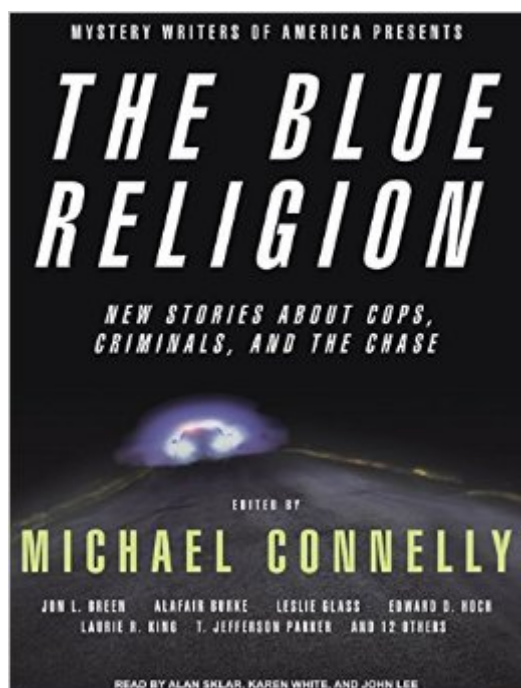


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# Mystery Writers Of America Presents The Blue Religion: New Stories About Cops, Criminals, And The Chase



## Synopsis

From Hawaii at the turn of the twentieth century to the post-“Civil War frontier, from smoggy Los Angeles to the woods of Idaho, these gripping stories trace the perils and occasional triumphs of lawmen and women who put themselves in harm’s way to face down the bad guys. Some of them even walk the edge of becoming bad guys themselves. In T. Jefferson Parker’s "Skinhead Central," an ex-cop and his wife find unexpected menace in the idyllic setting they have chosen for their retirement. In Alafair Burke’s "Winning," a female officer who is attacked in the line of duty must protect her own husband from his worst impulses. In Edward D. Hoch’s "Friday Night Luck," a wanna-be cop blows his chance at a spot on the force-and breaks his case. In Michael Connelly’s "Father’s Day," Harry Bosch faces one of his most emotionally trying cases, investigating a young boy’s death. The magnificent and never-before-published Connelly story alone is worth the price of admission and-combined with eighteen unexpected tales from crime’s modern masters-makes this an unmissable collection.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What can a crime writer possibly do to engage you in a short story?In the new book, The Blue Religion, T. Jefferson Parker, Greg Rucka, Leslie R. King, Michael Connelly and fifteen of America’s top crime authors give you their best shots.The stories are all what you would expect from veteran crime writers, and I found that nearly every one was able to keep my attention and satisfy the book’s theme.What I liked most about the compilation was each story provided a completely different aspect of the lives of those that protect and serve. Included are some humorous moments as in Jon

L. Breen's "Serial Killer," and hopeless moments as described in Greg Ruck's "Contact and Cover." Then to cap it all off, lovers of Michael Connelly are treated to a short experience with Harry Bosch in a snippet story that addresses one of today's saddest types of accidental death. Overall, you cannot go wrong with Blue Religion. There is something in here for everyone, and an opportunity to test-read work from authors you may not have tried on previously. I rate this 3-stars because a few in the compilation weren't actually done that well-and many of the authors included have done a lot better work. Armchair Interviews says: This book should be in your summer reading bag.

These entertaining nineteen tales focus on the police procedural theme. However, as Mr. Connolly explains in his introduction, for the most part the entries concentrate on the "world of the cop" as the stories "explore the burden of the badge" more so than investigative procedures. The contributions run the gamut with a strong historical by Polly Nelson to the return of Harry Bosch to a retired cop and his wife running into trouble (T. Jefferson Parker's "Skinhead Central). There are no clinkers yet the range is vast from a dark tale of a selected amnesiac ("Such a Lucky, Pretty Girl: by Persia Walker) to amusingly light (Jon Breen's "Serial Killer"). All are excellent, especially insightful is Paul Guyton's tense "What a Wonderful World" that proves a short story can contain fully developed characters; an apropos title along with Alafair Burke's "Winning" as this anthology is a wonderful look at individual members of the Blue Religion special congregation. Harriet Klausner

This was a lot of fun to read. I already enjoy short stories, which suit my short attention span. This book certainly delivered with different perspectives on the life of the cop, which also made this a great read. With this title, you get lots of different perspectives from different writers on the police officer: the sense of humor, the obsession, the politics, and the tactics. I read some criticism about some of these stories not being the best work of these authors. I am not a college writing professor or anything, but I enjoyed all the stories, and I think I'm pretty picky. The stories don't beat around the bush - they get right to it and do it very well. The stories that stuck with me (without spoilers): the hot dog cart girl, the boy who lost his dad (a London cop), the dad who left his kid in the car, and the female cops who get hazed from a colleague, who may be headed for a comeuppance. This is also a great way to get introduced to some new authors. I didn't know anything about Connelly's Detective Bosch series but I enjoyed so much the Bosch short story I will be looking for more titles.

a book like this one is excellent for readers who are not so well acquainted with the American crime writing scene. In England I have for example I have never noticed a Paula L Woods novel on the

shelf of a bookstore. I have been told by a salesman for a chain of bookstores about another female American crime writer that the chain stopped importing her novels because they were not selling . The PAULA L Woods is a beautifully written story . In the beginning the focus is on the accused and the reader is sympathetic towards him and thinks that Michelle Dunn is treating him badly. Then Woods shifts the scene to the inquiry by the detectives after the murder and how now the reader is on the side of the detectives and yet the outcome is that the accused walks to freedom .because of the zeal of the detective. However MICHELLE Dunn reappears and what a little speechOops!Menopause can make a woman as clumsy and forgetful as a teenage girlHere I was opening my umbrella,as I dropped one of the sketchbooks Christophe doodled in during the trial.' .

I am a fan of the Mystery Writers of America and found this book not quite as good as Til Death do us Part or Mystery Writers of America presents Vengeance. A few of the stories were quite good but I just didn't think most were as good as the other books.

The collection of police crime fiction includes Law & Order type police procedural such as Persia Walker's "Such a Lucky, Pretty Girl" to capers such as Bev Vincent's "Rule Number One." But all the stories are about cops and criminals and the onus and responsibility of the badge. And there is even a provocative story by Diana Hansen-Young, "Oaths, Ohana, and Everything," about the handing-over of Hawaii to the United States. A great collection for crime fiction fans.

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