

*Sisters  
in  
Crime*



Heart of Texas

Chapter

[www.HoTXSinC.org](http://www.HoTXSinC.org)

**HOTSHOTS!**

March 2008

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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, March 9, 2008  
2:00 p.m**

**Nuclear Forensics  
William S. Charlton, Ph.D.**

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

Nuclear forensics and attribution are becoming increasingly important tools in the fight against illegal smuggling and trafficking of radiological and nuclear materials. These include materials intended for industrial and medical use (radiological), nuclear materials such as those produced in the nuclear fuel cycle, and much more dangerous weapons – usable nuclear materials – plutonium and highly enriched uranium.

Dr. William S. Charlton is an expert on nuclear forensics. Like ordinary crime fighters, nuclear forensic scientists use high-tech instruments and techniques to study their samples. They're measuring x-ray emissions, isotopic ratios, surface roughness, and particle size -- all characteristics that can lead them to the nuclear material's source.

Nuclear forensics also involves a significant complication. Along with the radioactive evidence may be clues in the form of fingerprints and DNA, the composition of a container, or fragments of traditional explosives. Scientists are developing ways to handle these.

Dr. Charlton earned his Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering from Texas A & M and is currently the Director of Nuclear Security Science and Policy Institute, Texas Engineering Experiment Station. His interests include international security, nuclear terrorism, innovative safeguards and methodologies.

Join us on Sunday, March 9 for Dr. Charlton's discussion of Nuclear Forensics.

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

**Upcoming Chapter Programs**

**April 13** - Dave Ciambone will present a program on poisons referencing his new release, *The Poison Handbook for Writers*.

**May 11** - Mystery Author Earl Staggs will speak on 'The Reasons for first writing short stories.'

**May 18** - Texas Mystery Month and The Fourth Annual Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event.

**June 8** - Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo will speak on the Visions and Goals for the Austin Police Department

**July 13** - Travis County Investigator Greg Lawson – Criminal Investigations and the Mentally Ill

**November 9** - Gary Payne, Founder and Producer, will present a program about the Capital City Mystery Players

## April Spotlight Author

Dave Ciambro will be spotlighted in the April edition of *HOTSHOTS!*



## News and Announcements

### Karen MacInerney, author of *Howling at the Moon: Tales of an Urban Werewolf*

Round Rock-Austin writer **Karen MacInerney**, author of *Howling at the Moon: Tales of an Urban Werewolf*, will sign copies of her books at the Barnes & Noble Round Rock store on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. The store is located in the La Frontera Village at the intersection of IH 35 and SH-45.

(Read more about *Howling at the Moon: Tales of an Urban Werewolf* on Page 9 of *HOTSHOTS!*)

### Out and About with Dr. David Ciambro ...



Join the scientist, mystery writer and more, Dave Ciambro, for signings of his new books, *Left at Georgetown* and *The Poison Handbook for Writers* at the following locations:

Saturday, March 8, 5:30-8:00 p.m. - **Hastings Bookstore**, Round Rock, TX

Thursday, March 13, 6:00-8:00 p.m. - Writers at **Vino 100 Wine Store**, Wolf Ranch Shopping Center, Georgetown, TX

Wednesday, March 19, 2:00-4: p.m. - **Hill Country Books**, Georgetown, TX

Thursday, March 27, beginning at 7:00 p.m. - Dr. Ciambro will speak on poisons and sign *The Poison Handbook for Writers* at the Hill Country Writing League, Austin Community College-Cypress Creek Campus, Room 2232, Cedar Park, TX

### The Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event

Aspiring Writers of Cozies, Thrillers, True Crime, and other Mystery Genres are welcome to submit the first 500 words and a one-page synopsis of an unpublished manuscript to the **Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event**. This is not a contest - there is no judging and no fee. It is a wonderful opportunity for writers unpublished in the mystery field to get to talk to and be mentored by published authors.

The first six aspiring writers will be chosen and matched with published mentors. The mentoring will culminate in the Fourth Annual Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event (BBSAWE) to be held at the Barnes & Noble Westlake (701 Capital of Texas Highway South, at Bee Caves Rd., in Austin) on Sunday, May 18, when aspiring writers will meet with their mentors for in-person discussions about their submission or the publishing industry. The aspiring writers and their mentors will also be recognized at the BBSAWE.

For detailed submission information, visit: <http://www.hotxsinc.org>.

### Call for Volunteers

The Sisters in Crime Heart of Texas Chapter is seeking volunteers to assist with activities in connection with the 2008 Texas Mystery Month in May. Below are committees seeking assistance:

Aspiring Writers Committee  
Mentor Authors Committee  
Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Project Committee

For for information about these or other volunteer opportunities, please contact Chapter president Sarah Ann Robertson at [hotxsinc@yahoo.com](mailto:hotxsinc@yahoo.com).

### Upcoming Mystery Conferences

#### Left Coast Crime 2008

March 6-9, 2008  
Denver, CO  
<http://lcc2008.com/>

#### Bouchercon 2008

October 9-12, 2008  
Sheraton Baltimore City Center  
Baltimore, MD  
<http://www.charmedtodeath.com>

(News and Announcements - Continued from Page 2)

**Writers League of Texas  
2008 Agents and Editors Conference**

The 2008 Agents and Editors Conference will be held **June 20-22, 2008**, at the Austin Sheraton Hotel. Agents confirmed thus far:

- Lauren E. Abramo** - Dystel & Goderich Literary Management
- Kathleen Anderson** - Anderson Literary Management
- Kimberly Cameron** - Reese Halsey North
- Ronnie Gramazio** - Martin Literary Management
- Robert Guinsler** - Sterling Lord Literistic
- Mary Evans**- Mary Evans Inc.
- Lilly Ghahremani** - Full Circle Literary
- Abigail Koons** - The Park Literary Group, Inc.
- Rebecca Oliver** - Endeavor Talent Agency
- Andrea Somberg** - Harvey Klinger Inc.
- Uwe Stender** - Triada U.S. Literary Agency
- Sally van Haitsma** - Castiglia Literary Agency
- Stefanie Von Borstel** - Full Circle Literary
- Natanya Wheeler** - Lowenstein-Yost Associates
- Caryn Wiseman**- Andrea Brown Literary Agency, Inc.
- Ted Weinstein** - Ted Weinstein Literary Management

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**Short Story Contest sponsored by the  
West Texas Writers - Midland, TX**

Requirements: only original work is eligible. No specific theme, adults only, and no erotica. Entry length: 1,000 to 2,500 words

**Deadline: Entries must be postmarked between  
January 2 through March 9, 2008.**

Winners to be announced and prizes awarded at the CELEBRATION OF WRITERS, Saturday, April 5, 2:00-4:00 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church, Lynn Hall in Midland.

- First prize: \$75.00
- Second prize; \$50.00
- Third prize: \$25.00

*Note: only one prize will be awarded per contestant although multiple submission are allowed.*

Entry fee: \$10.00

For more detail: 432-634-0139 or [www.westtexaswriters.org](http://www.westtexaswriters.org)

**Mystery and Romance on the High Seas!**

September 28 through October 5, 2008, sail along with best selling authors **Dr. David Ciambrone** and **Sylvia Dickey Smith**, when **Brulee Travel** presents its first annual Writers' Workshop. This seven-day cruise features workshops taught by Dr. Ciambrone and Ms. Smith designed for the new, novice, and more experienced writers of the Romance and Mystery Genres.

Sailing aboard the Carnival cruise ship *Conquest*, Dr. Ciambrone and Ms. Smith will help attendees release the writer within themselves and focus on the road to writing a novel in fun-filled sessions in the relaxed and creative atmosphere of the Caribbean.



This seven-day cruise departs from Galveston with ports of call in Montego Bay, Grand Cayman Island and Cozumel before returning to Galveston.

Cruise rates are based on double occupancy and include the workshop fee, accommodations, food, entertainment on-board, port charges, government taxes and fees. **Reminder: Passports are required.**

A deposit of \$250 per person is due by April 30. Register by contacting Bruce Peterson at Brulee Travel, 512.930.7111 or by email at [bruleetravel@aol.com](mailto:bruleetravel@aol.com) or [www.bruleetravel.com](http://www.bruleetravel.com)



**FRIDAY,  
MARCH 21, 2008**  
is the deadline for News,  
Announcements and  
Submissions for the April  
2008 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.

## Resources for Mystery Writers

As a regular feature, we will list resources for mystery writers. If you know of links, publications or special events, please forward them to micquim@yahoo.com.

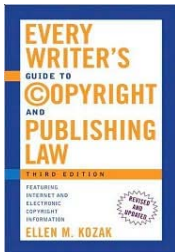
Our thanks to our February Guest Speakers, **Kathleen Davis Niendorff**, Publishing Consultant and Literary Agent, and **Mike Tolleson**, past chair of the State Bar of Texas Entertainment and Sports Law Section and Director of the Entertainment Law Institute, for their interesting and informative discussion about publishing and agency contracts, the Author-Agent-Attorney-Publisher relationship, and extended Q & A.



### **Books recommended by Kathleen Davis Niendorff and Mike Tolleson**

#### ***Every Writer's Guide to Copyright & Publishing Law* - By Ellen M. Kozak**

A newly revised and updated edition of the indispensable desk reference for writers, publishers, agents, and anyone else with questions about copyright and publishing laws.



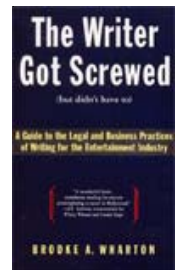
What is a copyright? How often does it have to be renewed? How do you inherit it? How do you determine the copyright of a letter or an illustration? What defines "fair use"? How can you determine when something is in

the "public domain"? How is material on the Internet copyrighted?

This newly revised and updated edition of *Every Writer's Guide to Copyright and Publishing Law* answers these and other pertinent questions in clear, accessible language. Ellen M. Kozak, herself an author and a lawyer, covers matters such as publishing contracts, libel, privacy, electronic property, moral rights, "Son of Sam" laws, and product liability, among others. For anyone involved in the book business — writers, editors, publishers, agents, lawyers, and even critics or scholars with questions about intellectual property — this authoritative and accessible desk reference is truly indispensable.

#### ***The Writer Got Screwed (but didn't have to) Guide to the Legal and Business Practices of Writing for the Entertainment Industry* - By Brooke Wharton**

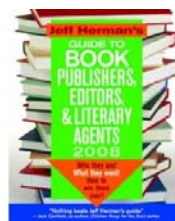
An indispensable roadmap to success, *The Writer Got Screwed* is the first book to untangle the legal and business aspects of writing for the entertainment industry. It is for the young TV production assistant waiting for a big break, the executive with a treatment tucked away in a bottom drawer, the techie targeting the new field of cyberspace writing, or anyone who is inspired to write screenplays.



Savvy Hollywood entertainment attorney Brooke Wharton decodes legal jargon, explains how to protect creative work, shows how to read between the lines of a contract, and advises how to avoid getting sued and screwed along the way. Useful resources, including a list of agencies, competitions, fellowships, internships, and legal organizations, make *The Writer Got Screwed* an essential part of every writer's tool chest.

#### ***Guide to Book Publishers, Editors & Literary Agents* - By Jeff Herman**

Calling all writers, get your manuscripts out of the "slush pile" and into the bookstores with *Jeff Herman's Guide to Book Publishers, Editors & Literary Agents*. More comprehensive than ever before — and now 1,000 pages — this revised edition describes the insider dynamics at hundreds of U.S. and Canadian publishers, with hundreds of names and specialties for book acquisition editors. Nearly 200 of the most powerful literary agents reveal invaluable tips, as if they were



having a private conversation with special friends. Includes a wealth of detailed information on what to do (and what not to do) to break the code, break down the walls, and get that first book, second book, or thirtieth book published, bought and read. *Jeff Herman's Guide* is the go-to source for writers everywhere.

(Resources - Continued on Page 9)

**Judy Egner**

**March 2008 Spotlight Author**

*Judy Egner has been a janitor in a tractor factory, mental health center secretary, bookkeeper, short order cook, mainframe computer programmer, and nurse's aide among other things. She is also a violinist, an online mystery reviewer, an award-winning short story writer, and the author of a mystery series which has not yet found a publisher. Writing as Kaye George, Judy is the author of the Cressa Carraway Mysteries and Short Stories.*

**MM:** *How long have you been writing?*

**JE:** Like most writers, I suppose, since I could hold a pencil. And some of my crayon drawings from kindergarten tell stories, too. My brothers and I were always read to and grew up hearing stories.

**MM:** *What advice would you give a new writer just starting out?*

**JE:** Don't try to do this alone. It's true, writing is a solitary endeavor, and you are the only one who can write your material, AND you have to be alone to write it. BUT, you must network with other writers, not only for cross-evaluation, comment, and criticism, but also to keep from going crazy. It's essential to know that there are other weird people like you: people who write.

**MM:** *What comes first: the plot or the characters?*

**JE:** Sometimes a good plot device will hit me and I'll write to that. More often a character will occur to me that I want to explore. But also, often, the setting is the first thing. I see an old building, or even a town or an area, and want to set something there. For short stories, some of the pieces I've struggled with the most were written to a contest theme, but a couple of those are also the best things I've written. At least I think so.

**MM:** *Are you working on anything at the present you'd like to share with us?*

**JE:** I am, right this instant, recovering from knee replacement surgery and find I can't write much while I'm on the pain medication. But I'm itching to get back to a project I'm very excited about, a prehistory mystery. My main characters are Neanderthals and I've fallen in love with them. This is the most challenging thing I've ever done, and the most exciting. The idea has been bouncing around the back of my brain for years and I'm so pleased to finally be putting it onto paper and screen. For a long time I was afraid to start because I didn't think I would be able to do it. But I've done enough now that I know I can pull it off. How well? We'll see.

**MM:** *When did you first consider yourself a writer?*

**JE:** I've only recently, in the last three or four years begun to call myself a writer, but I did get an ego boost several years ago when an agent in Dallas turned down my manuscript. He left it at his front desk for me to pick up, after phoning and telling me I was rejected. The Post-it note said, "Author will pick up." I marveled at that and it gave me the oddest euphoric lift, even though it was a flat rejection. He called me an "author"! Someone thought I was an author!

**MM:** *What inspired you to write your first book?*

**JE:** My first book that was longer than a novelette was written about a murder in the church where I was a church secretary. It will never be published, though, because the plot is too complicated. I've milked the setting for subsequent projects, though. A church is a good "closed" society setting and there are all kinds of ego battles and power struggles going on. And the church secretary knows about ALL of them.

**MM:** *Tell us about your latest release.*

**JE:** My latest short story can be seen at Mouth Full of Bullets ([mouthfulofbullets.com](http://mouthfulofbullets.com)) and is called "Devil's Night". It's written against the backdrop of a bizarre Detroit Halloween custom, not a pretty one. This publication costs \$6 when the issue comes out. Then, when the next issue comes up, the previous one can be viewed free of charge.

**MM:** *Are you a morning person or a night person?*

**JE:** Most definitely a night person. If left to my own devices (and if not married to a morning person), I would probably awaken at noon or later and write all night.



*(Spotlight Author, continued from Page 5)*

**MM:** *Do you write full time?*

**JE:** I do now. When my husband took early retirement from Northern Telecom, he went through a mid-life crisis that consisted of enrolling at Perkins Theological Seminary to become a Methodist minister. This was NOT my choice and I was a bit of a thorn in his side for awhile. We eventually reached an agreement that made me happy though. When he became a minister, I would quit my job as a programmer and write full time. That was in 2002 and I've been a full time writer since then. I keep track of my hours and projects, just like when I was a contract programmer, and file a Schedule C for my business, even though most of the money flows out, not in, at this point, not having published a novel yet

**MM:** *Would you like to share your heritage?*

**JE:** Oh my gosh, I think I'm about ten different things. I have German coming at me from both my mother's and father's side, and my mother was half Swedish, so those are the main ones. There's a strong streak of Scots-Irish, though, creating quite a few red-headed freckled relatives, including two of my children. Our granddaughter looks suspiciously like a redhead, too. My grandfather used to say there was a bit of American Indian somewhere back there on the "wrong side of the blanket." I attribute my straight hair and my big feet to that. Although the Swedes may be responsible for those, too.

**MM:** *Are you a native Texan?*

**JE:** I arrived at Texas from Los Angeles the long way. I always used to say our family was touring the US the hard way, living everywhere for a couple of years, then moving. I've lived in LA, Moline IL, Sumter SC, Great Falls MT, Dayton OH, Minnetonka MN, Plano TX, Troy MI, Dallas TX, with brief stops in other places, then, with the Methodist ministry – Holliday TX and Taylor TX. I grew up in Illinois and lived in Moline and Dallas the longest.

**MM:** *Any hobbies?*

**JE:** I play violin and enjoy composing and arranging vocal and string quartet pieces. I once arranged a hymn for full orchestra at the request of the choir director at Spring Valley UMC in Richardson, which they've played even after I left the area. In the past I've done acrylic painting, hooked a few rugs, and had fun refinishing old furniture. I would someday like to design and build furniture, but don't know nearly enough to do it now.

**MM:** *Are you married? Any children?*

**JE:** You have by now noticed I'm married to a Methodist minister. I am A minister's wife, not THE minister's wife, declining to fulfill all that the role can entail. At least the kids didn't have to deal with being PKs (preacher's kids) since they were grown by the time he went off the deep end.

All our children turned out beautifully. Our oldest, Bret, has a band called Pleasant Grove and has put out several CDs under three different labels. They are at SXSW most years and have toured Europe and the States several times. Still waiting for the big break. He recently married his long-time girlfriend, Kimberly, who has two lovely daughters, Ashley 16 and Kelsey 14. They live in Austin so we are able to see them frequently.

Our middle child, Ben, is in his last year of residency as a radiologist, married to Dani, an energizer bunny of women. She's an OB/GYN and they had their first baby, Lily, in August of 2006.

Our baby daughter, Jessica, is a patent attorney in Washington DC and is getting married to Jesse Busen, who was a law school classmate at George Washington. They'll marry here in Taylor, but will live in the DC area at least for awhile.

**MM:** *Tell us about your pets.*

**JE:** We've usually had a dog and multiple cats, but are down to Agamemnon, a rescued feral black cat. He's an extremely bright little guy, but not the cuddliest cat. His littermate, James, succumbed to a thyroid problem last year. He WAS the cuddliest cat. The feisty ones always live the longest, it seems.

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

**JE:** I just want a mystery novel published! After that, of course, I want it to be a best-seller, etc.

One word about being a writer, married to a minister. I don't want my writing to be limited by what a minister's wife "should" be writing, so I have chosen to write under a pen name. Our daughter picked my name, Kaye George, which is my middle name and Cliff's middle name.

**TIME's Top 100 Crimes of the Century**

On the 75th anniversary of the Lindbergh Baby Kidnapping, TIME Magazine looked back at what they considered twenty-five of the most notorious crimes of the past hundred years.

The Lindbergh Baby Kidnapping, 1932  
 The Theft of the Mona Lisa, 1911  
 The Fake Ape Man, 1912  
 The Fatty Arbuckle Scandal, 1920  
 The Black Dahlia, 1947  
 The Brinks Job, 1950  
 Lana Turner, 1958  
 The Great Train Robbery, 1963  
 Richard Speck, 1966  
 The Tate-LaBianca Murders, 1969  
 The Kidnapping of Patty Hearst, 1974  
 Son of Sam, 1977  
 John Wayne Gacy, 1978  
 Ted Bundy, 1978  
 America's Biggest Art Heist, 1990  
 Jeffrey Dahmer, 1991  
 The O. J. Simpson Case, 1994  
 The Collapse Of Barings Bank, 1995  
 The Unabomber, 1996  
 The Murder of JonBenet Ramsey, 1996  
 The Versace Killing Spree, 1997  
 Mary Kay LeTourneau's Forbidden Love, 1998  
 The Columbine Massacre, 1999  
 The Sad Saga Of Andrea Yates, 2001  
 The Theft of The Scream, 2006

Read more about these notorious crimes at  
<http://www.time.com/time/2007/crimes/25.html>

*(Ed. Note: Most are familiar with the Lindbergh baby kidnapping and many of the other crimes committed in more recent times. For those not aware of the details of the theft of the Mona Lisa, we present the following.)*

**The Theft of the Mona Lisa, 1911**

On Monday, August 21, 1911, the world's most famous work of art, Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa, was stolen from the Louvre museum in Paris.

That morning, many museum employees noticed that the painting was not hanging in its usual place. But, they assumed it was taken off the wall by the official museum photographer who was shooting pictures of it up in his studio.

By Tuesday morning, when the painting hadn't been returned, and it was not in the photographer's studio, museum officials were notified. The painting was gone!

The police were contacted immediately and they set up headquarters in the museum curator's office. The entire museum was searched from top to bottom. This took a week because of the size of the Louvre, a 49-acre building running along the Seine River for 2,200 feet. The only thing a detective found was the heavy frame that once held the Mona Lisa. It was discovered in a staircase leading to a cloakroom.



Once the news became public, French newspapers made several claims as to the nature of the theft. One newspaper proclaimed that an American collector stole the work and would have an exact copy made which would be returned to the museum. This "collector" would then keep the original. Another newspaper said that the entire incident was a hoax to show how easy it was to steal from the Louvre.

Many people were questioned about the theft - from museum employees to people who worked or lived nearby. Perhaps somebody might have seen someone acting "suspiciously"? The police even questioned Pablo Picasso, who had previously bought two stone sculptures from a friend named Pieret. Pieret had actually stolen these pieces from the Louvre months before the Mona Lisa was stolen. Picasso thought that perhaps his friend might have also stolen the Mona Lisa.

Fearful of the implications and bad publicity, Picasso gave the sculptures to a local newspaper to arrange for their return to the museum. Picasso wished to remain anonymous, but someone gave his name to the police. After an interrogation, the police concluded that Picasso knew nothing about the theft of the Mona Lisa.

Luckily, the painting was recovered 27 months after it was stolen. An Italian man named Vincenzo Perugia tried to sell the work to the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy for 500,000 lire (\$100,000). Perugia claimed he stole the work out of patriotism. He didn't think such a work by a famous Italian should be kept in France. What Perugia didn't realize was that while the Mona Lisa was probably painted in Italy, Leonardo took it with him to France and sold it to King Francis I for 4,000 gold coins.

*(Mona Lisa - Continued on Page 8)*

(Mona Lisa - Continued from Page 7)

How did Perugia steal the Mona Lisa? He had spent Sunday night, August 20, in the Louvre, hiding in an obscure little room. Monday morning, while the museum was closed, he entered the room where the painting was kept and unhooked it from the wall. In a staircase, he cut the painting from its frame. While trying to leave the building, he came to a locked door. He unscrewed the doorknob and put it in his pocket. He then walked out of the Louvre and into the pages of history.

Ten months before Perugia stole the Mona Lisa, the Louvre decided to have all masterpieces put under glass. Perugia was one of four men assigned to the task. Police questioned Perugia after the theft, but his easy-going, calm demeanor settled any doubts about his involvement.

***The source of this story on the Mona Lisa theft is The Art Stealers by Milton Esterow, New York: Macmillan Company, 1966. pp 100-152***

For more information about this story and the Mona Lisa, visit <http://www.hepguru.com/monalisa/trivia.htm>

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## **Donuts, Zippers and Guns...Oh My!** **By Lee Lofland**

After recovering from the bumps and bruises I received from nearly two decades in law-enforcement I have now devoted all my time to writing and to speaking to writers about real-life cop experiences and crime scene investigations. During my seminars and conferences I'm asked hundreds of questions and these are my responses to a few:

### **Q. Do cops really eat donuts? If so, how did that tradition begin?**

A. Donut and coffee shops are often open at odd hours leaving them subject to robberies. The tradition of cops eating donuts most likely began when these vulnerable establishments offered free coffee and donuts to on-duty police officers. The shop owners were hopeful that the presence of police cars and cops would sway criminals away from their hold-up intentions. Free meals and coffee are still offered today, although most departments have strict policies forbidding officers to accept gratuities of any nature.

### **Q. How is it that cops come out of a physical altercation without rumpling their clothing?**

A. The buttons on the uniforms of police officers aren't functional. Hidden beneath the row of buttons is a zipper and the shirt actually zips up to prevent it becoming torn open during a scuffle. The shirt and pants are also made from a heavy fire-retardant material that is slow to wrinkle and resists soiling.

### **Q. Do bulletproof vest really stop bullets?**

A. Yes, for some calibers of ammunition, but not all. A bulletproof vest is not bullet proof but is merely bullet resistant. Interestingly, sharp objects such as an ice pick can penetrate the Kevlar quite easily. The bullet-resistant material degrades over time and actually loses some of its ability to resist gunfire. Unfortunately budget restraints do not usually allow for vest replacement.

I'll close with a bit of cop trivia.

Semi-automatic handguns such as the 9mm's used by law enforcement are designed for right-handed people. Bullet casings are very hot when ejected, and the spent shells are cast from the weapon, to the right, and away from a right-handed officer. For a left-handed officer the hot material is expelled in front of, and across their body, peppering their face and hands with stinging gunpowder residue and scalding brass cartridges.

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*Lee Lofland is a former police detective with vast experience in the investigations of major crimes such as Homicide, Murder for Hire, Narcotics and Ritualistic and Occult Crimes. In addition to criminal investigations Lee was charged with the supervision of a Street Crimes Unit and a Tactical Entry Team for service of search warrants. He is a past recipient of the Association of Chiefs of Police Medal of Valor and the Nathaniel Green Award for Courageous Conduct Against an Armed Robber.*

*Lee currently resides in the Seattle area with his wife Dr. Denene Lofland and devotes his time writing and speaking to writers groups and for conferences.*

Police Procedure and Investigation,  
A Guide For Writers  
[www.leelofland.com](http://www.leelofland.com)

The Graveyard Shift, a guide to all things  
cops and robbers  
- a blog for writers  
<http://www.leelofland.com/wordpress/>

***Howling at the Moon: Tales of an Urban Werewolf***

**By Karen MacInerney**

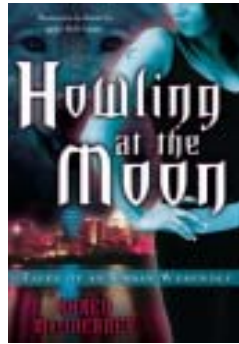
Random House, 2008

ISBN: 978-0-345-50481-4 (0-345-50481-X)

Price: \$6.99

Sophie Garou seems to have it all: a great job at a prestigious accounting firm, a closet that rivals a Nordstrom showroom, and a terrific boyfriend who isn't afraid to use the "M" word. There's just one little itty-bitty problem: Sophie is a werewolf-and her time of month has a whole new meaning.

Needless to say, life among yummy flesh-and-blood humans is no piece of steak...er, cake! but regular doses of wolfsbane tea and a mother who runs a magic shop have helped Sophie keep her paranormal pedigree under wraps.



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.

Critically acclaimed author **Karen MacInerney** also teaches writers' workshops and drives a mean carpool. Her book *Murder on the Rocks* was selected as an Agatha nominee for Best First Novel.

When she's not writing or chauffeuring children, she loves to read, drink coffee, attempt unusual recipes, and hit the local hike-and-bike trail. She lives in Austin with her husband, two children and a rabbit named Bunny.

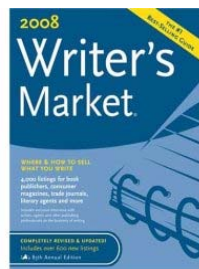


*(Resources - Continued from Page 4)*

**2008 Writer's Market**

The *2008 Writer's Market* features all the great information writers have come to expect for more than 80 years and then some.

This edition takes *Writer's Market* to a new level of excellence with high profile author interviews and five new market sections. Of course, it's still packed with all the information writers rely on year after year including the keys to successful query letters, advice on how much to charge, articles from successful writers, as well as listings for book publishers, magazines, literary agents and more!



**Sisters in Crime/H.O.T. Chapter Meeting  
February 10, 2008  
Featuring  
Kathleen Davis Niendorff  
and  
Mike Tolleson**

