

# Why Fiction Matters: Lawrence Block — Grand Master of Noir

Arlington Public Library presents legendary noir author Lawrence Block (October 18).

September 19, 2017 | News Release

- *Enjoy a free author talk with world-renowned dark crime and suspense author Lawrence Block (October 18) at Central Library*
- *Learn about Block's sources of inspiration and his favorite stories*
- *Visit Library [arlingtonva.us/arlington-reads](http://arlingtonva.us/arlington-reads) for more information*

Arlington Public Library presents world-renowned and bestselling crime writer Lawrence Block on October 18 as part of its signature program Arlington Reads. Block, recipient of a Grand Master award from the Mystery Writers of America and four-time Edgar and Shamus Awards-winner, has been writing crime, mystery, and suspense fiction for nearly 60 years.

“The first Lawrence Block novel I picked up was ‘When the Sacred Gin Mill Closes’ and from the opening pages in this saga of a flawed, former NYC detective Matthew Scudder, I was hooked. Gritty and noir-ish, Block’s gift for storytelling grabs you and doesn’t let go.” — Diane Kresh, Director of Arlington Public Library

Dubbed by the New York Times as “a mesmerizing raconteur who collects the stories he hears on the streets and then reprises the voices of the storytellers,” Block is best known for his gritty hardboiled crime fiction with a diverse collection of urban noir series characters, including a recovering alcoholic and cop-turned-private investigator Matthew Scudder, witty bookseller and gentleman burglar Bernie Rhodenbarr, globe-trotting insomniac Evan Tanner, and introspective assassin Keller.

Block’s prolific career spans over 150 books, countless short stories, articles, and books on writing. His works have appeared in magazines, television and film. Although he is best known for his crime and mystery series, he developed an early following in the 1950s as a pulp-fiction writer under a number of pseudonyms including Jill Emerson, John Warren Wells, Lesley Evans, and Anne Campbell Clarke.

Block currently resides in New York City, a locale that is featured prominently in many of his works. His writings are praised for his richly imagined and varied characters and frequent use of humor. He will share some of his favorite stories and wisdoms accumulated from a lifetime of experience.

Arlington Reads, a community engagement program of Arlington Public Library, promotes literacy, the joy of reading, and intergenerational participation. “The program brings together people to talk about books and the important topics of our time,” said Kresh.

Since its inception in 2006, the program has featured both national and international fiction and non-fiction authors and cultural icons, such as Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Wendell Berry, Junot Díaz, Anthony Doerr, Richard Ford, Colum McCann, Tim O’Brien, Ann Patchett, and Elizabeth Strout.

This program is made possible in part through the generous support of the Friends of the Arlington Public Library. To learn more about Arlington Reads, visit [library.arlingtonva.us/arlington-reads](http://library.arlingtonva.us/arlington-reads).

++++  
*The Arlington Public Library provides access to information, creates connections among people and promotes reading and culture.*  
++++

**Media Contact:**  
Henrik Sundqvist  
Communications Officer  
Arlington Public Library  
<http://library.arlingtonva.us>  
[nsundqvist@arlingtonva.us](mailto:nsundqvist@arlingtonva.us)  
Office Phone: (703) 228-0590  
Mobile Phone: (571) 970-8608