



BOOKSELLERS

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Monday and Tuesday:
10:30 am - 5:30 pm
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday:
10:30 am - 8 pm
Saturday:
10:30 am - 6 pm



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Susan Wittig Albert visits January 20

We're very pleased to welcome Susan Wittig Albert to The Mystery Company on Tuesday, January 20 at 7 pm. Susan will be talking about and signing copies of *A Dilly of a Death* (Berkley, \$23.95), the new novel in her series about lawyer turned herbalist China Bayles. This is one of our favorite series, with a strong protagonist we've grown to love, rich west Texas flavor and lots of herbal lore. First book in the series is *Thyme of Death* (\$6.99), and all thirteen books in this series are in print and available now in the store.

With her husband, Bill, Susan is also the author of a Victorian mystery series under the pseudonym Robin Paige. These entertaining books feature Kate Sheridan (nee Ardleigh), an American writer of *Penny Dreadfuls* whose adventures in England lead to marriage, and to encounters with such historical figures as Rudyard Kipling, Jennie Jerome Churchill, Lillie Langtry, Beatrix Potter and many more. There are nine books in this series; all but the latest are available in paperback.

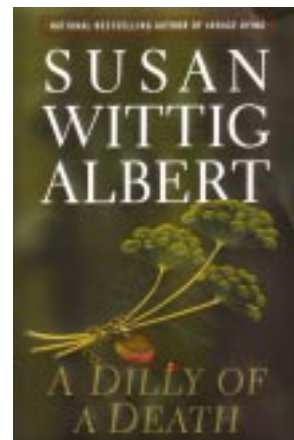
Susan is also the author of *Writing From Life; Telling Your Soul's Story* (\$16.95), a "guided writing program that will empower any woman to pick up a pen and chart the geography of her unique and fascinating life."

For more information about Susan and her work, visit her website at: www.mysterypartners.com

Here's the review of Susan's new novel that I wrote for the current issue of The Droid Review:

A Dilly of a Death by Susan Wittig Albert

"The older I get, the more I treasure calm, quiet days in which nothing out of the ordinary happens, and I have the time to enjoy the ordinary stuff that goes on around me," China Bayles tells us in this thirteenth appearance. There is a murder for Bayles to solve — the death of Pecan Springs' pickle entrepreneur — but the real pleasure here is in following her through her day: sitting in on her visits with friends, seeing how she copes with her business and other commitments, and appreciating the herbs, the food and the recipes that are so much a part of Bayles' life. She gets involved in the murder in the same way she gets involved with any of her friends' problems, out of concern, commitment and love. At first mention, Phoebe Morgan is an occasion for laughter — Bayles rolls out every pickle joke and pun she can think of. When Morgan's body is discovered, Bayles suspects and uncovers surprising connections among Morgan and people in town, including Bayles' friends. The story moves



Calendar

Tuesday, January 20 at 7 pm
Susan Wittig Albert visits (see above)

Wednesday, January 28 at 7 pm
Discussion group: *Dreaming of the Bones* by Deborah Crombie.

Thursday, January 29 at noon
Discussion group: *Dreaming of the Bones* by Deborah Crombie.

Saturday, January 31 at 2 pm
Chris Wright visits (see back)



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along so smoothly because none of these relationships are forced; Bayles truly is connected to Pecan Springs. We're fortunate that in these novels, Bayles welcomes us into her world so warmly and so completely too.

— Jim

Chris Wright visits January 31

WTHR Meteorologist Chris Wright visits on Saturday, January 31, 2:00 - 4:00 to sign copies of his books *Operation Overflow*, "a weatherman adventure book for youth," and *Heartstopper*, "a suspense thriller combining medicine and journalism with greed, corruption and murder." Both are available in paperback, and in stock now.

Discussion groups

Our daytime and evening discussion groups are both reading Deborah Crombie's *Dreaming of the Bones* this month. The evening group will meet on Wednesday, January 28 at 7 pm. The daytime group will meet on Thursday, January 29 at noon. We have copies of the book in stock now.

Both groups are open to all, and whether you've been with us from the start or have never been a part of a book discussion group, we invite you to join us. The groups are friendly, welcoming and informal. Discussions normally last about an hour.

New & noteworthy

The Feng Shui Detective by Nury Vittachi
St. Martin's, \$23.95

Mr. Wong is a feng shui master in Singapore, but his own office has a stopped clock, a very bad feng shui omen. However, Mr. Wong has a worse problem in his office: his intern assistant, teenaged Aussie-American, Joyce McQuinnie. She's rearranged the office of the feng shui master to suit herself, and speaks "teenager," which makes communication confused at best. It leads to hilarious consequences in this comic multicultural mystery.

Mr. Wong specializes in feng shui consultations of crime scenes. The main plot line of *The Feng Shui Detective* concerns a young woman who, by all methods of Far Eastern prediction, is going to die within the next week. Since Joyce determines she knows this woman under another name, she puts herself right in the middle of the investigation to find and keep this woman safe. As the plot unfolds, East (Mr. Wong) and West (Joyce) gain a new understanding of each other, in spite of cultural, language and age differences. Chasing the woman and the man who has kidnapped her all the way to Sydney, Australia, Mr. Wong and Joyce turn over clues, fight their own personal dragons and save the day.

This book is laugh-out-loud funny at times. Miscommunications between the elderly Mr. Wong and the teenaged Joyce show the intricacies of different languages and when the Aussie slang is mixed in, it's almost over the top.

I'd call this book a cozy mystery; it definitely leaves a good taste in your mouth. It has a sweetness about it as the dignified Mr. Wong plies his profession in the midst of a cast of characters who have different beliefs. The descriptions are colorful, the use of language is superb, and the mystery is well-plotted. Even the red cover (the door to the book) is good feng shui.

— Sherry

New arrivals in historical series we recommend:

Frazer, Margaret, **The Bastard's Tale** (\$6.99). Dame Frevisse finds herself in the lavish world of England's royal court and high politics, where she learns that even the thickest of walls cannot keep out a threat against the royal family. **The Hunter's Tale** (\$22.95) Dame Frevisse is embroiled in a family's turmoil when she accompanies a nunnery pupil and her mother as they return home.

Robb, Candace, **The Cross-Legged Knight** (\$12.95). In October 1371, William of Wykeham, the just deposed Lord Chancellor of England, rides to York where he barely survives an accident. Is his feud with the Duke of Lancaster responsible for this attempt on his life? Owen Archer investigates.