



## BOOKSELLERS

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Monday and Tuesday:

10:30 am - 5:30 pm

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday:

10:30 am - 8 pm

Saturday:

10:30 am - 6 pm

Sunday:

Noon - 4 pm (through 12/21)

**Closed 12/25 and 1/1**



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*Independent Bookstores  
for Independent Minds*

## Sam Hill visits Saturday, December 13

Sam Hill visits next Saturday, December 13, at 2 pm to talk about and sign copies of his terrific first novel, *Buzz Monkey* (Carroll & Graf, \$24.00). We're really pleased to introduce Sam and his book to you, and hope that you'll be able to take advantage of this opportunity to meet a writer about whom there's already a buzz — and who's destined to have a great career.

Here's Moni's review:

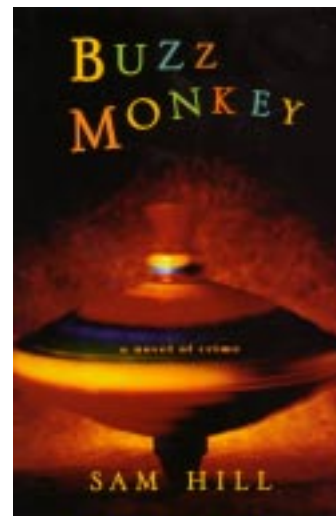
*Buzz Monkey* works on several levels — as a mystery, as a character study, and as a reflection of today's world where the line between bad and good is more of a smudge.

The mystery is fairly simple: Did Top Kiernan's childhood friend, Dee Lane, disappear with a drug lord's money? But from there it gets complicated, because the drug lord thinks Top is holding the money for Dee and puts the word out to a sleazy underworld of opportunists that he wants his money back and doesn't care how it gets done. Worried about his friend, Top begins the journey to find out what really happened and along the way people close to him are threatened, and some even die, before the truth is finally learned.

Hill is subtle with his clues. I didn't figure it out until Top revealed the solution, but I also didn't feel like the author sprang anything on me. The hints are all there, but are seamlessly woven into the fast-paced story.

What makes this a great book are the characters, especially that of Top Kiernan.

Top is the typical antihero. As a young man, he transported drugs with his friend Dee, for the thrill of it. Now, supposedly, he is a legitimate Athens, Georgia businessman, running a reference/fact-checking service out of his home, a converted schoolhouse. (His bed is in the middle of the basketball court in the gym.) Early



## Calendar

Saturday, December 13 at 2 pm

**Sam Hill** visits (see above)

Thursday, December 18 at Noon

**Discussion group:** *Kill Me Again* by Terence Faherty. Terry will sit in with the group.

Thursday, December 18 at 7 pm

**Discussion group:** *A Coffin for Dimitrios* by Eric Ambler

Wednesday, December 24

We'll be closing early — at 1 pm — on Christmas eve.

Wednesday, December 31

We'll be closing early — at 5:30 pm — on New Year's Eve.

Tuesday, January 20 at 7 pm

**Susan Wittig Albert**, creator of the China Bayles series, visits to talk about and sign copies of her books.

in the novel, he admits to setting up the business to give the IRS a reason for the money he earns — earned as a contract mercenary for a company named Shaw's. His specialty is finding and rescuing kidnap victims, but his last case had gone horribly wrong with the death of two kidnap victims. His contact at Shaw's suggests that Top has gone from a "buzz monkey," a person who controls the adrenaline edge to his advantage, to a "buzz junkie," where the adrenaline takes over and controls him, causing him to lose his edge. Even his current legitimate business life is marred by his sleeping with his married office manager.

But Hill balances the not-so-admirable qualities of his protagonist with some good ones. For one thing, Top is one hundred percent loyal to his friends. Besides taking the heat while trying to find out what happened to Dee Lane, Top works in tandem with another boyhood friend, Bob John, a DEA agent, who is also a friend of Dee's. The relationship of the three friends — a mercenary-cum-researcher, a DEA agent and a drug runner — colors the story and demonstrates the moral that no one is one hundred percent good or evil.

Now, don't get me wrong, Hill has some real bad asses in this book and their downfalls are not pretty. When it is necessary, Top can kill. But it's like that line in the Arnold Schwarzenegger movie, *True Lies*, where Arnold's character admits to Jamie Lee Curtis that he only killed the bad guys. Top only kills the bad guys while striving to protect the innocent. Yes, he's a bad boy, but he's on our side.

The other characters in the novel are pure, polished gems. Benny, Top's sidekick, whose shady past strikes fear into even the hearts of the most foul characters in the book is wonderfully drawn. In one scene, Benny is drunk and gets mad at Top for pulling the mess down upon them. He states that he left the bad streets of Atlanta and moved to the college town of Athens to get away from all the killing and live a life of peace. But when called to help Top bring down the drug lord, Benny demonstrates that his rep is well-deserved — the slight, jazz-loving, jack-of-all-trades can be a stone cold killer. There are some priceless scenes where Benny offers to kill the bad guys because he knows that Top gets sick to his stomach after he kills someone.

The ending is satisfying, because the loose ends are all tied up. Yet, the bow is sloppy, because once again Hill demonstrates a truism — not all bad deeds are punished. But as long as the truly heinous are put away, life with all its uncertainty can move forward.

Bravo, Sam Hill!

The New York Times Book Review adds:

*Top has style and his first outing — a brutal, body-littered and otherwise fun-loving adventure in which the objective is to beat out two gangs of rival dope dealers for a missing swag of \$1.5 million — is loaded with juice.*

If you can't make it to the store for our event on 12/13, you can call to reserve your signed first edition. If you call before 12/13, you get your copy personally inscribed. Also, we can ship *Buzz Monkey* to you in time for Christmas — and shipping is free to US addresses.

## Gift ideas

### BOOKS ABOUT MYSTERY

Reference books are a great gift for mystery lovers, who always appreciate help in finding new books to read. We have a good selection of reference titles, including my own *100 Favorite Mysteries of the Century* and *They Died in Vain*, both multiple award-winning guides that offer reading lists.

Also worth a look are *A Taste of Murder* and *A Second Helping of Murder* — two attractive books filled with "diabolically delicious recipes from contemporary mystery writers" and *Amelia Peabody's Egypt*, a heavily illustrated compendium of information about the backdrop for Elizabeth Peters' novels. We're offering an in-store special of 20% off on *Amelia Peabody's Egypt* through December 24 (that 20% is instead of, not in addition to, your regular frequent buyer's discount — not valid on website orders).

### BOOK AND DVD COMBINATIONS

We have a small display of DVD movies together with the books on which they're based (or inspired by). Two examples of the combinations we have in stock how are:



*The Maltese Falcon* by Dashiell Hammett plus the Humphrey Bogart film that "dreams are made of."

*In the Heat of the Night* by John Ball, the book that won an Edgar Award for best first novel, plus the Sidney Poitier/Rod Steiger movie that won an Oscar for best picture in 1967 — the movie with that great line "They call me Mr. Tibbs!"

All book and DVD combinations are 10% off when you buy both the book and the DVD at the same time — and that's in addition to your regular frequent buyer's discount. If we don't have the book and DVD (or VHS video) combination that you're looking for, we'd be happy to research availability.

We have access to thousands of movies, and have plenty of time to get them in for you before Christmas — or at any time throughout the year.

### WANTED FOR MURDER: TAKE-OUTS

When Liza Cody, Michael Z. Lewin and Peter Lovesey came through Indiana in October on their "Wanted for Murder" tour, they left behind lots of great memories from our events here in the store and at Butler. They also left behind a keepsake, a CD called *Take-Outs* (\$16). Here's how they describe it: "How do mystery writers in Britain pass those cold, wet winter months? By reading, singing and talking to each other, of course. *Take-Outs* is a CD collection of such things — two new short stories, previously unheard songs, spontaneous and unrehearsed conversations..." Among the songs is Peter's delightful "Autopsy Song." We have a very limited quantity of copies of this unique CD that are signed by all three writers. Don't miss it.

## The Mystery Company's 2003 Holiday Book Drive Benefiting Indianapolis Public School libraries

During this holiday season, we'll be collecting new books for donation to three Indianapolis public school libraries, an elementary school, a middle school and a high school. You can help by buying books and adding them to our donation boxes. Books you buy from us for donation to these school libraries will be 30% off — you'll buy these books at our employee discount. There's no limit on the number of books, but the *discount applies only to books you're donating*. Through Christmas Eve, we'll give you a coupon for \$5 off a purchase of \$5 or more during the month of January 2004 when you buy one or more books from us for donation. (One coupon per person.)

### Booksense gift certificates

It's always hard to shop for booklovers, so why not let them shop for themselves? We offer gift certificates in any amount. In addition to being able to use them here, you can take them to any one of over 1200 independent stores throughout the country that belong to the American Booksellers Association's Booksense program — which means that you can buy gift certificates to send to your far-flung friends and relations. Because each Booksense store is a locally-owned independent business that's a part of its community, when you give a Booksense gift certificate, you're giving more than books, you're giving the gift of independence. To find a Booksense store, visit [www.booksense.com](http://www.booksense.com) or call 1-888-BOOKSENSE.

### Top 20 bestsellers

This is a partially-annotated list of our in-store bestsellers from opening day through December 6. We've excluded titles that we sold mostly at out-of-store events. All of these are books that we recommend and that will make great gifts.

- 1 **Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix** by J.K. Rowling (\$29.99). *Ask for your Harry Potter baseball cap, free with purchase of this or any other Harry Potter book, while supplies last.*
- 2 **Death of a Domestic Diva** by Sharon Short (\$6.50). *Funny first in a new series about Josie Toadfern, a stain-removal expert. Nice portrayal of the characters and the community.*
- 3 **Kill Me Again** by Terence Faherty (\$14). *Latest title in our own publishing program. See back page.*
- 4 **100 Favorite Mysteries of the Century** edited by Jim Huang (\$12). *A guide to the list compiled by the Independent Mystery Booksellers Association.*
- 5 **They Died in Vain** by edited by Jim Huang (\$13). *Winner of this year's Agatha, Anthony and Macavity Awards for best critical work in the mystery genre.*
- 6 **In the Bleak Midwinter** by Julia Spencer-Fleming (\$6.99). *Winner of this year's Agatha, Anthony, Barry and Macavity Awards for best first novel, and the Dilys Award, given by the*

*Independent Mystery Booksellers Association to the book we "most enjoyed selling" in 2002. Highly recommended.*

7 **This Pen for Hire** by Laura Levine (\$5.99). *Among the silliest mysteries I've ever read — and truly delightful. First in a series about a freelance writer in LA named Jaine Austen; the second novel, in stock in hardcover, is equally funny.*

8 **Blind Man of Seville** by Robert Wilson (\$25). *Intense psychological police novel. Signed copies available.*

9 **Detecta-Crostics** by Jeanne M. & Jennie G. Jacobson (\$18). *A book of acrostic-style puzzles for lovers of mystery and wordplay who crave a challenge.*

— **Eyre Affair** by Jasper Fforde (\$14). *In the tradition of Monty Python, a wildly inventive novel for lovers of literature that's both erudite and hilarious. First in a series.*

11 **Children of the Storm** by Elizabeth Peters (\$25.95). *A few signed copies still available.*

12 **Small Death in Lisbon** by Robert Wilson (\$7.99). *Winner of Britain's Crime Writers Association's Gold Dagger Award.*

13 **Cut to the Quick** by Kate Ross (\$6.99)

— **Alpine for You** by Maddy Hunter (\$5.99). *First in a funny new series about a woman who leads groups on tours of Europe. Second in this series is also available in paperback.*

— **Gimme More** by Liza Cody (\$14). *Imported from the UK. Cody's first novel in some years. We have a very limited number of signed copies left.*

16 **Concourse** by S.J. Rozan (\$6.50)

— **Iron Lake** by William Kent Krueger (\$7.50)

— **Black Dog** by Stephen Booth (\$6.99)

18 **Monkey's Raincoat** by Robert Crais (\$7.50)

19 **Rough Cider** by Peter Lovesey (\$13)

20 **With a Vengeance** by Eileen Dreyer (\$24.95) *A few signed copies of this smart and intense medical thriller left in stock.*

*Have a safe, happy ... and mysterious holiday season!*



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## Our publishing program

In addition to offering you thousands of titles from publishers large and small, why are we also in the business of publishing mysteries? Because books we admire have fallen out of print, sometimes without having had a fair chance to find an audience in the first place. Because we know that you want to be able to read a series beginning with book one. And, most of all, because we want to be able to share these favorites with you. Just out is *Kill Me Again* by Terence Faherty, and more Mystery Company titles are on the way.



### *Kill Me Again* by Terence Faherty

How do you top your best work? In Hollywood, you make a sequel. That's the plan in 1947 when filming begins on *Love Me Again*, a follow-up to the beloved wartime romance *Passage to Lisbon* (read: *Casablanca*). But the plan is threatened when the screenwriter is accused of being a Communist. Enter Scott Elliott, a former actor and soldier who is struggling to find a place in a changing Hollywood. To save the movie, Elliott must untangle a tale of murder, secret sin and redemption.

"*Kill Me Again* is a marvelous, meticulously crafted entertainment, recreating the cinematic era of colorful characters who spoke in razor-sharp dialog. And Faherty's notion of a sequel to *Casablanca* is great fun—even if the rest of the novel weren't so wonderful, you wouldn't want to miss it."

*The Droid Review*

**This book is a great gift for movie lovers, in addition to all fans of private eye novels. (The Scott Elliott series has won two Shamus Awards, presented by the Private Eye Writers of America for excellence in private eye fiction.) Buy *Kill Me Again* together with the Special Edition DVD of *Casablanca* — in stock now at The Mystery Company and save 10% on both!**

ISBN: 1-932325-02-6 • 2003 • \$14.00