



The 3rd Degree

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA

JANUARY 2026

SPECIAL EDGAR® AWARDS ANNOUNCED ANDREWS, CHILD NAMED GRAND MASTERS

MWA Announces 2026 Grand Masters, Raven & Ellery Queen Award Recipients

MWA announces the recipients of its special awards. The board chose **Donna Andrews** and **Lee Child** as the 2026 Grand Masters, the 2026 Raven Award recipient is **Book Passage**, and **John Scognamiglio of Kensington Books** will receive the Ellery Queen Award. They will accept their awards at the 80th Annual Edgar Awards Ceremony, which will be held **April 29, 2026**, at the Marriott Marquis Times Square in New York City.

“Donna Andrews has given us more than 50 novels, proving the cozy subgenre is more relevant than ever. In addition to her significant literary accomplishments, she has given back to the community in so many ways, by mentoring aspiring mystery writers, and serving as the MWA EVP. I’m thrilled to see Donna named as MWA Grand Master,” said MWA Executive Vice President James L’Etoile. “And Lee Child’s contributions to the genre are unparalleled. Aside from his thirty critically acclaimed novels featuring the iconic Jack Reacher, Lee Child is considered one of the most thoughtful and generous members of the mystery community. Writer, mentor, and Past President of MWA, he is a role model, and most deserving of being named MWA Grand Master.”

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INSIDE

DONNA ANDREWS,
LEE CHILD NAMED
GRAND MASTERS

RAVEN AWARD:
BOOK PASSAGE
CORTE MADERA, CA

ELLERY QUEEN AWARD:
JOHN SCOGNAMIGLIO
KENSINGTON BOOKS

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FOR THE 80TH ANNUAL
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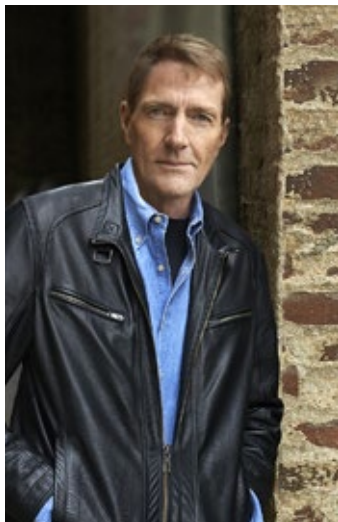
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GRAND MASTERS, RAVEN, ELLERY QUEEN AWARDS ANNOUNCED, *continued from previous page*



GRAND MASTER
DONNA ANDREWS



GRAND MASTER
LEE CHILD

Child photo © Sigrid Eberhard

MWA's **Grand Master Award** represents the pinnacle of achievement in mystery writing and was established to acknowledge important contributions to this genre, as well as for a body of work that is both significant and of consistent high quality.

On being notified of the honor, **Donna Andrews** said, "I'm both delighted and amazed at being named a Grand Master. Joining MWA was one of the first things I did when my debut novel, *Murder with Peacocks*, was accepted for publication and MWA has been an important part of my life ever since. I'm grateful, not only for this honor, but for all the experiences I've had and friends I've made as a member and a volunteer."

Andrews is the *New York Times* bestselling author of 42 published novels, including 38 in the Agatha-, Anthony- and Lefty-award-winning Meg Langslow series from Minotaur. She has also co-edited more than

a dozen short story collections. A native of Yorktown, VA, she majored in English and Drama at the University of Virginia. After a 25-year career in corporate communications, she left her day job to write full-time in 2001. She is a longtime member of both MWA and Sisters in Crime, and served for seven years as MWA's Executive Vice President. She lives in Reston, VA.

Lee Child, previously a television director, union organizer, theater technician, and law student, was fired and on the dole when he hatched a harebrained scheme to write a bestselling novel, thus saving his family from ruin. *Killing Floor* went on to win worldwide acclaim and there are now 30 titles in the bestselling Jack Reacher thrillers. Lee Child lives in New York City and Wyoming.

On learning of the honor, Child said, "I'm flattered and humbled to be placed on this 80-year-long list with so many of my idols, role models and teachers. I'll always be grateful to Mystery Writers of America for their support, help, friendship and camaraderie during my career, such that I feel I should be giving them an award, not getting one from them.

Previous Grand Masters include Laura Lippman, John Sandford, Katherine Hall Page, R.L. Stine, Michael Connelly, Joanne Fluke, Laurie R. King, Charlaine Harris, Jeffery Deaver, Barbara Neely, Martin Cruz Smith, William Link, Peter Lovesey, Walter Mosley, Lois Duncan, James Ellroy, Robert Crais, Ken Follett, Sara Paretsky, James Lee Burke, Sue Grafton, Stephen King, Ira Levin, Mary Higgins Clark, Lawrence Sanders, P.D. James, Ellery Queen, Daphne du Maurier, Alfred Hitchcock, Graham Greene, and Agatha Christie, to name a few.

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GRAND MASTERS, RAVEN, ELLERY QUEEN AWARDS ANNOUNCED, *continued from previous page*

The **Raven Award** recognizes outstanding achievement in the mystery field outside the realm of creative writing. For 2026, Mystery Writers of America selected **Book Passage** in Corte Madera, CA.

“Book Passage is honored and thrilled to receive the Raven Award from Mystery Writers of America. Many of the 10,000 or more author events that we’ve had over the years have featured mystery writers. During the last 30 years or so, many of these writers have given of their time to participate in our annual Mystery Writers Conference and have helped nurture new writers towards successful careers,” Book Passage founder and president **Elaine Petrocelli** said. “We’ve found mystery writers to be resourceful, fearless, and ingenious in describing the problems of the world. More than that, they know how to keep their portrayal of the dark side of humanity on the written page. In person, they are wonderful, personable, and a pleasure to be around.”

Previous Raven Award recipients include Face in a Book, Crime Writers of Color, Eddie Muller, Lesa Holstine, Malice Domestic, Left Coast Crime, Marilyn Stasio, The Raven Bookstore, BOLO Books, Dru Ann Love, Sisters in Crime, and Oline Cogdill.

The **Ellery Queen Award** was established in 1983 to honor “outstanding writing teams and outstanding people in the mystery-publishing industry.” This year the Board chose to honor **John Scognamiglio of Kensington Books**, who began his career 40 years ago as a file clerk in the Contracts Department at Simon & Schuster in 1986 while still a sophomore at New York University. He later moved to where he always wanted to be — editorial — and from 1989 to 1992, Scognamiglio worked as an assistant editor for S&S’s mass-market division, Pocket Books. In February 1992, he joined Kensington Publishing as an editor and he became Editor-in-Chief in 2005. He launched his own imprint, John Scognamiglio Books, at Kensington in 2017. Among his authors are *New York Times* bestsellers Lisa Jackson, Joanne Fluke, Ellen Marie Wiseman and Leslie Meier.

On learning he would receive the Ellery Queen Award, Scognamiglio said, “As a long-time mystery reader, I’m thrilled and honored to be receiving this award.”

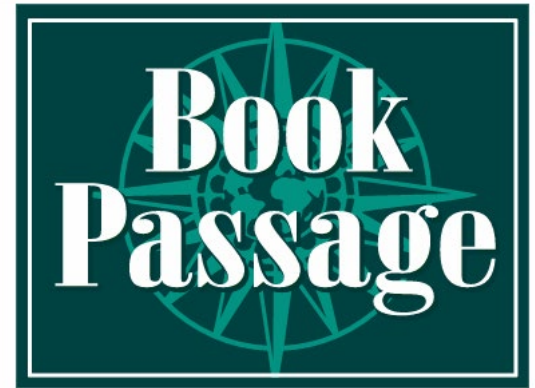
Previous Ellery Queen Award winners include Peter Wolverton, Michaela Hamilton, *The Strand Magazine*, Juliet Grames, Reagan Arthur, Kelley Ragland, Linda Landrigan, Neil Nyren, Charles Ardai, and Janet Hutchings.

“It was gratifying to see this year’s Ellery Queen Award go to John Scognamiglio,” L’Etoile said. “Few publishing industry insiders have done more to create a place where authors are valued and diverse voices have a place in the business.”

The Edgar Awards, or “Edgars,” as they are commonly known, are named after MWA’s patron saint Edgar Allan Poe and are presented to authors of distinguished work in various categories. MWA 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. The organization encompasses some 3,000 members including authors of fiction and nonfiction books, screen and television writers, as well as publishers, editors, and literary agents.

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RAVEN AWARD



JOHN SCOGNAMIGLIO
ELLERY QUEEN AWARD