

Book Marks

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April 2004

Criminal Appetites

. **Criminal Appetites** has simmered in the back of my mind for a number of years. I'm glad to say that Silver Dagger Mysteries will finally serve the finished book in June 2004.

The anthology contains 14 short stories by some of the biggest name authors in the mystery field, and especially the culinary mystery subgenre. Anne Perry has a short story in the collection, using the same collection of house pets that appeared in **Canine Crimes**. Toni LP Kelner presents a twist on brownies that results in murder. Tamar Myers has yet another punny title with "When Harry Met Salad". Nancy Pickard serves up a new Marie Lightfoot story, "Truth Serum". Kris Neri delivers another hilarious story with "No-Star Murder".

A recipe supplied by the author accompanies each of these stories. Many of the stories including mine contained a dessert recipe. I don't know if murder goes better with sweets or if most

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Atomic Renaissance

During my research into Craig Rice's tumultuous life, I discovered a number of women mystery authors who were not known to me. This was something of a shock to me, as I'd thought I'd read most of the best and brightest from the previous four decades. Yet these women had escaped my notice.

As I continued work on the Rice's biography, many of these women passed away and I sadly thought that each of them deserved a biography of their own. Atomic Renaissance came about when I decided to collect the material about seven American women mystery authors who had not been written about in depth before. Many of them did not even have proper documentation of their novels and short stories.

As I learned more about these women and their lives, I was amazed at how well they wrote and the unique and lively fiction they wrote while still expected to take care of families and raise children. Perhaps it was the fact that I had recently taken in a 16-year-old family member to raise, but I was amazed at the output of these women in these circumstances.

I started the collection with Margaret Millar who has long been a favorite of mine. Sadly, today she is better known as Mrs. Ross Macdonald, rather than as a top-rate mystery writer. Her works never cease to astound me in their depth of character and the surprise endings that do more than answer whodunit.

Dorothy B. Hughes was another author whose

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people just prefer to wait until after the entrée to commit murder. The recipes are delicious and I hope to get some of the better cooks out there to bring some of these delicious treats to upcoming book signings.

And the Winner Is...

Atomic Renaissance has been nominated for an Agatha for Best Non-Fiction book. The winners will be announced during the banquet at Malice Domestic in Washington, DC in late April.

I was recently named a Helm Fellow at Indiana University. This fellowship will help me to spend time at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, researching Anthony Boucher's papers which were donated to the library by his widow, Phyllis White.

The Scent of Murder, which won the Malice Domestic Grant nearly a decade ago, is going to be published this fall by Grace Abraham Publishing.

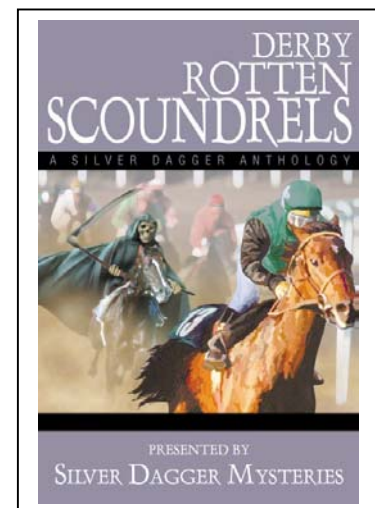
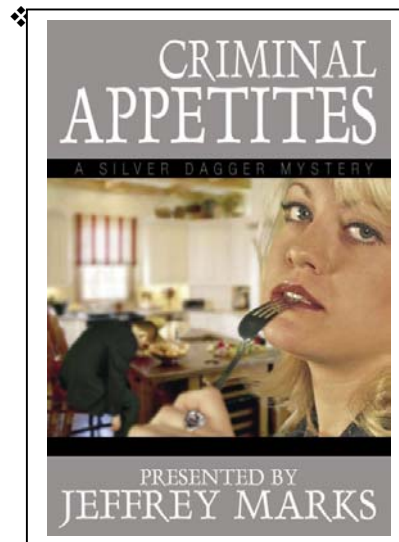
Horsing Around

I had the good fortune to be involved in **Derby Rotten Scoundrels**, a new anthology from the Sisters In Crime, Ohio River Valley Chapter. For those of you who are not familiar with Sisters in Crime, it's open to men and women who want to promote the place of women in mystery fiction. I've been a member for a number of years now, and the Sisters in Louisville have always been gracious to me.

I was excited when they came to me and asked me to edit the manuscript for **Derby Rotten Scoundrels**. I'd entered a story in the anthology, and had been accepted into the book. I edited the anthology with the help of the eight other authors. I had a great time. Some of the other authors will sound familiar to the reader: Laura Young, Bev Myers.

The theme of the anthology is the Kentucky

Derby, the horse race in Louisville, KY held each May. The stories have something to do with the Derby in a murderous fashion. My story, "The Case of the Derby Diamond", takes place at one of the many lavish parties. The story occurs in the midst of World War II, when the Derby was nearly shut down because of the severe restrictions on travel. The story introduces a new sleuth for me, a former cop who has come home from the war with only one hand. I hope to be able to write about him again.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2004

15th, Barnes and Noble, West Chester, 7pm
16th, Southern KY Book Festival, Bowling Green KY
19th, Aitkin Memorial Library, 111 North Howard, Crosswell, MI
20th, Southfield Library, 26000 Evergreen Rd, Southfield, MI
24th, Genre Writing Program, Kenton Co Public Library, 502 Scott Blvd, 1pm
30 Our Lady of Victory, Cincinnati, OH all day event with students

May 2004

7th, Byrdstown, TN, 10am
7th, Livingston, TN, 1pm
7th, Cookeville, TN, 3pm
7th, McMinnville, TN, 6:30pm
14th, Northern KY Book Festival, Covington KY
20th, The Mystery Company, Carmel, IN 7pm

June 2004

5th, BEA, 2pm, signing, Mystery Salute!, Chicago, IL
24th-30th, American Library Association, Orlando FL

September 2004

30th, Ohio Library Council, Netherland Hilton, Cincinnati, OH, 4:15m

October 2004

9-10th, GLBA, Deerfield, MI
17th, Westerville, OH public library, 2pm

work needed to be documented. She had been a friend of Rice's and we'd corresponded over the years about Rice and her life. Hughes shared with me stories about discussions over book reviews and Rice's faith as she grew older. Not only was Hughes a novelist in her own right, she had also written an award-winning biography of Erle Stanley Gardner. One of the best moments of the writing process with *Atomic Renaissance* was finding a cache of cassette tapes that had recorded one of Hughes' last interviews with the University of New Mexico. I was able to hear Hughes in her own words and own voice tell about

Charlotte Armstrong was a new name to me, before the start of this biography project. I found her works to be suspenseful and yet uplifting in their celebration of everyday life. I hadn't realized how many films that I knew were based on her works.

I'm happy to say that a biography of Patricia Highsmith was released shortly after *Atomic Renaissance* (long overdue) and I've heard rumors about a biography of Mignon Eberhart as well. I can only hope that all seven of these women will be honored with a full-length treatment of their lives and works.

Several people have asked when I was going to write about a male mystery author, having covered so many women. I assured them that my next biography details the very full, but short life of mystery author, editor, and reviewer Anthony Boucher. I recently received the Helm Fellow from Indiana University, so I could spend some time in Bloomington, Indiana reading the 33 boxes of material that Boucher's widow donated to Lilly Library there. In addition to that material, I'll be traveling to Berkeley, California, where Boucher lived for most of his adult life.

The Scent of Murder (Marissa Scott, new series)
(October 2004)
Grace Abraham Publishing; ISBN: 0-8741080-1-0

Criminal Appetites (A cooking mystery anthology)
(June 2004)
Overmountain Press; ISBN: 1570722609 \$23.95
Overmountain Press; ISBN: 1570722617 \$9.95

Atomic Renaissance: Women Mystery Writers of the 1940s and 1950s
Delphi Books; ISBN: 0966339770, \$21.95

A Good Soldier (A US Grant Mystery)
Overmountain Press; ISBN: 1570722153 \$23.95
Overmountain Press; ISBN: 1570722161 \$13.95

Intent to Sell: Marketing the Genre Novel
Deadly Alibi Press; ISBN 1-886199-16-7; \$18.99

Murder, Mystery, and Malone (Craig Rice short story collection) Intro by Jeffrey Marks
Crippen and Landru; ISBN: 1885941706
Crippen and Landru; ISBN: 1885941714

The Ambush of My Name (A US Grant Mystery)
Overmountain Press; ISBN: 157072184X \$23.95
Overmountain Press; ISBN: 1570721858 \$13.95

Who Was That Lady? Craig Rice: The Queen of Screwball Mystery
Delphi Books; ISBN: 0966339711, \$21.95

Read My Shorts

- "Under Cooked", a U.S. Grant short story, Criminal Appetites
- "Under Hand", a U.S. Grant short story, Mysterical-E
- "Under Water", a U.S. Grant short story, Peeks and Valleys
- "Under Suspicion", a U.S. Grant short story, The Writers Hood

BOOK MARKS

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