

JAMES McCRONE

As of: September 23, 2021

Educational Background

1990 – MFA in Creative Writing, University of Washington (Seattle)

1988 – BA in English, University of Washington

Professional Memberships

Mystery Writers of America (NY Chapter)

Sisters in Crime (DE-Valley Chapter, current vice president)

International Assoc. of Crime Writers

International Thriller Writers

Philadelphia Dramatists Center

Publications

Published Books:

—Emergency Powers – (Oct., 2020 – fiction; political thriller)

No battle plan survives contact with the enemy. The investigation that was FBI Agent Imogen Trager’s undoing may be the key to stopping a brutal, false flag terrorist attack meant to tighten a puppet president’s grip on power.

(ISBN: 978-0999137727)

—Dark Network – (October, 2017 – fiction; political suspense-thriller)

Without law, there’s only power. FBI Agent Imogen Trager is alone and in grave danger from a conspiracy she failed to destroy. She’ll have to fight against time, a sinister network, and even her own colleagues to defeat it.

(ISBN: 978-0692797846)

—Faithless Elector – (March, 2016 – fiction; political suspense-thriller)

Everyone thinks the election is over, but six weeks is a long time in politics. An idealistic, young researcher stumbles onto a plot to steal the presidency, with deadly consequences.

(ISBN: 978-0692797839)

In Anthologies:

“Numbers Don’t Lie.” *In Low-Down Dirty Vote, Vol. 2*; ed. M. Berry (July 2020)

(ISBN: 978-1732225855)

Works in Progress:

- Bastard Verdict (fiction, novel; political suspense-thriller involving Brexit and Scottish Independence)
- Culinati (comedy, play; two weeks in the lives of desperate cooks – “*what would you serve if your life depended on it?*”)
- “Nostalgia.” (will appear in *LDDV-3* anthology, 6/2022)
- “Title Pending.” (fiction, short story about property fraud and murder)
- “Eight O’clock Sharp.” (fiction, short story set in Phila.’s Italian Market)
- “What’s Hidden.” (fiction, a stolen map is not what it appears)

In Periodicals:

- “Ultimatum Games.” *Rock and a Hard Place Magazine*. November, 2021
- "Service," a monologue. *Anchovy Review*. December 1993 Seattle, WA
- "In the Valley of the Moon," a short story. *Arnazella*. May 1993 Bellevue Community College
- "Expectation," *Arnazella*. May 1992, Bellevue Community College
- The Quickest of Us*. Chapters 1 and 2 excerpted in two parts in *bricolage*, University of Washington Vol. 4, Nos. 1 and 2 1987
- "Spring and Chocolate Milk," *Matrix*, University of Washington. 22 January 1986
- "Inertia," *Feminist Baseball*, September, 1985
- "In My Solitude," *Fusion West*. Summer 1985. The Evergreen State College

Selected Reviews of My Work by Others

(links are to full reviews)

In *Emergency Powers*, “McCrone’s research and political insight are an intriguing backdrop...Great for fans of David Baldacci and Brad Meltzer.” -*Publishers Weekly*

FBI Agent Imogen Trager is “a memorable protagonist—as tough as she is smart.” *Emergency Powers* “has a highly cinematic quality to it, with plenty of action along the way.” —*Kirkus Review*

“His ability to portray a heroine who makes both good and bad decisions...is well-done, providing action-packed and unexpected moments throughout.”

— *Midwest Book Review*

“Disturbingly timely and prescient. Brilliantly executed and eerily plausible—a chess match of a political thriller – *Pen & Ink Reviews*

"Dark Network is gripping and unpredictable." —*Midwest Book Review*
http://www.midwestbookreview.com/mbw/oct_17.htm#donovan

In *Dark Network*, "Baldacci and Meltzer fans will appreciate the plot's twists..." —
Publishers Weekly <https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-692-79784-6>

"[McCrone] yet again deftly delivers a combination of stirring action and remarkably intricate plot entanglements..." —*Kirkus Review*
<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/james-mccrone/dark-network/>

"The writing is crisp and well done with an atmosphere of foreboding..." —
The (Doylestown) Intelligencer
<http://www.theintell.com/news/20190103/book-review-dark-network>

Faithless Elector is a "fast-moving topical thriller." Its "surprising twists add up to a highly suspenseful read." —*Publishers Weekly*
<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-1-530117-05-5>

"A gripping and intelligently executed political drama." —*Kirkus Review*
<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/james-mccrone/faithless-elector/>

"The pleasure of *Faithless Elector* lies not just its smooth evocative prose, but in the author's justified confidence that good writing can make chases through recognizable locales sufficiently exciting without a Navy SEAL or a terrorist plot." —*Plattsburgh Press-Republican*
http://www.pressrepublican.com/news/lifestyles/faithless-elector-takes-on-added-interest-in-election-year/article_59b1827b-fc94-56a1-9185-9f5bce5913c.html

Selected Readings, Signings, Events and Panels

2021

May 11 - MWA-NY Virtual Reading Series, hosted by Albert Tucher.

Aug 1 - Panel, Mechanicsburg (PA) Mystery Bookshop, with Matty Dalrymple, and Lisa Regan.

Aug. 4 – Mystery Writers of America Reading Series, in-person, KGB Bar, East Village, NYC (postponed)

Sept 18 - Books-Books-Books Fest/Event, Carlisle, PA

Oct 2 - Collingswood Book Festival - Collingswood, NJ (suburban Phila.)

Oct. 3 – Brooklyn Book Fest (MWA booth)

Nov. 9 – MWA Reading Series, KBG Bar, NYC

2020

- Nov. 12 - Book Talk at A NOVEL IDEA Bookstore (Phila. – virtual)
- Oct. 29 - Downingtown Library, in conversation with librarian Karen Smith (v.)
- Oct. 15 - Book Launch at MYSTERY LOVERS BOOKSTORE (virtual)
- Oct. 13 - MWA-NY READING Series, KGB Bar NYC (virtual)
- October 1, 6:30pm - BOOK LAUNCH for EMERGENCY POWERS!
at SHAKESPEARE & CO. (NYC, Phila. - virtual)
- Sept. 20 - 5-7pm, Blue Stoop (Phila.) Virtual Open Mic (v.)
- Apr. 18 – Sisters in Crime, book talk. “Writing mysteries that are ripped from the headlines.” (v.)

2019

- Nov. 9 – Bucks County Library (Quakertown, PA) “Author Expo.”
- Nov. 2 – York Book Exposition (York, PA)
- Oct. 12 – Harvest Festival of Books (Richlandtown, PA)
- Oct. 6 – Poe House Mystery Panel (Philadelphia, PA) – writer/panelist
- Oct. 5 – Collingswood Book Festival (Collingswood, NJ)
- Sept. 19 – Bloody Scotland (Stirling, Scotland, UK)
- Sept. 15 – Noir at the Bar, Shade Bar, Sullivan Street (NYC) - reading
- Aug. 22 – Killer Nashville Writers Conf. (Nashville, TN) – panelist, moderator
- Aug 13 – Mystery Writers; KGB Bar (W 4th Street, NYC) – reading
- July 18 – Summer of Noir, Stoney’s British Pub (Wilmington, DE) – reading
- June 29 – Open Mic, Sisters in Crime, Central NJ (Jamesburg, NJ) – reading
- May 18 – Crime CONN, “Lawyers, Guns & Money,” Ferguson Lib., Stamford, CT
- Mar. 28 – Left Coast Crime Conference (Vancouver, BC) – panelist

2018

- Oct. 17 – Noir at a Bar (West Chester, PA) – reading, *Dark Network*
- Oct. 14 – Bucks County Library, “Author Expo,” (Quakertown, PA)
- Oct. 6 – Collingswood Book Festival (Collingswood, NJ)
- Sept. 10 – Brooklyn Book Festival (NYC)
- Sept 6 – Bouchercon 2018 (St. Petersburg, FL)
- Aug. 11 – Deadly Ink (Edison, NJ) – panelist
- Aug 8 - Mystery Writers; KGB Bar (W 4th Street, NYC) – reading
- July 21 – Harlem Book Fair (NYC)

2017

- Oct. 7 – Book Launch for *DARK NETWORK* at Penn Book Center, Phila.
- Oct. 4 – Collingswood Book Festival (Collingswood, NJ)

2016

- May 5 – Rothermere American Inst./Oxford University (Oxford, UK)

Apr. 20 – Highland Park Public Library (Highland Park, NJ)– reading