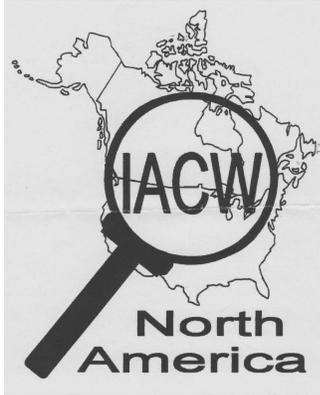


WEEKLY E-NEWS



International Association of Crime Writers, North America

March 28, 2021

Open to discussion on topics of interest to crime writers everywhere.
Send your news, items of interest or comments to J. Madison Davis at crimewritersna@gmail.com

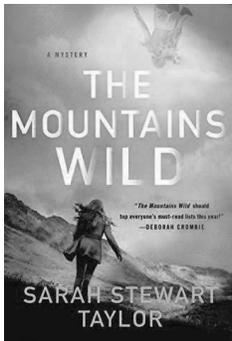
Please note that all opinions expressed in this newsletter are strictly those of the author and do not represent the official opinion of the organization as a whole unless it is clearly stated.

2020 HAMMETT NOMINEES ANNOUNCED

Despite the infamy which the year 2020 will continue to endure, it saw the publication of a great variety of excellent crime novels and non-fiction books. The 2020 reading committee, consisting of Christopher Chan, Marni Graff, Debbi Mack, and Chair J. Madison Davis made a number of difficult choices and the following books (in alphabetical order) have been selected for the short list:

In Old Bombay by Nev March (Minotaur)

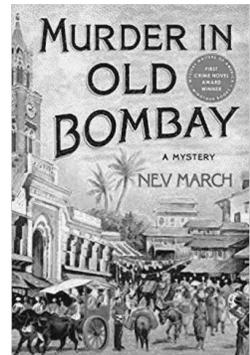
Based on a true story, in 1892 a soldier recovering from wounds investigates a murder.



The Mountains Wild by Sarah Stewart Taylor (Minotaur)
A New York detective revisits the disappearance of her cousin in Ireland two decades ago.

Three Hours in Paris by Cara Black (Soho)

In World War II, a young female sniper is sent to Paris to assassinate the Führer.

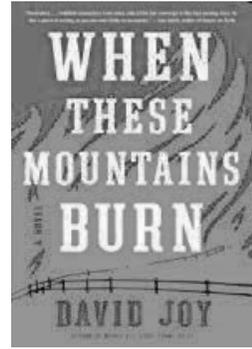
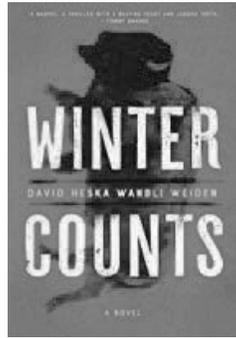
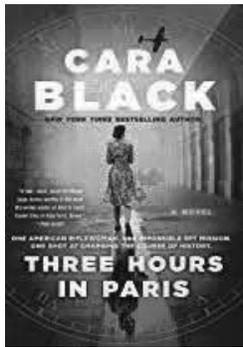


When These Mountains Burn by David Joy (Putnam)

A father in Appalachia confronts the opioid epidemic in an attempt to rescue his son.

Winter Counts by David Heska Wanbli Weiden (Ecco)

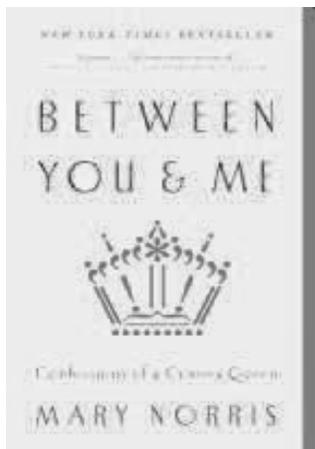
Vigilante Virgil Wounded Horse investigates the spread of heroin on the reservation.



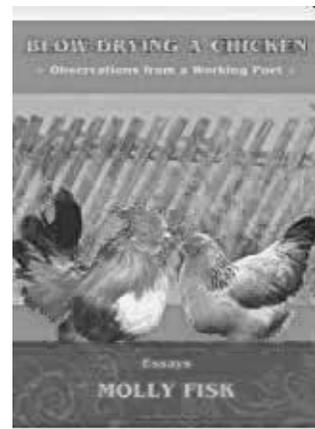
Congratulations to the five nominees!

The three judges for the final selection of the winner of the 2020 Dashiell Hammett Prize for Literary Excellence will now be tasked with their difficult decision. They are:

Mary Norris, known for her work as the “Comma Queen” at the *New Yorker* and her popular book *Between You and Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen*.



Molly Fisk, author of *Blow-Drying a Chicken: Observations from a Working Poet* and recent editor of the anthology *California Fire & Water: A Climate Crisis Anthology*. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Poets and formerly Poet Laureate of Nevada County, California.



Todd Dickinson, bookseller and founder of Aaron’s Books, an independent bookstore in Lititz, Pennsylvania. Previously, he was a

Senate staffer and spent a decade representing universities, medical and scientific associations on Capitol Hill.

Food for Thought:

[Police Procedurals 101](#) How to Write a TV Police Procedural in Thirteen Easy Steps by Paul Rudnick (*New Yorker*)

[The Essential Larry McMurtry](#) (*NYTimes*)

[Sarah Pinborough, author of ‘Behind Her Eyes,’ talks about that controversial twist](#) by Thomas Lynch (*Washington Post*).

From Lawrence Block:

THE HITS KEEP COMING!

That's quite a header. It almost sounds...

I know what it almost sounds like, and it's not. What it is is the only way I can think of to plunge into the rushing floodtide of books coming your way. I'd like to find an elegant way to introduce this report, but I'm up to my neck in news. So I'll just assign each item an arbitrary number and take them in order.

I guess that makes sense.

Maybe, but I can't let that stop me...

1. I've told you about *A Writer Prepares*, my memoir of my beginnings as a writer of crime stories and erotic novels and, well, no end of colorful magazine pieces ranging from "We Found God on the Bowery" to "Reinhard Heydrich, Blond Beast of the SS." The ebook's been available for preorder for a week or so, and enough early readers have said enough nice things about it to spur a batch of orders. I reported earlier that the paperback and library-bound hardcover couldn't be preordered, but now they can, at Amazon and Barnes & Noble

Or, if you hurry, you can preorder this beauty, and here's what I said about it earlier:

"It's the very special signed-numbered-limited edition coming from SST Publications, Paul Fry's exceptional UK-based small press. Paul's edition boasts front and back cover and limitation page artwork, all by the renowned French animator, illustrator, and film director Jérémy Pailler. And you can count on the fine printing and binding on which the company has built a reputation. The price is £29.95, and that includes shipping within the UK; I don't know what it'll cost stateside purchasers, but there's an SST order page that should tell you what you need to know."

When the good people at Subterranean Press aren't busy publishing their own magnificent editions, they occasionally pass along other small-press titles to their customers. They've scooped up a few copies of *A Writer Prepares*, and collectors in the US, especially those of you who've already had the pleasure of doing business with Subterranean, might find it more convenient to click here and see if you can get your order in before their small supply is exhausted. (If you're too late, it's easy enough to order from SST. And if they're sold out too, well, I'm not sure what you can try.)

See Larry's complete blog at [Lawrence Block's Blog and Website](#)