

Thursday, June 19, 2025			
Registration open 12:00 pm - 2:15 pm, 2nd Floor Promenade The Mysterious Bookshop open 9:00 am - 6:30 pm, Nassau West & East			
THRILLERFEST OPENING RECEPTION Co-Hosted by St. Martin's Press, Minotaur Books, Forge, Tor Publishing Group Trianon Ballroom, 3rd Floor			
THRILLERFEST XX - 2025			
Friday, June 20, 2025			
Registration open 7:30 am - 6:30pm, 2nd Floor Promenade The Mysterious Bookshop open 9:00 am - 6:30 pm, Nassau West & East All events are on the 2nd floor of the New York Hilton Midtown unless otherwise indicated			
Sutton North & Center		Beekman	
Sutton South		Regent	
BAIT, SWITCH OR DISTRACTION? Using Red Herrings Moderator: Dwayne Goetzel David Ellis Jamie Freveletti Melinda Leigh Vanessa Lillie Catherine McKenzie Greg Wands		FEAR, HIGH STAKES OR CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT? Ratcheting up Tension Moderator: Boyd Morrison Christine Carbo Joshua Corin Sierra Godfrey J.B. Manas Jon McGoran	
TEAR-JERKER, H.E.A., OR CLIFFHANGER? Writing Satisfying Endings Moderator: Allison Brennan Anne Burt Audrey J. Cole Sarah Zachrich Jeng Matthew Sullivan Tony Wirt		HOOK, LINE OR SINKER? The Art of the Short Story Moderator: Meredith Anthony Mysti Berry Diana Hansen-Young Nick Kolakowski Stefanie Leder Lawrence Light	
NEW YORK TIMES, USA TODAY OR AMAZON? How to Become a Bestseller Moderator: Neil Nyrén Tom Colgan Dan Conaway McKenna Jordan Kelley Ragland		INTRIGUE, TRAUMA OR IN MEDIAS RES? Good Beginnings Moderator: Dervla McTiernan R.G. Belsky Georgina Cross Simon Gervais Rick Mofina Hayley Scrivenor	
WHO, WHEN OR WHY? The Psychological Thriller Summit Moderator: Sonica Mizerski Andrea Bartz K.T. Nguyen Wendy Walker Stacy Willingham Olivia Worley		TONE, POV OR SYNTAX? Finding Your Author Voice Moderator: John Copenhaver Catherine Bruns Marco Carocari Kelsey Cox Doug Grad Caryl Janis Gerri Lewis Bryan Lienesch	
All authors from morning sessions will be signing books in Murray Hill West & East			
STANDALONE, SERIES OR BOTH? Thriller Awards Nominees Moderator: Tosca Lee David Baldacci Roy Johansen Meg Gardiner Dervla McTiernan Lisa Scottoline Lisa Unger		MEDIEVAL, WORLD WAR II OR SWINGING SIXTIES? Writing Historical Thrillers Moderator: Tracey Devlyn Kate Belli John Copenhaver Elizabeth Crowens Sara DiVello Boyd Morrison	
FIRST, THIRD OR OMNISCIENT? The Many Powers of POV Moderator: Carter Wilson Nekesa Afia Sorboni Banerjee Reed Bunzel W. Michael Gear Heather Graham		RED HERRINGS, CLUES OR PUZZLES? Writing Mystery Novels Moderator: Tessa Wegert Daniella Bernett John Dobbyn Maggie Giles Joseph LeValley M. A. (Mary) Monnin Susan Wolfe	
Spotlight Guest Oyinkan Braithwaite, interviewed by Hank Phillippi Ryan Sutton North & Sutton Center			
WORKSHOPS, PERKS OR SELF PROMOTION? Getting the Most Out of Your ITW Membership ITW Membership Meeting (all are welcome, members or aspiring members, prizes) Sutton North & Sutton Center			
DARK, DAMAGED OR DEPRESSED? Dramatic Thrillers Moderator: Roland Gulliver Will Dean Mary Kubica Chris Pavone Lisa Scottoline Kate White		JEALOUSY, REVENGE OR LOVE? Tension in Domestic Suspense Moderator: Liz Talley Ashley Elston Kendra Harpster Darby Kane Nicole Moleti Krista Wells	
NARRATION, MARKETING OR PRODUCTION? How Audio Ups the Value for Authors Moderator: Suzanne Elise Freeman Scott Brick Stacy Creamer Will Damron Jessica Kaye January LaVoy		CONFLICT, CHAOS OR CRUCIBLE? Writing Compelling Action Moderator: J.M Adams Jessie Garcia T.R. Hendricks Jeffrey James Higgins John David Mann Steve Urszenyi	
All authors from midday sessions, including Spotlight Guest Oyinkan Braithwaite, will be signing in Murray Hill West & East			
THE TWISTED WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB EVENT Oyinkan Braithwaite, Robert Dugoni, Steve Feldberg, Joseph Finder, Gregg Hurwitz, Sarah Pekkanen, Stacy Willingham with K.J. Howe moderating Gramercy West & East			
STEADY, ACCELERATING OR WHIPLASH? Addictive Pacing Moderator: Samantha Skal Robert Dugoni Joseph Finder Charlaine Harris Wanda Morris Walter Mosley Tessa Wegert		UNPREDICTABLE, UNASSUMING OR UNEXPECTED? Types of Antagonists Moderator: Bonnie Traymore Yasmin Angoe Paul Doiron Deborah J. Ledford Ronald Malfi Steph Nelson	
GROCERY STORES, GOLF LINKS OR PILATES? Mining Suburbia for Drama Moderator: Paula Munier Elle Cosimano Faith Gardner Jaime Lynn Hendricks Miranda Smith Kaira Rouda		LINEAR, ROLLERCOASTER OR ZIG ZAG? My Publishing Story: Round 1 Moderator: D.J. Palmer S.K. Andrews Jenn Bregman Mary Dixie Carter Caroline Cleveland Angela Douglas Michelle Maryk	
Spotlight Guest Jennifer Hillier, interviewed by Lisa Gardner Sutton North & Sutton Center			
AUCTION, OPTION CLAUSE OR SLUSH PILE? Fresh Ways to Be Published Moderator: Isabella Maldonado Joe Brosnan Luisa Cruz Smith Jenna Jankowski Madeline McIntosh Shawn Reilly Simmons		NOBLE, POWERFUL OR AMBITIOUS? Writing Characters With Depth Moderator: Alex Finlay Mark Alpert Mark Edwards Mike Papantonio L.S. Stratton Ashley Winstead	
LIGHTS, CAMERA OR ACTION? Filmworthy Writing Moderator: Jon Land Peter Malone Elliott Jennifer Favcett Matthew Quinn Martin David Morrell Susan Walter Matt Witten		SHERIFF, LAWYER OR JUDGE? Writing about Crime and the Law Moderator: Jerri Williams David Bushman Thomas B. Cavanagh Bonnie Kistler Marcy McCreary Biba Pearce McCracken Poston, Jr.	
Authors from late afternoon sessions will be signing in Murray Hill West & East, including Spotlight Guest Jennifer Hillier and The Twisted Women's Book Club Authors			
FRIDAY NIGHT COCKTAIL PARTY sponsored by Kevin Anderson & Associates Mercury Suite (3rd Floor)			
THRILLERFEST XX - 2025			
Saturday, June 21, 2025			
Registration open 7:30 am - 2:15 pm 2nd Floor Promenade, Awards Banquet Check-In 5:30 pm - 7:15 pm, 3rd Floor West Promenade The Mysterious Bookshop open 9:00 am – 5:30 pm, Nassau West & East All events are on the 2nd floor of the New York Hilton Midtown unless otherwise indicated			
Sutton North & Center		Beekman	
Sutton South		Regent	
FLASHBACKS, PARALLEL OR THREE ACT? Story Structure in Thrillers Moderator: Kyle Steele Emily Carpenter Tullan Holmqvist Mandy McHugh A.G. Mock Robert Swartwood		HUNT, DIG OR SNIFF? Researching the Dark Side Moderator: Hannah Morrissey Matt Cook Andrew DeYoung Noelle W. Ihli Ward Larsen Josh Moehling	
ANXIETY, ENVY OR FEAR? Emotions in Thrillers Moderator: Karin Nordin J. Luke Bennecke Allison Buccola Rob Hart Linda Hurtado Bond Cara Reinard		TRANSFORMATION, ADVENTURE OR UPHILL BATTLE? Crafting Thriller Plots Moderator: James L'Etoile Sharon Dukett Don Helin Joanne Leedom-Ackerman Michael McLaughlin Carla Seyler Janna Sherrier	
ITW PRESENTS BREAKFAST THE 2025 DEBUT AUTHOR CLASS Lori Brand, Matthew Becker, R. John Dingle, Laurie Dove, Jacqueline Faber, James Foley, Bill Gormley, Jenni Howell, Carinn Jade, Cherisa "C.I." Jerez, Miles Joyner, Maria Kelson, Laura Leffler, Andrew Ludington, Marty Ludlum, Tamara Miller, Jennifer Moorhead, Jennifer K. Morita, Rachel Paris, Ande Pliego, Gregg Podolski, Gary Quesenberry, Cynthia Rice, Michael Rigg, Saratoga Schaefer, Dianna Sinovic, Suja Sukumar, Mark Thielman, Joel Turner, Michael Wendroff, Aliah Wright Introductions by Robert Dugoni Trianon Ballroom			
Authors from early morning sessions will be signing in Murray Hill West & East, including the 2025 DEBUT AUTHORS			
LECTER, RAMBO OR DRACULA? Creating Memorable Characters Moderator: Sarah Pekkanen Alex Finlay Lisa Gardner John Grisham Jennifer Hillier David Morrell Lisa Unger		BEST STANDALONE, SERIES OR DEBUT? Thriller Awards Nominees Moderator: Todd Gerber Eric Beetner Kate Brody Libby Cudmore Alejandro Nodarse Lori Roy	
COMING OF AGE, FIRST LOVE OR THE CHOSEN ONE? Writing About and for Younger Readers Moderator: Lee Matthew Goldberg Amjed McDonnell Chris Mullen Marisha Pessl R.L. Stine Melanie Sumrow		HEADLINES, EAVESDROPPING OR PEOPLE WATCHING? Where Writers Get Their Ideas Moderator: Samuel Octavius Mindy Carlson Chelsea Conradt William Maz Glenn Parris Michael Staggs Andrew Welsh-Huggins	
ThrillerMaster John Grisham, interviewed by Lisa Unger Sutton North & Sutton Center			
Authors from the late morning sessions will sign in Murray Hill West & East			
VOICE, SPECIAL EFFECTS OR FULL CAST? What Makes Thrillers Pop in Audio? Moderator: Suzanne Elise Freeman Scott Brick Gregg Hurwitz James Patterson Karissa Vacker		THE BUTLER, THE TREACHEROUS FRIEND OR THE DARK SECRET? Avoiding Predictable Tropes Moderator: Jaime Levine Esme Addison Jon Land James L'Etoile Donald Maass Otto Penzler Clea Simon	
PRIMAL FEAR, GONE GIRL OR THE SIXTH SENSE? Creating Twists that Work Moderator: Elena Hartwell Taylor Steena Holmes Harry Hunsicker Tosca Lee Wanda Morris Lori Rader-Day		HIT, KICK OR PUNCH? Knocking Out Dramatic Fight Scenes Moderator: Ruth Church Simon Gervais Carla Hoch Stephen Mann Adam Plantinga James D. Robertson	
Silver Bullet Award Winner James Patterson, interviewed by Gregg Hurwitz Sutton North & Sutton Center			
Authors from the early afternoon sessions will sign in Murray Hill West & East, including Silver Bullet Award Winner James Patterson			
REACHER, PLUM OR HOLMES? Series Protagonists Moderator: Hank Phillippi Ryan James O. Born Allison Brennan Charlaine Harris Walter Mosley John Sandford		STRESS, MARRIAGE OR PRESSURE? Thrilling Domestic Suspense Moderator: Jamie Mason Nicole Baart Danielle Girard Elise Hart Kipness D.J. Palmer	
BOOKTUBE, BOOKSTAGRAM OR BOOKTOK? Social Media Insights from the Best Moderator: Sara DiVello Tonya Cornish, @BlondeThrillerLover Magen Mintchev, @BonechillingBooks Jordan Moblo, @JordysBookClub		LINEAR, ROLLERCOASTER OR ZIG ZAG? My Publishing Story: Round 2 Moderator: Isabella Maldonado Toni Halleen Alissa Lee Lenore Nash Ryan Pote Jennifer Sadera Brian Tracey	
HIGH STAKES, UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTERS OR QUALITY WRITING? Writing a Blockbuster Moderator: Jeff Ayers Lou Berney Karen Dionne Heather Graham R.L. Stine Danielle Trussoni		BOND, SMILEY OR LUPIN? Spying around the World Moderator: Traci Abramson I.S. Berry Puja Guha Jonathan Payne Adam Sikes Paul Vidich	
YACHTS, HOLLYWOOD OR CHALETs? Writing about the Rich and Glamorous Moderator: Susan Lee Kimberly Belle May Cobb Rachel Koller Croft Jon Lindstrom Deborah Goodrich Royce		TRADITIONAL, HYBRID OR SELF-PUBLISHING? The Many Paths of Publishing Moderator: Elise Hart Kipness D.M. Barr Gayle Brown Sandy Clements Jennifer Pashley Rick Pullen Penny Zang	
Authors from the late afternoon sessions will sign in Murray Hill West & East			
PRE-BANQUET COCKTAIL PARTY, hosted by ITW 3rd Floor West Promenade & Grand Ballroom Foyer (3rd Floor)			
ITW 20th ANNUAL THRILLER AWARDS BANQUET, hosted by Emcee Lisa Scottoline Grand Ballroom (3rd Floor) 2025 ThrillerMaster JOHN GRISHAM, Award Presented by 2009 ThrillerMaster David Morrell 2025 Silver Bullet Award Recipient JAMES PATTERSON, Award Presented by 2017 Silver Bullet Award Recipient Lisa Gardner 2025 Thriller Legend Award Recipient NEIL NYREN, Award Presented by USA TODAY Bestseller Hank Phillippi Ryan 2025 Thriller Fan Award Recipient McKENNA JORDAN, Award Presented by ITW Co-Presidents Lisa Unger and Gregg Hurwitz Presentation of the THRILLER AWARDS with ITW VP of Awards, New York Times Bestseller Tosca Lee			
THRILLERMASTER AFTER PARTY honoring 2025 ThrillerMaster JOHN GRISHAM, hosted by ITW 3rd Floor West Promenade and Grand Ballroom Foyer (3rd Floor)			