



# MIDNIGHT LOUIE'S SCRATCHING POST-INTELLIGENCER

"Midnight Louie is the funniest, hairiest  
hard-boiled PI on the planet."  
—JANET EVANOVICH

All the News about Midnight Louie, Irene Adler, and Delilah Street

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Editor-in-Chief: Carole Nelson Douglas

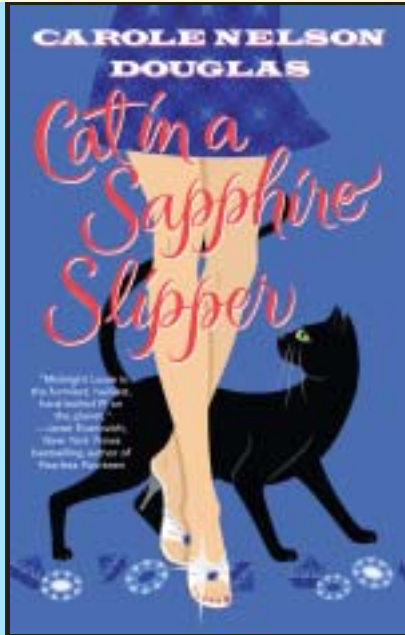
Vol 16 Issue 1 Summer 2009

## THE SUMMER, FALL, AND WINTER OF FOUR BOOKS IN THREE SERIES

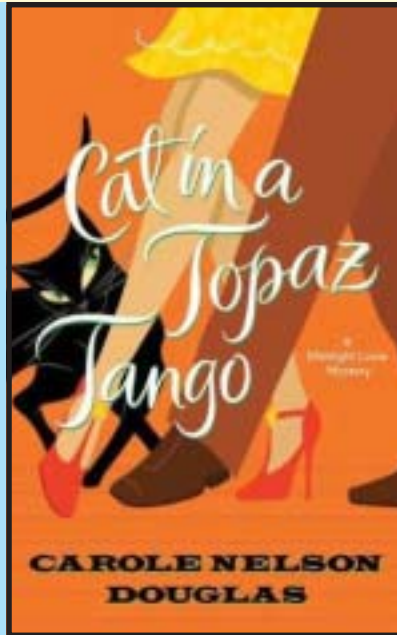
**JUNE 30 '09  
paperback!**

"Las Vegas' number-one hard-boiled feline PI, Midnight Louie, is back in another crazy crime- and cat-filled romp. With a fast-moving plot and lively narration . . . the story hurtles its way forward. Sure to be a big hit with Midnight Louie's large and dedicated audience."

—Booklist



ISBN 978-07653-5829-5.....\$7.99



ISBN 978-07653-1862-8.....\$24.95

**AUG 2 '09  
hardcover!**

"Louie's so funny and intelligent and such a great sleuth that it's easy to forget he's a cat."

—RT Book Reviews

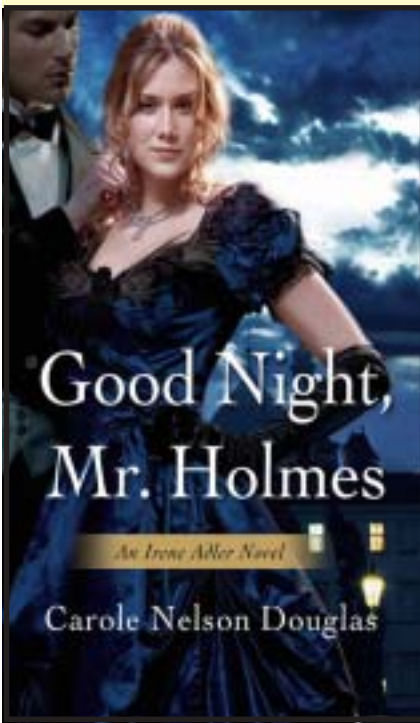
"Dance lovers will especially enjoy this installment, [with] an opening summary of Louie's previous outings that even series fans will find useful."

—Publishers Weekly

**NOV 10 '09  
trade paperback!**

## We oughta be in Pictures

**NOV 24 '09  
paperback!**



ISBN 978-07653-0373-8.....\$14.99

### IRENE ALDER makes a comeback

Enthusiasts await the Dec. 25 film debut of Robert Downy Jr. as **SHERLOCK HOLMES**, featuring Rachel McAdams as "the woman." Nov. 10, Carole's debut novel of the Irene Adler series, the 1991 *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year, **GOOD NIGHT, MR. HOLMES**, arrives in a new trade paperback edition. Downey's Holmes may shock Sherlockians, but Carole's reinvented Irene has won praise through eight novels. See p. 4 for the list.

### Delilah faces a VAMPIRE SUNRISE

"I'd love to see this series as a movie someday. The CinSims are a fascinating element I can just envision onscreen. Douglas's descriptions are in-depth and draw a vivid picture in the reader's mind. She does a fantastic job of blending the paranormal with the mystery element for which she is well known."

—Bittenbybooks.com



ISBN 978-14391-5677-3.....\$7.99



# LOUIE'S LETTERBOX



*Dear Carole and Midnight Louie,*

Thank you for the latest *Scratching Post-Intelligencer*. I do so enjoy keeping up with all the doings feline, human, and the paranormal. I purchased **SAPPHIRE SLIPPER** and will be at my local bookstore on the 15th to get my **BRIMSTONE KISS**.

I'm enclosing some stamps along with a request to transfer to the new-fangled electronic format, but I want to help keep the hard copy edition available for the less technically minded fans of Louie. Everyone should be on The Loop with Louie. :) My sympathies on the passing of Summer. She truly is divine now—a kitty angel. "As Colette said, 'our perfect friends never have less than four feet.' "

*Melody Rondeau, San Jose CA*

**A harmonious name to match your purrsonality! Thanks for your generosity for us all. Lovely envelope kitty sketch on your request to go "electronic." Psst! Many of my loyal readers report going "paranormal" to support Miss Carole, but I remain the paranormalest of them all!—ML**

Please sign us up for Midnight Louie's illustrious newsletter. Clare and I would prefer the hard copy; we are having ongoing problems with the printer. I promise to read it aloud to her. She has not mastered the skill of reading as yet, though, like Louie, she does enjoy absorbing the morning newspaper's offerings.

I am my American shorthair tortoise-shell calico friend's human. She and I are steadfast Midnight Louie Fans. So was my mother. Louie's latest book was the last she read before she passed away in January 2008. Her cat, Chip, developed a fine taste for literature and would often chew (horrors!) sometimes her books. His brother, Chauncey, being an athlete, much preferred climbing the

screens outside the dining room. I expect Chip simply told him the news and stories at nap-time. (Both were adopted by Mom's best friend and her family.)

Thanks for Louie and his family and for Irene Adler and her friends. I weaned on Sherlock Holmes. But he definitely deserved her keen competition. At least Conan Doyle knew of her existence . . . Her adventures and detection truly rival his!

*Clare, c/o Sister Frances O'Dell, O.S.F. Miami FL*

**Your kind email reminds me that we enjoy an ecumenical following among the clergy, thank goodness. Alas, Bast apparently has no remaining human followers. Greetings to the sublimely colorful Clare.—ML**

**ALL-TIME SUPER-SPONSOR: LINDA TILLEY \* Massillon OH  
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Thank you! From loose stamps to a packet or roll, every donor is a champ. Yes, checks are welcome too. **PLEASE!** Let us know if you change street or e-mail addresses! **WE TRULY HATE TO LOSE YOU!**



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**Track the interior title alphabet after *Blue Monday***

CATNAP, PUSSYFOOT, CAT on a BLUE MONDAY, CAT in a CRIMSON HAZE, CAT in a DIAMOND DAZZLE, CAT with an EMERALD EYE, CAT in a FLAMINGO FEDORA, CAT in a GOLDEN GARLAND, CAT on a HYACINTH HUNT, CAT in an INDIGO MOOD, CAT in a JEWEL JUMPSUIT, CAT in a KIWI CON, CAT in a LEOPARD SPOT, CAT in a MIDNIGHT CHOIR, CAT in a NEON NIGHTMARE, CAT in an ORANGE TWIST, CAT in a HOT PINK PURSUIT, CAT in a QUICKSILVER CAPER, CAT in a RED HOT RAGE, CAT in a SAPPHIRE SLIPPER, CAT in a TOPAZ TANGO

Want *Midnight Louie's Scratching Post-Intelligencer* newsletter free? Or to order Louie's T-shirt? It's passionate **PURPLE** with green, silver and black type. A very cool cat design on high-quality shirts: \$20-up plus \$5.25 shipping. Write, e-mail, or visit the website for information and to order.

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**Webpage: www.carolenelsondouglas.com**



*Dear Readers,*

Yes! An updated photo Sam took of me and Midnight Louie, Jr. He began going blind at eight, but is now fourteen and going everywhere as if sighted, even atop book boxes. What an inspiration!

I'm still too deadline-swamped to answer all your letters and emails, but I try, and hope to catch up in retirement. That is not likely soon, thanks to you all! Your holiday cards, notes, stamps, and emails are much treasured. Please send cat photos for the newsletter (I'll scan all I can). I also plan to redo the website, with a cat pinup area for Louie.

**FAREWELLS AND HELLOS**

Thanks for the condolences on our August '08 loss of Summer. That preceded a nightmarish run of respiratory infection among our remaining four cats, except Audrey, the feral. Cats who stop eating decline rapidly, so we were force-feeding our crew in turn for weeks and giving injected fluids. All came through, but just as our oldest, Secret, 17 1/2, last of our four Persians and the last infected, showed interest in food again, she had a neurological crisis. Prednisone gave her a "miracle" recovery for a month, until a second crisis. We lost her at November's end, on Black Friday.

**ALWAYS ANOTHER IN NEED**

In March, we adopted a five-year-old shaded golden Persian. Topaz is Canadian-born and had quite a journey to get to the U.S. and us. Her breeder-owner died, so she

was sent by air, pregnant, to a Texas breeder friend. This tiny girl had five kittens, but three succumbed because of a blood problem. Now she is "fixed" and has a forever home as our "new baby." More cat tales and photos *on p. 4.*

**SHORT STORY EXPRESS!**

I've written several short stories lately for large and small press anthologies. I love to create new Irene Adler stories for her fans, or for my other series readers. Irene fans, don't let the title and steamy noir cover of **SEX, LIES, AND PRIVATE EYES** (Moonstone Books) scare you! (I agreed to do the story before I knew the title.) This new Holmes/Adler novella is Victorian, but I managed to work in a touch of the titillating title theme and the Sherlockian Canon. A Delilah Street story that's a good intro to her series is in **UNUSUAL SUSPECTS**, edited by mystery author Dana Stabenow. A recent review nailed what I strive to do with my fiction.

"Douglas's 'Bogiemán' delves into the tricky gray areas of morality and ethics that emerge when silver-screen characters are "resurrected" for the entertainment of others. When one is murdered, is it a crime? And who would do such a thing? Not only does this story explore a fascinating world and a nifty ethical quandary, but the mystery itself is handled in a fashion that suitably evokes the feel of a noir-ish detective story."—*Errant Dreams Reviews*

A Louie story featuring Delilah is in **THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF VAMPIRE ROMANCE 2**, publishing both in England and the U.S. I've never read a vampire romance, so it's more mystery. I have a story in an anthology edited by Carol Serling, Rod's widow, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the classic TV series, *The Twilight Zone*. Noted anthologist Ellen Datlow (just named the year's Best Editor by *Locus* magazine) is including Louie's "Coyote Peyote" in a reprint collection of science fiction, fantasy, and horror cat stories, coming from Night Shade Books in the next year.

**From left to right, Delilah must solve the murder of Sam Spade in "Bogiemán." Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler give Watson the shock of his life in "The Private Wife of Sherlock Holmes." Death comes for the retired librarian in "Truth or Consequences," N.M. Louie visits Delilah Street's 2013 Las Vegas to help her save a "daylight" vampire's life in "Butterfly Kiss."**

			
ISBN: 978-04410-1637-2...\$14.00	ISBN: 978-19330-7645-4...\$16.95	ISBN 978-07653-2433-7...\$14.99	ISBN: 978-07624-3796-2...\$13.95
<b>December 2008</b>	<b>July 2009</b>	<b>Sept 1, 2009</b>	<b>Sept 10, 2009</b>

## Adieu to the Sweet Solange . . .

Just as our shaded silver Persian Summer inspired Louie's ladylove, the delicate but sassy Divine Yvette. Secret, shaded golden daughter of a shaded silver mother, Victoria, inspired the creation of Yvette's sweeter, gentler sister, Solange. Secret was over two when we adopted her, and had been the lowest on the totem pole in her former household, tormented by a hyperactive three-pound



Pomeranian, so was always shy. Maybe that's why she even a territorial dude (and our only house male these last years), Louie Jr., got along with her. The other cats never bothered Secret, perhaps sensing her past trauma. Even Xanadu, our fifty-pound Chow mixdog who looks like a huge Pomeranian never scared Secret.

Secret was ill during these photos, but had good



Secret sleeping with Xanadu

company for her final weeks. Our animals came at various times, so they never became sleeping buddies.

Until Secret got sick.



## . . . Welcome to the Sweet Topaz

We now have a pseudo-kitten in our midst. Topaz, a shaded golden Persian, turned five April 28, but had to be shaved by her breeder-owner last December, so she will be growing out her full coat until



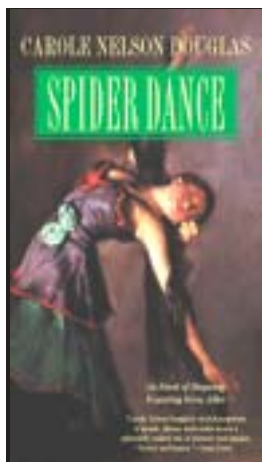
Christmas. Here she examines some of our vintage guests she can't make head nor tail of . . . She wasn't allowed up there, but I got a photo before dislodging her. Linda Tilley, our newsletter stamp benefactress, has regaled me with notes about the adorable, fluffy kitten that has joined their household. She kiddingly calls it the "Himalayan from Hell" because it has become "Daddy's Little Darling" and can do no wrong and is up to a lot of it. Topaz has proven to be "Mommy's Little Darling." After a banner "bad year," I am ready for some dotting-on. I worried about taking on a new cat with my work load, but Sam encouraged adding a "stable adult" to our reduced population. Like Summer, playful Topaz came in and made a place for herself in no time.



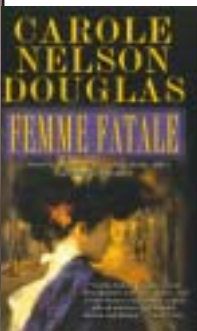
Topaz camping out with a sleeping Xanadu

## IRENE ADLER: FROM FIRST TO LATEST

Beginning with **Good Night, Mr. Holmes**, the *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year that began the Adler series in 1990, all eight novels have been reissued with Readers' Guides. The Sherlockian/historical/feminism elements make great book discussion group topics, so please recommend the series to library and bookstore reading groups and friends. *Chapel Noir* is out of print, alas.



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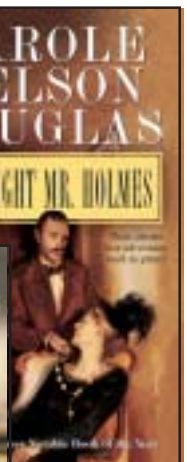
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