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Because everybody
needs an editor . . .

and a newsletter



Author accomplishments

Dr. Jerry Kolins is in print! (And digital format for all you modernists.) Jerry is a pathologist who lives in La Jolla and long has been associated with Palomar Health. *Life is What Happens While You Make Other Plans* is his collection of essays and photos that touch on such matters as his boyhood in New York City, his eternal love for the University of Michigan, the heartache and triumph of family, the case of the disappearing spleen, and the value of a bowtie when performing a biopsy. The book is touching, earnest, and brave. No topic is too personal for our Dr. Kolins. And did I mention the self-deprecating humor? For starters, Jerry relates the observation of a friend who claims never to have met a pathologist who wasn't already dead. Maize Books, associated with the University of Michigan, is the publisher. [You can find Jerry's book on Amazon here.](#) Shameless plug: jcannonbooks.com edited the book.

Congratulations, Jerry. Thanks for taking me to med school, Queens, pathology labs, and other places I've never been.

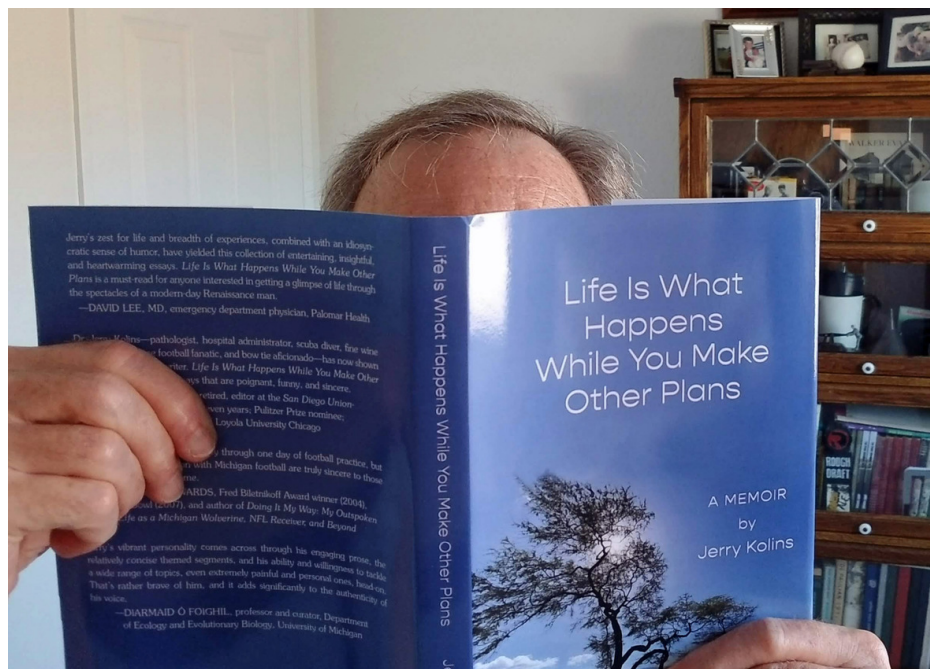
Good news for mystery lovers. The latest novel from San Diego author Marc Carlos, *The Apparition*, will be published in spring 2022. Marc signed recently with Genius Books Publishing, an independent based in the Los Angeles area.

Marc is a criminal defense attorney in San Diego whose real-life clients are charged with crimes that most of us encounter only in fictional-life characters. Murder, smuggling, drugs.

Here is how Marc describes *The Apparition*, which is based loosely on a case he handled earlier in his career: A young attorney defending a Catholic priest in a high-profile murder finds his life may depend on the truth of a paranormal apparition and his client's dark past.

I edited the book, and I endorse this summary. I also endorse Marc's characters, his twisty/creepy plot, and the way he drew the settings, which range from SoCal to Notre Dame. Gotta love Indiana.

Congratulations, Marc. But I'm beginning to think the San Diego chamber of commerce won't be asking you to write tourism brochures.



Letters to the editor

In last month's blog post, I wondered why some main characters in mystery series never seem to age. I asked if any of you noticed the same thing, or if I was once again out on a limb with a saw in my hand. But you did notice, and I received two responses that further the discussion.

Authors strive to create characters, settings, and plots so believable that readers will fall into word traps for hours or days at a time. But as good as a plot can be, sometimes things are overlooked. As blog reader Jack H. pointed out:

How about sleep? When do Spenser or Reacher ever sleep?

I'm currently reading Nesbo's *Knife* and was gratified to read that Harry Hole actually slept, or passed out from alcohol poisoning, many times in the first hundred pages. Sure, sleep doesn't add to the narrative, but would it kill an author to mention that his/her hero actually slept once in a while?

And my grand pronouncement last month about the ability of some characters to defy aging cannot be viewed as a universal truth, as reader Mike B. explained:

Yes, it is true that many of the most popular characters in mystery fiction never seem to age. Or they age in a time-space continuum not populated by us normal humans. However, two of my favorite crime solvers do not fit that mold and suffer the same slings and arrows of human existence as do their readers.

The first one who comes to mind is Kurt Wallander, a creation of the Swedish novelist Henning Mankell. The Wallander series consists of some wonderful works, but Wallander fans have to brace ourselves as we watch our hero fade into depression and a fog of dementia. Mankell provides some foreshadowing for this event, as Kurt's father endured the same affliction.

And then there is Martin Beck, another Swedish cop and the main character in a gripping series by Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahloo. Beck doesn't fade into dementia or die, but he ages through the series of ten novels and only vanishes when one of the authors, Wahloo, dies of cancer at the age of 48. Through the course of the series Beck endures a loveless marriage, gets promoted to jobs he does not want, suffers a gunshot wound, and puts up with political appointments who undermine the work of the police force. In the final novel, Beck has to outmaneuver his witless overlords to try to catch a terrorist. *The Laughing Policeman*, the fourth novel in the series, is one of my all-time favorite mystery novels.

Making a point (size)

Ever wanted to know an easy way to tell where an author lands on the popularity spectrum? I mean without using the methods that are tested and proved? Whew, are you in luck. That very thing is described in the latest jcannonbooks Take My Word for It blog item. It has numerous photos that are

better suited to the blog than this newsletter.

So [click this handy link](#) to read it.

I'll wait here until you finish.

**Kind regards,
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