



Aliens & Alibis Books

Cat Scratchings

May 13, 2007

Hello!

Happy Mother's Day to all the moms out there. And for those of you still looking for a gift for your mom, a book -- or several -- makes a lasting gift.

My job at the library continues to be more fun than work -- but don't tell my supervisors. <grin> Libraries are great for one of my favorite pastimes -- people watching. The Main library is especially good since it gets more traffic. I've met some interesting people and found some great titles. My to-be-read list continues to grow at a rapid pace.

We're in the process of adding more books to the [collectibles list](#) -- Erle Stanley Gardner (Perry Mason and the books written under the name of A. A. Fair), Van Wyck Mason and others. More Gothics will be added when I can get to the box in the attic -- which I hope is soon. I knew I saved those books for some reason. The books should be out there soon -- I'll let you know when it's posted. Meanwhile, check out the current list -- there might be something you've been looking for.

The cats, Serena and Bertram, seem to be well settled. They have discovered that canned food for breakfast is a treat beyond belief -- and Serena is certain that the other cats will share. Right! Breakfast at times is a hissing, spitting affair. As I've said, life is never dull around here.

If you are looking for a deal on books, you might want to check out the list of review books for sale on [Reviewing the Evidence](#). Barbara Franchi and her reviewers have a great site with a wide range of books -- which means that they receive a lot of books. The sale of the reviewed books helps to keep the site going.

A new list of [Killer Books](#) has been posted. For those of you who haven't checked it out, this is a list of mysteries recommended by the IMBA (Independent Mystery Booksellers Association). As the site says: "Every selection is a gem that otherwise might have been lost among the more than 100 mysteries published each month."

SF/Fantasy Awards:

- The [short list](#) for the Sidewise Award for Alternate History has been announced. Given each year since 1995, this award recognizes excellence in alternate history writing. This year's awards are expected to be presented at Tuckercon, the NASFiC in St. Louis. The

Sidewise Awards are named for Murray Leinster's story "**Sidewise in Time.**"

- M. John Harrison won the [Arthur C. Clarke award](#)
- Ray Bradbury has been awarded a [Pulitzer citation](#).
- Winners of this year's [Ursa Major Awards](#) for anthropomorphic/"funny animal" literature and art in 2006 include motion picture *Over the Hedge*, Kyell Gold's novel **Pendant of Fortune**, and selections in eight other categories. **His Majesty's Dragon** by Naomi Novik, which some of you bought before the store closed, was a finalist for best novel.

A Southern mystery to savour.....

Sanctuary Hill

by Kathryn Wall

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

The Bay Tanner series from Kathy Wall has a new addition. The series is set in the Hilton Head area and the author knows it well since she lives there. Check out her [web site](#).

Publisher's Weekly has this to say about the book: "When brassy South Carolina PI Bay Tanner uncovers the corpse of a newborn baby in her winning seventh outing after 2006's **Bishop's Reach**, (*St. Martin's*, \$23.95), her brother-in-law, who happens to be a cop, tells her in no uncertain terms to stay out of it. But Bay is convinced that the strange charm the baby girl wore around her neck is the key to determining her identity, and the identity of her parents (who may be the baby's murderers). Meanwhile, a local real estate developer has hired Bay to find his wife. When the lovely blonde turns up dead, Bay must decide whether to help clear her client of suspicion. She believes he's innocent, but his drunkenly shacking up with another woman before his wife's body is cold doesn't help his case. If that's not enough, Bay's personal life heats up, as two men bid for her attentions. Wall once again delivers credible characters, a gripping plot and pitch-perfect local color."

Kathy, in addition to being a good writer, is also a great supporter of Aliens & Alibis Books which we definitely appreciate. I am trying to figure out a way to get her here to Columbia for a signing. If anyone has a suggestion about where we might do a signing, please let me know.

Watch what you eat.....

Destroying Angels

by Gail Lukasik

(Five Star, \$25.95)

I received the following from Gail. I recommend the book highly.

I saw your posting on Dorothy L. and I'd like to tell you about my debut mystery, **Destroying Angels**, which was published by Five Star/an imprint of Thomson Gale in 2006. KIRKUS REVIEWS called **Destroying Angels** "a riveting debut thriller."

Destroying Angels

An amateur naturalist dies of mushroom poisoning, a day later the Egg Harbor librarian kills herself, then the buried bones of an infant are discovered. Chicago native Leigh Girard is finding life in a small town can be fatal. Determined to start a new life after breast cancer turns her world upside down, Leigh leaves Chicago and flees to Wisconsin's Door County peninsula, where she takes a job as a reporter for the local newspaper. Her first assignment, the naturalist's

obituary, turns into a hunt for a murderer.

Thanks,

Gail Lukasik

[Gail Lukasik's home page](#)

Telemarketing can be hazardous....

Calling for a Funeral

by Christine T. Jorgensen
(Five Star, \$25.95)

After Dave, her fiance, dies, Francie Starzel leaves Chicago for a new job in Denver -- along with Dave's son, Mac. After Dave died, she found out that she was named as Mac's guardian in spite of the fact that she knows nothing about being a mother.

Her new position is a financial analyst with TechLaw, a company that Helene, her college roommate, owns. After several months in the position, Helene fires Francie over what she terms 'discrepancies' in a report. In order to make ends meet, Francie takes a job as a telemarketer selling funerals.

Francie decides that she is going to find out why Helene fired her but, before she can make a start, she discovers a dead body in her car trunk. The police are called -- including Detective Dominic Wolfe who sees Francie as the primary suspect.

I've read many mysteries where I have been required to suspend belief about why the main character should be investigating the murder -- but not in this case. Francie's investigation makes sense all the way through. The characters are well drawn and the humor is just right. Francie's concerns about being a good mother to Mac are valid and ring true. In fact, this is a good book for Mother's Day for mothers who like cozies with a little edge.

I've searched for a web page for Christine but haven't found one. If anyone knows where I might find it, please let me know -- and I'll share it with the list in the next newsletter.

Noir mystery.....

The Blue Cheer

by Ed Lynskey
(Point Blank/Wildside Press, \$12.95)

[I received this from Ed:](#)

P.I. Frank Johnson has moved to Scarab, West Virginia, drawn by the promise of lazy days and the lure of its tranquil mountains.

What he finds instead is a Stinger rocket exploding over his back yard. His ensuing investigation uncovers a cult called the Blue Cheer, a racist group with ugly terrorist plans. As events heat up, blood starts to spill, and for Frank it all gets real personal real quick. With the help of his bounty hunter pal, he sets out to bring the Blue Cheer to justice - any way he can.

"Lynskey has a sure hand . . . top-of-the-line hard-boiled fare." -- **Booklist** (Starred review)

"Gritty contemporary detective novel . . . will remind many of such masters of hard-boiled prose as Loren Estleman . . .first-rate writing." -- **Publishers Weekly**

Legal mystery series.....

Heir Apparent

by Twist Phelan

(Poisoned Pen Press, \$14.95)

I really like legal mystery series and Twist Phelan has a good one. She sent me this:

In May, the second edition of **Heir Apparent** -- the title that launched Twist Phelan's critically-acclaimed Pinnacle Peak legal mystery series -- will be released by Poisoned Pen Press.

Joe McGuinness, lawyer and team roper, has landed a job with one of Pinnacle Peak's top firms. But then his boss is killed, putting Joe's legal career in jeopardy. Soon much more is at stake when two more bodies turn up, and Joe must untangle a web of secrets to find out who is hiding killer ambition.

In September, look for **False Fortune** (Poisoned Pen Press, no price yet), the fourth book in the series. Attorney/kayaker Hannah Dain is in deep water. The chance rescue of a drowning woman leads to Hannah's appointment as lead trial counsel in her sister Shelby's case. Then a new friend pulls her into a treasure hunt-or is it fraud?-while a recently-discovered family member threatens Hannah's relationship with Shelby. Only by taking a gutsy chance can Hannah unravel the scheme and unite both halves of her family.

Find out more about Twist and her books at www.twistphelan.com

Senior citizen sleuthing....

Thistle and Twigg

by Mary Saums

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

I enjoyed Mary Saums' earlier Willi Taft series. Here's the information that she sent me on her new series

"Mary Saums has a new novel out from St. Martin's Minotaur. THISTLE & TWIGG, the first in a new series, is a cozy mystery that features two ladies in their sixties, one British and one Southern. Jane Thistle and Phoebe Twigg join forces to save a privately-owned uncut forest, one full of natural and historical wonders, by taking on paramilitary bad guys. It's set at the edge of

Bankhead National Forest in northwest Alabama.

Some comments on the series:

"**Thistle and Twigg**, the most entertaining and innovative series debut in many years, brims with intelligence, humor and insightfulness. Sheer delight." ~Carolyn Hart

"Saums ably weaves humor, suspense and a dash of the supernatural in this winning twist on the Southern cozy." ~Publishers Weekly

"**Thistle and Twigg** mixes mystery, fantasy and fairy dust into a delightful concoction." ~ Cozy Library"

Who's on first, what's on second.....

Glitter of Diamonds

by N. J. Lindquist

(MurderWillOut Mysteries, \$24.95)

[This is from N. J. Lindquist:](#)

This is the second in the Manziuk and Ryan Mystery series (*First was **Shaded Light**, MurderWillOut Mysteries, \$12.95*)

After Stasey Simon, an outspoken sports talk-show host, asks on-air for a volunteer to knock some sense into the home team's temperamental new pitcher, Manziuk and Ryan hustle to catch a murderer swinging a lethal bat before the case escalates into an international incident.

While keeping the characters and plot in the forefront, Lindquist also manages to explore the intricate, almost symbiotic relationships between the management, players, fans, and media that make Major League Baseball a vital part of the North American culture.

As the crime threatens to escalate into an international incident, Manziuk draws on his own knowledge of baseball while his partner, Jacquie Ryan, tries to understand a game she's never watched.

You can read chapter 1 at <http://www.murderwillout.com>

This and That:

Here are some snippets about new books from their authors:

- From [Charlaine Harris](#) on **All Together Dead** (Ace, \$24.95) which came out May 1: "It's the seventh Sookie Stackhouse novel. Sookie, my telepathic barmaid, travels to Rhodes (which greatly resembles Chicago) as part of the entourage of the Queen of Louisiana, and while assisting at the vampire conference she witnesses an on-stage murder. There are romantic complications and the threat of danger from any number of sources. This

seventh novel is (I hope) full of humor and horror like the rest of the series."

- [Lonnie Cruse](#) has this to say about her new book: "The fourth in my Metropolis Mystery Series, **Malice in Metropolis** (*NaDaC Publishing, \$12.95*), featuring Sheriff Joe Dalton, has just been released. In this, the fourth in the series, Dalton is being chased by the bad guys rather than the other way around. He dodges bullets and bombs while trying to stay alive and find the killer."
- Marilyn Victor & Michael Allan Mallory have a new book coming out the end of May: "**Death Roll** (*Five Star, \$25.95*) is a traditional mystery featuring zoologist [Snake Jones](#) and her husband, Jeff. Set against the backdrop of a big city zoo, Snake hacks her way through the shadowy underworld of illegal animal trading to uncover a snake pit of sordid deeds, secret pasts, and corruption to save the life of a friend."
- [Dorothy Francis](#) shared the following comment about her new book from reviewer Robin Lee: ""Keely Moreno's change from an abuse victim to a self-determined woman makes her an appealing character. Her unusual profession and the humor of her interactions with her clients make her a fascinating one. **Cold Case Killer** (*Five Star, \$25.95*) takes you on a romantic trip to a sunny and hot resort city while its taut mystery makes you shiver. An excellent read all mystery buffs will enjoy."
- [Kate Pepper](#) sent me the following; "International bestselling author's new thriller **Here She Lies** (Onyx, \$7.00) tells the chilling story of twins Annie and Julie as their lives become entangled with identity theft and murder. When Annie is arrested for grand larceny and then murder, and then Julie vanishes along with Annie's baby daughter, Annie must fight for what is rightfully hers. But the police do not believe she is who she claims to be. "
- [Evelyn David](#) writes: "A low-key detective with a new business, no car, and a big dog searches for missing insurance money and stumbles over murder. While the body count rises, so does the heat between him and a newly-divorced cosmetologist for the recently departed. **Murder Off the Books** (*Echelon Press, \$12.99*) is fast, funny, and furry."
By the way, the big dog that the author mentions is an Irish Wolfhound -- I've always wanted one of those.

Reminder on Purchasing Books

Go to <http://www.aliensandalibis.com/newsletter.htm> to order any of the books in this newsletter. If you want to order books from prior newsletters, they are available under NEW BOOKS on the Inventory page.

You can use PayPal to pay for the order. PayPal is fast and safe -- all you need is a credit card or a checking account. You don't even have to create a PayPal membership.

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Deb and Gary

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