

iScream for Mysteries

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L R R M I C H A E L S T E P H E N D A I G L E U Y
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W H J N D V D X L G P A W A F F L E C O N E Z F Y

A E FAULKNER

CHOCOLATE

COZIES

DENNIS BOYLE

DORI HAMMER

JEFFREY BOARTS

JENNIFER SADERA

MICHAEL STEPHEN DAIGLE

PATRICE MCDONOUGH

RADHA VATSAL

ROBERT WALTON

ROCKY ROAD

ROSIE GENOVA

SHERYL ICKES

SPRINKLES

STEPHEN EOANNOU

SUNDAE

TJ O'CONNOR

THRILLERS

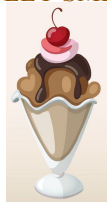
TRADITIONAL

VANILLA

WAFFLE CONE

WALNUTS

WESTLEY SMITH



Newsletter of Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop • 6 Clouser Rd • Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Phone: 717-795-7470 • www.MysteryBooksOnline.com

NOTE New Email Address: Mysterybookshop@proton.me

Something Wicked

this way comes... 2025 • Vol 6 • Issue 2



Upcoming Events At-A-Glance

Apr 26 - Guidepost and Annie's Fiction Sale

Guidepost and Annie's Fiction books on sale! Buy two and get one FREE!

Apr 23 - 26 - Bracelet Week

If you were at one of our larger events this past year, you should have received a red and black bracelet in your swag bag. This week, bring in your bracelet while you shop and receive a free Advance Reading Copy (ARC).

Apr 26 - Independent Bookstore Day

As a thank you to all of our loyal readers, our shop will be having 25 cent bins with select books to choose from. From old mysteries to newer ones in all sub-genres, it's a treasure trove worth digging through! In-Store Only

Apr 29 - 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Libby's Book Launch. Complete details on page 2.

May 3 - iScream for Mysteries

Complete details on page 9.

May 7 - 10 - Mother's Day

Pick a Flower for a Discount. Pick a paper flower from our pot to see what discount you get on your book purchase. This will happen all week in celebration of Mother's Day. In-Store Only

Please note: We are closed June 29 to July 5. We apologize for any inconvenience.

May 12 and 26, June 9 and 23

Author Takeover Events. Details on page 3

May 28, June 25, July 30 and August 27- PROMM

Details on page 4 and 13.

May 28-31 - Local Author Sale

Check out our local author shelf for books published by writers who live within driving distance of our bookshop! You may even find a signed edition...as many of them have attended one of our events over the years. Both In-Store and Online.

June 7 - Craig Johnson Returns!

Complete details on page 4.

June 11 - 14 - Father's Day

Pick a Brick to See Your Discount. To celebrate Father's Day, our shop will have building bricks stashed about our shelves. Anyone can find one of these hidden bricks to receive the discount on the bottom. What will you get? In-Store Only

June 21 - Paint a Book with Sarah

Page 3 for details.

June 25 - 28 - Bracelet Week

This week, bring in your bracelet while you shop and receive a free ARC!

Inside this Issue...

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Libby's Book Launch! — April 29 — 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Location: Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop

Fee: Free - Reservations Requested



We are delighted to be hosting Author Libby Klein's book launch for her latest mystery, and the start to a NEW SERIES, called *Vice and Virtue - A Layla Virtue Mystery #1*. Join us on a Tuesday afternoon, as Libby will be at our shop to sign books and chat with our readers.

Pre-Orders of *Vice and Virtue* will also be **20% off**, and signed by the author on the 29th. Our shop does ship out, and purchases over \$40 receive free shipping!

Our shop will be decorated in the musical spirit of her main character's new career path.

This event is FREE to attend, but we do request reservations. Please call the bookshop to make a reservation(s) at 717-795-7470. Or, visit our website to register at MysteryBooksOnline.com

Shop Hours

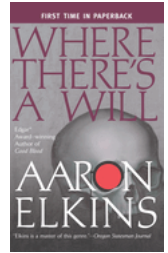
Wednesday and Thursday	12:30 pm til 6:00 pm
Friday	12:30 pm til 5:30 pm
Saturday	12:00 pm til 5:30 pm
Sunday through Tuesday	Closed except for special events.

Book Reviews - continued

Where There's a Will - Gideon Oliver 12

by Aaron Elkins

Type: Traditional Mystery - Trade Paperback - \$7.99



While on vacation in Hawaii, Gideon Oliver and his friend John Lau, an FBI agent, visit with some ranch owners that John has known since he was a teenager; back when he used to work on their farm. It doesn't take long, however, for their plans of relaxation before Gideon's wife, Julie, joins them, to take a dive for the worst upon the discovery of a crashed plane site. Their upended vacation soon turns personal as a connection to the farm, from ten years ago, finds the duo hip-deep in the middle of a complicated mystery.

A decade beforehand, the farm had once belonged to three family members: Torkel, Magnus, and Dagmar. The official story states that one night, unknown people attacked the farm, and killed Magnus; while Torkel ended up escaping in a plane with the pilot, Claudia, and they were never heard from again.

After the will had been followed, dividing the large farm amongst the surviving family members, suspicion is now risen over whether it was done correctly. With so many questions swirling around in the air, including the identity of whose body is *really* in the plane, Gideon Oliver is tasked with living up to his nickname, as the Skeleton Detective, in order to find out the truth from a waterlogged pile of bones.

For me, Aaron Elkins delivered another solid mystery filled with interesting twists and turns as the story moved along. Though in this particular novel, I find that Gideon was both right and wrong at the same time. I would still highly recommend this one to any reader, or writer, fascinated with what we can learn from mere bones. Each time I read one of his books, I'm always surprised at what the Skeleton Detective can glean of the dead's past lives and occupations. With well-developed characters that play off of one another in dynamic ways, I can't wait to read the next installment!

Once again, as in past mysteries of this series, the police are competent. However, as I previously alluded to in the above paragraph, the case was closed incorrectly for understandable reasons.

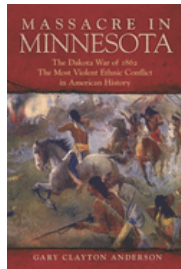
..reviewed by Sherry I

Book Reviews - continued

Massacre in Minnesota: the Dakota War of 1862, the Most Violent Ethnic Conflict in American History

by Gary Clayton Anderson

Type: Non-Fiction -- Trade Paperback - \$26.95



In August 1862 the worst massacre in U.S. history unfolded on the Minnesota prairie, launching the Dakota War, the most violent ethnic conflict ever to roil the nation. When it was over, between six and seven hundred white settlers had been murdered in their homes, and thirty to forty thousand had fled the frontier of Minnesota. More than five hundred Indians, many of them women and children, perished in the aftermath of the conflict; and thirty-eight Dakota warriors were executed on one gallows, the largest mass execution ever in North America. The horror of such wholesale violence has long obscured what really happened in Minnesota in 1862.

Focusing on key figures caught up in the conflict—Indian, American, and Franco- and Anglo-Dakota—Gary Clayton Anderson, captures the fears of the fleeing settlers, the animosity of newspaper editors and soldiers, the violent dedication of Dakota warriors, and the struggles of seized women and children. Anderson documents the vast corruption within the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the crisis that arose as pioneers overran Indian lands, the failures of tribal leadership and institutions, and the systemic strains caused by the Civil War. Anderson also gives due attention to Indian cultural viewpoints, offering insight into the relationship between Native warfare, religion, and life after death—a nexus critical to understanding the conflict.

The Dakota were just one of the unjustly treated Western Plains tribes. This book begins with the history and culture of these people and goes on to tell of mistreatment by various Indian Agents whose job was to provide for them. Of course, the Indians retaliated after being lied to and cheated out of things promised.

Details of battles are described. Dakota warriors were charged with murder and rape. Out of over 300 who were sentenced to hang, Lincoln reduced the punishments. Thirty-eight were hanged in the greatest mass execution in American history.

Local Note: Colonel Stephen Miller, born in what is now Carroll Township, Perry County (Cumberland County at that time) was the Army officer in charge of the hangings.

The book is well-researched and has drawings and photos.

...reviewed by Sandy

Author Take-Over Events

We're starting something new with our Facebook Group, And Then There Were Mysteries.... called "Author Take Over." These will feature an author who will chat with our readers about their latest book. Discounts and free handouts will be a part of each of our Takeovers, which will take place twice a month, online only.

Our author takeover events are called "Murder Mystery Mondays" and the first one will feature **Misty Simon on May 12 from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm**. On **May 26, Saralyn Richard** will be with us. And **Jennifer Chow** will join us on **June 23**.

Additional dates with times and authors, will be announced in the near future. You must be a member of our Facebook Group. It's free and easy to join.



Misty Simon
May 12 • 6-8 pm



Saralyn Richard
May 26
Time TBD



Jennifer Chow
June 23 • 7-8 pm

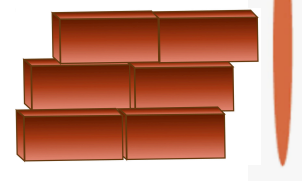
Future Schedule To Date

June 9 - time and author TBD

Paint a Book with Sarah

Looking to add a bookish element to your garden or landscaping this year? Join us for a creative and fun afternoon painting bricks into our favorite stories with Sarah Ickes. Supplies are included in the fee.

Fee: \$15.00



**A Day Without
READING
is like...
Just Kidding
I Have NO Idea**

...Seen on a T-Shirt

PROMM* — May 28 • 7:00 pm

Speaker/Author: Richard Bigg

Location: Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop

Topic: Magic in the Mountains

Fee: \$3 per person



Richard Bigg

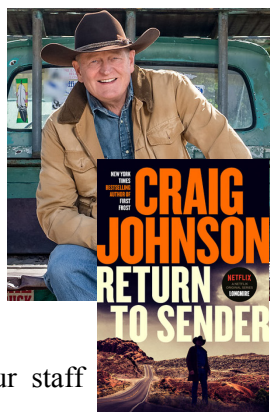
A native of eastern Pennsylvania's Anthracite Coal Region, Richard Bigg has decades of experience in the field of paranormal research and investigation. Formerly the director of Pennsylvania Paranormal Research Team (PPRT), he's spent 4 years compiling local tales into his first book series, *Strange Stories*

From the Skulking Stream. His second volume, *Magic in the Mountains*, discusses Eastern Pennsylvania's turbulent past with magic, haunting cats, witches, and trials.

His books will be available for purchase on the night of the event and thereafter. And, the author will be there to sign them!

***Peculiar, Random, Odd, Mysteries and More**

Craig Johnson • June 7 • 1:00



We are excited to have Mr. Johnson coming back on his book tour for the newest Walt Longmire adventure, *Return to Sender*. Join us on a Saturday afternoon for this off-site event filled with books and of course, a few wonderful tales from the author himself.

Pre-orders for both the hardcover of *Return to Sender*, and the paperback version of *First Frost*, can be placed by calling our shop at 717-795-7470 or on our website — MysteryBooksOnline.com or .

Our shop will be closed on this day, as our staff members will be tending to the event at:

Shiremanstown United Methodist Church
125 E Main St
Shiremanstown, PA 17011

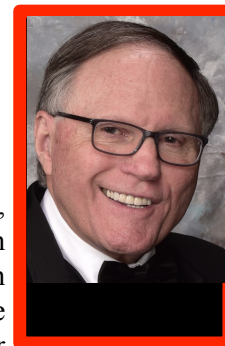
PROMM* — June 25 • 7:00 pm

Speaker/Author: Jeffrey Frazier

Location: Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop

Topic: Pennsylvania Fireside Tales

Fee: \$3 per person



Jeffrey Frazier

Born and raised in Centre Hall, Centre County, Jeffrey holds a BS from Penn State and an MBA from Rider University, New Jersey. Growing up in a “Tom Sawyer” sort of way, he has always loved the Pennsylvania mountains and has collected their folktales and legends for over fifty years, starting in 1970.

Since the tales often sound “far-fetched” today, the author takes on the role of an investigative reporter to explore their origins, writing in a format that the average reader can enjoy. Sunbury Press has published his three-volume series titled *Pennsylvania Mountain Landmarks* and also is publishing the entire eight volumes of his *Pennsylvania Fireside Tales* series.

PROMM • Future Dates

We are in the process of finalizing speakers for our other PROMM events. The fee is \$3 per person. The programs start at 7:00 pm and run for 1-1/2 hours:

July 23 • topic and presenter TBA

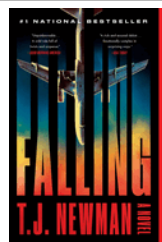
August 27 • topic and presenter TBA

Book Reviews - continued

Falling

by T. J. Newman

Type: Thriller - Trade Paperback- \$18.99



Pay attention to the flight attendants as they go over safety protocol—it is going to be a bumpy ride! From page one, this adrenaline-filled thriller keeps the reader on the edge of their seat, with red herrings, twists, and heart pounding moments. Newman writes from multiple perspectives and interweaves the stories expertly, relying on small cliffhangers for each perspective to carry the reader to the next perspective, both on ground and on the plane. Using her experience as a flight attendant, she brings the reader to the behind the scenes of flying, and it is this authenticity that helps ground the thriller into reality. The descriptions are vivid and make the reader feel like part of the action and the setting. Themes of choice, perspective, and responsibility give the story depth. There are moments of tenderness, camaraderie, and sacrifice.

I appreciated the continuous motion of the story and how the individual perspectives combined to move along the story. There are graphic parts, so any readers who are not fans of violence and graphic content, this may not be the book for you. But, if you are a reader who loves thrillers that offer suspense, red herrings, and unputdownable action, this is a good book to try. Newman has two other thrillers set on planes, *Drowning* and *Worst Case Scenario*, and I plan to read these soon.

...reviewed by Jessica

Really...

Fish cough.

Bullfrogs do not sleep.

...From WTF

Blind Date with a Book



Our popular Blind Date with a Book program returns in June!!! Spend \$10 and get one wrapped book free.

Book Reviews

These books are available for sale on our website
or by stopping in at the shop.

Murder Uncorked: Vista del Vino Culinary Cozy #1

by Erin Hayden

Type: Cozy - Trade Paperback- \$16.99



Returning to the sunny side of Southern California, Casey brings her son and his diabetic alert dog all the way from New York to start anew in the Vista del Vino area. Everything starts off well in the beginning, including reconnecting with old friends who are trying to run the family winery after their parents were killed in a car accident. But when another member of her friends' family dies, her investigative reporter skills kick back in, and the remaining two are left to save their legacy and their livelihood.

Though the police are not keen on her involvement into the suspicious deaths, Casey doesn't allow that to deter her from getting to the truth; even in the face of threats being made towards her and her family. That is, until her friends do an about-face and tell her to leave things alone, including to stay away from the winery itself, and prompting Casey to wonder if she should just do as they ask, in order to protect her mom and only child. But there's a problem with that...letting things go just isn't in her nature.

Erin Hayden does a great job developing her characters and inviting the reader into the world of Vista del Vino through the warmth of Casey's mother's house and the descriptions of the setting. If one doesn't know much about the wine business, that's perfectly fine because there are tidbits dotted along in the story without it being teacherly; the same goes for her son living with diabetes and how he handles it.

Casey's mom, Maeve, loves to cook, which comes in handy when the escalating tensions amongst her friends has her wanting an escape from all of life's problems, and the future possibility of her working at the winery, which is alluded to at one point. There are some recipes included in the back of the book, as well as a short glossary defining a few diabetic terms for reference, a list of book discussion group questions, and even a peek into the second story of this fun cozy series! With the red herrings that kept me guessing throughout this mystery, I look forward to reading the next one soon.

...reviewed by Sherry I

Book Reviews - continued

Written Wings: Vectra Tillerman Adventure 1 *by Sarah Ickes*

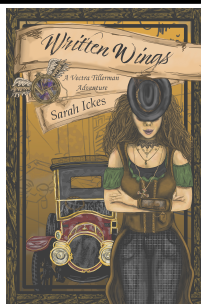
Type: Fantasy / Mystery / Adventure - \$18.99

Get ready to take a ride into a fantasy world filled with unusual characters that you will grow quite fond of for the most part...or maybe quite wary of. At any rate, their personalities are quite unique. Your hosts on this ride are two siblings: 14-year-old Monica and 10-year-old Dare, and your quest is to find their older brother Trevor who was kidnapped in front of their house. Trevor is their legal guardian, made so when their parents disappeared several years before.

The story begins with Monica having a powerful dream in which she is told to find Vectra Tillerman, and thus their strange, exciting quest begins and becomes stranger with each character they encounter. Vectra may be the answer to the siblings' quest, but she has her own problem – Taminus, a warrior who has wanted her job for centuries. However, she has an item that safeguards her job that Taminus continues trying to trick her into handing over to him.

Each of the 62 chapters introduces unique characters, too many to list here, that have one crazy adventure after another to the siblings' delight. Some of these characters are Aiden, a leprechaun and as with all leprechauns, is quite mischievous; Rolan a ghost from the Civil War; Catriona, a lover of teas and collector of teapots (lots of teapots); Xaviar (or is his name Rudi) an elf from the North Pole; and Clio, the goddess in charge of records and historical accounts. Clio oversees "the" press—an answer to most of the mysteries in this story. This reviewer will tell you no more about the press – she doesn't want a spoiler to ruin the mystery of Monica and Dare's quest. Suffice to say that the press will present more mysteries, bring more characters into the story, be the answer to the questions that continue to mount, and bring about unexpected surprises for both the siblings and the reader.

The author, Sarah, has a vivid imagination and a unique way of transposing it into words in an entertaining story. Her descriptions of the characters, the surroundings, and the events allow the reader's imagination to have a clear picture of the unfolding story. Historical events such as the Revolutionary War and World War II, and references to past eras are continuously interwoven into the story. This book would most likely be enjoyed by a reader who likes fast-paced mysteries with twists and turns throughout the Olde Realm with believable characters intermixed with those of the imagination.



Book Reviews - continued

Case of the Strange Splash: Detective Duck 1 *by Henry Winkler and Lin Oliver*

Type: Mystery - Ages 5-7 - \$14.99

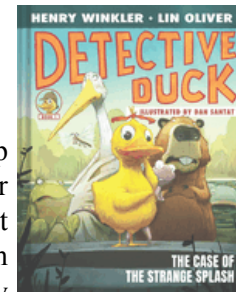
I wasn't quite sure what to expect when I picked up this book, the first in a series written by Henry Winkler and Lin Oliver. No, there is no typo in this review, as it is the same Mr. Winkler many of you may know from the television show Happy Days, and this is surprisingly not the first time the "Fonz" has worked with Ms. Oliver to write a book. After doing some online research, and reading over the Acknowledgements page at the back of this story, it was interesting to find out that their collaboration has been going on for two decades!

Now that I have that aside, onto the plot...

Willow Feathers, a curious little duckling, is being raised by her father, a beaver, in Dogwood Pond, and dreams about becoming a detective someday. On the lookout for a mystery to solve, she soon meets a puzzling challenge when a large, black object lands smack-dab in their pond and disturbs Harry the catfish from where he had been resting. Sal the salamander suspects that it is an alien spaceship carrying one-eyed aliens that will eat them all, just like in the comic books he reads from a nearby campground. But when Willow begins to investigate the object further, she discovers the truth about the item with the help of her friends. Together, they work at removing the mysterious object from their home as they learn what large impacts a small act can do.

The illustrations and quality of the book are worth mentioning as a bonus to the storyline, which is also well-written and incorporates some older sayings I can picture Mr. Winkler speaking. I found the message of environmental mindfulness to be one that is not shoved onto the reader, but is still a part of the plotline in a meaningful way. As I read the book, I could not stop myself from saying "Swiper, no swiping," from Dora as a similar occurrence happens with a not-so-beloved weasel throughout the story. Overall, I would highly recommend this book to anyone who likes animal stories, themes of overcoming obstacles, and a message of continuing to follow your dreams, even when the road gets a little tough. It would also be a great gift or a donation to a Little Free Library.

...reviewed by Sarah



Book Reviews - continued

Targets West: Lucas Wheeler #1

by Scott McCrea

Type: Thriller - Trade Paperback - \$21.00



This is a tale of Lucas Wheeler, an average rancher hailing from Wyoming, whose seemingly simple sale of horses takes him on an adventure he never saw coming. The deal should be easy; take a flight out and sell some horses to a wild-west-enthused sheik living in Saudi Arabia before heading for home. That is until the government intervenes by asking for his help in spying on his prospective buyer, and reporting everything he learns to them. According to a couple of agents, the sheik is involved with terrorism inside the United States, and Lucas agrees to do it on the condition that it is just for information and nothing more.

What soon follows, however, is a wild ride for his life from New York City, to London, and Saudi Arabia on a trip half-way around the globe. He quickly finds out that his ranching skills and knowledge come in handy wherever he goes: including surviving a few nutsy women and a scientist with a trigger-finger for sound. Between a kidnapping, breaking and entering, running away from a madman, and possibly saving a top government official, Lucas certainly has his work cut out for him in Scott McCrea's novel, *Targets West*.

The author succeeds in creating an adventure that I can see as an action flick in the movie theaters: full of explosions, action fight scenes, and very cool spy music with a western flare.

...reviewed by Sherry I

It's still a mystery...The Godzillus Fossil

In 2011, an amateur paleontologist in Cincinnati, Ohio, discovered a massive fossil he would informally name "Godzillus." Paleontologist Ron Fine worked with geologists at the University of Cincinnati to date the fossil back 450 million years, but they could not agree on what type of fossil it was — animal or plant.

The fossil itself is elliptical and stretches to around seven feet long. Considering the area of Cincinnati was covered in water during that time in history, experts are fairly sure the fossil is aquatic in nature. Some experts claim it could be a fossilized mat of some type of algae, but they admit it is not something they usually see. Experts are still attempting to identify what organism is responsible for the fossil.

Announcing ... a New Book Discussion Group

Due to popular demand, we've added another cozy Book Discussion Group (BDG). The new BDG will meet the third Thursday at 10:30 am each month.



Their first meeting will take place on **May 23*** and they will discuss *The Windsor Knot* by S J Bennett.

If you would like to join this group, please give us a call at 717-795-7470 or message us online.

Our other Book Discussion Groups include:

Bloody Wednesday BDG • 2nd Wednesdays at 7:00 pm • Our original book discussion group. Started in 1997. They discuss all types of mysteries...thriller, police procedural, traditional, hard-boiled, soft-boiled, cozy, caper and true crime.

Cozy Discussion Group Day - 3rd Wednesday at 1:30 pm. Discuss cozies.

Cozy Discussion Group Night - 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Discuss cozies.

Traditionally Yours Day - 1st Wednesday at 1:30 pm. Discuss traditional.

Traditionally Yours Night - 1st Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Discuss traditional.

***Please note: After their first meeting on May we, the "Next Day Cozy" group will meet the 3rd Thursday of each month.**

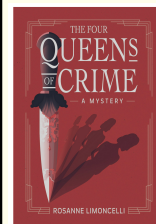
Latest Pod/Video Cast...

Rosanne Limoncelli



Episode #38:

Rosanne Limoncelli has taught writing and filmmaking for more than three decades, and on March 11 she'll made her mystery author debut. Our host, Bill Peschel and Rosanne talked about *The Four Queens of Crime*, her historical novel featuring Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, Margery Allingham, and Naigo Marsh. We talk about the inspiration for creating this detecting super-group, why she set it during the run-up to WorldWar II, her work teaching filmmaking and the difference between



It's still a mystery...The Voynich Manuscript

Likely created during the early-to-mid-fifteenth century, the Voynich Manuscripts is a 240-page book in an unknown alphabet that has baffled researchers for more than a century. Wilfred Voynich, a Polish antique book dealer, acquired the manuscript in 1912 from the Jesuit college at Frascati near Rome and made popular the book's many mysteries.

The text is filled with colorful pages and puzzling illustrations and is divided into six sections, each with a different focus, from botanicals to astronomy to biology. Voynich was never able to decipher the manuscript, nor has anyone else who has tried, including code-breakers who served in both World Wars.

In 2017, the *Times Literary Supplement* published an article that claimed the cipher in the book had been solved but Boynich scholars quickly refuted it because all the author had as proof were two sentences in improper Latin. Very little is yet known about the reason for the book's existence. Today, the manuscript can be found at the Yale University Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library."

...HISTORY Calendar

I Met a Dragon by Jack Prelutsky

I met a dragon face to face
the year when I was ten.
I took a trip to outer space,
I braved a pirate's den.
I wrestled with a wicked troll,
and fought a great white shark.
I trailed a rabbit down a hole,
I hunted for a snark.
I stowed aboard a submarine,
I opened magic doors.
I traveled in a time machine,
and searched for dinosaurs.
I climbed atop a giant's head,
I found a pot of gold.
I did all this in books I read
when I was ten years old.





iScream for Mysteries

What's your flavor of mystery?

Location:
Shiremanstown United
Methodist Church
125 E Main St,
Shiremanstown, PA 17011

Hosted by:



**MECHANICSBURG
MYSTERY**
bookshop

Register Online At:
www.MysteryBooksOnline.com

Register in person at
our shop or over the phone



Attending Authors:

Jeffrey Boarts
Dennis Boyle
Michael Stephen Daigle
Stephen G. Eoannou
A.E. Faulkner
Rosie Genova
Dori Hammer
Sheryl C.D. Ickes
John J. Lamb
Patrice McDonough
Tj O'Connor
Jennifer Sadera
Westley Smith
Radha Vatsal
Robert Walton

Date:
MAY 3, 2025

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iScream for Mysteries
May 3, 2025
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