

**EUCLID READERS GROUP  
MARCH 21, 2009  
AWARD WINNERS**

M Alexander, Tasha

**ALEXANDE A FATAL WALTZ**

“Nominated for the Left Coast Crime Bruce Alexander Memorial Mystery Award for historical mysteries... third in an engaging series, this book deals with political intrigue and counterintelligence and murder in 1891 England and Vienna” - Ruth

M Bowen, Rhys

**BOWEN,R A ROYAL PAIN**

“Another nominee for the Left Coast Crime Bruce Alexander Memorial Mystery Award for historical mysteries... light-weight and amusing” - Ruth



F Box, C. J.

**BOX, C BLUE HEAVEN**

“The one Edgar nominee I had read... He writes a very nice series set in Wyoming and featuring Joe Pickett, a hard-working and underpaid and under-appreciated game warden, but this is not part of that series. It is a stand-alone novel set in Idaho, where two children witness a murder and go on the run, with no help from their mother, but some help from a brave older man. It's a suspenseful, sensitive, fast-moving story that keeps you on the edge of your seat and leaves you wanting more. I wonder how it will do in May, when the awards are given” - Ruth

M Fowler, Christopher

**FOWLER,C THE VICTORIA VANISHES: A PECULIAR CRIMES UNIT MYSTERY**

“Nominated for The Dilys awards for books the Independent Booksellers most enjoyed selling... Fowler's book is a real puzzler: it's part of the 'Peculiar Crimes Unit' series, set in London and featuring Bryant and May, an eccentric detecting team whose cases involve the Victorian water system underneath London, or disappearing vintage pubs, or automatons—and the crime is always an 'impossible' one. There are only six (I think) in the series, and it's heart-breaking that there will be no more” - Ruth

F Gaiman, Neil

**GAIM AMERICAN GODS: A NOVEL**

“Winner of the Hugo and the Nebula (for best science fiction), Bram Stoker (for best horror) and Locus (science fiction magazine) awards. The author uses a very original idea: what happens to the gods that people bring to America and later forget? Answer: they fight a Holy War. We follow the hero ‘Shadow’ as he interacts with the gods in America on a journey across the country and deep into mythology. In the end we learn that all the gods are one. My favorite book so far this year. I give it a rave” - Robin



J F

Gaiman, Neil

**GAIMAN, N THE GRAVEYARD BOOK**

“Winner of this year’s Newbery Award. Like a lot of kids books, there's a dark side to this one, but at heart it's a charming and heartwarming story. It starts with the murder of the main character's parents and sister. Unaware of what is going on, the boy, a toddler, climbs out of his crib, goes downstairs where the killer left the front door open, walks out and up the hill to an old graveyard. He's small enough to climb between the railings. The ghosts quickly realize that murder has been committed and they hide the little one from the killer. Silas, the graveyard's resident vampire, uses his gifts to convince the killer to leave. But now what to do with the boy? A ghostly couple, the Owenses, offer to adopt him and name him Nobody Owens, Bod for short, and Silas agrees to be his guardian. It's Silas's job to provide earthly things like food for the boy since he's the only one who can leave the graveyard. Bod is given the 'freedom of the graveyard' and educated by several of the ghosts, all of whom have been dead for a very long time. My favorite chapter was the one where they dance the 'macabray' - this graveyard's version of the Danse Macabre, only it's a happy festival where the dead march down the hill and dance with the living. I think the book is deserving of the award. Very enjoyable” - Linda



F

King, Laurie L.

**KING,L TOUCHSTONE**

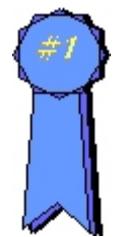
“Another nominee for the Left Coast Crime Bruce Alexander Memorial Mystery Award for historical mysteries... thoughtfully and suspensefully explores the concept of terrorism, through the character of a man injured in World War I and suffering from unexplained psychic sensitivities, and a counterpoint character, an American FBI agent sent to England in pursuit of a serial bomber. It's engrossing and wonderfully written, as King's books always are, and the ending is shocking.

M

Lippman, Laura

**LIPPMAN WHAT THE DEAD KNOW**

“... last year won the Macavity, the Anthony, the Barry, a Quill Award, and was short-listed for one of the Crime Writers' Association (U.K.) annual Dagger Awards. It's a story about a 30-year disappearance of two sisters, who disappeared from a Baltimore shopping mall and never were heard from again. But then a woman involved in a rush-hour automobile accident claims to be one of those sisters, but she can't prove that she is, and the investigators can't prove her identity either way: is she, or isn't she? Or who is she? Lippman writes this book from several points of view, shifting back and forth in time and adding layer upon layer of detail, something like an oyster making a pearl. The prose is exquisite, and the denouement takes the reader by surprise. Lovely book, and worth all the praise, I think” - Ruth



F LISS                      Liss, David  
**A CONSPIRACY OF PAPER**



“Winner 2000 Edgar Award, Best First Novel about a Jewish man in England in the 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. He is English born and a citizen, but his older family members are Jews from Spain. He runs away because he does not have a knack for studying and makes his fame and fortune boxing. By the beginning of the story, he has been injured and can no longer box. He makes his living now by doing detective work. His father has recently passed away, and he is hired by the son of a man who died the following day to find out the truth behind both of the fathers’ deaths. He wanders back and forth from London’s seamy underbelly to the fringes of the beau monde seeking answers. His father had been one of the top stock-jobbers, a relatively new profession, and the entire British economy is in the process of moving from silver to paper money. His investigations take him into the Bank of England and the South Sea Company (old-time AIG or Madoff). The members of the South Sea Company are ruthless in their search for power and profits, to the extent that even the main crime boss of London is afraid of them. Eventually, the murder is solved, but in a very unsatisfactory way. The writing is gritty and harsh. London of the day is presented in all its naked rawness. Benjamin Weaver, the protagonist, must deal with anti-Semitism, envy from other Jews who are not English-born, scorn from his social betters, and threats from both organized crime and organized investment companies. In the epilogue, we learn about the world’s first stock bubble and stock market crash. It seems the world never changes, especially not on the ‘Change” - Teresa

F MCCARTH                      McCarthy, Cormac  
**THE ROAD**

“Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award and the National Critics Circle Award in 2007. I listened to the audio CD while I was in the car. The story is about a journey of a father and son in a post-apocalyptic America. It is depressing, monotonous, repetitive and bleak. Is it an allegory for life? Or an allegory of a father’s struggles to raise his son? If I had not been reading this for Book Club I don’t think I would have finished it. But I’m glad I did. My favorite line: ‘Do you carry the light?’ Another great book by McCarthy is *All The Pretty Horses* which also won the National Book Award” - Robin



F MCEW                      McEwan, Ian  
**AMSTERDAM**

“Winner of the Booker Prize in England for the best novel of 1998. The story is about two old friends who meet at the funeral of a woman they both knew (in the Biblical sense). During the course of the next few weeks they fall out completely. McEwan is very clever at dialogue. The story is interesting, the ending is a surprise, the characterizations are good. My favorite part is the fact that I bought it in London when I was there last November. I went online to see what other people thought. Very interesting to discover that it is generally felt this is not his best or strongest book but that it was a ‘consolation’ Booker Prize for the wrong book. The negative comment most often heard was that none of the main characters in the book was ‘sympathetic’. I disagree; I sympathized with all of them, though none is a hero per se. His most famous book is *Atonement*, made into a movie last year” - Robin

M Raybourn, Deanna

**RAYBOURN SILENT IN THE SANCTUARY: A LADY JULIA GREY MYSTERY**

“Another Dilys nominee... very nice, set at Christmas at a family estate with lots of things going on: murder, for instance, and jewel theft, and jealousy and visiting nobility, and anger and Christmas pudding. The heroine is sort of Amelia Peabody-like” - Ruth



J 812.6 Schlitz, Laura Amy

**SCHL GOOD MASTERS! SWEET LADIES!: VOICES FROM A MEDIEVAL VILLAGE**

“Winner of last year’s Newbery Award, it’s a collection of medieval monologues. This is a unique book written with performances in mind, but it's clear that the author knows the period well and did her research. Some of the monologues are sad, others touching. The illustrations by Robert Byrd, including a map of the castle and village, add a lot as do the interspersed prose sections explaining things like the Crusades. It's a short, quick read, but has a lot of substance” - Linda

M Sholes, Lynn

**SHOLES,L THE GRAIL CONSPIRACY**

“Winner of *Foreword Magazine's* Book of the Year Award for Best Mystery, this is the first in a series in the vein of Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*. Cotten Stone, a broadcast journalist for a cable news network, travels to Iraq just before the war begins in 2003 and stumbles onto an archeological site where she acquires a Medieval puzzle box that turns out to contain a chalice that make be the actual Holy Grail. She gets the scoop of a lifetime when she turns it over to the Vatican with the help of attractive priest John Tyler. But a shadowy group called the Guardians of the Grail, led by scientist Charles Sinclair, conspire to get hold of the Grail to forward their plans to institute world government during the End Times. Fun, exciting read” - Linda

SF Datlow, Ellen, ed.

**YEAR THE YEAR'S BEST FANTASY AND HORROR**

“The first edition (1987) of this collection contains 37 short stories gathered from magazines and original anthologies. Both fantasy and horror are included and most of the time I didn't know which it was till the story was ending. It was fun to know that each time I sat down to read, I would become quickly engaged, (the guarantee of a short story), but repeated scary tales became a little too much sometimes. The one that sticks with me the most is called 'The Pear Shaped Man'. It describes a person who most of us would feel physically disgusted by, even though we know we shouldn't, (the smell, the eating habits, the clothes, the body, the social skills) and then at the end we discover that various ‘regular people’ like us become entrapped in that body and it's world until it lures the next person in to take it over, so the current person can escape. Yikes!! The editors made very exciting choices and I'd probably read another of their annual collections after a long enough break from these tales” - Karen M.

