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Agatha Nominees Announced

*Elizabeth Peters to Receive Lifetime Achievement Award
Agatha Christie Returns to Malice Domestic for Fifteenth Anniversary*

Washington, DC – Malice Domestic today announced this year's nominees for the prestigious Agatha Awards. Agathas will be awarded in five mystery categories: Best Novel, Best First Novel, Best Short Story, Best Non-Fiction, and Best Children's/Young Adult Novel. The Agatha Awards will be presented at the fifteenth anniversary of the Malice Domestic mystery convention on May 2-4, 2003.

Malice Domestic also announced that renowned mystery author, archaeologist and Egyptologist Elizabeth Peters (aka Barbara Michaels aka Barbara Mertz) will receive a Lifetime Achievement Award for her impressive body of work in mystery fiction. The Malice Domestic Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes those special individuals who have made a lifelong contribution to the traditional mystery. Peters is also an Agatha nominee in the Best Novel category.

The Agatha Awards honor traditional mysteries – books best typified by the works of Agatha Christie. The genre is loosely defined as mysteries that contain no explicit sex, excessive gore, or gratuitous violence; usually featuring an amateur detective, a confined setting and characters who know one another.

Agatha Awards are nominated by the registered fans and Friends of Malice Domestic. Participants who registered for Malice Domestic XV by January 4, 2003 were eligible to submit nominees in all five categories. Winners will be selected by all convention attendees and presented at the Agatha Awards Banquet.

Malice Domestic XV takes place May 2 - 4, 2003 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia (just outside of Washington, DC). Guest of Honor Barbara D'Amato and Toastmaster Parnell Hall head the list of noted authors and experts featured in panels, sessions, and special programming. In honor of its fifteenth anniversary, Malice Domestic is bringing back Agatha Christie as Ghost of Honor.

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Malice Domestic XV Agatha Nominees:

Best Novel

You've Got Murder by Donna Andrews, Berkley Prime Crime
Death of Riley by Rhys Bowen, St. Martin's Minotaur
Blues in the Night by Rochelle Krich, Ballantine Books
The Body in the Bonfire by Katherine Hall Page, William Morrow & Company
The Golden One by Elizabeth Peters, William Morrow & Company

Best First Novel

Not All Tarts Are Apple by Pip Granger, Poisoned Pen Press
Six Strokes Under by Roberta Isleib, Berkley Prime Crime
Beat Until Stiff by Claire M. Johnson, Poisoned Pen Press
How to Murder a Millionaire by Nancy Martin, Signet
In the Bleak Midwinter by Julia Spencer-Fleming, St. Martin's Minotaur
Shadows at the Fair by Lea Wait, Scribner

Best Non-Fiction

The Mammoth Encyclopedia of Modern Crime Fiction, edited by Mike Ashley, Avalon Publishing Group
Mystery Women: An Encyclopedia of Leading Women Characters in Mystery Fiction, edited by Colleen Barnett, Poisoned Pen Press
Kitchen Privileges: A Memoir by Mary Higgins Clark, Simon and Schuster
Writing Mysteries: A Handbook by the Mystery Writers of America, edited by Sue Grafton with Jan Burke and Barry Zeman, Writer's Digest Press
They Died in Vain: Overlooked, Underappreciated, and Forgotten Mystery Novels, edited by Jim Huang, Crum Creek Press

Best Short Story

Dognapped by Robert Barnard, Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine (June 2002)
Devotion by Jan Burke, 18, A.S.A.P. Publishing
What He Needed by Laura Lippman, Tart Noir, edited by Stella Duffy & Lauren Henderson, Berkley Prime Crime
The Dog That Didn't Bark by Margaret Maron, Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine (December 2002)
Too Many Cooks by Marcia Talley, Much Ado About Murder, edited by Anne Perry, Berkley Prime Crime

Best Children's/Young Adult

Whistler in the Dark (American Girl History Mysteries, 16) by Kathleen Ernst, Pleasant Company Publications
Red Card: A Zeke Armstrong Mystery (The Zeke Armstrong Mysteries, 1) by Daniel J. Hale & Matthew LaBrot, Top Publications
Hoot by Carl Hiaasen, Knopf
The Secret of the Red Flame by K. M. Kimball, Aladdin Library
The Maltese Kitten: A Sam The Cat Mystery by Linda Stewart, Cheshire House Books

For more information about Malice Domestic, or to register for the convention please visit our website at www.malicedomestic.org or email maliceregistrar@aol.com.