



## BOOKSELLERS

1323 S. Rangeline Rd  
(in the Carmel Walk plaza)  
Carmel, IN 46032

317-705-9711

tollfree: 800-643-6737

fax: 317-705-1402

staff@themysterycompany.com

www.themysterycompany.com

### Hours

Monday through Friday

10:30 am - 5:30 pm

Wednesday evenings to 8 pm

Saturday:

10:30 am - 6 pm



s e n s e™

Independent Bookstores

for Independent Minds

**Free shipping on any  
new-book order to any  
address in the US!**

## Brandt Dodson, a new Hoosier mystery writer, visits Saturday, March 25!

Brandt Dodson's first novel is *Original Sin* (\$10.99). It's the first in a series featuring former FBI agent Colton Parker, set right here in Indianapolis and Carmel. The publisher, Harvest House, is a major Christian publisher, and they've already announced that the second book in the series will be published in August.

Brandt Dodson will visit on Saturday, March 25 at 2:30 pm to talk about and sign copies of *Original Sin*. Here's what Dodson himself has to say about his work:

"I am a big fan of Chandler and Hammett. They set the tone for the PI novel. Robert Parker carried on the tradition, but others such as Spillane, MacDonald et al, have left their mark as well. But the story was inspired by my own life. I have not made the best decisions in life. For instance, like a lot of men, I have sometimes forgotten that there is more to life than work. The novels in this series are written for an audience that is primarily made up of men. Now, some of my first readers are women and they like them too. I'm attempting to help them see a little bit of themselves in Colton, and learn to acknowledge God as the only source of true strength."

Brandt Dodson was born and raised in Indianapolis and comes from a line of police officers spanning several generations. A writer and a board-certified podiatrist specializing in peripheral nerve surgery, Dodson, his wife and their two sons live in Newburgh, Indiana, where he serves as an elder at the First Christian Church.

We hope you'll join us in celebrating the publication of Dodson's first novel, and in welcoming a new Hoosier mystery writer who adds a different perspective to our state's writing community.

### Tuesday, April 4, 7 pm: Susan Wittig Albert

We're delighted to welcome Susan Wittig Albert back to The Mystery Company on Tuesday, April 4 at 7 pm. It's the first stop on her Midwest tour for her new China Bayles

*continued on Page 3*

## Calendar

### Saturday, March 25

**Speed City Indiana Chapter - Sisters in Crime Meeting.** Business meeting at 11:30; speaker's presentation begins at noon. All are invited, even if you're not a SinC member. This month's speakers, Rick Shaffer and Brad Steven, are experts on the Indianapolis 500 and the Speedway.

### Saturday, March 25, 2:30 pm

**Brandt Dodson** visits to talk about his first novel, *Original Sin*

### Wednesday, March 29, 7 pm

Discussion: *A Scandal in Belgravia* by Robert Barnard

### Thursday, March 30, noon

Discussion: *A Scandal in Belgravia* by Robert Barnard

### Tuesday, April 4, 7 pm

**Susan Wittig Albert** visits to talk about her new China Bayles novel.

### Saturday, April 8, 2 pm

**Robert Snow** visits to talk about *Looking for Carroll Beckwith*.

### Wednesday, April 26, 7 pm

Discussion: *Shakespeare's Landlord* by Charlene Harris

### Thursday, April 27, noon

Discussion: *Shakespeare's Landlord* by Charlene Harris

# 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.

We've just launched a new feature in our e-mail newsletter: lists of new arrivals in the store. We highlight selected new titles, with brief descriptions including series information.

Sign up using the form on our website at: [www.themysterycompany.com](http://www.themysterycompany.com) or by sending an email to [news@themysterycompany.com](mailto: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. Our 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.

We are still 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. Let us know if you're interested. And our Masters of Mystery discussion series will return later this year.

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

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.

## Free shipping

There's never a charge for standard shipping for any new book order that you place directly with us, by phone, in an email or over our website. We ship plenty of orders locally, to Indiana addresses. Even if you can't make it in to the store, we make it easy for you to buy books from us.

## Susan Wittig Albert, continued from p. 1

novel, *Bleeding Hearts* (Berkley, \$23.95), and the event is scheduled for the book's official on-sale date. Here's Publishers Weekly's review:

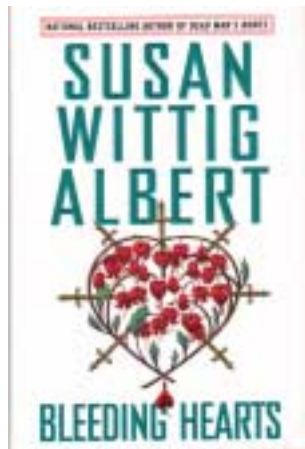
"In Albert's engrossing 15th mystery to star China Bayles, herbalist, erstwhile lawyer and occasional gumshoe (after 2005's *Dead Man's Bones*), everyone in China's charming hometown of Pecan Springs, Tex., is stunned when the high school football coach, Tim Duffy, is murdered. The good coach, it turns out, had a nasty habit of getting sexually involved with teenage girls, and that criminal predilection led to his death. One of Duffy's victims had died recently, too, supposedly a suicide. Her case is reopened after the coach's predatory ways are discovered. Meanwhile, China stumbles onto a packet of letters written by her father years before, letters that reveal more about his past than she really wants to know. Albert's characterization is strong—China delights as ever, as does her wacky friend, Ruby Wilcox. Descriptions of delectable dishes (recipes included, of course) and tips about herbs add to the fun."

Susan's had a busy year since her last visit here. In addition to *Bleeding Hearts*, there's also the paperback edition of the previous China Bayles novel, *Dead Man's Bones* (Berkley, \$6.99). In her series featuring Beatrix Potter, there's a new paperback edition of book #1, *The Tale of Hill Top Farm* (Berkley, \$6.99) and the hardcover of book #1, *The Tale of Holly How* (Berkley, \$23.95). And, finally, in Kate and Charles Sheridan series, which Susan co-authors with her husband under the pseudonym Robin Paige, there's a new paperback, *Death at Blenheim Palace* (Berkley, \$6.99) and the new hardcover, *Death on the Lizard* (Berkley, \$24.95); both these new Robin Paige titles just arrived last month.

## Saturday, April 8, 2 pm: Robert L. Snow

Another return visit, this one with Robert L. Snow, and Indianapolis police commander who'll talk about a different aspect of his life, that described in *Looking for Carroll Beckwith: The True Story of a Detective's Search for His Past Life* (\$24.95). Here's Publisher's Weekly's review:

"This tale is improbable in more ways than one: Indianapolis police homicide commander Snow offers a dryly nonplused account of his discovery of his 'past life' as 19th-century portrait painter Carroll Beckwith. Snow participated in (and taped) a therapeutic 'recovered memory' session as a lark, and, once hypnotized, was jolted by a series of clear images and recollections that seemed even then strangely plausible, despite his cop's hard-nosed, empirical perspective. Later, when he walked into a New Orleans gallery at random and confronted a painting that had appeared to him in his vision, he determined to put his detective's investigative skills to work and research congruencies between his 'memories' and the artist's life. Surprisingly, the evidence that he painstakingly assembled through retrieving Beckwith's journals and work from obscurity seemed fully to confirm that Snow's 'recollections' were authentic. Snow relates all this ruefully, hardly eager to be perceived as 'New Age.' His crisp, unpretentious prose and de-



scriptive skill go a long way in convincing one to follow his unorthodox journey. His researched account of Beckwith's lost life is impressive: Snow is remarkably sensitive to aesthetic concerns and has unearthed the compelling tale of an artist who was forced to rely on portraiture for support, and whose fast fade seemed foreordained, even as friends like John Singer Sargent found fame. Snow has the courage of his convictions: though his detective wife urged him to curtail his quest to avoid career risk, his book is provocative."

## New and noteworthy

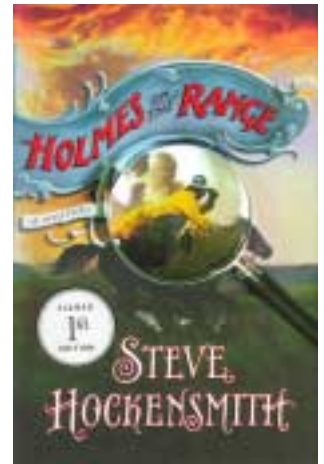
### Holmes on the Range by Steve Hockensmith

St. Martin's, \$22.95

Steve Hockensmith's attempt to create a Wild West version of Sherlock Holmes is a rip-roaring success, a true cross-genre romp. Two brothers, cowboys in 19th century Montana, get tangled up in a series of murders, which one brother is convinced he can solve using techniques learned through Holmes' method of "deducifyin'."

His enlightenment comes from being read Holmes' tales by his brother, the only literate one of the two. The fact that the crime gets solved in true Holmes fashion, while the reader enjoys an authentic view of the rough and tumble life of cowboys, gunslingers, and frontier hardship, is engrossing. There had better be a series lurking hereabouts, pardner.

— Phil Dunlap



### The Deep Blue Alibi by Paul Levine. Bantam, \$6.99

The latest Solomon vs. Lord mystery continuously refers back to Jimmy Buffet. For Paul Levine and *The Deep Blue Alibi*, that is a fitting comparison. Both are enjoyable and "beachy." In fact *Alibi* opens by a beach as attorneys Solomon and Lord are almost killed by a speeding boat containing more mysteries (and connections) than answers. With this being the second book in the series, the standard introductory novel (*Solomon vs. Lord*) is done.

This one focuses more on the mystery and some more character development. *Alibi* also has the funniest nudist scene since Peter Sellers in *A Shot in the Dark*.

— Austin Lugar

### The 5th Horseman by James Patterson. Little Brown, \$27.95

James Patterson's latest is one of the most thrilling books I've read in a long time. The Women's Murder Club is back. Lindsay Boxer working a serial murder case, getting evidence help from Claire, the chief ME. Cindy, the crime-reporter, is reporting on a case about a series of deaths that occurred in the Municipal Hospi-



317-705-9711  
 toll-free: 800-643-6737  
 www.themysterycompany.com

**THE MYSTERY COMPANY**  
 1323 S. Rangeline Rd  
 Carmel, IN 46032

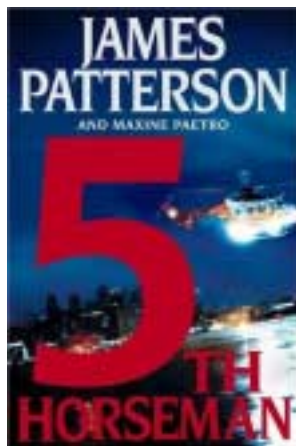
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**We're blooming  
 with great new  
 mysteries!**

tal. The patients go to the ER for help with what seems like non-life threatening problems, and mysteriously die after they are admitted to the hospital. Yuki, the lawyer, takes personal interest in the case when her mother suddenly collapses and is taken to that hospital. Take the ride and read *The 5<sup>th</sup> Horseman*. You will be out of breath when it is over!  
 — Linda Lugar

**The Summer Snow by Rebecca Pawel.** Soho, \$23.00

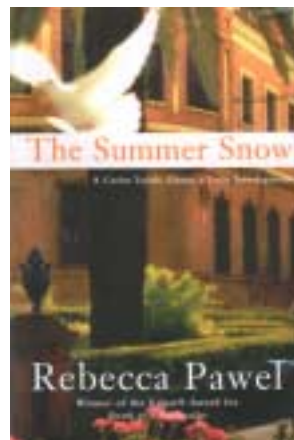
*The Summer Snow*, the fourth book in the Carlos Tejada series by Rebecca Pawel, opens in the fall of 1945. World War II is over. The Spanish Civil War ended in 1939, but the shadow of that war still lingers over Spain. When elderly Dona Rosalia of Granada dies one evening, the local branch of the Guardia Civil decides to investigate. The officers think she died of natural causes, but she had a habit of calling the Guardia frequently because she feared a Red conspiracy against her life; indeed, the last time an officer came was a few hours before her death. Also, her latest will is missing. Since she is part of an influential and patrician family, tact and delicacy is needed in the situation. One of the local Guardia calls her great-nephew, Carlos Tejada, a lieutenant in the Guardia stationed in the north of Spain,



to ask him to come home to help.

A reluctant Tejada agrees, bringing with him his wife, Elena, and their young son—reluctant because of the strained relationship between himself and his family, made worse because Elena had Republican (Red) sympathies in the Civil War and Tejada’s parents think she is beneath him. When Rosalia’s autopsy shows that she was indeed murdered, Tejada has to investigate not only her servants but members of their mutual family, including his father, rumored to benefit from the missing will, if they can but find it.

The Tejada series began with *Death of a Nationalist* and continued with *Law of Return* and *The Watcher in the Pine*. *The Summer Snow* is the first book this reviewer has read in the series but it was enough to make me want to get the rest of the books. It also introduced me to a time and place I know very little about (Hemingway’s *For Whom the Bell Tolls* was a long time ago), and I found it a fascinating introduction. Pawel’s writing is elegant and flowing; it is hard to believe she began this series in her early twenties. According to her website, she is taking a break from the Tejada books, so savor *The Summer Snow* – and read the others if you haven’t already.



— Miriam Guidero