

Something Wicked

this way comes... 2022 • Vol 3 • Issue 2



Upcoming Events

November - Native American Heritage Month

We have two books in our review columns on Native American History. They are found on page 2.

November 25 - Black Friday



For all book-a-holics, we have the sales for you this fabulous shopping weekend.

For Black Friday: Spend \$10 to get a FREE blind book. Tell us which category (cozy, thriller, traditional, etc.) you like to read and take home a free mystery.

You can take advantage of this both In-store and Online.

November 26 - Small Business Saturday

For Small Business Saturday, we are keeping it local with our sale on local authors' books.

Buy 2 books, get 1 at 50% off

Buy 3 books, get 1 FREE

In-store or over-the-phone orders only.

November 27 - Cyber Monday

Online Only, we have a great deal! Spend \$30 or more for FREE shipping and a FREE Zox bracelet.

Throughout December...

A Shiver Me Snowman Celebration

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year! Stop by our shop throughout this month for games, free gifts, and to pick up the perfect present for the readers in your life (or for yourself, we won't tell).

December 4 at 2:00 pm

Sweet but Deadly Zoom Event

Join us virtually with five authors as they talk about their mystery series. Authors include: Marilyn Levinson, Heather Weidner, Jackie Layton, Sarah E. Burr and Alice Adler.

December 24 and 31 - Closing at 3:00 pm

January 1 through 14 - Closed for Inventory

January 15 at 2:00 pm Zoom Event

Anatomy of a Murder Mystery Part 2

Authors Claudia Riess and Marcia Rosen will continue their program on writing a mystery novel.

We'll be discussing how to create engaging and clever sleuths, setting up red herrings (a favorite of Agatha Christie), advancing dialogue to keep the story moving forward and the reader interested and involved. We'll also discuss the different types of mysteries and provide practical suggestions on editing, publishing and marketing mysteries.

January 25 - 28 - National Puzzle Day

We'll be offering 20% off on all puzzles.

Throughout February - National Library Lover Month

Buy 2 books and choose from a select group of books to donate to a library.

February 14 - Valentine's Day

Did you ever put a book down because of the cover? Why not try a blind book? It is just like a blind date, but instead of it being with another person, you are taking a chance on a book that has been wrapped with only a simple description to know what it's about. If you are up for one, or more, of these mysterious mysteries, drop by in February.

February 19 at 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Agatha Christie She Wrote

Authors Bill and Teresa Peschel will talk about the movies based on Agatha Christie's characters.

See page 5 for an update on some of our old favorite events making a come-back...

Inside this Issue...

Book Reviews start on page.	2
Hours.	3
What's Coming Up.	5
Word Search.	s Last Page

Newsletter of the

Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop • 6 Clouser Road • Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

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

mysterybooks@comcast.net



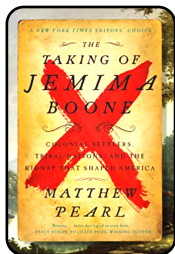
Book Reviews

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

The Taking of Jemima Boone

by Matthew Pearl

Type: Non-Fiction / Adventure - \$18.00



A Cherokee-Shawnee raiding party has taken Jemima Boone and her friends Betsy and Fanny Callaway as the latest salvo in the blood feud between American Indians and the colonial settlers

who have decimated native lands and resources. Hanging Maw, the raiders' leader, recognizes Jemima Boone, daughter of Kentucky's most influential pioneer, and realizes she could be a valuable pawn in the battle to drive the colonists out of Kentucky territory for good.

Hanging Maw devises a plan that could ultimately bring peace both to the tribes and the colonists. But the plan goes awry when the raiding party is ambushed by Boone and his posse in a battle with reverberations that nobody could predict.

Matthew Pearl tells of a dramatic series of events from early in the Revolutionary War that opens a window into America's transition from colony to nation, and the heavy moral costs incurred amid shockingly new alliances and betrayals.

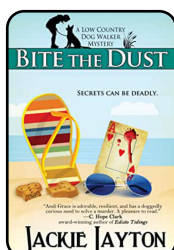
On July 14, 1776, thirteen-year-old Jemima Boone, along with Betsy and Fanny Callaway went for a canoe ride. Several Cherokee and Shawnee warriors watching from the bank of the Kentucky River captured the girls. Daniel Boone and several other men tracked the party in order to rescue the three girls. The girls try to leave a trail by bending twigs, dropping small pieces of cloth from their clothing, and trying to make deep footprints. Boone's posse catches up with the Indians and brings the girls home.

The book goes on to tell of Daniel's own capture along with a party of "salt makers." (Salt was needed to preserve food.) Boone grew close to this adopted Indian family but needed to escape to warn

Bite the Dust - Los Country Dog Walker 1

by Jackie Layton

Type: Cozy - \$15.95



Bite the Dust by

Jackie Layton is an exciting book. The action starts on page one with the discovery of a friend's dead body and continues to the end.

There are actually two different events happening. Andi Grace wants to find the person who killed her friend and the person responsible for her parents' death years before in a hit and run car accident.

There are a number of threats made to Andi Grace, but she has her sweet dog, Sunny, help protect her. It also mentions Andi Grace's faith helping her through all the years. I find nothing wrong with mentioning it, but I felt it was getting borderline of being overdone.

Even though you might be able to figure out the murderer from a list of suspects, there is a dramatic ending and also a strange twist in revealing what happened to her parents. I'm looking forward to see if Layton can match the excitement and action in the second book, *Dog-Gone Dead*.

...Reviewed by Marcia

settlers of a planned attack on their settlement.

This book reveals not only the relationships between whites and Indians but bitter conflicts between the residents of Boonesboro itself.

Of course, there are no pictures. There is a "Cast of Characters" showing the relationships among the settlers and the Indians.

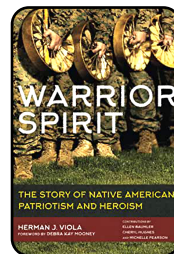
A well-written account of an interesting part of America's colonial history.

...Reviewed by Sandy

Warrior Spirit

by Herman J. Viola

Type: Non-Fiction / Adventure - \$19.95



This outstanding record of service begs a question: Why do American Indians willingly serve a country that has treated them so poorly? Native veterans invariably answer that they are a warrior people

who have a sacred obligation to defend their homeland and their families. Written to be accessible to young adult readers, Warrior Spirit is a valuable resource for any reader interested in Native American military history.

This short book is a wonderful and interesting compilation of stories about our Native American servicemen and women. Their service to our country began in the revolutionary war. Some sided with the British, some with the colonists. They continued into the Civil War, the Indian Wars, World War I and II, and still continue today.

There are stories and photos of some of these brave men and women. Many were well decorated although we never heard their stories.

The national Native American Veterans Memorial was dedicated on November 11, 2020 in Washington DC to honor their service.

These Americans fought and died for our (their) country on many battlefields even though most did not become US citizens until after World War I.

This book is a fine tribute to our Native Americans.

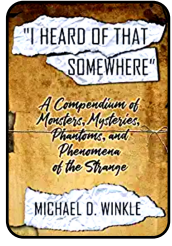
...Reviewed by Sandy

Mysteries are
fairy tales for adults.

...Otto Penzler

Book Reviews • continued

I Heard of that Somewhere
by Michael D. Winkle
Type: Non-Fiction - \$16.00



We all know them - historical and paranormal mysteries that are accepted as truth at parties, around campfires, and at the dinner table. They are fascinating, scary, strange, inexplicable stories that seem impossible to believe but according to every source we can remember, they are absolutely true!

But are they? And do such stories have an authentic source or are they merely the result of a weird tale that's been told so many times that what really happened has vanished into the ether? He recounts dozens and dozens of accounts that range from mysterious creatures to unsolved disappearances, ghosts, monsters, werewolves, inexplicable murders, and much more! Some of the old stories are revealed as fiction - although not as many as you might think - while others become even stranger as their sources are revealed.

And others? Well, they happened just the way that you heard them - somewhere.

This is a fun book for those of us who like weird, unusual "stuff." Stories of creatures, missing persons, ghosts, UFO's, even Jack the Ripper.

Winkle lists not only the resources he used to research subjects but what he "Googled" to find information. He also tells how some of these tales have been altered over the years by the people who wrote about them earlier.

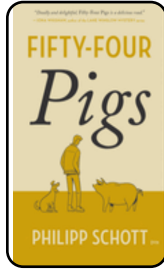
It's a fast reading short book with some humorous comments by the authors.

...Reviewed by Sandy

"Books are adventure. They contain murder and mayhem and passion. They love anyone who opens them."

...From the movie Inkheart

Fifty-Four Pigs: Dr. Bannerman Vet 1
by Philipp Schott, D.V. M
Type: Traditional - \$16.95



Dr. Peter Bannerman is the Veterinarian for a very small town in Manitoba, Canada. Peter, a fan of **Lord of the Rings** and *Doctor Who*, is considered a bit of an "odd duck" by the locals. Nevertheless, he is respected both as a medical practitioner and because of his logical deductive powers that make him a solver of unusual problems. His wife knits custom products with nerdy themes for sale on the web and their pets are named after their owners' fictional heroes.

One morning, on his way to work, Peter hears an explosion on a client's farm. Upon arrival, Peter finds a pig barn that was destroyed by the explosion and subsequent fire. Peter's brother-in-law is the RCMP officer assigned to the case, and he informs Peter that the burned-out barn yielded the bodies of fifty-four pigs and one human. Things become more confusing after another murder and a series of break-ins used to ransack the freezers of the local residents. Despite the warnings of the RCMP, Peter conducts his own investigation with the help of his scent-trained dog. The good doctor ignores his own safety and puts himself in extreme danger in pursuit of the killer.

This story just feels like Canada. It has multiple murders while not being offensive and everyone is polite. It even includes the Mounties! The only way for this to be more Canadian would be if they were eating Tim Horton donuts at a hockey game. All in all, a fun read.

...Reviewed by Jay

Gray Man - Gray Man 1
by Mark Greaney
Type: Thriller - \$9.99



The Gray Man is known throughout the "black ops" community as the greatest alpha killer in the world. In reality, he is thirty-six year old Court Gentry a burned former CIA agent who is now on the CIA's own hit list. Gentry currently works for a large corporation in their Special Activities Division as an assassin. He knows that he is a killer, but believes he is justified in that all his kills are evil people who deserved to die. His most recent assignment was the brother of a despotic African leader who put a bounty on the head of the Gray Man. Because he is trying to save the lives of two little girls, he must travel across Europe while there are dozens of hit teams and hundreds of watchers placed in his path by the African leader to intercept, kill and decapitate him. The Gray Man leaves a trail of dozens of bodies and collects some very serious injuries himself, but his biggest danger is the people he trusts.

This fast-paced thriller is the first book of an established series. It is a story of great violence but does not dwell on the gory aspects. All in all, an exciting read for those who enjoy a bit more of a hardcore story.

...Reviewed by Jay

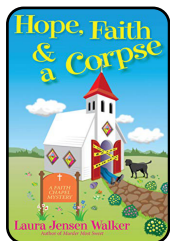
Shop Hours

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.

Closed Christmas Day and New Years Day
Closing at 3:00 pm on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve

Book Reviews • continued

Faith, Hope and a Corpse - Faith Chapel 1
by *Laura Jensen Walker*
Type: Cozy - \$20.00



Calling all movie quoters, humorous readers, and cozy mystery lovers!

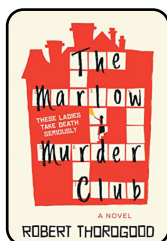
This delightful tale, set in the sleepy town of Apple Springs, centers around a middle-aged priest named Hope Taylor as she begins life anew in the Episcopalian parish of Faith Chapel. The day begins with such high hopes, haha-pun intended, for the beginning of her new job working under Father Christopher, when an Elvis gnome plants a shiner on her face and she literally stumbles onto a dead body in the church's columbarium (not at the same time).

The gossip telephone spreads faster than wildfire and Pastor Hope becomes Lucille Ball famous overnight, for all the wrong reasons. Seeing as how she was found holding the murder weapon in her hand, by her new nemesis, Marjorie, she becomes the prime suspect even before meeting the rest of her flock. It isn't long before she discovers that the deceased had more enemies than John Dillinger and had a reputation that would make James Bond blush. Gossip is not Hope's thing, trying to be pastoral correct for her job's sake, but that doesn't bother diner owner Susan and her sister-in-law Virginia from helping her sleuth out some information to help clear her name and to satisfy their own curiosity. With a cup of tea, and a fabulous apple pie, Hope gets fueled up for an investigation that leads closer to home than anyone would surmise.

From the start, the author immediately pulled me into the story with her wonderful sense of movie quote humor, without stealing all of the caviar garnish—unlike Tom Hanks. This is an 11 out of 10 for me, from a reader who could see Hope and Jessica Fletcher having a beautiful friendship. There is even a movie guide and FIVE recipes at the back of the book. I had the time of my life reading the first in this series and can't wait for round two!

...Reviewed by Sarah

The Marlow Murder Club - Marlow Murder Club 1
by *Robert Thorogood*
Type: Traditional - \$16.99



What an incredibly light read this murder mystery is—three dead bodies and no mention of blood and gore! The main character, 77-year-old Mrs. Judith Potts, is absolutely delightful and full of determination and energy. If she were real, she would make an entertaining lunch companion. Add to the mix her two best friends, Suzie the dog-walker and Becks the wife of the local vicar, and that lunch would be most memorable and fun.

Mrs. Potts is extremely bright; the reader needs to pay close attention to her observances and reports to the police who do not take her seriously. Mrs. Potts has attracted the support of her two friends, and the three of them make quite a productive and action-packed team in solving the murder of her next-door neighbor and the two subsequent murders, all related in an unusual way that only Mrs. Potts is able to figure out.

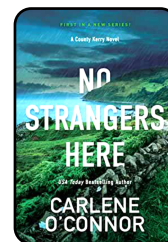
Only by getting herself close to being murdered and engaging the help of her two best friends, do the police finally see the credence in everything that Mrs. Potts has been sharing with them and come to her rescue.

Mrs. Potts and her friends are saved to pursue the next crime in this series. The murderer is apprehended. The police are embarrassed. Life goes on.

This cozy murder mystery would be a delightful beach read; just don't take it too seriously. Enjoy the antics of these three older women as they try to convince the police of the clues while solving the mystery. It's a fun read!

...Reviewed by Sherry

No Strangers Here - Country Kerry 1
by *Carlene O'Connor*
Type: Police Procedural - \$27.00



This novel will take you for a ride into the world of horses and vets in Ireland with a colloquial feel that breathes life into the scenes. If I had to describe this book in one sentence, it would be this: A trinity celtic knot of a mystery with two families and the damaging secret that has woven their pasts and futures together in an inescapable journey. While the setting fits in with one of Carlene O'Connor's typical cozies, *No Strangers Here* is fashioned more along the lines of a traditional mystery from which most of the characters are connected by an underlying thread that is anything but cheery.

Dr. Dimpna Wilde is finding life hard since her husband's suicide. Her vet clinic is being taken away from her and her son is also keeping his distance, causing the middle-aged woman to rely on herself as she prepares to head home after a phone call from a long lost love, Paul Byrne. Finding out about her father's dementia from an old friend, instead of from her own mother, was bad enough, but learning that he is a murder suspect topped the cake. Going home means facing the past she left behind and the pain of the deeply buried truth. Will she be able to confront the nightmare she hoped would never see the light of day?

On the flipside, Detective Inspector Cormac O'Brien has his task cut out for him. He is the new man in the town of Dingle, and is still trying to get on D.S. Neely's good side. His first murder case is a man dressed in a suit and lying on a beach with sixty-nine black stones and the following message—*Last Dance*—carved into the sand. Cormac is not sure what he has stumbled upon, but as his investigation continues, it becomes clear that the answer lies between the Wilde and O'Reilly families. To him, Dimpna's side appears harmless, but could a dreadful night from long ago have finally caught up to the Wildes?

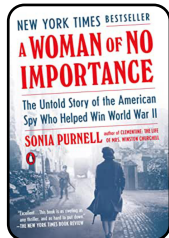
...Reviewed by Sarah

Book Reviews • continued

A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II

by **Sonia Purnell**

Type: Non-Fiction - \$18.00



Virginia Hall—rejected from the foreign service because of her gender and her prosthetic leg—became the first woman to deploy to occupied France, before the United States had even entered the war. At a time when sending female secret agents into enemy territory was still strictly forbidden, Hall coordinated a network of spies to blow up bridges, report on German troop movements, arrange equipment drops for Resistance agents, and recruit and train guerrilla fighters.

Virginia Hall was born into a wealthy family on April 6, 1906. She craved adventure over living a mundane life married into another wealthy family. While touring Europe she developed a love for France and the people there. So much love that she wanted to stay and help the French people defend themselves against the Nazi invaders.

In the beginning she drove ambulances. Later she became a secret liaison officer, tasked with coordinating local resistance leaders. She went on to lead her own band of guerrillas. Her work had an influence on the D-Day invasion.

She continued to work with the CIA but wasn't happy. She left in 1966.

Held back because of her sex and her disabled leg this woman had to overcome many obstacles in her life. The Gestapo considered her the most dangerous of all Allied spies.

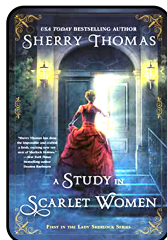
Sometimes it was difficult to keep all of the people mentioned straight and there is a list of characters to refer to in the front of the book with all of the code names they used. There are some photos of Virginia and her family as well as some people she worked with.

...Reviewed by Sandy

A Study in Scarlet Women - Lady Sherlock 1

by **Sherry Thomas**

Type: Historical / Victorian - \$17.00



The story takes place in Victorian London in 1886, a time when society held rigid views on the proper behavior expected from the upper class. Charlotte Holmes and her sisters, Henrietta and Olivia, are all of marrying age, and Charlotte isn't happy about the expectations her parents have for her. She commits the act that ruins her, and she becomes unfit for marriage. "No man will want her now," according to her parents. Charlotte has a mind of her own. She leaves home against the advice of her sister, Olivia. With her reputation ruined, only lies will help her find a place to live and when those lies are discovered, she moves on, not realizing that these experiences will be of value later.

The book opens with the murder of the Honorable Harrington Sackville. Two women are also found murdered, and although the three deaths seem unrelated, a series of twists and turns prove otherwise. It is through these twists and turns that Charlotte's father and sister are implicated in the women's deaths. Charlotte is sure that she can solve the mystery of the three deaths and prove the innocence of her family members.

It is through another series of twists and turns that Sherlock Holmes comes on the scene. But is it really Sherlock Holmes? Only Charlotte can reveal the answer.

This book has enough surprises to keep the reader interested, intrigued, and reading. It offers views into the class structure and mores of Victorian society while providing the reader a compelling murder mystery.

...Reviewed by Sherry

What's Coming up in 2023

We're finally getting back to normal here at the shop. In the last few months we've had an event here in the shop and we've participated in a few off-site. We had/did the following: a full house for Craig Johnson, the author corner for the Pennsylvania Tea Festival, a fundraiser for a local library, CozyCon with Kensington Publishing...and our "Author Spotlight" event in November.

Navigating all the safety precautions we felt necessary due to Covid, was quite a journey. We went from wearing gloves to handle the books, wearing masks and only 5-6 people in the shop at the same time to be able to social distance...to no gloves, masks optional, and the best thing... events here at the shop again!

Thanks to all of you who have worked with us during these different "phases" of getting through the pandemic. I know sometimes it seemed a little excessive...but my husband and I personally know of at least 30 people who passed due to Covid. Our sympathies to those of you who may have had a loss.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped us with our events in the past. We look forward to your help in 2023. Thank you to those who volunteer to do our book reviews. Without all of you, it would be an impossible job.

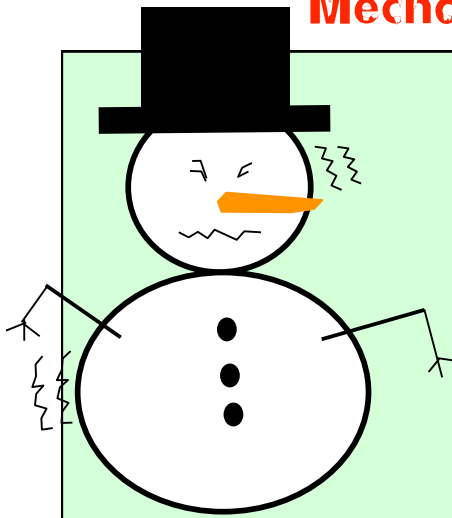
We'll have book signings again. **PROMM** (Peculiar Random Odd Mysteries and More) will start up in May.

Our **Murder As You Like It** conference will take place in August. So many of the folks who attended the **CozyCon** this past October had a great time and asked if we would do another. We're going to see what we can come up with...we would LOVE to do another one.

We'll still do a few zoom events. And, thanks to Bill Peschel, we'll have more of our Mechanicsburg Mystery Presents...vodcasts with great authors.

So thank you again for hanging in with us. We look forward to seeing you "face-to-face" at our 2023 events.

Happy Holidays From Everyone at Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop



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

BAFFLED

CONUNDRUM

COZY

CREEP

CRYPTIC

CULPRIT

DEDUCTION

DISAPPEARANCE

ENIGMA

FORENSIC

PROBLEM

PROTAGONIST

PUZZLE

QUESTION

RIDDLE

SCARY

SINISTER

SPY

SUSPECT

SUSPENSE

THRILLER

WITNESS