



BOOKSELLERS

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Hours

Monday - Wednesday:
10:30 am - 5:30 pm
Thursday & Friday:
10:30 am - 8 pm
Saturday:
10:30 am - 6 pm
Sunday:
Noon - 4 pm



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We're in the midst of a fabulous series of author events here — in the past two weeks, we've welcomed William Kent Krueger, Ellen Hart, Carl Brookins, Jonathon King, Lawrence Block and Julia Spencer-Fleming to our store. The next few weeks are just as exciting, and we hope you'll be able to join us for one or more of these author visits. In this newsletter, I'm going to tell you about the next two events, both next week.

Tuesday, May 4, 7 pm: **Alan Gordon**

The conceit of Alan Gordon's series is that all of the fools in all of Shakespeare's plays and elsewhere belong to a guild that works like a Middle Ages CIA, running around meddling in affairs. Here's how Booklist describes *Thirteenth Night*, Gordon's first novel:

"Here's a fresh idea: Feste, a minor character in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, is actually a top operative of the Fools' Guild, an organization of professional jesters who double as secret agents. The Duke of Orsino, *Twelfth Night*'s central character, has died under mysterious circumstances, and Feste suspects foul play from the evil Malvolio, whose self-serving plot was foiled in Shakespeare's drama. Feste returns to Orsino, posing as a German merchant, determined to discover which member of the citizenry is a killer in disguise. This exceedingly clever novel is a treat for all mystery fans (especially those familiar with Shakespeare's play); it is delightfully constructed, featuring an intricate whodunit with political overtones, plenty of intrigue, and a healthy dose of humor. With an idea this original, Gordon, a New York legal-aid lawyer, could have skated through the novel, relying on the court-jesters-as-secret-agents premise to keep readers going. But he didn't; on every level — characters, plot, and style, in addition to premise — this is an outstanding first mystery and, one hopes, the beginning of a fine series."

The second and third books in the series, *Jester Leaps In* and *Death in the Venetian Quarter*, follow Theo, now married, and his wife to Constantinople in 1203, the time of the Crusades. Like *Thirteenth Night*, these two books — which should be

Calendar

Tuesday, May 4, 7 pm

Alan Gordon visits to talk about and sign copies of his medieval mysteries.

Thursday, May 6, 7 pm

Rhys Bowen and **Lyn Hamilton** visit to talk about and sign copies of their books.

Saturday, May 15, 2 pm

Dick Cady, a former Pulitzer-Prize winning reporter for the Indianapolis Star, visits to talk about and sign copies of his first novel, *The Executioner's Mask*. The book is set here in Indianapolis.

Thursday, May 20, 7 pm

Jeff Marks visits to talk about *Atomic Renaissance*, which is up for this year's Agatha Award for best nonfiction.

Wednesday, May 26, 7 pm. Discussion: *Booked to Die* by John Dunning

Thursday, May 27, noon. Discussion: *Booked to Die* by John Dunning

Thursday, June 10, 7 pm

Patricia Sprinkle and **Julie Wray Herman**. Sprinkle's series featuring magistrate MacLaren Yarbrough is described as "thoroughly Southern." Herman's "Three Dirty Women" series is centered around a landscaping company of that name.



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read together — are clever, intricate and funny. Gordon does an especially good job in showing how Theo works in a group with fellow guild members. *The Widow of Jerusalem* is also set during the Crusades, but takes place largely in 1191 as Richard the Lionhearted tries to recapture Jerusalem. The ending of this novel is especially lovely; it's an ending that takes your breath away.

Gordon's new novel, fifth in the series, is *An Antic Disposition*, published earlier this year by St. Martin's Press. You only think you know the story of *Hamlet*. As the jacket flap says: "It begins in Denmark, during a time of civil war when three men laid claim to the throne while a fourth watched and bided his time. Into the strategically crucial town of Slesvig, the Guild sends Terence of York, who is promptly dubbed Yorick by the Duke's young son, Amleth. What unfolds is a tale of treachery, tragedy, and bloodshed that is the true story behind one of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies."

The five Guild of Fools novels are among the most original, clever and endearing books in the genre. It's a series that I like so much that I'm restoring *Thirteenth Night* to print; it's our next Mystery Company paperback reprint. We are hoping to have copies back from the printer in time for Gordon's visit. But you don't need to start this series with *Thirteenth Night*. The chronology of the series is a little confusing: books one, two and three take place in order. But then book four is set before book one, and book five is set before book four. (A framing story puts books four and five after books one, two and three, but the main action is all earlier.) Or you can leap in with *Jester Leaps In*, when the scene shifts to Constantinople. Wherever you start, you're in for a treat.

Thursday, May 6, 7 pm:

Rhys Bowen & Lyn Hamilton

Rhys Bowen is the author of the Evan Evans series, set in "a Welsh village that time forgot." Of this series, Booklist writes, "Lots of people write small-town mysteries, perhaps because they seem so easy to do, but few of them get it as

right as Bowen does. Readers expecting hard-boiled intensity should look elsewhere, but fans of light, entertaining mysteries, with an emphasis on appealing characters and intriguing plots will be thrilled." The latest in this series — the eighth — is *Evan's Gate*, published this month by St. Martin's Press. All of the previous books are published in paperback by Berkley.

Bowen is also the author of the Molly Murphy series, set in turn of the century New York. First in this series, *Murphy's Law*, won the Agatha Award for best novel of 2002. The Droid Review says, "The most pervasive character in the Molly Murphy books is New York City itself. Bowen, always a consummate professional, conveys such a strong sense of the turn-of-the-century city that you can smell it. If you don't love New York, and Molly, when you begin, you will by the time you finish."

As her website notes, Lyn Hamilton's series "features the peripatetic sleuth, antiques dealer Lara McClintoch. Lara travels the world in search of the rare and beautiful for her store, finding more than a little murder and mayhem along the way. Each of the novels is set in a different, and exotic, location, and draws on the ancient past in a unique way.

"A long time student of archaeology and mythology, Lyn brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the series. As former Director of the Cultural Programs branch of the Ontario government, she was responsible for the licensing of all archaeology in the province, as well as for museum and conservation programs."

In *The New York Times*, Marilyn Stasio writes of this series, "Lyn Hamilton's archaeological mysteries follow a formula sure to have armchair travelers on the edge of their settees. At once erudite and entertaining, these jaunty whodunits tag along after Lara McClintoch, a Toronto antiques dealer whose quest for ancient artifacts takes her everywhere from Africa to Ireland."

Recently published in paperback is *The Thai Amulet*, seventh in the series. The new hardcover is *The Magyar Venus*, published this month by Berkley. All eight books in the series are available now.