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# ***THE NOOSE***

**Mar/Apr  
Noose 2013**



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## **President's Letter**

Dear Fellow MWA/NY Chapter Members,

Our beloved member Robin Hathaway passed away on Saturday, February 16, after a

year-long illness. She was 79. Following years of rejection and after her 60th birthday, her first novel *The Doctor Digs a Grave* won the St. Martin's Malice Domestic Contest for Best Traditional Mystery. In 1998, the book won an Agatha Award. Five more books in the series followed. *The Doctor Makes a Dollhouse Call*, *The Doctor and the Dead Man's Chest*, *The Doctor Dines in Prague*, and *The Doctor Rocks the Boat*. Robin also wrote the Jo Banks suspense novels, which included *Scarecrow* and *Satan's Pony*. Her short stories appeared in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine* and *Death Knell*.



Robin was a gracious and delightful colleague—generously sharing her gifts through the MWA/NY Mentor Program and teaching at The Gotham Writers' Workshop. She served on our board.

Robin is survived by her husband, two daughters, three grandchildren and her brother.

She added warmth and humor whenever she entered a room. We were lucky to have her. You can read remembrances and leave your own at her blog: [www.crimewriters.blogspot.com](http://www.crimewriters.blogspot.com)

Patricia King  
President, MWA-NY

You can write to me at: [annamaria@annamariaalfieri.com](mailto:annamaria@annamariaalfieri.com).

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## FROM THE EDITOR

Hi all,

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Robin Hathaway. She was a lovely woman who touched many lives. For those of you who never had the good fortune to meet Robin, suggestions for ways to get to know about her are at the end of Thelma Straw's memorial piece, *I Remember Robin*.

**I hope to hear from you at:** [mhannanmandel@yahoo.com](mailto:mhannanmandel@yahoo.com).

Marie Hannan-Mandel  
Editor

### **I REMEMBER ROBIN**

Robin and I weren't "girl-friends." We were fellow warriors, in similar but different foxholes.

She followed her star, I followed mine, but we were able to trade strengths where needed.

Our stars were different, but compatible.

We recognized each other's toughness, and though our personal paths were different, we sensed we both fought many of the same wars. Early on, I championed her doctor books in my reviews for Marilyn Henderson's LADY M.

I could always count on Robin to deliver the goods. I believe she knew I'd deliver for her too.

On my first trembling initiation seat as a member of the MWA-NY board, Robin was there to welcome me. I returned the favor with my positive reviews of her books.

She was always a generous, willing mentor to the Mentor Committee. If we needed another volunteer, Robin was always there for us!

To show her my gratitude, I concocted a fancy dummy prize for the Deadly Ink DAVID prize and gave her a little party at Juliano's to showcase the strange huge creation in public, having invited another Smith English Major to show the flag to please her!

Always ready to help, Robin joined Marge Mendel and me in preparing food for our mutual friend Bob Knightly for his book party at my place and the table was laden with food for an army!

A fellow animal lover, Robin often had us in stitches with stories about the wild life on her place on the Jersey Shore. I can still see the ducks and cats following her!

Sophisticated, highly-educated, Robin was a plain, simple person; a lady, but never haughty or mean; a worker, but never domineering; a fiercely strong soul, but outwardly gentle.

Not long ago, we lunched at the Lex on Lexington Avenue and East 91st Street, where she interviewed me about what I'd seen as a kid in World War II, for her current work-in-progress. She took careful notes on the Nazi boxes I'd found on the Norfolk beach, the boyish German soldiers, ferried and bound on the Norfolk naval base, the blackout curtains tacked up over our windows at night on Chesapeake Bay.

I knew this was a hard book to write, even for her.

Robin, I hope you completed it, but, if you didn't, I hope you'll finish it from way up there, where I know you'll have tons of time now to create your lovely stories.

We'll miss you, but I believe firmly that good people on planet Earth have a good time in Eternity!

God bless, and thank you for your gifts while you made this brief stop down here on our little planet.

*Thelma Jacqueline Straw, former board member of MWA-NY and ex-chair of the Nominating Committee.*

- Robin's obit can be found for Feb. 20, 2013 at [vclark@phillynews.com](mailto:vclark@phillynews.com)
- MWA members may want to read an article on Robin by Art Carey, Inquirer staff writer, titled, "Murder Most Patient. Crime-novel Success at 60 and Up." Nov. 13, 2007. Find it at [articles.philly.com/2007-11-13/news25225224](http://articles.philly.com/2007-11-13/news25225224)
- Read what Robin's peers and blogmates have to say on the crime writers' blog to which she

contributed at [www.crimewriters.blogspot.com](http://www.crimewriters.blogspot.com) Featuring former MWA-NY President Bob Knightly and former MWA-NY board member Marie Mendel, this blog posting is full of fond memories of Robin.

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## IMPORTANT DATES

### NOTE NEW LOCATION for chapter meetings:

#### **Salmagundi Club**

47 Fifth Avenue

212-255-7740

\$42 per person

6 p.m. Cash Bar (One drink included)

7 p.m. Dinner | 8 p.m. Program

#### **MAR 9 — Special Date and Event :**

***Brunch, Socialize, and Hear the Scuttlebut!*** 12 p.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Salmagundi Club.

See [FLYER](#) for reservation details.

Each of the following library events will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Mid-Manhattan branch of New York Public Library. Free.

#### **MAR 14 — Mystery in Uniform: Crime Stories and the Military:**

***Moderator: Lawrence Light***

***Panelists: Albert Ashforth, Julia Pomeroy, Angela Zeman***

#### **APR 30 — Compelling Mystery Characters:**

***Moderator: Catherine Maiorisi***

***Panelists: Lyndsay Faye, Sharone Linnea, Cornelia Read***

#### **MAY 15 — Love on the Run: Mysteries With Romance:**

***Moderator: Peggy Ehrhart***

***Maggie Barbieri, David Handler, Sheila York***

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## 2013 Edgar Allan Poe Award Nominations

Mystery Writers of America is proud to announce, as we celebrate the 204th anniversary of the birth of Edgar Allan Poe, its nominees for the 2013 Edgar Allan Poe Awards, honoring the best in mystery fiction, non-fiction and television, published or produced in 2012. The Edgar® Awards will be presented to the winners at our 67th Gala Banquet, May 2, 2013 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, New York City.

### BEST NOVEL

***The Lost Ones*** by Ace Atkins (Penguin Group USA – G.P. Putnam’s Sons)

***The Gods of Gotham*** by Lyndsay Faye (Penguin Group USA – G.P. Putnam’s Sons)

***Gone Girl: A Novel*** by Gillian Flynn (Crown Publishers)

***Potboiler*** by Jesse Kellerman (Penguin Group USA – G.P. Putnam’s Sons)

***Sunset*** by Al Lamanda (Gale Cengage Learning – Five Star)

***Live by Night*** by Dennis Lehane (HarperCollins Publishers – William Morrow)

***All I Did Was Shoot My Man*** by Walter Mosley (Penguin Group USA – Riverhead Books)

### BEST FIRST NOVEL BY AN AMERICAN AUTHOR

***The Map of Lost Memories*** by Kim Fay (Random House Publishing– Ballantine)

***Don’t Ever Get Old*** by Daniel Friedman (Minotaur Books - Thomas Dunne Books)

***Mr. Churchill’s Secretary*** by Susan Elia MacNeal (Random House Publishing– Bantam Books)

***The Expats*** by Chris Pavone (Crown Publishers)

***The 500*** by Matthew Quirk (Hachette Book Group – Little, Brown and Company – Reagan Arthur)

***Black Fridays*** by Michael Sears (Penguin Group USA – G.P. Putnam’s Sons)

**BEST PAPERBACK  
ORIGINAL**

***Complication*** by Isaac Adamson (Soft Skull Press)

***Whiplash River*** by Lou Berney (HarperCollins Publishers – William Morrow Paperbacks)

***Bloodland*** by Alan Glynn (Picador)

***Blessed are the Dead*** by Malla Nunn (Simon & Schuster – Atria Books - Emily Bestler Books)

***The Last Policeman: A Novel*** by Ben H. Winters (Quirk Books)

**BEST FACT CRIME**

***Midnight in Peking: How the Murder of a Young Englishwoman Haunted the Last Days of Old China*** by Paul French (Penguin Group USA - Penguin Books)

***Devil in the Grove: Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland Boys, and the Dawn of a New America*** by Gilbert King (HarperCollins Publishers – Harper)

***More Forensics and Fiction: Crime Writers' Morbidly Curious Questions Expertly Answered*** by D.P. Lyle, MD (Medallion Press)

***Double Cross: The True Story of the D-Day Spies*** by Ben Macintyre (Crown Publishers)

***The People Who Eat Darkness: The True Story of a Young Woman Who Vanished from the Streets of Tokyo – and the Evil that Swallowed Her Up*** by Richard Lloyd Parry (Farrar Straus & Giroux Originals)

**BEST  
CRITICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL**

***Raymond Chandler's Philip Marlowe: The Hard-Boiled Detective Transformed*** by John Paul Athanasourelis (McFarland and Company)

***Books to Die For: The World's Greatest Mystery Writers on the World's Greatest Mystery Novels*** edited by John Connolly and Declan Burke (Simon & Schuster – Atria Books – Emily Bestler Books)

***The Scientific Sherlock Holmes: Cracking the Case with Science and Forensics*** by James O'Brien (Oxford University Press)

***In Pursuit of Spenser: Mystery Writers on Robert B. Parker and the Creation of an American Hero*** edited by Otto Penzler (Smart Pop)

## **BEST SHORT STORY**

**"Iphigenia in Aulis"** – *An Apple for the Creature* by Mike Carey (Penguin Group USA – Ace Books)

**"Hot Sugar Blues"** – *Mystery Writers of America Presents: Vengeance* by Steve Liskow (Hachette Book Group – Little, Brown and Company – Mulholland Books)

**"The Void it Often Brings With It"** – *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* by Tom Piccirilli (Dell Magazines)

**"The Unremarkable Heart"** – *Mystery Writers of America Presents: Vengeance* by Karin Slaughter (Hachette Book Group – Little, Brown and Company – Mulholland Books)

**"Still Life No. 41"** – *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* by Teresa Solana (Dell Magazines)

## **BEST JUVENILE**

***Fake Mustache: Or, How Jodie O'Rodeo and Her Wonder Horse (and Some Nerdy Kid) Saved the U.S. Presidential Election from a Mad Genius Criminal Mastermind*** by Tom Angleberger (Abrams – Amulet Books)

***13 Hangmen*** by Art Corriveau (Abrams – Amulet Books)

***The Quick Fix*** by Jack D. Ferraiolo (Abrams – Amulet Books)

***Spy School*** by Stuart Gibbs (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)

***Three Times Lucky*** by Sheila Turnage (Penguin Young Readers Group – Dial Books for Young Readers)

## **BEST YOUNG ADULT**

***Emily's Dress and Other Missing Things*** by Kathryn Burak (Macmillan Children's Publishing Group – Roaring Brook Press)

***The Edge of Nowhere*** by Elizabeth George (Penguin Young Readers Group – Viking)

***Crusher*** by Niall Leonard (Random House Children's Books – Delacorte BFYR)

***Amelia Anne is Dead and Gone*** by Kat Rosenfield (Penguin Young Readers Group – Dutton Children's Books)

***Code Name Verity*** by Elizabeth Wein (Disney Publishing Worldwide - Hyperion)

## **BEST SHORT STORY**

**"Pilot"** – ***Longmire***, teleplay by Hunt Baldwin & John Coveny (A&E/Warner Horizon Television)

**"Child Predator"** – ***elemeNtarY***, teleplay by Peter Blake (CBS Productions)

**"Slaughterhouse"** – ***Justified***, teleplay by Fred Golan (Sony Pictures Television/FX Productions)

**"A Scandal in Belgravia"** – ***Sherlock***, teleplay by Steven Moffat (BBC/Masterpiece)

**"New Car Smell"** – ***Homeland***, teleplay by Meredith Stiehm (Showtime/Fox21)

## **ROBERT L. FISH MEMORIAL AWARD**

**"When They Are Done With Us"** – ***Staten Island Noir*** by Patricia Smith (Akashic Books)

## **GRAND MASTER**

**Ken Follett**

**Margaret Maron**

## **RAVEN AWARDS**

**Oline Cogdill**

**Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore, San Diego & Redondo Beach, CA**



## ELLERY QUEEN AWARD

Akashic Books

## THE SIMON & SCHUSTER - MARY HIGGINS CLARK AWARD

(Presented at MWA's Agents & Editors Party on Wednesday, May 1, 2013)

*Dead Scared* by S.J. Bolton (Minotaur Books)

*A City of Broken Glass* by Rebecca Cantrell (Forge Books)

*The Reckoning* by Jane Casey (Minotaur Books)

*The Other Woman* by Hank Phillippi Ryan (Forge Books)

*Sleepwalker* by Wendy Corsi Staub (HarperCollins Publishers - Harper)



## All A-Twitter

Members of MWA are encouraged to contact us for promotion on our new [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) feeds! We are interested in hearing about the following:

- events and signings including library panels, bookstore talks, and radio, web, or TV interviews
- fresh book deals from MWA-approved publishing houses
- book or short story launch dates
- awards and nominations

Please do not include reviews of your material. These can range from comments on a Goodreads page to Library Journal suggestions. Sadly, their wide range prevents us from being able to sort through such recommendations. If your book has been selected for a best-of-the-year list, however, by all means let us know!

Contact either [hcdavidson@yahoo.com](mailto:hcdavidson@yahoo.com) or [lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com](mailto:lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com) with all relevant information, including links.

And remember to join the MWA-NY group on Yahoo. To join, go to Groups on the Yahoo email page and request membership in the [MWA-NY group](http://groups.yahoo.com/) (<http://groups.yahoo.com/>).



## ASK THE LAWYER

**Dear Bob,**

I am very confused about whether I should enter competitions that charge money. Are these contests legit? Can they steal my work and sell it somewhere else? I know that agents shouldn't charge money, but it seems as if contests do, and the charges are quite hefty sometimes.

I know you've dealt with this before, but I want to know if you have any hints about how to figure out if a contest is legit and worth entering.

**Dear Reader,**

You've asked an excellent question, but one that's difficult to answer.

Several years ago, a client of mine sponsored a contest for unpublished novelists. The client was absolutely honest and above-board, and hired two different law firms to make sure that everything about the contest would be completely kosher. He persuaded some very highly respected industry talent to judge the entries.

The contest required an \$85 entry fee, and featured prizes of \$100,000 for the winner and \$25,000 and \$10,000 for the two runners-up. Simon & Schuster agreed to publish all three top books, and to pay each of those authors a substantial advance against royalties.

The contest was ultimately cancelled because of Internet snark. Too many doubters posted nasty opinions about the contest, so the contest did not receive the minimum number of entries the rules of the contest required.

Each contest has to be evaluated on its own merits. Most important, who is sponsoring the contest? Are respected industry professionals involved, either as sponsors or as judges? Have the contest rules been posted? Are those rules extremely detailed? Do they state whether the contest complies with the laws of all states, and whether any states are excluded (which suggests someone knowledgeable paid attention to legalities)?

A healthy degree of cynicism is appropriate, any time you are asked to spend money on something you can't be sure of receiving. Be particularly cautious about contests that use a famous name, such as "Oxford" or "Harvard," but that may not be associated with the academic institutions).

I wish I could give you better assurances, but the truth is that there are always folks out there looking to take advantage of unpublished writers.

**Best,  
Bob Stein**

***Bob Stein counsels and represents people at all levels of the entertainment industry from writers to film producers. He has represented David Baldacci and Janet Evanovich and spent 13 years in-house at Random House, Simon and Schuster and Warner Books before entering private practice.***

***Advice given in this column is general, and is not based upon a thorough review of facts and considerations in any given instance. You should consult an attorney in depth if you need legal advice.***

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## WHAT'S NOOSE?

### Novels

**Triss Stein, *Brooklyn Bones*.** Poisoned Pen Press, February 2013.

### Short Stories

**Lou Manfredo, "The Star of the Running Blood,"** *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine*, May 2013.

Send items (publications, nominations, and awards) for "What's Noose?" to the Noose Editor at [mhannanmandel@yahoo.com](mailto:mhannanmandel@yahoo.com). Please use the format you see in the entries above. *Italicize* book and magazine titles and put "quotes" around the titles of short stories and articles.

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