



Aliens & Alibis Books

Cat Scratchings

March 18, 2007

Hello!

A belated Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Well, we are still looking for stuff that we took out of the store -- mainly the stuff that I put in a place that I would remember. Guess what -- I don't remember. Sigh. I am certain that all will be found -- eventually. For me, the word "eventually" is a requirement for any comment from me like that -- while putting books away yesterday, I found a small book that I meant to give Gary for Christmas 2005. He and his sister are used to getting Christmas gifts in July or October or whenever I find them.

We are trying something new with the newsletter. I wrote to several email lists and asked authors to send information about their new or forthcoming books. I had a pretty good turnout. We'll include some of those comments in each newsletter. Please let me know how you like it -- or how you don't like it. I want to tailor the newsletter to fit what you need. We also hope to include information on author site contests and anything else that you may not be aware of. Please feel free to let us know if you find something interesting.

Another thing that we've instituted is a 10% discount on new books if they are paid for at the time of the request. When you send me an order for books, we now have a nifty invoice (thanks to my web designer) that I can send you via email. It allows payment on the PayPal site which is an almost painless way to buy things on the Internet. You don't have to have a PayPal account to pay for an item -- just a bank account or a credit card. It's quick for you -- and for us.

For those of you who are following the cats' progress at blending in -- Bertie is still blossoming. He asks for pets most of the time now. He still won't sit in laps but maybe that's OK since he is a big boy. Serena almost has the rest of the cats trained to do her bidding -- there's just this orange cat who can hiss really well. She also wants to know where we were keeping the tuna all those months she was living in the bookstore.

Wyatt Earp and Al Capone

Black Hats: A Novel of Wyatt Earp and Al Capone

by Patrick Culhane

(Morrow, \$24.95)

Publisher's Weekly had this to say about the book:

"The pseudonymous Culhane (aka Max Allen Collins) once again shows himself a master at the historical thriller. In 1920, 70-year-old Wyatt Earp, who's working as a PI in Los Angeles, is hired by "Big Nosed Kate" Elder, the widow of his best friend, Doc Holliday. Kate wants Wyatt to go to New York and help her speakeasy-owning son, John (fathered by Doc as he was dying), who has fallen afoul of a local tough guy, the young Alphonse Capone. In New York, Wyatt teams with another old pal, Morning Telegraph sportswriter Bat Masterson. It's a fabulous setup, and Culhane has all the skills and experience to bring these great characters leaping off the page. The bad guys may have organized gangs and tommy guns, but in the end these whippersnappers are no match for Wyatt's cunning and 10-inch-long-barreled .45. The exigencies of historical fact force Culhane into a tamer ending than some readers might like, but the sheer fun of riding along with the two old lawmen and their memories will run roughshod over any quibbles or complaints. (Apr.)"

I haven't read it yet -- in fact it's not on shelves until March 27. Let us know if you'd like to have us order one for you. Here's a link to more information about Patrick and a list of his other books --

http://www.harpercollins.com/authors/31909/Patrick_Culhane/index.aspx

Harry's Back on April 3

White Knight

by *Jim Butcher*

(Roc, \$23.95)

Jim Butcher's new book has generated great pre-publication reviews.

Professional wizard Harry Dresden is investigating a series of deaths in Chicago. Someone is killing practitioners of magic, those incapable of becoming full-fledged wizards. Shockingly, all the evidence points to Harry's half-brother, Thomas, as the murderer. Determined to clear his sibling's name, Harry uncovers a conspiracy within the White Council of Wizards that threatens not only him, but his nearest and dearest, too...

In case you were waiting for the paperback of the previous book -- **Proven Guilty** -- it's out now. Let us know if we can order either one for you.

Check out Jim's web site -- it has a LOT of information. <http://www.jim-butcher.com/>

Wide Open Spaces

Kindness Goes Unpunished

by *Craig Johnson*

(Viking, \$23.95)

Walt has been the sheriff in Wyoming's Absaroka County for twenty-four years, where his wit and charm have helped him solve many crimes. But that can't prepare him for the savage attack on his daughter, Cady, a Philadelphia lawyer who has unwittingly become embroiled in a political cover-up. As Walt and his best friend, Henry Standing Bear, scour the city for clues, he gets help from his deputy Victoria Moretti and her family of Philly police. But Longmire wasn't born yesterday. He's willing to pull out all the stops to find Cady's attacker and show the big city that this old-timer has a few moves left in his saddlebag of tricks. Those who enjoy Tony Hillerman and James Lee Burke will delight in Johnson's newest Sheriff Longmire adventure.

As many of you know, I lived in Wyoming for a couple of years and it's a treat to go back there in Craig's great series. The reviews for this new entry have been great and it's gone

to a second printing, according to an email I received from Craig. The installment prior to this, **Death Without Company** and the first book, **The Cold Dish**, are now in paperback and are set in Wyoming.

More information about Craig and his books is at <http://www.craigallenjohnson.com/> .

Every Wizard Needs a Wand

Wandmaker Guidebook

by Ed Masessa, Illustrations by Dan Jankowski
(Tangerine Press, \$19.99)

With the new Harry Potter book coming out in July, there is enough time for the kids you know to make their own wands. The book description says: "Become a wandmaker's apprentice. This guidebook covers every aspect of making your own wand, from the type of wood to the powers that you can create with natural elements like sand, herbs, feathers and more. Your personal powers can be placed in the twist off handle. What kind of wand will you make? Kit includes: 24 pp book with pull-out drawer; wooden wand with removable handle; 3 different feathers; 3 vials with different colored sand; vial of multi-colored stones."

The description says it's for ages four through eight but I'll bet there are adults who would enjoy this also.

Jack-the-Ripper?

Unshapely Things

by Marc Del Franco
(Ace, \$7.99)

Since I am a fan of Jack the Ripper books and information (and Lizzie Borden stuff too) I found the following book description very interesting:

In the alleys of the decrepit Boston neighborhood known as the Weird, fairy prostitutes are turning up dead. The crime scenes show signs of residual magic, but the Guild, which polices the fey, has more "important" crimes to investigate and dumps the case on human law enforcement.

Boston police call in Connor Grey, a druid and former hotshot Guild investigator-whose magical abilities were crippled after a run-in with a radical environmentalist elf. As Connor battles red tape and his own shortcomings, he realizes that the murders are not random, but part of an ancient magical ritual. And if Connor can't figure out the killer's M.O., the culmination of the spell might just bring about a worldwide cataclysm.

Check out Marc's website and journal at <http://www.markdelfranco.com/index.html>

For Cat Fans

I'm Just a Cat Mattress

by Susan Sturgill
(Crescent Hill Books, \$14.95)

This is a delightful book for anyone who loves cats. The art, by the author, is wonderful. Once you get into the book you will find the great art on the right-hand side of the page and a quote about cats on the left-hand side. The pages are perforated so that you can remove the illustrations you would like to frame.

Check out her art including the book at: <http://www.susansturgill.com/>

Ragtime

The Ragtime Kid

by Larry Karp

(Poisoned Pen Press, \$24.95)

A few years back, Larry Karp wrote a mystery series that centered around music boxes. I loved that series. In this series he's set his book in 1899 Sedalia, Missouri. He sent me this about the book:

"How did I come to write THE RAGTIME KID? Though no person on earth is less possessed than I of musical abilities, I'm a big-time listener, and I've loved ragtime for many years. When I read the landmark book, THEY ALL PLAYED RAGTIME, by Blesh and Janis, I learned that in August, 1899, a white man named John Stark had given a royalties contract to Scott Joplin to publish *Maple Leaf Rag*, and that struck me as extraordinary. At that time and in that place, a young Black composer could have expected, at best, a small lump-sum payment; at worst, he'd have had his music stolen outright. Yet, everyone the authors had interviewed told a different story as to how Joplin and Stark happened to get together at all, and no one offered an explanation for the royalties contract. Being a writer of mystery novels, I thought this sounded suspicious. Like maybe they were trying to cover something up. Something like a murder?

Then I read about Brun Campbell, a 15-year-old white boy who'd run away to Sedalia to persuade Scott Joplin to give him piano lessons...in the summer of 1899. Brun was clearly an impulsive lad, and I could easily see him stumbling over a corpse, and, without thinking, making off with some valuable items that might have been clues. My story was off and running. By the time I was finished, two years later, the murder solved and the contract signed, I felt as if John Stark, Scott Joplin and Brun Campbell were good friends of mine.

What's next? I'm working on the second book in what I hope will be a ragtime mystery trilogy, centering on notable events in the early history of the form. This story will take place in New York City, in 1916, and should be out in Fall, 2008."

Larry's website is at: www.larrykarp.com

North Carolina Author

Hog Wild

by Cathy Pickens

(St. Martin's Minotaur, \$23.95)

Cathy Pickens, who lives in Charlotte, NC, sent me this information from a press release for her newest book:

"Attorney Avery Andrews has returned to her small hometown in South Carolina, where the biggest news is a pig on the loose. As she has discovered in the past though, this period of relative calm does not last for long.

A native plant rescue is on-going, in which volunteers try to beat the bulldozers about to clear land for a new development. Before the new owner can kick the volunteers off the property, a dead body is found crammed into an abandoned mine hole and the model home and office on the development explode. Add to that one brutal murder and Avery's plate is full.

This is the third in a distinctly charming series that keeps getting stronger and funnier with every book. Pickens's voice is nothing short of delightful as she develops these characters, all the more endearing for their eccentricities. Whether moonpies are a staple of one's diet or not, readers will feel right at home. In the best of ways."

Cathy's website is at: www.cathypickens.com

Giving Advice Can Be Deadly

Deadly Advice

by Roberta Isleib

Roberta sent this when I asked about any new books from her:

"Dear friends,

DEADLY ADVICE (Berkley Prime Crime), the first in my new advice column mystery series, is now available in bookstores and online! Dr. Rebecca Butterman traces the footsteps of a suicidal neighbor into the world of speed-dating and weblogging where no one is who they claim to be.

She's about to find out that when it comes to murder, everyone can use a little help...

Please stop into my website where you can read the first chapter of Deadly Advice, read a sample of Dr. Butterman (AKA Dr. Aster)'s advice, or even submit a question yourself! While you're there, check out my schedule. I have quite a few speaking engagements lined up--hope you'll come by and say hello.

Thanks for reading!

Roberta Isleib

<http://www.robertaisleib.com/>

PS: "Disturbance in the Field," a short story featuring Dr. Butterman and her sidekick detective, has been nominated for an Agatha award.

You can read the story on my website--awards are announced at the annual Malice Domestic mystery convention in May"

More Books

We are continually adding to our used and collectible books that are listed on our web

site. Be sure to check the lists periodically. We're also in the process of re-arranging things on the site so don't be surprised if you find a page or two under construction.

Thanks.
Deb and Gary

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