



Kurt Ellison

Watsonville writer Laurie King

Watsonville author wins writer's award

Watsonville author Laurie King has received one of the top honors a mystery writer can get — the Edgar Award for Best First Novel by an American Author.

The award was presented by the Mystery Writers of America for her novel, "Grave Talent," Wednesday night at the MWA's annual awards dinner in New York.

Yesterday, her novel was touted with other winners on CBS's morning show.

"It really was exhilarating because the prize is given by people who are also in the business of writing mystery stories — which means a lot to have your peers say you're good," King said this morning. "It makes it more real."

"Grave Talent" is the story of Detective Kate Martinelli, a lesbian private eye who roams the San Francisco Bay Area solving mysteries.

The book should be out in paperback in December or January, King said.

A sequel, "To Play the Fool," is under way, and should be out by January, she said.

King is the author of six books, some not yet published. Her latest, "The Beekeeper's Apprentice" (St. Martin's Press), brings back Sherlock Holmes as mentor to a budding detective, but as a twist for the uncomfortable Holmes, the young genius is a woman.

"Beekeeper" should appear in paperback next April, she said. Both hardback books are available at local libraries.

King received her master's degree in theology from UC-Berkeley in 1984. Married to retired UC-Santa Cruz instructor Noel King, she has two children, Nathan and Zoe. In addition to writing, she is active in their school and is a counselor for La Leche League.

King will appear May 6 at 7:30 p.m. at Crossroads Books in the Crossroads Shopping Center on Main Street in Watsonville to answer questions, sign books and give suggestions during a roundtable discussion with other authors.

— Stacey Vreeken