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Southern California Writer's Association June 2022

- **President Larry Porricelli's Message**
- **June's Featured Event: Matthew Quirk at the Regency San Juan Capistrano Theater**
- **Hump Day: Every Wednesday 10 a.m. on SCWA's Facebook Group page**
- **Debby's Room: Following Hump Day, Wednesdays 10:20 a.m. on the SCWA Facebook Group page, on the Rooms tab**
- **Highlights: Joe Ide**



Have you subscribed?

Check out our fancy new URL for the YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SCWAWritersOnline>

President's Letter for June 2022 from Larry Porricelli

“Creativity is a wild mind and a disciplined eye.”

“I wonder how many people I've looked at all my life and never seen.”

“In the country of the story the writer is king.”

"I hate writing, I love having written."

“Your end of the bargain is to play fair, and keep them interested, their end of the bargain is to keep reading.”

“Your characters will make their remarks only once; people hear better in stories than in real life.”

“If you want to know what God thinks of money, just look at the people he gave it to.”

“Unless a reviewer has the courage to give you unqualified praise, I say ignore the bastard.”

“Time is the only critic without ambition.”

“Adjectives are always good, of course; no short story really ought to be without adjectives, particularly odd ones—such as ‘fulsome’—that the reader usually has to go and look up.”

“Just as a tune or a scent can evoke for most of us an entire scene, so the basic image of the character must evoke that entire character and his place in the story.”

“In utter loneliness, a writer tries to explain the inexplicable.”

"The first thing I do in the morning is brush my teeth and sharpen my tongue."

"If you have any young friends who aspire to become writers, the second greatest favor you can do for them is to present them with copies of *The Elements of Style*. The first greatest, of course, is to shoot them now, while they're happy."

These quotes are from literary greats on the craft of writing. Each has a distinct purpose.

I enjoyed reading them, but more, feeling them.

I recently received a promo for a writer's tool called the *Fabula Deck*. It is to be used in organizing novels, screenplays, and for stories of every shape and form. I examined the offering and saw it was primarily meant to be used to organize our writing. It is a deck of cards. Each card has a title on it with a professional term for a story part, such as rising point, mentor, or call to action, and are divided into character cards, action, story, and so on.

What made the deck so bold was they recommend we stick them to a wall or whiteboard with some putty, and then use post-its beneath to fill out the definitions for our work.

Now I thought, what a clever tool, but to me, accepting the tool was also an admission of not being able to organize my own story and meant I should become slave to the story machine.

Quandary, fondary, tough questions all the time.

As a writer, I do envy an organized writer, but I enjoy the freedom of not being organized. It gives me the freedom to make mistakes, learn from them, and deepen my creativity.

I believe as a helpful association, SCWA promotes and enhances our writing skills through so many methods, as SCWA is a tool dressed as a group of people.

Action waiting to happen.

Let your action flow, let your skill at writing it grow.

Enjoy every moment you write, destiny awaits.

Larry Porricelli, President, SCWA

Visit the Southern California Writer's Association Website Today

<https://www.southerncalwriters.org/>

- **Join SCWA or renew your membership**
- **Sample the books written and published by SCWA members**
- **Get to know our members: Explore member profiles**
- **Dig into our Newsletter Archive for highlights of our speakers and events**



Have you binged on SCWA's YouTube videos?

- **We love sharing our content!**
- **SCWA Writers Online is FREE to all with over 100 Hump Day interviews with bestselling authors led by Maddie Margarita**
- **See SCWA's Workshops and Videos of our Featured Speakers from our monthly meetings**

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SCWAWritersOnline>



SCWA Events This Month: June 2022

- SCWA Featured Monthly Guest, Matthew Quirk, June 18, 2022 at 10 a.m. PT on Zoom and in person at the Regency San Juan Capistrano Theater.
Register at: <https://www.southernwriters.org/>
- SCWA VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR: Every Friday at 4:30 p.m. PT. Join us with your funny stories and libations for good news and good cheer. New members showing up weekly. Sign up on our website and we'll email you a link and password.
<https://www.southernwriters.org/>
- SCWA HUMP DAY BOOK TOUR: LIVE every Wednesday in SCWA's Facebook group. Replays on SCWA's YouTube channel.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southernwriters>
- Debby's Room: Every Wednesday at 10:20 a.m. PT. Join **Debby Putman** and **Dot Caffrey** for casual conversation about the writing craft and anything that you wish to bring for discussion. Click on the Rooms tab for Debby's Room on the SCWA Facebook page.

Have you missed an SCWA event? We will upload replays as they are edited and ready on SCWA's YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SCWAWritersOnline>

Featured Monthly Speaker: June 18, 2022 Matthew Quirk

How His Bestselling Thriller, *The Night Agent*, Became A Hotly Anticipated Netflix Series

Who: Matthew Quirk

When: Saturday, June 21, 2022

Time: 10:00 am PDT

Where: Regency Theater, Adjacent to the San Juan Capistrano Train Station

Cost: VIP tickets \$25.00 Members

VIP tickets \$35.00 Nonmembers

Zoom Tickets: \$15.00

Seating is limited. No walk-ins.

Pre-Register by 9:00am Friday June 20 at

[https:// www.southerncalwriters.org](https://www.southerncalwriters.org)



VIP Packages include:

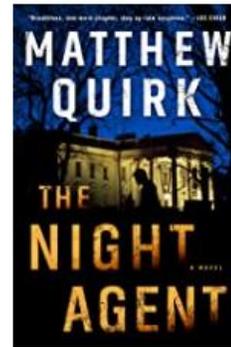
- Luxury theatre seating
- Coffee and light continental breakfast 9:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.
- Presentation by Joe Ide 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- Light lunch and networking 11:15 a.m.

For information about SCWA and membership please go to

<https://www.southerncalwriters.org/>

The Night Agent is a sophisticated, character-based, action-thriller centering on Peter Sutherland (Basso), a low-level FBI agent who works in the basement of the White House, manning a phone that never rings—until the night that it does, propelling him into a fast moving and dangerous conspiracy that ultimately leads all the way to the Oval Office.

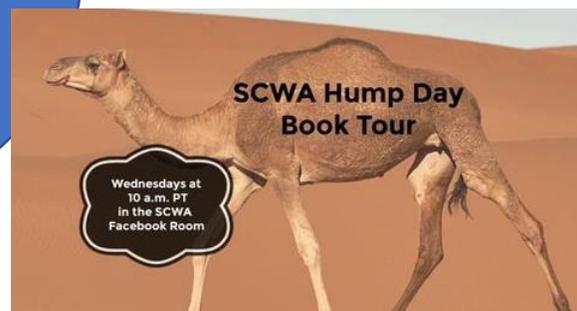
Matthew Quirk is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The 500*, *The Directive*, *Dead Man Switch*, *Cold Barrel Zero*, and *The Night Agent*. He spent five years at *The Atlantic* magazine reporting on crime, private military contractors, terrorism prosecutions, and international gangs before turning to fiction. An Edgar award finalist and winner of the ITW Thriller Award for Best First Novel, Quirk lives in San Diego.



Hump Day
Book Tour

LIVESTREAMED
Every
Wednesday
10:00 a.m.

Enjoy our Summer Hump Days!
Join us every Wednesday at 10 a.m.



Hump Day streams LIVE on SCWA's Facebook page.

Look for our SCWA group on Facebook. Click on the Events tab to join us!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southerncalwriters/events>



LIT UP!

A Conversation with Orange County Readers and Writers; a monthly salon with authors reading and discussing their book hosted by Maddie Tighe Margarita

New authors—new works—new worlds. Find your next favorite author or become a new fan. LIT UP Orange County is currently accepting submissions from authors interested in sharing their work with Orange County readers and writers. Submissions should be fiction or memoir, 6-8 double-spaced pages, and engage our audience. Interested writers please contact @MadelineTigheMargarita for more details!

Watch for announcements of upcoming LitUp events here and on Maddie's LitUp Facebook page.



HIGHLIGHTS: May 2022

Joe Ide

How a Great Crime Writer Brought Philip Marlow Back to Life



How a Great Crime Writer Brought Philip Marlowe Back to Life

At the end of Joe Ide's last SCWA appearance in November 2020, VP of Programming Maddie Margarita asked Ide what was happening next in his career. Answer: The estate of Raymond Chandler, the famous detective fiction writer, had asked him to write a contemporary novel using Chandler's famous private detective Philip Marlowe. Wow!

Already into the project, Ide finished *The Good Bye Coast* in three years. The first edition by Hachette Book Group shows the copyright as February, 2022 by Joe Ide and Raymond Chandler Ltd. The estate exerted no control over his writing. Way to go, Joe!

Before this new adventure, Ide had published six books in his **IQ** series, starting in 2016. Amazon.com describes Isaiah Quintabe, a loner and a high school dropout, as "a resident of one of LA's toughest neighborhoods" who "uses his blistering intellect to solve the crimes the LAPD ignores." The titles are *IQ*, *Righteous*, *Wrecked*, *Hi Five*, and *Smoke*. The 6th is not yet titled. These IQ novels are currently in development as an original TV series. They have won the Anthony, Shamus and Macavity awards and have been nominated for the Edgar, Barry, CWA, New Blood Dagger, and Strand awards. *The New York Times* called Joe Ide "the hottest of recently emerged crime writers."

Growing up in tough, south-central Los Angeles and living with his Japanese grandparents who "loathed me," evidently prepared him for his topics. "Get out of here, you little asshole." He also loved reading Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes. But, for one thing, Joe's pet rabbits chewed up his grandparents' garden and also damaged some 600-700-year-old Samurai swords they treasured.

When he was 12 and alone one time, Joe pulled a sword out and swung it around. It cut a lamp in pieces. “Purple with rage” when he saw the scene, his grandfather picked Joe up and threw him through the screen door. Joe’s head stuck out on the other side “like a hunting trophy.”

Ide also absorbed the family’s worries about survival. “Can we pay the utilities?” “Can’t worry about the future. No direction.” Ide quipped, “Money won’t bring you happiness. But it won’t bring unhappiness.” Our SCWA audience had a big laugh.

Somehow Ide did go to college and grad school, graduating with a degree in education. He got a job teaching fourth and sixth grades. But in three days, he realized he didn’t like kids “because they were always asking questions.” Along his bumpy ride, he also became a business consultant for an NGO for a year. Meanwhile, he complained constantly because he’d decided he wanted to write. The lady he lived with at the time told him, “Either write or shut up!”

He began writing screenplays but nothing was getting made. Ide said he wrote a good script about the actor and comedian Bernie Mac, who then died. Ide was depressed and quit screenwriting. Yet, the mortgage had to be paid. Took a second on his house. It took him three years to write *IQ*—and after its success he could write full time.

Joe Ide’s philosophy is that “Success is built on failure. But failure is built on failure. Do it right the FIRST time. No second chances. Move on.” In other words, do the very best you know how to do and are capable of at this time in your career. Don’t use the excuse that you could have done better if you’d had more time. “Don’t give yourself a deadline. Most writers fall short of *good* because they hurry. It takes as long as it takes.” He reminded the audience that the first *IQ* book took him three years, writing full time. “If you’re gonna fail, fail with the (finished) product—because that’s the best you can do.” “But if you’re not happy with it, then go back” and write it the best you know how to before submission. He also realized he “could only write the way I write.”

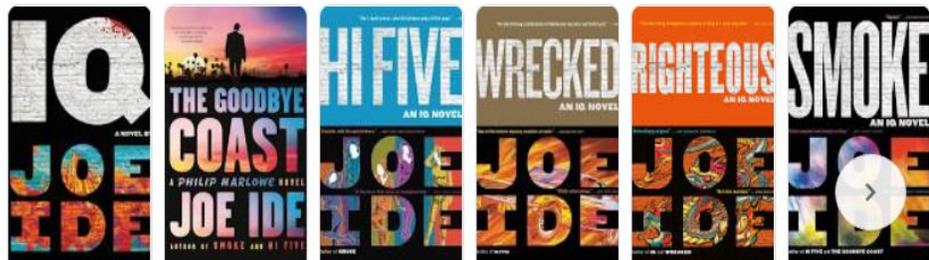
Ide wanted the readers of Philip Marlowe to know Marlowe is unique. So, he reveals what’s important to this protagonist. Ide shows his reactions to people and happenings that indicate Marlowe’s character. The opening is critical, and Ide rewrites them numerous times. Where do the characters originate? Ide uses information he saw in his neighborhood when growing up, like an area where hookers and a pimp used to socialize. He said they could show you their bullet holes.

Use the technique of showing how others react to the main character. Keep your language fresh. "Every time you come across an adjective, use a thesaurus." He said he uses it about 500 times for a novel. He doesn't have a target audience for a new book. He just writes until he's happy.

Ide does not use an outline although he has a vague idea of the story. He writes in small bits and increments, maybe 20 pages at a time. At that point he can see ahead where he needs to escalate the plot. He usually writes from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and then at 4 p.m. for another two hours. "You cannot put the book down for too long. Once you let go of all the strings in a novel, it's too hard to get them back." He doesn't use a daily word limit; he writes until he's tired.

When asked how he remembers what his characters know, if there is any special technique, Ide replied that he remembers or uses post notes. When asked how he stays abreast of the details of pop culture today, he replied that he just looks it up. But he stresses that you must know exactly what you're asking to enable the research.

At the end, Maddie Margarita asked him if he had a fear of success because of the pressure to continually succeed. Our speaker's answer: "No, this is my job, and I know how to do it."



Glenda Brown Rynn, Reporter

grynn@cox.net

RESOURCES FOR WRITERS

How to Leave a Review for Your Friends' Books

- **Log in to your Amazon account**
- **Go to the product page, then select the book**
- **Scroll down to the Customer Reviews section and click on "Write a Customer Review"**
- **Rate the book (of course you'll love it!)**
- **Write your review and "submit"**
- **You'll see: "Thanks for your review"**

How do you find your way through the ocean of resources available online for writers like us? Check out this sampling of what we have found to be of interest. Links are included so you will be able to investigate further.

Are you afraid of scams and rip-offs when you consider publishing your book? Writers need never go it alone with a watchdog like Writer Beware to have your back.

Writer Beware's mission is to track, expose, and raise awareness of scams and other questionable activities in and around the publishing industry.



After many years on the Blogger platform, we have finally transitioned to WordPress, which offers much greater flexibility in terms of design, control, and ease of use.

We also have a new, easy to remember web address: www.writerbeware.blog.

5 Freakishly Helpful Amazon Tricks Every Author Should Use (2022)
From Shayla Raquel:

<https://www.shaylaraquel.com/blog/amazontricks?fbclid>



LitNuts was created to share the “Best of the Indies” with booklovers.

- Subscribers get a free newsletter featuring only indie books.
- Authors and publishers get an affordable way to share their work with engaged readers.

<https://litnuts.com/> LitNuts promotes *only* books from independent presses and authors. Details on its website:

<https://litnuts.com/pages/authors-and-publishers>



Benefits of SCWA Membership

WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME!

- ❖ Active members receive up to 60% off admission to SCWA meetings.
- ❖ Members are eligible for a free 30-minute consultation from book shepherd Sharon Goldinger on any publishing contract.
- ❖ Discounts are available for active SCWA members for registration for the La Jolla Writer's Conference and for early registration for the Southern California Writers' Conference.
- ❖ Access to professional network of publishing, business consultants and editors.
- ❖ Participation in SCWA marketing platforms on southernwriters.org and SCWA social media platforms.
- ❖ SCWA Member's Only group on Facebook where we rewind and replay recent featured guests and their presentations.

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The SCWA communication sites should only be used for dialogues related to the craft of writing. Non-writing related topics should be done via other forms of personal communication. Please review the content disclaimer located in the newsletter via the SCWA website www.southerncalwriters.org or on the About page of the SCWA Facebook page. The SCWA does not endorse individual opinions placed of any of its sites.

The SCWA receives information on various services, writing contests, and events. As a courtesy, we will forward the information to our members. Unless otherwise indicated, the SCWA does not discourage, encourage, or recommend any of the services, contests, or events. Many of these services, contests and events cost money; therefore, we recommend that you evaluate the opportunities based on your individual situation and interest. Because of our membership email protection policy, please do not forward information to the general membership directly. **We request that all members forward any information to the SCWA President for approval and forwarding to the membership.**

SCWA members wishing to share appropriate writing-related information and resources are welcome to do so via the SCWA Facebook page. The SCWA Board members and Newsletter Editor will determine the information to be contained in the SCWA on-line newsletter, which is primarily used for official SCWA information.