

*Sisters
in
Crime*™

HOTSHOTS!

HEART OF TEXAS Chapter
www.hotxsinc.org



The Book of Lost Fragrances by M. J. Rose

REVIEW BY VALLIE FLETCHER TAYLOR

If you carefully sniff your way through Rose's Research Glossary, little known facts and unique superstitions will make their way into your brain prior to getting a whiff of Chapter One. M. J. Rose has been studying the subject of reincarnation for over two decades.

Her suspense novel, *THE BOOK OF LOST FRAGRANCES*, introduces characters who have firm beliefs on the validity of many lives as they work side by side with resolute skeptics in a desperate effort to locate a perfume scent which will allow everyone to remember their past incarnations. Why is everyone in such a tizzy to uncover this ancient secret? So that we can learn from our past mistakes and not keep repeating them life after life.

Situations that arise between the covers of this book unveil fascinating tales of ancient cultures that made use of incense and aromatics in ceremonial rituals. Clay pots of perfume oils were buried with queens and Pharaohs. In olden Greece, perfumed shrouds were believed to bring happiness in the afterlife.

In the 1980's a team of Italian and Israeli archeologists believed they unearthed the perfume factory that Marc Anthony had built for Cleopatra. There have been numerous archeologists, as well as tomb raiders, who have puzzled over the location of Cleopatra's lost book of fragrance formulas...which were kept top secret.

When deciphered, tomb writings have passed on numerous beliefs and superstitions connecting perfume and the afterlife. Rose has skillfully woven

continued on page 2

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May 19, 2013

Sisters in Crime Heart of Texas Chapter is pleased to announce the 2013 Ninth Annual Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Event, the culmination of the 2013 Ninth Annual Barbara Burnett Smith Aspiring Writers Project, its annual community service project. Aspiring Mystery Writers that were selected were matched with a published Mentor Author for recognition and a one-on-one at the Event.

June 9

Rob V. Robertson, Attorney Where There's a Will There's a Way

Sisters in Crime Heart of Texas Chapter, meets monthly on the second Sunday of the month, except for May when we meet on the third Sunday.

Meetings are at 2:00 p.m. Mangia Pizza 8012 Mesa Dr, Austin, TX 78731. Mangia Pizza is located in the Mesa Plaza Shopping Center at the northwest corner of Mesa Drive and Spicewood Springs Road, between Mopac/Loop 1 and 360/Capital of Texas Highway.

from page 1

Fragrances

a tale of sibling descendants of a famous Parisian perfume house along with theories of soul migration and psychoactive compounds which can produce hallucinations.

Be sure not to pass over that afore-mentioned glossary. The author kept carefully detailed notes, while doing research, which are offered as invaluable tools for mystified readers. Don't believe me? How many tulpas are included in your circle of friends? You may be able to head directly to the perfume counter of your favorite department store, but would you know where to turn in order to encounter sillage or a perfumer's organ?

Giles L'Etoile takes our hand and leads us into an ancient tomb near Alexandria, Egypt. We, in this year of 1799, are a part of General Napoleon's army of intellectuals and scientists...one of whom discovered this sealed, sacred burial place just yesterday. Giles has been included because, as head of the House of L'Etoile, he is the most famous perfumer in Paris. (Indeed, he creates the scent for Napoleon.)

As the sarcophagus is opened, they are shocked to see a man and a woman buried together. The mummies embrace one another and each holds a small pottery vial decorated with coral and turquoise hieroglyphs. These vials emit the most mesmerizing smells which cause everyone to become disoriented. Giles is transported into past lives. These professionals believe the tomb is cursed and suddenly recognize what they have done. Everyone hastens to leave...but, Giles does not leave empty handed. He collects the shards of a broken vial and a papyrus scroll which he hopes contains the formula for the secret scent.

The rest of the story is told through the actions, and frequent tribulations, of future generations of L'Etoiles. Jac, an author and television producer, lives in New York while her Buddhist brother Robbie stays in Paris as perfumer for the House of L'Etoile. Like his ancestors, Robbie is urgently searching for that illusive hypnotic scent. He is a firm believer in

reincarnation and needs his sister's help because she has an inherited "perfumer's nose" and he does not.

Jac is a skeptic, who cannot be budged in her disbelief of reincarnation, as she urges her sibling to sell the House of L'Etoile...which is in a terrible financial state. Her only interest is in the field of Mythology. Her introduction into this field, she believes, cured her from a series of hallucinations and emotional illness after the shock of her mother's suicide.

Griffin North, Jac's former lover, travels to Paris to help Robbie by trying to decipher the hieroglyphs on the still aromatic pottery shards. Jac, who still carries a torch for Griffin, does not know how she should react as she learns his marriage is in trouble and he is "emotionally separated" from his wife.

Before shifting relationships have an opportunity to slide into new poses, there is a murder in the House of L'Etoile and Robbie suddenly disappears. Who in the world is that

corpse on the floor? Is Robbie still alive? If so, where can he be?

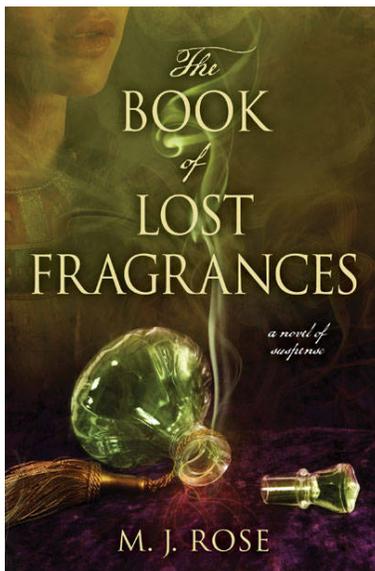
As Jac and Griffin combine forces to locate Robbie by making use of hidden locations used in past times by the House of L'Etoile, things are kept hot with rekindled feelings for one another.

While these characters, along with Parisian police, remain in search for Robbie, the story of Xie, a student and calligrapher in Communist China, begins to unroll with the slow stiffness of an ancient scroll.

In yet another portion of the world, we are introduced to members of a Chinese Triad...an organized crime syndicate. The business rituals and training procedures within this underground enterprise are quite fascinating, but seemingly unrelated to the frantic action taking place in Paris.

The reader of these two portions feels a need to scoop words off pages, place them into a wheelbarrow and hurry them to an entrance into the main plot. (A conveyor-belt may aid in acceleration but historical objects must be treated with a more delicate manner of transference.)

continued on page 4



Murder at BookPeople

Wednesday 5/15/13 7p
MysteryPeople Presents:
DAVID MORRELL

The Acclaimed Author of *FIRST BLOOD* David Morrell speaking & signing *MURDER IS A FINE ART*.

David Morrell is best known for his debut 1972 novel *FIRST BLOOD*, which would later become the successful Rambo film franchise starring Sylvester Stallone. In his new book, *MURDER IS A FINE ART*, Morrell recreates gaslit London as a battleground between a literary luminary and a master killer whose secrets are deeply entwined with De Quincey's own, in a riveting thriller along the lines of Dan Simmons' *DROOD*, Matthew Pearl's *THE DANTE CLUB*, and Caleb Carr's *THE ALIENIST*.

Friday 5/24/13 7p
MysteryPeople Presents:
ALEX GRECIAN

MysteryPeople Presents Bestselling Author of *THE YARD* Alex Grecian speaking & signing *THE BLACK COUNTRY*. Scotland Yard's Murder Squad returns, in the stunning new historical thriller from the author of the acclaimed national bestseller *The Yard*. When members of a prominent family disappear from a coal-mining village—and a human eyeball is discovered in a bird's nest—the local constable sends for help from Scotland Yard's new Murder Squad. Fresh off the grisly 1889 murders of *THE YARD*, Inspector Walter Day and Sergeant Nevil Hammersmith respond, but they have no idea what they're about to get into. The villagers have intense, intertwined histories. Everybody bears a secret. Superstitions abound. And the village itself is slowly sinking into the mines beneath it.

Tuesday 5/28/13 7p
MysteryPeople Presents:
WALTER MOSELY

MysteryPeople Presents Bestselling Author Walter Mosley speaking & signing *LITTLE GREEN*. (Walter Mosley's Easy Rawlins books are classics in the crime fiction genre. The crowd at this event is expected to be well into the triple digits.) Walter Mosley burst on the literary scene in 1990 with *DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS*, the first Easy Rawlins mystery, a combustible and irresistible mixture of Raymond Chandler and Richard Wright. Easy Rawlins is back (almost literally from the dead after the car wreck that ended *BLONDE FAITH*, his last outing) and cruising the hippified streets of the Sunset Strip circa 1967, in search of a young black man who has gone missing—and maybe of his own rebirth. The speaking portion of this event is free and open to the public. Tickets are required for the signing portion of the event. Tickets are only available with the purchase of a copy of *LITTLE GREEN* from BookPeople.

Friday 5/31/13 7p
MysteryPeople Presents:
ACE ATKINS

MysteryPeople Presents Bestselling Author Ace Atkins speaking & signing *THE BROKEN PLACES*. Our old buddy Ace Atkins is back tonight with *THE BROKEN PLACES*, the third entry in the critically acclaimed Quinn Colson series. Ace has been hailed by Michael Connelly as "one of the best crime writers working today." And we totally agree. So join us tonight for a little beer, a little talk, and a great night with one of the best crime fiction writers working today. Last year, he was selected by the Robert B. Parker estate to continue the bestselling adventures of Boston's iconic private eye, Spenser.

Mystery Author Visits

We have a couple of mystery author visits this summer at Pflugerville Public Library. On June 29th from 2-3 pm, we have Vannetta Chapman, the author of the Shipshewana Amish Mystery series. We will also have Sisters in Crime member Janice Hamrick on July 20th from 2-3 pm. Refreshments will be provided at both events.

Pflugerville Public Library 1008 W. Pfluger St.
Pflugerville, TX 78660 (512) 990-6375 🍷

Texas Book Festival announces new executive director and literary director

Texas Book Festival has named a new executive director and a new literary director to lead the organization.

Lois Kim, currently associate director of University Extension at the University of Texas at Austin, will serve as the Festival's chief executive, responsible for managing staff, programs, operations, external relations, and resource development. She will report to the Festival's board of directors, chaired by Marc Winkelman.

Steph Opitz, currently the programs and strategic communications director for the Council of Literary Magazines and Presses, will be the literary director of the Texas Book Festival. Opitz will create, develop, and implement year-round literary programming in Austin and other Texas cities, including the annual two-day Texas Book Festival in Austin. 🍷

from page 2

Fragrances

The author leads us down into the Paris catacombs. A warning to claustrophobes should be placed strategically prior to Chapter I. Twists and turns in the unending darkness of Paris' historical burial grounds move the plot forward as readers encounter spider webs and all variety of damp, crawly things. Good guys try to outwit and avoid evil-doers as they make their ways through tunnels, chambers and crypts. But, how are we to know which group is causing the footsteps we hear?

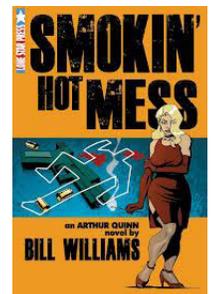


The Chinese calligrapher, the Triad thugs and even the Dalai Lama eventually converge with our Parisian crew to solve the mystery and make things right.

Want to know how to reunite with a lover from a past life? Even if you have not given two cents about scents since you were young, reading this book will create a sense of curiosity about fragrance, fill your flacon with florals and open the door to your Karma.

Vallie Fletcher Taylor is a member of the Sisters in Crime Heart of Texas Chapter. 🍷

Bill Williams is the editor of the Sisters in Crime newsletter. As a comic book writer, he worked for DC Comics, IDW Publishing and Ape Entertainment. His latest Arthur Quinn Mystery, *Smokin' Hot Mess* is available for your Kindle through Amazon.com.



NEWSLETTER DESIGN BY
THOM ZAHLER ART STUDIOS
www.tzasonline.com

For more information on the Heart of Texas Chapter contact- hotxsinc@yahoo.com