JAMES McCRONE

As of: October 2026

Educational Background

MFA, Creative Writing, University of Washington (Seattle), 1990
BA, English, University of Washington, 1988

Professional Memberships

The Authors' Guild
Mystery Writers of America (NY Chapter)
Sisters in Crime (DE-Valley Chapter, *current president*)
International Assoc. of Crime Writers
Philadelphia Dramatists Center

Publications

Books:
—Bastard Verdict (May, 2023 - fiction, novel; political suspense-thriller)
You don't have to win, just don't lose. In politics, people cheat to win, or because they're afraid to lose. There's a difference, and it can be deadly. (ISBN: 978-0999137741)

—Emergency Powers – (Oct., 2020 – fiction; political thriller)
The accidental president is no accident. The investigation that was FBI Agent Imogen Trager's undoing may be the key to stopping a 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 in grave danger from a conspiracy she failed to destroy. (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)

Short stories (Anthologies):
"Numbers Don't Lie." *In Low-Down Dirty Vote, Vol. 2*; ed. M. Berry (July 2020)
(ISBN: 978-1732225855)
"Time Was." *Thi Wurd, 107 words, part 3* (online)
"Nostalgia." *In Low-Down Dirty Vote, Vol. 3*; ed. M. Berry, (May 2022) [978-1732225862]
"Ultimatum Games." *Rock and a Hard Place Magazine* #7 – Jan. 2022 [ISBN-979-8985290431]

Short stories (Periodicals):
"Coffin Corner." *Tough/Redneck Press* - https://redneck-press.blogspot.com/- May 2025

"What's Hidden." *Killer Nashville Literary Magazine*– February 2024
"Eight O'clock Sharp." *Retreats from Oblivion, the Journal of NoirCon*.– January, 2022
"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*, Univ. of Wash. *Vol. 4, Nos. 1 and 2 1987* (completed, unpublished)
"Spring and Chocolate Milk," *Matrix*, University of Washington. 22 January 1986
"Inertia," *Feminist Baseball,* September, 1985. Seattle, WA
"In My Solitude," *Fusion West*. Summer 1985. The Evergreen State College

Articles:
The Philly Soccer Page (https://phillysoccerpage.net/author/JMcCrone/)
—*Match Reports, Player ratings and analysis (23+)*

Works in Progress/On Submission:
—*Culinati* (drama, comedy; two weeks in the lives of desperate cooks – *"what would you serve if your life depended on it?"*)
—Witness Tree (fiction, novel; mystery, politics, set in Oregon's wine country)
—"Title Pending." (fiction, short story about property fraud and murder)
—"Raccoon Summer." (fiction, short story about bad relatives and worse advice)

Selected Reviews of My Work by Others
(links are to full reviews)

BASTARD VERDICT (2023)
"***Bastard Verdict*** is a gripping and explosive political thriller. Set in the aftermath of the Scottish Independence Referendum of 2014, it investigates many of the questions raised in Scotland at the time and still not answered."
– Lin Anderson, author of the new *Party House*, and the *Rhona MacLeod mysteries*

"McCrone weaves a powerful story, embracing contemplative reflections, social and political realizations and fear." —D. Donovan, *Midwest Book Review*

"A slow-burn thriller that really pays off!" – *Independent Book Review*

EMERGENCY POWERS (2020)
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*

"[McCrone's] 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 (2017)
"*Dark Network* is gripping and unpredictable." —*Midwest Book Review*

In ***Dark Network***, "Baldacci and Meltzer fans will appreciate the plot's twists…"
—*Publishers Weekly*

"[McCrone] yet again deftly delivers a combination of stirring action and remarkably intricate plot entanglements…" —*Kirkus Review*

"The writing is crisp and well done with an atmosphere of foreboding…"
—*The (Doylestown, PA) Intelligencer*

FAITHLESS ELECTOR (2016)
Faithless Elector is a "fast-moving topical thriller." Its "surprising twists add up to a highly suspenseful read." —*Publishers Weekly*

"A gripping and intelligently executed political drama." —*Kirkus Review*

"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*

Selected Readings, Signings, Events and Panels

2026
May 18 - "Creating Unforgettable Characters," MWA Panel discussion, at Tredyffrin Library
June 13 - MontCo Book Fest Montgomery County, (Harleysville, PA)
July 19 - Art at the Park, Dickinson Sq. Park, South Philadelphia
Sept 20 - Art at the Park, Dickinson Sq. Park, South Philadelphia
October 3 – Collingswood Book Festival Collingswood, NJ, at the DE-Valley SinC table
October 17 – Panel Moderator for "Thrillers and the Ticking Clock," MWA panel discussion Free Library of Philadelphia *(Parkway Central Library)*;
November 22 - Art at the Park, Dickinson Sq. Park, South Philadelphia

2025
March 29 – Panelist, "Motive: The Essence of Mystery," MWA Panel at the Phila.Free Library
Sept 21 – Art at the Park – Dickinson Square Park arts fest series.
Nov 16 – Art at the Park – Dickinson Square Park arts fest series.

2024

Jan 9 - In discussion with Dick Belsky for the launch of *Broadcast Blues* at The Mysterious Bookshop, 58 Warren Street, NY
Feb. 6 - "What's Hidden," short story published in *Killer Nashville magazine*,
Feb. 20 - Brandywine Writers Group Talk - "Creating Tension Novels"
March 9 - *Deathknell VI* - Book Launch/Open House, DE-Valley SinC, at Tredyffrin Library.
April 2 - "How to Steal an Election," panelist, MWA-NY's CrimeCraft Series (online)
May 11 - iScream for Mysteries! Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookshop event
July 13 - In conversation with Lin Anderson - Hilltop Books (Chestnut Hill), Phila.
Aug 31 - Author Event at Umoja House Books, (Germantown) Phila.
Sept 21 - MWA Table, at Hoboken Public Library Book Festival
Sept 22 - Art in the Park - Dickinson Square Park Arts
Sept 29 - MWA Table, at Brooklyn Book Fest, Table
Oct 5 - Collingswood Book Festival (Phila. area) at the DE-Valley Sisters in Crime table.
Nov 7 - Noir at the Bar Oxford, Octoraro Hotel, 2 South Third Street, Oxford PA
Nov. 13 - "Coffin Corner." (accepted, *Tough Magazine*; pub. May '25)
Nov 17 - Art in the Park - Dickinson Square Park Arts Fest

2023

Jan 18 – Writers for Writers book fair – Hilltop Books, Chestnut Hill (Phila.)
Mar 19 – Noir at the Bar, Shade Bar, Sullivan Street, New York City
Apr 21 – Writers' Event, Zinnia's Tea Room, Bally, PA
May 17 – Cigar sendoff for *Bastard Verdict* – Harry's Cigar Shop, Phila.
May 18 – *Bastard Verdict* launch!
May 23 - Spies, Lies and Private Eyes, with Terrence McCauley, podcast.
May 27 - Launch party, "in the garden" at Hilltop Books, Chestnut Hill, PHL
June 1 - Interview, Blog Talk Radio w/ Fran Lewis
June 3 - Burlington Library (Westampton, NJ) Book Fest
June 6 - Writer's Group Talk ("Book Launches"), Black Powder Tavern Wayne, PA
June 13 - MWA Reading Series at KGB Bar, 85 E 4th Street, New York, NY
June 24 - Norristown Library (Mont. Co) Crime Writers' Panel
Aug 16 - MWA-NY Reading Series at KGB Bar - 85 E 4th St, New York, NY
Sept 15-18 - Bloody Scotland - Stirling, Scotland, UK
Oct 7 - Collingswood Book Festival - Collingswood, NJ *(suburban Phila.)*
Nov 12 - Art at the Market - Dickenson Sq. Park, Philadelphia

2022

Feb 10 – *Thi Wurd* - "90-Second Readings," *via Zoom*; Glasgow, Scotland *(v.)*
Mar 24 – *Thi Wurd* – "107 words" via Zoom; Glasgow, Scotland *(v.)*
Apr 12 – MWA-NY Reading Series, KGB Bar – excerpt of *Witness Tree* (WIP)
May 1 - Dickinson Square Park Art Fair - Dickinson Sq. Pk, Phila, 10am to 2pm
Sept 15-18 - Bloody Scotland - Stirling, Scotland, UK
Oct 1 - Collingswood Book Festival - Collingswood, NJ (suburban Phila.)

2021

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

Aug 1 - Panel, Mechanicsburg (PA) Mystery Bookshop
Aug. 4 – Mystery Writers of America Reading Series, in-person, KGB Bar, NYC
Sept 18 - Books-Books-Books Fest/Event, Carlisle, PA
Oct 2 - Collingswood Book Festival - Collingswood, NJ
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 *(v.)*
Oct. 13 - MWA-NY READING Series, KGB Bar NYC *(v.)*
October 1, 6:30pm - BOOK LAUNCH for EMERGENCY POWERS!
at SHAKESPEARE & CO. *(NYC, Phila. bookstores – v.)*
Sept. 20 - 5-7pm, Blue Stoop (Phila.) Virtual Open Mic *(v.)*
Apr. 18 – Sisters in Crime, speakers' series. "Writing mysteries ripped from the headlines."

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