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*Sisters in Crime is an international organization of women and men whose purpose is to promote mysteries written by women and to combat discrimination against them. Speakers include published mystery authors and technical experts who help writers craft better mysteries, and readers enjoy what they read. Meetings are free and open to all.*

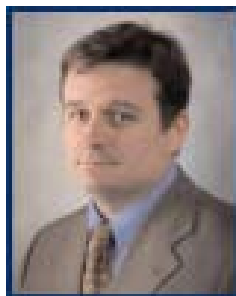
For more information, check out the Sisters in Crime website at [www.hotxsinc.org](http://www.hotxsinc.org)

**Sunday, December 14, 2008  
2:00 p.m.**

**Woody Falgoux**  
Attorney, Author, Bookstore Owner

**If It Looks like a Pyramid,  
Acts Like a Pyramid ...**

Westlake Barnes & Noble bookstore  
located in The Village at Westlake shopping center  
at the southeast corner of Loop 360 and Bee Cave Road  
512.328.3155



**Woody Falgoux** is currently a practicing attorney in Thibodaux, Louisiana, and will tell us about his book, **The Book Marketing Pyramid: Product, Publicity, and Distribution** at our December 14 program.

Woody Falgoux is the co-owner of Cherry Books, writes, and practices law in Thibodaux, Louisiana. He is the author of two narrative nonfiction books, *Rise of the Cajun Mariners: The Race for Big Oil* (Stockard James 2007) and *One*

*Dream: The NFL* (Sleeping Bear Press 2001). He is currently working on two works of creative nonfiction, *Last Man on the Levee* and *The Miracle of St. Genevieve*. He holds a Bachelor's of Journalism from the University of Missouri and a Juris Doctorate from Louisiana State University.

This is our Holiday meeting and everyone is asked to bring a holiday snack to share. What better to celebrate than holiday treats with friends?

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*This meeting is free and open to anyone who enjoys writing or reading Mystery or True Crime.*

**Upcoming Chapter Programs**

*(Continued on Page 3)*

**January 11, 2009 - Orange, TX**  
Chief of Police Sam Kittrell will present **CSI Mayberry: Big city policing in small town America.**

**February 8 - Renowned Forensic Artist Lois Gibson**, named in the Guinness Book of Records as the World's Most Successful Forensic Artist.

**January Spotlight Member**

**Sarah Ann Robertson**, HoTxSinC Chapter president, Texas Book Mystery Month Coordinator, and Woman for All Seasons, will be spotlighted in the January edition of **HOTSHOTS!**

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**News and Announcements**

**Reminder: HoTxSinC Dues are due! Pay by December 31, and save!**

Local HoTxSinC dues will increase by \$5.00 to \$20.00 a year. The good news is that if you renew before 1/1/09, you can renew at the previous rate of \$15.00!

You can pay your dues at the meeting on December 14, or you may send your check to:

**Sarah Ann Robertson**  
**Sisters in Crime Heart of Texas Chapter**  
**Post Office Box 4939**  
**Austin, Texas 78765**

Thank you for your support of our chapter.

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**David Ciambrone, Sc.D named to WLT Board of Directors**

In November, The Writers' League of Texas named **David Ciambrone, Sc.D**, to its Board of Directors.

Dave has been a program presenter for HoTxSinC and was 2008 HoTxSinC Booth Coordinator at the Texas Book Festival. He is the 2008 recipient of The Sage Award, presented by The Barbara Burnett Smith Mentoring Authors Foundation.

The Writers' League of Texas is a nonprofit professional organization whose primary purpose is to provide a forum for information, support, and sharing among writers, to help members improve and market their writing skills, and to promote the interests of writers and the writing community.

For more information about WLT, visit:  
[www.writersleague.com](http://www.writersleague.com).

**New Novels by Karen Swartz MacInerney**

**Karen Swartz MacInerney** is pleased to announce the release of two new novels in November. *Murder Most Maine*, the third in the **Gray Whale Inn mysteries**, and *On the Prowl*, the second in the **Tales of an Urban Werewolf** trilogy.

Please see *Perfect Holiday Gifts*, Page 11, for more information or visit Karen at:  
[www.karenmacinerney.com](http://www.karenmacinerney.com)

**Reviewing Films to a Different Drummer**

"Maybe you're like me," **Kathy Borich**, who was President of HoTxSinC in 2005, says. "You feel out of step with the current drumbeats in the movie review band. Some of the films they disdain you enjoy with guilty pleasure, and though you'd never admit it to your intellectual friends, the ones they rave about often leave you either cold, disgusted or both."

Kathy is the author of *Appetite for Murder: A Mystery Lover's Cookbook*, a tantalizing slant on cooking and crime, where readers relive their favorite detective fiction and then whip up the food that caught the culprit.

Now Kathy takes that same passion to another field for the ultimate **Cinema Cuisine Connection**. Her reviews of current, classic and crime film at <http://www.DifferentDrummer.cc> offer a fresh insight. Kathy will help you discover that gem of a movie not showered with media attention or reinforce your gut instinct that the critic's choice is a bomb. You may find her at odds with effusive elites and sneering critics alike, you may not always agree with her, but you will always enjoy her fresh approach to film fare.

And speaking of fresh fare, get ready to relive your film experience in the recipes that follow each review. Kathy chooses a signature dish from each film and presents easy to follow directions to recreate it for a cozy meal at home or for that special dinner party. Enjoy a midnight delectable when you return from the cinema, or pop in authentic appetizers with your DVD.

Please see Page 4 to learn more about Kathy, and to Page 8, *Perfect Holiday Gift*, for more information about *Appetite for Murder: A Mystery Lover's Cookbook*, or visit Kathy at:  
[www.kathyborich.com](http://www.kathyborich.com).

News & Announcements - Continued from Page 2

***A Conversation with Diane Fanning***

**Wednesday, December 10th - 7:30 PM** - Mystery and true crime author **Diane Fanning** will meet with the Mystery Book Discussion Group at **Barnes & Noble Bookseller (Arboretum)**, 10000 Research Boulevard. They will talk about her mystery novel "Bite the Moon," as well as the author's other books.

For more information, contact Caren Creech Berlanga, Community Relations Manager, at (512) 418-8985, or visit Diane at: [www.dianefanning.com](http://www.dianefanning.com).

***More Raves for Deadly Sins Deadly Secrets***

**Sylvia Dickey Smith's** novel, *Deadly Sins Deadly Secrets* has been listed as one of the **Top 50 Fiction Titles of 2008** by Sankofa Literary Review, EDC Creations eSpot. For more information, visit: <http://edcmagazine.blogspot.com/>

***Austin Writers Web Page***

Make sure you're included in this valuable resource. The link to Austin Writers is: [www.austinlinks.com/austin\\_media/austin\\_writers.html](http://www.austinlinks.com/austin_media/austin_writers.html).

If you are not currently listed, or wish to change your information, please contact: [info@austinlink.com](mailto:info@austinlink.com).

***A Holiday Whodunit***

You know first hand how much fun a comedy whodunit with dinner with the **Capital City Mystery Players** can be. In order to accommodate the extraordinary holiday demand for their unique brand of festive entertainment they are offering an expanded dinner show schedule at Spaghetti Warehouse in December. They still have space available in December for your individual, social or office holiday fun. And if you want a private party just for your group, at the venue of your choice, choose ANY date in December.

In keeping with tradition, they have two killer shows scheduled on New Year's Eve - one at 7 p.m. and one at 10 p.m. (taking you right up to the new year). For more information, call 404-9123.

**Gary Payne**, Producer of the Capital City Mystery Players, presented the November HotxSinC program.

***Downturn in Bookstore Sales***

*From Publisher's Weekly*  
**November 14, 2008**  
by Jim Milliot

Reports of softness at bookstores in September were confirmed by figures released this morning by the U.S. Census Bureau that showed that bookstore sales fell 4.5% in the month, to \$1.49 billion. Bookstore sales for the first nine months of the year, helped by sales at college bookstores, were up 1.8%, to \$12.53 billion.

The release of the September figures came just as the Commerce Department was announcing preliminary October sales for the entire retail segment. Those numbers showed sales falling by 2.8%, the largest decline ever recorded. (Commerce Dept. measures sales in constant dollars, adjusted for inflation; *PW* reports sales in real dollars). The deepest decline came in auto sales, but even excluding car sales, retail sales were down 2.2% for the month. Sales at bookstores, sporting goods stores and hobby stores fell a total of 1.6% in the month on an adjusted basis.

**Upcoming Chapter Programs**

*(Continued from Page 1)*

**March 8** - Author **Vallie Fletcher Taylor** will present **Putting the Paranormal in Your Mysteries**.

**April 12** - Author **Micqui Miller** will lead a panel discussion on e-books, entitled, **Go Green! Read (or Write) an eMystery and Save a Tree!**

**2009 Texas Mystery Month**

**May 10** - Presenter **T. B. A.**

**May 17** - **Barbara Burnett Smith**  
**Aspiring Writers Event**

**June 14** - **P. J. Nunn**, founder of **Breakthrough Promotions**, will present a program on **What You Don't Know About Book Promotion**.

**August 9** - **Chapter Indoor Picnic/Potluck** - Presentation by **David Heavener**, Actor, Teacher, Filmmaker, Singer and Songwriter.

## KATHY BORICH

### December 2008 Spotlight Author

With the winter holiday season in full swing, our thoughts automatically turn to food. Whether it's an amazingly bountiful Thanksgiving dinner, the candy canes and sugar plums of Christmas, the exotic entrees of Kwanzaa, or the traditional Hanukkah feast of beef brisket, potato latkes, homemade applesauce and jelly doughnuts, food, fun, and friendship dominate the last two months of the year. What better time to spotlight our chapter's own **Kathy Borich**, author of *Appetite for Murder, A Mystery Lover's Cookbook* that combines menus and recipes for sumptuous feasts inspired by literature's most famous detectives, from Sherlock Holmes to Tony Hillerman. Most of us will never bring our personal Moriarty's to justice, but with *Appetite for Murder* we have a chance to celebrate daring and do in much the same way as our investigative heroes. Kathy is a gifted teacher, author, film critic, and domestic chef, who definitely knows the meaning of *Bon Appétit!*

**MM:** *Between your cookbook, and your Different Drummer.cc site, you seem to have an endless supply of recipes at your fingertips for fabulous dishes. Were you a chef in a former life as well as an English teacher.*

**KB:** I owe my love of cooking to my Italian/French grandmother, who helped raise me among the powdered lace of drying pasta, the warm earth of a back yard tomato garden, and the pungent sweetness of *giambotte*, her savory stovetop stew of weekly leftovers.

In the crowded kitchen, ensconced in the yeasty aroma of fresh bread, my mother and her sisters argued about the merits of basil versus oregano with the same passion some people reserved for politics. They judged their gravies, sauces, and the quality of the fresh herbs they chopped and diced with a sort of sibling jealousy usually saved for potential beaux.

**MM:** *It's the time of year when we're all looking for the perfect gift, and what could be better (or more fun) than a gastronomic trip down memory lane with everyone's favorite detectives and mystery authors. Will you share with us your inspiration for creating an Appetite for Murder, A Mystery Lover's Cookbook.*

**KB:** During my twenty-two years as an English teacher, I lured reluctant readers to the joys of literature by spicing up the dry pages with authentic cuisine. We discovered Voltaire along with handmade crepes whipped up in predawn darkness and nibbled our way through *Jane Eyre* with Victorian teas featuring oven-fresh scones and jam tarts.



This classroom juggling of tarts and tests, quizzes and cuisine, led to my giving seminars on the subject, including *The Literary and Historical Use of Herbs* presented to the International Medieval Institute. Then through a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant in World Literature, I spent a year researching medieval cooking by reading the material in its original Middle English.

My interest in the connection between cooking and crime began with an affinity for classic detective fiction. I relished the austere Sherlock Holmes and also became enamored with that trio of great dames, Agatha Christie, Margery Allingham, and Dorothy L. Sayers.

For some reason whenever I finished a Miss Marple tale, I felt a sudden urge to cook up a "good pot of tea." And I always wondered what treacle tart and seed cake would taste like. Lord Peter Wimsey introduced me to the magnificence of fine port and Albert Campion to the majesty of High Tea. I even enjoyed slumming with Horace Rumpole as he drank the cheap red wine he fondly called Pommeroy's plonk.

All these strange longings led to a work of love that found me thumbing through my favorites tales not for the crimes but for the crumpets. And I must admit that my favorite, Sherlock Holmes, with his ascetic ways, was not an easy mark. One only had to look at his skeletal frame to know that neither clotted cream nor fish and chips were on his menu.

Spotlight Member - Continued from Page 4

**MM:** *Appetite for Murder, A Mystery Lover's Cookbook* has a cover that makes those of us sweltering in the Texas heat long for foggy afternoons spent in front of a roaring fire, the aroma of a roast slowly baking in the oven, and with the sound of hoof beats and Hansom cabs clacking against the cobbled lane outside our flats. Did you design the cover, or at least have input because it's so perfect?



**KB:** This is actually an interesting story. The cover is from a photograph of my daughter's living room. I had already noticed that her leather chair looked distinctly English, so one day when I was babysitting there, I rearranged all her furniture and took several shots. Most of the rest of the photographs in the

book were taken by my husband, a few at local pubs, some from a trip to Germany, and even one from an antique showroom. The geese on page 16 that accompany a Sherlock Holmes story about a jewel hidden in "the crop of a most unimpeachable Christmas goose" haunt the Joe's Crabshack on Riverside Drive. We really had to work to keep the Austin skyline out of the picture.

The photograph on the back cover is from my own garden.

**MM:** *You assembled a marvelous group of culinary experts to help with menus and recipes. What challenges and pleasant surprises did you encounter while doing that? I imagine a chef or two gulped when you linked mouth-watering entrees to murder.*

**KB:** My best experience was with Chef Roger Mollet, who was the executive chef at the Central Market cooking school when I was writing the book. I went to a cooking class featuring a healthy hunter's supper, hoping to use it for a Holmes story. When I asked his permission, he became intrigued enough with the idea to ask me to do a "Dinner to Die For" cooking class myself. Fortunately, he and his staff did all the cooking, and I only had to talk.

**MM:** *As every published author knows, the challenges of finding the right publisher can be daunting. With celebrity chefs publishing multiple books each year, the market for food-related publications must be very tight. Can you share some of the things you faced in bringing Appetite for Murder, A Mystery Lover's Cookbook to publication.*

**KB:** After looking for an agent and then approaching many, many publishers myself, I settled for a print-on-demand publisher who I had checked out through the Writers' League of Texas. Unless you are really well known and appear on television or radio, most agents or publishers are not ready to take a chance on you. Unfortunately, I think the field has gotten even more difficult recently.

**MM:** *Julia Childs was probably the first chef to engage mainstream audiences. Now we're bombarded by personalities on both cable and network channels. Have you seen an increase in sales for Appetite for Murder, A Mystery Lover's Cookbook as the Food Network's popularity grows?*

**KB:** I can't really answer that question fairly, since I have no statistics. I think quite a few people like to watch or read about cooking now, but quite frankly, I think fewer and fewer actually cook! Even on my website, I assume most readers will enjoy reading the recipes if not actually preparing them.

**MM:** *Have you found culinary-related or other unique venues for marketing Appetite for Murder that you'd like to share with us.*

**KB:** During the holiday season of 2004 I was really creative. I did a book signing at the Dog and Duck Pub in Austin and even rented a horse and carriage to give rides. I also did a signing at a Mystery Dinner and an organic farmer's market. I even lugged all sorts of items to these places to create a setting for my table. Although I did sell some fifty books or so, the process is really tiring. I think I sell just as many books through my movie review website and it is so much less physical.

**MM:** *Tell us about Different Drummer.cc, and how you decided to do movie reviews combined with recipes.*

**KB:** On a more personal note: I've always loved going to movies, and just as with my reading I often left the theater with a craving for the food shown in a film. Who could leave The Godfather without wanting to cook up some pasta? It's actually surprising, how easy it is to find food in most films.

## **Texas Mystery Month**

The purpose of Texas Mystery Month, held each May, is to spotlight Texas Mystery Authors. As a community service event, all Texas Mystery Authors are invited to participate, and do not have to be members of Sisters in Crime.

Activities include presentations, signings, radio interviews, workshops, the occasional cocktail party and The Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Project. Meetings of the Texas Mystery Month Committee normally take place once a month at a place mutually agreed upon.

### **Texas Mystery Month Volunteer Opportunities**

#### **Author Committee**

- \* Updates list of Texas Mystery Authors
- \* Contacts Texas Mystery Authors and invites them to participate
- \* Helps match authors with venues

#### **Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Project**

- \* Updates contact list for soliciting entries
- \* Invites Aspiring Mystery Writers to participate
- \* Recruits Mentor Authors
- \* Helps match Aspiring Mystery Writers and Mentor Authors
- \* Helps plan Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event on May 17, 2009

#### **Bookstore/Venue Committee**

- \* Updates list of bookstores and other venues
- \* Contacts bookstores/venues for participation
- \* Helps match authors and bookstores/venues

#### **Publicity Committee**

- \* Updates lists of contacts
- \* Develops new sources
- \* Prepares and sends News Releases
- \* Keeps website updated
- \* Keeps newsletter updated

#### **Events Committee**

- \* Contacts previous Local Event Coordinators
- \* Provides support for local vents

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**FRIDAY,  
Friday, December 26, 2008**  
is the deadline for News,  
Reviews, Announcements  
and Articles for the  
**JANUARY 2009** edition of  
**HOTSHOTS!**



Send all information, including digital copies of book covers and photos, to **Micqui Miller** at [micquim@yahoo.com](mailto:micquim@yahoo.com). Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

## Call for Officer Nominations for HoTxSinC for 2009

On Sunday, December 14, at our regular monthly meeting, we will elect the 2009 **HoTxSinC** officers. Following are job descriptions for the positions that will be elected. We encourage you to consider volunteering for one of these positions, or nominating someone else. *If you plan to nominate someone for office, please be sure you have their permission prior to submitting the nomination.* Nominations will be taken from the floor at the meeting.

**President:** *(The Vice-President for Programs is also President-Elect and automatically moves up to this position.)*

- \* Contact person and spokesperson for HoTxSinC
- \* Presides at meetings
- \* Supports officers and committee chairs

**Nominated:** Sylvia Dickey Smith

**Vice-President for Programs/President-Elect:**

- \* Plans, implements and provides follow-up for programs for the year—including monthly meetings, Annual August Indoor Picnic, and Annual Holiday Party in December
- \* Supports the President as needed
- \* Moves up to the Presidency the next year

**Nominated:** Dave Ciabrone

**Treasurer/Membership:**

- \* Maintains checking account and pays bills
- \* Maintains Membership Directory
- \* Maintains inventory of cups/t-shirts/tote bags

**Nominated:** Sarah Ann Robertson

**Publicity:**

- \* Maintains publicity contact lists for monthly meetings and special events
- \* Issues News Releases for monthly meetings and special events
- \* Distributes **HOTSHOTS!** and other information of interest to members

**Nominated:** Joyce Arquette

**Webmaven**

- \* Maintains the [www.hotxsinc.org](http://www.hotxsinc.org) website
- \* Adds and updates material as requested
- \* Provides reports as requested

**Nominated:** Linda Bingham

**Historian**

- \* Maintains collection of items showing the history of HoTxSinC
- \* Accepts new items
- \* Presents reports as requested

**Nominated:** Betsy Tyson

**Library Coordinator**

- \* Houses and maintains the book collection and accepts new books as offered
- \* Keeps the website updated as to contents of the collection
- \* Provides reviews of the books for the membership

**Nominated:** Jennifer Old

**Texas Mystery Month Coordinator:**

- \* Presides at meetings
- \* Coordinates Committee Chairs for Authors, Venues, Publicity, Events, Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Project
- \* Provides reports as requested

**Nominated:** Sarah Ann Robertson

**Texas Book Festival HoTxSinC Booth Coordinator:**

- \* Contacts National SinC, submits grant request to pay for TBF booth fee, writes report
- \* Contacts Texas Book Festival and submits request for TBF booth
- \* Contacts member authors and volunteers about participating and sets up schedules
- \* Provides publicity info to Publicity Chair & Newsletter Editor
- \* Sets up booth, coordinates author and volunteer participation, takes down booth
- \* Forwards raffle/sign-up info to Membership

**Nominated:** Dave Ciabrone

**Newsletter Editor of **HOTSHOTS!****

- \* Solicits articles and items of interest for members
- \* Works with officers to include announcements
- \* Produces monthly newsletter

**Nominated:** Micqui Miller



## Perfect Holiday Gift

### Kathy Borich

#### **Appetite for Murder, A Mystery Lover's Cookbook**

**By Kathy Borich**

Virtualbookworm.com Publishing

ISBN 1-58939-499-2.

188 pages

\$14.95. Softcover

Off to England for supper with Sherlock Holmes, morning tea with Miss Marple, or a pub crawl with Chief Inspector Morse. Guaranteed to whet your Appetite for Murder, this tantalizing slant on cooking and crime is cooked up especially for mystery lovers. Relive your favorite classic crime fiction and then whip up the food that helped solve the crime.



#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Kathy Borich spent twenty-two years luring reluctant readers to the joys of literature by spicing up the dry pages with authentic cuisine in her English classroom. She has presented many seminars on the subject. Currently she enjoys giving Mystery Cooking classes featuring many of the recipes found in this book. Kathy credits her love of cooking to her Italian/French grandmother "who raised me among the powdered lace of drying pasta and the warm earth of a backyard tomato garden."

*More information and a free sample can be found at [www.kathyborich.com](http://www.kathyborich.com).*

#### ***What they're saying about Appetite for Murder, A Mystery Lover's Cookbook***

##### **A Spicy Treat for Mind and Palate**

"A warning must come with this book. That is you can't put it down until you have read it at least twice. First, mystery lovers want to get the references to those mysteries they haven't yet read, as I did. Then all of us who love good food-and who doesn't-must peruse the recipes, estimating which might be possible to try, which we feel confident attempting and which we might look for when dining at a restaurant of the appropriate cuisine.

"One of the aspects of the recipes I noticed is that several could be adapted to a heart-healthy regimen. The baked cod with cucumber sauce and meringues with strawberries from Melrose Plant's Pub crawl, mushroom omelettes from Savarini's by way of Margery Allingham, and spinach crepes from The Orient Express could, with easy adaptations, find their way into South Beach Diet fare. Perhaps Ms. Borich will now take on the adventure of "South Beach Diet Meets Appetite for Murder." I'll gladly purchase that one, too." - *Review by an Amazon Customer*

##### **Much More than a Cookbook**

"What a creative idea! *Appetite for Murder* is much more than a cookbook. It is a witty rendering of some of the classic crime stories of Sherlock Holmes, Hercule Poirot, Agatha Christie, and more.

"This book not only brings meaning to its menus, it's seasoned with scholarly and humorous quotes related to the recipes. Before the section on Swiss pastry, James Beard reminds us that, 'A gourmet who thinks of calories is like a tart who looks at her watch.'

"Even if you never cook them, the recipes themselves are a hoot. I especially loved the pub food with crazy names like Bubble and Squeak, Toad in the Hole, and Spotted Dick. And even though many of the stories are English, the cuisine is international, including Swiss, Indian, French, Native American, and New York Deli style. A must for mystery buffs and foodies." - *Review by an Amazon Customer*



## Perfect Holiday Gift Woody Falgoux

### Rise of The Cajun Mariners By Woody Falgoux

Publisher: Stockard James 2008

Paperback: 283 pages

ISBN-10: 0979292018

ISBN-13: 978-0979292019

Rise of the Cajun Mariners carries the reader into the unique, previously unexplored realm of the old wild and wooly oilfield boat business. This international industry was born in Louisiana's bayou country and pioneered by Cajuns.



The book follows four of these French-speaking trailblazers as they scrape to buy and build their first boats and struggle toward success, but this is about more than an inspirational pursuit of the American dream. It's a candid account of a colorful time in a vital business.

The story evolves from the awkward launch of the inland marine oilfield in the late 1930s and early 1940s, through the alternating boom and doom years of the 1950s and 1960s, up into the roaring 1970s, down into the 1980s' bust and back up toward a more realistic present.

As the boatmen race against the competition and time, many of them take a global journey. In the 1960s, Nolty Theriot helps bring the oilfield to the virgin, turbulent waters of the North Sea, setting the stage for an unforgettable culture clash between the Cajuns and the Europeans. In the 1970s, Bobby Orgeron sails his supply boats into Central America and discovers a land full of rich tropical opportunity and zany banana backwardness. As Bobby, Nolty, and the others navigate from Nicaragua to Norway, from Colombia to California, and from Africa to the Arctic Circle, they spread their Cajun ingenuity across the globe.

But before the Cajuns carry the oilfield into the Persian Gulf and the East China Sea, they launch their careers on Bayou Lafourche, where the book begins in the late 1930s.

In sum, Rise of the Cajun Mariners is a fast-paced tale about the rapid evolution of a worldwide industry, the modernization of a culture and the deliverance of four fascinating families.

Visit Woody at: [www.woodyfalgoux.com](http://www.woodyfalgoux.com)

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### Photos from Sylvia Dickey Smith's recent signing at Cherry Books, Thibodaux, LA





## Perfect Holiday Gifts

### Joan Upton Hall

#### **Arturo el Rey (Excalibur Regained Series) By Joan Upton Hall**

Publisher: Zumaya Publications, LLC 2008

Paperback: 324 pages

ISBN-10: 1934135534

ISBN-13: 978-1934135532

Art Reyes, a young Marine, suffers eerie visions of dying with a lance in his chest-as none other than King Arthur. Was it only a legend-Arthur's promise to return when the world needs him?



Then bio-terrorists unleash a plague that ravages the population and crumbles civilization. With marauding gangs vying for power, Art is launched into a leadership position as the one man with the charisma to unify citizens to fight back.

Miles away, a young woman named Shanna struggles to survive the chaos of the new Dark Age. Fate inexorably draws the two together, the reincarnated King Arthur and Lady Guinevere. Their task: to restore order, rediscover their lost love and, this time, to get it right.

Visit Joan Upton Hall at:  
[www.joanuptonhall.com](http://www.joanuptonhall.com)

#### **The Shadow of Excalibur: Excalibur Regained Book 2 (Excalibur Regained) By Joan Upton Hall**

Publisher: Zumaya Otherworlds 2008

Paperback: 312 pages

ISBN-10: 1934135003

ISBN-13: 978-1934135006

After 13 years of relative peace, Arturo el Rey must confront a past that has come back armed and dangerous. His former lover Gloria forces him to accept her son Edward as his own, and allies herself with a right-wing militia to try and put Edward on the throne.



Nilsson is felled by a stroke, and Art's beloved Shanna is attacked en route to her father's compound, her only help the one man that could destroy them both: Stephen Dubois. As the Rey Alliance teeters on the brink of collapse, the doom of Camelot seems to be repeating, and Art must confront the demons of both his own past and the distant one that lies over his head like the sword of Damocles.

Visit Joan Upton Hall at:  
[www.joanuptonhall.com](http://www.joanuptonhall.com)



## Perfect Holiday Gifts

### Karen MacInerney

#### On the Prowl (Tales of an Urban Werewolf, Book 2)

By Karen MacInerney

Ballantine Books 2008

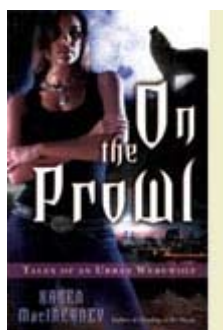
Paperback: 384 pages

ISBN-10: 0345496264

ISBN-13: 978-0345496263

Talk about a bad-hair day!

Sophie Garou is a master at taming her inner beast, which comes in handy since she's a werewolf. With a big promotion at work and a supersexy boyfriend, Heath (whom she recently spotted leaving a jewelry store with a beguiling ring box), she's one happy girl.



And when her professional relationship with her big new client—who also happens to be Texas's brilliantly blue-eyed most eligible bachelor—begins to sizzle, she wonders if her animal instincts are leading her in the wrong direction. Just when it seems that things can't get any more complicated, they do. The Houston werewolf pack has sniffed Sophie out, and their message is chillingly clear: you're either with us or against us. And unless she can prove that she's with them, the next full moon may just be her last.

Still, when a sexy, golden-eyed werewolf prowls into town, Sophie finds herself struggling to keep her animal impulses in check—not to mention trying to keep things on track with her super hot (and super human) lawyer boyfriend. What's more, someone is threatening to expose Sophie for what she really is. And when her mother is accused of selling a poison-laced potion, Sophie must sniff out a culprit before the fur hits the fan.

Visit Karen at: [www.karenmacinerney.com](http://www.karenmacinerney.com).

But when Heath starts spending long nights at the office with his new associate—a dead-ringer for Career Day Barbie—Sophie smells trouble.

#### Murder Most Maine (Gray Whale Inn Mysteries, No. 3)

By Karen MacInerney

MIDNIGHT INK 2008

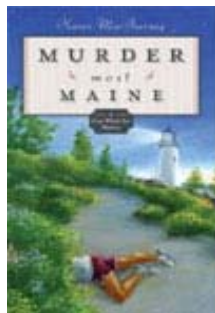
Paperback: 288 pages

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The long-awaited third book in Midnight Ink's bestselling series is finally here!

It's springtime on Cranberry Island — and love is in the air. It seems like every woman has the hots for buff trainer Dirk De Leon.



He and his equally-gorgeous business partner, Vanessa Black, are leading a weight-loss retreat at the Gray Whale Inn — forcing innkeeper Natalie Barnes to lighten up her butter-laden breakfast menu.

The mood on the island darkens when two grisly discoveries are made. The first is a skeleton walled up at the island's lighthouse. The second is a corpse of the fresh variety — the handsome Dirk! Could the spirit that once embodied the skeletal remains — perhaps the lighthouse keeper who disappeared a century ago — be responsible for Dirk's death?

The police pin the blame on Natalie's boyfriend who — to her dismay — had a long-ago fling with Vanessa. To find the true killer and ease her own aching heart, Natalie must untangle the knot of jealous girlfriends and spurned admirers that once surrounded the hunky trainer.

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And since I love foreign films, if there is not actually a dish in the movie, I just find a specialty of that country. (There's a more detailed explanation on the Different Drummer website in the "About Kathy" section.)

The best part is that the website is a perfect marketing tool. I don't ever feel embarrassed promoting it, as it is totally free, unlike trying to get someone to buy your book. I thoroughly recommend a service type website as a marketing device. Finally, for anyone who has experienced the disappointments and delays of getting a book published, there is the thrill of writing a review and then clicking an icon that says publish with your words immediately available to the public.

**MM:** *Are you still teaching? Working on a new cookbook? Or devoting your time to Different Drummer.cc?*

**KB:** I have been out of the classroom for a little over ten years. Though I have considered writing another book and even have a half finished mystery manuscript, I have so thoroughly enjoyed the pace of my life with the website, that I think I will concentrate on that for now.

**MM:** *Are you a native Texans? If not, where are you from and how did you arrive in the Lone Star state?*

**KB:** I grew up just outside of Chicago and came here in 1971 when my husband Gary took a job teaching psychology at the University of Texas. We love it here, especially the fact that we can do outdoor activities all year round, although I don't go out in the noonday sun as much as I used to.

**MM:** *Tell us about your family. Any children or grandchildren?*

**KB:** Our two children, both married, live here. I am so proud of them. One is a lawyer and the other a doctor. Between them, I have five grandchildren, four boys and a girl. They range in age from four months to five years. I spend one day a week babysitting for them, and recently, we've started having the two oldest over for an overnight once a month. I guess we are even very brave or foolhardy.

**MM:** *Do you have any pets?*

**KB:** Our dog, Zivjeli, is the third Weimaraner we have had, and he is quite a character. (His crazy name sounds kind of like Chevrolet and is from a Croatian drinking toast. We learned it when we visited the small town in Croatia where my father-in-law was born.) Like most Weimaraners, he is full of energy and if I don't take him for his two-mile walk daily, he looks for trouble here at home. During his first year, we sacrificed the remote control, our remote control, our computer travel

drive, at least two teapots, an entire salad, and several pairs of shoes to him. Now he contents himself with bringing these objects to us. Z-Man, as he is sometimes called, is especially fond of the grandchildren's books and brings me a few each morning while I sit at the computer.

**MM:** *When you're reading for pleasure, what do you prefer?*

**KB:** I still love mysteries, especially the older ones of Agatha Christie, Dorothy Sayers, and Sherlock Holmes. Some of the newer ones are a little too violent or cynical for me, but I do like Martha Grimes.

**MM:** *What is your favorite classic novel? And what book have you read recently that you've enjoyed the most?*

**KB:** That's a hard question for an English teacher, but I guess I will settle for Somerset Maugham's *Of Human Bondage*. The idea that we will always have one lost love who we know is really not worthy helped me during my late adolescence.

Recently, I read *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins, which I think is regarded as one of the first mystery novels. I believe one of Martha Grimes' novels referred to it, and I found an old copy among a library of classics I inherited from my parents.

**MM:** *You're obviously a huge movie fan? Who are some of your favorite actors/actresses both new and from the past, and why?*

**KB:** I really admired Rod Steiger, since he could actually become the person he portrayed on screen. I think, similarly, Robert Duval and Viggo Mortensen disappear into their roles, as does Christian Bale sometimes. Though I loved both Jimmy Stewart and Paul Newman, they essentially played themselves or variations of themselves throughout their careers. Phillip Seymour Hoffman is good, too, though I often feel the films he is in are too nihilistic for me.

Alan Arkin, Nicol Williams, and Vanessa Redgrave are also favorites. I loved all three, along with Robert Duval, in *The Seven Percent Solution*, a Freudian interpretation of Sherlock Holmes.

**MM:** *What is your all-time favorite movie?*

**KB:** I guess I would have to go with *The Third Man* with Orson Wells and Joseph Cotton. I think it is much better than *Citizen Kane*, which gets all the attention. Love, intrigue, treachery, and betrayal

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and it literally drips in atmosphere. It centers on the aftermath of World War Two in post war Vienna, rather than the actual war itself, and is unique in this perspective. Here is a link to my review:

<http://differentdrummer.cc/reviews/review.php?reviewID=205>

Some of my favorite films are set in this era, such as *Army of Shadows*, a French film. The tremendous *The Lives of Others*, a German film about the misery of East Germany is also close to being a perfect film.

**MM:** *What is your favorite color and your favorite style of clothing?*

**KB:** I love earth tones and prefer casual and tailored clothes. I seem to be in jeans most of the time now.

**MM:** *Do you enjoy sports? What is your favorite?*

**KB:** I love my walks, swim regularly, and also go horseback riding frequently. We have some land in the country where we keep a few horses. Mine is a retired Arabian racehorse called Alazun. He has just the right amount of spirit and common sense.

**MM:** *What is your favorite flower?*

**KB:** I love wild flowers and roses, although the roses don't do too well here because of the heat. When I was teaching, I used to consult a book called *The Language of Flowers*, which told the old symbolic and romantic meanings of all the different flowers and herbs. My student used to love the stories, which we related to the literature we were reading.

**MM:** *I don't know how you'd have time for hobbies, but what are some of the other things you're passionate about?*

**KB:** I love to garden, especially herbs. I use them in cooking, but I also love the medieval lore that surrounds them. I also love to travel and have been lucky enough to go with my husband when he has taught out of the country. We have been to Germany, Switzerland, Mexico, South America, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Singapore, and China. Getting to know the people in these countries, to see their kindness and friendliness, even when their politicians might not be on good terms with America, has always been such a pleasure.

**MM:** *What is your favorite guilty pleasure?*

**KB:** Sometimes, I love to abandon the whole day to a good mystery, even forgoing my workout at the gym and a few times, my walk with Zivjeli. And when I am especially decadent, I have a bag of Cheetos and some dark chocolate at my side.

**MM:** *What is your favorite dessert?*

**KB:** I love cheesecake of any kind, and pies, too. My mother always made a delicious cherry pie with flakey crust and tart cherries. I've come to love Drunken Strawberries, too. They are soaked in wine and served with a sour cream/whipped cream combination that's supposed to be like the French Crème Fraîche.

**MM:** *What would you consider the perfect "date night"?*

**KB:** I know this is trite, but a movie and dinner, maybe one cooked at home and served with some red wine by the fire. And it would be perfect if he cooked or brought home a gourmet supper.

**MM:** *What would be your dream vacation if you could travel anywhere and money were no object?*

**KB:** I feel so lucky to already have done so much traveling with my husband. I certainly loved Singapore, especially my daily walks in their botanical gardens and the touch of paradise in the acres of the orchid garden. Another dream trip was this summer, a car tour of Nova Scotia and Prince Edwards Island, two somewhat undiscovered jewels.

**MM:** *What are you asking Santa to leave under your tree this year?*

**KB:** Health and happiness is the best gift always, and maybe a little happier economic future for everyone. Truthfully, I am more at the point of getting rid of too many possessions rather than adding to them.

**MM:** *If you could wish for anything, what would you wish for?*

**KB:** I have always felt privileged to live here in the United States and feel that it is a great and generous country that is certainly not nearly appreciated enough around the world, not to mention right here in America. I hope the world as well as my fellow Americans will see us in that more positive light, and that freedom will take root in many more countries in the future.

Please see Page 8, *Perfect Holiday Gift*, for more information about *Appetite for Murder: A Mystery Lover's Cookbook*.