

Myster-E Press

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Next Meeting: December 13, 2007 meeting at the Vertigo Mystery Theatre.

Join us to see 'The Mystery of Edwin Drood' by Rupert Holmes. The Tony-Award winning musical holiday extravaganza will help to put us in the Christmas spirit!! The title character disappears one stormy Christmas Eve—but has he been murdered? If so, whodunit? Audience participation is essential to solve the mystery.

Vertigo Theatre is located inside the Tower Centre on the ground floor and east of the Calgary Tower. Parking is available in the Tower Parkade and direction to the theatre is well sign-posted.

TIME: **7:30 pm curtain (currently advertised time)**
6:30 pm meet in the Empress Room situated on the second level of the theatre -pick up your ticket from the box office first. Any INK business can be conducted at that time.

If you require further information email Marilyn at mhls@shaw.ca

Can you guess the identity of this month's mysterious INK member from the clues planted within this newsletter? *

clue #1

If you could be any mystery sleuth, who would it be? Why?

I think Val McDermid's Carol Jordan, because she's smart and tough. Plus she has an intriguing relationship with psychologist Tony Hill.

*answer on last page

November Presentation Review by Lyle Lachmuth

Like his automobile namesake, Jeff Buick gave his audience at October's INK meeting a "*Beautiful Ride*".

The Driver – or, Writer/Best-selling Author:

Jeff is that rare beast: the Native Calgarian. And, he's one of those guys who didn't dream about being a writer growing up. Nope! His calling then was the outdoors and cowboys and Indians. After graduating from William Aberhart, Jeff headed off to U of C, completed a degree in Geophysics, and hired on with Schlumberger.

Then, like many of us in the not so halcyon 80s, Jeff was right-sized. Finding himself at loose ends, with two boys to raise, all on his own, Jeff jumped into the real estate business. This was a foreshadowing of his skills as a presenter and self-promoting author.

Since Jeff is easily bored he decided to take up pen and write. Well, actually he grabbed his laptop and headed for the nearest Second Cup and sat down and began to write. Now, let's take a look at ...

The Trip – or, Jeff's Books and Writing Style:

Jeff is the proud papa of two boys and 18, count 'em, 18 novels – five of them actually published! Jeff shared his secrets of being such a prolific writer, and how to self promote. Here's a few of those secrets:

1. Jeff gets his ideas from, well, almost anywhere. The idea comes: boom! And, Jeff is off writing. But, first he fixes several "plot milestones" in his brain. Then as he writes he measures where he is page-wise versus the milestones.

2. And, how does Jeff know where he is page-wise? Geophysicists learn math, right! So, Jeff figured out that there was a ratio between the number of pages in a manuscript and the number of pages in the final book. I forget the magic ratio, so you'll have to get that secret from Jeff. Ah, he thinks, I've done 20,000 words that's page ...
3. Jeff has one rule! Write 1,100 words a day. That's it. And, voila three months later he has his novel. That's how he's managed to write eighteen novels – and raise several boys and dogs.
4. Jeff draws on his gifts of research – actually he's a curious guy – to gather needed plot information from books (usually when he hangs out at Chapters) and from people. He also loves to travel to research book locales.
5. Jeff is THE most savvy self-promoter I've ever met! I think it's an inborn gift, myself. And, that's a good thing these days because even 'famous' authors have to do the book promotion rounds. Jeff uses bookmarkers, his website (www.JeffBuick.com), and his own natural enthusiasm to promote his books.
6. Jeff is also a superb networker. That's how he met his publisher and agent.
- 7.

Jeff's novels include: African Ice, Bloodline, Lethal Dose, and Shell Game. His newest novel is due out February 2008.

Guess the INK member, clue #2

What's the last book you read?
Fresh Kills by Reggie Nadelson. It was superb.

Is the Great Canadian crime Novel tucked carefully away in a drawer or even languishing under your bed?

Well, here's your chance to pull out that manuscript and enter it for the **Arthur Ellis Award for Best Unpublished First Crime Novel (the Unhanged Arthur)**.

The Arthur Ellis Award for Best Unpublished First Crime Novel, sponsored by **McArthur & Company Publishing Ltd.**, was first awarded by the Crime Writers of Canada in 2007 as part of the CWC mandate to recognize and promote the careers of promising new crime writers. The competition is open to (1) Canadian citizens, no matter where they are living, and to writers, regardless of nationality, who have Permanent Resident status in Canada, and (2) who have never had a novel of any kind published commercially.

Contestants should have a completed manuscript and should submit the opening chapter(s) – no more than 5000 words – plus a 500-word synopsis of the rest of the novel. "Crime novel" is defined as crime, detective, espionage, mystery, suspense, or thriller, and can be set in any time period and crime-related sub-genre.

Deadline is Dec.31, 2007.

Contest rules can be found at the CWC website: www.crimewriterscanada.com.

Reminder: Ink Memberships were due by September 30

Membership \$45/year

Early Bird bonus: Renew by September 30 and save \$5

Drop-In Fee: \$5 at the door

The mailing address is: 223 12th Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2R 0G9.

Welcome New Members:

Liane DesBrisay of Calgary
Sandy Nordstrom of Calgary
Jeanne Wood of Edmonton
Claudia Zakrison of Calgary
Susan Toy of St. Vincent (West Indies)
Judith Pittman of Calgary
Marilyne Hebert of Calgary

Guess the INK member, clue #3:

Where have you traveled?
I've been to Britain, France, northwest
US (Washington, Idaho, Oregon).
Within Canada, I've been to BC,
Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland.

If you've always wanted to dine with a murderer, here's your chance:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/05/20/wmafia20.xml>

And in case the murderer can't help you with the forensic details, check out:

<http://www.dplylemd.com/forcomm.html>

Test your vocabulary while doing something to help feed the poor:

<http://freerice.com/index.php>

Guess the INK member, clue #4:

If you were cast as a character in a book, how would you describe yourself?
Quiet, uptight, slightly defensive, but perceptive and with a sense of humour.

Become one of Santa's Elves

Why make wooden toys in an igloo-factory when you could volunteer for INK?

- Practice networking skills by taking on PUBLICITY or MEMBERSHIP
- Become a leader in the writing community by becoming PRESIDENT
- Develop your organizational skills as SECRETARY

If you think you could fill or expand one of these positions, please contact Past President Anne Jayne (anne@annejayne.com) or current Vice-President Bernie Visotto (lvisotto@hotmail.com)

Links of Interest:

Crimescenewriter – a yahoo group in which a trained crime scene investigator (and other contributors) respond to questions from writers about crime scenes.

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/crimescenewriter/messages>

Chinook Learning Services: Youth Criminal Justice Act. 7:00 – 9:30, Tuesday, November 13 \$10, plus additional \$5 if you bring along a friend, spouse, or partner
<http://www.chinooklearningservices.com/ContEd/AdultCourses/YouthCriminalJusticeAct.html>

Citizens Police Academy, Calgary Police Service.

CPA is a 14-week course offered by the Calgary Police Service. Application forms are available at District Police officers. More information here:

<http://www.calgarypolice.ca/community/cpa.html> (this information forwarded by Anne Jayne, who took advantage of this opportunity a few years ago and is willing to rave about it to anyone who asks).

Member News

Shirlee Smith Matheson:

Public Library: Maverick in the Sky – by Shirlee Smith Matheson

Join Shirlee as she reads from her latest book, about the aerial adventures of World War 1 Flying Ace and Canadian hero Freddie McCall. Wednesday, November 28, 7-8:30 p.m. at Alexander Calhoun Library. For more information check out: www.ssmatheson.ca

Steve Owad:

Steve is currently in Toronto promoting his new book Brother's Keeper. For more information, check out: www.stevenowad.com

Susan Calder:

Susan's poem, "Snapshot: The Beatles Land in America" will be published in the Silver Boomers anthology this winter. If you're interested in contributing to future issues, check the website: www.silverboomers.com

Guess the INK member, clue #5

What is your writing routine?

I don't know if I'd call it a "routine" exactly. I do most of my writing in a Second Cup during my lunch hour, with an hour or two on the weekends.

INK add's an online writer's group

Writing is solitary. We all know that. You're your own boss and, sometimes, you give yourself more holidays than you should. Sometimes it helps to have an "office" to check in with.

OWL can be your virtual office. Here's how it works: on Sundays, if you want to participate that week, you send a message to the loop, stating your goals for the week. And then each day of the week, you report what you have accomplished. We learn to set SMART goals, which are: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely.

This loop is called OWL*for*INK and it is a goal setting tool. It is ONLY for goal setting and reporting. Please hold all jokes, recipes, advertisements to wine and cheeses, etc.

Since we're starting a "goal setting loop" and since part of INK's mission is to help writers network, I thought it might be useful to start a "networking loop" at the same time.

This second loop will be called INK*talk*. This is where you find out who else is going to that book signing, rave about that great mystery you just read, ask if anyone knows about poison darts, and generally talk about issues that are somehow related to writing and parawriting activities. Again, please,

none of those cute little forwarded jokes, okay?

You can belong to both loops if you want, but keep in mind what each loop is for.

How it all works

You will receive two Emails from me, coming via the Yahoo list serve. These are your invitations – one for OWL*for*INK and another for INK*talk*.

If you want to join, follow the instructions on the Yahoo invitation(s). Give yourself an ID and set up your profile.

Your Yahoo ID

Your invitation will explain how to set up your Yahoo ID. I call myself suzannestengl. Other people are more creative and come up with names like love2writemystery or inkblot, but you can call yourself anything, as long as the name is not taken in the Yahoo world.

Your Profile

Your profile can contain a lot of things, or next to nothing. It only needs your Email address and your *Preferences* for how you want to receive your messages. You have three choices. The default is to receive individual Emails. You can also choose to have them come in a Digest (all the messages for that day in one Email). Or you can set yourself to No Mail, for those times when you are on vacation, on deadline, or just not interested. You

are responsible for making any changes to your Email contact information.

If you are not interested in either of these loops, ignore the Invitation and it will go away. It's only good for 30 days. After that, if you decide to join, you will need to get "re-invited". If you think either loop might benefit you in the future, join now, get yourself set up, and then set your profile to No Mail.

Mail Box Rules

It is useful to set up Mail Box Rules for your In Box. This way, as messages come in they are automatically directed to your OWLforINK folder, or your INKtalk folder. If we are discussing something on INKtalk, you can click through all the messages pertaining to this – in order, without getting distracted by that advert for Shaw Phone or that letter from Aunt Gertrude.

Consult your ISP or your local teenager for how to do this. It's very

simple, as everything is, once you know how :o)

Change the Subject

The subject line, that is. Messages are archived on the site. So, if you want to find that information on poison darts, it's easier to search for if the subject line says: Poison Darts.

Security

We are a "closed" group, which means you need to belong to INK to join, you need to get an invitation from me and we will not show up on a Google search.

That's the explanation for now. Stay tuned for your invitation. Any questions? Contact me at suzanne.stengl@shaw.ca

Suzanne Stengl is a founding member of INK, charter President, and a veteran user of OWL.

*"It's part of the storytellers art to reveal a single defining moment in a character's life, the inflection point at which the reader gain some insight into what makes the person tick. Huck escapes from his father and sets off down the river. Lear banishes Cordelia. Bogart reaches into his jacket pocket and gives Bergman the papers."
-Richard Stengl, Managing Editor, Time Magazine.*

Guess the INK member, clue #6

If you could have been the author of any one story, which would it be? Why? I love Barbara Wilson's *Sisters of the Road*. It's a very low key mystery but incredibly moving. I love the main character's personal investment in solving the crime.

Mystery Writers Ink Society
223 – 12th Avenue SW, Calgary Alberta T2R 0G9

Mission Statement: *Mystery Writers Ink shall support writers of mystery fiction by providing networking opportunities and by educating and informing writers about writing techniques, publishing, and marketing.*

Ink Board of Directors

2007-2008 Meeting Year

President vacant
Vice President ... Bernie Visotto
Treasurer Marg Brick
Secretary..... Anne Rothery
Membership..... Peter O'Brien
Director-at-large... Shirlee Smith Matheson
Past President.... Anne Jayne
Facilities Anne Jayne
Library Susan Calder Arnold
Website..... Jayne Barnard
Reception Bernie Visotto
Newsletter Fiona Pinnell
Publicity..... vacant

Program Committee:

- Sherry Wilson McEwen
- Marilyn Lewis-Steer
- Davis Neave
- Shirlee Smith Matheson

Fall-Winter Meeting Schedule:

Second Thursdays, Old Y

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

(except where otherwise noted)

Thursday December 13:

**Meeting at Vertigo Mystery Theatre
for “The Mystery of Edwin Drood”**

“wildly warm-hearted musical...The title character disappears one stormy Christmas Eve – but has he been murdered?”

http://www.vertigotheatre.com/main/page.php?page_id=2

**Contact Marilyn Lewis-Steer of Ink
for ticket info.**

Thursday, January 10, 2008:

Mark Bellamy

“Plot and Character On Stage - The Mechanics of the Theatrical Mystery”

Mark Bellamy has been part of Calgary’s professional theatre community since graduating from the University of Calgary in 1986. As an actor, director and choreographer he has worked for every theatre company in Calgary, as well as across Canada, the United States and Britain.

Who is our mysterious INK member?

Jeanne Wood of Edmonton.
Jeanne attended our May 2007 event in Banff.

