



BOOKSELLERS

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Hours

Monday through Friday
10:30 am - 5:30 pm

Wednesday evenings to 8 pm

Saturday:

10:30 am - 6 pm



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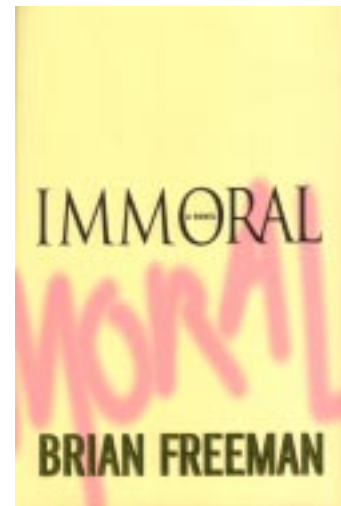
Hot debut novelist Brian Freeman visits Saturday, October 1 at 2 pm!

First novelist Brian Freeman visits to talk about and sign copies of *Immoral* (St. Martin's, \$22.95), one of this season's hottest new titles. This is a high-octane suspense novel about the investigation into the disappearance of a teenage girl in Duluth, Minnesota, similar in some ways to another disappearance two years earlier. Jaci and I have both read this already — neither of us could put it down.

The book is based on an actual incident, as St. Martin's Press explains in its cover letter:

In 1992, a five-year-old girl named Corinne Erstad vanished from her home in the quiet suburb of Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota. She was never seen again. Police and prosecutors ultimately brought murder charges against a family friend, but without a body to prove what had really happened, they were unable to win a guilty verdict. The accused killer left the state, a free man.

"This was a mystery without an ending and a crime without justice," says Minnesota novelist Brian Freeman. But the unusual circumstances of a murder trial without a body lingered in Freeman's mind for several years. "I wondered, what if the missing victim was not a child, but a beautiful, sexually aware teenager?" And what if the mystery of her disappearance went far deeper than anyone imagined?"



Freeman's publisher has high hopes for this book. Their expectations are clear from the folks it lined up for blurbs: Ken Bruen, Jeffery Deaver and Michael Connelly. The latter writes: "Who is Brian Freeman? This guy can tell a story. *Immoral* is a page-turner of the highest caliber. It has enough twists and turns to keep you guessing until the end." We agree that this is a well-crafted, crowd-pleasing thriller in the bestseller-fiction tradition. It's a perfect beach book, and if his publisher handles him right, Freeman will make his mark on the bestseller lists alongside many of the writers you're already reading today.

We are delighted to be able to introduce you to *Immoral* and to Brian Freeman at the start of what promises to be a great career.

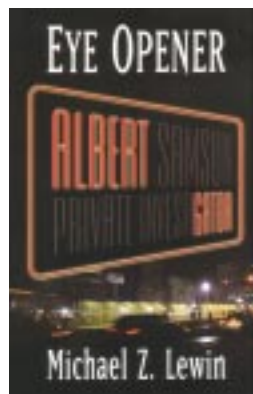
Note: *Immoral* has already gone into a second printing. We have a limited supply of first editions. If you want to be sure to get a signed first, please call to reserve now.

Special note: we have a signed Brian Freeman/*Immoral* t-shirt that we'll be raffling off on Saturday. All proceeds will go to the Red Cross for hurricane relief.

Author's website: www.bfreemanbooks.com

Saturday, October 8, 3 pm: Masters discussion

Our sixth Masters of Mystery discussion: Michael Koryta on *The Long Goodbye* by Raymond Chandler, in which Philip Marlowe's friendship with an alcoholic Englishman leads to danger when his friend becomes a suspect in his wife's murder. Michael Koryta's first novel, *Tonight I Said Goodbye*, won the Private Eye Writers of America/St. Martin's Press first novel contest and has also just won the Great Lakes Book Award.



Thursday, Oct. 20, noon: Discussion

Discussion: *Fade Away* by Harlan Coben.

Monday, October 24, 7 pm: Michael Lewin

Michael Z. Lewin visits to talk about and sign copies of *Eye Opener* (Five Star, \$25.95), the long-awaited new novel in the Albert Samson private eye series, set here in Indianapolis.

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OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Join the company!

Mystery Company membership comes with many perks:

- A discount on your purchases that begins at 6% and goes up to 10% for the rest of the year after you spend \$300. Once you reach \$300, your next year's membership is free and your discount remains at 10%.
- While Company memberships are in an individual's name, each member of your immediate family can take advantage of the program. We keep track of memberships here on our computer — no card for you to carry around.
- We take used books only from Company members.
- We mail this store newsletter to Company members without charge.
- We keep track of Company member purchases on our computer, and will use this information to let you know when new books by your favorites arrive in the store.

The annual membership charge is just \$6.00. A new membership is free with a single purchase of \$100 or more.

Author events

We plan every author event to include time for our guests to introduce themselves and their work, for you to ask questions and, of course, for you to buy books and have them signed. While we may change format for special events, remember that our events are intended to be more than just plain signings. Feel free to attend programs even if you're not planning to buy a book. You'll enjoy hearing what our guests have to say.

Friends & Neighbors

Company Members can get an early look at forthcoming books through our Friends & Neighbors program. We offer a selection of advance reading copies of new mysteries. You may borrow one ARC at a time without charge. All we ask is that you return the ARC with your comments about the book — a sentence, a paragraph (positive or negative) — and that you allow us to use your comments in the store, on our website and in our newsletter. Express your opinions, find out what your friends and neighbors are recommending!

E-mail newsletter

In addition to this paper newsletter, we send out newsy (and sometimes opinionated) email updates. The email and this paper newsletter share some content, but they're not identical. We hope that you'll choose to get both.

Sign up using the form on our website at: www.themysterycompany.com or by sending an email to news@themysterycompany.com

Our privacy policy for your email address and other information that we have about you is strict: we will never sell this information to others, and we will use it only to keep you informed about events and new titles.

Discussion groups

We host two regular monthly discussion groups for mystery lovers, plus a third monthly "Masters of Mystery" discussion.

Our regular groups normally meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 pm and the fourth Thursday of the month at noon. More often than not, these two groups read the same book. The daytime group often orders sandwiches or pizza for lunch; call for details.

The Masters discussions are scheduled for the second Saturday of each month at 3 pm. For this series, we're asking published mystery writers to come in and lead discussions on a classic mystery that is important to them and influenced their work. Each author chooses his or her own classic.

This fall, we are planning to launch a multi-age discussion group, bringing together readers of all ages to talk about a book published for kids but that is suitable for all. Watch for details, and let us know if you're interested.

Whatever we're reading, we always have fun. Discussions are informal, engaging and entertaining. We always welcome newcomers and we hope you'll join us.

Special orders

We are also an independent bookshop with access to tens of thousands of books and movies in all categories. We are happy to try to special order **anything** for you. In most cases, your Company discount will apply to special orders too.

How we handle used books

Special note: we are not taking used books at this time — see the box on the back page of this newsletter for more information. The policies described below will go back into effect in November.

We accept used books only from Mystery Company members, who are welcome to drop off one bag or box of used paperbacks or hardcovers at any time. If you have more than one bag or box of books, please call ahead.

We price books individually. Our pricing is based on the book's condition, how common it is and how desirable it is. We offer more for hard-to-find books in excellent condition that many readers are looking for. We will turn down anything that's excessively worn, that we already have in multiple copies or that we deem unsellable.

Generally, we sell used paperbacks at about half of the original cover price — but this varies a lot. Once we determine our selling price, we offer you 40% of it in store credit. You can use the credit to buy anything in the store — new or used.

Because we price books one at a time (and because only Jim does the pricing), we normally can't make you an offer right away. After you drop off your books, we'll get to them within a few days to let you know whether we can take them and how much we can offer for them. You'll then be able to use your credit on your next visit.

More in-store events

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 7 pm: Discussion group

Discussion: *Fade Away* by Harlan Coben.

Tuesday, November 1, 7 pm: Nero Blanc

Crosswords and chocolate with Steve Zettler and Cordelia Frances Biddle, the husband and wife team who write crossword mysteries under the pen name Nero Blanc. The new title is *A Crossworder's Delight* (Berkley, \$10.95).

Saturday, November 5, 2 pm: Jeff Stone

Jeff Stone visits to talk about and sign copies of *Monkey*, second in his Five Ancestors series (following *Tiger*). Series website: www.fiveancestors.com

Saturday, Nov. 12, 3 pm: Masters discussion

Our seventh Masters of Mystery discussion: **Sara Hoskinson Frommer** on *The Nine Tailors* by Dorothy Sayers, a 1934 Lord Peter Wimsey novel about bell-ringing in an East Anglia village. Sara Hoskinson Frommer is the author of the Joan Spencer series, a series filled with music and set in an Indiana college town. Frommer's new novel, *Death Climbs a Tree*, was just published last month.

Thursday, Nov. 17, noon: Discussion group

Discussion: *O' Artful Death* by Sarah Stewart Taylor.

Saturday, Nov. 19, 2 - 4 pm: Holiday party

Our third annual Holiday Party will feature many members of this state's writing community. This year, in addition to the reception, we'll be doing some kind of short program to give you more of an opportunity to get to know our guests. We'll have details in our next newsletter.

Tuesday, Nov. 22, 7 pm: Discussion group

Discussion: *O' Artful Death* by Sarah Stewart Taylor.

Events in the area

October 22: Pike Library mystery festival

On Saturday, October 22, I'll be taking part in the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library — Pike Branch mystery program, 10:30 am - 2:30 pm. Speakers will include **Terence Faherty**, **Sara Frommer**, **Dick Cady** and **Jeanne Dams**. We'll be on hand to sell copies of each writer's books. I'll also begin the proceedings with a round of the **100 Favorites Challenge**, a gameshow that I've put together based on the Independent Mystery Booksellers Association list. You are invited (encouraged!) to play the game. The program is free and includes lunch. Registration is required. For more information, call the Pike Branch at 275-4480

October 27: Carmel Clay Library Foundation Guild luncheon

The Guild of the Carmel Clay Public Library Foundation presents its first annual book and author luncheon. The featured guest is **Anita Diamant**, author of *The Red Tent* and *The Last Days of*

Dogtown. **Lori Borgman**, **Terence Faherty** and **Jeff Stone** are the other guests. Book sales and signings begin at 10 am. Lunch is at 11:15, and the program is at noon. This event, a fundraiser benefiting our library, will take place at the Ritz Charles. Individual tickets are \$60 and corporate tables are \$1,000. For information and reservations, call the foundation at 814-3905.

October 28-30: Magna Cum Murder

Magna Cum Murder, my favorite mystery conference, returns to Muncie for its twelfth year, Friday, October 28 through Sunday, October 30.

Guest of honor this year is **Harlan Coben**, author of the Myron Bolitar series and, most recently, of the bestselling suspense novel, *The Innocent*. Other featured guests include **Shelly Reuben**, an arson investigator and mystery novelist, and **Thomas Lynch**, author of *The Undertaking*. Over 45 writers will attend this year.

In addition to selling books at the meeting, for the last few years I've been serving as the program director. This year, in addition to the usual panels and discussion, I've decided to adopt a "One Conference, One Book" program and to build sessions around this theme: "in order to secure its future, this genre needs to reconnect with its past." Agree? Disagree? Let's talk.



I'm asking everyone coming to Magna to read Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* before you arrive. We'll be doing panels and discussion based on this book, and screening of one of the film adaptations. We'll use this book as an example throughout the weekend, to talk about some things that we normally can't, such as the book's ending.

Don't have a copy of the book on your shelves already? We have the St. Martin's Press paperback edition in stock now (\$6.99). Order by phone at 800-643-6737 or 705-9711 or on our website at www.themysterycompany.com. Shipping is free!

We'll also have a few other sessions devoted to the genre's past. I'm especially looking forward to an interview with Tom & Enid Schantz about their work on the Rue Morgue Press, a line of books that I really like, and that I've carried here in the store since day one in its own special section — the only publishing company other than my own to get a dedicated display here.

For more information, call 765-285-8975 or visit www.magnacummurder.com. You can register for the whole weekend or just Saturday; either way, you must register by October 11.

It's a great weekend. I haven't missed a single one. I highly recommend it.

New and noteworthy

Trace Evidence by *Elizabeth Becka*

Hardcover, \$22.95

As a fan of Kathy Reichs and the early Patricia Cornwall books, a regular CSI-viewer, and an attorney married to a pathologist, I have a fairly high threshold when it comes to forensic mysteries. Elizabeth Becka has met and exceeded my expectations. This book is a must-read for anyone who loves this subgenre.

Evelyn James works for the Cleveland Medical Examiner's Office as a forensic specialist. Someone has killed a young woman by dumping her bound body, feet in cement, into one of the many



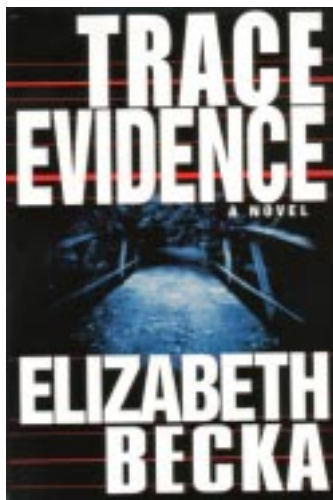
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**A full fall calendar
of in-store and
area events for
book lovers!**

bodies of water in and around the Cleveland metro area. The grisly crime scene attracts the attention of the mayor, a man that Evelyn once had a relationship with in college. The crime with its mob connotations of “sleeping with the fishes” threatens to subvert Evelyn’s usual professional calm. When the next murder occurs, the victim is the mayor’s daughter. Homicide detective David Milaski, has a lot riding on this case and doesn’t want Evelyn’s past relationship to the mayor to screw up what he perceives as his last chance to prove himself as a police officer. To complicate the whole situation, Milaski is attracted to Evelyn – and she to him.



In the hands of a lesser writer, all these disparate threads might have turned out as just another mediocre melodrama, but Becka is not a lesser writer. She handles the multiple plot threads like a seasoned author and weaves one hell of a great read. The clues are all there and she plays fair. The characters are three-dimensional and their emotions ring true. The ending is wholly satisfying and sets up even more stories with Evelyn and the gang. I can’t wait.

— *Moni*

Tough times? How we help

1. Free Shipping

In light of high gas prices, you may be planning your outings more carefully. If you can’t make it in to the store, don’t forget that we do not charge for shipping on any new book order sent to a US address — even if all you need is one paperback. We ship lots of books locally; don’t feel guilty or unusual for asking for a shipment even just a few miles away!

2. Book donations for Katrina

Booksellers talk about this as a sign of tough times: sales have been soft over the past few weeks, and at the same time, you’ve brought in lots and lots of used books to trade in. We need to work through what’s already been dropped off, and we need to see more books sold out of our used section (the three red cases in the back of the store), before we can take more trade-ins. We will take used books for donation to literacy organizations in the areas affected by Katrina. Bring in books now through October 31, and we’ll take care of boxing them up and sending them south. To encourage donations, we’ll give you a coupon for \$5 in used books from our shelves that you can use on the day you drop off five or more used books for donation.