

## Shop Updates...continued

### Book Discussion Groups

We hope to start up our Book Discussion Groups in July. We need to get through June to gauge our ability to have the shop open in July.

We will keep those folks updated as we go through this process.

### Other Monthly Groups

We hope to start up our Stitch-n-Bitch and Friday Night Knitters in August. We need to get through July Book Discussion Groups to gauge our ability to have the shop open in August.

We will keep those folks updated as we go through this process.

### Special Events

Our shop events are postponed or cancelled through mid-August. The shop isn't large enough to "social distance" the number of people we get for our events. We will continue to monitor the CDC rules we are following as far as the number of folks we are permitted to have in attendance and the ability to handle "social distancing."

### Murder As You Like It

It breaks my heart to have to give you this news, but I've decided we need to postpone *Murder As You Like It* until **August 14, 2021**. We had a full plate of wonderful authors who have never attended one of our conferences so I'm hoping they'll join us next year.

1. We aren't sure if this pandemic has peaked and despite what they say, neither are the powers that be. They all speak of a likely second wave and possibly a third if it follows the course of the 1918 Spanish flu. The second wave, if it occurs, could likely happen when things start to reopen which would probably hit right around the date of the conference.
2. There is no way I can ensure safe social distancing in the church hall, and I can't imagine having everyone wear masks to attend the event. With everyone handling each others' books, microphones, table surfaces, etc. it's just not safe. And, don't get me started on having to make sure the restrooms are wiped down every hour.
3. Many of our customers are older folks...just like me, and therefore are among the most vulnerable. I'm not sure they would want to or should attend.
4. According to our local District Attorney, operating in defiance of government orders makes those who do so technically criminals. As such, liability insurance would not pay claims if anything were to happen. And, depending upon the orders at that point, I could lose my license to operate if I go against those orders. I'd like to be around in November to celebrate the shop's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
5. The church likely will not allow us to use their venue for the above reason especially if they aren't holding their own Sunday services. In any lawsuits, they would also be named.

As you can see, I've really thought a lot about this and have sought professional advice as well. And, again, it breaks my heart to cancel it. But, I don't feel as though I have much choice at this point due to the reasons outlined above. While we are currently in the "Yellow" status, another rise in the number of cases could revert us back to "Red" status. There is considerable work and financial output in planning the conference, which we would lose if we would unfortunately revert back to "Red." Also, we can only have a maximum of 25 people at a gathering so we don't have the space to be able to social distance.

We have great faith that there will be future *Murder As You Like It* conferences where we can gather again to have a wonderful time with great mystery authors and fans.



# Something Wicked

this way comes... May 2020



## Shop Updates

### Shop Re-Opens

NPR reported on Friday, May 22, on how unsafe bookstores are under the pandemic.

While I do believe we need to be cautious, I believe we have come up with procedures to make the shop as safe as possible for you to visit. So, we are re-opening on Wednesday, May 27...but in a different way until it's safe to go back to our old policies. This is going to be weird for all of us. But I hope you will bear with us and understand the efforts we are making to keep your stop or visit safe.

#### 1. Drive-By Service

Call or email us and tell us what books you would like. If we have the book(s) in stock we'll provide them to you during shop hours...just let us know when you'll be stopping by. If we have the book(s) in used, we will substitute it/those if you would like us to do that. If we don't have the book(s) in stock we are happy to special order them for you. Then, choose a time

when you can come by for your order. You can pay in advance by credit card when you place your order or with cash outside the front doors of the shop when you come by.

#### 2. By Appointment

We will also open for customers by appointment only starting May 27. Since only Sherry and I work in the shop, we will need time to disinfect between appointments. So appointments will be kept to 45 minutes to allow us to accomplish that task. We will require customers to wear masks and keep "social distance" while in the shop. The doors will be locked until your appointment to avoid unknown persons from stopping in during your appointment time.

To schedule an appointment or a drive-by, please call or email. The phone and email number are shown below.

...Shop updates continued on page 4

### What's New...

Several new things are going on in the shop. Since we've been closed to walk-in traffic, Sherry and I have had some time to develop some new items to help keep us in touch with you.

The resurrection of this newsletter, "Something Wicked This Way Comes..." is just one of the new things. While we are starting this newsletter up again, it will be very different from the old newsletter we stopped doing in 2019. For one thing, we'll have book reviews. Since there's no way I would have time to read enough books to do this alone, I've enlisted the help of several volunteers who graciously agreed to help with those. We'll list our events and other information. It will be bi-monthly.

We aren't able to list all of the mystery books coming out that we were able to do in the past because the method we used is unavailable. I'm still working on coming up with a way to do this and, if I do, I'll include the list in the newsletter.

We now have books for sale on our website...and puzzles...and games ... and mugs...and T-Shirts ...and more. Our newsletter will also be included on the website for those who have access to a computer.

Author Interviews will be conducted and produced by our good friend Bill Peschel. You can see them by clicking on the link on our website.

### Update on Cozy Con...

Along with Kensington Publishers, we're working on a new 2021 date for Cozy Con. As soon as we have a new date, we'll get the word out to everyone.

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### Temporary Shop Hours

Wednesday 2 pm til 6 pm  
 Thursday & Friday 2 pm til 6 pm  
 Saturday 2 pm til 5 pm  
 Sunday Closed except for scheduled events

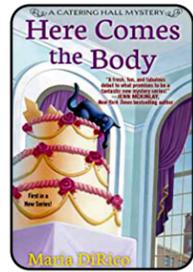
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## Book Reviews

These books are available for sale on our website or by stopping in at the shop.

**Here Comes the Body - Catering Hall 1**  
by Maria DiRico  
Type: Cozy - \$7.99

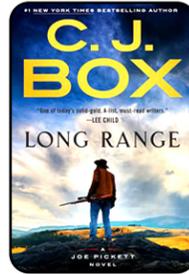


A widow of a presumed dead husband. A catering hall connected to the mafia, but as a legitimate business only. A sneaky real estate agent looking to earn big books and be number one. Two good looking guys, and a cop who moonlights as a mystery author. Add all of these elements together, along with a dead body at a party and the mother of all groom-mother-zillas, and the result is DiRico's engaging and humorous first entry in her "Catering Hall Mystery" series. DiRico crafts a winning amateur sleuth in Mia, savvy and highly likeable, who will do everything she can to save her family and her business from further negative notoriety. The setting of Astoria, Queens, plays a role in this novel, with the busy streets of New York City (and yes, Queens is part of New York City) and the airplanes shaking Belle View as they fly into LaGuardia. The mystery unfolds with a few good suspects, each with a very interesting motive. Just when you think you have the murderer identified, something new happens.

*Here Comes the Body* is a light, quick read filled with unforgettable characters, some quick Italian lessons, and a few recipes of dishes described in the book. This is a perfect book for those who love contemporary cozy mysteries, such as Joanne Fluke's "Hannah Swensen" series, Kylie Logan's "Ethnic Eats" series, or even Kaitlyn Dunnett's "Liss MacCrimmon Mystery" series. Though she is not as spunky as Grandma Mazur, Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum enthusiasts may want to take a look at this one as well, as Grandma Elisabetta can be pretty feisty. I look forward to watching the characters develop as the series progresses.

...Reviewed by Jessica

**Long Range - Joe Pickett 20**  
by C. J. Box  
Type: Detective/Thriller - \$30.00



The search for the would-be assassin becomes personal when Joe's best friend, Nate Romanowski—just as he's adjusting to the arrival of his first child—falls under suspicion for the crime. It's a race against the clock as Joe tries to clear Nate's name and identify the real shooter, all while deciphering the grizzly encounter. Beset by threats both man-made and natural, the two men must go to great lengths to keep their loved ones safe. Once again, normally quiet Twelve Sleep County, Wyoming becomes a hot spot of violence and intrigue. People are being shot from extreme distances far beyond vision of the naked eye. While pursuing two rogue bears, Game Warden Joe Pickett is called off the hunt to join all the other law enforcement officers of his hometown to aid in the search for the long-range marksman who assassinated the local judge's wife.

First time empty nesters, Marybeth and Joe work together to solve the murder while simultaneously trying to help Joe's best friend, master falconer, Nate Romanowski. Despite being over 50 years old now, Joe, as always, pulls out all the stops to overcome uncooperative law enforcement and a ruthless drug cartel. Long time readers of the series will not be disappointed, and first time readers will enjoy the gritty adventure against the backdrop of the Wyoming wilderness.

We do have several of the books in this series available in used condition. So if you're new to this series, you might want to start with one of our used copies.

...Reviewed by Jay

**The Silver Gun - Art Deco 1**  
by L. A. Chandlar  
Type: Historical/Women Sleuths - \$15



Lane Sanders has been appointed Mayor Fiorello "Fio" La Guardia's new personal aide, and the twenty-three-year-old is sprinting to match her boss's pace. Despite handling a number of political issues and the revitalization efforts for the city, Fio is still going strong.

Lane has been attacked and threatened by an assailant with ties to one of the worst gangsters in the city. The corrupt city officials seem to be using Lane as a pawn against Fio for disgracing their party in the prior election. Why was the assailant wielding the exact same gun from her nightmares?

Balancing a clandestine love affair and a mounting list of suspects, Lane must figure out how the secrets of her past are connected to the city's underground crime network before someone sets off an explosive revenge plot in New York City.

I had the pleasure of meeting L. A. Chandlar when I operated the Literary Corner at The Rosemary House's Pennsylvania Tea Festival last September. One of the "jobs" at my shop is recommending books to our customers. So, I always try to read the books by the authors we meet at our events.

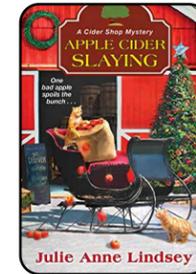
There are two other books in this series including *The Gold Pawn* and *The Pearl Dagger*.

This book takes place during the "Art Deco" period of our history... 1936. It was fun to learn that Mayor La Guardia was a very interesting character in real life. Many of his antics in the book were taken right out of reality. I'm anxious to read La Guardia's and Lane's further adventures in the next book *The Gold Pawn*. Chandlar is an Agatha and Silver Falchion Award Nominated author.

...Reviewed by Deb

## Book Reviews • continued

**Apple Cider Slaying - Cider Shop 1**  
by Julie Anne Lindsey  
Type: Cozy - \$7.99



Apples are at the core of the family business run by Winona Mae Montgomery and her Granny Smythe. But this year's crop is unseasonably ripe with murder...

Blossom Valley, West Virginia, is home to Smythe Orchards, Winnie and her Granny's beloved twenty-five-acre farm and family business. But any way you slice it, it's struggling. That's why they're trying to drum up business with the "First Annual Christmas at the Orchard," a good old-fashioned holiday festival with enough delicious draw to satisfy apple-picking locals and cider-loving tourists alike—until the whole endeavor takes a sour turn when the body of Nadine Cooper, Granny's long-time, grudge-holding nemesis, is found lodged in the apple press. With Granny the number one suspect, Winnie is hard-pressed to prove her innocence before the real killer delivers another murder.

*Apple Cider Slaying* is set in current times. Winnie Montgomery is a very likable character trying to keep the family business going and her grandmother out of jail. The author, Julie Anne Lindsey, created an easy, enjoyable, and quick read in this action packed story of murder and destruction. The plot is so intriguing you don't want to put the book down because of wanting to know what will happen next. Different suspects are appearing and the name of the murderer is concealed until the end of the book. A truly entertaining book that makes you want to read the second book, *Pulp Friction*.

...Reviewed by Marcia

**The Daughter of Sherlock Holmes - Daughter of Sherlock Holmes 1**  
by Leonard Goldberg  
Type: Mystery/Detective - \$7.99



The unique title is a motivator to read the book. The interest in British mysteries set during the Sherlockian period is another reason.

The book is the first in a series. The author introduces Sherlock Holmes's daughter, Joanna Blalock and son. Mrs. Blalock is a skilled nurse whose husband, a physician, dies leaving her a widow. Dr. Watson and Dr. John Watson are asked by M. Harrelston to investigate the death of her brother. As they accept this request, they find out Mrs. Blalock and son are witnesses. Dr. Watson and son begin the investigation with Mrs. Blalock and her son. They note that her son resembles a young Sherlock Holmes.

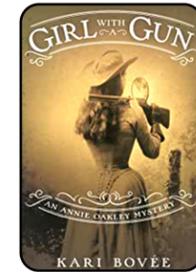
The author's plot is well thought out, as he brings characters from the past into the plot. An example is Sebastian Moran, a British Officer, that is affiliated with Professor Moriarty. Dr. Christopher Moran is following in his father's footsteps. There is a match-up between Mrs. Blalock, Dr. John Watson, Dr. Watson, Jr. and Dr. Christopher Moran. The plot continually gives twists and turns.

Several aspects that contribute:

- A complex code that is used by Dr. C. Moran and fellow officers;
- the systematic killing of officers;
- the Chubb safe containing a treasure and; finally,
- the strategy of Dr. John Watson, Dr. Watson, Jr. and Mrs. Blalock to expose the killer.

...Reviewed by Bernie

**Girl With a Gun - Annie Oakley 1**  
by Kari Bovée  
Type: Mystery/History/Cozy - \$16.95



Fifteen-year-old Annie Oakley is the sole supporter of her widowed mother and two siblings. An expert marksman and independent spirit, she hunts game to sell to the local mercantile to make ends meet instead of accepting a marriage proposal that could solve all her problems.

When another innocent is murdered, Annie begins to fear the deaths are related to her. And to make matters worse, her prized horse, Buck, a major part of her act, is stolen.

Annie soon discovers that the solution to her problems lies buried in a padlocked Civil War trunk belonging to the show's manager, Derence LeFleur. With the help of a sassy, blue-blooded reporter, Annie sets out to find her horse, solve the murders, and clear her name.

*Girl with a Gun* is a pleasant, wholesome mystery featuring Annie Mosey a.k.a. Annie Oakley. It relates the fictional beginning of her life as a star in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. Annie turns into a detective upon the "natural death" of her new friend and assistant Kimi who is a teenage mother and member of the Sioux nation. This likeable story is filled with noble Indians, handsome cowboys, a plucky heroine and a villain who is exactly who you suspected all along. But, that doesn't make it any less enjoyable.

...Anonymous