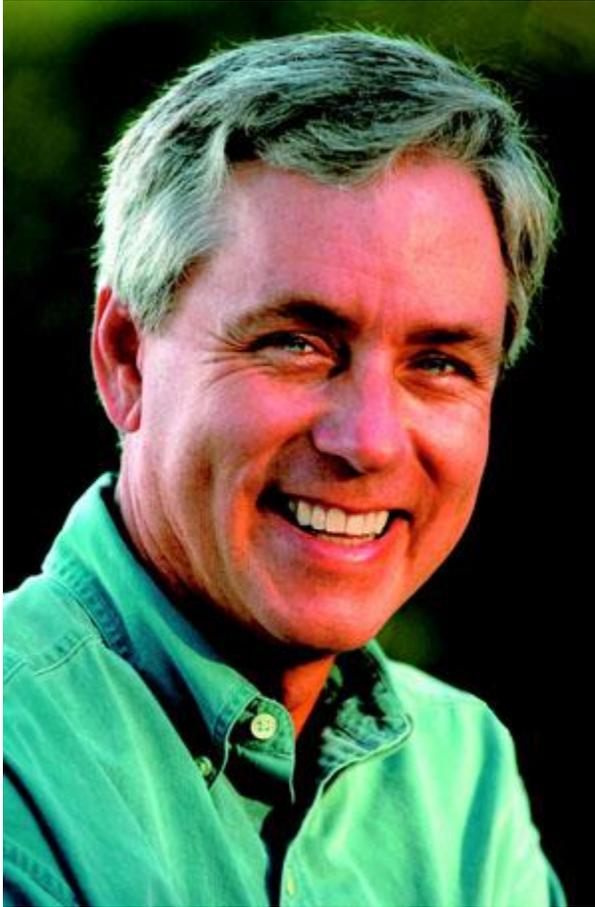


## Book Passage

### Cruise through new releases by local authors

By Tina Koenig



Carl Hiaasen riffs on golf as only he can in *The Downhill Lie: A Hacker's Return to a Ruinous Sport*, one of the summer reading-ready books by local authors

With gas prices over \$4 a gallon, there's certainly motivation to give your tires a rest. But that's no excuse for intellectual idling. What more economical way to escape than between the pages of a good book?

We're serving up fresh ink by local writers. Whether you prefer reading with your elbows buried in the sand, feet propped up on a cooler, or listening at home while snuggled to your favorite electronic device, there's reading covering myriad interests.

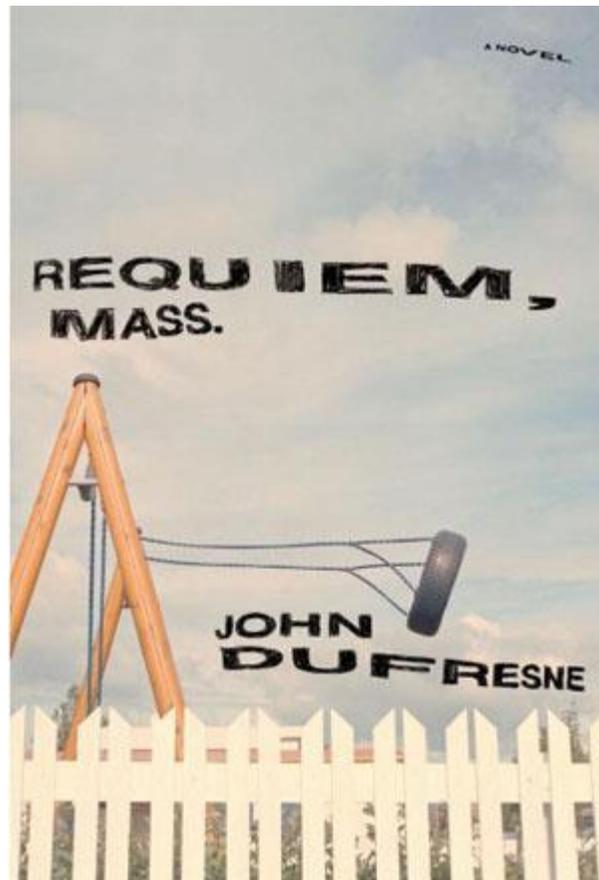
Fiction readers who appreciate intelligent writing will enjoy unraveling what is and what isn't in John Dufresne's fictionalized version of his childhood. Summer thrills and sleuthing are courtesy Barbara Parker, Neil Plakcy and Elaine Viets. Nonfiction choices include more high jinks from Carl Hiaasen, the collected works of a love pollster, and several books on local and U.S. history. And because poetry gets scant attention except in April, we hope you'll consider (modifying a phrase from Milton) "how your light is spent" and read one or two.

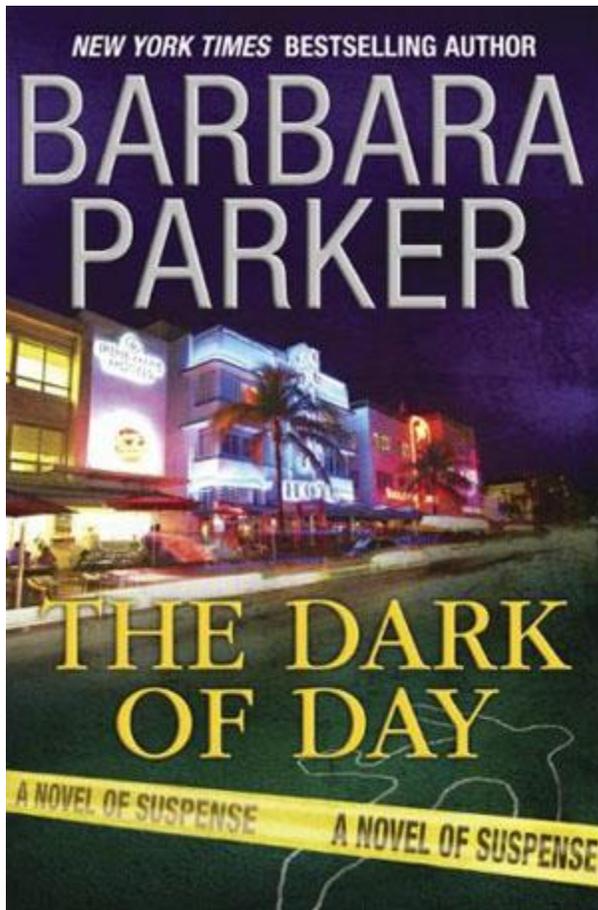
#### Fiction

***Requiem, Mass.: A Novel***

**By John Dufresne**

Book a flight this summer to *Requiem, Mass.* (W.W. Norton; \$24.95), but be forewarned, not a lot of good things happen to the residents there. Johnny's mom, Frances, thinks her kids are aliens posing as her real children. Dad is a truck-driving adulterer who spreads his load around. Audrey, the sister, enjoys the comfort of closets and walks her cat, Deluxe, in a baby stroller. Precocious 12-year-old Johnny is the peanut butter holding this nutty family together—that is until some nosey nuns enter the picture to try and take the children away from their parents. *Requiem, Mass.* is loosely based on author John Dufresne's childhood; but it's also a thesis on emotional truth and the veracity of memoir. Dufresne handles the plundering circumstances of his characters' lives with sublime drollness for an entertaining yet bittersweet tale. (Look for an in-depth interview with Dufresne in the July 18 issue of [MiamiARTzine.com](http://MiamiARTzine.com).)





### ***The Dark of Day***

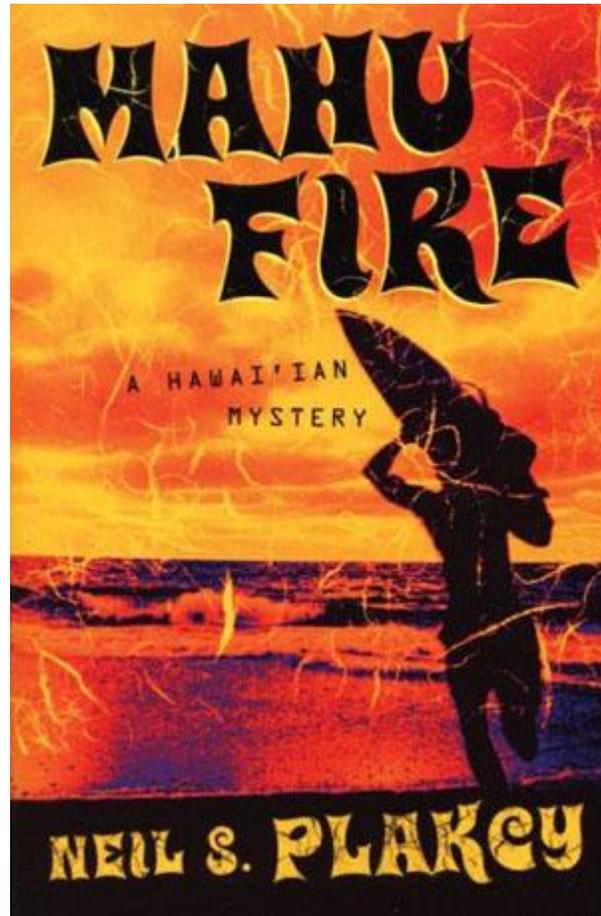
**By Barbara Parker**

Miami is the backdrop for bestselling author Barbara Parker's latest thriller, *The Dark of Day* (Vanguard Press, \$25.95). When a 20-year-old ingénue disappears from a South Beach party, the media swoops in like hungry savages. Smart, sexy, C.J. Dunn, Miami's top celebrity lawyer and media darling, agrees to represent the driver of U.S. Congressman Bob Shelby, who was the last person seen with the starlet. As C.J. attempts to divert suspicion from her client—and his boss—she opens a Pandora's Box of corruption and sexual promiscuity. To make matters worse, C.J. learns that a child she gave up for adoption 17 years earlier had close ties to the victim. This knowledge not only threatens her chances of landing a job as a national TV legal commentator, but also her life.

***Mahu Fire***

**By Neil S. Plakcy**

*Mahu Fire* (Alyson Books, \$14.95) is the third mystery in the series by Neil Plakcy featuring Honolulu's first openly gay homicide detective, Kimo Kanapaka. In this installment, Kimo, his family, and friends are attending a local charity event in support of gay marriage when a bomb disrupts the gala. Kimo is determined to find out who opposes the issue enough to kill. In addition to writing fiction and nonfiction, Plakcy is an assistant professor of English at Broward Community College.



NATIONAL BESTSELLING SERIES

# Clubbed to Death



Elaine Viets

Author of *Murder with Reservations*

## ***Clubbed to Death***

### **By Elaine Viets**

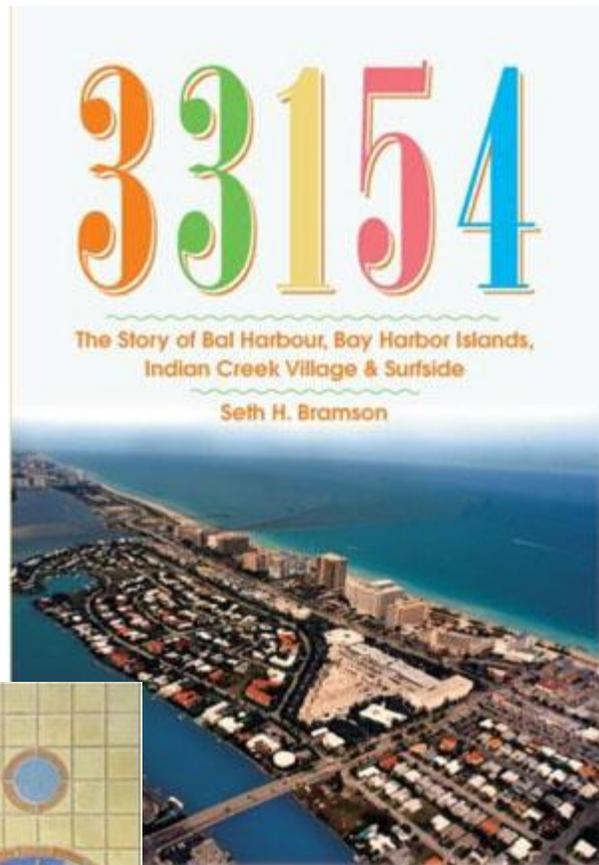
Elaine Viets writes the bestselling Dead-End Job mystery series set in Fort Lauderdale. To research her books, Viets, and her minimum-wage earning character, Helen Hawthorne, work the same jobs. *In Clubbed to Death* (NAL/Obsidian, \$21.95), Helen's latest job is in a country club's complaint department, dealing with the gripes of the rich and rude. Rob, her deadbeat ex-husband, sails back into her life aboard the yacht of his new lady, Marcella—known as the Black Widow for her string of dead spouses. When Rob goes missing, it's Helen who is led from the club in handcuffs. Marcella helps Helen get released, and the two form an uneasy alliance to find out what really happened. The amateur sleuth discovers the club's dark secrets and must find out the truth—without getting clubbed herself.

### **Nonfiction**

**33154: The Story of Bal Harbour, Bay Harbor Islands, Indian Creek Village and Surfside**

**By Seth Bramson**

Part of the Miami-Dade miracle—33154 (History Press, \$21.99) is the zip code for the settlements that sprang from mangrove marshes to exclusive havens in little more than a generation—Bal Harbour, Bay Harbor Islands, Indian Creek Village, and Surfside. Their story is told by "Mr. Miami Memorabilia," Seth H. Bramson, one of South Florida's foremost historians. Each community has an extraordinary history of dreamers, daredevils, and entrepreneurs who transformed open fields and tangled undergrowth into four of the country's most desirable destinations.



**Miami: Mediterranean Splendor and Deco Dreams**

**By Beth Dunlop**

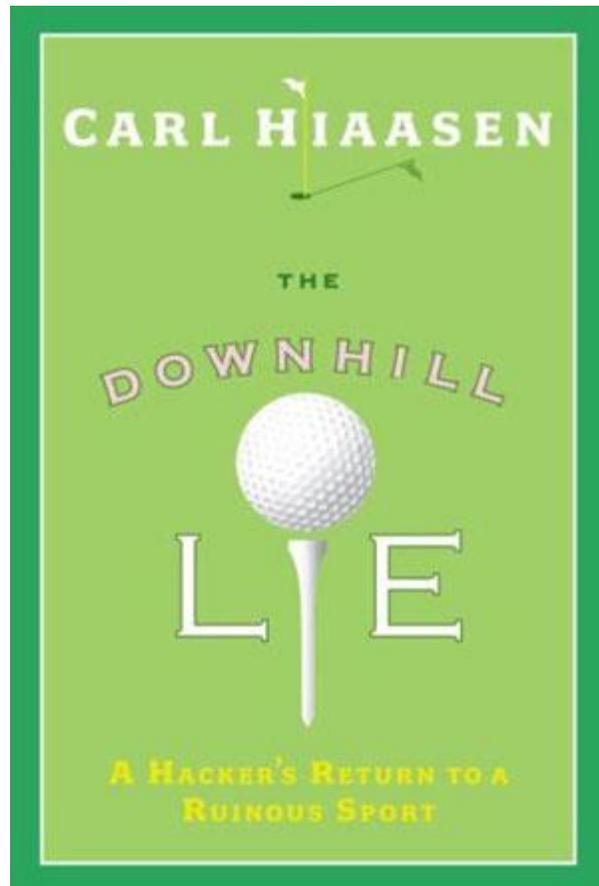
Miami is a world-renowned, cosmopolitan city with an architectural history to match. Its many treasures include not only Miami Beach's Art Deco buildings and Coral Gables, but also, the houses and commercial buildings of the immediate postwar era, tropical vernacular architecture, mid-century modernism, and avant-garde high-rise buildings on the waterfront. What all these building have in common is the intention to allure, delight, and engage

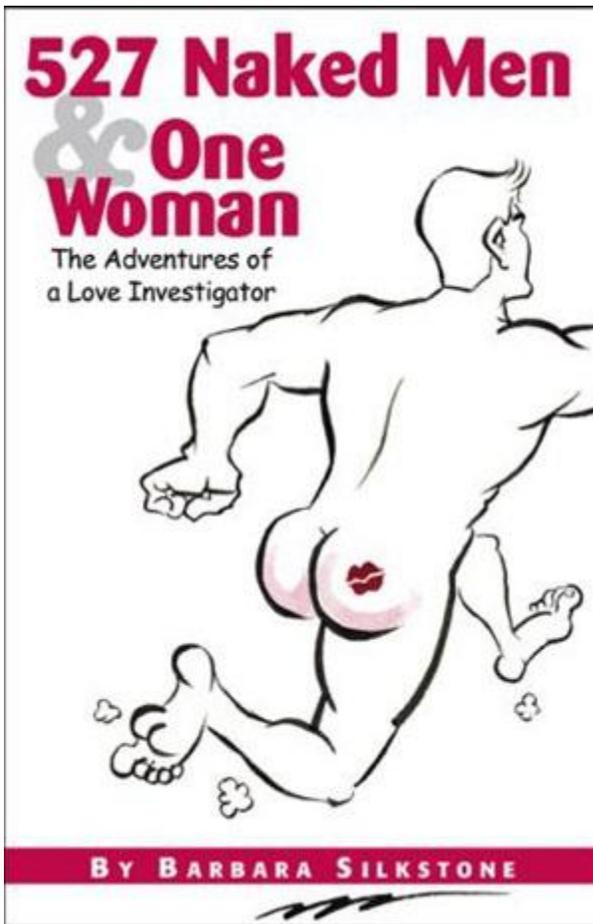
the imagination and senses. Home magazine editor Beth Dunlop's *Miami: Mediterranean Splendor and Deco Dreams* (Rizzoli, \$75) covers both well-known masterpieces and the overlooked ones, featuring spectacular color photography as well as archival imagery. And while this book came out a few months ago, (November, to be exact) it's still whimsical enough to fit the bill for summer reading.

***The Downhill Lie: A Hacker's Return to a  
Ruinous Sport***

**By Carl Hiaasen**

How exactly does one chip a toad? Or retrieve a sunken golf cart from a snake-infested lake? And which golf club is best suited for warfare against oncoming rats? Carl Hiaasen's golf confessional about returning to the game after a 32-year hiatus, *The Downhill Lie* (Knopf, \$22) will answer these questions and provide hooks and slices of hilarity. When his seven-year-old son and wife take up the game, he experiences fond memories of playing with his father reminding the reader that more than the emotion of frustration can be associated with the game of golf.





***527 Naked Men & One Woman: The Adventures of a Love Investigator***  
**By Barbara Silkstone**

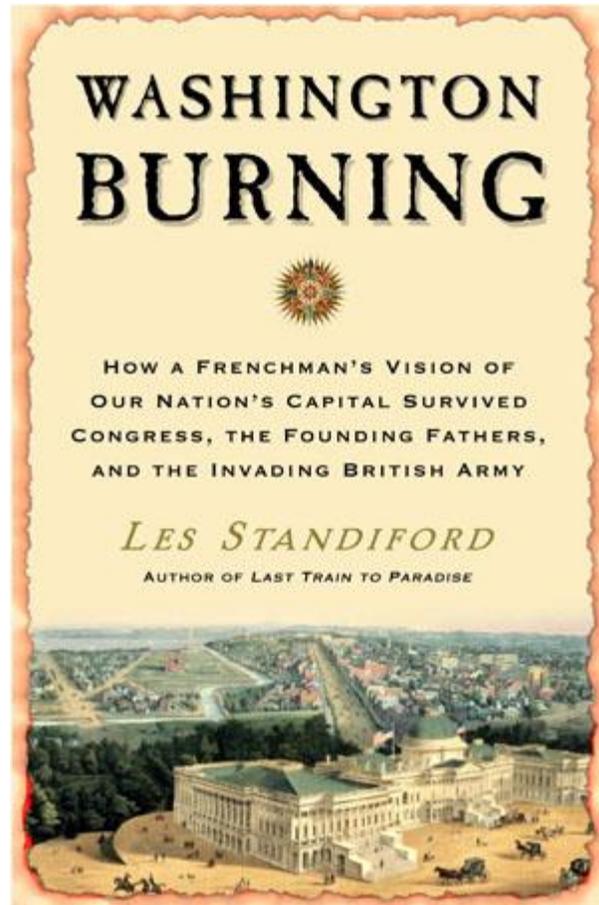
Armed with a tape recorder and a list of pointed questions, Barbara Seidenstein (Silkstone is a pseudonym), spent six years traveling the country interviewing hundreds of men in an attempt to obtain the naked truth about how they feel about relationships. Her goal was to interview 1,000 men, but after 527 she had to call it quits. Readers of *527 Naked Men & One Woman* (Infinity Publishing, \$13.95) will laugh, cry, and be infuriated reading some of the interviews. There's plenty of insight into a man's mind, including thoughts on its anatomical coordinates. It's also the story of one woman's touching search for love. Again, this book isn't exactly hot off the presses, but if you missed it the first time around, it's worth a look. And what's summer without a funny, laugh-filled look at love and lust?

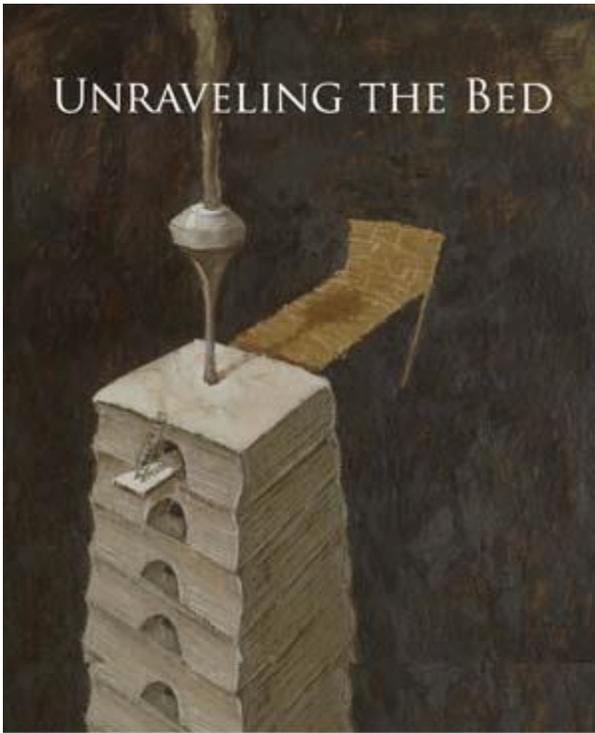
***Washington Burning: How a Frenchman's Vision for Our Nation's Capital Survived Congress, the Founding Fathers, and the Invading British Army***

**By Les Standiford**

The first major international terrorist attack on U.S. soil was not the bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993, or its destruction in 2001. It happened nearly two centuries ago, in 1814, when British troops burned to the ground nearly every public building in Washington, D.C. In his latest book, *Washington Burning* (The Crown Publishing Group, \$24.95), Les Standiford, Miami resident and director of the Creative Writing Program at Florida International University, tells this compelling story, and many more, about how our nation's capital was born of feuding personalities, shadowy backroom deals, and the efforts of starry-eyed idealists and hard-nosed pragmatists.

**Poetry**





### ***Unraveling the Bed***

**By Mia Leonin**

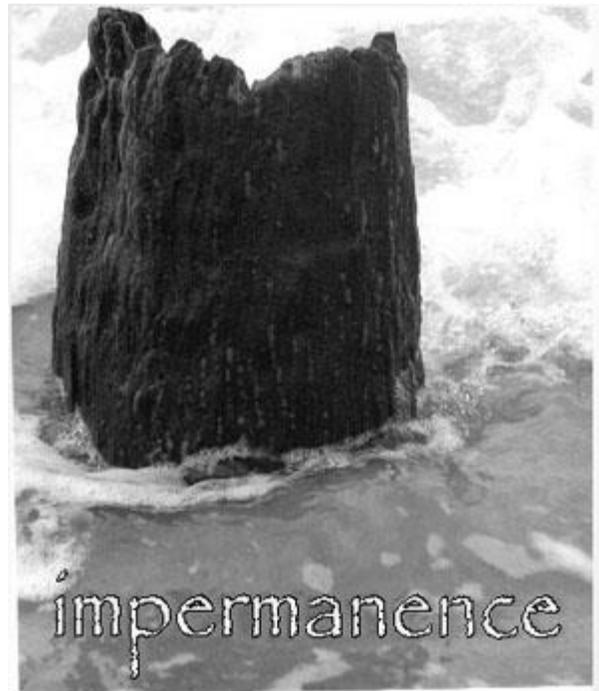
Pushcart-prize nominated poet and creative writing instructor at the University of Miami, Mia Leonin's new poetry book, *Unraveling the Bed* (Anhinga Press, \$17), introduces the reader to a speaker who is both wise and witty. Crafted with richly textured phrases, its themes are universal: cultural heritage, love, and faith. Leonin's imagery is lyrical and evocative. From the poem, *Apple*, she writes: "How long I have wanted someone to bite,/to penetrate teeth in all my places./Like any good apple, with my sweet and sour,/ my many-colored skins, I've waited."

***Impermanence***

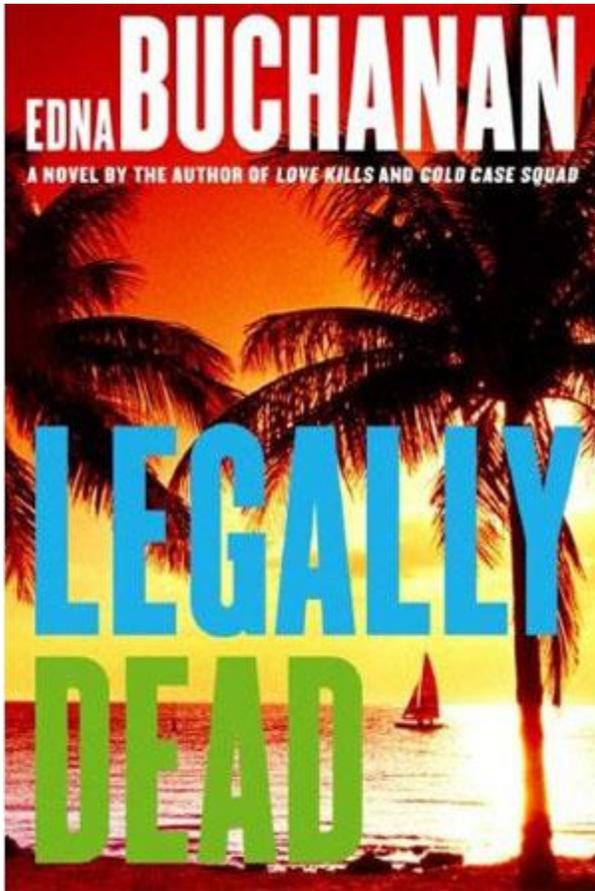
**By Joyce Sweeney**

After 25 years of writing award-winning teen fiction, Coral Springs author Joyce Sweeney returns to her first love—poetry. In this debut collection, titled *Impermanence* (Finishing Line Press, \$12), Sweeney deals with themes related to words and writing, to those of loss and life passages—most notably her own struggles to cope with her mother's Alzheimer's disease. Although a wrenching experience, Sweeney said the ordeal led her back to writing poetry. With this collection, she has captured life's fleeting moments in welcoming, knowing words.

**Coming in August**



**Joyce Sweeney**



***Legally Dead***

**By Edna Buchanan**

It just wouldn't be summer in Miami without an unlawfully enticing mix of hot bodies on the beach and cold bodies in the morgue.

Forthcoming in August is *Legally Dead* (Simon & Schuster, \$26) by Edna Buchanan. The Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter and author of the thriller *Love Kills* launches a new series featuring former U.S. Marshall Michael Venturi, who quits the Witness Protection Program to become a one-man freelance identity wizard.

Have a comment about what you've read? E-mail [letters@miamiartzine.com](mailto:letters@miamiartzine.com).