

*Lecture Spotlight: We're pleased to present...*  
Claire Applewhite



[Lecture Handouts](#)

LECTURE: "I'm Pretty Good - So Why Haven't I Been Published?"

on Thursday, March 18 2010

from 7 to 8 pm

at Barnes & Noble-Ladue

8871 Ladue Road

Ladue, MO 63124

Free and open to the public! Please [register to attend](#):

Get [map and directions](#).

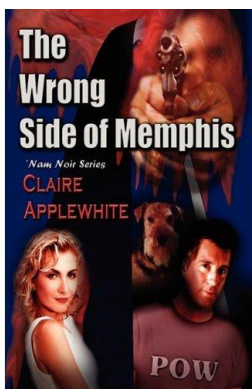
For program details, see our [Lectures](#) page.

**Claire Applewhite** is a graduate of St. Louis University, where she earned an AB in Communications, an MBA in Finance, and completed the Mercantile Leadership Program for Women. A past participant in the Summer Writers Institute at Washington University, she is

a contributing writer for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Her first mystery novel, *The Wrong Side of Memphis*, was released in May 2009 by L&L Dreamspell. A short story, "Moonlight Becomes You So," was released in June 2009, also by L&L Dreamspell. Her romantic suspense novel, *The Nearness of You*, will be released in early 2010. *Unchain My Heart*, a romantic thriller, was recently named a Semi-Finalist in the Faulkner Creative Writing Competition. In 2009, she organized Rouge et Noir, LLC.

Claire is a current board member of the Midwest Mystery Writers of America and the Missouri Writers Guild, where she is the current Vice-President and Conference Chair for the Annual 2010 Conference. Claire is an active member of the St. Louis Metropolitan Press Club, St. Louis Writers Guild, Sisters in Crime, Heartland Writers Guild and Mystery Writers of America. To find out more about Claire, visit [www.claireapplewhite.com](http://www.claireapplewhite.com).

## The Wrong Side of Memphis



A Vietnam vet turned P.I. ends up in the wrong place at the wrong time, to match wits with a ruthless killer.

Elvin Suggs knows conflict. Vietnam showed him the wrong side of 1968. Memphis showed him divorce. Suggs and his dog, Vanna, turn to 'Nam vet Dimond Redding for a fresh start—and find a fresh corpse. St. Louis showed him murder. It's the wrong place and time. It's the wrong side of Memphis.

L & L Dreamspell (236 pp.)  
April 17, 2009  
ISBN: 978-1-60318-116-7

Available at [Amazon](http://Amazon.com).

### Kirkus Reviews:

"Di Redding has barely moved into the dingy Jewel Arms in St. Louis—sorry, Memphis fans, the mistitled novel is set almost entirely elsewhere—before a man turns up dead there with a diamond in his pocket and a knife in his back. An African-American man with bloody footprints in his hallway is arrested, but the case against him seems weak and biased, and the crusty, alcoholic detective in charge less than reliable.

Di gets help from her late husband's 50-something Green Beret buddy Elvin Suggs, a private eye who is at loose ends while he awaits a divorce from his floozy wife Cherie. Elvin has two big advantages in his investigation—an ebullient good-ol'-boy personality that disarms people while he worms information out of them, and Vanna, a giant Airedale terrier who

bites bad guys, sniffs out corpses and blithely barges into places without benefit of search warrant.

The Jewel Arms residents comprise a roster of people with shady lives or menacing vibes—the voluptuous hooker, the wife-beating medical student, the cross-dressing gun dealer and the nurse who can't stand the invalid she's taking care of. As Elvin sorts through likely suspects, new victims appear in surprising places, and an unsettling connection emerges that ties Cherie, her sleazy new boyfriend and his epically gluttonous brother to the goings-on in the building.

Applewhite writes with a keen eye for setting and an ear for punchy dialogue. She does a fine job fleshing out the Jewel Arms' tawdry milieu and peopling it with vivid but believable lowlifes. There is some haphazard plotting, and the climactic reveal is more blurted out than sussed out. Fortunately Di, Elvin and Vanna make for an appealing team of sleuths and readers are happy to follow along wherever their noses take them.

An entertaining, atmospheric read."

**Visit Claire Applewhite's Web site: [www.claireapplewhite.com](http://www.claireapplewhite.com)**