# PHILIP G. SPITZER | Literary Agency

FOREIGN RIGHTS GUIDE FALL 2022

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# RICHARD KLUGER - Hamlet's Children (Scarlet Tanager, August 2023)



When grave family misfortune leaves thirteen-year-old Terry Sayre without parents or relatives to care for him in the summer of 1939, his only option to elude foster care by strangers is to accept asylum abroad with his mother's Danish kin, people he met only briefly as a child. Despondent but not given to self-pity, Terry begins life anew sheltered in his formidable grandparents' home in a coastal town an hour's drive from Copenhagen, Denmark's capital. But within months of his arrival, the Second World War breaks out. Serving as the emotional prism through which that monumental struggle is refracted, Terry's older self recounts his precarious coming of age as an alien marooned in a disconcerting new land throughout its long national nightmare – an ordeal none of his peers was enduring back home safe in America.

Spared the savage treatment Nazi Germany dealt other countries it conquered, Denmark was allowed to remain nominally self-governing. Good fortune, though, did not allow the proud, peace-loving little kingdom to escape the toll the war took on its people's collective soul. Fearful of openly resisting or secretly harassing the German occupation at risk of lethal reprisals, Denmark made a complicitous pact with its tormentors to feed and equip their armed forces. As a result, the Danes suffered from self-hatred at home and contempt abroad as a land of shameless collaborators bartering their country's honor to survive the war unbloodied.

Hamlet's Children by Richard Kluger is the story of a young American's wrenching assimilation with his Danish relatives and their friends and of how he is pinioned in the same cruel vise with his adopted countrymen as they cunningly attempt to subvert the Germans' iron grip on their kingdom. Paramount on this agenda of defiance is the Danes' persistent effort to keep their Jewish neighbors out of the Nazis' murderous hands. Vibrant with memorable characters and fraught with tension, this artfully crafted narrative, both heartbreaking and uplifting, is a testament to the human spirit in its bleakest hours.

#### PREPUBLICATION PRAISE FOR HAMLET'S CHILDREN

"Hamlet's Children is a powerful and rousing novel of oppression and defiance in Denmark during World War II. I am particularly taken with how naturally the tale unfolds and the jaunty elegance of the prose. The depiction of the complex relationship between the narrator's aunt and the German major is superb and worth a book of its own." – R.Z. Sheppard, former longtime book critic at *Time* magazine

"It's rare enough to find an authentic portrait of an adolescent, especially one who functions in an adult world. Richard Kluger has provided just such a feat in his account of an American teenager trapped in Nazi-occupied Denmark, a story alive with sympathetic characters and propelled by a fascinating narrative."

— Joseph E. Illick, professor of history emeritus, San Francisco State University and author of American Childhoods

# Select Praise for Kluger's previous novel, Beethoven's Tenth

"The climax makes for quite a crescendo, no easy feat for a novel whose theme is the tenuous boundary between great art and artful forgery, genius and fraud." —*Houston Chronicle* 

"...this seven-course banquet of musical legend and coldhearted fraud." -Kirkus Reviews

"For any who love Ludwig von Beethoven's music, this novel is a must for its biography. For everyone else, it's a great mystery story set against a background of actual history."

—New York Journal of Books

"This brilliantly researched novel will have scholars checking and re-checking what they thought they knew about Beethoven and his music, and mystery lovers delighting in the deftness of the plotting." —Classical Voice North America

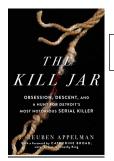
"Imaginative and informative, *Beethoven's Tenth* makes for a fine read for both music lovers and fans of creative sleuthing." —**Leonard Slatkin**, Music Director of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, formerly Director of the Otchestre National de Lyon

"A wonderful mystery...Kluger succeeds admirably in both making the possibility of a tenth Beethoven symphony seem probable and undermining it throughout the authentication process undertaken by those planning to profit from it. A true tour de force—readable, clever, erudite, and with a tantalizing ending." —**Robert P. Morgan**, Professor Emeritus of Music, Yale University, and author of Twentieth-Century Music: A History of Musical Style in Modern Europe and America

# **About the Author**

**Richard Kluger** is an American social historian and novelist who, after working as a New York journalist and publishing executive, turned in mid-career to writing books that have won wide critical acclaim. His two best known works are *Simple Justice*, considered the definitive account of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1954 landmark decision outlawing racially segregated public schools, and *Ashes to Ashes*, a critical history of the cigarette industry and its lethal toll on smokers' lives, which won the Pulitzer Prize for general nonfiction. He now resides in Berkeley, California.

# J. REUBEN APPELMAN – The Kill Jar: Obsession, Descent, and a Hunt for Detroit's Most Notorious Serial Killer (Gallery Books)



The basis for the documentary series Children of the Snow

In this cold case murder investigation from "a powerful, confident voice in the new true crime memoir genre" (James Renner, author of True Crime Addict), one of America's most notorious sprees is cracked open. With a foreword by Catherine Broad, sister of victim Timothy King, this is a deftly crafted true story set amid the decaying sprawl of Detroit.

Four children were abducted and murdered outside of Detroit during the winters of 1976 and 1977, their bodies eventually dumped in snowbanks around the city. J. Reuben Appelman was only six years old when the murders began and even evaded an abduction attempt during that same period, fueling a lifelong obsession with what became known as the Oakland County Child Killings.

Autopsies showed that the victims had been fed while in captivity, reportedly held with care. And yet, with equal care, their bodies had allegedly been groomed post-mortem, scrubbed-free of evidence that might link to a killer. There were few credible leads, and equally few credible suspects. That's what the cops had passed down to the press, and that's what the city of Detroit, and Appelman, had come to believe. When the abductions mysteriously stopped, a task force operating on one of the largest manhunt budgets in history shut down without an arrest. Although no more murders occurred, Detroit remained haunted.

Eerily overlaid upon the author's own decades-old history with violence, The Kill Jar tells the gripping story of Appelman's ten-year investigation into buried leads, apparent police cover-ups, con men, child pornography rings, and high-level corruption saturating Detroit's most notorious serial killer case. "Always deft, often sublime, Appelman uses his investigation to draw us into his personal journey through darkness, to light and life" (Chip Johannessen, producer of Dexter).

#### Reviews/Blurbs

- "A powerful, confident voice in the new true-crime memoir genre. There comes a moment when the reader realizes this is not a search for a killer of children but a search for a cult of dangerous and powerful men and it shakes you to the core."
- —James Renner, author of *True Crime Addict*: How I Lost Myself in the Mysterious Disappearance of Maura Murray
- "A true crime story in the best possible sense, where chapter by chapter we converge on a surprising and unimaginable truth... Always deft, often sublime, Appelman uses his investigation to draw us into his personal journey through darkness, to light and life."

- —Chip Johannessen, Exec. Producer of Dexter and Homeland
- "J. Reuben Appelman becomes both Virgil and Dante, leading us through his own dark history and the history of his city while making the almost unbearably honest, compulsive demands of a roadside accident. Although The Kill Jar can be painful to gaze at, it is far more dangerous to look away." —Michael Hoffman, Director of *The Best of Me, A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- "J. Reuben Appelman not only expertly unfurls the sordid and fascinating tale of the O.C.C.K. case, but with poetic light also reveals the truth of violence, longing, and imperfect depravity in the human condition. The Kill Jar is completely edifying and endlessly thrilling."

  —Alan Heathcock, author of *Volt*
- "Appelman's pathos is visceral and cathartic... his investigative work into this dark, twisted case is remarkably thorough and perceptive." —*Publishers Weekly*
- "For those with the stomach for human depravity, The Kill Jar is a must-read... a well-written examination of life's morbid underground." —The New York Journal of Books

#### **About the Author**

J. Reuben Appelman is a screenwriter, author in multiple genres, and two-time State of Idaho Literature Fellow, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. His film industry work includes the feature documentaries, Playground and Jens Pulver | Driven, as well as several produced screenplays. His investigative writing and research, focused on issues of commercial sexual exploitation, child endangerment, and criminality and law enforcement, have earned him an ongoing spot as special lecturer on the issue of Human Trafficking for the Honor's College at Boise State University. He works full time as a private investigator.

You may view the trailer for the documentary by clicking here: CHILDREN OF THE SNOW

# <u>LARRY BEINHART</u> – The Deal Goes Down (Melville House, August 2022)

From Edgar-winning author of American Hero (made into the film Wag the Dog), Larry Beinhart, and a new novel featuring his New York PI hero, Tony Cassella.

In *The Deal Goes Down*, Tony gets involved with a team of women whose mission is to save others—mainly from abusive marriages—and make a nice profit to boot. The firm is LIFE, Inc., Litigation Investment for Female Empowerment; Tony their would-be hit man.

The novel features great dialogue and great characters—most female. There are great action scenes; fantastic while still being credible.

Three Tony Cassella novels have previously been published: the Edgar winner No One Rides for Free (William Morrow, 1986), You Get What You Pay For (William Morrow, 1988) and Foreign Exchange (Crown/Harmony, 1991).

#### Reviews / Blurbs

"From the gripping opening line...Beinhart never takes his foot off the gas in the outstanding fourth outing for Tony Cassella... Fans of darkly funny crime dramas such as Fargowill be hooked."— Publishers Weekly, STARRED REVIEW

"There's enough action in this thoroughly enjoyable comedy of errors to please the most discriminating reader, but it's the humor that captures." —*Library Journal* 

"Determinedly offbeat...the enjoyment Beinhart derives from his spritzing, free-wheeling approach lifts the book, which at its best is a cross between Stanley Elkin and Raymond Chandler... A comic noir with a voice all its own." —*Kirkus Reviews* 

Beinhart pulls in the reader quickly...The engrossing murder-for-hire story is fast-paced and flecked with modern themes, from the #metoo movement to racial tension." —*The Times Union* 

"This book fits into that much beloved subgenre of crime novels in which the protagonists are criminals. Beinhart flips the typical detective trope on its rear in this fourth book in the series by transforming his investigator into a criminal... Here's the first sentence: "The woman on the train asked me to kill someone." How could any reader consider setting down a book with an opening line like that one? Impossible, no?" —The Dayton Daily News

"(A) defiantly off-kilter tale, deliciously laced with conspiratorial paranoia, slippery moral slopes, and humor of the darkest sort. A heady brew well worth savoring." —Mystery Scene Magazine

"His dry, often hilarious, heartfelt style is reminiscent of sitting in a dimly lit bar with your coolest friend, listening to his epic stories and sipping Coke after a while because you want to remember every word. No fan of intelligent thrillers should miss this one, but be warned; sometimes "can't put it down" isn't just hyperbole." —*Chronogram* 

"[Tony Cassella's] capers in *The Deal Goes Down* are truly like no other in literature. He pulls off problem-solving in a way not seen before. The man is slick. So is author Larry Beinhart...It's good to have Tony back. Let's hope he never retires again."— *Bookreporter* 

"Phenomenal...I loved this novel! No one writes in this genre like Beinhart. And very few in any other genre. The things Beinhart does to make the characters breath, get under our skin. What a joy to read!" —Juan José Campanella, director of the Oscar-winning *The Secret in Their Eyes* 

"Beinhart brilliantly drags Chandler to the tangled woods of the Catskill Mountains, resulting in a first rate—and first—noir-murder-Buddhist-comic-Woodstock-thriller. Fantastic fun." —Shalom Auslander, author of *Foreskin's Lament* 

Praise for previous books

"This is a remarkable achievement, with nonstop frights contrasted by uproariously funny incidents and the 20/20 dialogue that personalizes the widely different characters"

—Publishers Weekly on No One Rides for Free

"A gripping, page-turning tale that takes one through bad lawyers and good ones, treachery and faith, pornography and preaching, torture and Homeland Security. Salvation Boulevard is a great and memorable read." —Vincent Bugliosi, two-time winner of the Edgar Allan Poe Award

"In this entertaining and instructive guide to writing mysteries, Edgar Award-winning mystery writer Beinhart covers such subjects as narrative drive, plotting, openings, character development, and a host of other writerly techniques. He includes many examples from his favorite mystery writers, among them le Carré, Higgins, Fleming, and Beinhart's wife, Gillian Farrell. The style is chatty and breezy and the content informative. This is not really a step-by-step manual but a book that writers and would-be writers might turn to for advice and a thoughtful discussion of a particular problem area." — Library Journal on *How To Write a Mystery* 

#### About the Author

Larry Beinhart is best known as the author of *Wag the Dog* (originally published as *American Hero*) on which the film starring Robert DeNiro, Dustin Hoffman, Willie Nelson and Woody Harrelson was based. His No One Rides for Free (1986) received the 1987 Edgar Award for Best First Novel. Beinhart has been the recipient of a Raymond Chandler Fulbright Fellowship in Detective and Crime Fiction Writing, the Edgar Award for Best First novel for No One Rides for Free (1986), the French literary prize, Grand Prix de Littérature Policière, and the British Golden Dagger.

# **KEN BRUEN** – A Galway Epiphany (Mysterious Press, 2021)

In the newest novel in Bruen's thrilling series, ex-cop turned private eye Jack Taylor is pulled out of his quiet new life on a farm by three mysteries that soon prove dangerously linked.

Jack Taylor has finally escaped the despair of his violent life in Galway in favor of a quiet retirement in the country with his friend Keefer, a former Rolling Stones roadie, and a falcon named Maeve. But on a day trip back into the city to sort out his affairs, Jack is hit by a truck in front of Galway's Famine Memorial, left in a coma but mysteriously without a scratch on him.

When he awakens weeks later, he finds Ireland in a frenzy over the so-called "Miracle of Galway." People have become convinced that the two children spotted tending to him are saintly, and the site of the accident sacred. The Catholic Church isn't so sure, and Jack is commissioned to help find the children to verify the miracle or expose the stunt.

But Jack isn't the only one looking for these children. A fraudulent order of nuns needs them to legitimatize its sanctity and becomes involved with a dangerous arsonist. Soon, the building in which the children are living burns down. Jack returns to his old tricks, and his old demons, as his quest becomes personal.

Sharp and sardonic as ever, "the Godfather of the modern Irish crime novel" (Irish Independent) is at his brutal and ceaselessly suspenseful best in A Galway Epiphany.

#### Reviews/Blurbs

"Just as Ireland—the home of my ancestors—has captured my heart, so have Irish writers, and top among them is Ken Bruen . . . Do not miss Galway Girl, a novel that shows Ken Bruen's writing at its finest and Jack Taylor's life at its gruffest."—*Criminal Element* 

"They don't come much tougher than Ken Bruen's Irish roughneck, Jack Taylor, a man with bad habits who does good despite himself."—Marilyn Stasio, *The New York Times Book Review* 

"[Bruen] writes short, rat-a-tat sentences that suggest a meeting of Samuel Beckett and Ogden Nash."—Chicago Tribune

"Taylor is a classic figure: an ex-cop turned seedy private eye . . . The book's pleasure comes from listening to Taylor's eloquent rants, studded with references to songs and books. His voice is wry and bittersweet, but somehow always hopeful." —Seattle Times

"[Jack Taylor] has a gift for blarney, for plain speaking, for poetic melancholy, for downing shots of Jameson's without ice, and for pregnant one-word paragraphs. . .. A tough, tender, sorrowful tour of the Bruen aquarium, with all manner of fantastic creatures swimming in close proximity and touching only the fellow creatures they want to devour. Just don't get too attached to the supporting cast or read this installment just before a trip to Galway." —*Kirkus Reviews* 

"Bruen gets more done in a paragraph, a word, even a fragment of a word, than most writers get in an entire four-hundred-page doorstop. If his prose was any sharper, your eyeballs would bleed."

—Mystery Scene

"The Godfather of the modern Irish crime novel." —Irish Independent

"Powered by nonstop action and acerbic wit, [In the Galway Silence] is—like the pints of Guinness that the saga's existentially tortured, pill-popping antihero consumes on a daily basis—unfathomably dark. [Jack Taylor is] a deeply flawed but endearing character whose suffering is both tragic and transformative." —Publishers Weekly

"Nobody writes like Ken Bruen, with his ear for lilting Irish prose and his taste for the kind of gallows humor heard only at the foot of the gallows. The Emerald Lie is pure Bruen, with its verbal tics, weird typography and unorthodox wordplay." —The New York Times Book Review

"Bruen's voice is unmistakable: finely chiseled paragraphs that more closely resemble verse than prose . . . Bleaker than David Goodis, colder than Derek Raymond, and funnier and more violent than Richard Stark, Ken Bruen is among the most original and innovative noir voices of the last two decades." —Los Angeles Review of Books

"[Bruen] writes like an angel, a fearsome one such as he describes here, but one that you will want to keep and have close to you...A stunning experience from beginning to end, In the Galway Silence surpasses even Bruen's usual superlative standards."—Bookreporter

#### **Inspector Brant Series:**

Published by St. Martin's Press: Ammunition (2000), Blitz: Or Brant Hits the Blues (2003) Vixen (2005), Calibre (2006), **The White Trilogy:** A White Arrest, Taming the Alien, The McDead (Mysterious Press, 2012)

# A Jack Taylor Series:

Published by St. Martin's Press: The Guards (2003), The Killing of the Tinkers (2004), The Magdalen Martyrs (2005), The Dramatist (2006), Priest (2007), Cross (2008), Sanctuary (2008), The Devil (2010)

Published by Mysterious Press: Headstone (2011), Purgatory (2013), Green Hell (2015),

The Emerald Lie (2016), The Ghosts of Galway (2017), In the Galway Silence (2018)
Galway Girl (2019), A Galway Epiphany (Nov-2020)

Max Fisher and Angela Petrakos Series (with Jason Starr) Bust (2006) – Finalist 2007 Barry Award, Slide (2007) – Finalist 2008 Anthony Award for Best Paperback, The Max (2008), Pimp (2016)

Non-series (including collections of stories): Funeral: Tales of Irish Morbidities (1991), Shades of Grace (1993), Martyrs (1994), Sherry and Other Stories (1994), All the Old Songs and Nothing to Love (1994), The Time of Serena-May & Upon the Third Cross (1994), Rilke on Black (1996), The Hackman Blues (1997), Her Last Call to Louis MacNeice (1998), Dispatching Baudelaire (2004), Murder by the Book (2005), American Skin (2006), Once Were Cops (2008), Killer Year (2008), Tower (w/Reed Coleman, 2009) London Boulevard (2011), The Book of Virtue (2011), Merrick (2014), Callous (2021)

#### **About the Author**

Ken Bruen received a doctorate in metaphysics, taught English in South Africa, and then became a crime novelist. The critically acclaimed author of eleven previous Jack Taylor novels and The White Trilogy, he is the recipient of two Barry Awards and two Shamus Awards and has twice been a finalist for the Edgar Award. He lives in Galway, Ireland.

#### BARTLE BULL - We'll Meet Again (Speaking Volumes, Inc., October 2022)

Written with what The New York Times has called, "Mr. Bull's spirited, sensuous, hotblooded evocation of a rich and eventful historical world," Bartle Bull's We'll Meet Again is a powerful romantic novel set in Egypt and Yugoslavia during World War II.

It is 1942, and the American and British armies are landing in North Africa to fight the German army led by General Erwin Rommel. Underground resistance to German occupation is rising across Europe. In Yugoslavia, Communist and royalist resistance movements are fighting both the Germans and each other. American and British agents are parachuting into Yugoslavia from Egypt to assist them.

Anton Rider, the safari hunter featured in Bull's celebrated novels The White Rhino Hotel, A Café on the Nile and The Devil's Oasis, is dispatched to Yugoslavia to kill a brutal fascist commander and attack a Nazi concentration camp where Gypsies and others are being murdered. Raised as a boy by Gypsies in England, Anton is injured while parachuting into the mountains of Yugoslavia with an American agent who becomes his mortal enemy.

Meanwhile, Rider's son is wounded fighting Rommel's forces in North Africa, and Anton's beloved wife Gwenn, from whom he is separated, is having an affair in Cairo with a treacherous English officer. There the mysterious dwarf, Olivio Alavedo, is at the center of intrigue and fights to protect his absent friend, Anton Rider.

After romantic and military adventures in Yugoslavia, Anton returns to Egypt, where he confronts his enemies and seeks to recover the lady he loves.

As Forbes magazine wrote about The White Rhino Hotel, "A genuine epic centered in Africa by a writer who knows how to write, who knows his terrain intimately, who knows his characters and who knows how to spin a good yarn."

#### Praise for Bartle Bull's Anton Rider Series

"The truest picture of colonial Kenya, circa 1918-1921, that you're likely to find.... Compared with Ernest Hemingway and Robert Ruark...Bull's knowledge of East Africa... is profound." — The Washington Post

"You finish this book appreciative of Mr. Bull's spirited, sensuous, hot-blooded evocation of a rich and eventful historical world... Romantic and eventful...a satisfying dose of wartime action, private revenge, and seething passion.... (it) bears the imaginative stamp of Mr. Bull's previous novels... Their intricate plotting, their lusty sense of character and their geographic and linguistic authenticity... Nonstop action, eroticism, and intrigue."—Richard Bernstein, *The New York Times* 

#### **About the Author:**

Bartle Bull was born in London and educated at Harvard University and Magdalen College, Oxford. A student of Africa for over thirty years, he is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and a member of the Explorers Club. A former publisher of *The Village Voice*, Bull wrote an environmental column for the Voice and later for the Natural Resources Defense Council. He and his fiancé live in New York and Florida.

#### ALAFAIR BURKE – FIND ME (HarperCollins, January 2022)

The Girl She Was (Faber & Faber, Dec. 2021)—The UK book title.

The disappearance of a young woman leaves her closest friend reeling and an NYPD homicide detective digging into her own past in this thrilling mystery full of twists from the New York Times bestselling author of *The Better Sister* and *The Wife*.

Some pasts won't stay forgotten . . .

She calls herself Hope Miller, but she has no idea who she actually is. Fourteen years ago, she was found in a small New Jersey town thrown from an overturned vehicle, with no clue to her identity. Doctors assumed her amnesia was a temporary side effect of her injuries, but she never regained her memory. Hope eventually started a new life with a new name in a new town that welcomed her, yet always wondered what she may have left behind—or been running from. Now, fourteen years later, she's leaving New Jersey to start over once again.

Manhattan defense lawyer Lindsay Kelly, Hope's best friend and the one who found her after the accident, understands why Hope wants a new beginning. But she worries how her friend will fare in her new East Hampton home, far away from everything familiar. Lindsay's worst fears are confirmed when she discovers Hope has vanished without a trace—the only lead a drop of blood found where she was last seen. Even more ominously, the blood matches a DNA sample with a connection to a notorious Kansas murderer.

With nowhere else to turn, Lindsay calls NYPD homicide detective Ellie Hatcher, the daughter of the cop who dedicated his life to hunting the Kansas killer. Ellie has always believed there was more to the story of her father's death twenty years earlier—and she now fears that Hope's recent disappearance could be related.

In pursuit of answers, three women search for the truth beneath long-buried secrets. And when their searches converge, what they find will upend everything they've ever known.

Option Publishers: Italy/ Piemme, Czech/ Grada, Denmark/ Gads Forlag, Germany/ Aufbau, Lithuania/ Balto leidybos namai, Spain/ Roca Editorial, The Netherlands/ Xander, France/ Presses de la Citê

#### Reviews/Blurbs

"Scintillating. . . . Appealing characters match the meticulous plotting. Burke reinforces her place in the top rank of suspense writers." — *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"The novel has a nice Hitchcockian feel to it as it glides from New Jersey to East Hampton to Wichita." — *The Washington Post* 

"Burke's focus on her intelligent characters and smart plotting energizes *Find Me...*[and her] reputation for delivering highly entertaining, intricately plotted novels continues." — **South Florida Sun Sentinel** 

"A skillfully constructed, delightfully twisty thriller powered by Burke's trademark strong, relatable heroines and realistic foes." — *Booklist* 

"Irresistible. . . . Burke's arrangement of all the puzzle pieces is wickedly clever, as are the twists she gives them just when you think you know something. *Find Me* is beautifully crafted, a swift and gripping read. And those twists keep coming at you until the very last paragraph."

#### — Tampa Bay Times

"The two women feverishly piece together the disparate parts of the story, and Burke's masterful control over pacing and plot reveals will make readers just as anxious to uncover the truth."

# — BookPage

"Burke is a master at plotting and pacing and doesn't disappoint here. Not only is this book a true page-turner with an intricate story and well-rounded cast of characters, but it combines a couple of my favorite plot points—amnesia and missing persons—and leads to an exquisite eleventh-hour shocker." — **CrimeReads** 

"Alafair Burke's *Find Me* is a total knockout—serpentine in structure, rich in emotional heft and deeply moving as the past comes back not just to haunt the characters but to shudder through their lives, revealing secrets big and small, dangerous and intimate. Not to be missed." — **Megan Abbott, author of** *The Turnout* 

"Find Me is a gem, the sort of smart, suspenseful, slow burn that I love. The tension is palpable on every page, and I savored every surprise. Alafair Burke is a treasure." — Chris Bohjalian, author of The Flight Attendant and Hour of the Witch

"From one of our greatest contemporary mystery writers comes another superb nail-biting thriller. Alafair Burke uses an intricately layered and twisty plot to ensnare us and then pulls us in for a close examination of intimacy and community. I devoured it, from its riveting first scene to the shocking last page." — Angie Kim, author of *Miracle Creek* 

"Alafair Burke once again weaves a riveting web of a story, threaded with delicious characters and hot button social issues. If you're looking for the perfect twisty mystery, you've found it in *Find Me.*" — **Janelle Brown, author of** *Pretty Things* 

"Alafair Burke is back in this gripping, head-spinning thriller of the first order. *Find Me* is a perfect read: the writing is engaging, the twists are perfectly executed and the exploration of female friendships and identity offers satisfying heft to the plot. I can't wait for Burke's next." — **Cristina Alger, author of** *Girls Like Us* 

#### **Backlist Titles**

**The Better Sister\_**(HarperCollins, 2019): A twisty tale of domestic noir. When a prominent Manhattan lawyer is murdered, two estranged sisters—one the dead man's widow, the other his ex—must set aside mistrust and old resentments ... but can they escape their past? Keep your enemies close and your sister closer.

UK/Faber & Faber, France/Presses de la Cité, Denmark/Gads Forlag, Italy/Piemme, Holland/Xander Uitgevers

**The Wife** (Harper, 2018) His Scandal, Her Secret. A stunning domestic thriller in which a woman must make the impossible choice between defending her husband and saving herself. Film rights sold to: Amazon Studios

Foreign rights to: UK/Faber & Faber, France/Presses de la Cité, Czech/Metafora, Denmark/Gads Forlag, Israel/Kor'im Publishers, Italy/Piemme, Holland/Xander Uitgevers, Spain/Roca Editorial, Hungary/Lettero Kiado, Slovak/Ikar

<u>The Ex</u> (Harper, 2016): Twenty years ago, she ruined his life. Now she has the chance to save it. A woman agrees to help an old boyfriend who has been framed for murder but begins to suspect that she is the one being manipulated.

Foreign rights to: France/Presses de la Cité, UK/ Faber & Faber, Denmark/Gads Forlag, Dutch/Xander Uitgevers, Hungary/Lettero Kiado, Israel/Kor'im Publishers, Italy/Piemme, Sweden/Printz Publishing, Turkey/Beyaz Baykuş

All Day and a Night (US: Harper / UK: Faber & Faber, 2014) A murder case with ties to a convicted serial killer leads a young defense lawyer and an NYPD homicide detective into parallel investigations with explosive and deadly results in this superb mystery from "one of the finest young crime writers working today" (Dennis Lehane).

If You Were Here (Harper, 2013) (UK/Faber & Faber): Manhattan journalist McKenna Jordan is chasing the story of an unidentified woman who pulled a teenaged boy from the subway tracks. When she locates a video of the incident, she is shocked to discover that the mystery heroine bears a strong resemblance to Susan Hauptmann, a close friend who disappeared without a trace a decade earlier, shortly after introducing McKenna to her husband. What would have been a short-lived metro story sends McKenna on a dangerous search for the missing woman—a search that will force her to unearth long-buried truths much closer to home. Translation: Italian/Piemme

**Never Tell** (Harper, 2012) NYPD Detective Ellie Hatcher is convinced a young girl's death is suicide, but she knows from personal experience that a loving family can be the last to accept the truth. When the Whitmires use their power to force a criminal investigation, Ellie's resistance causes trouble for her both at work and in her personal life. Translation: Italian/Piemme (forthcoming)

Long Gone (Harper, 2011) (UK/Avon, 2011): After a layoff and months of struggling, Alice Humphrey finally lands her dream job managing a new art gallery in Manhattan's trendy Meatpacking District. Everything is perfect until the morning Alice arrives at work to find the gallery gone—the space stripped bare as if it had never existed—and a dead body on the floor. Overnight, Alice's dream job has vanished, and she finds herself at the center of police attention with nothing to prove her innocence. Translations: French/Telemaque, Italy/Piemme, French/Points, Norwegian/ Schibsted, Polish/Replika, Russian/Book Club 36.6, Korea/Random House Korea

212 (Harper, 2010): When New York University sophomore Megan Gunther finds personal threats posted to a Web site specializing in campus gossip, she's taken aback by their menacing tone. Someone knows her daily routine down to the minute and is watching her — but thanks to the anonymity provided by the Internet, the police tell her there's nothing they can do. Her friends are sure it's someone's idea of a joke, but when Megan is murdered in a vicious attack, NYPD Detective Ellie Hatcher is convinced that the online threats are more than just empty words. Translations: German/DTV & Russian/Book Club 36.

Angel's Tip (Harper, 2008) / City of Fear (Avon UK, 2008) In a city full of victims . . . it's hard to choose just one. Fresh-faced Indiana college student Chelsea Hart is so excited to spend the final hours of her spring break in the VIP room of an elite New York City club that she remains behind when her girlfriends call it a night. The next morning, as her concerned friends anxiously pace their hotel lobby, joggers find Chelsea's body in East River Park, her wavy blond hair brutally hacked off. (Ellie Hatcher Series) Translations: Bulgarian/Ergon, French/Telemaque, Italian/Newton Compton, Russian/Book Club 36.6, Thai/Amarin

**Dead Connection** (Samantha Kincaid Series) (Henry Holt & Co., 2007): In this electrifying thriller, a rookie detective goes undercover on the Internet dating scene to draw out a serial killer targeting single women in Manhattan. Translations: German/Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag, Norwegian/Schibsted Forlag, Turkish/Altinbilek Yayinlari

Close Case (Samantha Kincaid Series) (Henry Holt & Co., 2005): Investigating the brutal murder of a hotshot journalist, Samantha Kincaid finds herself caught in the middle of an increasingly personal — and potentially dangerous — struggle between Portland's police and the DA's office. Translation: Czech/BB Art

**Missing Justice** (Samantha Kincaid Series) (Henry Holt & Co., 2004): In the second entry in this "sharp, new crime series" (Publishers Weekly), the search for a missing judge leads Samantha Kincaid into Portland politics and a labyrinth of crime, corruption, and cover-ups. Translations: Czech/BB Art, Japanese/Bungeishunju, Norwegian/Giga Forlag, Spanish/Roca Editorial

**Judgment Calls** (Samantha Kincaid Series) (Henry Holt & Co., 2003): When a thirteen-year-old girl is brutally attacked and left for dead on the city's outskirts, Deputy District Attorney Samantha Kincaid sets out to bring the assailants to justice. But as she prepares for the trial, the seemingly simple assault case spirals into a complex web of violence and deception. Translations: Czech/BB Art, Japanese/Bungeishunju, Norwegian/Giga Forlag. Spanish/Roca Editorial

#### **About the Author**

Alafair Burke is the *New York Times* and internationally bestselling author of twenty-one novels. Her previous domestic thriller, *The Better Sister*, was praised as "twisty" (BookBub), "mesmerizing" (*Publishers Weekly*), "fast-moving" (*Library Journal*), and "a non-stop thriller fest" (*Suspense Magazine*). Her previous novel, *The Wife*, was selected as a best-of-the-month pick by Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Entertainment Weekly, O (*The Oprah Magazine*). A graduate of Stanford Law School and a former prosecutor, Alafair Burke is a professor at Hofstra Law School, where she teaches criminal law and procedure. She lives in New York City and East Hampton with her husband and two beloved dogs.

# JAMES LEE BURKE – FLAGS ON THE BAYOU (Grove/Atlantic, July 2023) (UK: Orion, 2023), France (Rivages, 2024)

From internationally best-selling Grandmaster(Mystery Writers of America) James Lee Burke comes a novel set during the American Civil War. As the country grapples with violence and division, a captivating cast of characters—plantation gentry, enslaved women, and soldiers from both sides—are caught in the maelstrom.

In the Fall of 1963 much of Louisiana, including New Orleans, is occupied. The Confederate army is in disarray, corrupt old structures are falling apart, and enslaved men and women are beginning to glimpse freedom.

Haunted by his time on the battlefield, Wade Lufkin returns to his uncle's plantation to convalesce, where he becomes enraptured by Hannah Laveau, a formerly enslaved woman still working on the plantation. When Hannah is accused of murder, she goes on the run with an abolitionist schoolteacher (Miss Florence), dodging the local constable and the slavecatchers that prowl the bayous.

FLAGS ON THE BAYOU is an engaging, action-packed narrative that includes a duel that ends in disaster, a brutal encounter with Union commander, repeated skirmishes with renegade Confederate soldiers led by a diseased and deranged colonel, and a powerful story of love blossoming between an unlikely pair.

Powerful and deeply moving, FLAGS ON THE BAYOU is a story of America's past and present, tragic acts of war, class divisions, and love that endures through it all.

James Lee Burke, whose "evocative prose remains a thing a reliably fierce wonder" (Entertainment Weekly), delivers profound insight into human nature amidst the unique Louisiana landscape, from sunsets on the Mississippi River to the dingy saloons of New Orleans to the tree-lined shores of the bayou and the cottonmouth snakes that dwell in its depth.

# **Books recently published**

EVERY CLOAK ROLLED IN BLOOD (Simon & Schuster, May 17, 2022): In his most autobiographical novel to date, James Lee Burke continues the epic Holland family saga with a writer grieving the death of his daughter while battling earthly and supernatural outlaws. This is a devastating exploration of the nature of good and evil and a deeply moving story about the power of love and family.

Novelist Aaron Holland Broussard is shattered when his daughter, Fannie Mae, dies suddenly. As he tries to honor her memory by saving two young men from a life of crime amid their opioid-ravaged community, he is drawn into a network of villainy that includes a violent former Klansman, a far-from-holy minister, a biker club posing as evangelicals, and a murderer who has been hiding in plain sight.

Aaron's only ally is state police officer Ruby Spotted Horse, a no-nonsense woman who harbors some powerful secrets in her cellar. Despite the air of mystery surrounding her, Ruby is the only one Aaron can trust. That is, until the ghost of Fannie Mae shows up, guiding her father through a

tangled web of the present and past and helping him vanquish his foes from both this world and the next.

Drawn from James Lee Burke's own life experiences, *Every Cloak Rolled in Blood* is a devastating exploration of the nature of good and evil and a deeply moving story about the power of love and family.

#### Praise for Every Cloak Rolled in Blood

"Stunning...this is one of those extraordinary crime novels that feels more like real life, with incidents and people that aren't obviously connected piling up in the protagonist's life, rather than a neat set of clues pointing to a culprit. Once again, Burke uses genre fiction to plumb weighty issues, both social and emotional." – **STARRED** review, *Publishers Weekly* 

"Burke rolls together the driving themes that have dominated his work—the inescapable presence of evil, the restorative power of love, the desecration of the planet, humanity's long slouch toward Armageddon—into an intensely, heartrendingly personal exploration of grief." – **STARRED** review, *Booklist* 

"Less mystery than history, less history than prophecy, and all the stronger for it." - Kirkus Reviews

ANOTHER KIND OF EDEN (Simon & Schuster, 2021): New York Times best-selling author James Lee Burke brings readers a captivating tale of justice, love, brutality, and mysticism set in the turbulent 1960s.

The American West in the early 1960s appears to be a pastoral paradise: golden wheat fields, mist-filled canyons, frolicking animals. Aspiring novelist Aaron Holland Broussard has observed it from the open door of a boxcar, riding the rails for both inspiration and odd jobs.

Jumping off in Denver, he finds work on a farm and meets Joanne McDuffy, an articulate and fierce college student and gifted painter. Their soul connection is immediate, but their romance is complicated by Joanne's involvement with a shady professor who is mixed up with a drug-addled cult. When a sinister businessman and his son who wield their influence through vicious cruelty set their sights on Aaron, drawing him into an investigation of grotesque murders, it is clear that this idyllic landscape harbors tremendous power - and evil. Followed by a mysterious shrouded figure who might not be human, Aaron will have to face down all these foes to save the life of the woman he loves and his own.

The latest installment in James Lee Burke's masterful Holland family saga, Another Kind of Eden is both riveting and one of Burke's most ambitious works to date. It dismantles the myths of both the 20th-century American West and the peace-and-love decade, excavating the beauty and idealism of the era to show the menace and chaos that lay simmering just beneath the surface.

# Praise for Another Kind of Eden

"James Lee Burke remains the heavyweight champ, a great American novelist whose work, taken individually or as a whole, is unsurpassed" —Michael Connelly

"In many of Burke's books, he breaches the curtain between what we think of as the real world and the past, the supernatural, the alternative, whatever lies on the other side. In Another Kind of Eden he sweeps that curtain back like a theater impresario, inviting the reader into a potent vision of the battle between good and evil that animates all his fiction." —Colette Bancroft, Tampa Bay Times

"Incorporating elements of horror into otherwise realistic thrillers is a thing these days, but few manage it with Burke's special eloquence, at once melancholic and macabre." —Bill Ott, *Booklist* (starred review)

"Sharp prose and distinctive characters... Suspense fans will be well satisfied." — Publishers Weekly

"Burke is an old hand at this game, and he juggles deeply flawed characters, several subplots, and dark humor with the vivid prose that draws comparisons to William Faulkner." —The New York Journal of Books

"James Lee Burke is the reigning champ of nostalgia noir."—The New York Times Book Review

"Burke's work transcends genre classification."—Philadelphia Inquirer

"In a world of overstuffed, overwritten 'blockbuster' books, it's a pleasure to pick up 243 perfect pages with not a word or comma out of place. James Lee Burke doesn't need filler to flesh out his stories... one of the finest novelists in North America." —Margaret Cannon, Globe and Mail

#### Translations has been published in the following territories:

Brazil/Editora Record

Bulgaria/ Slovo & Prozoretz & Bard Pub. Netherlands/ Bzzrtoh & Luitin-Sijthoff &

China/ Shaanxi Normal University <u>Verbum</u>

Croatia/Algoritam Czech Republic/ BB Art Denmark/Forlaget Hovedland

Finland/Like,

France/Editions Payot & Rivages

Germany/ Heyne & Pendragon

Greece/ Elli Nika Gramatan

Indonesia/PT Greedier Israel/ AM Oved Pub

Italy / Baldini Caldini & Medidiano Zero

Japan/ Kadokawa & Kodansha

Norway/Fagbokforlaget Poland/Proszynski I S-ka Portugal/Classica Editora

România/ S.C. Humanitas Fiction S.R.L.

Russia/ U-Factoria Pub

Serbia/Vydavatelki & Alfa Naroddana Kniga

Spain/ RBA Libros

Sweden/Kriminalforlaget, Nortedts

Taiwan / Marco Polo Press

UK/ Orion Books

#### **DAVE ROBICHEAUX NOVELS**

Published by Simon Schuster, Inc. A Private Cathedral (S&S, 2020), The New Iberia Blues (2019), Robicheaux (2018), Light of the World (2013), Creole Belle (2012), The Glass Rainbow (2010), Swan Peak (2008), The Tin Roof Blowdown (2007), Pegasus Descending (2006), Crusader's Cross (2005), Last Car to Elysian Fields (2003), Jolie Blon's Bounce (2002),

Published by Doubleday/PRH: Purple Cane Road (2000), Sunset Limited (1998)

Published by Hyperion, then by S&S: Cadillac Jukebox (1996), Burning Angel (1995), Dixie City Jam (1994), In the Electric Mist with Confederate Dead (1993), A Stained White Radiance (1992)

Published by Little, Brown: A Morning For Flamingos (1990), Black Cherry Blues (1989)

Published by Henry Holt & Co: Heaven's Prisoners (1988), The Neon Rain (1987)

# THE HOLLAND FAMILY NOVELS

Published by Simon & Schuster: Another Kind of Eden (2021), The Jealous Kind (2016) House of the Rising Sun (2015), Wayfaring Stranger (2014), Feast Day of Fools (2011)

Rain Gods (2009), In the Moon of Red Ponies (2004), Bitterroot (2001)

Published by Doubleday/PRH: Heartwood (1999)

Published by Hyperion, then re-printed by S&S: Cimarron Rose (1997), Two For Texas (1982),

Lay Down My Sword and Shield (1971)

#### **OTHER FICTION:**

Published by Simon & Schuster: Jesus Out to Sea (2007). White Doves at Morning (2002), The Lost Get-Back Boogie (1986), The Convict & Other Stories (1985), To The Bright and Shining Sun (1970), Half of Paradise (1965).

# About the Author

James Lee Burke, a rare winner of two Edgar Awards, is the author of twenty-seven previous novels and two collections of short stories. In 2009, The Mystery Writers of America recognized him with their highest honor—the Grandmaster Award. He lives in Missoula, Montana.

#### MICHAEL CONNELLY

THE BLACK ECHO (Little, Brown, Co.,1992), THE BLACK ICE (Little, Brown & Co., 1993) THE CONCRETE BLONDE (Little, Brown & Co., 1994), THE LAST COYOTE (Little, Brown & Co., 1995), THE POET (Little, Brown & Co., 1996), TRUNK MUSIC (Little, Brown & Co., 1997), BLOOD WORK (Little, Brown & Co., 1998)

Michael Connelly's books have been translated into 40 languages and published around the world. His work is available in the following countries from these book publishers:

Brazil: Editora Objetiva / Bangladesh: Chirkut Pub. / Bulgaria: Bard / Catalan: RBA Libros. China: New Star / Croatia: Skolska Knjiga / Czech Republic: Domino / Denmark: Klim. Estonia: Eram Books. / Finland: Gummerus. / France: Calmann-Levy. / Georgia: Palitra. Germany: Droemer, Greece: Dioptra. / Hungary: Alexandra. / Iceland: Edda. Indonesia: PT Greedier. / Israel: Modan. / Italy: Piemme. / Japan: Kodansha. Korea: Random House Korea. / Latvia: Kontinents. / Lithuania: Jotema. / Macedonia: Kultura Pub Mexico & Latin America: Alianza de Novelas. / Netherlands: De Boekerij. / Norway: Gyldendal. Poland: Sonia Draga. / Portugal: Porto. / Romania: RAO. Russia: Azbooka-Atticus Serbia: IKP Evro-Book. / Slovakia: Slovart. / Slovenia: Ucila. / Spain: Alianza. Sweden: Norstedts Taiwan: Linking. /Thailand: Amarin./ Turkey: Limos (Dora). / Ukraine: Krajina Mrly.

#### Reviews/Blurbs

\_"Connelly is the Raymond Chandler of this generation, and readers will be studying his writing methods decades from now." —Jeff Ayers, Associated Press

"There is no better news than a new book from the great Michael Connelly." —Mike Lupica, New York Daily News

"Taken together, Connelly's novels form an indispensable, compelling chronicle of LA . . . His books are rich in the details and meanings of seismic events that have formed the rough contours of LA law and order." —Jonathan Shapiro, *Los Angeles Times* 

"Michael Connelly has earned his place in the pantheon of great crime fiction writers by creating characters people care about and are eager to come back to." —Paul Saltzman, *Chicago Sun-Times* 

## **About the Author**

Michael Connelly is the best-selling author of more than forty novels and one work of nonfiction. With more than seventy-four million copies of his books sold worldwide and translated into forty foreign languages, he is one of the most successful writers working today. His very first novel, The Black Echo, won the prestigious Mystery Writers of America Edgar Award for Best First Novel in 1992. In 2002, Clint Eastwood directed and starred in the movie adaptation of Connelly's 1998 novel, Blood Work. In March 2011, the movie adaptation of his #1 best-selling novel The Lincoln Lawyer hit theaters worldwide, starring Matthew McConaughey as Mickey Haller. His most recent #1 New York Times best sellers include Desert Star (Fall 2022), The Dark Hours, The Law of Innocence, Fair Warning, The Night Fire, Dark Sacred Night, Two Kinds of Truth, The Late Show, The Wrong Side of Goodbye, The Crossing, The Burning Room, The Gods of Guilt, and The Black Box. Connelly's crime fiction career was honored with the Diamond Dagger from the CWA in 2018.

Connelly is the executive producer of Bosch, an Amazon Studios original drama series based on his character Harry Bosch, starring Titus Welliver. Bosch streams on Amazon Prime Video. He is also the executive producer of the documentary films, Sound of Redemption: The Frank Morgan Story and Tales of the American. He divides his time between California and Florida.

# DR. SHARON GROSSMAN— The 7E Solution to Burnout: Transforming High Achievers From Exhausted to Extraordinary (currently on submission)

People often think that if they aren't accomplishing their work in the time they have, the solution is to work harder and longer. This only leads to anxiety, stress, and irritability when you stay late, work overtime, and take work home to complete. This "over-commitment" to work robs you of personal time and you end up feeling guilty about not spending time with family or taking time for yourself. Without proper recovery, you will inevitably burn out.

The reality is, there is a better way.

Drawing on her clinical experience as a psychologist, relevant research, and Buddhist philosophy, Dr. Sharon Grossman has put together a practical roadmap to move you beyond your stuck points so that you can get work done in less time, live with purpose, and regain your energy. Her 7-step burnout solution including Emotional Intelligence, Empowerment, Engagement, Efficacy, Energy, Effort, and Enlightenment.

The tools in this book have been proven to create positive, long-lasting results that will strengthen, encourage, and enliven you without needing to change your environment.

#### **About the Author**

Dr. Sharon Grossman is the Burnout Doc. As a psychologist, keynote speaker, and burnout expert, she has spent the past two decades transforming the personal and professional lives of countless high achievers around the world. She lives with her family in Florida.

# **GAR ANTHONY HAYWOOD** – In Things Unseen (Slant, 2020)



From acclaimed crime novelist Gar Anthony Haywood comes a riveting tale unlike any he's told before . . .

Best described as a "faith-based novel of suspense," *In Things Unseen* is the story of an unexpected miracle: the resurrection of a little boy who dies in a freak car accident, only to return to his bed eight months later, alive and well and oblivious to his death. It's the answer to his mother's prayers. Or is it?

Diane Edwards has spent the last eight months praying for a miracle after losing her son Adrian in a freak car accident at Seattle's Lakeridge Park. When she finds Adrian back in his bed one night—alive and well and oblivious to his death—it appears her prayers have been answered.

But this isn't the kind of miracle Diane was expecting, because she soon learns Adrian is not the only one who's forgotten that fateful day in Lakeridge Park. The entire world has no memory of it, with the exception of Diane and three other people:

Michael Edwards—Diane's estranged husband and Adrian's father.

Laura Carrillo--Adrian's teacher, who loved him almost as much as his parents did.

Milton Weisman--The agnostic, sixty-eight-year-old widower and alcoholic who lost control of the car that killed Adrian in Lakeridge Park.

Over the next six days, these four must struggle to understand what Adrian's return to the living means, and why God Himself would choose them, and them alone, to play witness to it.

#### Reviews/Blurbs

"In this spellbinding tale, Gar Anthony Haywood uses all of his thriller writing skills to investigate the biggest mystery of all: is God real? And can miracles touch an unbelieving modern world?"

—Naomi Hirahara, Edgar Award-winning author of the Mas Arai mystery series

"I've been a Gar Anthony Haywood fan for years, but In Things Unseen rocked me to my core. It's a novel about faith and belief, as well as a relentless page-turner that plays out like the greatest Twilight Zone episode never filmed." —Duane Swierczynski, author of *Revolver* 

"Miracles are the stuff that dreams are made of. And sometimes fine stories, too. With lovely prose and a measured pace, Gar Anthony Haywood, in a profound departure from his crime novels, offers readers a thoughtful exploration of the reality of what it means to try to accept the inexplicable. In Things Unseen is a modern allegory of faith, loss, and redemption. This is exactly the kind of story we need in these chaotic and challenging times."

—William Kent Krueger, Edgar Award-winning author of This Tender Land

"This was a great way for Gar Anthony Haywood to step out of his usual. In Things Unseen you will keep reading to see happens next. It draws the reader in from the very first page. There are times when I felt like I was in the Twilight Zone. The way Gar showed us how our faith can be tested will stay on your mind long after you read the last page. Readers will put themselves in the shoes of the only four people that remembers the accident that took Adrian's life and yet eight months later he reappears. The four people; Diane, his mother, Michael, his father, Laura, his teacher that loved him as her own and Milton, the alcoholic widower who was driving the car that killed Adrian in a park. Adrian comes back without any evidence that he was ever gone. No record of the terrible accident that killed him. His mother, Diane has prayed for this miracle. How would this miracle effect the four people that remember the accident and love him the most? Gar has several twists and turning woven throughout the story. In Things Unseen remained with me long after I finished. How many people have returned to us in some form because we had faith?" — Patricia Crowe & The Ladies of Color Turning Pages

Good Man Gone Bad: An Aaron Gunner Mystery (Prospect Park Books, 2019)

The 7th installment of the Shamus Award-winning mystery series feat. Central Los Angeles P.I. Aaron Gunner.

Hard times are nothing new for private investigator Aaron Gunner. Working on the mean streets of South-Central Los Angeles, he's seen more than his fair share of trouble. But when his cousin and confidante Del Curry commits suicide after allegedly killing his wife and critically injuring their daughter Zina, Gunner knows he's about to face the hardest times of all.

He doesn't buy the LAPD's version of the shooting and isn't going to wait for Zina to regain consciousness to disprove it. Whatever drove Del to take his own life—and possibly assault his wife and daughter—Gunner's going to find it, even if it means learning things about his late cousin he'll wish he never knew.

But first, he has a paying case to work, proving the innocence of an Afghan War veteran accused of murder. Plagued by searing migraines and occasional fits of rage, Harper Stowe III is counting on Gunner to fill the holes in his ruined memory that make him the perfect suspect in the killing of his former employer.

With a new era of American racism and divided politics on the rise all around him, Gunner must seek the truth behind two fatal shootings now and grieve for his beloved cousin later.

#### Reviews/Blurbs

"Good Man Gone Bad is Gar Anthony Haywood's best work yet, keeping a tight focus on Aaron Gunner and his exploration of his city and the meaning of justice. More than a mystery, this book is a mirror held up to society and the world."—Michael Connelly, New York Times-bestselling author of the Harry Bosch and Lincoln Lawyer novels

"Mr. Haywood—this is his seventh and best novel yet to feature Gunner—is a gifted writer with a flair for description.... The two dissimilar cases confronting Gunner test the detective's confidence to the fullest. He sees himself, at his most insecure, as "a black pretend-cop working from the back of the Watts barbershop." But an abundance of tenacity, courage and resourcefulness proves a lot more valuable to Gunner and his fortunate clients than a fancy office."

— Tom Nolan for The Wall Street Journal

"Good Man Gone Bad is Haywood in peak form, a classic hard-boiled mystery full of sly humor and street wisdom—but also a surprisingly tender treatise on masculinity and the futility of violence. A page-turner as engaging as it is deep." — Attica Locke, author of *Bluebird*, *Bluebird* 

"Good Man Gone Bad is bracing, heart-wrenching fiction from Haywood, and the best in his Aaron Gunner series to date. Gunner is by now part of LA's contemporary noir canon—cynical, compassionate, and tireless in his pursuit of stubborn truths. Hip and raw. Don't miss it."

— T. Jefferson Parker, New York Times—bestselling author of The Last Good Guy

"The fresh dialogue, raffish atmosphere and boldly drawn characters leave little doubt as to why Haywood's mysteries are fast becoming hard-boiled classics." — *Entertainment Weekly* 

"Gunner yanks the sheet off the American nightmare of race, politics, and murder, L.A. style." — Acclaimed film director Spike Lee

"A masterful mystery writer." — Chicago Tribune

"Like the first six books in the Aaron Gunner series, this dark, brooding tale will remind readers of classic Southern California crime novelists Philip Marlowe and Ross Macdonald. Haywood's tight, no-frills prose is outstanding, and he does a fine job of developing the characters who inhabit Gunner's poor side of town." — Associated Press

#### Aaron Gunner Series:

Published by G.P. Putnam's Sons: Fear of the Dark (1988), Not Long for This World (1990), You Can Die Trying (1993), It's Not a Pretty Sight (1996), When Last Seen Alive (1997), All the Lucky Ones Are Dead (2000)

#### The Joe & Dottie Loudermilk Mysteries:

Published by G.P. Putnam's Sons: Going Nowhere Fast (1994), Bad News Travels Fast (1995), Nowhere to Go and All Day to Get There (2014)

# Stand-Alone Thrillers:

Published by Severn House: Cemetery Road (2011), Assume Nothing (2012) Published by Brash Books Maneater (2014), Firecracker (2015)

#### About the Author

Gar Anthony Haywood is the Shamus and Anthony award-winning author of twelve crime novels, including the Aaron Gunner private eye series and Joe and Dottie Loudermilk mysteries. His short fiction has been included in the Best American Mystery Stories anthologies, and Booklist has called him "a writer who has always belonged in the upper echelon of American crime fiction." Haywood has written for network television and both the New York and Los Angeles Times. An excerpt of Gar's next novel, QUEEN'S RUN, was just published in the Los Angeles Review of Books: <a href="https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/queens-run/">https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/queens-run/</a>

Pascual is snared again, forced to aid shadowy agencies in recovering a hundred million dollars' worth of stolen cash on a journey that will take him to the eastern Mediterranean and ultimately the shores of the Black Sea.

Notes: Resurrecting a character from twenty years ago presents an interesting challenge. Unlike author Dominic Martell, his repentant ex-terrorist Pascual Rose did not have the good fortune of watching the world grow and change at the usual pace when his creator decided to pluck him from the 90s and drop him into our new, tech-savvy era. But at the skilled hand of Martell, Pascual Rose has made his 21st-century debut seamlessly in *Kill Chain*.

#### KILL CHAIN (Dunn Books, Oct. 2020)

Twenty years off the grid and he thought he was safe...

Pascual Rose is back—and this time the lives of his wife and son hang in the balance. Years ago, Rose put his life as a terrorist behind him. He sold out his colleagues for a new identity and low profile in Barcelona. All was quiet until he received a midnight text: Come join us on the terrace.

The stakes are high: if he fails, it will cost him his family; if he succeeds, one million euros will buy a lot more than translation piecework will. But the money-laundering scheme involves a nexus of diverted revenues, shell companies and cryptocurrencies, peopled by shadowy benefactors, Russian mobsters, German intelligence agents, and a mysterious woman with a chilling warning: Get out before it's too late.

Rose races against time, navigating twists and turns and mortal danger knowing no one can be trusted and nothing is happenstance. Can he uncover who is behind the operation that has the potential to destroy entire governments and global financial markets before he loses everything?

#### LYING, CRYING, DYING (Dunn Books, 2020)

Pascual: His name was legend. A courier for a network of radical groups committed to terrorist activity throughout Europe, he had defected to the enemy and in the hands of Mossad and the CIA had become the single most effective weapon in their counterterrorist operations. Then he had disappeared.

Cadging meals and sleeping in flophouses, Pascual has shed his past in the teeming portside alleys of Barcelona's Gothic Quarter. While he has begun to find something like peace of mind, the man who broke the covert world of international terrorism wide open cannot entirely escape his memories. Alcohol can help him forget, but it can't banish the shadow of Katixa, the one terrorist agent he did not betray—and whom he has no hope of ever seeing again. Or so he thinks.

Like a nova exploding in Pascual's cosmos, Katixa bursts back into his life. On the run from both the police and a terrorist band of Basque nationalists from whom she's appropriated a suitcase full of kidnapping cash, Katixa arrives with five million francs, a one-way ticket out of Spain, and a plan which includes Pascual. And when Katixa professes her love for him, Pascual's better judgment doesn't stand a chance. To save Katixa's life and perhaps redeem his own, Pascual dusts off his old

professional skills in the perilous arts of subterfuge and deceit. Again, the lying has begun, with the crying and dying yet to come.

#### Reviews/Blurbs

"At the start of Martell's exhilarating fourth novel featuring former terrorist Pascual Rose (after 2001's Gitana), two uninvited guests, who call themselves Felix and Lina, arrive at Pascual's home in the small Catalonian town where he has been living under a false name with his family for 20 years. Felix and Lina offer Pascual, who gets by as a freelance translator, a million euros to pose as a rich businessman with money to transfer. Since the pair threaten to kill Pascual's wife and son unless he cooperates, he agrees to the terms. Pascual travels to various places in Europe, where he connects with the mysterious Artemisa Pereda, who unveils an international web of deceit and corruption possibly involving multiple nations. Pascual must later place his faith in the hands of cybersecurity technician Fernando Salera to help navigate a world in which no phone, credit card, or camera is safe from surveillance and hacking. Some convoluted plotlines resolve as Pascual and his accomplices head through treacherous waters toward the satisfying ending. Readers will hope they won't have to wait another 19 years for Pascual's next adventure." — *Publishers Weekly* 

"The Thriller Nouveau—of deceit, betrayal, tears. It crackles with electricity: one of the very best of the late nineties." —Lionel Davidson, author of *Under Plum Lake* 

\*Starred Review\* "In this sequel to Lying Crying Dying, former terrorist-turned-defector Pascual March is reluctantly back in the game. While lying low in Barcelona, changing his surname and avoiding those on both sides of the law eager to find him, he's become valuable to French intelligence as the only person still alive able to identify Syrian terrorist Daoud Najjar. Offered \$100,000 or threatened with exposure, Pascual agrees to finger Najjar at the Russian-owned Mirakl Bankin Paris. But things go awry, and Pascual is soon on a potentially fatal course to Zurich and back, trusting only in haunting journalist Djemila, whose interests intersect with his, and finally turning to Mossad. Although Pascual's fate may never be in serious question—for the sake of keeping a potential series going--he suffers physical and emotional losses, and nearly all of the characters die, sometimes graphically, at each other's hands. Dark and bloody as it is, this is spy fiction of the highest order, with atmospheric backgrounds for a plot that ratchets up suspense with each twist and turn and a splendidly complex protagonist, who takes great risks and bluffs his way to the end in what may be a quest for atonement." —*Booklist* 

#### About the Author

Dominic Martell was born in the United States and has spent most of his life there, but he has lived and traveled extensively in Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East. He has worked as a teacher and a translator. The first three novels featuring repentant ex-terrorist Pascual Rose appeared in the 1990s, chronicling Pascual's quest for atonement in the chaotic early years of the post-Cold War period. A quarter of a century later, in the transformed landscape of the even more chaotic post-9/11 digitally connected world, Martell began to wonder what had become of Pascual and decided to bring him out of retirement. Kill Chain is the first of Pascual's 21st-century misadventures.

Franky Dast is an unlikely hero.

Wrongly convicted and later exonerated of killing two boys, Franky went on to uncover the real murderer. Now a "free man" but living on the edges of society, for some he will always be tainted by his dark past.

That's why a desperate Mexican family turn to him, rather than trust the authorities, to help them track down their teenage daughter's murderer. He is compelled to help but comes up against the detectives who wrongly put him away, and people who are determined to blame the dead girl.

When another body shows up and he is personally threatened, Franky doubles-down on his investigation. Can Franky stop this vicious killer and find his own way out of his personal hell before it's too late?

#### Reviews/Blurbs

"The setup is red meat for crime-story lovers. We get to keep company with obliquely funny Sam, who must . . . always speak the truth. Fortunately, he has Wiley to write his lines, and they are perceptive and graceful. The case is resolved in a stunning climax that will leave readers paging back to take in those magical lines one more time." —Booklist

"Outstanding ... The whodunit plotline is enhanced by Wiley's superior gift at integrating humor, mostly deriving from Kelson's inability to keep himself from sharing blunt truths. The author's ingenuity shows no sign of diminishing. Fans of the TV series Monk will be enthralled." — *Publishers Weekly* Starred Review

"Wiley's loopy detective continues to be the most interesting feature of his adventures" — Kirkus Reviews

"Noir fiction doesn't get much darker ... Wiley is extremely good at creating an atmosphere of menacing dread ... New shocks occur all the way to the last page" — *Publishers Weekly* Starred Review of Blue Avenue

"Wiley's quirky lead, who's unable to keep his thoughts to himself, will appeal to fans of oddball sleuths like Jonathan Lethem's Lionel Essrog." — *Publishers Weekly* on *Lucky Bones* 

"This darkly humorous PI novel offers nonstop, violent action, and is perfect for readers who enjoy Donald Westlake's quirky 'Dortmunder' characters." — *Library Journal* 

"Sam Kelson, the PI star of this thorny novel, takes the damaged-detective trope to a new level ... Sure to satisfy" — *Booklist* on *Trouble in Mind* 

"A violent mystery that introduces a singular character guided by his sometimes twisted thoughts. Readers of L.L. Bartlett's 'Jeff Resnick' mysteries may be intrigued." — *Library Journal* 

Published by Severn House:

<u>Daniel Turner Series:</u> Blue Avenue (2014), Second Skin (2015), Black Hammock (2016) <u>Franky Dast Series:</u> Monument Road (Severn House, 2017), The Long Way Out (Jan. 2023) <u>Sam Kelson Series:</u> Trouble in Mind (Severn House, 2020), Lucky Bones (Severn House, 2021) Published by St. Martin's Press:

Joe Kozmarski Series: The Last Striptease (2007), The Bad Kitty Lounge (2010), A Bad Night's Sleep (2011)

#### About the Author

Michael Wiley writes the Sam Kelson Chicago PI mystery series, the Shamus Award-nominated Franky Dast mysteries, the Daniel Turner thrillers, and the Shamus Award-winning Joe Kozmarski hard-boiled detective mystery series.

The Sam Kelson mysteries Trouble in Mind (2019) and Lucky Bones (2020) feature an oddball detective who suffers from disinhibition and cannot help but speak his mind.

The first Franky Dast mystery, Monument Road (2017), features an exonerated death row inmate who investigates the crime that sent him to prison and the police detective who seemed obsessed with sending him there.

The Daniel Turner thrillers include Blue Avenue (2014), Second Skin (2015), and Black Hammock (2016). All four books are set in contemporary Northeast Florida and South Georgia.

The Joe Kozmarski mysteries include *The Last Striptease* (2007), *The Bad Kitty Lounge* (2010), and *A Bad Night's Sleep* (2011). The series is set in contemporary Chicago. The Last Striptease won the PWA/SMP (<u>Private Eye Writers of America/St. Martin's Press</u>) prize for Best First Novel and was a nominee for a <u>Shamus Award</u> in the same category. A Bad Night's Sleep won the Best Hardback <u>Shamus Award</u> in 2012. Wiley's fiction has been praised broadly for reinvigorating the conventions of private detective novels, earning comparisons to Raymond Chandler and Dashiell Hammett along with other practitioners of PI writing.

Michael Wiley lives in Jacksonville, Florida, and teaches at the University of North Florida. He is also the author of two nonfiction books, Romantic Geography and Romantic Migrations as well as many articles, short stories, and book reviews.

#### <u>GARY INBINDER</u> — The Man Upon the Stair (2018), historical fiction.

Chief Inspector Achille Lefebvre returns from a much-needed vacation to find that there are assassins on his tail, and, as if that weren't enough, one of France's wealthiest men has gone missing without a trace...

In The Man Upon the Stair, Gary Inbinder's brilliant detective Achille Lefebvre returns to solve the mystery of a disappeared millionaire in the sensational, atmospheric world of fin-de-siècle Paris.

At the public execution of the anarchist assassin Laurent Moreau, the outgoing Chief Inspector warns his protégé, the newly promoted Lefebvre: "I've heard that some of Moreau's cronies have sworn revenge. You don't want to get killed your first week as chief."

Meanwhile, Lefebvre is charged with investigating the disappearance of the Baron de Livet, a brash millionaire with connections to Russian spies and a history of gambling, womanizing, and fighting in

duels. The case is more complicated than it seems, of course, and Lefebvre and his team must make sense of a poisoned maid, an unidentifiable stagecoach, and a missing briefcase full of cash. The Baron's connection to the world of international espionage means that if the Inspector isn't fast enough, the Baron's disappearance might trigger a war.

And Lefebvre mustn't forget those stalking anarchists who are out for his blood, as he searches for the man who wasn't there...

#### Reviews/Blurbs

"A wonderfully atmospheric period policiere." —The Wall Street Journal

"Inbinder's mystery debut shows Montmartre at its atmospheric best—inhabited by characters as diverse and devious as Paris can offer."—*Kirkus Reviews* 

"Inbinder weaves a wonderful tale and his plotting and pacing are right on the money. Indications are that this is the first in a series, I certainly hope so as I would love to read more adventures with Inspector Lefebvre." —*Crimespree Magazine* 

"Fin-de-siècle Paris comes brilliantly alive in The Devil in Montmartre. Gary Inbinder lays a plot as fascinating as the midnight streets of the Parisian Right Bank."

—Michael Wiley, Shamus Award-winning author of A Bad Night's Sleep

"Inbinder creates a whodunit that combines a killer plot with skillful characterization. Add Inbinder's revelatory prose, and the reader comes away emotionally exhausted but exhilarated by the author's first venture in the genre."—The Richmond Times Dispatch

About the Author: Gary Inbinder is a retired attorney who left the practice of law to write full-time. His fiction, articles and essays have appeared in Bewildering Stories, Halfway Down the Stairs, The Absent Willow Review, Morpheus Tales, Touchstone Magazine and other publications. Inbinder is a member of The Historical Novel Society and Mystery Writers of America. He is also a member of the Bewildering Stories Editorial Review Board. He lives in California.

#### **GORDON McALPINE** – After the Storm

A gripping, emotionally riveting novel that begins where *The Wizard of Oz* leaves off and ends by creating an altogether original and empowering adult narrative for our times.

When a tornado destroys the Gale farm in 1896 Kansas, 11-year-old Dorothy disappears. Townsfolk fear the worst. But four days later the girl turns up unharmed, accounting for the missing time by claiming to have been transported to a fantastical land peopled by a scarecrow, a tin man, a cowardly lion, a wizard, and a witch, who she claims to have "melted". Her recollection, which is regarded by townsfolk not only as delusional but also as pagan and diabolically inspired, ultimately proves criminally incriminating. This is why: a local spinster of ill-temperament is discovered murdered in her home, her face melted by lye. As the killing occurred when Dorothy was missing, the girl's claim to have destroyed a wicked witch is regarded as a confession. Dorothy is sent away to the Topeka Insane Asylum.

Six weeks later, 28-year-old psychologist Dr. Evelyn Grace Wilford, who has studied with pioneering physician William James, arrives at the asylum from Boston to interview Dorothy. Dr. Wilford has learned of the case from her cousin, a newspaper reporter, and is interested in how details of the girl's "fantasy" may reveal psychological insights. However, Dr. Wilford sets aside her academic focus when she comes to believe that Dorothy committed no crime. Traveling from the asylum to Dorothy's hometown, Dr. Wilford sets out to solve the case, which is the only way she can free the girl from her terrible circumstances. Grounded in the grit and prejudices of 1896 Kansas (which, incidentally, comment powerfully on today's America), Dr. Wilford discovers a small town rife with secrets. Fortunately, she is formidable and savvy. But can she discover the killer? Will she survive the menace still pervading the small town? And, even if she does, can she free Dorothy?

# The Big Man's Daughter (Seventh Street Books, 2020)

"Lies, cons, shifting alliances, kidnapping, and death propel readers toward a strangely hypnotic climax, which is skillfully presaged yet still an exhilarating surprise. Fans of metafictional mysteries will be enthralled." —Publishers Weekly Starred Review

18-year-old Rita Gaspereaux is suddenly "orphaned" when her con-artist father's illegal enterprise blows up around her. Alone and broke in San Francisco 1922, she must now navigate his criminal world, all the time haunted by tales of a black bird statuette reputed to possess otherworldly, wishfulfilling powers. Rita has learned much from her father about the dark fringes of society. But has she learned enough? Fortunately, she is not without her own resources. What helps her most to cope with the greed, cruelty, and deceit around her is her almost obsessive reading of fiction, particularly the novel she possesses (and is possessed by) at the time of her father's death. This book-within-the-book, a source of escape and solace for the blossoming young con-artist, tells the story of another 18-year-old, a Dorothy G. from Kansas. The two young women couldn't be more different. But as the story proceeds their lives become entwined in unexpected ways. The haunting conclusion is breathtaking.

#### Reviews/Blurbs

"Gordon McAlpine (writing here as Owen Fitzstephen) is one of our foremost practitioners of literary mystery. Descended from the line of ingenious inventors like Borges, his work penetrates and explores the history of books and storytelling... McAlpine brings a powerful new light to a classic noir story." —CrimeReads (Top 10 of 2020)

"Damn you, Fitzstephen! You've done it again! It may not be a detective novel, or even a mystery, really, but it's a heady brew all the same; a ballsy, carefully assembled and psychologically sharp read that tears into the guts of what it's like to be young, scared and not sure where you're going. Or where exactly you've been. If you're a Hammett fan, you're going to love this."

—The New Thrilling Detective Website

"To plunge into the fictional worlds of Gordon McAlpine novels is invariably to become entangled in ingenious twists on reality and narrative rarely found elsewhere, even when he's re-imagining characters in worlds parallel to those invented by others, in this case Dashiell Hammett. Just as

Hammett made imagined crime feel real, McAlpine makes metafiction mischief suffused with meaning; from the masterful Hammett Unwritten, to the too-wonderful-not-to-mention Woman with a Blue Pencil, and now the mesmerizing *The Big Man's Daughter*, McAlpine's novels prove as moving as they do dazzling." —*New York Journal of Books* 

"Yet another purely delightful metafictional crime novel with wit, invention and surprising humanity from that master of the improbable Gordon McAlpine writing under his pseudonym. ...Skirting metaphysics and ending with a bittersweet, moving and satisfying ending which will have you choking or wiping a tear from your eye. Damn wonderful." —Book of the Month, Crimetime.co.uk

"Like the craftiest of Dashiell Hammett's grifters, Owen Fitzstephen plays the long con: baiting readers with a story we think we know before slipping us a Mickey Finn from which we awake unsure of where we are and what is real. The Big Man's Daughter is stunning. Fans of Hammett must not miss this multilayered, metaphysical adventure."

—Jennifer Kincheloe, author of the Anna Blanc Mysteries

"Wildly inventive, elegantly perplexing and expertly told. Have fun trying to keep up with Owen Fitzstephen's imagination." —Steve Goble, author of the Spider John Mysteries

#### Holmes Entangled: The Final Endeavor of Sherlock Holmes (Seventh Street Books, 2018)

A retired Sherlock Holmes, now in his seventies and disguised as a Cambridge professor, is dramatically disturbed one day when a modestly successful author in his late sixties named Arthur Conan Doyle comes to call. This Conan Doyle, notable only for his historical romances, science fiction, and a three-volume history of the Boer War (but no detective tales), knows somehow of the false professor's true identity. To Holmes's surprise, he asks for help in solving a case that strains the limits of credulity by suggesting the existence of parallel worlds.

Sherlock Holmes on one last adventure in 1920s' London...employed by the author Arthur Conan Doyle? We might ask ourselves how such a thing can be possible.

This tale is discovered in a long-forgotten manuscript in 1940s' Buenos Aires. The librarian who finds it employs an Argentinian P.I. to help him grasp the deepest implications of the text. The story of the two Argentinians' brief and ultimately violent encounter provides a hardboiled frame to the last endeavor of Sherlock Holmes.

#### Reviews/Blurbs

"[A] crafted tale of mysterious encounters, elaborate disguises, spiritualism, séances, quantum "[A] crafted tale of mysterious encounters, elaborate disguises, spiritualism, séances, quantum mechanics, the tiniest hint of a love story, and parallel universes. From allusions to Edgar Allan Poe, Shakespeare, Mark Twain, and an encounter with Ernest Hemingway, McAlpine weaves a compact tale of mystery, betrayal, disappointment, and the figurative and literal reach of big brother. The result is a story both dilettante and devotee can enjoy." —San Antonio Express-News

"McAlpine's new meta-detective novel looks to be the most post-modern take on Sherlock Holmes since Chabon's The Final Solution. McAlpine's work is perfect for those who enjoyed the Will Ferrell film Stranger Than Fiction, but wished it wasn't a comedy." —LitHub

"It's to author McAlpine's credit that he makes what might have been an arch exercise into a joy to read.... It's a fascinating read, smart and entertaining for all that it's based on those quantum mechanics. That's right, it's Holmes confronting alternate universes, and it's wonderful."—*Booklist* 

"Will appeal to adventurous Holmes fans who enjoy more modern takes on a literary icon, such as James Lovegrove's Sherlock Holmes and The Shadwell Shadows." —*Library Journal* 

"Readers curious about an elderly Sherlock Holmes who was never a Victorian gentleman may enjoy this offbeat pastiche..." —Publishers Weekly

"It's hard to create a thrilling narrative using an over-used character like Sherlock Holmes...unless you are Gordon McAlpine. The brilliance of the work done by McAlpine in this novel is that he has constructed a conventional mystery and yet has also included interesting elements from science and other genres.... Traditional mystery needs more authors like Gordon McAlpine: Authors who can take enduring characters and narratives, polish them and give them a new beautiful face. This is a highly recommended title." —Mystery Tribune

**Woman with a Blue Pencil** (Seventh Street Books, November 2015) Nominated for an Edgar Award

The novel is rich with high wire, literary gamesmanship that addresses not only the fanciful question of what might become of characters that are edited out of a narrative but also the attendant question of how the "editing" of our own identities shapes us all. Additionally, *Woman with a Blue Pencil* indicts the continually shifting sands of bigotry and hatred, a topic as much for our own times as for the historical period of the novel, all while providing the page-turning pleasures of an intriguing murder mystery and a femme fatale unlike any you've met before.

# Reviews / Blurbs

"McAlpine's creative talent is rare and this novel is an exceptional literary treat." —Shelf Awareness

"A masterly critique of the mystery novel...McAlpine's greatest accomplishment is that the book works both as a conventional mystery story and as a deconstruction of the genre's ideology: whichever strand readers latch on to, the parallel stories pack a brutal punch."

—Publishers Weekly, STARRED review

"Woman with a Blue Pencil is a brilliantly structured labyrinth of a novel—something of an enigma wrapped in a mystery, postmodernist in its experimental bravado and yet satisfyingly well-grounded in the Los Angeles of its World War II era. Gordon McAlpine has imagined a totally unique work of 'mystery' fiction—one that Kafka, Borges, and Nabokov, as well as Dashiell Hammett, would have appreciated." —Joyce Carol Oates

"Readers who prefer to just focus on the story at hand will be rewarded with an exciting tale with a compelling protagonist (Hammett was a real-life larger-than-life character), and those who enjoy literary games-playing will have fun sorting it all out." —*Booklist* 

"[An] imaginative mashup of meta-mystery with meta-biography.... Fans of Hammett and noir ought to enjoy requisite shocks of recognition." —Publishers Weekly

"...a lovely touch with plots, settings and sharp, noir dialogue.... if McAlpine—or whoever—manages to stumble across another manuscript, I'll grab it." —Globe and Mail (Canada)

#### <u>Hammett Unwritten</u> (Seventh Street Books, 2013)

A worthless bird statuette—the focus of Dashiell Hammett's The Maltese Falcon. Or is it? As Dashiell Hammett closes his final case as a private eye, the details of which will later inspire his most famous book, he acquires at a police auction the bogus object of that case, an obsidian falcon statuette. He casually sets the memento on his desk, where for a decade it bears witness to his literary rise. Until he gives it away. Now, suffering writer's block, the famous author begins to wonder about rumors of the falcon's "metaphysical qualities," which link it to a powerful, wishfulfilling black stone cited in legends from around the world. He can't deny that when he possessed the statuette he wrote one acclaimed book after another, and that without it his fortunes have changed. As his block stretches from months to years, he becomes entangled again with the scam artists from the old case, each still fascinated by the "real" black bird and its alleged talismanic power. A dangerous maze of events takes Hammett from 1930s San Francisco to the glamorous Hollywood of the 1940s, a federal penitentiary at the time of the McCarthy hearings, and finally to a fateful meeting on New Year's Eve, 1959, at a Long Island estate. There the dying Hammett confronts a woman from his past who proves to be his most formidable rival. And his last hope.

#### About the Author

Gordon McAlpine was the Edgar Award nominated author of the literary mystery novels, *Holmes Entangled, Woman with a Blue Pencil*, and *Hammett Unwritten*, as well as other acclaimed novels and nonfiction. He is also the author of an award-winning trilogy of novels for middle grade readers, "The Misadventures of Edgar and Allan Poe". He has published short fiction in journals and anthologies both in the U.S.A and abroad. A graduate of the M.F.A. program in creative writing at U.C. Irvine, he taught for many years at Chapman University in Orange, California.

#### ERIC RICKSTAD —What Remains of Her (Morrow/ HarperCollins, 2018)

From the New York Times bestselling author of The Silent Girls comes this chilling, harrowing thriller set in rural Vermont about a recluse who believes the young girl he's found in the woods is the reincarnation of his missing daughter, returned to help him solve her and his wife's disappearance.

I won't say a word. Cross my heart and hope to die...

Jonah Baum, a professor of poetry at a local college in Vermont, sees his ordinary life come tumbling down when his wife and young daughter vanish from their home. No evidence of a kidnapping. No sign of murder. No proof that Rebecca didn't simply abandon her marriage. Just Sally's crude and chilling drawings, Jonah's little lies, and the sheriff's nagging fears that nothing is what it seems.

For Sally's best friend, Lucinda, it's something else. She trusts in Sally not to just disappear, not after they've shared so many secrets—especially about the woods and what they saw there. But she'll never tell. No one would believe her anyway.

As the search for Rebecca and Sally intensifies, and as suspicion falls on Jonah, the disappearances become more relentlessly haunting than anyone can imagine. Because what's seen in the light of day is not nearly as terrifying as what remains hidden in the dark...

#### Reviews/ Blurbs

"What Remains of Her is chilling and heartbreaking at the same time. A twisty, diabolical read."
—Peter Swanson, author of All the Beautiful Lies

"The past wraps around the present like a vine in Eric Rickstad's dark, twisting novel. Atmospheric, moving, and deep, *What Remains of Her* is as much a complex, beautifully wrought meditation on love and family, as it is a relentless mystery that will keep you riveted page after haunting page."

—Lisa Unger, New York Times bestselling author of *The Red Hunter* 

"Dark, claustrophobic, and hypnotic, a classy thriller that will make you sleep with the lights on, if you sleep at all." —Mark Edwards, #1 bestselling author of Follow You Home

"What Remains of Her is a brilliantly creepy page-turner. A gripping, unsettling thriller electrified by Rickstad's rich and haunting prose." —Laura McHugh, award-winning author of *The Weight of Blood* 

"A gorgeous thrill ride of a novel. Eric Rickstad's *What Remains of Her* is a literary page-turner that delves into the sacred and sometimes fraught relationships between fathers and daughters. In Rickstad's hands, what will remain with you is the satisfaction of a story masterfully told."

—Lisa Alber, award-winning author of *Path Into Darkness* 

"Rickstad's best novel yet. With shrewd and crafty skill, he spins one taut and chilling psychological ride." —J. D. Barker, internationally bestselling author of *The Fifth to Die* 

#### Other works by the Eric Rickstad

In the Name of the Girls (Morrow/HC, 2017) Lie in Wait (Witness, HC, 2015) The Silent Girls (Witness/HC, 2014)

"As I read Eric Rickstad's latest, *The Names of Dead Girls*, I felt myself constantly wanting to skip ahead—anxious, desperate, to find out what was going to happen. Such is the intoxicating nature of the plot. Skipping ahead, however, would be a mistake. Take your time. Savor the wonderfully drawn characters and lyrical prose. You're in the hands of one of the best in the business, at the very peak of his form." —Michael Harvey, author of *Brighton* 

"Eric Rickstad is the rare writer who can wrap a dark, gritty story in smooth, poetic prose. If you haven't discovered his work yet, The Names of Dead Girls is the place to start. It's a taut, masterful thriller and a terrific read." —Alafair Burke, author *The Wife* and *The Ex* 

"Beautifully written with original language and imagery, *The Names of Dead Girls* is a chilling page-turner. The superb cast of characters rings so very true, from the conflicted mom police detective to

the troubled Rachel Rath to the anthropomorphic, wet fog. Atmospheric, empathetic, and addictive." —James W. Ziskin, author the Ellie Stone Mysteries

"Rickstad is a seriously gifted writer, and trust me when I say that this book, from its explosive beginning to its startling ending, will grab you by the throat and not let go. You have been warned." —Mark Pryor, author of *The Book Artist* 

"The Names of Dead Girls is that brilliant, rare literary thriller: captivating in character, told with precision, and fueled by relentless, mounting terror. A compulsive page-turner that will have you racing to the end even as you dread what's coming." —Steve Weddle, author of *Country Hardball* 

"The Names of Dead Girls is a taut, slick thriller that absolutely races out of the gate. Eric Rickstad has a special talent for writing scenes that are almost unbearably tense. Warning: Once you start this one, you won't be able to stop." —Brad Parks, author of Say Nothing

The Silent Girls is Vermont's own True Detective...Three-dimensional characters, a moody rural-noir vibe, and a compulsively readable story make this a stunner of a crime novel!

—Steve Ulfelder, Edgar finalist author of Wolverine Bros. Freight & Storage

<u>Foreign Rights</u> to: THE SILENT GIRLS sold in: Italy to Newtown Compton, in Turkey to Agapi, in Greece to Metaixmio, and in the Czech Republic to Host Vydavatelstvi

#### About the Author

Eric Rickstad is the *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Silent Girls*, a #1 best-selling Nook and #3 Mystery Kindle novel heralded as intelligent and profound, dark, disturbing, and heartbreaking. His first novel, Reap, a literary suspense novel, was a New York Times Notable Book. His short stories and articles have appeared in many magazines and been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. He holds an MFA from the University of Virginia, where he was a Hoyns Fellow and a Corse Fellow. He lives in Vermont with his wife and daughter.

# SIMON WORRALL — The Very White of Love (HQ, HarperCollins UK, June 2018)

Torn apart by war, their letters meant everything...

My love. I am writing to you without knowing where you are but I will find you after all these long months...

3rd September 1938. Martin Preston is in his second year of Oxford when his world is split in two by a beautiful redhead, Nancy Whelan. A whirlwind romance blossoms in the Buckinghamshire countryside as dark clouds begin to gather in Europe.

3rd September 1939. Britain declares war on Germany. Martin is sent to the battlefields of France, but as their letters cross the channel, he tells Nancy their love will keep him safe. Then, one day, his letters stop.

3rd September 1940. It's four months since Nancy last heard from Martin. She knows he is still alive. And she'll do anything to find him. But what she discovers will change her life forever...

Perfect for fans of Suite Française, My Dear I Wanted to Tell You, and The Tattooist of Auschwitz

The Very White of Love is based on a true story, inspired by the author's discovery of a chocolate box full of love letters between his mother, Nancy, and her fiancé, Martin Preston, the nephew of the poet Robert Graves. Simon Worrall has pieced together the fictional narrative using these genuine letters to write a heartbreaking and timeless love story. After a whirlwind romance, Martin is sent to the battlefields of France in 1939, telling Nancy their love will keep them safe. Then one day, his letters stop. Nancy will do anything to find him, but will she unravel the mystery of his disappearance in time?

#### Reviews/Blurbs

"Beautifully written and a true piece of history, Simon has pieced together a story that has just been waiting to be told for over seventy years. HQ are immensely proud to be publishing The Very White of Love." —Charlotte Mursell, editor at HQ.

"A love story told in exquisitely poetic letters." — Daily Mail

"A powerful and tender tale of love and war." — Sunday Mirror

#### About the Author

S. C. Worrall was born in Wellington, England, and spent his childhood in Eritrea, Paris, and Singapore. Since 1984, he has been a full-time, freelance journalist and book author. He has written for National Geographic, GQ, The London Times, and The Guardian. He has also made frequent appearances on Radio & TV, including the BBC's From Our Own Correspondent, NPR, and PBS. He speaks six languages and has lived in or visited more than 70 countries. *The Very White of Love* is his debut novel.

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