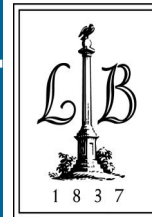


MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA PRESENTS

THE BLUE RELIGION

NEW STORIES ABOUT COPS, CRIMINALS, AND THE CHASE

Edited by Michael Connelly



ABOUT THE BOOK

BLUE RELIGION Published Simultaneously in Hardcover and Trade Paperback!

Nineteen original short stories—including a new contribution by **Michael Connelly**—about riveting showdowns between cops and criminals.

From Hawaii at the turn of the twentieth century to the post-Civil War frontier, from smoggy Los Angeles to the woods of Idaho, these gripping stories trace the perils and occasional triumphs of lawmen and women who put themselves in harm's way to face down the bad guys. Some of them even walk the edge of becoming bad guys themselves.

In **T. Jefferson Parker's** "Skinhead Central," an ex-cop and his wife find unexpected menace in the idyllic setting they have chosen for their retirement.

In **Alafair Burke's**

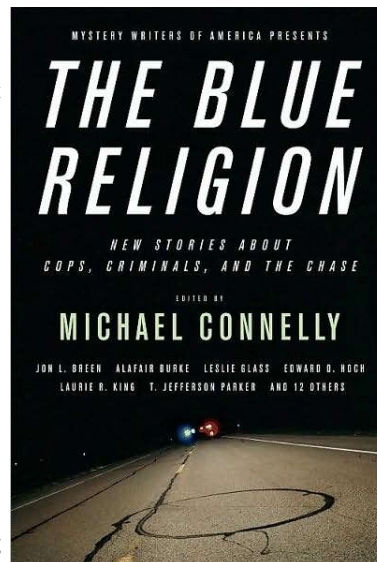
"Winning," a female officer who is attacked in the line of duty must protect her own husband from his worst impulses.

In **Edward D. Hoch's** "Friday Night Luck," a wanna-be cop blows his chance at a spot on the force—and breaks his case.

In **Michael Connelly's** "Father's Day," Harry Bosch faces one of his most emotionally trying cases, investigating a young boy's death.

This collection features stories from **T.**

Jefferson Parker, John Harvey, James O. Born, Paula Woods, Jon L. Breen, John Buentello, Jack Frederickson, Leslie Glass, Persia Walker, Edward D. Hoch, Laurie R. King, Polly Nelson,



Published April 14, 2008

Diana Hansen-Young, Peter Robinson, Greg Rucka, Bev Vincent, Paul Guyot, Alafair Burke, and Michael Connelly.

Where Did the Phrase "Blue Religion" Originate?

In his 2002 bestselling novel *City of Bones*, author Michael Connelly coined the phrase "blue religion" while meditating upon the pressures of carrying a police badge.

"You're wrong about me. I have faith and I have a mission. Call it blue religion, call it whatever you like. It's the belief that this won't just go by. That those bones came out of the ground for a reason. That they came out of the ground for me to find, and for me to do something about. And that's what holds me together and keeps me going."
— Harry Bosch

"Bosch went to the homicide table. The squad room was completely empty. When a cop went down in the division everybody responded. It was part of keeping the faith in the blue religion. If it was you who went down, you'd want everybody coming. So you responded in kind."

EDITED BY
MICHAEL CONNELLY

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PUBLISHED BY BACK BAY

384 Pages; \$15.99 Paperback

ISBN-10: 0-316-01265-3

ISBN-13: 978-0316-01265-2

DID YOU KNOW?

- Blue Religion was once a working title for Connelly's *City of Bones*.
- The first person Connelly asked to contribute to the anthology was a real cop, James O. Born.
- Author Alafair Burke has also worked in law enforcement as a prosecutor.
- Nine contributors were selected by a panel of MWA-affiliated author judges from among more than 200 blind submissions.
- Coincidentally, one of the nine contest winners, Paul Guyot, had worked with Connelly in 2000 on the TV show "Level 9."

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Michael Connelly is a former journal-



ist and the author of the bestselling Harry Bosch series, as well as the best-selling novels *The Lincoln Lawyer*, *Chasing the Dime*, *Void Moon*, *Blood*

Work, and *The Poet*. He has won numerous awards for his journalism and fiction, including an Edgar Award. Visit michaelconnelly.com.

James O. Born is the author of a series featuring Florida Department of Law Enforcement agent Bill Tasker. His newest novel, *Field of Fire*, follows the investigations of the ATF. His books capture the feeling and details of police work while following realistic procedure. He is a former U.S. drug agent and an agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. He has been writing for eighteen years and is published by Putnam.

For more about James O. Born, visit jamesoborn.com.

Jon L. Breen is the author of seven novels, most recently *Eye of God* (Perseverance Press), and three short-story collections, most recently *Kill the Umpire: The Calls of Ed Gorgon* (Crippen & Landru). He won Edgar Awards in the biographical/critical category for *What About Murder?* (1981) and *Novel Verdicts* (1984) and is a book review columnist for *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* and *Mystery Scene*. Retired as a librarian and professor of English at Rio Hondo College, he lives in Fountain Valley, California, with his wife and first line editor, Rita.

Chicago Sun-Times Bleeds Blue for Anthology

THE BLUE RELIGION
 Edited by Michael Connelly
 Little, Brown, 384 pages, \$24.99

“Bestselling mystery author Michael Connelly tries on a different hat this month as editor of *The Blue Religion*, an anthology of short stories sponsored by the Mystery Writers of America. Anthologies are always hit-and-miss, but this one contains enough

“Anthologies are always hit-and-miss, but this one contains enough winners to recommend it.”

winners to recommend it. The stories are all about police officers and their lives on and off the job. Not surprisingly, one of the strongest

entries is from Connelly himself, a story about Harry Bosch

investigating the death of a disabled young boy. Other stand-out efforts come from Paul Guyot, Alafair Burke, Jack Frederickson and Edward D. Hoch.

The world of short crime fiction is the strongest it's been in years, and books like *The Blue Religion* are a large part of the reason why.”

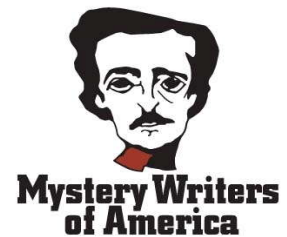
—David Montgomery

ABOUT MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA

Mystery Writers of America is the premier organization for mystery writers, professionals allied to the crime writing field, aspiring crime writers, and those who are devoted to the genre. MWA is dedicated to promoting higher regard for crime writing and recognition and respect for those who write within the genre. We provide scholarships for writers, sponsor MWA:Reads (our youth literacy program, formerly known as Kids Love A Mystery), sponsor symposia and conferences, present the Edgar® Awards, and conduct other activities to further a better appreciation and

higher regard for crime writing.

MWA also works to educate writers and those who aspire to write regarding their rights and interests, and to make writers and readers aware of matters which may affect crime writing through legislation, publishing industry practices, judicial decisions, or in other ways. Our membership includes writers of books, short stories, plays, and screenplays; publishers, editors, agents, librarians, booksellers, and other in allied fields; aspiring writers and others devoted to crime writing.



www.mysterywriters.org

ABOUT THE AUTHORS (Continued)

John Buentello is a writer who lives in San Antonio, Texas. He has published stories in a number of genres, including mystery, science fiction, fantasy, and horror. He and his brother Lawrence have published the anthology *Binary Tales* and have recently completed the novel *Reproduction Rights*. John has been married to his wife, Ann, for sixteen years, “which makes [me] the luckiest man on Earth.”



A former deputy district attorney, **Alafair Burke** graduated with distinction from Stanford Law School and is now a professor at Hofstra Law School,

where she teaches criminal law and procedure. She is the author of four novels, *Dead Connection*, *Close Case*, *Missing Justice*, and *Judgment Calls*. Her fifth novel, *Angel's Tip* will be published by HarperCollins in 2008. She lives in New York City. Visit her at alafairburke.com.

About himself, **Jack Fredrickson** admits little other than that, after something of successful careers in productivity consulting and owning and managing an interior-design/commercial furnishing firm, he abandoned productive employment to write in dark places. His first crime novel, *A Safe Place for Dying*, de-

buted in November 2006. *Publishers Weekly* gave it a starred review. He lives with his wife, Susan, west of Chicago. Check him out at jackfredrickson.com.

Leslie Glass is a playwright and the author of fourteen novels, including *Over His Dead Body*, *For Love and Money*, and nine bestselling novels of psychological suspense featuring NYPD detective April Woo. The founder of the Leslie Glass Foundation, Glass worked in advertising and publishing, was a script writer for a soap opera, and wrote the *Intelligencer* column for *New York Magazine* before turning to fiction full-time. She now writes a column for *Sarasota Magazine* and develops original screenplays with her daughter and partner, Lindsey Glass.

Paul Guyot is an award-winning television writer/producer whose credits include *Felicity*, *Snoops*, and the Emmy-winning drama *Judging Amy*. He is the creator and executive producer of the police drama *Crimes Against Persons* for A&E. His short stories can be found in numerous anthologies and online publications. He lives in St. Louis with his wife and family. Read more about him at his website paulguyot.net.

Diana Hansen-Young was born in Bellingham, Washington, in 1947, into a community of, as she called them,

“depressed Mormon Swedish farmers.” In 1966 she moved to Hawaii, ran for State Constitutional Convention in 1968, and won a seat by ninety-three votes. She went on to run for the Hawaii State House of Representatives, a post which she won. After losing a congressional race, she started painting little scenes of Hawaii and selling them. For the next twenty-five years, she painted Hawaiian women, which grew into a business. But in 1996, after developing severe arthritis in her right arm and hand, she could no longer hold a paintbrush. During those twenty-five years,

she has been writing plays, novels, and short stories, and tossing them into boxes. She dusted off manuscripts that she'd never submitted, closed the business, rented the farm, and moved with her two daughters to New York City. She received an MFA from NYU, where she met composer Brian Feinstein, her collaborator on her thesis musical, *Mimi Le Duck*, which premiered off-Broadway in 2006. A member of MWA, she now writes full-time in New York City. Read more at dianahansenyoung.com.

John Harvey is the author of ten Charlie Resnick novels, the first of which, *Lonely Hearts*, was named by the *Times* (of London) as one of the 100 Best Crime Novels of the Century. In 2007 he was awarded the British Crime Writers' Association Cartier Diamond Dagger for sustained excellence in crime writing. He lives in London.

Edward D. Hoch was a past president of the Mystery Writers of America and was a winner of its Edgar Award for best short story. He received the MWA's Grand Master Award in 2001. He was a guest of honor at Bouchercon, twice a winner of its Anthony Award,

and recipient of its Lifetime Achievement Award. Author of some 950 stories, he appeared in every issue of *Ellery Queen Magazine*



for the past thirty-four years. He passed away unexpectedly in January of this year. He is survived by his wife Patricia, who lives in Rochester.

Laurie R. King is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the Mary Russell novels, the Kate Martinelli series.

(including *To Play the Fool*, featuring Brother Erasmus), and five stand-alone novels, most recently *Touchstone*. She has won the Edgar, Creasey, Nero, Macavity, and Lambda awards; her nominations include the Edgar, the Agatha, the Orange, and the Barry. She is published in twenty countries. See laurierking.com.

Polly Nelson is new to mystery writing, having had her first story published in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine's* August 1995 issue, voted by *EQ's* readers as among the year's ten best. The British Crime Writers' Association also selected a story for inclusion in the 2007 Fish anthology. Other stories have

Polly Nelson (continued) been published online at *East of the Web* and *Mystery Scene Magazine*. In a previous professional life, she directed children's theater and worked with individuals dealing with mental illness.

T. Jefferson Parker is the author of fourteen crime novels and a two-time winner of the Edgar Award for best mystery. He lives in Southern California with his wife and sons. See tjeffersonparker.com.

Peter Robinson was born in Yorkshire. He earned a BA Honours degree in English literature at the University of Leeds and later went to Canada to get an MA in English and creative writing at the University of Windsor, and then a PhD in English at York University.

He has taught at a number of Toronto colleges and served as writer in residence at the University of Windsor. His first novel, *Gallows View*, introduced Detective Chief Inspector Alan Banks. It was short-listed for the John Creasey Award in the UK and the Crime Writers of Canada best first novel award. It was followed by fourteen more, the most recent being *Piece of My Heart*. The series has garnered many awards. He has also written the stand-alone *Caedmon's Song*. His books have been translated into fifteen languages. He lives in Toronto with his wife. See inspectorbanks.com.

Greg Rucka was born in San Francisco and raised on the central coast of California. He has an AB in English from Vassar and graduated from the University of Southern California's master of professional writing program. He is the author of nearly a dozen novels, five featuring bodyguard Atticus Kodiak and two featuring Tara Chance, the protagonist of his Queen & Country series.

He resides in Portland, Oregon with his wife, author Jennifer Van Meter, and his two children. See gregrucka.com for more info.

Bev Vincent grew up in eastern Canada and lived in Switzerland before moving to Texas in the late 1980s. He is the author of more than forty stories. His first book, *The Road to the Dark Tower*, an authorized exploration of Stephen King's Dark Tower series, was nominated for a 2004 Bram Stoker Award. He co-edited *The Illustrated Stephen King Trivia Book*, wrote reviews for *Accent Literary Review*, and is a contributing editor with *Cemetery Dance* magazine. He is a monthly contributor to *Storytellers Unplugged*. Visit bevvincent.com to read more about him.



Persia Walker, a New York City native, is the author of *Darkness and the Devil Behind Me* and *Harlem Redux*, mysteries set against the glittering backdrop of 1920s New

York. A former journalist, she has worked for the Associated Press and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Munich. She has degrees from both Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism and Swarthmore College. See more at persiawalker.com.

Paula Woods is the author of four critically acclaimed Charlotte Justice novels. In addition to writing the series featuring LAPD Homicide detective Charlotte Justice, Woods is also a frequent book reviewer for the *Los Angeles Times*. Read more about her at woodsontheweb.com.

PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

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Edited by Michael Connelly.

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Mystery Writers of America presents a high-quality anthology of 19 original stories that explore a wide range of police experiences, from newcomer Polly Nelson's superb tale set in 1864 Kansas, "Burying Mr. Henry," to editor Connelly's powerful and grim Harry Bosch investigation into a young disabled boy's death, "Father's Day." The sordid mean streets, depicted in Persia Walker's "Such a Lucky, Pretty Girl," are nicely balanced with the lighter touches of Jon Breen's "Serial Killer," a darkly comic tale in which two police detectives recount one of their cases to a community college writing class. TV writer Paul Guyot contributes one of the volume's strongest selections, "What a Wonderful World," about a cop's obsessive search for the killer of a hot dog vendor. This is one of those rare themed anthologies that can be enjoyed at one sitting. (Apr.)