

Next to Last Stand - Craig Johnson Event

Live Stream Event
Thursday, September 24, 2020
6:30 pm

Wow...who would have thought at last year's Craig Johnson event we wouldn't be able to get together with him this year. Craig has become an annual tradition with us.

But...we refuse to be beat by a stupid virus...join us for a virtual book event with Craig.

Reservations are required in order to receive the code to access the event. This is a free event.

If you do not have access to Zoom, please call us at 717-795-7470 and we will try to help with this.

A limited number of signed books will be available from Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop. The hardcover edition is regularly \$28.00 however, **we are offering a special price of \$23.80** with free shipping. This special price is only good from now until midnight, Saturday, September 26. If you would like your book personalized please let us know.

The books will be shipped to you within 48 hours of the event or you may stop by and pick up your copy(s).

Next to Last Stand – Walt Longmire Mystery #16 is the newest novel in the beloved *New York Times* bestselling Longmire series – the basis for the hit Netflix original series “Longmire.”

One of the most viewed paintings in American history, Custer's Last Fight, copied and distributed by Anheuser-Busch at a rate of over two million copies a year, was destroyed in a fire at the 7th Cavalry Headquarters in Fort Bliss, Texas, in 1946. Or was it? When Charley Lee Stillwater dies of an apparent heart attack at the Wyoming Home for Soldiers & Sailors, Walt Longmire is called in to try and make sense of a piece of a painting and a Florsheim shoebox containing a million dollars, sending the good sheriff on the trail of a dangerous art heist.

Next to Last Stand is scheduled to be released on September 22, 2020. You can pre-order your copy(s) today. We will reduce the other books in the series 15% if you order those by midnight, Saturday, September 26. Those books are also available from us.

Craig Johnson is the New York Times bestselling author of the Longmire mysteries, the basis for the hit Netflix original series Longmire. He is the recipient of the Western Writers of America Spur Award for fiction, the Mountains and Plains Booksellers Award for fiction, the Nouvel Observateur Prix du Roman Noir, and the Prix SNCF du Polar. His novella Spirit of Steamboat was the first One Book Wyoming selection. He lives in Ucross, Wyoming, population 25.



**15% off books these books until
midnight Saturday, September 26 2020**

- #1: The Cold Dish (Paperback): \$9.99
- #2: Death Without Company (Paperback): \$9.99
- #3: Kindness Goes Unpunished (Paperback): \$9.99
- #4: Another Man's Moccasins (Paperback): \$9.99
- #5: The Dark Horse (Paperback): \$16.00
- #6: Junkyard Dogs (Paperback): \$16.00
- #7: Hell Is Empty (Paperback): \$17.00
- #8: As the Crow Flies (Paperback): \$16.00
- #9: A Serpent's Tooth (Paperback): \$16.00
- #10: Any Other Name (Paperback): \$16.00
- #11: Dry Bones (Paperback): \$17.00
- #12: An Obvious Fact (Paperback): \$16.00
- #13: The Western Star (Paperback): \$17.00
- #14: Depth of Winter (Paperback): \$17.00
- #15: Land of Wolves (Paperback): \$17.00
- #16: Next to Last Stand (Hardcover): \$28.00
- Wait for Signs - Short Stories (Paperback): \$15.00
- Spirit of Steamboat - Novella (Paperback): \$14.00
- The Highwayman - Novella (Paperback): \$15.00

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Something Wicked

this way comes...2020 • Vol 1 • Issue 2



What's Happening At a Glance...

Audio Books

Do you listen to audio books? We've partnered with *Libro.fm* to provide audio books to our customers. For more information, please see page 4 of this newsletter.

Cozy Con Update

We have a date for the 2021 Cozy Con! We hope you'll be able to join us on Saturday, April 10 at the Shiremanstown United Methodist Church.

We are looking forward to providing more details as they develop.

Craig Johnson Event

We will live stream our Craig Johnson event this year. See page 4 for more details.

Latest Pod/Video Cast

R. G. Belsky and Kari Bovée are the latest authors interviewed for us by Bill Peschel. Find these interviews at:

<https://www.mysterybooksonline.com/mechanicsburg-mystery-presents>

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Temporary Shop Hours

Please see the information in the upper right column for shop hours options.

Shop Re-Opening Procedures Update

Since the Pennsylvania Department of Health has now transitioned Cumberland County into its "Green" phase we have changed our shop's opening procedures. In order to best follow the safety guidelines we have established the following options:

Walk-In Option

We are open with the following adjusted hours: Wednesday through Saturday, 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm. Please wear a mask while inside the shop. We also ask that you wear disposable gloves, that we will provide. Hand sanitizer is available. We have extra masks if you don't have one. We will still ask visitors to “social distance” while in the shop. The number of shoppers inside the shop will be limited to 4 folks at a time.

Appointment Option

For those who would be more comfortable with an appointment, we are scheduling those between 3:30 and 5:30. Call 717-795-7470 for an appointment.

Drive-By Service Option

Curbside pickup will still be available and is encouraged during our business hours. Email us (mysterybooks@comcast.net) or call us at 717-795-7470 and tell us what books you would like. If we have your book(s) in stock we'll provide them to you during shop hours...just let us know when you will be stopping by. If we have the book(s) in used, we will substitute it/those if you would like us to do that. If we don't have the book(s) in stock, we are happy to special order them for you. Then, choose a time between 12:30 pm and 5:30 pm when you can come by for your order. You can pay in advance by credit card when you place your order or with cash, check or credit card outside the front doors of the shop when you arrive.

We continue to appreciate your patience during this time and hope you will bear with us and understand the efforts we are making to keep

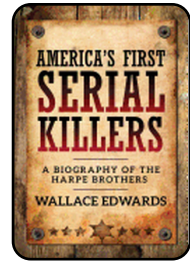
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Book Reviews

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

**America's First Serial Killers -
A Biography of the Harpe Brothers
by Wallace Edwards
Type: True Crime - \$9.99**



They murdered. They stole. And they did it all to excess. Unlike other bandits of early America, they didn't do it for the money—they did it for the thrill and love of blood. They were the Harpe Brothers, and they have been called America's first true serial killers. In this narrative, the crimes and the lives of America's most notorious sibling killers is documented like a page-turning novel.

I woke up very early one morning and turned on TV. I caught the end of a crime show about two brothers who were mass murderers during the Revolutionary War. This piqued my interest because I'd never heard of the Harpes. So I did a little research and learned about this book.

Micajah "Big" Harpe was born in the 1760's and Wiley "Little" Harpe about two years afterward. They may not have been brothers but cousins. Both possessed psychopathic tendencies. Even the Ohio River pirates at Cave-In-Rock sent them away because of their extreme cruelty.

The book goes on to tell some of the killings and "wives" and eventually their own deaths. No one knows exactly how many men, women, and children were murdered by the Harpes. Estimates range from 25 to over 50.

I found this book to be a short but good read. Anyone who likes true crime should enjoy it.

...Reviewed by Sandy

**Hellfire - Jonathan Graves 12
by John Gilstrap
Type: Thriller - \$9.99**



Every mission is a matter of life or death for Jonathan Grave, hostage rescue specialist. But he faces his most personal challenge yet when two boys are abducted while being driven to Resurrection House, the school Jonathan founded as a sanctuary for children of incarcerated parents. The boys were entrusted to Jonathan's care. Now they're missing. It's time to fight fire with fire.

The boys' mom, Connie Kendall, is awaiting trial on drug smuggling charges. Prosecutors want her to testify against the brutal Cortez Cartel to help bring down their ruthless operations. If she cooperates, she'll get an easier sentence. But with her kids in the grip of the cartel, her lips are sealed.

As Jonathan and his team of skilled operatives close in on the kidnappers, they realize that their enemies aren't just hell-bent on selling drugs. Rival factions have even deadlier agendas. The clock is ticking on an attack that could kill thousands in a single breath.

In Hellfire, the 12th book in John Gilstrap's Jonathan Graves series, the action starts out fast and then accelerates. The two sons of a couple who run enforcement and drugs for a Mexican cartel are kidnapped and completely disappear while traveling to the school sponsored by Jonathan. He and his team of hostage rescue specialists from his company, Security Solutions, leap into action. If the missing children and vicious cartels aren't enough they also uncover the smuggling of dangerous VX gas along with a plot to release it in a major US city. Racing against multiple clocks counting down to disaster, they must make split second decisions in order to save millions of lives.

...Reviewed by Jay

**Grand Slam Murders - Bridge to Death 1
by RJ Lee
Type: Cozy - \$15.95**



Four bridge players are poisoned and newspaper reporter Wendy Winchester sets out to catch a killer who's not playing with a full deck. When the four wealthy widows who make up the venerable Rosalie Bridge Club never get up from their card table, this quiet Mississippi town has its first quadruple homicide. Who put cyanide in their sugar bowl? An aspiring member and kibitzer with the exclusive club, Wendy takes a personal interest in finding justice for the ladies. She also has a professional motivation. A frustrated society columnist for the Rosalie Citizen, she wants to be an investigative reporter. This could be her big break. Plus, she has an advantage: her sometimes boyfriend is a detective and her dad is the local chief of police. Partnering with them, Wendy starts shuffling through suspects and turning over secrets long held close to the chest by the ladies. When a wild card tries to take her out of the game, Wendy decides it's time to up the ante before she's the next one to go down.

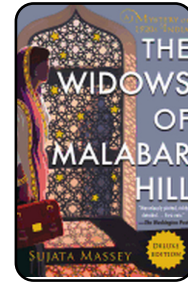
In this fun read, you find yourself rooting for Wendy to not only solve the murders but also to prove to her employer that women can be journalists able to report more than just weddings, engagements, and births. Wendy sets out to prove that Marleece, the maid, is not a killer and, consequently, earn the right to be taken seriously in her profession in this modern Mississippi town steeped in old-south traditions.

The author sets the scene and describes the characters so well that you think you know them personally. Even though the series is called "A Bridge to Death Mystery," knowing how to play bridge isn't necessary for enjoying this story. The story captures you quickly and the smooth flow of writing keeps you enthralled. You are kept guessing about what kind of person would kill four aristocratic ladies playing bridge. The answer is a complete surprise. I know I will be looking forward to the second book in the series.

...Reviewed by Marcia

Book Reviews • continued

**The Widows of Malabar Hill -
Perveen Mistry 1
by Sujata Massey -
Type: Traditional Mystery - \$15.95**



Perveen Mistry, the daughter of a respected family, has joined her father's law firm, becoming one of the first female lawyers in India. Perveen also has a tragic personal history that makes her devoted to championing and protecting women's legal rights.

Mistry Law is appointed to execute the will of Omar Farid who has left three widows behind. As Perveen goes through the paperwork, she notices that all of the wives have signed over their inheritance to a charity. What will they live on if they forfeit their inheritance? Perveen is suspicious since one of the widows signed her form with an "X," meaning she probably couldn't read the document. The Farid widows live in seclusion, never leaving the women's quarters or speaking to any men. Are they being taken advantage of by an unscrupulous guardian? Perveen realizes her instincts about the will were correct when tensions escalate to murder. She must figure out what really happened on Malabar Hill, and ensure that no innocent women or children are in further danger.

Inspired in part by a real woman who made history by becoming India's first female lawyer.

The widows of Malabar Hill, first mystery in a new series by Sue J. Massey, is set in the 20th century.

Parveen Mistry the first woman practicing lawyer in Bombay is assigned to review the estate settlement for the three widows of Mr. Farid Omar, a well-to-do Muslim mill owner. After explaining to the widows the effects the change would have on them, the household is in an uproar and murder results. Parveen does solve the crime, without much help from the police, but with a lot of help from her father, her friend Alice and about half of the population of Bombay.

The intersection of India's ancient civilization with its many religions and languages and modern western law gives the widows of Malabar hill a richness and death not always seen in contemporary mysteries.

...Reviewed by Anonymous

**Murder in Black Tie - High Society
Lady Detective 4
by Sara Rosett
Type: Cozy - \$13.99**



Top hats and tails. Mink and murder. November, 1923. An invitation to a house party at the estate of Parkview Hall is a welcome respite for Olive Belgrave, a newly minted working girl who's become the solver of high society's trickiest problems.

When the sumptuous black tie event turns deadly, Olive's cousin Peter becomes the main suspect. Olive must unmask a sophisticated killer before an innocent man takes the blame.

Interest in British mysteries and high society ladies with detective skills make reading Murder In Black Tie by Sara Rosett a joy.

This time period is just after WWI that left many people and families deal with war afflictions. An example is Peter Stone, son of the Parkview Hill Family, that is troubled by shell shock. Gwen, Peter's sister, is very protective of her brother during a Parkview Hill house party. Some guests include: Mr. Vincent Payne an antique map dealer; Inspector Longly of Scotland Yard, smitten with Gwen Stone; Captain Thomas Inglebrook, a dashing figure; Deena Lacey, an heiress and owner of Mr. Quigley (a parrot); Olive Belgrave, a high society lady detective; and, Lady Gigi Alton, school chum of Olive and Gwen. The author provides an intriguing plot. The twist and turns begin when Deena asks Olive to accompany her into the conservatory and finds Mr. Payne dead.

As Olive starts to investigate the death, the plot leads her to review a period during the war when Parkview Hill was a hospital. The current death relates to a murder that took place during war time. Mr. Payne is aware of the circumstances. But Mr. Payne is not who he professes to be. He takes on the identity of Vincent Payne, a dead soldier. The current Mr. Payne implicates one of the haughty house party guests in this wartime murder. Inspector Longly, Olive and Gwen are put through their detective paces to solve these deaths.

...Reviewed by Bernie

**Tastes Like Murder - Cookies &
Chance 1
by Catherine Bruns
Type: Cozy - \$11.99**



Sally Muccio returns to her hometown to start a novelty cookie shop whose specialties include fortune cookies, served with a sprinkle of foreshadowing. There's no warning when her ex-husband's mistress drops dead on Sal's porch, and police confirm it's a

homicide. Determined to stop her life from becoming a recipe for disaster, Sal takes matters into her own hands. With two very different men vying for her affection, dead bodies piling up, and a reputation hanging by an apron string, Sal finds herself in a race against time to save both her business and life.

Imagine a story that is a cross between Joanne Fluke's Hannah Swensen cozy mystery series and Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum series, and the result would be this first in the "Cookie and Chance Mystery" series. Bruns writes such an engaging and humorous mystery, featuring Sal Muccio, whose recent divorce from a sleazy and philandering husband has left her a tad nervous to enter the dating scene once again. Add to this opening a new bakery (and yes, the recipes at the end sound so tempting) and an extremely crazy family, not to mention two good looking men vying for her attention, and you can only begin to feel Sal's stresses. How crazy is her family? I especially appreciated Sal's father, whose "research" to find the best funeral and wake options for his own death (not happening anytime soon, by the way) are so hilarious and off the wall that this side plot line adds so much to the story. There is also an older Italian woman who I truly think would give Joe Merrill's grandmother a run for her money.

Yet, despite all of this, Sal's stubbornness and her interest in saving her business and her good name from disaster after her arch-enemy's death propel her and her best friend to do some pretty crazy things. Bruns' use of description during some of these scenes is clearly spot-on, making the reader feel like part of the scene. Sal has flaws, which at times get in the way of good judgment, but it shows a humanness to her character that so many books lack; she has depth, and I can only imagine how this depth will develop over the series.

This is a true winner and a series I eagerly cannot wait to devour. Fortune says "read this book!"

...Reviewed by Jessica