

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, 2nd Floor

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

THRILLERFEST OPENING RECEPTION Co-Hosted by St. Martin's Press, Minotaur Books, Tor Publishing Group, Forge | 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

Table with 4 columns: Sutton North & Center, Beekman, Sutton South, Regent. Rows include sessions like 'BAIT, SWITCH OR DISTRACTION?', 'FEAR, HIGH STAKES OR CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT?', 'TEAR-JERKER, H.E.A., OR CLIFFHANGER?', 'HOOK, LINE OR SINKER?', 'NEW YORK TIMES, USA TODAY OR AMAZON?', 'INTRIGUE, TRAUMA OR IN MEDIAS RES?', 'WHO, WHEN OR WHY?', 'TONE, POV OR SYNTAX?', 'STANDALONE, SERIES OR BOTH?', 'MEDIEVAL, WORLD WAR II OR SWINGING SIXTIES?', 'FIRST, THIRD OR OMNISCIENT?', 'RED HERRINGS, CLUES OR PUZZLES?', 'DARK, DAMAGED OR DEPRESSED?', 'JEALOUSY, REVENGE OR LOVE?', 'NARRATION, MARKETING OR PRODUCTION?', 'CONFLICT, CHAOS OR CRUCIBLE?', 'STEADY, ACCELERATING OR WHIPLASH?', 'UNPREDICTABLE, UNASSUMING OR UNEXPECTED?', 'GROCERY STORES, GOLF LINKS OR PILATES?', 'LINEAR, ROLLERCOASTER OR ZIG ZAG?', 'AUCTION, OPTION CLAUSE OR SLUSH PILE?', 'NOBLE, POWERFUL OR AMBITIOUS?', 'LIGHTS, CAMERA OR ACTION?', 'SHERIFF, LAWYER OR JUDGE?'. Includes times like 8:00 am - 8:50 am, 8:55 am - 9:45 am, 9:45 am - 10:05am, 10:10 am - 11:00 am, 11:05 am - 11:55 am, 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm, 12:40pm - 1:30pm, 1:30 pm - 1:50 pm, 1:50 pm - 2:50 pm, 3:00 pm - 3:50 pm, 3:55 pm - 4:45 pm, 4:50 pm - 5:40 pm, 5:40 pm - 6:00 pm, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm.

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 - 5:00 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
8:00 am - 8:50 am	FLASHBACKS, PARALLEL OR THREE ACT? Story Structure in Thrillers Moderator: Kyle Steele Emily Carpenter Tullian 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 Linda Hurtado Bond Allison Buccola Rob Hart Cara Reinard	TRANSFORMATION, ADVENTURE OR UPHILL BATTLE? Crafting Thriller Plots Moderator: James L'Etoile Sharon Dukett Don Helin Joanne Leedom-Ackerman Michael McLaughlin Michael Ransom Carla Seyler Janna Sherrier

ITW PRESENTS THE 2025 DEBUT AUTHOR CLASS BREAKFAST
Matthew Becker, Lori Brand, R. John Dingle, Laurie L. 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 E. Turner, Michael Wendroff, Jen Marie Wiggins, 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

10:30 am - 11:20 am	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 Jason Rekulak Lori Roy	COMING OF AGE, FIRST LOVE OR THE CHOSEN ONE? Writing About and for Younger Readers Moderator: Lee Matthew Goldberg James Daley 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
 Please note that John Grisham will only be pre-signing the books for sale at our onsite bookstore. He is not able to sign any other books.

12:50 pm - 1:40 pm	VOICE, SPECIAL EFFECTS OR FULL CAST? What Makes Thrillers Pop in Audio? Moderator: Suzanne Elise Freeman Scott Brick Gregg Hurwitz Sarah Pekkanen 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 Aletheia Preston	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

3:10 pm - 4:00 pm	REACHER, PLUM OR HOLMES? Series Protagonists Moderator: Hank Phillippi Ryan James O. Born Allison Brennan Robert Dugoni Charlene Harris Walter Mosley John Sandford	STRESS, MARRIAGE OR PRESSURE? Thrilling Domestic Suspense Moderator: Jamie Mason Nicole Baart Danielle Girard Seraphina Nova Glass Elise Hart Kipness D.J. Palmer	THOUGHT LEADERS, REVIEWERS OR INFLUENCERS? Social Media Secrets from the Best Moderator: Sara DiVello Tonya Cornish, @BlondeThrillerLover Tabrizia Jones, @CupOfTeaJones Magen Mintchev, @BonechillingBooks Jordan Moblo, @JordysBookClub Danielle Parker	LINEAR, ROLLERCOASTER OR ZIG ZAG? My Publishing Story: Round 2 Moderator: Isabella Maldonado Toni Halleen Omar Hussain Alissa Lee Lenore Nash Ryan Pote Jennifer Sadera Brian Tracey
-------------------	---	--	--	---

4:10 pm - 5:00 pm	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 Connor Martin 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 Craft 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)