



Hallmark has begun publishing cozy mysteries. To date, there are 5 titles available:

Dead-End Detective - Piper & Porter 1
Out of the Picture - Shepherd Sisters 1
Behind the Frame - Shepherd Sisters 2
Still Life and Death - Shepherd Sister 3
The Game Changer - Parkwood 1

These are available at our shop for purchase.

Tinderbox: Soldier of Indira by Lou Diamond Phillips

Actor Lou Diamond Phillips will sign copies of his new book **Tinderbox: Soldier of Indira** for our customers. It comes out October 20 and is \$24.99. We're offering 15% off plus free shipping and, he will sign/personalize books for our customers.

Phillips (Henry Standing Bear from the "Longmire" book/TV series) has written a young adult science fiction fantasy tale that is described as "Game of Thrones" mixed with the romance of Romeo and Juliet...but in space. Inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's famous fairy tale of the same name, *Soldier of Indira* is perfect for fans of *Dune*, *Aurora Rising*, and *Stardust*.

Description: *Everson didn't want to be a soldier. His parents forced him to serve, as all good Indiran men should. But his first battle against their mortal enemies goes horribly wrong and he winds up stranded on the enemy planet.*

Everson must survive in this new land where everyone is out to get him. Not to mention, the planet Mano is covered in unforgiving desert. And he's the target of

traitors who want to use him in a plot to overthrow their mad king, Xander the Firm, by having him retrieve a piece of mysterious and powerful ancient technology known as the Tinderbox.

Everything changes during a chance encounter with the king's daughter, Allegra. Despite her station, she's in as grave of danger from her own people as Everson is. Though their peoples have been at odds for centuries, an unlikely spark forms between them.

As their worlds come crashing down around them, their forbidden love might be the only chance to end this war forever. Or, it might just be the doom of everyone.

This would make a great Christmas or Birthday Gift for you or someone special to you. Many of our customers have found that Young Adult books are just as entertaining as the "grown-up" books they have been reading.

To obtain a signed copy, please call us at 717-795-7470 or email us at mysterybooks@comcast.net no later than **October 25**.

A Special Shout-Out

A special **Thank You** to our friends and local authors Bill Peschel, Dennis Royer, Robert Walton and staff member Sarah Ickes for their help in pulling off our Virtual Book Event with Craig Johnson and Lou Diamond Phillips. We could not have done it without their help.

We did three practice sessions so everyone who wanted to "tune in" for

the event knew what to expect. Our third practice session, was a "dress rehearsal" with Dennis and Robert playing the parts of Craig Johnson and Lou Diamond Phillips. (We're not sure who was playing whom...) Bill was a perfect Master of Ceremonies. Sarah Ickes did everything from researching using Zoom to making

sure things ran smoothly technically from start to end.

If you want to see our Craig Johnson and Lou Diamond Phillips event, please visit:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efq_4n0baUI&feature=youtu.be

Don't have a computer? Feel free to make an appointment to watch it here at the shop.

Temporary Shop Hours

Wednesday through Saturday 12:30 pm til 3:30 pm - Walk-In Option
3:30 pm til 5:30 pm - By Appointment
1:00 pm til 5:30 pm - Drive By Service

Sunday through Tuesday Closed except for special events

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 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.

Scrambled Authors Puzzle Answers

1. Dorothy L. Sayers
2. Wilkie Collins
3. Ellery Queen
4. Agatha Christie
5. Raymond Chandler
7. Sandra Brown
8. Vicki Delaney
9. John Gilstrap
10. Ellen Crosby

Something Wicked

this way comes... 2020 • Vol 1 • Issue 3



What's Happening At a Glance...

Lou Diamond Phillips

Lou Diamond Phillips a.k.a. Henry Standing Bear of the Netflix show "Longmire" has a new book coming out...and we'll have signed copies! See page 4 for more information on acquiring a signed copy.

Hallmark Books

The Hallmark Channel is now publishing mysteries. See page 4.

Christmas Sale

Our Christmas sale is earlier than usual due to possible mailing delays brought about by the Corona Virus. **Everything in the shop will be 15% off from now through December 31.** This discount cannot be combined with other discounts. We cannot guarantee shipments will arrive before Christmas if they are ordered after November 30.

Latest Pod/Video Cast

Robert Forte is the latest author interviewed for us by Bill Peschel. Find these interviews at:

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

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Temporary Shop Hours

See back page for shop hours.
Thank you.

CASE FILE 120

Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop's Parking Lot Party!

Come Celebrate Over 120 Years of Mystery
30 Years for our Bookshop and 90 Years of Nancy Drew
gives us a lot to celebrate!



120 Years of Mystery!

Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop celebrates 30 years of supplying folks with great mysteries and fun events and 90 years of Nancy Drew mysteries.

Since we want to see lots of you at our celebration, and we can't fit all of you in the shop during this Covid pandemic, we're having a "drive-through" event in our parking lot.

Hours: 1:00 pm til 4:00 pm

Includes: Food provided by The Potato Coop Food Truck
Goody Bags
Bookshop Coupons that you can return to the shop and use

RSVP: Reservations by **October 28th** are a **MUST** to allow for enough refreshments. Everyone with a reservation will receive a coupon for free food at the Potato Coop food truck that will be joining us in our parking lot.

We still request that you wear a mask and if you get out of your car please maintain 6' social distancing.

Please let us know if you will be joining us for the celebration by calling us at 717-795-7470 or email us at mysterybooks@comcast.net.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 717-795-7470 during store hours or by email at mysterybooks@comcast.net.

Newsletter of the
Mechanicsburg Mystery Book Shop
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Book Reviews

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

Kill the Story
by John Luciew
Type: Mystery/Detective - \$15.00



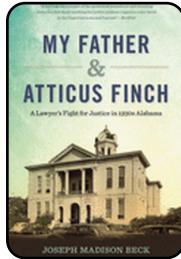
Frank "Telly" Telly has had a tumultuous career as chief political reporter for "The Harrisburg Herald." When he notices that former colleagues are dying in ways that mimic some of the top news stories of 1980, Frank's unique perspective allows him to recognize a pattern that leads him back to the big story of his career that he wrote in that same year. Following the threads of his old story, Frank races to save old friends who are in danger. Distracting him from his mission is the ever present pull of the bottle, a gorgeous former protegee, a major snow storm and the knowledge that he too is a target.

Author John Luciew lends his long experience in the Harrisburg news scene to bring authenticity to this fast-paced thriller.

This book is a "Staff and Customer Pick."

...Reviewed by Jay

My Father & Atticus Finch: A Lawyer's Fight for Justice in 1930s Alabama
by Joseph Madison Beck
Type: Non-fiction - \$21.95



Most of us remember *To Kill a Mockingbird*—the classic by Harper Lee. The story of a white lawyer defending a black man accused of raping a white woman in the 1930's Alabama. Beck writes of his father's similar case. The difference being that Finch's client was a Southern black man who knew he was facing an all-white jury and had little if no way of winning. Beck's client was an arrogant Northern black who thought he might get off.

The younger Beck (the author) tells of his family living in the time when people were still getting over the Civil War and what racial and social relations were like at that time. He bases the story on the trial transcripts and family conversations.

Many feel Harper Lee may have used this real trial as the basis for her novel. You decide.

...Reviewed by Sandy

Magick & Mayhem- Abracadabra 1
by Sharon Pape
Type: Mystery/Detective - \$15.00



What's in a murderer's bag of tricks?

Twenty-something Kailyn Wilde has learned to embrace her unpredictable life as a descendant of small-town New Camel's most magickal family. She just didn't expect to inherit her mother and grandmother's centuries-old shop, Abracadabra, so suddenly. The surprises keep coming when Kailyn goes to finalize the estate at the local attorney's office-and stumbles over the body of her best friend Elise's husband...

As a brash detective casts the blame on Elise, Kailyn summons her deepest powers to find answers and start an investigation of her own. What with running a business, perfecting ancient spells, and keeping up with an uninvited guest of fabled origins, Kailyn has her hands full. But with the help of her uncanny black cat Sashkatu and her muumuu-clad Aunt Tilly, she's closing in on a killer-who will do anything to make sure she never tests her supernatural skills again!

...Reviewed by Jessica

Scrambled Famous Authors Puzzle

1. HYDROOT .L ERASYS _____
2. KELIWI ILSCONL _____
3. RELEYL EQENU _____
4. TAGHAA IECTHRIS _____
5. YODAMRN NCEARDHL _____
6. IDVDA BDCLIACA _____
7. SAADNR NOWRB _____
8. CIVIK NLDAEY _____
9. NOHJ TSRIALGP _____
10. LLEEN BCSOYR _____

Answers on the last page.

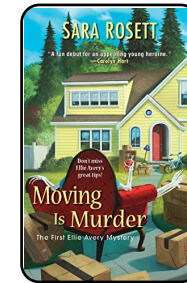
Congratulations...

The 2020 American Fiction Awards, sponsored by American Book Fest have been announced. Congrats to Sheryl C. D. Ickes. Her book *A Murderous Christmas* has been honored as a "Finalist" in the "Mystery/Suspense: Cozy Mysteries" category.

All of her books are available for purchase (and signing) here at our shop.

Book Reviews • continued

Moving is Murder - Ellie Avery 1
by Sara Rosett
Type: Cozy - \$7.99



Moving four times in five years has honed Air Force wife Ellie Avery's packing and unpacking skills. But moving with a newborn daughter and husband Mitch in tow, during a heat wave, is enough to make her turn to chocolate for comfort. And when Ellie finds a local environmentalist dead on the side of the road, her instincts tell her this was no accident.

Ellie snoops into the activist's suspicious demise, only to realize she's getting closer to the killer...maybe too close! This first Ellie Avery mystery launched a series that continues to win readers' hearts. This adventurous read will keep you guessing about which suspect is the killer and why they think that murder is the necessary outcome. The characters and descriptions of the surroundings are so well developed that you feel like you're right there, viewing everything along with Ellie as she experiences what's happening. The killer is revealed in an unexpected action-packed and exciting sequence.

This book also gives interesting insight into the modern life of a military wife. The end of each chapter includes tips and advice on packing and preparing to move from one location to another, an enduring fact of military life.

I'm anxious to read the next book in the series, *Staying Home Is Murder*.

...Reviewed by Marcia

The Escape Room
by Megan Goldin
Type: Thriller - \$16.99



Welcome to the escape room. Your goal is simple. Get out alive. In the lucrative world of finance, Vincent, Jules, Sylvie, and Sam are at the top of their game. They've mastered the art of the deal and celebrate their success in style—but a life of extreme luxury always comes at a cost.

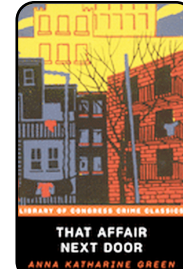
Invited to participate in an escape room challenge as a team-building exercise, the ferociously competitive co-workers crowd into the elevator of a high-rise building, eager to prove themselves. When the lights go off and the doors stay shut, it quickly becomes clear that this is no ordinary competition: they're caught in a dangerous game of survival.

Trapped in the dark, the colleagues must put aside their bitter rivalries and work together to solve cryptic clues to break free. But as the game begins to reveal the team's darkest secrets, they realize there's a price to be paid for the terrible deeds they committed in their ruthless climb up the corporate ladder. As tempers fray, and the clues turn deadly, they must solve one final chilling puzzle: which one of them will kill in order to survive?

This is one of the best books I've read this year. The characters, for the most part, are not likeable. Will they get what they deserve in the end? If you like Ruth Ware's books you'll like *The Escape Room*.

...Reviewed by Deb

That Affair Next Door - Ebenezer Gryce 7
by Anna Katharine Green
Type: Classic Mystery - \$14.99



When a dead woman is found in the temporarily unoccupied house next door, Miss Amelia Butterworth is determined to tell the police everything she knows. Which is that a man and woman entered the house late the night before and the man left alone shortly thereafter. An unacknowledged contest begins then between Miss Butterworth and Detective Gryce to solve the mystery. I don't think I've ever read of a wiler pair of elderly snoops in all of the detective stories I've read.

The egos at play are only part of the entertainment *That Affair Next Door* has to offer. The author, Anna Katharine Green, uses 19th century New York Society to great advantage. The interaction of class, race and gender with all their privileges, prejudices and restrictions are shown in full force. Also, the plot twists and turns like a road-killed snake. Both the victim and manner of death were hard to identify and there were plenty of potential murderers to investigate which made for a complicated book.

This is an excellent book for readers who like to immerse themselves in another time and place. Or, for people who like to work out a puzzle by following all the clues.

"Cleverly plotted mystery...this inaugural volume in the Library of Congress Crime Classics series, featuring the first woman sleuth in a series, is a must for genre buffs."—Publishers Weekly, STARRED review

...Reviewed by Anonymous