



Writers of Canada

COOL CANADA CRIME

2013 Arthur Shortlist Special

The Finalists

Best Crime First Novel

Peggy Blair, **The Beggar's Opera**, Penguin Canada
Deryn Collier, **Confined Space**, Simon & Schuster
Peter Kirby, **The Dead of Winter**, Linda Leith Publishing
Chris Laing, **A Private Man**, Seraphim
Simone St. James, **The Haunting of Maddy Clare**, NAL

Best Crime Novel

Linwood Barclay, **Trust Your Eyes**, Doubleday Canada
Giles Blunt, **Until the Night**, Random House Canada
Sean Chercover, **The Trinity Game**, Thomas & Mercer
Stephen Miller, **The Messenger**, Delacorte Press
Carsten Stroud, **Niceville**, Knopf

Best Crime Novella

Lou Allin, **Contingency Plan**, Orca Rapid Reads
Vicki Delany, **A Winter Kill**, Orca Rapid Reads
Barbara Fradkin, **Evil behind that Door**, Orca Rapid Reads
Christopher G. Moore, **Reunion**, Heaven Lake Press

Best Crime Short Story

Melodie Campbell, "Life without George" in *Over My Dead Body Mystery Magazine*, August 2012
Sandy Conrad, "Sins of the Fathers" in **Daughters and Other Strangers**, The Bruce Dale Press
Scott MacKay, "Cruel Coast" in *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, July 2012
Jas R. Petrin, "Mad Dog" in *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*, October 2012
Yasuko Thanh, "Spring-blade Knife" in **Floating Like the Dead**, McClelland & Stewart

Best Nonfiction Crime

Anita Arvast, **Bloody Justice: The Truth behind the Bandidos Massacre at Shedden**, John Wiley & Sons
Guy Lawson, **Octopus: Sam Israel, the Secret Market, and Wall Street's Wildest Con**, Crown Books/Random House
Steve Lillebuen, **The Devil's Cinema: The Untold Story behind Mark Twitchell's Kill Room**, McClelland & Stewart
Bruce Livesey, **Thieves of Bay Street: How Banks, Brokerages and the Wealthy Steal Billions from Canadians**, Random House Canada

Best Juvenile/YA Crime Book

Lisa Harrington, **Live to Tell**, Cormorant Books
Y.S. Lee, **The Agency: The Traitor in the Tunnel**, Candlewick Press
Sylvia McNicoll, **Crush Candy Corpse**, James Lorimer & Company
Shane Peacock, **Becoming Holmes**, Tundra Books
Elizabeth Stewart, **The Lynching of Louie Sam**, Annick Press

Meilleure publication criminel en français

Mario Bolduc, **La Nuit des albinos: Sur les traces de Max O'Brien**, Libre Expression
André Jacques, **De pierres et de sang**, Druide
Jean Lemieux, **L'homme du jeudi**, La courte échelle
Martin Michaud, **Je me souviens**, Goélette
Richard Ste-Marie, **L'inaveu**, Alire

Best Unpublished First Crime Novel: The Unchanged Arthur

William Hall, **Cold Black Tide**
Ilonka Halsband, **The Raffle Baby**
Coleen Steele, **Sins Revisited**

Best Crime First Novel

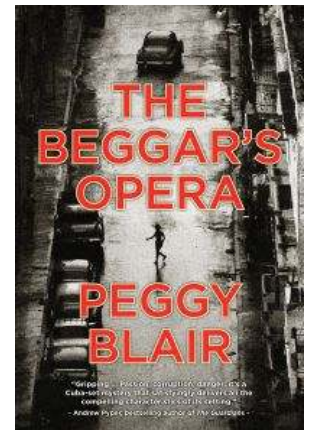
Peggy Blair

The Beggar's Opera

Penguin Canada

In beautiful, crumbling Old Havana, Inspector Ricardo Ramirez has only seventy-two hours to secure an indictment and prevent a vicious killer from leaving the island. But Ramirez also has his own troubles to worry about. He's dying of the same dementia that killed his grandmother, an incurable disease that makes him see the ghosts of victims of unsolved murders. As he races against time, the dead haunt his every step.

Peggy Blair has been a lawyer for almost thirty years and worked as a prosecutor and criminal defence lawyer for more than a decade. She taught courses on criminal law and trial procedure, and published a number of op-ed pieces, newspaper columns, and articles.



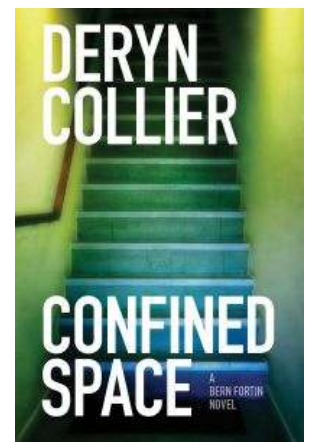
Deryn Collier

Confined Space

Simon & Schuster

In a small British Columbia town, the body of a brewery worker is found disintegrating in a tank of liquid caustic. It looks like a tragic accident until the next day, when the naked and tortured body of the worker's girlfriend is found abandoned in a field not far away. Safety investigator Evie Chapelle and coroner Bern Fortin risk their jobs—and their lives—in a race to uncover a killer hiding within a corporate system.

Deryn Collier grew up in Ottawa and Montreal and is a graduate of McGill University. After a very short career as a federal bureaucrat she ran away to the mountains of BC where she has been ever since. She has worked in a log yard, a brewery, as a doctor recruiter and a communications consultant.



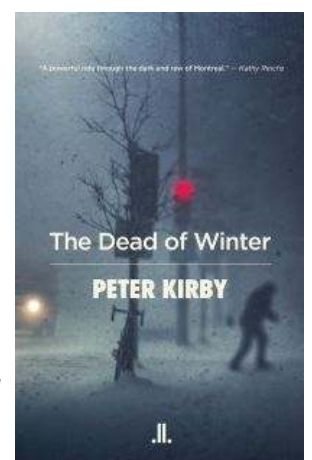
Peter Kirby

The Dead of Winter

Linda Leith Publishing

Vanier confronts his own demons while his investigation draws him into the heart of the Catholic Church in Quebec, the boardrooms of Montreal's business elite, and the back-alleys and soup kitchens of the dispossessed. With a cast of fascinating characters, this is a Montreal that will cast its icy shadow over your shoulder for a long time to come.

Peter Kirby lives in Montreal and practices international law with one of Canada's largest law firms. He was born in Cork, Ireland, and grew up in Brixton, one of South London's toughest neighbourhoods. He left school early, heading to the U.S. and eventually working as an itinerant chef before pursuing a law career.



Best Crime First Novel

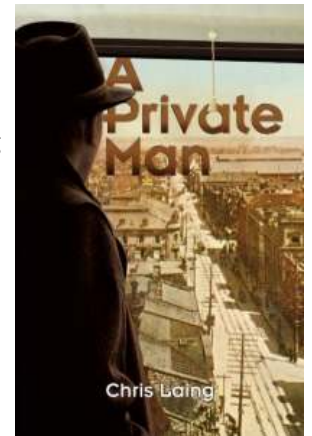
Chris Laing

A Private Man

Seraphim

"July, 1947. And hotter than hell in Hamilton." So begins Chris Laing's debut novel featuring Max Dexter, an army veteran recently discharged and limping from a war injury, who returns to his hometown to open his own private detective agency. His first case involves arson, art theft, money laundering and murder building to its rip-roaring climax.

Chris Laing is a native of Hamilton, Ontario. He worked in private business for twenty years before joining the Federal Public Service, where he served in the Department of the Secretary of State and National Museums of Canada until his retirement. He now lives in Kingston, Ontario with his wife, artist Michèle LaRose.



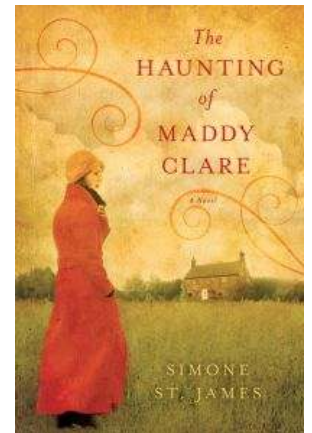
Simone St. James

The Haunting of Maddy Clare

NAL

In 1920's England, Sarah Piper's lonely existence changes when her temporary agency sends her to assist a ghost hunter. In the aftermath of World War I, she is thrust into a mystery she never expected, and a romance she could never have foreseen.

Simone St. James wrote her first ghost story, about a haunted library, when she was in high school. Unaware that real people actually became writers, she pursued a career behind the scenes in the television business.



Best Crime Novel

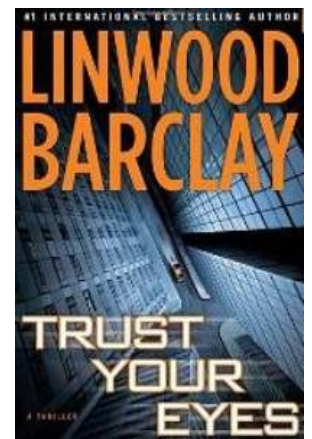
Linwood Barclay

Trust Your Eyes

Doubleday Canada

Thomas Kilbride is a map-obsessed schizophrenic so affected that he rarely leaves the self-imposed bastion of his bedroom. But with a computer program, he travels the world while never so much as stepping out the door. Then he sees something that anyone else might have stumbled upon--but has not--in a street view of downtown New York City. An image that looks like a woman being murdered.

Linwood Barclay, a staff columnist for the Toronto Star from 1993 to 2007, started his journalism career at the Peterborough Examiner in 1977. Two of his mysteries, besides this one, have been nominated for the Arthur Ellis Award for Best Novel.



Best Crime Novel

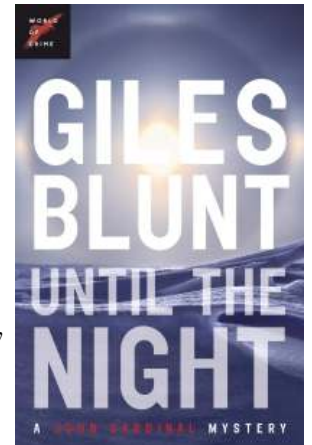
Giles Blunt

Until the Night

Random House Canada

At first the dead body, sprawled in the parking lot of Motel 17, looks pretty run of the mill: the corpse has a big footprint on his neck, and the likely suspect is his lover's outraged husband. But the lover has gone missing. Delorme, following a hunch, locates another missing woman, a senator's wife from Ottawa, frozen in the ruins of an abandoned hotel way back in the woods.

Giles Blunt grew up in North Bay, Ontario. After studying English literature at the University of Toronto, he moved to New York City, where he lived for the next 20 years, before moving back to Toronto in 2002. His John Cardinal series is set in northern Ontario.



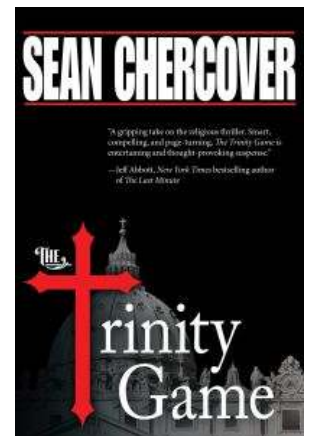
Sean Chercover

The Trinity Game

Thomas & Mercer

Can Vatican investigator Daniel Byrne debunk sleazy televangelist Tim Trinity's fake miracles before the world is duped into proclaiming him a messiah? And why are so many powerful forces lining up to silence Trinity? Could he be something more than a con man? What if Trinity's miracles are real, after all?

Sean Chercover is a dual citizen, born to a Canadian father and an American mother. He grew up in Toronto and spent childhood summers in Georgia. After earning a Liberal Arts degree from Columbia College Chicago, he worked as a private investigator in Chicago and New Orleans.



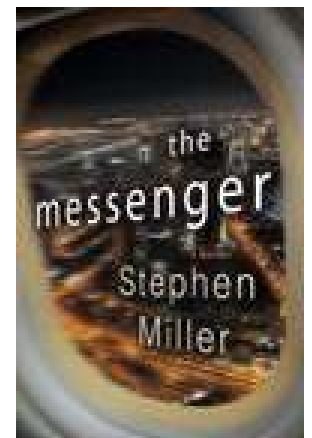
Stephen Miller

The Messenger

Delacorte Press

In this harrowing exploration of a young woman's mission, Daria has been sent to America and she holds the power of life and death in her hands. This is the story of two outsiders existing in the margins of their respective worlds. Daria—born in a refugee camp, raised in poverty, and Sam Watterman—a scientist who told his government the things they didn't want to hear and was discredited, an ex-pat in his own country.

Stephen Miller was born in Durham, North Carolina. He attended Virginia Military Institute, graduated with a BA in History and was accepted to the University of British Columbia's Creative Writing program. Soon after he got his M.A in 1970, theatre began to take over his life. Since then Stephen has acted professionally in over 50 plays and more than 150 screen appearances, but he never stopped writing.



Best Crime Novel

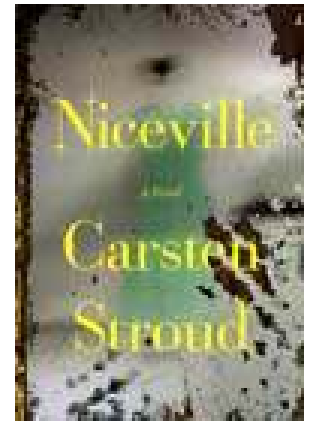
Carsten Stroud

Niceville

Knopf

Something is wrong in Niceville. . . A boy literally disappears from Main Street. A security camera captures the moment of his instant, inexplicable vanishing. An audacious bank robbery goes seriously wrong: four cops are gunned down; a TV news helicopter is shot and spins crazily out of the sky, triggering a disastrous cascade of events that ricochet across twenty different lives over the course of just thirty-six hours.

Carsten Stroud is already a two-time Arthur winning author. After a exciting and varied career, he realized “he was One Trick Pony and that his one trick was telling a good story.” He lives and writes in Thunder Beach, Ontario, Canada.



Best Crime Novella

Lou Allin

Contingency Plan

Orca Rapid Reads

Widowed Sandra Sinclair and her young daughter begin a new life on Vancouver Island with a man who is too good to be true.

With a Ph.D. dissertation on Christopher Marlowe, the murdered English Renaissance spy, Lou came naturally to a love of crime stories. Retired from teaching police Report Writing and Presentations to Criminal Justice students at Cambrian College in Northern Ontario, she now resides in Sooke, BC, overlooking the Strait of Juan de Fuca.



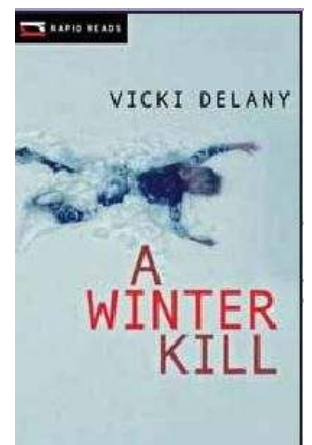
Vicki Delany

A Winter Kill

Orca Rapid Reads

Nicole Patterson is a young, green and very eager probationary constable with the Ontario Provincial Police. Although she spends much of her time breaking up bar fights, giving out traffic tickets and finding lost kids, she dreams of one day becoming a detective.

Vicki Delany is one of Canada's most prolific crime writers. Her popular Constable Molly Smith series have been optioned for TV by Brightlight Pictures. She also writes standalone novels of gothic suspense and a light-hearted historical series set in the raucous heyday of the Klondike Gold Rush.



Best Crime Novella

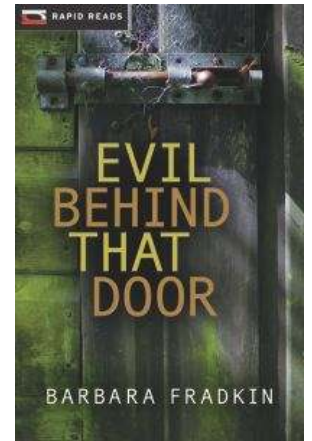
Barbara Fradkin

Evil Behind That Door

Orca Rapid Reads

When soft-hearted country handyman Cedric O'Toole agrees to help a former bully renovate his farmhouse, he uncovers more than old fears. But it is the battered, boarded-up door in the cellar, and the chilling secret locked behind it, that is about to bring them the most grief of all.

Barbara Fradkin obtained her PhD in clinical psychology. Her work as a child psychologist provides ample inspiration for plotting murders, and she retired from practice to spend more time with her pen and her fertile imagination.



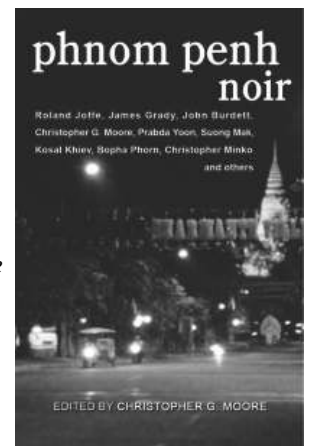
Christopher G. Moore

Reunion

Phnom Penh Noir, Heaven Lake Press

When it comes to noir, not all cities are equal. The history of genocide and dislocation sets Phnom Penh apart from other places. What other city in modern times was emptied of all of its people at gun point, a city abandoned and left as a ghost town?

Canadian Christopher G. Moore is the creator of the award-winning Vincent Calvino Private Eye series and the author of the Land of Smiles Trilogy. His novels have been translated into German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, Chinese, Hebrew, Polish, Turkish, Norwegian and Thai.



Best Crime Short Story

Melodie Campbell

“Life without George”

Over My Dead Body Mystery Magazine, August 2012

“Campbell's comic caper is just right for Janet Evanovich fans....impossible not to laugh.”
(Library Journal review of The Goddaughter)

Melodie got her start writing comedy (stand-up and columns.) She has over 200 publications including 100 comedy credits and 40 short stories. Her fifth novel, a mob caper entitled The Goddaughter's Revenge (Orca Books), will be released October 2013. She has won six awards for short fiction and has been published in Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine, Star Magazine, Flash Fiction, and many more.



Best Crime Short Story

Sandy Conrad

“Sins of the Fathers”

Daughters and Other Strangers, The Bruce Dale Press

“If you like your fiction with a touch of noir, this book’s for you.” (Guelph Mercury)

Sandy Conrad lives in Saugeen Shores, and has taught English, Drama, and Creative Writing at secondary schools in both Port Elgin and Kincardine. Her short stories have been winners in contests and published in anthologies around Ontario. Daughters and Other Strangers is her first solo collection.



Scott MacKay

“Cruel Coast”

Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine, July 2012

Critics have praised Mackay's novels as "devilishly plotted and populated with carefully drawn motivated suspects." (Booklist on Old Scores)

Scott Mackay is the author of thirteen novels and over fifty short stories. Twenty-two of these stories have appeared in either EQMM or AHMM. Cold Comfort, his first "Barry Gilbert" mystery novel, was nominated for the Arthur Ellis Award, Best Novel Category, and Last Inning, featuring the same sleuth, won the same award in the Short Story Category.



Jas R. Petrin

“Mad Dog”

Alfred Hitchcock’s Mystery Magazine, October 2012

Jas. R. Petrin has been many things from "a guy in a bakery who poked the stones out of cherries with a pair of giant tweezers" to network planner. Throughout he flirted with writing. 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 Arthur Ellis Award, and his work appears in many anthologies including the Cold Blood series.



Best Crime Short Story

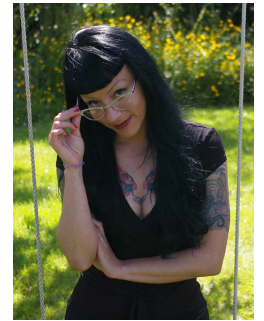
Yasuko Thanh

“Spring-blade Knife”

Floating Like the Dead, McClelland & Stewart

“Spring-Blade Knife, describes a gang member on the eve of his execution for murder. Such a character might be unsavoury in the hands of another writer, yet - here and elsewhere - Thanh displays the bighearted ability to make us empathize with the disenfranchised.” (Times Colonist)

In addition to being an award winning writer, Yasuko Thanh plays in a rockabilly band called the Jukebox Jezebels.



Best Nonfiction Crime Book

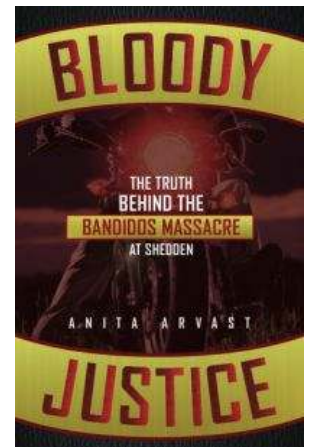
Anita Arvast

Bloody Justice: The Truth behind the Bandidos Massacre at Shedden

John Wiley & Sons

On the night of April 7, 2006, eight members of the Bandidos motorcycle gang were killed, execution style, and their bodies left in abandoned vehicles in a farmer's field near London, Ontario. First reported as the work of a rival club and later portrayed as an internal cleansing, the Shedden Massacre and subsequent trial made international headlines as the largest murder trial in Canada's history.

Anita Arvast is a Professor of Literature and Cultural Studies at Georgian College, and holds degrees in English Literature and a Ph.D. in Theory and Policy Studies. Her work is oriented to social justice and taking a second look at the Canadian Justice System.



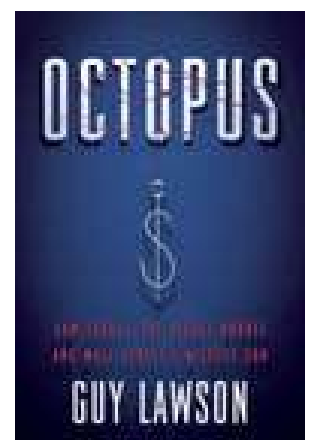
Guy Lawson

Octopus: Sam Israel, the Secret Market, and Wall Street's Wildest Con

Crown Books/Random House

Octopus is a real-life thriller that tells the inside story of an audacious hedge fund fraud and the wild search, by a colourful cast of rogues and schemers, for a “secret market” beneath the financial market we all know.

Guy Lawson was born in Toronto. He holds degrees from the University of Western Australia and the University of Cambridge, England. He worked briefly as an attorney on Wall Street but left the law to pursue writing.



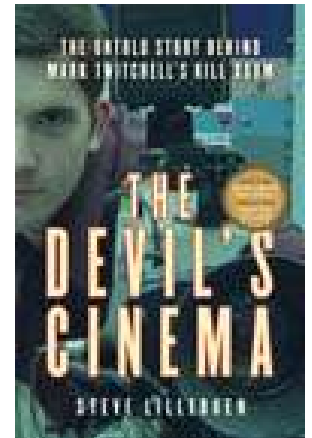
Best Nonfiction Crime Book

Steve Lillebuen

The Devil's Cinema: The Untold Story behind Mark Twitchell's Kill Room
McClelland & Stewart

Reality and fantasy collide with shocking results in this riveting account of the notorious case of Mark Twitchell - and the police investigation into one of the most bizarre murders in recent memory.

Lillebuen has been a commentator on crime and justice issues for well-known media outlets, from the Toronto Star to CNN, and been published in the Bangkok Post, the National Post, the Globe and Mail, and Maclean's. He is the current police and crime reporter for Australian Associated Press.



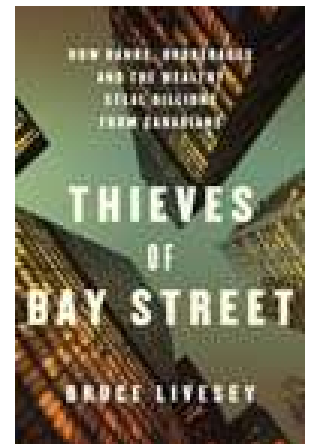
Bruce Livesey

Thieves of Bay Street: How Banks, Brokerages and the Wealthy Steal Billions from Canadians

Random House Canada

A newsmaking exposé about why Canada's financial industry is a haven for fraud. Though no large financial institution has recently gone bust in this country, white-collar criminals, scam artists, Ponzi schemers and organized crime, from the Hells Angels to the Russian mafia, know that Canada is the place in the Western world to rip off investors. And the fraudsters do so with little fear of being caught and punished.

Bruce Livesey is a Toronto-based investigative journalist and television producer, formerly for CBC's The Fifth Estate.



Best Juvenile/YA Crime Book

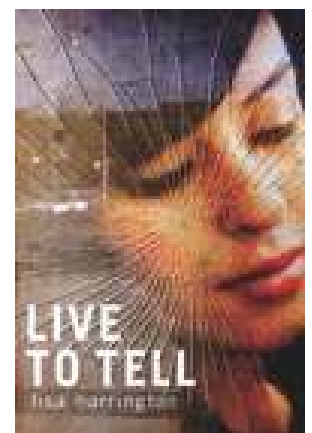
Lisa Harrington

Live to Tell

Cormorant Books

It's a night she'll never remember. When Libby Thorne wakes up in the hospital, they tell her she was in a car accident. They tell her it was her fault, and that an innocent victim is clinging to life. And they tell her that criminal charges are going to be brought against her. The problem is, Libby can remember none of it.

Lisa Harrington grew up in Halifax and now lives one street over from her family home. She writes teen fiction because that is the period of her life she best remembers.



Best Juvenile/YA Crime Book

Y.S. Lee

The Agency: The Traitor in the Tunnel

Candlewick Press

Queen Victoria has a little problem: there's a petty thief at work in Buckingham Palace. Charged with discretion, the Agency puts quickwitted Mary Quinn on the case, where she must pose as a domestic while fending off the attentions of a feckless Prince of Wales. But when the prince witnesses the murder of one of his friends in an opium den, the potential for scandal looms large.

Y S Lee was born in Singapore and raised in Vancouver and Toronto. In 2004, she completed her PhD in Victorian literature and culture. This research, combined with her time living in London, triggered an idea for a story about a women's detective agency.



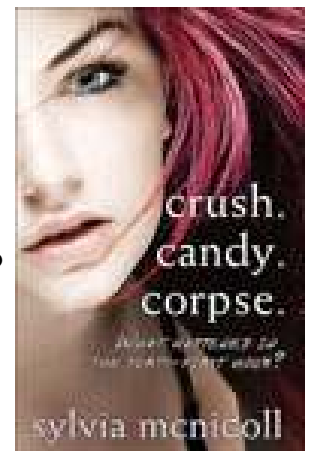
Sylvia McNicoll

Crush Candy Corpse

James Lorimer & Company

Paradise Manor is depressing... But working with the Alzheimer's patients has a surprising effect on Sunny. Along with Cole, the grandson of one of the residents, she begins to see that the residents don't have much more choice about their lives than she does. So Sunny does what she can to make the residents happy -- even if she has to sometimes break the rules to do it.

Sylvia grew up thinking that writing was something only dead British and American people did with success. Ironically, in addition to being a prolific author, she is writing profiles of other authors for Canadian Children's Book Centre.



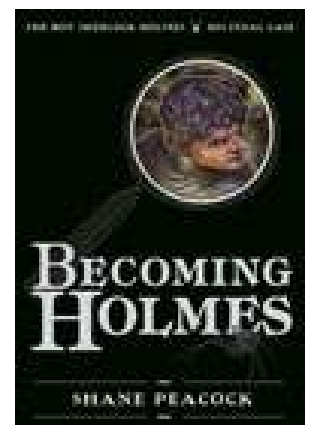
Shane Peacock

Becoming Holmes

Tundra Books

Becoming Sherlock is the final book in Shane Peacock's award-winning Boy Sherlock Holmes series, combining brilliant storytelling with fascinating historical detail, and a mystery worthy of one of the greatest sleuths in English literature.

Shane Peacock lives on a small farm near Cobourg, Ontario, where he continues to search for and imagine larger-than life characters. In his spare time he enjoys playing hockey, reading, and walking the wire, pretending that he is the hero in each story.



Best Juvenile/YA Crime Book

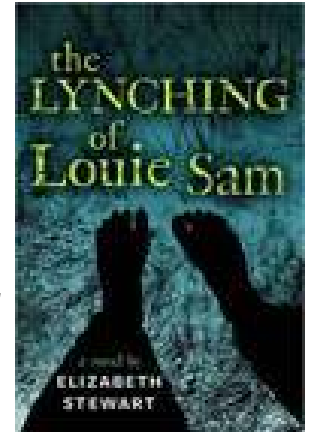
Elizabeth Stewart

The Lynching of Louie Sam

Annick Press

Inspired by the true story of the lynching, recently acknowledged as a historical injustice by Washington State, this powerful novel offers a stark depiction of historical racism and the harshness of settler life. The story will provoke readers to reflect on the dangers of mob mentality and the importance of speaking up for what's right.

Elizabeth Stewart started her career as a researcher and producer at CBC-TV current affairs in Toronto. She switched to dramatic screen writing at about the same time she moved from Ontario to the West Coast. She was approached by Annick Press to write about Louie Sam based on her screenplay Luna: Spirit of the Whale.



Meilleure publication criminel en français (Best French Crime Book)

Mario Bolduc

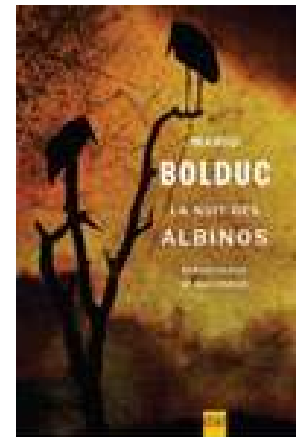
La Nuit des albinos: Sur les traces de Max O'Brien

Libre Expression

Tanzanie – Afrique de l'Est. Ne s'étant jamais remis de sa rupture avec l'avocate Valéria Michieka, Max O'Brien conserve l'espoir de renouer avec elle. Mais Valéria est sauvagement assassinée avec sa fille, Sophie. Bouleversé, Max décide de traquer les coupables.

Tanzania - East Africa. Never having recovered from his break with the lawyer Valeria Michieka, Max O'Brien still hopes to reconnect with her. But Valeria is brutally murdered with his daughter, Sophie. A shaken Max decides to track down the culprits.

Writer and director, Mario Bolduc worked in the field of film and television for nearly twenty years. Since 1995, he has devoted himself to writing.



André Jacques

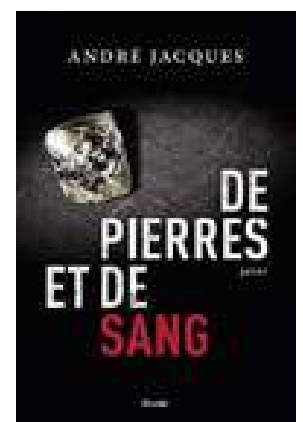
De pierres et de sang

Druide

Dans la nuit arctique, Julie Dorval s'empare d'un lot de diamants bruts contenant une pierre exceptionnelle dans les bureaux d'une mine au nord de Yellowknife. Elle a aussi percé un sombre secret.

In the arctic night, Julie Dorval takes a lot of rough diamonds containing a unique stone from the offices of a mine north of Yellowknife. She has also drilled into a dark secret.

De pierres et de sang, the fourth novel by André Jacques, is the result of four years writing and extensive research on the diamond industry.



Meilleure publication criminel en français (Best French Crime Book)

Jean Lemieux

L'homme du jeudi

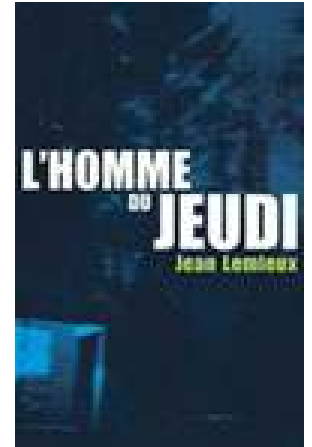
La courte échelle

Fraîchement débarqué à Québec, le sergent André Surprenant enquête sur un délit de fuite survenu sur la route de Fossambault. Sur les lieux du crime, on retrouve la bicyclette de Jonathan Gagnon, douze ans. Trois jours plus tard, la rivière de la Jacques-Cartier recrache le cadavre nu et défiguré de l'enfant.

Freshly arrived in Quebec, Sergeant André Surprenant investigates a hit and run accident occurring on Fossambault Road. On the scene, he finds the bicycle of Jonathan Gagnon, twelve. Three days later, on the Jacques Cartier River, the disfigured corpse of the child washes up.

Jean Lemieux is a doctor, novelist and short story writer born in Quebec

Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu (Iberville). His work, mainly populated by male characters, explores the themes of the search for identity and family ties.



Martin Michaud

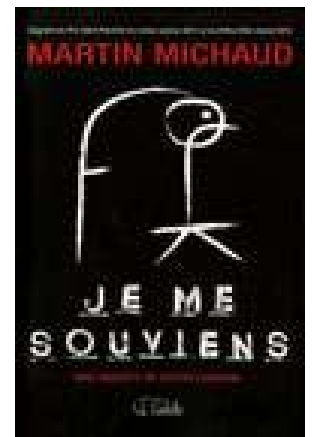
Je me souviens

Goélette

À Montréal, juste avant Noël, un homme et une femme meurent le cou transpercé par ce qui semble être un instrument de torture sorti tout droit du Moyen Âge. Auparavant, ils ont entendu la voix de Lee Harvey Oswald, l'assassin présumé du président Kennedy.

In Montreal, just before Christmas, a man and a woman die pierced by what appears to be a torture device straight out of the Middle Ages. Previously, they had heard the voice of Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged assassin of President Kennedy.

Lawyer, musician, screenwriter and writer, Martin Michaud is described by critics as "Quebec's master of the thriller."



Richard Ste-Marie

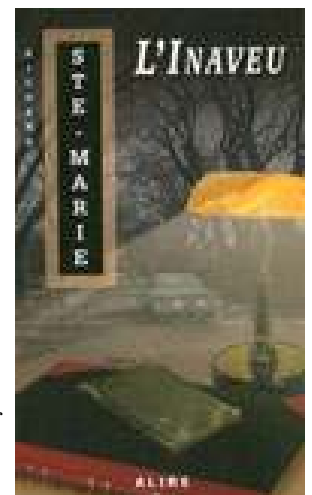
L'inaveu

Alire

Régis Duchesne a trouvé, en rassemblant les effets personnels de son père, mort du cancer il y a quelque temps, un album de photos dans lequel sont rassemblées des coupures de journaux qui témoignent, sur plusieurs décennies, de crimes ayant eu lieu à Montréal.

Regis Duchesne, collecting the personal belongings of his father, who died of cancer some time ago, finds a photo album in which are collected newspaper clippings that reflect on decades of crimes that took place in Montreal.

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.



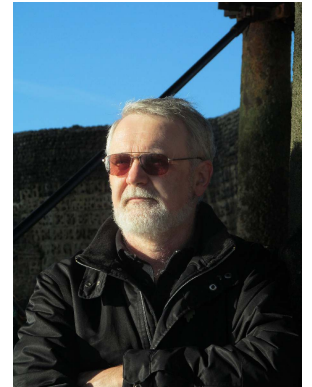
Best Unpublished First Crime Novel: The Unhanged Arthur

William Hall

Cold Black Tide

England, 1946. DS Graham Niven is home from the war, a stranger in a shattered, rationed country. All he wants is to restart his career, and revive a withered marriage. Instead, he's in Brighton, hunting a vicious hoodlum. Worse, he's paired with a washed-up wreck of an Inspector- a bitter copper who chews up and spits out his sergeants. When man-hunt turns to murder, they're sucked into the seedy, dangerous underbelly of Brighton. And they're not alone—others want answers, and will carve up anyone who gets in their way. They must find a killer, and fast, before Brighton once again becomes 'Queen of Slaughtering Places.'

An Architect with his own firm, William Hall lives in Toronto with his family and an assortment of four-legged companions. 'Cold Black Tide' is his first novel, based on extensive research in Brighton, and the help and advice of numerous retired officers from the Brighton force.



Ilonka Halsband

The Raffle Baby

In 1918 a baby is raffled off in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Almost a century later, during a literary festival featuring the author of the raffle baby's story, a man is murdered in the same small city. Although Emma Shaw suspects the two events are connected, the investigation turns to the guests at her bed and breakfast—elegant Kathleen, who had a secret relationship with the murdered man, and angry Matthew, who lied about his reasons for coming to town. As police zero in on a suspect, Emma learns that the heartbreaking truth lies closer to home than she ever imagined.

Ilonka Halsband wrote her first story in grade one because she felt Dick and Jane needed some mystery in their lives. After working in fast food, pharmacy, hospitality, insurance, property development and accounting, Ilonka finally moved back to her hometown of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan where she set The Raffle Baby.



Coleen Steele

Sins Revisited

In Sins Revisited, Matt Dunn, a Toronto Emergency Task Force officer suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, wakes up in a small-town hospital in the year 1939. His nightmare intensifies when he stumbles across a crime scene where the victim remarkably resembles the little brother he lost years before under almost identical circumstances. The coroner, shaken by Dunn's eerie knowledge of events and his conviction they're dealing with murder, not the accident everyone assumed, convinces Dunn to head up an investigation.

Dunn must then battle his own prejudices and ghosts to find a killer and hopefully, his way home.

Coleen Steele has drawn upon her fascination with the Toronto area of the early twentieth century for inspiration for her award-winning crime stories and now for a homefront detective series based on her adoptive town of Bowmanville, Ontario during WWII.

