

# Something Wicked

this way comes... 2023 • Vol 4 • Issue 3



## Upcoming Events At-A-Glance

Throughout November  
Fall Stock-Up Sales

Sunday, November 5  
Nicole Asselin Vodcast Available

Thursday, November 23  
Closed for Thanksgiving

Friday, November 24  
Black Friday - See Coupon Page 3

Saturday, November 25  
Small Business Saturday

Monday, November 27  
Cyber Monday

Friday, December 1 through  
Saturday, December 24  
Gnome for the Holidays

Sunday, December 3  
Author Showcase "Christmas is  
Afoot" • 2 pm

January 1 through January 16  
Closed for Inventory

We've been a Toys for Tots drop-off location for a number of years. And, this year is no different. Please consider bringing in a toy for this year's campaign. Thank you!



## Small Business Saturday Local Author Sale

This sale is a mix and match of local authors and is valid in-store only. The books will be on a specially designated table. Buy 2 books, get 3rd at **50% off**. Buy 3 books, get the 4th book **FREE**.

**Sale is on November 25 only!**

## Cyber Monday Deal!

For every \$25 purchased on our online shop, receive \$5 to spend on a future order.

Only good online! A \$5 certificate will be mailed with your order.

This deal is valid on 11/27/23

## Gnome for the Holidays



Stop in as we celebrate Christmas! 'Tis the season for jolly reads and delicious cookies. And that means that it's also time for our Annual Countdown to Christmas! Throughout the month of December, we will have sales, games, a new Detective Micron Mystery and more!

More upcoming events inside

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## Baseball Mystery Series Author Nicole Asselin

with Nicole Asselin  
Hosted By: Bill Peschel

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## Author Showcase Event • Christmas is Afoot

Sunday, December 3 • 2:00 pm

### Authors Listed Below

Join us for a fun afternoon of authors and books. Each author will have five minutes to present their book(s) and/or give a short reading from one of their novels. Will they keep you guessing? This will be our last author event of the year.

This is a **FREE** event, however, reservations are required so that we can provide enough chairs, refreshments and books for attendees.



### Nancy Basile...

is an award-winning author and is known for writing characters who feel like friends and places that you want to visit. She dreamed of living on a houseboat, floating up and down the Ohio River, and writing her own mystery books. Well, half of that dream has come true with the "River Sutton Mysteries." (She realized the other half – living on a houseboat – might be uncomfortable and chilly to her middle-aged bones, anyway.) Although she lives in Amish Country, Pennsylvania with her husband and two children, she'll always be a WV girl at heart.



### Kate Belli...

writes the historical "Gilded Gotham Mysteries." Fascinated by history from an early age, she earned a PhD in American art and has variously worked as an antiques appraiser, a museum curator and a college professor. Kate has lived all over, from Florence, Italy, to Brooklyn, New York, to the Deep South, to a cottage next to Monet's gardens in Northern France. Today she lives and works in Central Pennsylvania with her husband and son.



### Leonard Getz

is a CPA and retiree from the Internal Revenue Service. After retiring, he was a writer and researcher for the Middle East Forum. He's published numerous articles for the American Thinker, Daily Wire, Jewish News Syndicate, Philadelphia Bulletin, PJ Media, Jewish Exponent, Lifestyles Magazine, and others. He was a video interviewer for Steven Spielberg's "Survivors of the Shoah Foundation" and is the author of *Innocent Spouse*, a finalist for the Killer Nashville Silver Falchion Award for Best Mystery in 2022.



### Melissa Nordhoff aka Lizzie Qwert...

wrote her first "book" at the age of nine. She punched holes in the hunt-and-peck typed pages, covered them with a laminated hand-illustrated posterboard and bound her book with gold round-headed fasteners. She hugged that homemade book to her chest, so proud of her accomplishment. She didn't complete another book until the age of fifty. It wasn't because she lacked passion. Or ideas, time or motivation. She lacked life experience. But now, both wearied and buoyed by the years, she has the words. She writes the "Rock Narrows Suspense" and the "Ruby Finch" cozy mystery series.



### Katharine Schellman...

is a former actor, one-time political consultant, and current mystery writer. Her books, which reviewers have praised as "worthy of Agatha Christie or Rex Stout" (Library Journal, starred review), have been named a Library Journal Best Crime Fiction of 2022, a Suspense Magazine Best Book of 2020, and a New York Times editor's pick in June 2022. She writes the "Lily Adler" and "Last Call at the Nightingale" mystery series. Katharine lives and writes in the mountains of Virginia in the company of her husband, children, and the many houseplants she keeps accidentally murdering.

### Black Friday Coupon

present this to the cashier for one **FREE** blind book with a purchase of \$10 or more.



This is only good in-store and can be used once per customer.

Valid on 11/24/23.

## Book Reviews

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

### **Six Sweets Under — True Confections 1**

*by Sarah Fox*

**Type: Cozy - Mass Market Paperback - \$8.99**

Fans of Joanne Fluke, Jenn McKinlay, Ellie Alexander, and even Donna Leon (for a much lighter side to murder and mystery), take note. This is a solid first book in the new "True Confections" mystery series. Fair warning – do not read this one on an empty stomach, unless you can battle the urge for desserts.



The whole concept of this cozy mystery is very charming — a small Vermont town that sounds much like Venice (hence the very light connection to Donna Leon's masterful Inspector Brunetti series for those who like darker, more intense mysteries), with a canal system and what sounds like a calming atmosphere.

Well...calming except for murder and a long-ago disappearance. Becca and her best friend Dizzy, the town librarian, make a great pair as they try to clear a loved one's name of the murder and delve into the secrets of the town.

As for those mouthwatering sweets described in the book, you can make some at home thanks to the recipes at the back of the book. I greatly enjoyed the setting, the characters, and the mystery. The storyline follows the typical recipe for a cozy mystery, but I did not guess the murderer's identity, and it was good to see an element of diverse characters in the story.

I cannot wait to see how Fox develops the characters' relationships and the town itself in future series installments. Readers may catch a few nuggets of information throughout the book that may lead to future storylines and relationships. Definitely check out this one!

*Reviewed by Jessica*

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### **Interesting info about fish, insects and bivalve molluscs:**

- In Slovakia, they have Christmas carp that live in the bathtub for a few days before they are eaten.
- Oysters can change from one gender to another (and back again).
  - An ant's sense of smell is stronger than a dog's.

*From WTF Facts*

## 25 Years Ago...Remember the Furbie...

During the Christmas season in 1998, Furbies were the hottest toy on the market, leading some resellers to charge hundreds of dollars for the bug-eyed robot—but when it came to the Furby, the cutthroat resale market was the least of its problems.



Furbies may have arrived under Christmas trees only speaking “Furbish,” but they were programmed to begin to speak more English (or French, or Spanish, etc) as they spent more time with their new “family”. The language used in the instruction manual and marketing tools caused many to believe that the Furbies were listening to what was said around them and repeating it back—which led to some serious paranoia.

The National Security Agency (NSA) soon banned Furbies from its premises in Maryland, under the pretense that some foreign spy could send in a child and its Furby and record confidential conversations and information. Soon after, NASA followed suit.

Over the course of the next few months, Tiger Electronics spent a lot of time assuring Furby owners—and the NSA—that it wasn’t recording anyone, and the agency lifted the ban. We’d love to end the story by saying “And that’s exactly when the Furbies executed their most evil plan yet”...but this was a \$35 piece of technology in the late 90s. Its most sinister function was scaring younger siblings and annoying parents.

*From Factinate*



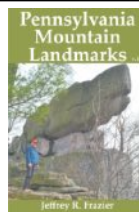
**In 2007, officials in Iran detained a group of squirrels on suspicion of espionage.**

## Book Reviews - continued

### **Pennsylvania Mountain Landmarks - Volume 1**

*by Jeffrey R. Frazier*

*Type: History / Folk Tales - Trade Paperback - \$14.95*



This book includes accounts of the author's explorations of little-traveled byways and remote hilltops in the mountains of Pennsylvania. His descriptions and photos of the unique and unusual places he discovered will appeal to all those who seek adventure and who like to explore odd and mysterious places; places like the Devil's Dining Room, the Indian Steps, the Thousand Steps, Ticklish Rock, Umbrella Rock, and many others that are highlighted in the Pennsylvania Mountain Landmarks series.

Much to his delight, he also found that there are human interest stories and historical accounts that cling to these same spots and which seem as old as the rocks themselves; tales, that are steeped in the spiritual charm of the Native American and imbued with the pioneering spirit of the Pennsylvania wilderness as it existed when the earliest settlers penetrated its dark interior.

Such accounts are the stuff of which legends are made and which add color and mystique to the mountains, forming their very soul.

*Frazier authored a series of "Pennsylvania Fireside Tales" years ago. They are a delightful collection of folk tales, legends, and ghost stories. This new series is a compilation of stories about various, odd, rock formations in our home state.*

*Loaded with photos and directions to most of the sites, he includes the story behind each formation; like how they got names and any legend about them.*

*A wonderful guidebook for anyone who enjoys hiking and our natural wonders.*

*Reviewed by Sandy*

**Planning to attend one (or many) of our bookshop events? Please remember to make reservations by phone, email or internet:**

**717-795-7470**

**mysterybooks@comcast.net**

**www.MysteryBooksOnline.com**

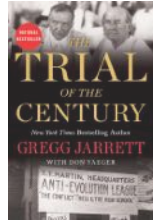
## Book Reviews - continued

### **The Trial of the Century**

by **Gregg Jarrett and Don Yaeger**

**Type: Non-Fiction - Hardcover - \$29.99**

**Note: A 25% discount will be given**



This fast-moving true crime book is about the "Scopes Monkey Trial." Clarence Darrow, one of the greatest lawyers of all time, vs. William Jennings Bryan, a self-proclaimed Bible expert.

Included are short biographies of both Darrow and Bryan along with John Scopes (the defendant) and a few other major characters. It goes on to the trial proceedings with Darrow's famous cross-examination of Bryan. The book explains how the judge influenced the whole trial, including the jury.

Photos of all of the people involved and several of Joe Mendi are included. Joe Mendi was a chimpanzee dressed as a man who was trained to perform as a "human" to attract attention to the trial.

The original movie "Inherit the Wind" had Spencer Tracy as Darrow and Frederic March as Bryan. Dick York portrayed Scopes.

*Reviewed by Sandy*

## Book Review - Something a Little Different

We have so many customers who love cats, that we thought they might enjoy a review of *Cats in the Navy*.

**Cats in the Navy** by **Scot Christenson**

**Type: Non-Fiction - Hardcover - \$15.00**



*Cats in the Navy* delves into the history of sailing cats — from Nile barges in ancient Egypt to World War II battleships. It also includes probably the largest extant published collection of seagoing cat images. “The next time you reflect on naval warfare or the rise and fall of global empires, just remember that behind every great sailor in history was a cat. Probably.” — “HistoryNet”

*I got this book as a gift for a cat-loving friend. She enjoyed it, then returned it for me to read. It's a delightful, short book with lots of photos.*

*It begins with a brief history of cats aboard ships over the ages. Followed by the many roles they performed: companions for the crew, morale boosters, some warned of storms or attacks, but most cut down the mice and rat population. Ending with heart-warming tales of several of the sailors' furry friends, this is a wonderful book for people of all ages. You may develop a new respect for these wonderful critters!*

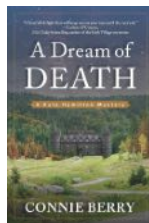


## Book Reviews - continued

### **A Dream of Death - Kate Hamilton 1**

**by Connie Berry**

**Type: Mystery & Detective - Trade Paperback - \$19.99**



On Scotland's Isle of Glenroth, the islanders gather for the Tartan Ball, the annual end-of-tourist-season gala. Spirits are high until an unexpected turn of events takes the floor.

A recently published novel about island history has brought hordes of tourists to the small Hebridean resort community. On the guest list is American antiques dealer Kate Hamilton. Kate returns reluctantly to the island where her husband died, determined to repair her relationship with his sister, proprietor of the island's luxe country house hotel, famous for its connection with Bonnie Prince Charlie.

The next morning a body is found, murdered in a reenactment of an unsolved murder described in the novel — and the only clue to the killer's identity lies in an embellished antique casket. The Scottish police discount the historical connection, but when a much-loved local handyman is arrested, Kate teams up with a vacationing detective inspector from Suffolk, England, to unmask a killer determined to rewrite island history — and Kate's future.

*Besides keeping my interest for the entire book, I was drawn into it right from the start of the first couple of pages. The story moved fairly fast, and I felt I got to know the characters pretty well. There was an element of mystery carried throughout the book (besides the "whodunit" theme) of a historical significance — the mystery of the casket: where it came from, the significance of where Elenor had placed it, and her last words to Kate before hurriedly taking off. I was instantly curious about the attic and the family heirlooms that it held. Kate's mother was an interesting character providing clues to the mystery of some of the items Kate came across. The Historical Society building was also a curiosity. These are just some of the items that held my interest throughout the book. But best of all, even after reading the last chapter, when I was about a third of the way through (I couldn't wait any longer and had to know who the killer really was) I still had the killer misidentified. I loved the twists and the moments of suspense. I found this book absolutely a perfect ten in every aspect.*

*Reviewed by Sherry*

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Just in case you need to know...

A single strand of spaghetti is called a "spaghetto."

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## Book Reviews - continued

### The Five

by *Hallie Rubenhold*

Type: True Crime - Trade Paperback - \$17.99



"Polly, Annie, Elisabeth, Catherine, and Mary Jane are famous for the same thing, though they never met. They came from some of London's wealthiest and poorest neighborhoods, from the factory towns of middle England, and from Wales and Sweden. They wrote ballads, ran coffeehouses, lived on country estates; they breathed ink dust from printing presses and escaped human traffickers.

What they had in common was the year of their murders: 1888. The person responsible was never identified, but the character created by the press to fill that gap has become far more famous than any of these five women.

For more than a century newspapers have been keen to tell us that 'the Ripper' preyed on prostitutes. Not only is this untrue, as historian Hallie Rubenhold has discovered, but it has prevented the real stories of these fascinating women from being told.

Drawing on a wealth of formerly unseen archival material and adding full historical context to the victims' lives, Rubenhold finally sets the record straight, revealing a world not just of Dickens and Queen Victoria, but of poverty, homelessness, and rampant misogyny. They died because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time--but their greatest misfortune was to be born women."--Jacket.

*Many books have been written about the identity of Jack the Ripper. This one is very different. It tells the stories of the five women who are alleged to be his victims.*

*History has been passed down through the years that the Ripper killed prostitutes, but this is not so. The book is divided into five parts. Each part tells the story of one of the women. It includes photos and lists of objects found with their bodies.*

*A great read for Ripper fans or any true crime buff.*

*Reviewed by Sandy*

### Did you know...

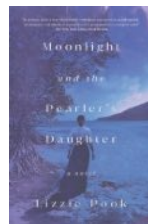
Count Dracula doesn't speak once in the movie "Dracula: Prince of Darkness." Why? Christopher Lee thought the script was so awful that he refused to utter a single line.

## Book Reviews - continued

### **Moonlight and the Pearler's Daughter**

*by Lizzie Pook*

**Type: History / Mystery Detective - \$16.99**



The year is 1896 in Bannin Bay, Australia. The main character, Eliza, had immigrated there with her family ten years prior as a child. Bannin Bay was not a pleasant place to live. Eliza's father amused her by creating mysteries for her to solve.

Eliza's father is a pearler and would be out to sea for weeks at a time. Eliza knew when to expect his return and would excitedly wait for him on the pier. One day his ship returned without him. It is not clear what happened to him because the stories of those on board differ. Balarri, who wasn't even on the ship, is arrested for his murder. Eliza is convinced her father is still alive and that Balarri had nothing to do with his disappearance. She puts her skills at solving mysteries to the test as she searches for him.

With her best friend, Min's help, her early search leads to finding her lost brother who disappeared at the same time as their father. However, his explanation is plausible and Eliza, although disappointed that Thomas knows nothing about their father's disappearance, continues to use the clues to further her search. Min remains her strongest support.

Twists abound in this story. The characters are colorful and entertaining. The author stays focused on the plot. Best of all, the ending took me completely by surprise.

While enjoying the story, the reader learns about the creation of the buttons that adorn much of our clothing and the dangers involved in harvesting the shells. This is a book with both a good story and historical information.

*Reviewed by Sherry*

### **Please Note — Special Holiday Shop Hours**

Wednesday and Thursday	11:00 am til 6:00 pm
Friday	11:00 am til 8:00 pm
Saturday	12:00 pm til 6:00 pm
Sunday through Tuesday	Closed except for special events.

## Book Reviews

### **If She Wakes**

*by Michael Koryta*

**Type: Thriller - Trade Paperback - \$16.99**



Maine's Hammel College senior, Tara Beckley, is on her way to deliver a visiting professor to a conference. However, a terrible car accident kills the professor and leaves Tara in a vegetative state. That's what her doctors think. However, she's actually alert but unable to move a muscle. She can't talk, blink, wiggle a finger or toe nor make any kind of movement that would let them know she's actually fully alert. While lying in the bed, she finds out that some very powerful person wants her dead but she has no idea why. And, she can't do anything to stop them because she's immobilized.

The College hires insurance investigator, Abby Kaplan, to look in to Tara's case. A former stunt driver, Abby returned home after a disaster in Hollywood left an actor dead and her own reputation and nerves totally shattered. Tara's mother and her mother's boyfriend are convinced that Tara will never wake up and are ready to pull the plug. But, her sister Shannon refuses to believe this is the case. So, she starts to research the "locked-in syndrome" to try to help her sister.

Abby can tell that Tara's car crash wasn't an accident. Things spiral out of control when she starts asking questions. It leaves Abby on the run with an odd hitman named Dax Blackwell at her heels.

Between Tara's sister and insurance investigator Abby trying to solve the puzzle, she has hope on her side.

I've read several of Michael Koryta's books and this one doesn't disappoint. The action is fast and there are twists and turns that keep you wondering what the heck is going on.

*..Anonymous*

"There simply must be a corpse in a detective novel,  
and the deader the corpse the better."

S. S. Van Dine

# *Perry Mason Word Search*



ADJUDICATION

ATTORNEY

BATTERY

CORRECTIONS

CORRUPTION

COURTS

CRIME

CRIMINAL

DEFENSE

DELLA STREET

DETECTIVE

FELONY

HAMILTON BURGER

INVESTIGATION

JAIL

JUDGE

MISDEMEANOR

MURDER

PAUL DRAKE

PERRY MASON

PROSECUTOR

SENTENCING

TRIAL

VICE

