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Southern California Writer's Association July 2022

- **President Larry Porricelli's Message**
- **July's Featured Event: Gary Phillips at the Regency San Juan Capistrano Theater on July 16**
- **Hump Day: Resuming in August after vacation. Every Wednesday 10 a.m. on SCWA's Facebook Group page.**
- **Debby's Room: Continuing in July on Wednesdays 10:20 a.m. on the SCWA Facebook Group page, on the Rooms tab**
- **Highlights: Matthew Quirk**



Have you subscribed?

Check out our fancy new URL for the YouTube channel:

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

President's Letter for July 2022 from Larry Porricelli

Share with us your great inspirations and a little time!

SCWA is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the mission of helping writers. We provide you with the very best writing tips, advice, and guidance to help you become the best writer you can be. We help you to improve your craft and assist you in getting your books to their target audiences.

I have spoken to many members who have exciting ideas for SCWA. One example was reaching out to high school writers. Another thought was bringing our authors to hospitals and senior living centers for readings. A great thought was doing meetings at special locations, such as a ship in Newport Harbor or at a lunch on Catalina. There are many inspiring ideas, and you likely have at least one suggestion to add.

We hear many inspiring ideas.

We need volunteers to carry them out.

I write this month to ask you to seek within about how you may enjoy bringing an idea to life, and if you would consider volunteering.

Some tasks of SCWA may be mundane, such as checking people in at a meeting or helping set up displays. But the depth of thought for helping writers is rich and so fulfilling.

San Francisco has an annual October event called Litquake. During the month, writers are everywhere reading their own work. From a bar to a church, from a laundromat to a college, from the street corner to a courtroom, everywhere, all hours of day and night, and it is the most exciting event to witness and also be among its supporters. Litquake began from a writers meeting and is now a spectacular city-wide event run by volunteers 24 hours a day for an entire month.

We have had members who sponsored a writer or a speaker on a writing topic. If you have an area of writing that you feel would be interesting and know of a speaker, let us know, and if you have the passion, perhaps you would sponsor or organize that meeting.

The time and place are endless, we can bring SCWA anywhere, our mission is inclusive.

A few years ago, as other writers groups developed in the Southland, SCWA had the position of Ambassador. An Ambassador attended other writing group meetings and shared our mission, all while being supportive of their mission. Many writing groups began developing when SCWA attended their meetings and helped them boost themselves, as we seek to help all writers. Volunteering as an Ambassador may be a good beginning for you.

SCWA also encouraged writers to attend conferences and share, and that is still why we give a \$25 rebate to members who attend a writing conference. Support their cause and share the mission of SCWA.

We are open to all ideas and look to expand our outreaches to always be on the cutting edge of literary voices in service to writers.

You have spectacular ideas, but not the time to bring them to fruition. Please share your ideas and we may be able to pair them with volunteers who have some time to contribute.

All you see in SCWA, every meeting, teaching, and workshop, are from volunteers with good ideas and a passion for writing.

Join us in making our community thrive!

Thank you so much, I look forward to hearing from you. My direct email is lorenzo212@gmail.com and all messages will be confidential.

Larry Porricelli, President



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: July 2022

- SCWA Featured Monthly Guest, Gary Phillips, July 16, 2022 at 10 a.m. PT in person at the Regency San Juan Capistrano Theater. Register at: <https://www.southernwriters.org/>
This month we will offer a Private video link instead of Zoom, to be shared with you a week after the meeting.
- 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: Hump Day will be on vacation for the month of July. Meanwhile, check out the ones you have missed on SCWA's YouTube channel:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southernwriters>
- Debby's Room: Continuing through July. 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: July 16, 2022
Gary Phillips
Like You Were There
Writing Immersive Historical Fiction

GARY PHILLIPS

LIKE YOU WERE THERE—WRITING IMMERSIVE HISTORICAL FICTION

Come for the Program—Stay for the Surprises! We've got some aloha summer extras for you!

Dress Noir or Resort—wear something fun.

Authors, bring your books! We have cameo videos planned for you. Join us at the Regency Theatre in San Juan for a special speaker and lots of networking.

Award winning author, Gary Phillips is a renaissance man. Gary writes everything—articles, novels, short stories, graphic novels, a streaming series, you name it. A master of character, setting, and story, Gary will be talking about writing immersive historical fiction.

When: Saturday, July 16, 2022

Time: 10:00 am PDT

Where: Regency Theater, (Adjacent to the San Juan Capistrano Train Station)
26762 Verdugo Street, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Cost: VIP Admission: Members \$25.00

VIP Admission: Nonmembers \$35.00

Seating is limited. No walk-ins.

There is no Zoom link this month.

Private Video Link in one week: \$5.00

Pre-Register by 9:00am Friday July 15 at

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



VIP Admission includes: Continental breakfast, networking, speaker, and light lunch, plus a private link to a recording of the meeting.

Doors open at 9:30 for light breakfast and networking. Meeting starts promptly at 10 a.m.

For those who can't join us in person, sign up for:

Private Video Link: \$5.00 - video recording only.

The link will be sent a week after the meeting. (There is no Zoom link this month.)

Deadline: You must preregister by 9:00 am, Friday, July 15, 2022.

Your safety and health are important to us.

We welcome vaccinated members and guests.

For information about SCWA and membership please go to

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

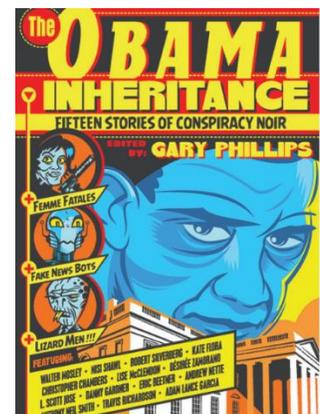
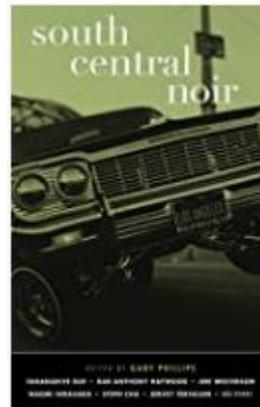
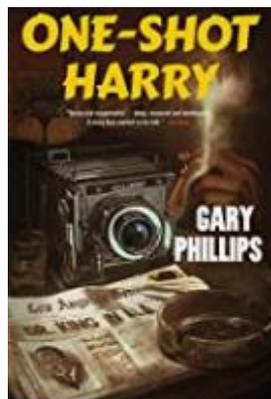


Award winning author, Gary Phillips is a renaissance man. Gary writes everything—articles, novels, short stories, graphic novels, a streaming series, you name it. A master of character, setting, and story, Gary will be talking about writing immersive historical fiction.

Phillips has published novels, comics, novellas, short stories and edited or co-edited several anthologies, including the Anthony-winning *The Obama Inheritance—Fifteen Stories of Conspiracy Noir*.

Almost 30 years after its publication, his debut *Violent Spring* was named one of the essential crime novels of Los Angeles. He also was a story editor on *Snowfall*, an FX show about crack and the CIA in 1980s South Central, where he grew up.

Race and civil rights in 1963 Los Angeles provide a powerful backdrop in Gary Phillips's riveting historical crime novel *One Shot Harry*, about an African American forensic photographer seeking justice for a friend—perfect for fans of Walter Mosley, James Ellroy, and George Pelecanos.





Hump Day episodes stream on SCWA's Facebook page.

Look for our SCWA group on Facebook. Scroll through the posts for the most recent guests. When we are LIVE, click on the Events tab to join us!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southernwriters/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!

Sheri Fink & Derek Kent are joining us for our July edition of Open Book! This dynamic duo are on a mission to inspire audiences of all ages.

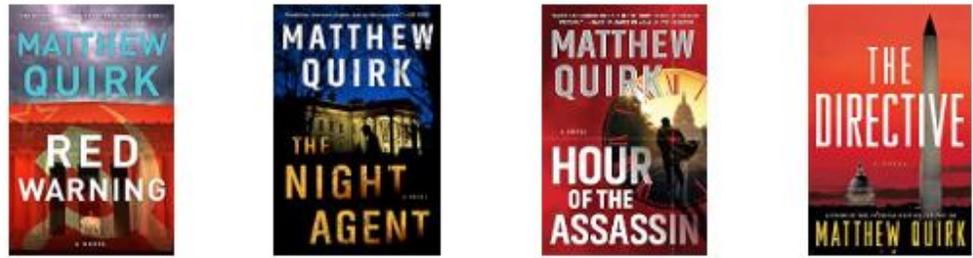
Zoom: <http://tinyurl.com/OBJuly22>



HIGHLIGHTS: June 2022
Matthew Quirk
How *The Night Agent*
Became an Anticipated Netflix Series



How Matthew Quirk's Bestselling Thriller
The Night Agent
Became a Hotly Anticipated Netflix Series



“The ivory towers are really hungry for good books,” says Matthew Quirk, who studied history and literature at Harvard College. After graduation, his first job at twenty-two was reporting for *The Atlantic Magazine* where he covered crime, private military contractors, terrorism prosecutions, and international gangs. When the 2008 financial crisis made that job collapse, he decided to go for his deepest ambition: to be a full-time novelist. This amazing man became *The New York Times*’s bestselling author of *The 500*, *The Directive*, *Dead Man Switch*, *Cold Barrel Zero*, and *The Night Agent*.

Wanting to go past novel publication, however, threw Quirk into chaos again. Maybe an author can produce a podcast, but a play, movie, TV series, or whatever else develops in an entirely elusive universe. However, “once you break in, you’ll still be going to try to break in.” The percentage of those who do is quite small. Also, he comments, “If your novel is being developed into a show, everything is a circus.”

Besides Quirk’s background with *The Atlantic Magazine*, he also had a friend who did “deep cover work for the CIA.” Because those in the CIA must be so cautious, “others think they are *boring* or *strange*.” In his thrillers, though, Quirk “sexes up the authenticity” of the agent. “CIA work is all relationships” whereas in journalism, sources of info “don’t have their lives in their hands.”

The people recruited by the CIA are called *agents* or *spies*. Intelligence officers for the CIA “get traded back and forth from one country to another.” “Russians call their agents *illegals*.” The Soviet “deep agents, if doing their jobs right, sooner or later have to leave the country and will be in others for years.” Quirk also revealed that Russians say they bury their supplies in England and in America for World War III. “Lots of violations are not followed up with investigations or prosecutions because they could trigger WWII.”

So how does your thriller or another novel become a TV show or movie? The first point Quirk made was “you can’t really *make* that happen.” The most critical factor is that you’ve written the **best novel** you can. Its high concept and/or stakes are compelling and cinematic. Quirk imagines the conflict and then creates it—not as a character remembering his whole life. You create the story—not tell it from someone’s memory. You show “Russians starting WWII [goes into the query letter] instead of a young man discovering his life.”

Your reader must like the main character as you take him/her all the way. “It doesn’t hurt to read screenplay books; their information “about structure is very helpful.” Quirk recommends *Save the Cat* by Blake Snyder. “Warm up with increasingly scary people in your book.” In addition, “have a community you can discuss your book with.” Don’t forget: “Write the **best book** you can; you’re breaking into the publishing world.”

Next step: “Get the BEST agent you can.” You’ll be paying this literary agent 15% of your end-product. “A prestigious agent has all kinds of people he works with” who know all the commercial possibilities of a great story—especially a New York agent— if you want a TV show. You can meet agents at conferences [go to Thriller conferences], etc. “Try to level up.” These *scouts* are actually spies as to what’s getting published and where.

Maybe a studio will rent your novel with an 18-month option for \$5-10 grand. They can renew that option for more, maybe \$50 grand. “This happens more than getting made.” Maybe your novel could get sold to a studio. Quirk’s *The Night Agent* is becoming a highly anticipated, streaming series, currently in production by Netflix, starring Gabriel Basso and Luciane Buchanan. There may be big, financial “Development Help” from the Venture Capital Fund. Quirk’s news is that it may also be given to Brad Pitt to read.

If your pilot gets made, it will probably compete with 30 others. “It took three years for *The Night Agent* to become a show” and that’s “really fast.” Quirk warns: “Have an attorney because somehow others can get the rights to your book.”

This crazy, arduous trip, Matthew Quirk says, “is the worst way ... to make money.” Yet, the contradiction that our speaker embraces is “The thrill of enjoying the writing itself and loving the story make the journey feel like the *best* way to make money in this world.”

Glenda B. 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 products page, then select the book
- Scroll down to the Customer Reviews section and click On "Write a Customer Review"
- Rate the book
- 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 southerncalwriters.org and SCWA social media platforms.**
- ❖ **SCWA Member's Only group on Facebook where we rewind and replay recent featured guests and their presentations.**

SCWA Board of Directors

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- Vice President of Finances Don Westenhaver
- Vice President of ProgrammingMadeline Margarita
- Vice President - Social Media & Production Diana Pardee
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- Scribe and Speaker Reporter.....Glenda Rynn
- At-Large..... Sharon Goldinger

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www.southerncafwriters.org

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The SCWA encourages open, respectful communication between individuals interested in the craft of writing through a variety of social and traditional media, such as Facebook, SCWA website and emails. Any individual using inappropriate language, discussing inappropriate topics, or commenting in a disrespectful way will be removed from access to any future SCWA communication methods.

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.southerncafwriters.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.