

Mystery Loves Company AN EVENING WITH THE CRIME-WRITING KELLERMANS

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Jonathan, a professor at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, published his first novel in 1985. He has since published at least one best-selling crime novel every year. Faye is also a best-selling author, and there are more than 20 million copies of her novels in print internationally, including the acclaimed Peter Decker/Rina Lazarus series. Faye and her youngest daughter, Aliza, recently co-wrote *Prism*, a young-adult novel that will be out in June. Jesse has published three novels, and his award-winning plays have been produced throughout the United States and in Edinburgh. His latest novel, *The Genius*, was a *London Times* bestseller.

In association, **AMY CICCONE** and **JUDY TRUELSON** of the USC Libraries have selected the following resources to help you explore the mysterious world of crime fiction. These include materials on the Kellermans, their mysteries, and perspectives on gender and ethnicity in crime fiction.

The Crime-Writing Kellermans

Faye Kellerman's Web site: www.fayekellerman.net

Kellerman provides information about her books, answers frequently asked questions, and shares a brief biography.

Suggested Faye Kellerman novels:

- *Mercedes Coffin*
- *The Burnt House*

Jonathan Kellerman's Web site: www.jonathankellerman.com

A psychologist as well as a writer of suspense novels, Kellerman communicates with readers using his Web site and gives profiles of his books.

Suggested Jonathan Kellerman novels:

- *True Detectives*

Jesse Kellerman's Web site: www.jessekellerman.com

Kellerman sketches his mysteries and provides a brief biographical sketch.

Suggested Jesse Kellerman novels:

- *The Genius*
- *Trouble*
- *Sunstroke*

The Kellermans offer rare insights into the craft of writing—characterization and plot development—and the ways that popular crime fiction examines controversial issues related to sexuality, religious faith, and racial identity.

Writing Crime and Ethnicity

Sleuthing Ethnicity: The Detective in Multiethnic Crime Fiction

By Dorothea Fischer-Hornung

Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2003

Looking at detective novels from around the world, Fischer-Hornung defines “ethnic detectives” as protagonists who do not belong to the novel’s dominant social groups. Citing Tony Hillerman as a prominent example, she notes that the majority of “ethnic detective” fiction writers identify with other social groups, creating main characters who do not share their racial identities.

Doheny Library PS374.D4S58 2003

Inspecting Jews: American Jewish Detective Stories

By Laurence Roth

Rutgers University Press, 2004

The author analyzes stories about American Jewish detectives—including Harry Kemelman’s Rabbi Small, Faye Kellerman’s Peter Decker and Rina Lazarus, Stuart Kaminsky’s Abe Lieberman, and Rochelle Krich’s Jessica Drake—not only as a genre of literature, but also as a reflection of contemporary acculturation in the American Jewish popular arts.

Doheny Library PS374.D4R67 2004

Writing Crime and Gender

Lesbian Detective Fiction: Woman as Author, Subject, and Reader

By Phyllis M. Betz

McFarland & Co., 2006

This book looks at how the lesbian characters’ public and private lives intersect. Also considered is the lesbian detective’s typical confrontation with two crucial elements of the investigator’s role: the use of violence and the acquisition and expression of authority within police systems.

Doheny Library PS153.L46B48 2006

The Gay Male Sleuth in Print and Film: A History and Annotated Bibliography

By Drewey Wayne Gunn

Scarecrow Press, 2005

The book takes a provocative look at gay male sleuths throughout history and provides a comprehensive bibliography of books where these characters figure prominently.

Cinematic Arts Library Z1231.47G86 2005D47

The Gay Detective Novel: Lesbian and Gay Main Characters and Themes in Mystery Fiction

By Judith A. Markowitz

McFarland & Co., 2004

This groundbreaking study of gay and lesbian detective fiction examines mystery series and historically significant stand-alone novels published since the early 1960s.

Doheny Library PS374.H63M37 2004