



## “Bob's Interviews”



By Crime Writers of Canada Associate Bob Harris  
**Published by** Crime Writers of Canada in "Bob's Interviews"  
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### Meet Karen Sommerville



Writing as K.R. Dodd, Karen's atmospheric thrillers are set in the beautiful but dark underbellies of Italy and Malta.

Her second novel, *Scare Away the Dark*, won the 2018 Chanticleer CLUE award.

A member of the Crime Writers of Canada and past president of the Canada West chapter of Sisters in Crime, she resides near Vancouver.

Photo by Tamara Roberts

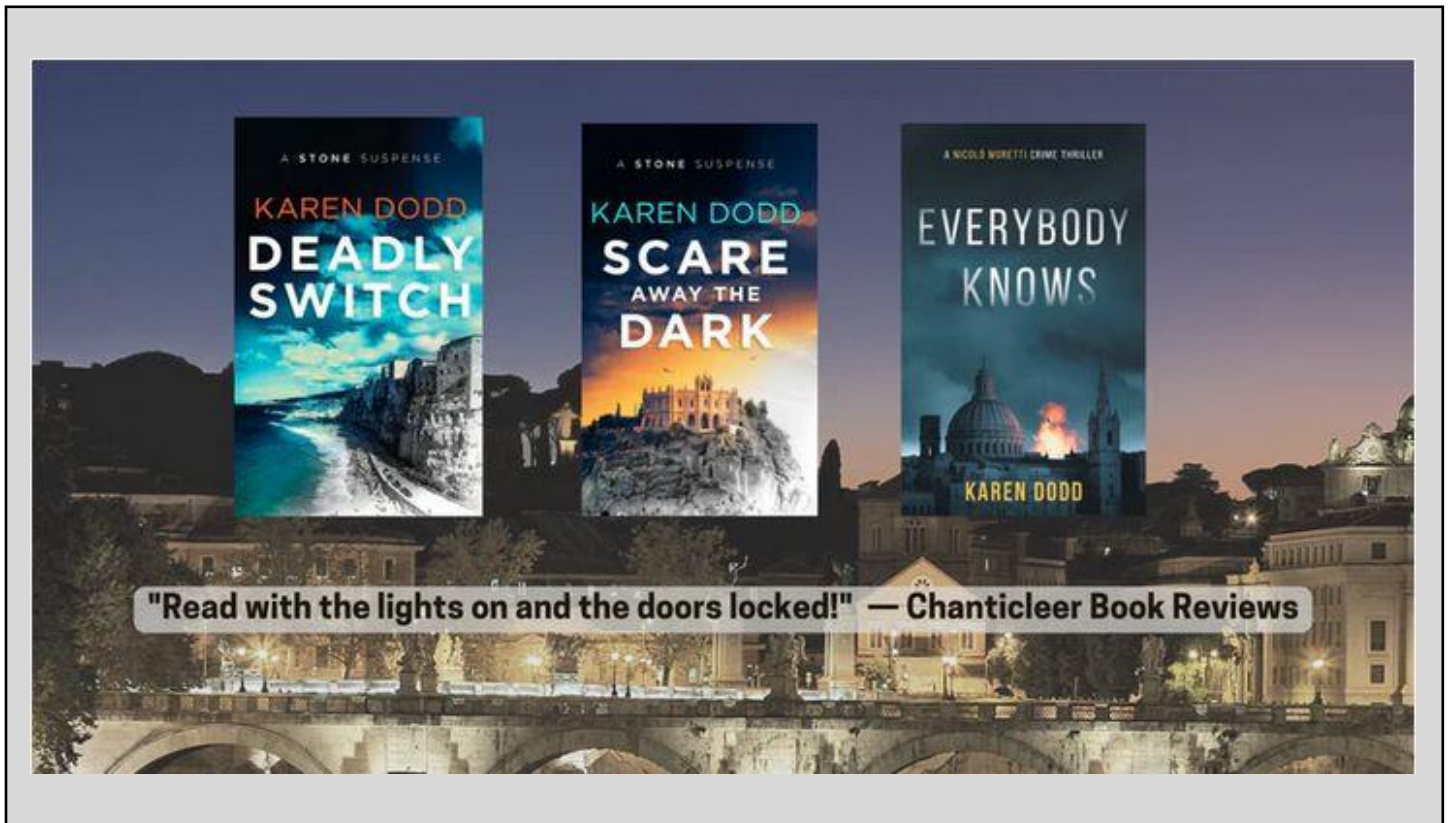
**Bob Harris is a Vancouver writer, book promoter, publicist and event producer.**

Bob had the opportunity to spend Christmas 2021 in Malta with his long-time business colleague Marc and his wife Katerina, her twins Josie and Savanna, and their grandmother Vlasta. They were great hosts and extended his 3-week stay to three months. What a great time he had touring Malta, attending marvelous dinner parties, hiking treacherous trails, and exploring historic sites.



Karen reading at the Writers Showcase.

Photo by Jim Goddard



*"What a treat to be interviewed by someone as insightful as Bob! I loved how his deeply curious questions took me back to moments in my writing career that I'd forgotten about or lost touch with. In a very tight lead-time, he did an impressive amount of research that showed he knew me and my work. We are lucky to have Bob as a dedicated friend of CWC and the crime writing community." - Karen Sommerville*

### **Our conversation:**

**Hello Karen, thank you for making time for me.**

I first met you in November 2022 at the book launch for CWC member S.M. "Shoshona" Freedman's *Blood Atonement* thriller.

Later in August 2023 I heard you read before a capacity audience at the Montalbano Family Theatre in the Vancouver Public Library (Central). There you joined four members from the CWC BC/Yukon region at the Writers Showcase which I co-produced and where I became aware of your fascinating thriller series.

You are known for "suspense novels, set against the lush backdrops of Italy, Malta, and beyond."

## **Let's begin with a brief overview of your background and extensive travelling.**

Thanks so much, Bob. I'm thrilled to be doing this interview with you!

Wow, my background is quite varied. I started out in the corporate world and from there ended up falling into public relations and then into sales and marketing. During that time, I wrote dozens of articles on entrepreneurship for women, and I had a coaching business around that for a few years. For a brief time, I owned a catering business—successful, but killing!

In terms of my extensive traveling, my husband's business took us around the world on conferences and, of course, we always took the opportunity to add on to those trips and go further afield. I set my first suspense novel in Calabria, Italy. However, I'd never actually been there and wasn't able to visit there until a year after the *Deadly Switch* came out. Two things I'm most proud of with that debut novel is it continues to get 4 and 5-star reviews 10 years after it came out. The other is readers consistently say they can tell I'd lived in the small town in southern Italy because they can feel, taste and smell everything so vividly. The truth is, I hadn't been there yet!

I know you're going to ask me about my research further on, so I'll save how I pulled that off for later. I've traveled to over eighty countries and all but two continents (but there's still time, right?). My biggest trip was a seven-country tour that started in Singapore. I visited Sri Lanka, Thailand, India, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and ended in Malta, which is where my latest thriller, *Everybody Knows*, is set.

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### ***The Writer and Reader***

#### **What influenced you to write fiction? Was crime mystery your first?**

I've been a huge reader of mysteries since I was a child (yes, I started with Nancy Drew). But I also devoured everything by historical fiction authors such as Daphne du Maurier (*Rebecca*), Philippa Carr, and Victoria Holt. Later, I graduated to thrillers. Not so much true crime. As a reader, and often a lonely and shy only child, I enjoyed solving the puzzle in a mystery. As a budding writer, I thought, wouldn't it be fun to be the one *creating* those puzzles for readers to solve?

### **Are there other genres you have pursued? What is your preference?**

Other than when I wrote non-fiction articles, I haven't deviated from romantic suspense (*Deadly Switch*) and the last two books (*Scare Away the Dark* and *Everybody Knows*), which are thrillers.

### **Who and what are your influences and why? And mentors?**

My influences have been authors such as Patricia Cornwell, David Baldacci, John Grisham, J.T. Ellison, A.J. Finn, Riley Sager, Ruth Ware (her last book *Zero Days*, which I just finished...OMG!) And oddly, Louise Penny. I have her entire series in my personal library. Contrary to being a cozy author (nothing against cozies!), her recent books have been pretty edgy and, in my opinion, very relevant regarding the social issues that plague our world today.

My strongest mentor has been Robert Dugoni. Most of your readers will know him from the Surrey International Writers Conference and, of course, his stunning thrillers. I was fortunate to take a 4-day intensive workshop with Bob Dugoni and Steven James in the mountains of Tennessee in 2019. The hands-on, one-on-one mentoring was life changing for me as a fairly new author. I was working on the manuscript for *Everybody Knows* at that time. Bob's input and later, that of my incredible UK editor, Rebecca Millar, made that book the one I'm most proud of. I choke up every time I do a reading. It's the "book of my heart."

### **As a book reader, what genre appeals to your personal taste?**

I love everything from Louise Penny's mysteries to Ruth Ware's thrillers and all things in between. I do read authors outside of the crime genre—Kate Quinlan, Elin Hilderbrand, Abraham Verghese among them—but when I need an "escapist fix," my go-to is a thriller.

### **Do you have an ideal reading experience?**

Like most voracious readers, I can read virtually anywhere and anytime—except in front of the television! But I prefer quiet settings and if there's background music, it has to be soothing classical music. Same thing when I'm writing. I'd rather write in the library than in a busy café. I envy writers who can write in hectic coffee shops! I read every night before I go to bed and lately, I've made time in my writing day to read, though I'm cautious about what I read when I'm working on a book, so it doesn't influence my writing.

I always have one non-fiction book—something I can learn or better myself from, including books on writing—and one fiction (for pure escapism) on the go. If I have a lot going on in my life, as I do right now, the non-fiction takes a backseat, but never a novel! Reading fiction (and journaling) keeps me sane.

### **What books have you read recently? Do you listen to audio books?**

Because I listen mainly to writing or marketing podcasts when I'm driving or out walking, I don't listen to many audio books, but it's something I'd like to do more of. I still love to hold a print book in my hands and I'm a prodigious borrower from our local library. Having said that, because I used to travel a lot, my Kobo device and the Kindle app on my iPad are filled with books, many of which I still haven't read. I also have an extensive wall-to-wall home library.

### **How is the library in your writing space organized?**

Haha! Not by colour, that's for sure. Although, I do have this odd obsession of placing books from largest to smallest in size. Awkward when you have a section of different sized books by the same author. Biographies and auto-biographies are in a separate area, along with other non-fiction. Top priority goes to my favourite thriller authors—and of course, the members of our Creative Coven. I have to cull many of my favourites frequently, but I keep the ones that I can learn from for my own writing. It might be for their use of a particular POV or an interesting plot device they employed successfully. I have all my writing craft books in a separate bookcase my late father built. It sits right beside my writing desk where I can literally reach out and grab what I need when I need it.

I used to have a TBR section, but that got too large (what, I'm not reading fast enough!?), so now they get mixed into the appropriate sections, and I just hope to heck that I remember them when I'm ready for my next read. My weak spot is checking the books in the for-sale bin at the library when I go in to borrow a book. Deadly!

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### ***The Stone Suspense Series***

**Describe the setting, lifestyle, ethnic and personality profile of your main character Jordan Stone.**

Jordan is a Vancouver-based investigative reporter who is estranged from her wealthy developer father and has a complicated relationship with her mother, whom her father left. Jordan is feisty and others don't always find her easy to get along with. You might say she's "difficult" or has a bit of a chip on her shoulder. She doesn't do self-care well, so she frequently exists on caffeine and fumes (yes, there is a bit of me in her). She often makes questionable decisions, which, of course, is not me! There is a side of her, though, that knows she's privileged as an educated white woman. The flip side of that is that some of her male peers subtly undermine her journalistic abilities.

**Briefly describe the story in your debut novel *Deadly Switch*. What inspired it?**

As with all my novels, the premise started from a real-life incident ripped straight from the headlines. *Deadly Switch's* genesis came from the death of a wealthy businessman my husband knew personally. A housekeeper found the man dead in his West Vancouver waterfront home with a needle in his arm. It was in all the papers, and it was eventually ruled a suicide, although there are still doubters. As he was a former drug user, there was speculation that it was a murder made to look like suicide or an accidental overdose. I took that premise, fictionalized it, and set it in West Vancouver, B.C. and Calabria, Italy and later in the story, to Carmel, California. All places near to my heart and that I now know well.

***Scare Away the Dark* is your second Stone Suspense novel. Please give me the elevator pitch on this story.**

This story opens with Jordan Stone as she battles PTSD after being kidnapped and held in an underground bunker in the Fraser Valley of B.C. for ten days. After being rescued by the RCMP, she fights to free herself and her family from the crime boss who wants them dead. As she follows the clues that lead her to Sicily, she can't shake the feeling that someone is stalking her every move. Jordan must outwit her would-be assassin in a cat-and-mouse chase through the underbelly of Southern Italy.

**It won the Chanticleer First in Category award for suspense/thrillers and has ranked #1 in Psychological Fiction, #2 in International Mystery & Crime, and #6 in Thrillers in the USA Kindle store. An impressive accomplishment!**

Thank you. It was quite a thrill for only being my second book.

**Hence, that would indicate you have a high readership in the USA. What “sparked” in the marketplace that initiated a significant rise in interest which drove the book up the charts?**

I hesitate to say this, but I think many Canadian crime writers write for the US market. Their agents and publishers want them to. I think that is changing somewhat, but it was certainly the case for me with my first two books. Even after taking my books out of being exclusive with the Big A, I aimed most of my marketing and promotions at the US market. I now have a good readership in Canada, the UK and more recently, Australia.

Now that I also sell direct from my website, any further advertising I do will direct people to where *I* own the customer data and not the online outlets. I'll always remain on those outlets, but all my marketing efforts now go to my website where readers sign up for my newsletter and can read samples of all my books on their browser (through BookFunnel) and buy from me direct. I plan to launch beautiful hard-cover editions and other exclusive content that will be only available from my website.

**What do you think it was about *Scare Away the Dark* that appealed to your readers, resulting in such notable success?**

That's a brilliant question! When that book came out in 2018, I think there was still a taste for the Dan Brown-type adventure stories set in exotic locations. I would like to think that there still is. However, I've noticed a shift from those types of stories toward more domestic suspense. Because of that, I've put my fourth international thriller on hold and instead am drafting one that is set in a seaside village in the Pacific Northwest, similar to the one in which I live.

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### ***The Nicolo Moretti Crime Thriller Series***

***Everybody Knows* (2021), the first in the series.**

**Much of this novel is set in Malta.**

**It is a country I knew very little about until Marc, my long-time business colleague, moved there in 2019 and his wife Katerina**

**invited me to spend Christmas with the family in 2021. I intended to stay for 3 weeks and didn't leave until a few days before my 90-day visa expired in late March 2022. What a fascinating history Malta has!**

**While there, I met Malta author and CWC member M.N. "Mark" Grenside who graciously organized fascinating private tours of Valletta's secret underground "Knights of Malta" tunnels and the University of Malta's Archeological Department's artifacts recovered from sunken Phoenician ships off the coast of Gozo. Much of Mark's next thriller is set in Malta.**

I'm familiar with Mark Grenside and greatly admire him and his work. He's been very generous in speaking to CWC. I've also just met Katerina and her twin daughters. It was fascinating speaking to Katerina about present-day Malta and I hope to reconnect with her there in the future.

**Many people don't know where Malta is. So Karen, please briefly describe the country and its appeal when you discovered it.**

In 2018, my husband and I were at a conference on the archipelago of Malta with 300 of Canada's top financial advisors and their spouses. In the week I was there, I fell in love with the country, particularly the small island of Gozo. I mentioned to one advisor as we waited outside our hotel for a ride to the airport how I loved Malta and wanted to come back. He turned to me and said, "Me too! And who knew it's the new money-laundering capital of the world?" I was like, "What? That's what my novels are about; money laundering and corruption." Later, I learned that beneath the exquisite beauty of Malta, there is a dark underbelly that outsiders seldom hear about.

**What inspired the *Everybody Knows* story?**

When I returned to Canada from Malta and started researching my third book, I discovered that just six months prior to me being there, a famous Maltese investigative journalist, Daphne Caruana Galizia, had been assassinated by a car bomb just down the road from her house. One of her grown sons, also a journalist, was in the house when he heard the explosion and ran down their gravel road in bare feet. His mother's car had been blown into a farmer's field and was engulfed in flames. He said as soon as he heard the explosion, he knew what had happened. She had been harassed, her dog was poisoned, she received death threats, and her bank accounts had been frozen. All because of her investigations and scathing articles she wrote about corruption at the highest levels of Malta's corporations and government. She named names, including the prime minister at the time.



By the time *Everybody Knows* came out three years later, the shrine to Daphne in Valletta was constantly being torn down by the government and resurrected by the public. Only to be torn down again. Her family was, and still is, waiting for justice. My heart just broke for her husband and three sons. I was in touch via Twitter with her son Matthew, and out of respect for his family, I went to great lengths to change as many details as possible, but still tell his mother's story. Malta's prime minister was finally ousted (but is still allegedly involved in the coverup and other schemes). Three hired assassins are in prison, but by no means has justice been done. It still breaks my heart and I'm angry. As I said, *Everybody Knows* is the book of my heart.

**Describe the setting of the story and the lifestyle, ethnic and personality profile of your main character *Nicolo Moretti*.**

Nicoló (Nico) Moretti is modeled after the actor Stanley Tucci. In my mind, he's the antithesis of the clichéd macho Italian man. He's single, tall, slim, and balding. He's vegetarian and even though he's a tough prosecutor of organized crime, he's emotionally sensitive. He grew up in the small Calabrian town of Tropea, Italy. As a young man, he worked in the family cheese business—a job he loathed—until he was accepted as a mature student to law school in Rome. There, he met Ariana Calleja (my fictional Daphne Caruana Galizia) who had grown up in Malta and was determined to use her law degree to hunt down and prosecute organized crime. At university, they were romantically involved. Nico wanted more; she only had true passion for one thing: ridding her country of the criminals who controlled it. Like Daphne Caruana Galizia, Ariana is assassinated, and Nico discovers he has a five-year-old son.

**Give me a glimpse of the research involved in developing the story.**

Well first, Bob, thank you for the research you did for this interview—on me and my work. Impressive and very much appreciated!

The research for all my books, but especially for *Everybody Knows*, was quite onerous, but I loved doing it. Researching is one of my favourite parts of writing novels. But what I found was eye-opening. Even back in 2011 when I was writing *Deadly Switch*, an organized crime group called the 'Ndrangheta, which started in Calabria and has infiltrated nearly 50 countries, including Eastern Canada, were infamous. Considered more dangerous than the Cosa Nostra, their activities, ranging from drugs to money-laundering, bring in more money than the entire GDP of Italy. I had more than one person suggest I fictionalize the name of the 'Ndrangheta (which I write about extensively in all my books), for my safety.

## **When can readers expect the next book in the series?**

Thank you for asking, Bob. And I wish I could tell you. I mentioned earlier that I had temporarily shelved my fourth manuscript and was instead writing a thriller set here in the Pacific Northwest. However, my husband has recently been diagnosed with a serious health issue and right now that's all I can focus on.

Recently, I have launched a non-fiction publication on Substack called [Words, Wisdom & Conversation](#). It's where my monthly reader newsletter now lives, but I've also started writing about other issues I feel strongly about. I'd like to explore life from the perspective of a female author of "a certain age." I've found Substack to be a supportive and friendly bunch—like Crime Writers of Canada. Everyone on there is a reader or writer and they engage in meaningful ways. Thus the "Conversation" part.

I find Substack more targeted to readers and more positive than social media. I'm looking forward to seeing how the platform develops. I encourage your readers to check it out (and no, I'm not an affiliate:>) It's free to both writers and readers, but it also allows writers to earn money for their work should they choose to. And I'm all for that!

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## ***On the Craft of Writing***

### **How long did it take to complete your first novel from concept to final manuscript readiness for submission to publishers?**

I started writing it in 2011, and it came out toward the end of 2013. I never submitted it to traditional publishers. As I didn't start writing (novels) until I was in my late fifties, by the time my first book was ready for publication, I had one overriding thought. I could use the next 3-5 years collecting rejections from agents and publishers. Or I could use that time to get 3-5 stories into readers' hands. I chose the latter. But in doing so, I committed to investing heavily in making sure my independently published books could stand spine to spine with any traditionally published book in the stores and libraries. And I believe they have.

I invested in two of the top book cover designers in the industry. I paid for structural editing, multiple copy edits, and, finally, professional proofreading. Until recently, I had my print and e-books professionally formatted (I now

do it myself using Vellum). I paid for an expert to write my back cover copy and engaged a professional photographer for my author photos. I recently paid to redo the covers of my first two books when they were no longer relevant for my genre. In other words, I invested heavily in making my books stand out. You can write the best story ever, but if nobody gets past an amateur-looking cover or a poor blurb, no one is going to read it.

### **How are your book titles determined?**

*Deadly Switch* seemed most appropriate given the twist at the end of the story (no spoilers!). *Scare Away the Dark* is the title of a song by Passenger. The last line of the first and last stanza is: "If we all light up we can scare away the dark." *Everybody Knows* is named after a Leonard Cohen song.

### **Was there a specific scene in *Everybody Knows* that was exceedingly difficult for you to write?**

Everything about that book was exceedingly difficult to write! You'd think after writing two, it would get easier. But it doesn't—I think that's true for most authors. Perhaps with each book we raise the bar for ourselves. But it was also difficult because it was the "book of my heart." I felt so passionate about what happened to Daphne Caruana Galizia. I felt the anger and frustration of her family. There are so many scenes that my voice still hitches when I read from them.

Daphne left behind a husband and three sons, two of whom have carried on work under the [Daphne Project](#) by Forbidden Stories. If your readers are interested, I highly recommend reading about their commitment to investigating and reporting the stories that certain people don't want published. The number of journalists who have been murdered in their pursuit of getting the truth out is shocking.

### **Please share the role played by your team of beta readers and the members of your "Author Mastermind" in bringing *Everybody Knows* to light.**

I started an author mastermind I guess about five years ago. We're now known as the Creative Coven. Interestingly, we started with three children /mid-grade authors and me, the only crime writer. Then we added two more crime writers (I was lonely all by myself!) and our sixth member writes in multi-genres. We are all multi-published; two traditionally, three independently, and one hybrid. We are not a critique group (although I belonged to one for several years). We meet via Zoom once a month and we mentor and support each other with craft and marketing. And we are each

other's rocks when it comes to personal situations. We've gone through tragedies, serious illnesses, and sometimes overwhelming situations in our author careers. I can reach out to one or all and they're there within minutes with "What do you need?" or "How can I help?"

We are sometimes beta readers for each other (especially those who write in the same genre), but I no longer use beta readers for my own novels. I found it very helpful with my first two books, but now I rely solely on my editors. However, I do use ARC readers who commit to reading within a specific time and posting reviews where I ask for them.

**If you were tasked with organizing a five-day tour for a trio of crime and thriller fiction writers from Malta — two women and one man — who had never been to Vancouver or B.C.'s West Coast, where would you take them?**

Ooh, fun! Well, as I live in the Sea-to-Sky corridor, it would definitely include a trip to the [Sea to Sky Gondola](#). And if no one was claustrophobic, we'd go to the Britannia Mine Museum. I'd be waiting for them outside as I am claustrophobic! As an avid skier and sometime cyclist, Whistler would be a must. Crime writer, Robin Spano, has set at least one of her novels there. If it was summer, I'd take them to Desolation Sound, where I cruised every summer on a 42-foot live-aboard sloop I built with my first husband. Savoury and Cortez Islands are among my favourite spots. Tofino, Clayoquot Sound...the list goes on! I've been all over the world and I'm still "surprised by joy" (a phrase coined by mystery author Louise Penny's late husband) each time I return home. I pinch myself and ask, how lucky am I?

**If they were looking for crime scene locale, where would your character Jordan Stone take them?**

Oh, definitely into the back alleys of Gastown! Jordan is well connected there; it's where she often meets her confidential informants.

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**How has membership in Crime Writers of Canada benefited your career as an author?**

I'm a relatively new member of CWC, but I'm so impressed with what I've seen so far. I'm fairly picky about organizations I choose to belong to. I'm not interested in just paying my money to say I'm a member of whatever organization. It has to be a living, breathing entity; one that I have a passion for. The support from within the crime writing community is what

has really struck me. Besides myself, two members of our Creative Coven are highly respected members of CWC. So, I know I'm in good company.

**You are past president of the North Shore Writers' Association and immediate past president of the Canada West chapter of Sisters in Crime. Describe these organizations and how they have benefited you as a writer and leader?**

I can unequivocally say I wouldn't have published my debut novel, *Deadly Switch* without having been a member of the North Shore Writers Association (at that time, I was president). It was in 2012 at one of our meetings that author Martin Crosby spoke to us about self-publishing and laid out a step-by-step plan on how to do it. It was Martin who coined that phrase I used earlier about making sure your independently published book could stand spine-to-spine next to any traditionally published one. All the members of my then critique group came from the North Shore Writers Association, without whom I don't think I would have published. By the way, Martin is the founder of the successful promo site, [Book Doggy](#). The folks there will bend over backward for you and are very reasonably priced. I use them every time I do a book promotion.

I came to Sisters in Crime through CWC member, Charlotte Morganti. She is one of our chapter's past presidents, and I truly could not have fathomed being the president without her sage advice and never-ending help. She just published her debut novel, [The End Game](#) of which she should be exceedingly proud. I was an advance reader, and she has a very famous author blurb her book for her. Go have a look to see to whom I'm referring!

Sisters in Crime-Canada West has opened so many doors for me and we're a growing and supportive chapter. I'd say 50% of our members are also members of CWC, so we have a lot in common. If I could only belong to two organizations, hands down Crime Writers of Canada and Sisters in Crime would be the ones.

**Please share a few "light bulb" moments you have experienced during your journey as a writer.**

Oh my gosh, that's a tough one! Light bulb moments. Well, I'd have to say that ignorance is bliss. When I wrote my first novel, *Deadly Switch*, I felt like I just sat down at the keyboard and channeled the muse. It just came to me. I had no idea about structure. I didn't know if I was a plotter or a pantster (I'm the latter, but I prefer to call myself a "discovery writer"). Thank God for editors! So, when I started my second book, *Scare Away the Dark*, I thought it would go the same way. Not!

Now, I write (and do my revisions) in Scrivener, and I follow the 15-beat method of Save the Cat. But within that, I still wing it a lot! I overwrite, frequently write myself into corners, and often think this is complete crap. That's normal, right!?

**What major milestones and accomplishments come to mind?**

Well, certainly winning the 2018 Chanticleer CLUE award for *Scare Away the Dark* was a high moment. I was honoured to be in the company of some fabulous authors and being able to put that little gold sticker on my books (I still do!) was amazing.

I would say the other milestone came from a reader and the husband of one of my Creative Coven members. He's a talented sculptor and artist and is extremely well read. He said about *Everybody Knows*: "I'm an avid reader and have read every one of John Grisham's books. This book reminded me of one of his. I highly recommend it." Honestly, that and the fact that all my books average 4.5-star reviews mean more to me than anything. It tells me that readers like what I write and that inspires me to write more for them.

**Are there writing and publishing conferences, book fairs and related events that you would like to participate in or attend?**

I've always been a tremendous proponent of the Surrey International Writers Conference. I've been going off and on since its inception, and it's where I learned what I needed to write and publish my first book. It's where I met two of the members of our Creative Coven and have developed many long-term relationships with writers and authors I met there. I attended my very first Left Coast Crime in Arizona in 2023 and would absolutely love to attend Bouchercon in the future. Overall, I'm a huge believer in getting out to conferences. You meet wonderful people, hone your craft and yes, I've even done some agent pitches!

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**Thank you for this interview, Karen. I've enjoyed my West End and English Bay park bench moments in Vancouver reading *Everybody Knows*.**

Thank you, Bob. I have too! I love the thought of you sitting on a bench by the beach, holding *Everybody Knows* in your hands. Your questions have been insightful, and I've enjoyed answering them. You've made me think back to moments I'd forgotten and, especially at this time in my life, you

have helped re-inspire me and my writing. Thank you for being so generous—not only to me personally, but to CWC and the crime-writing community. I appreciate you giving me this opportunity to connect with CWC members and your readers.

**To wrap up our conversation, kindly give me flash answers to:**

**Your favourite beverage.**

My first giant latte in the morning made with Mogiana coffee beans (a Vancouver family-owned company) and fresh whole milk from the eighth of a cow I own. Which eighth? Now, that is the question!

**A notable Malta cuisine restaurant you enjoyed during your visit.**

Not a restaurant, but I attended a private gala dinner (for 600 people) in Valletta's secret underground "Knights of Malta" tunnels you referred to. Complete with enormous candelabras and opera-singing servers, the experience (of which I have many photographs) was breathtaking! And it was enough to overcome any feelings of claustrophobia.

**A memorable book that remains with you since your early childhood.**

*Pegasus, the Flying Horse*. I don't know if that was the exact title, but I dearly wish I had kept it. I can still see the pastel-coloured hard cover in my mind.

**Your favourite Vancouver landmark.**

It's not a landmark but it's where my soul is most at ease—anywhere by the sea. Howe Sound in particular, where I see dolphins and whales from my house.

**An unexpected and thrilling moment you experienced while visiting the archipelago of Malta.**

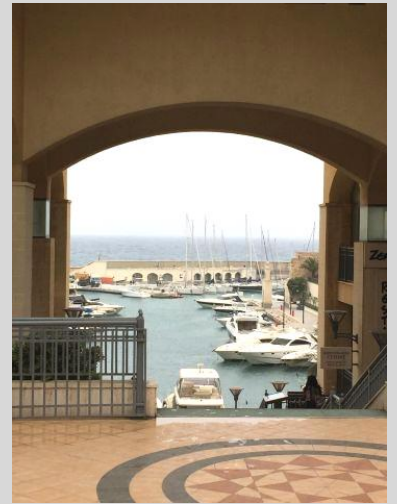
I would have to say finding out about Daphne Caruana Galizia (who I modelled my fictional character, Ariana Calleja, after) was life-changing for me. After that, I'd say the turquoise caves around the tiny historical island of Gozo. I would live there if I could.



Gozo turquoise caves



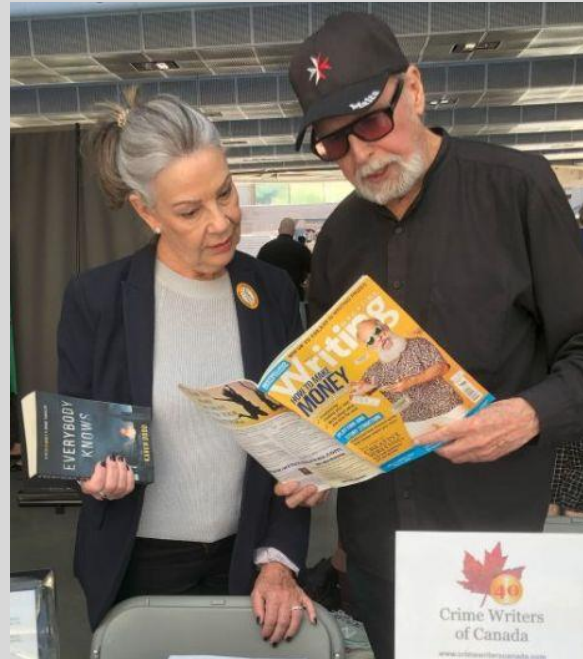
Karen in Malta 2018



Seawall stroll in Valletta, Malta



Daphne Caruana Galizia Memorial  
Christmas 2021  
(Bob Harris photo)



While Karen and Bob chat about their Malta experiences and the scenes in *Everybody Knows*, they take a moment to browse the UK's #1 bestselling *Writing Magazine*.

Author Website: <https://krdodd.com/>

Writing professionally as Robert H. Harris and working as a consultant to writers, Bob accepts email inquiries at: [harrisbobh@hotmail.com](mailto:harrisbobh@hotmail.com) (Profile and publicity photos available on request).