



Southern California Writers Association

The Perennial Writers Conference

May 2019 Newsletter

Volume 18, Number 5 -- May | 2019

President's Message

Larry Porricelli, SCWA President

Thank you for making the SCWA the phenomenal organization it is today, and for even better things to come. If your annual fees are due, please sign up to extend for your next twelve months.

A Reminder: We provide an excellent selection of links and articles at every meeting that you won't get anywhere else. These valuable resources, selected monthly by Sharon Goldinger, cover author marketing, the writer's craft, and the publishing industry. Only available at our monthly meetings...don't miss them!

Spring is a good time to UPDATE your member profile Information for your email, website, phone and publications is completely optional. We don't share it outside the SCWA membership.

Contact Pam Sheppard - sheppardedits@gmail.com to submit changes or additions.

SCWA Special Offer: HEADSHOTS for Authors

A few appointments for May 13 and 15 are still open – ACT QUICKLY!!

Photographers at Esperanza Career Technical Ed offer 10 In-Studio Headshots for \$35.

Contact Maddie – maddiemargarita@gmail.com

A note from our Social Media and Communications Maven, Diana Pardee:
Check out our SCWA Facebook link and join us for excerpts, discussions and encouragements.

Follow us, we'd love to see you there!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/160332824032519>

This Month - May 18th, 2019
CHRISTINA HOAG
“10,000 Mistakes to Publication”



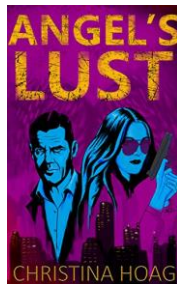
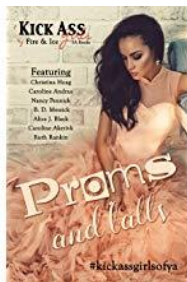
A former journalist, Christina Hoag has had her laptop searched by Colombian guerrillas, phone tapped in Venezuela, was suspected of drug trafficking in Guyana, hid under a car to evade Guatemalan soldiers, and posed as a nun to get inside a Caracas jail. She has interviewed gang members, bank robbers, thieves and thugs in prisons, shantytowns and slums, not to forget billionaires and presidents, some of whom fall into the previous categories. Now she writes about such characters in her fiction.



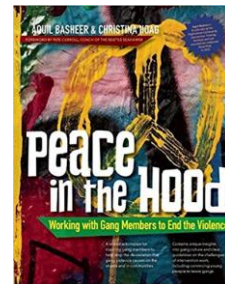
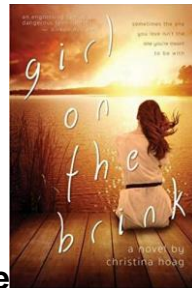
Her debut noir crime novel *Skin of Tattoos* was a finalist for the 2017 Killer Nashville Silver Falchion Award for suspense, while her YA thriller *Girl on the Brink* was named one of Suspense Magazine's Best of 2016. She also co-authored *Peace in the Hood: Working with Gang Members to End the Violence*, which is being used in several universities.

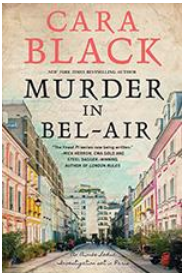
Christina now lives in Los Angeles, where she has been a creative writing instructor at a maximum-security prison and to at-risk teen girls in South and East Los Angeles. She is a regular speaker at libraries, bookstores, book clubs, conferences and writing groups.

Find more about Christina at < <https://www.christinahoag.com/>>



June





**Next Month: JUNE 15TH
CARA BLACK**

newest book: MURDER IN BEL-AIR available June 4, 2019

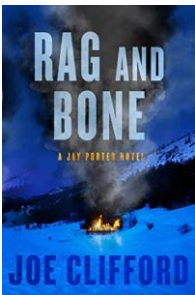
“Bonjour and welcome to Aimee Leduc’s Paris: the off-the-beaten-track Paris, the Paris you’re not going to find in the guidebooks, the darker side of the city of lights. Aimee works as a private investigator, scouring the alleys of Paris, from the cafes and shops to the rooftops, catacombs, and, when clues take her there, the dark sewers under the city. These occasionally unpleasant adventures are just the price of solving some of Paris’s highest-profile murder cases.”

MURDER IN BEL-AIR is the nineteenth in Cara Black’s Leduc Investigations series. NINETEENTH ! We are so lucky to have Cara come to join us at SCWA, She has ridden all the changes in the publishing world since her first Leduc book in 1999. She’s published a new book almost every year since then and has been a USA Today and a New York Times bestselling author.

Don’t miss this event! Get a taste of Cara’s Paris Noir with an excerpt of MURDER IN BEL AIR – find it at <carablack.com>



**HIGHLIGHTS: Joe Clifford
“Injecting Life into Your Writing”
April 20th, 2019**



“Injecting Life into Your Writing”

Because of his earlier life, it was incredible that Joe Clifford was not only alive but standing before SCWA members while openly and honestly describing that past life of methamphetamine and heroin addiction, and how he became an author. **You simply should have been here. This report cannot do him justice.** (And he talks fast.)

Clifford’s many books include the Jay Porter Thriller Series by Oceanview Publishing and have received awards and great reviews by *Publishers Weekly*, *Library Journal*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, and others. He is also a teacher of online writing courses for LitReactor and speaks at conferences and retreats. He’s the editor of *Trouble in the Heartland: Crime Stories Based on the Songs of Bruce Springsteen* and the soon-to-be-out *Just to Watch Him Die: Crime Fiction Inspired by the Songs of Johnny Cash*. Next, he plans to create a book inspired by Taylor Swift’s lyrics, a “positive role model.”

Clifford’s tumultuous life began with an abusive monster of a father who even threw his wife down the stairs. Clifford said he (himself) didn’t fit into society. Most of the people he knew were “oddballs, damaged, dreamers, the frauds. How do they get on with their lives?” When close to twenty-one, he felt overwhelmed by having his whole life still in front of him. He decided to move to San Francisco.

In 1992, Clifford started drugs, meth and heroine. “I wanted to be Bruce Springsteen.” By 1995, he was “living on the streets with nothing. Once you start injecting, forget it.” He was “angry about being born.” “I ran on outside-validation. We need self-validation.” When the gutter is your library, he says, you’ll be surprised what you might find under cars. He found and read a book on philosophy and John Gray’s *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus*.

Clifford said he always had a bad anxiety condition and maybe some brain damage. These cognitive distortions “don’t go away with drugs.” He “wanted more than what the world offered.” His mother kept telling him to “go back to school and grow up.”

At thirty years old, one day he woke up naked in a jail cell. It was his point of no return. His whole self said, “I can’t do this anymore. Not rock and roll funny anymore.” His height was 6’ 1”, but he weighed only 150 lb. Today he’s a muscular 220 lb. (Yes, readers, he did describe all the addictive and withdrawal symptoms he went through.) His older brother, whom he calls his “best friend,” could not overcome his own addictions and died in 2017.

Ironically, Clifford referred to himself as “a Rock Star” when in rehab. Why? Because he was good-looking and “I had all my teeth.” The females flocked to him. Otherwise, the rehab period was like torture: “Your head could be falling off, and you wouldn’t even get an aspirin.”

During recovery, Clifford started meditating. “All I can do is move forward and shoulder my responsibilities for what I did.” He quoted singer Frank Turner: “There’s always hope left.” Our speaker added, “I don’t want to give away the ending, but I lived.” His favorite movie is *Rocky* because boxer Rocky “would take the beatings—but kept going.”

Clifford went back to college and graduated with a 3.96. “You get out of education what you put into it.” Next was earning a Master’s in Fine Arts from Florida International University in 2008. He likes to write commercial mysteries and says, “But you can stay true to who you are.” He added that there is a template to writing mysteries.

Clifford’s autobiographical novel is *Junkie Love*, published in 2010 by Battered Suitcase. His second novel on the same line is *Junkie Love: A Story of Recovery and Redemption*, Sept. 2018. He lives in the Bay Area with his wife and two sons.

When asked if he speaks to groups other than writers, he indicated that he’s spoken at “his old school” (and maybe others). But the dilemma comes when he says not to do drugs because his listeners could say “Hey, it worked out for you.” But he clarifies to them that pot and others are bad and they are going to have to deal with addiction.

“Oh, yeah,” he said. “The drugs work. Until they don’t. THEN you’re in trouble. You consume the drugs and then the drugs consume you.” Clifford felt that when he was younger, he’d been lied to about the realities of drug use. He stated that 99% of drug users “don’t come back from addiction.”

About writing: “You own everything that happened to you.” Sometimes you do describe an event that includes someone else who’s now upset about it. Our speaker’s response is “If they don’t like what you say, they should have acted better.”

During Q&A, someone asked if Clifford wrote when a child. He commented that an English teacher once told him his writing was good. “That was the first time anyone told me I was good at anything.” He had always written but didn’t know it was of any quality. In addition, he played music and painted (nothing that earned money, he jokes). Today he loves grammar and editing—“which makes me a hit at parties.”

His pattern now is to write two books a year and works mornings and nights on them. When an audience member asked about writer’s block, Clifford said that would be “having a dead mind” and then explained how to overcome that feeling. If you just sit before your blank screen, you’re not going to get anywhere. So, start putting words on your paper or even type on your screen a specific line such as “I don’t have anything to say.” Keep writing or typing that line over and over and “soon ideas will kick in.” The physical act of typing or handwriting will trigger synapses in your brain cells. The ideas start coming, and soon you’re creating other words [and worlds].

See <http://www.joeclifford.com/> and <https://litreactor.com/classes/upcoming>.

NEW ! Links for Writers

- **PUBLISHED TO DEATH** - Erica Verrillo has written seven books and published five. She doesn't know why anyone with an ounce of self-preservation would ever want to publish. But, if you insist on selling your soul to the devil, learn how to do it right: marketing, literary agents, book promotion, editing, pitching your book, how to get reviews, and ... most important of all ... everything she did wrong.

ERICA'S MAY TOPIC: WRITING CONTESTS IN MAY WITH NO ENTRY FEES:

https://publishedtodeath.blogspot.com/2019/04/34-writing-contests-in-may-no-entry-fees.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+PublishingAndOtherFormsOfInsanity+%28Publishing+...+and+Other+Forms+of+Insanity%29

- **WRITER BEWARE** Shining a bright light into the dark corners of the shadow-world of literary scams, schemes, and pitfalls. Also providing advice for writers, industry news, and commentary. Writer Beware is sponsored by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, Inc.

04/26/2019

AWARDS PROFITEERS: HOW WRITERS CAN RECOGNIZE THEM AND WHY THEY SHOULD AVOID THEM

[https://accrispin.blogspot.com/2019/04/awards-profiteers-how-writers-can.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+AtLastWriterBewareBlogsAcCrispinAndVictoriaStraussRevealAll+\(Writer+Beware%C2%AE:+The+Blog\)](https://accrispin.blogspot.com/2019/04/awards-profiteers-how-writers-can.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+AtLastWriterBewareBlogsAcCrispinAndVictoriaStraussRevealAll+(Writer+Beware%C2%AE:+The+Blog))

SCWA Mission

The mission of the SCWA is to provide a forum for promoting the welfare, fellowship, spirit, education, information, and encouragement among published and unpublished writers in the Southern California area,

SCWA Active Member Benefits

Active members receive a 30% discount at every SCWA meeting.

SCWA provides scholarships to members who attend writer's conferences.

SCWA members receive a free review and 30-minute consultation from Sharon Goldinger for any publishing contract.

SCWA members receive discounts on Jeff Lyon's online courses.

SCWA Critique Program – see below.

Discounts are available for active SCWA members for registration for the La Jolla Writer's Conference, and for early registration for the Southern California Writers' Conference, which is held twice annually in San Diego and Orange County.

SPECIAL OFFERS for SCWA Members

Esperanza High School Career Tech Ed Department offers a package of

10 in-studio AUTHOR HEADSHOTS – a \$150 value for a minimum donation of \$35.

Contact Don Westenhaver <donwestenhaver@roadrunner.com> by Tuesday April 16 to sign up!



SCWA member, SONIA MARSH offers an **EXCLUSIVE WRITER'S RETREAT** To South Africa and Victoria Falls for 10 guests scheduled for March 2020.

An extraordinary Writer's Safari Retreat led by Susan Weidener, editor, author, and staff writer with the *Philadelphia Enquirer*.

For more information, call or email Sonia –
(949)402-7828 <<https://wetravelwithapurpose.com/>>
EARLY BIRD Discount until April 30

SCWA Critique Program

We have some exciting news on the critique front. One of our members received a critique, and he credits that critique with getting him a two-day response from an agent, who wants to see the entire manuscript. We love it when that happens.

Critique requests should be sent to Steve Jackson at steven@stevengjackson.com. If you have not received a response to a previous critique request, please resubmit (without any fee if you've already paid) to Steve. Steve will direct your sample (up to 15 double-spaced pages) to one of the Board members once we receive your payment. Payments (\$20.00 for members and \$30.00 for nonmembers) should be directed to Don Westenhaver.

- Check payable to SCWA: mail to Don at 5391 Fox Hills Ave., Buena Park, CA 90621
- Credit Card: advise Steve that you will pay by credit card. He will have Don send you an invoice with instructions on how to pay through the SCWA Square account.

Have a Question about a Publishing Contract?

Contracts involving publishing matters can be confusing if you're not familiar with all the language. What does something mean? What questions should I be asking? Do I have any other choices? If you're not sure what you're reading, what a term or section means, or if you should be signing the contract at all, SCWA is offering a new benefit. SCWA member, publishing consultant, and book shepherd Sharon Goldinger is offering a free review and thirty-minute consultation for any publishing contract to any SCWA member. You can reach her directly at pplspeak@att.net.

Conferences, Events, and Announcements

Lit Up! Orange County is 7pm **Tuesday, May 21st** at our NEW LOCATION Bardot & Bars in Tustin at 662 El Camino Real in the Camino Real Shopping Center in Old Town Tustin. Easy location off Newport Avenue just north of the 5 freeway.

This month...Mystery! Science Fiction! Contemporary Fiction! Join **DP Lyle**, **J Dianne Dotson**, and **Janet Clare** for a special night of readings and smart conversation.

Enjoy the casual vibe along with delicious coffee, ice cream and a light food menu! Lit Up! is free and open to the public!

“Will Write for Food” Contest

The “Will Write For Food” contest is a monthly blind competition. Winners are selected by a literary agent. First prize includes publication in the SCWA Newsletter, a certificate, and a \$25 cash prize.

You may write on any subject. Stories have a maximum of 1000 words. The winner will be announced at the SCWA meeting. To enter, email your story by February 8th, 2019, to meeting@ocwriter.com.

There are no limits to the number of times you can win. Join the fun and earn some rewards.



Monthly Meeting Information and Map

Meeting Location:

Claim Jumper Restaurant
 Banquet Room entrance, rear of building
 18050 Brookhurst St., Fountain Valley, CA
 Restaurant telephone: (714) 963-6711

Registration & Networking: 9:30 a.m.
 Meeting: 10:00 a.m.
 Lunch: 11:30 a.m.
 Afternoon Program: 12:30 p.m.



[Meeting Fees \(cash, check or credit/debit\)](#)

Reservation Type	SCWA Member	Student	Others
RSVP	\$25	\$15	\$35

SCWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

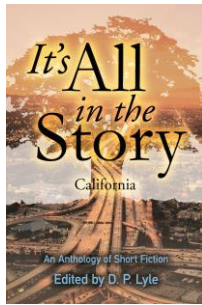
- PresidentLarry Porricelli
- Vice President of Membership Steven G. Jackson
- Vice President of Finances and Communication Don Westenhaver
- Vice President of Programming Madeline Margarita
- Director of Social Media Diana Pardee
- Webmaster Brennan Harvey
- Newsletter Editor Pam Sheppard
- Newsletter Speaker ReporterGlenda Rynn

Mailing Address: PO Box 47, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Membership: Yann Jackson, ykj3678@gmail.com

Meeting Reservations

Larry Porricelli, meeting@ocwriter.com
 714-580-5072



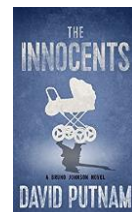
The SCWA Anthology, ***It's All in the Story***, went to a second printing to meet the demand of wholesalers and bookstores. We have books for direct sales (\$15 for one, \$12.50 each for two, \$10 each for three or more). You may contact Don Westenhaver to arrange for payment, and we will have the copies available for you at the next SCWA meeting. Don can be reached at donwestenhaver@roadrunner.com.

For more information visit the SCWA Anthology website at:
www.SCWAanthology.com

Recent SCWA Members' Publications

David Putnam: <https://dwputnam.wordpress.com>

The Innocents: A Bruno Johnson Novel
The Early Years, Book 1 12/18



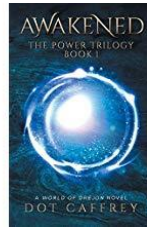
Janis Thomas: janisthomas.com

All That's Left of Me

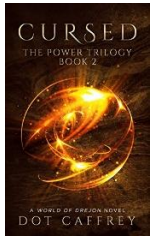
What Remains True



Dot Caffrey: www.dotcaffrey.com



**AWAKENED Book 1
The Power Trilogy**



**The Power Trilogy, Book 2:
CURSED Now available!**

PJ Colando: www.pjcolando.com

The Winner's Circle: Launched February, 2019

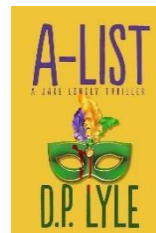


**I Am...A Character:
Newly released April, 2019**

Steven Jackson: <https://stevengjackson.com>
"The Optimism of Youth"

D.P. Lyle: www.dplylemd.com

A-List: Coming in Paperback 2/19



Jeff Lyons: www.jefflyonsbooks.com

*Rapid Story Development: #4: Teams and Ensembles—
How to Develop Stories with Large Casts - 10/18*

*Rapid Story Development: #5: The Moral Premise –
How to Build a Bulletproof Narrative Engine for Any Story - 11/18*

Rapid Story Development: #6: Seven Steps to Busting Writer's Block - 12/18



JEFF LYONS



#4



JEFF LYONS



#5



JEFF LYONS



#6

Darlene Quinn: <https://darlenequinn.net>



**WEBS OF PERCEPTION – the final novel in Darlene Quinn's
Webs Series. 11/18**

AUDIBLE version NOW AVAILABLE!

CLICK TO LISTEN TO THE FIRST FIVE (bite-sized) CHAPTERS:

<https://darlenequinn.net/webs-of-perception/>

Available March 19: Richard Miller Morgan's CROWN HUNT 3/19



Ananya and Brett Ridenour:

**COLORING OUTSIDE THE LINES: Integrating Project
Management and Creativity 10/18**

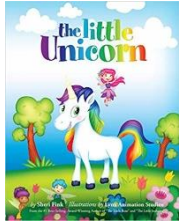
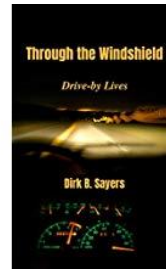


**ANANYA & BRETT
RIDENOUR**

Dirk Sayers: dirksayers.com/dirks-writings

Through the Windshield: 12/18

Best Case Scenario: 8/18



Sheri Fink: www.sherifink.net

The Little Unicorn 9/18

SCWA Member Publications and Productions

<u>Author</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Year</u>
Belmont, Julie	<i>Creativity Business Plan for Artists at Heart</i>	2014
Belmont, Julie	<i>The Path to Personal Success and Freedom; Turning Hurdles into Stepping Stones</i>	2005
Caffrey, Dot	<i>Cursed Power</i>	2015
	<i>Awakening Powers</i>	2014
Colando, PJ	<i>The Winner's Circle</i>	2019
	<i>Hashes & Bashes</i>	2016
	<i>Stashes</i>	2014
Crayne, Victory	<i>Rebuilt</i>	2016
	<i>Humans Only</i>	2016
	<i>Freedom</i>	2015
De Ladurantey, Joseph	<i>Making Your Memories with Rock & Roll and Doo Wop</i>	2016
	<i>Cowards, Crooks, and Warriors</i>	2015
Dingus, Peter	<i>Worlds in Transition</i>	2017
Donenfled-Vernoux, AR	<i>Pudel & Cie: Case #1 Moroney Boloney</i>	2015
	<i>Cave Dreams</i>	2014
	<i>Out of the Chute</i>	2014
	<i>How To Get And Keep The Best Jobs:Secrets HR Won't Tell You</i>	
Dunlap, Larry J	<i>Night People</i>	2015
Fink, Sheri	<i>The Little Unicorn</i>	2018
	<i>Counting Sea Life with the Little Seahorse</i>	2017
	<i>Cake in Bed</i>	2016
	<i>My Bliss Book</i>	2015
	<i>The Little Seahorse</i>	2014
	<i>The Little Firefly</i>	2013
	<i>The Little Gnome</i>	2012
	<i>Exploring the Garden with the Little Rose</i>	2012
	<i>The Little Rose</i>	2011
Gilmore, Susan Kay	<i>Possessed by Baseball</i>	2013
Giussani, Sara	<i>Malibu</i>	2015
	<i>Come fare... La valutazione di un processo aziendale</i>	2014

Jackson, Steven G	<i>Management dei processi aziendali</i>	2012
	"The Optimism of Youth"	2018
	"Full Service"	2017
	"Life Dies, and Then You Suck"	2017
	"The Master Playwright"	2016
	"The Asylum for Rejected Characters"	2016
	<i>The Zeus Payload</i>	2015
	"Fade to Crazy"	2015
	"The Loan Officer"	2014
	King, Roy	<i>Symfonie Fantastique</i>
Klann, Nancy	<i>The Clock of Life</i>	2012
	<i>Like The Flies On The Patio</i>	2012

Lambert, Harlen, Sharron

Affairs of the Heart, Vol. 2 2017
Affairs of the Heart, Vol. 1 2016

Levine, Jennifer

Summer Secrets 2016

Lloyd, Rita Lee	<i>How to Survive in the 21st Century as a SSOFF</i>	2011
Lyle, DP (Doug)	<i>A-List</i>	2018
	<i>Deep Six</i>	2016
	<i>Forensics for Dummies, 2nd edition</i>	2016
	<i>Original Sin</i>	2015
	<i>Devil's Playground</i>	2015
	<i>Double Blind</i>	2015
	<i>Murder and Mayhem</i>	2013
	<i>Royal Pains: Sick Rich</i>	2012
	<i>Run To Ground</i>	2012
	<i>Thriller3: Love Is Murder (Short Story)</i>	2012
	<i>ABA Fundamentals: Understanding Forensic Science</i>	2012
	<i>Royal Pains: First, Do No Harm</i>	2011
	<i>Hot Lights, Cold Steel</i>	2011
	<i>Thrillers: 100 Must Reads (Essay)</i>	2010
	<i>Stress Fracture</i>	2010
	<i>Howdunnit: Forensics: A Guide For Writers</i>	2008
	<i>Forensics and Fiction</i>	2007
Lyons, Jeff	<i>Rapid Story Development: Bust the Top Ten Creative Writing Myths to Become a Better Writer</i>	2018
	<i>Rapid Story Development: Commerical Pace in Fiction & Creative Nonfiction</i>	2018
Lyons, Jeff	<i>Rapid Story Development: Ten Questions Every Writer Needs to Ask Before They Hire a Consultant</i>	2018
	<i>13 Minutes</i>	2018
	<i>Anatomy of a Premise Line</i>	2016
	<i>Jack Be Dead</i>	2016
Marsh, Sonia	<i>My Gutsy Story Anthology</i>	2013
	<i>Freeways to Flip-Flops</i>	2012
Marshall, Evelyn	<i>Concerning Georgia Stekker</i>	2014
	<i>The Way They See</i>	2013
	<i>The Provider</i>	2012
Martinez, Maria	<i>The Apple Tree Wish</i>	2012
Michaels, Jeffrey J.	<i>The Age of Change: A Challenging Path to the Future</i>	2017
	<i>Becomes Us All</i>	2016
	<i>A Day at the Beach</i>	2015
	<i>Tasa's Path</i>	2015
	<i>How to Become The True You</i>	2015
	<i>Light: The Reason for Existence</i>	2012
	<i>Beings: A Journey to Joy</i>	2010
	<i>Touch the Earth: A Path to Ascension</i>	2009
	<i>Crystal Experience: Manifest an Extraordinary Life</i>	2007

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Marsh, Sonia	<i>My Gutsy Story Anthology</i>	2013
	<i>Freeways to Flip-Flops</i>	2012
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Sayer, Dirk B.	<i>Best Case Scenario</i>	2018
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	<i>The Whiplash Hypothesis</i>	2008
	<i>The Red Turtle Project</i>	2008
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	<i>The Valentine State</i>	2013
	<i>Stars or Stripes Fourth of July</i>	2011
	<i>Happy New Year, Darling</i>	2005
Woodcock, Don	<i>A Lily Named Lillian</i>	2015

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