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Press Release

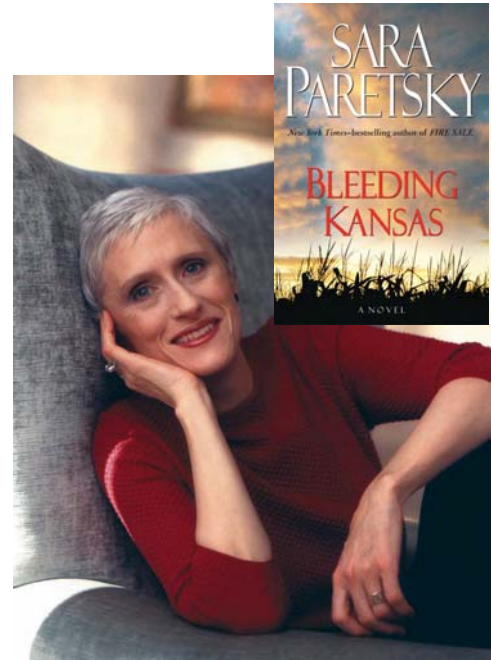
December 26, 2007

Public Library to Host Noted Mystery Writer Sara Paretsky at Memorial Hall on January 17

Sara Paretsky never imagined writing a series of mystery novels. But vivid daydreams of turning her quiet hobby into a book drove her to an ultimatum: Give it up altogether, or turn these dreams into a viable plot on paper. Lucky for crime novel fans, she did the latter. Her 1982 novel *Indemnity Only* introduced readers to V I Warshawski—a Chicago P.I. who solved crime with her wits as well as her fists—and revolutionized the mystery-writing world. Join the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County for an evening with Sara Paretsky on Thursday, January 17, at 7:00 p.m. at Memorial Hall (1225 Elm Street). Joseph-Beth Booksellers will be on-site selling copies of Paretsky’s novels, which she will be available to sign following the program.

Since her 1982 debut, Paretsky has chronicled V I’s life in 10 novels and has also written four non-series books including her latest title, *Bleeding Kansas*, due out in January. *Bleeding Kansas* centers on the Grelliers and the Schapens, two families who have been farming in the Kaw River Valley for over 150 years. It examines how their lives are affected by war and by the changing sexual and religious mores of the day.

Paretsky grew up in 1950s rural Kansas, where, despite her Jewish background, school administration forced her to attend mandatory Protestant revivals, and women didn’t entertain the idea of a career—their destiny lay in homemaking and mothering children. At age 17, Paretsky left the Kansas of her youth and followed the Civil Rights Movement to Chicago where she volunteered under Dr. Martin Luther King’s direction.



Sara Paretsky standing in front of V I’s childhood home in Chicago, Illinois.

Paretsky always enjoyed reading crime novels, but grew tired of fiction’s females using their bodies to “get good boys to do bad things.” She wanted to create a real woman—a smart and effective problem solver whose sexuality only made her more human, not evil or manipulative. That vision spawned the beloved V I who got an athletic scholarship to college and got beat up one-third the way through the debut novel only to survive and solve the crime at-hand.

This deep-rooted concern for social justice carries Paretsky’s voice beyond the world of crime fiction. She founded Sisters in Crime (SinC), an advocacy group for women readers and writers of mystery. She also established the Sara and Two C-Dogs Foundation to support girls and women in the arts, letters, and sciences; has endowed several scholarships at the University of Kansas; and has mentored students in Chicago’s inner city schools.

Today, Sara Paretsky is a highly acclaimed, award-winning writer and social activist whose books have been translated into almost 30 languages—all this from following a girlhood daydream.

Ticket Information: Tickets are \$10 by phone at (513) 621-2787 or online at www.cincinnatiarts.org/; \$8.50 at the Aronoff Center for the Arts. In addition, a special V.I.P. fund-raising event will take place prior to the program at 5:30 p.m. The \$50 V.I.P. charge includes: a meet & greet reception with the author, preferential seating, refreshments, and a signed, hard-back copy of Ms. Paretsky’s latest book, *Bleeding Kansas*.