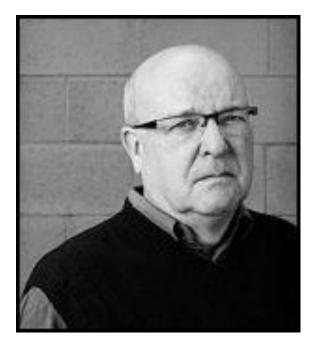
Vicki Delany is one of Canada's most prolific and varied crime writers, author of the Constable Molly Smith police procedural series, standalone Gothic thrillers, and the Klondike Gold Rush books, as well as Rapid Read novellas. Under the pen name Eva Gates she is writing the new Lighthouse Library cozy mystery series from Penguin Random House, set in a historic lighthouse on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

Ian Hamilton **The Dragon Head of Hong Kong** House of Anansi

Young Ava Lee is a forensic accounting who has just opened her own private firm. Ava goes to Hong Kong, where she plunges into the dangerous underground collection business and meets a man who will forever change her life . . .





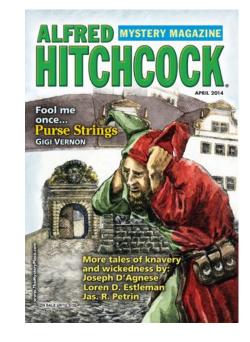


Ian Hamilton

Ian Hamilton began his career as a journalist and wrote a non-fiction book in 1968 which was a Canadian Book-of-the-Month selection. He has written for several magazines and newspapers in Canada and the US. However, it was a life-threatening health scare that prompted him to write his first novel. A few short weeks after being released from hospital, the first Ava Lee novel was completed.

Jas. R. Petrin **A Knock on the Door** Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine

A story about Skig Skorzeny, described by a reviewer as "an aging Halifax loan shark with a gut full of cancer and a heart of, well, not gold, <u>but</u> something more than the rock he pretends to possess."







Jas. R. Petrin

James Robert Petrin began his working life as restaurant busboy, tailor shop gopher, dump truck driver, and briefly as "a guy in a bakery who poked the stones out of cherries with a pair of giant tweezers". In 1985 he sold a story to Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine and followed it with more than seventy others in those pages. He has won the Canadian Arthur Ellis award, and his work appears in many anthologies.



Best Juvenile/YA Category

Michael Betcherman Face-Off Penguin Canada

Seventeen year-old Alex Petrovic is thrilled to be playing goal in an international hockey tournament. After a game against a team from Eastern Europe, he shakes hands with the opposing goalie, Stefan Divac, and finds himself staring at his identical double.



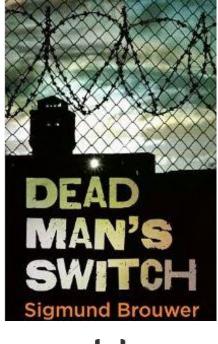




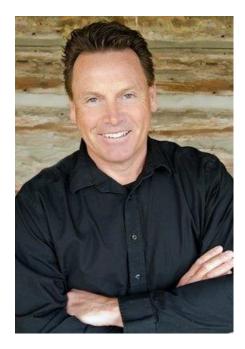
Michael Betcherman

Michael Betcherman is an author and screenwriter. He has written two young adult novels. Michael also has numerous screenwriting credits in both dramatic and documentary television. In previous incarnations, he was an entertainment lawyer, and before that he was a professional basketball player in Israel. Sigmund Brouwer **Dead Man's Switch** Harvest House

When a teen boy receives a written warning from his friend to avoid his church and leave his remote island town immediately, he's terrified—his friend died weeks ago! He knows danger is up ahead when he realizes that his friend's dead man's switch computer program has been activated.





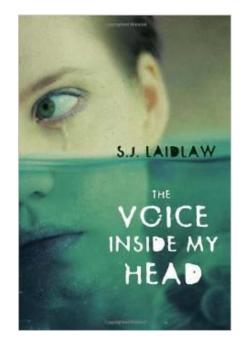


Sigmund Brouwer

Sigmund Brouwer is a well-known author in evangelical Christian circles. He has written scores of books across many genres, from children's picture books to scientific thrillers, and more. A favorite cause of Brouwer's is to encourage non-readers to begin reading. He visits schools and speaks about writing often.

S.J. Laidlaw **The Voice Inside My Head** Tundra Books

Luke's older sister, Pat, has always been his moral compass, like a voice inside his head, every time he has a decision to make. So when Pat disappears on a tiny island off the coast of Honduras and the authorities claim she's drowned, Luke heads to Honduras to find her because he knows something the authorities don't.





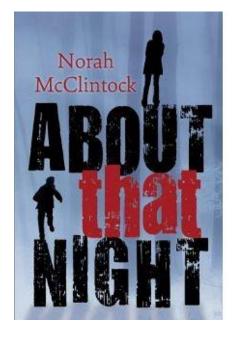


S.J. Laidlaw

S.J. Laidlaw grew up in Toronto. From an early age, she loved to tell stories. After completing an undergraduate degree in English, she went to Africa as a volunteer teacher. There she discovered a passion for helping teenagers in distress, so after three years, she returned to Canada to complete a graduate degree in clinical social work. Since then, she has spent most of her career overseas working as an adolescent counselor.

Norah McClintock **About That Night** Orca Book Publishers

A woman wanders off in the snow. Meanwhile, Derek is staying with his new girlfriend, Jodie, and her parents while his family is out of town. When Jordie's ex-boyfriend shows up, she decides that maybe Derek isn't the one after all. But before she can end it with him, Derek disappears.





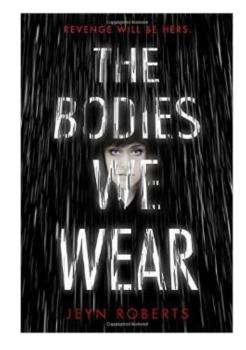


Norah McClintock

Norah McClintock is a five-time winner of the Crime Writers of Canada's Arthur Ellis Award for Best Juvenile Crime Novel. Although Norah is a freelance editor, she still manages to write at least one novel a year. Norah grew up in Montreal and now lives with her family in Toronto.

Jeyn Roberts **The Bodies We Wear** Knopf Books for Young Readers

Heam: It's the hottest drug around. Users are able to see Heaven—a place so beautiful, so indescribably serene, many people never want to come back. And some don't, like Faye's best friend, Christian. But when Faye was forced to take Heam, she didn't see Heaven; she saw Hell.







Jeyn Roberts

Born in Saskatchewan, Jeyn Roberts graduated from the University of British Columbia with a degree in writing and psychology and received her MA from the prestigious creative writing graduate course at Bath Spa University. She lives in Vancouver.



Meilleur livre de la criminalité en français Best French Crime Book

Hervé Gagnon **Jack: Une enquête de Joseph Laflamme** Expression noir / Groupe librex

Montreal, August 1891. A morning in a heat wave, we discover the horribly mutilated body of a prostitute on a street in the red light district. This murder, the first of a series, closely resembles the murders committed by Jack the Ripper in London in 1888.



GROUPE LIBRE:

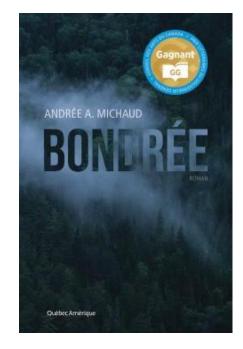


Hervé Gagnon

Hervé Gagnon holds a BA, MA and PhD in History and an MA in museology. Also a writer, he has published several youth novels and series, mostly concentrating on historical novels, in which he adds a touch of esoteric and fantasy. He has turned to the detective novel with his Jack novel, published in 2014.

Andrée Michaud **Bondrée** Editions Québec Amérique

Summer of '67. The sun shines on Boundary Pond, a border lake renamed Honey by Pierre Landry, a trapper Canuck whose distant memory will soon be legend. Zaza Mulligan and Sissy Morgan dance with hula hoops on the warm sand. Then Landry resurfaces from the earth, and Zaza disappears, and the sky clouds over.





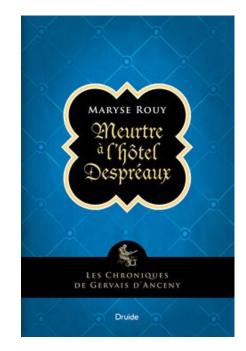


Andrée A. Michaud

Andrée A. Michaud is a Canadian novelist and playwright from Quebec. She is a two-time winner of the Governor General's Award for French-language fiction. She is a graduate of the Université du Québec à Montréal. In addition to her published novels, she has also written the plays for Quebec's Productions Recto-Verso theatre company.

Maryse Rouy **Meurtre à l'hôtel Despréaux** Éditions Druide

1378. Lady Mathilde Despréaux, a rich dealer in wine, is giving a great show. During the performance, an actress is stabbed. Everything seems to point to Mathilde's son Simon. Mathilde begs her uncle to leave the monastery where he retired, to attend the celebrations and clear her son.





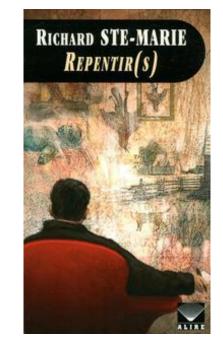


Maryse Rouy

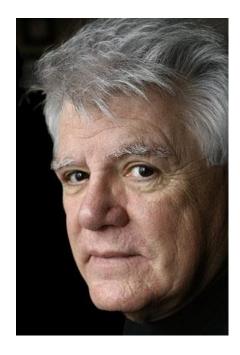
Maryse Rouy has published thirty novels for young people and adults. They harmoniously blend thorough research and the freedom of fiction. Although she is interested in different times, the Middle Ages remains her favourite period.

Richard Ste-Marie **Repentirs** Alire

A double murder was committed at la galerie Arts Visuels Actuels. Besides Gaston "Faby" Lessard, the owner, Frederic Fortier, police lieutenant to the City of Montreal, is among the victims and that's why Detective Sergeant Francis Pagliaro, Sûreté du Québec, is responsible for investigation.







Richard Ste-Marie

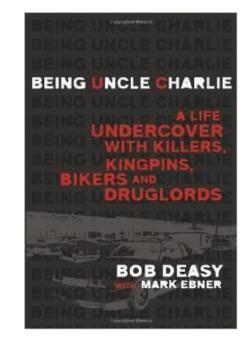
Richard Ste-Marie retired from teaching art in 2000. His works have been exhibited in more than seventy solo and group exhibitions in Canada and abroad. He is also a musician and, of course, novelist.



Best Nonfiction Category

Bob Deasy (with Mark Ebner) Being Uncle Charlie: A Life Undercover with Killers, Kingpins, Bikers and Druglords Penguin Random House

The intense, intimate and graphic story of one Canadian undercover cop who spent two decades infiltrating organized crime. Bob Deasy gained access to and the acceptance of criminals who most cops in any country would never encounter or arrest, let alone befriend.





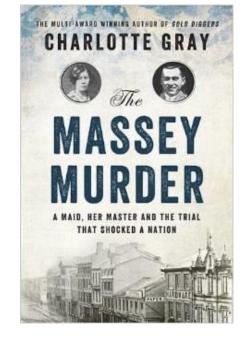


Bob Deasy spent over two decades deep undercover for the Ontario Provincial Police. He recently retired as a Detective Inspector and resides north of Toronto.

Bob Deasy

Charlotte Gray **The Massey Murder** HarperCollins

In February 1915, a member of one of Canada's wealthiest families was shot and killed on the front porch of his home in Toronto. Carrie Davies, an 18year-old domestic servant, quickly confessed. But who was the victim here?





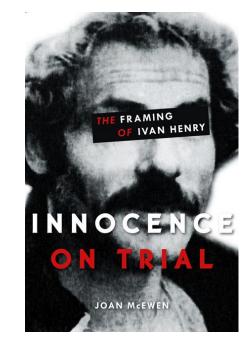


Charlotte Gray

Charlotte Gray is the author of nine acclaimed books of literary non-fiction. After coming to Canada in 1979, she worked as a political commentator, book reviewer and magazine columnist before she turned to biography and popular history. In 2003 she was the recipient of the Pierre Berton Award for distinguished achievement in popularizing Canadian history.

Joan McEwen Innocence on Trial: The Framing of Ivan Henry Heritage House

In early-1980s Vancouver, Ivan Henry found himself on trial for ten charges of sexual assaultcrimes he vehemently denied committing. This is a powerful story of justice miscarried and one man's determined quest to win restitution for the wrongly convicted.





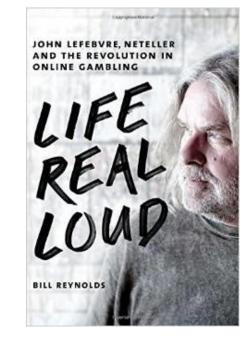


Joan McEwen

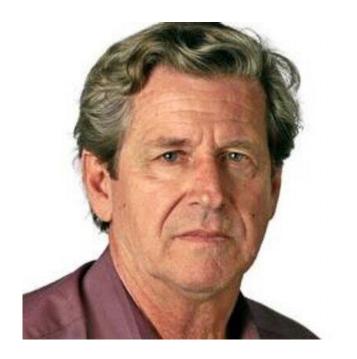
Joan McEwen is a Vancouver-born labour lawyer and arbitration specialist. After making partner at two law firms, she became a freelance labour arbitrator, her specialty since 1990. She is actively involved in innocence projects across North America that help exonerate and compensate the wrongfully convicted. She lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Bill Reynolds Life Real Loud: John Lefebvre, Neteller and the Revolution in Online Gambling ECW Press

At age 50, when some people start planning for retirement, John Lefebvre hit the digital motherlode. Lefebvre started buying Malibu beach houses, limited edition cars, complete wardrobes... And then the FBI came knocking on his Malibu door.







Bill Reynolds

Bill Reynolds is graduate program director at the School of Journalism at Ryerson University. He lives in Toronto, Ontario.

Paula Todd Extreme Mean: Trolls, Bullies and Predators Online McClelland & Stewart

From one of Canada's foremost investigative writers, a groundbreaking exposé on the motives and machinations behind cyber abuse - and the toll it is taking on children, youth, and adults around the world.

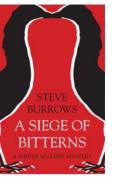




Paula Todd

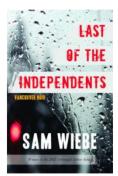
Paula Todd is a Canadian author, lawyer and professor at Seneca@York, where she teaches digital journalism and media law and ethics to college and university students. Todd is the author of four best-selling nonfiction books and was the first Canadian journalist to break news in an e-book with her bestselling book about Karla Homolka.











Best First Crime Novel Category

Janet Brons **A Quiet Kill** Touchwood Editions

Paired up for the first time, **RCMP** Inspector Liz Forsyth and DCI Hay of Scotland Yard must overcome insecurities and suspicions, as they find themselves wading into the murky waters of the diplomatic community and navigating through a melee of international conspiracy, militant nationalism, and murder.





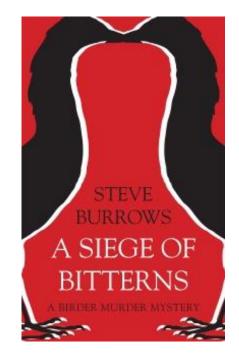


Janet Brons

Before taking to crime writing, Janet Brons worked as a foreign affairs consultant following a seventeen-year career in the Canadian Foreign Service, with postings in Kuala Lumpur, Warsaw, and Moscow. Janet holds a Master of Arts in political science and international relations.

Steve Burrows **Siege of Bitterns** Dundurn Press

Even though his success has made him a poster boy for the police service, Inspector Domenic Jejeune doesn't really want to be a detective. He prefers watching birds. When he investigates the murder of a leading environmentalist at one of Britain's premier birding sites, Jejeune's two worlds collide.





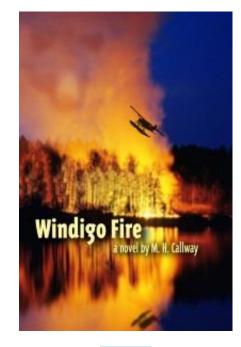


Steve Burrows

Steve began pursuing his life-long interest in birds and nature in the urban parks around his childhood home in Birmingham, UK. He is a past recipient of a 'Nature Writer of the Year' award from the BBC's *Wildlife* magazine and a former editor of the *Hong Kong Bird Watching Society Magazine*. Steve now lives in Oshawa, Ontario.

M.H. Callway Windigo Fire Seraphim Editions

Danny, a young Native Canadian, is lured into an illegal bear hunt that ends in murder. To survive he must rely on his wits and the spirit world.





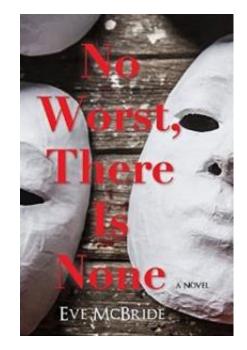


M.H. Callway

M. H. Callway is an awardwinning short story writer, whose work has been published in several crime fiction anthologies and magazines. Her debut novel was shortlisted under different titles for both the Debut Dagger and Unhanged Arthur awards.

Eve McBride **No Worst, There Is None** Dundurn Press

In a serene city in the extravagant mid-eighties, the privileged Warne family is victimized when their talented and artistic eleven-year-old daughter Lizbett is sexually slain. While, the police search in vain for the murderer, he is hiding in plain sight, feeling invincible, stalking the Warnes' younger daughter, Darcy.





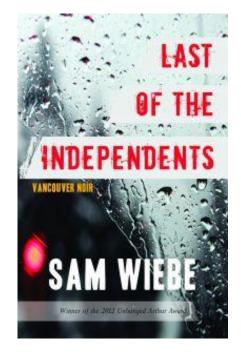


Eve McBride

A graduate in fine arts, Eve McBride has been a columnist with the Saturday Magazine of the Toronto Star and the Montreal Gazette. Prior to that she worked on CBC's Morningside with Peter Gzowski and did editorials on CBC. She lives in Prince Edward County, Ontario.

Sam Wiebe **Last of the Independents** Dundurn Press

Winner of the 2012 Unhanged Arthur. Twenty-nine-year-old Michael Drayton runs a private investigation agency in Vancouver that specializes in missing persons--only, as Mike discovers, some people stay missing.







Sam Wiebe

Sam Wiebe's debut novel won the 2012 Unhanged Arthur. In addition to writing, he teaches and tutors. For recreation, Sam plays music with his friends, goes for walks around Vancouver, and watches cop films from the seventies.



Best Crime Novel Category

Brenda Chapman **Cold Mourning** Dundurn Press

It's a week before Christmas when wealthy businessman Tom Underwood disappears into thin air — with more than enough people wanting him dead. New police recruit Kala Stonechild, who has left her northern Ontario detachment to join a specialized Ottawa crime unit, is tasked with returning Underwood home in time for the holidays.





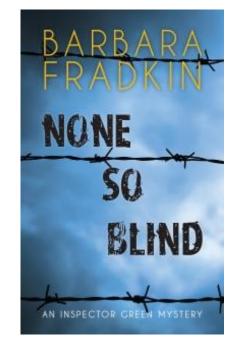


Brenda Chapman

Brenda studied creative writing and wrote poetry and short stories in university but it wasn't until 2004 that she published her first mystery for young adults. She is currently a senior communications advisor for Justice Canada. Brenda is a member of the Writers' Union of Canada, Crime Writers of Canada, Canscaip, and the Canadian Children's Book Centre.

Barbara Fradkin **None so Blind** Dundurn Press

Twenty years ago, a raw and impressionable Detective Michael Green helped convict a young professor for the murder of an attractive co-ed. From behind bars, the man continued to hound Green with letters protesting his innocence. Shortly after being paroled, he is found dead. Is it suicide, as the coroner believes? Revenge?





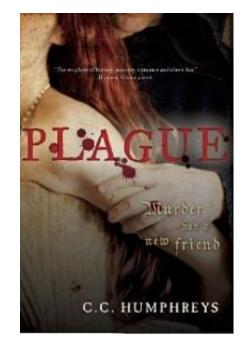


Barbara Fradkin

Barbara's work as a child psychologist provides ample inspiration for plotting murders, and she recently retired from practice to spend more time with her pen and her fertile imagination. She is best known for her award-winning detective series, featuring the exasperating, quixotic Ottawa Police Inspector Michael Green.

C.C. Humphreys **Plague** Doubleday Canada

Londoners have slipped the shackles of puritanism and now flock to the cockpits, brothels and, especially, the theatres, where for the first time women are allowed to perform alongside the men. Now the plague is returning to the city with full force, attacking indiscriminately ... and murder has found a new friend.





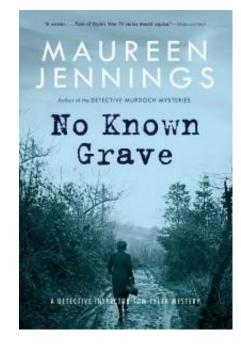


C.C. Humphreys

Chris Humphreys, who was born in Toronto and grew up in the UK, is an actor, playwright and novelist. As C.C. Humphreys, he writes historical adventure novels and young adult fantasy novels. Chris lives on Salt Spring Island, BC, Canada, with his wife and young son.

Maureen Jennings No Known Grave McClelland & Stewart

It's summer, 1942. St. Anne's Convalescent Hospital, staffed by nursing sisters who are Anglican nuns, has been established in an old manor house to help victims of the war to recover. After a horrifying double murder is discovered on the grounds, Tyler must figure out how the crime could have occurred.





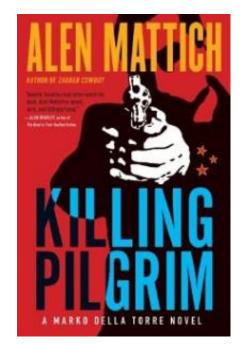


Maureen Jennings

Born and mostly bred in Birmingham, England, Maureen now lives in Toronto with her husband, two cats and two dogs. Maureen is the author of a series of historical mysteries set in Victorian Toronto, featuring detective William Murdoch. She also has a contemporary series featuring a forensic profiler named Christine Morris.

Alen Mattich **Killing Pilgrim** House of Anansi

The second novel in the Marko della Torre series is a propulsive political thriller following a complex plot hatched by members of the CIA and set against the backdrop of war-torn Yugoslavia. Secret policeman Marko della Torre gets caught in an intricate web woven by the CIA and members of the Croat nationalist movement.







Alen Mattich

Alen Mattich was born in Zagreb, Croatia, and grew up in Libya, Italy, Canada and the USA. He went to McGill University for his undergraduate degree and did post-graduate work at the London School of Economics. A financial journalist and columnist, he's now based in London and writes for *Dow Jones* and the *Wall Street Journal*.



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