**A Powerful Finance, Banking, & Bankruptcy Lawyer Pens**

 **An Award-Winning Crime Thriller Series That Explores**

 **America’s Biggest Schemes, Scams, and Scandals**

  

**On Lonesome Roads**

“Flanigan never skimps on noir atmosphere, crisply rendered action, or pulpy surprises . . . Rich characterization and jolting surprises set this polished crime novel apart.” ***Book Life*** ***Publishers Weekly***

**On Lonesome Roads**

“The further exhilarating adventures of an unbeatable detective . . .By the novel’s conclusion, Flanigan will capture readers’ hearts . . .” ***Kirkus Reviews***

**The Big Tilt**

**“Flanigan manages to conjure deft, hard-boiled, but literary prose that’s reminiscent of Raymond Chandler’s best work…A gritty and eloquent crime novel.” *Kirkus Reviews***

**Mink Eyes**

“A terrifically entertaining and deftly crafted mystery by an author with an impressive flair for originality and a mastery of the genre, Dan Flanigan’s *Mink Eyes* will prove to be an exceptional and enduringly appreciated addition to community library Mystery/Suspense collections — and the personal reading lists of all truly dedicated mystery buffs who appreciate a ‘whodunnit’ with more twists and turns that a Coney Island roller coaster!” ***Midwest Book Review***

The scandals, schemes, and scams of American life, from Wall Street shenanigans to the Mafia, from the 1980s to the present day, provide a rich setting for an exciting new kind of detective novel, *The Peter O’Keefe* series, that is a blend of literary fiction and crime thriller, written by finance, bankruptcy, and banking lawyer Dan Flanigan. He has had a front-row seat for the past four decades to the mind of the corrupt, the criminal, and the con – and employs his experience and expertise to give his action-packed books a feeling of gritty authenticity. His newest book, ***On Lonesome Roads***, the third installment in the series, is a gripping tale with well-drawn characters, especially when it comes to Detective Peter O’Keefe, a physically scarred and emotionally battered Vietnam vet.

 This is serious fiction wrapped in the cloak of a hard hitting, exciting detective novel – a story that has it all – terror, murder, addiction, sex, obsession, crime, and doom, yes – but also friendship, fatherhood, integrity, duty, and sacrifice, and love. Flanigan is a veteran practicing lawyer who gives us an insider’s real-world view of the formal and informal workings of our legal system and the schemes and scams germinating in the seamy underbelly of our business world.

*Mink Eyes, The Big Tilt*, and *On Lonesome Roads* are each set in 1980s America when things like the Savings and Loan Crisis threatened the underpinnings of the national economy above ground – and the warring organized crime families below ground. One reviewer has compared Flanigan’s books with those of Raymond Chandler’s best work. Though the lawyer-turned-crime-novelist may sound familiar – popularized by John Grisham and Michael Connelly -- Flanigan’s books have a voice and flavor all of their own.

*“On Lonesome Roads* is thus notable, excellent, and highly recommended not just for its addition to the series or its expansion and continuing exploration of the protagonist's growth and healing,” says one reviewer, “but for its in-depth psychological portrait of a personality struggling to find its way back to a semblance of normalcy.”

**Flanigan is available to discuss the following in an interview:**

* How his experiences as a lawyer shapes his books.
* Why America tolerates white collar crooks and admires Mafia figures.
* Why the first three books of his series are set in the “greed is good” decade of the 1980s.
* How his books differ from crime novel thrillers on the market today.
* Why America is ready for a guy like Detective Peter O’Keefe.
* Why he draws his characters as struggling to repair and heal themselves and, beyond that, their world.
* What goes into executing the deft prose that fill his best action scenes.
* Why he and his wife opened an addiction treatment center.
* His other books, *Dewdrops* (shorter “literary” fiction) and *Tenebrae: a Memoir Of Love And Death* (Poetry)

“My O’Keefe books should appeal to people who are searching for a suspenseful, action-heavy story with a courageous but flawed and tattered detective hero who seeks his own sense of justice,” says Flanigan.

**About Dan Flanigan’s Books**

**Mink Eyes:** 1986: The tarnished heart of the “Greed is Good” decade. Private detective Peter O’Keefe is a physically scarred and emotionally battered Vietnam vet. Hired by his childhood best friend, ace attorney Mike Harrigan, O’Keefe investigates what appears to be merely a rinky-dink mink farm Ponzi scheme in the Ozarks. Instead, O’Keefe finds himself snared in a vicious web of money laundering, cocaine smuggling, and murder—woven by a mysterious mobster known as “Mr. Canada.” Also caught in Mr. Canada’s web is the exquisite Tag Parker, who might be the girl of O’Keefe’s dreams—or his nightmares.

**The Big Tilt:** 1987: The war in Vietnam didn’t kill Peter O’Keefe. Neither did his run-in with ruthless crime boss "Mr. Canada" in the Arizona desert. But chasing after justice in his own hometown just might. A year after the private detective uncovered a criminal ring disguised as a mink farm in the Ozarks, O’Keefe is back home and back in trouble. A high school crush of O’Keefe’s turns up dead, but the details don’t add up. His pal, Mike Harrigan, has put his trust in the wrong people and now stands accused of crimes that could put him in the slammer. And O’Keefe? The Mafia has put a price on his head.

*The Big Tilt* wins the 2022 National Indie Excellence Award for Crime Fiction



*The Big Tilt* wins the 2021 Readers’ Favorite Bronze Medal for Fiction-Crime

**On Lonesome Roads:** 1988: As private detective Peter O’Keefe continues to heal from the burns he suffered from the blast of a car bomb, neither he nor the police can prove who his assailants were. The media speculates that “The Outfit,” a mafia group in the city, is to blame. O’Keefe isn’t so sure, but he means to find out – and fast.

Terrified of another attack, O’Keefe’s ex-wife, Annie, won’t let allow his eleven-year-old daughter near him except under the tightest security, including an armed guard. He can’t blame her. It isn’t safe for Kelly, or anyone else he cares about, to be near him while his attacker is (attackers are?) on the loose. In a desperate effort to keep his family safe and restore his life to some measure of normality, O’Keefe becomes consumed with solving the mystery of who is hunting him. Along the way, he’ll be forced to negotiate with The Outfit – a “devil’s bargain” that just might cost him everything.

Meanwhile, Kelly embarks on her own dangerous adventure with the goal of restoring her broken family.

**Dewdrops:** A collection of two short stories and a novella. Each piece is independent and stand-alone, but the themes that weave through them share similarities—they capture, in very different ways, “people on the verge.” In *Some Cold War Blues*, a neighborhood snowball fight erupts into a thing as close to war as an eleven-year-old boy is likely to face. In *On The Last Frontier*, Katie is old and broke in Juneau with winter coming on. The novella *Dewdrops*, which gives the collection its name, captures the life and death struggles of a charismatic but tormented drug rehab counselor and his patients.

*Kirkus Reviews* described *Dewdrops* as “three compelling, impressively crafted tales united by authenticity and grace.” According to *Readers’ Favorite*, “Dan Flanigan is a master of description, writing with vivid imagery and style . . . The characters are terrifyingly authentic. Flanigan provides a peek into the lives of ordinary, troubled people in circumstances and environments that do little to strengthen their positions even when their resolve is steady. Flanigan delivers in every way.”



*Dewdrops* 2021 Readers’ Favorite Bronze Medal in Fiction Anthology

**Tenebrae: A Memoir of Love and Death**: “Dan Flanigan is a visionary poet. . .. In these poems he takes the reader on the journey that his wife endured, and he with her, in her wrenching passage from life to death . . . What he has created is astonishing There is a humanity at the core of these pieces that shakes the reader to the bone. They are moving. They are elegiac. They are celebratory . . . the human heart in a singular and authentic voice . . . playful, intelligent, of the personal and the universal simultaneously . . . they are completely of us, for us, the world at large . . . magical, haunting, and utterly sublime . . . heartbreaking and exquisite . . .”

Matthew Lippman, Author of *Mesmerizingly Sadly Beautiful* (winner of the Levis Prize) and several other books of poetry.

*Tenebrae: A Memoir of Love and Death* 2021 Readers’ Favorite Finalist in Poetry

**Dan Flanigan**

 **Biography**

Dan Flanigan holds a Ph.D. in History from Rice University and J.D. from the University of Houston. He taught Jurisprudence at the University of Houston and American Legal History at the University of Virginia. His first published book was his Ph.D. dissertation, *The Criminal Law of Slavery and Freedom, 1800-1868*. He moved on from academia to serve the civil rights cause as a school desegregation lawyer, followed by a long career as a finance attorney in private law practice. Dan became a name partner in the Polsinelli law firm in Kansas City, created its Financial Services practice, chaired its Real Estate & Financial Services Department for two decades, and established the firm’s New York City office and served as its managing partner until October 2022. His legal bio may be viewed at [www.polsinelli.com/professionals/dflanigan](http://www.polsinelli.com/professionals/dflanigan).

Taking a break from the law practice for two years, Dan and his wife, Candy, founded Sierra Tucson, a prominent alcohol and drug treatment center in Tucson, Arizona.

In addition to publishing five books since 2019, he has also written stage plays including Secrets (based on the life of Eleanor Marx) and Moondog’s Progress (based on the life of Alan Freed). His novella, *Dewdrops*, was originally written for the stage and enjoyed a full-cast staged reading at the Theatre of the Open Eye in New York. Its director described the play as a “powerful” work about “addiction in America—addiction to drugs, alcohol, sex, danger, power, and to finding ‘The Answer,’ with characters that are “well drawn, real, and actors love to portray them.”

He has written a feature film screenplay of Mink Eyes and a pilot for a TV series called O’Keefe.

He serves on the Board of Directors of Childhood USA, the U.S. arm of the World Childhood Foundation, established by Queen Silvia of Sweden, working to end child sexual abuse and exploitation everywhere.

He divides his time among Kansas City, New York City, and Los Angeles.

  **Dan Flanigan**

 **Q & A**

 ***The Peter O’Keefe* Series**

**1. Early in your law career you were a school desegregation lawyer, serving the civil rights movement. Later, you became a finance attorney. So, what led you to become a writer?** I have wanted to “be a writer” since high school. I was successful in my working or “career” life but always thought I was selling out and punished myself (and, unfortunately, my wife as well) for that. I wish more than anything else in the world that she was here with me to see what’s happening now and enjoy it with me. I did take a break from the law in my mid-30s and, initially, wrote plays (one of which, *Dewdrops*, achieved a full-cast staged reading at the Theatre of the Open Eye in NYC. During that period, I also wrote the original version of *Mink Eyes*. I even attracted an agent and a publisher. The publisher went bankrupt before it got the book published. I thought this was a nice irony since I made a lot of my lawyer living as a bankruptcy attorney. I concluded it was too much of a struggle, it was making me unnecessarily unhappy, and it wasn’t worth the effort to keep trying to slip past the gatekeepers. I was very happy to leave my divided self behind. I gave it up for almost 30 years. But it still had hold of me. In 2013 I picked it back up again in earnest and have continued producing since.

**2. What inspired you to pen The Peter O’Keefe series?** The first novel, *Mink Eyes*, set in 1986, was my effort to tell a coming of age/redemption story in a more interesting way. I did not consider it a detective novel or crime fiction in the typical genre way. I considered it to be a perhaps unusual form of “literary” fiction. Eventually, I decided it would be interesting to carry on with Peter O’Keefe and the other characters and move with them and their unfolding lives as far as I could go from the 1980s to the present day.

**3. What is the DNA of a Peter O’Keefe novel?** The first three in the series are essentially a trilogy, i.e. connected in the sense that each ends with a problem that the next one tries to resolve. A continuing personal struggle—for redemption, for transcendence—is combined with a crime situation. Secondary characters are fully and prominently developed. The books attempt to be realistic, portraying events and situations that could plausibly occur in the real world. Each of the novels pays some attention to the “business” of operating a fledgling private detective agency. The father-daughter relationship is central. There is often sexual attraction, sometimes only one-way, either explicit or subtextual. They hopefully include, if not always strong, at least interesting, female characters that I hope to develop more over time, remembering that the 1980s were not the 2020s regarding gender dynamics.

**4. Your books span four decades, dating back to the 1980s, chronicling the scams, schemes, and scandals of our nation. Having worked as a finance, banking, and bankruptcy lawyer, what was it like to see greed up close?** Not to downplay the fact that there are real evildoers in the world, much of the time it is not classic evil or villainy. We start with the ambiguous, hustling, jostling, even grasping nature of the business civilization we live in, then people can be tempted to slide into a mode, a process, a way of doing business, a lifestyle that action by action, omission by omission, erodes their integrity and moral sense and they don’t know how to walk away from it. Often it starts with a legitimate dream, an attempt to create something that fails followed by attempts to prop it up, rescue it through shady dealing and eventually fraud or other crime, even murder.

**5. Though your stories are teeming with plenty of villains, everyday people of mostly good will seemingly confront extraordinary challenges. Why do so many of your characters struggle to repair and heal themselves, others, and the world?** Some of it surely has to do with my own struggles with alcoholism. But isn’t struggle what life’s all about? Without the struggles, I wouldn’t have anything interesting to write about.

**6. You write of the disruption and decline of the traditional American Mafia. What is it**

**about the Mob that endlessly fascinates so many people?** That’s a hard one. I don’t understand it. I don’t buy in to that “family loyalty” stuff, which is false, a delusion. Crime is obviously interesting on its own as evidenced by the popularity of “true crime” entertainment in all its forms. It’s especially interesting that what grew up in our country, starting in the 1920s, was a subculture and actually an industry, a tremendously financially successful one, associated mostly with a single, special, and fascinating ethnic group, dedicated to criminal activity and developing and espousing a unique way of life and even a philosophy of living, however demented. People have always had an unwholesome attraction to the outlaws, often murderous ones—Jesse James, Bonnie & Clyde, etc.—and here is an entire segment of society that “institutionalized” outlaw-ness.

**7. You also write of the emerging of the surveillance society. Does the American public**

**understand who is listening to and watching them?** I doubt that we do, including from private, not just government actors.

**8. You write about the secrets we keep. What do our secrets say about us – and our**

**willingness to protect them?** They are about shame and the more we “keep” them the more shame they produce and corrosive they become and protecting them can lead people to do very bad things. Often, the hidden behavior is not even “wrong,” just deviations from a behavior that society demands at a particular time (Beverly in *Big Tilt*). But I and others probably overstate the case against secrecy. Someday I am going to have a plot based on the obverse: how some secrets should stay that way and how the unnecessary disclosure of secrets can be heartbreaking, fatal, tragic. There are many plots based on this theme but aren’t explicit about it—that sometimes maybe we are not “as sick as the secrets we keep”—paradoxically but truthfully, sometimes secrets are best kept, whether they make one sick or not.

 **9. Were you surprised when one book reviewer compared your deft, hard-boiled, but**

**literary prose to that of Raymond Chandler’s best work?** I am egotistical enough that I was not “surprised” in any humble way. I was surprised because it was an unexpected *early* validation.

**10. Your books have won several awards and received critical praise. Why do you think your books are resonating with readers?** The consistent theme in the reviews is that the characters are strongly conceived and developed and that the books are well written in terms of description and dialogue. Most surprising to me, because I struggle especially hard and have a lot of self-doubt about my abilities in this direction, is that people say they are well-plotted, suspenseful, even “page turners.” I hope it goes beyond that and that people find that the books say something interesting, insightful, and useful about human life.

**11. Your lead character is a private detective, Peter O’Keefe, a physically scarred and**

**emotionally damaged Vietnam veteran. How much do you have in common with him?** I was a Marine during the Vietnam era but in the reserves. Unlike O’Keefe, I did not serve in Vietnam. As a reservist, I went home after six months of boot camp and advanced infantry training while many of the regulars went to Vietnam. Many of my friends, including my best friend, were Vietnam vets. Like O’Keefe, I am a recovering (at least both of us hope so) alcoholic. Like O’Keefe, I have only one child, a daughter. O’Keefe is divorced. I separated from my wife once for several months and for most of our lives we had what people would call a “stormy” relationship (I call it “porcupine love”), but something was right because we stayed together for 45 years until her death from cancer in 2011. I have tried to put more of myself into Harrigan (not flattering, I know) so that O’Keefe would not be just an autobiographical character but “his own man” so to speak. There is much about O’Keefe’s life and character and certainly his exploits that are unlike my own. I certainly am not that tough, brave, or good looking.

**12. Do the good guys or bad guys win in your stories?** Like life, sometimes one, sometimes the other, but, so far, I have to say (somewhat ruefully) that mostly the good guys have “won” (though the victories might not seem very victorious).

**13. You write about Wall Street’s Savings & Loan scandal, Mafia misdeeds, and corruption in the most powerful corridors of America. Will you someday be writing about the great crypto caper of the 2020s?** I will if I ever come to understand it. Despite much study and investigation, it remains a mystery to me. It’s either gold or tulips, and we don’t yet quite know which.

**14. What do you hope readers will be left feeling, thinking, and believing after consuming your books?** That they have read an engaging story about engaging characters that have either revealed something about life or helped them reflect on aspects of our world and our lives in a useful way.

**15. What is the key to writing a good crime mystery or thriller?** I don’t feel qualified to opine on that. I am not sure I write either thrillers or mysteries, and, notwithstanding some early praise, whether they are “good.”

**16. An earlier book, Dewdrops, a novella, enjoyed a full-cast staged reading at The Theatre of the Open Eye in New York. As a screenplay writer, do you envision your books depicted on a screen?** I very much do, and I have gone past envisioning it. I have written a feature screenplay based on *Mink Eyes* and a “series bible” and pilot episode for a projected TV series I am calling *O’Keefe*. No takers yet. And, maybe more than anything else, I think I would like to succeed as a playwright, as I believe I am better at that than anything else, but it’s the most difficult writing path to pursue in terms of opportunities.

**17. You lost your wife after 40-plus years together. How hard was it to honor her in verse and prose with your book, Tenebrae: A Memoir of Love and Death?** The hard part was being honest in portraying our characters, but the most painful thing, though enlightening, was to come to realize in the process how much more I should have honored her when she was alive. Not being the first to die can open one’s heart and mind in profound ways even though, sadly—too late. I never thought so at the time, but now I often wish (unfortunately it seems like damn near daily) I would have occasionally stepped back from the fray and had the courage to tender unconditional kindness, whether she “deserved” it or not, whether that would constitute an implied admission I was “wrong” or not, whether she might take “unfair advantage” or not.

**18. The two of you founded Sierra Tucson, a prominent alcohol and drug treatment center located in Tucson, Arizona. What led you to take a break for two years from your law practice to pursue this?** I had just emerged from treatment myself and wanted to pursue something I thought was more worthwhile. It was intended to be a permanent break, not a temporary one. But I ended up returning to the law and don’t regret either the break or the return.

**19. You now serve on the board of directors of Childhood, USA, an arm of the World**

**Childhood Foundation. How did you come to get involved to end child sexual abuse and**

**exploitation?** I think I have always been drawn to the underdogs, and there could not be much more of an underdog than an abused child. This particular opportunity to be of help resulted from the happy coincidence that a client of mine then served as Board Chair and, realizing the opportunity to do something actually meaningful rather than merely aspirational, I persuaded him to persuade the others on the Board to allow me to participate.

**20. Dan, you split your time between Kansas City, Los Angeles, and New York City. How do you keep track of the time zone you are in? what draws you to each of these areas?** I do sometimes get lost in the time zones sometimes.

LA (Santa Monica): the weather mostly, but something else I can’t quite figure out.

New York: I always wanted to see if I could “make it” in New York. I thought from high school that New York was where a “writer” needed to be. I didn’t get there as a writer (thankfully) but I spent an exciting (until the pandemic anyway) twenty years there helping to build our law firm from a small Midwestern operation to one of the largest firms in the U.S.

Kansas City: My hometown. I spent most of my life wanting to escape it but have come to appreciate its virtues.

 **Reviews Of The Peter O’Keefe Series**

[*5.0 out of 5 stars***A completely successful thriller – further adventures of Peter O’Keefe, PI**](https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/R2JLC883B3PVUP/ref%3Dcm_cr_dp_d_rvw_ttl?ie=UTF8&ASIN=B08LKHC7V5)**.**

The author has an extraordinary flair for creating memorable characters and for placing them in credible settings that proliferate into situations that morph into surprises.

*5.0 out of 5 stars***Don't start reading this book in the evening ... as you won't be able to put it down ‘til morning!** Excellent read ... an action-packed, twisting tale with surprising outcomes. Interesting, believable characters who develop before your eyes... every moment of my submersion in O'Keefe's world was gripping

[*5.0 out of 5 stars***An engrossing crime thriller**](https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/R331SQEOU34IOF/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_ttl?ie=UTF8&ASIN=B08LKHC7V5)**.** Dan Flanigan packs a lot of oomph in this crime thriller. Engrossing and fast-paced.

[*5.0 out of 5 stars***Contemporary work of fiction**](https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/R33ZI6B7I72YCX/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_ttl?ie=UTF8&ASIN=B08LKHC7V5)This thriller has it all: suspense, revenge, fantasy, among other condiments and Flanigan has made great use of his writing skills to pick florous [sic] vocabulary items and simple grammar to develop this solid story.

[*5.0 out of 5 stars*](https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/R1CJBZO2X3M97/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_ttl?ie=UTF8&ASIN=B08LKHC7V5)I'm a fan of the Peter O'Keefe books (even though this is only number 2). Dan Flanigan has a law degree, and so the court aspects of the novel are realistic, which I greatly appreciate as a law graduate myself. Peter is well written and an interesting protagonist to follow. The story telling is branched into different plot lines, which is a type of story-telling I personally appreciate and enjoy.

[*5.0 out of 5 stars***Incredible novel**](https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/R3BNS8OKV4NC6G/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_ttl?ie=UTF8&ASIN=B08LKHC7V5)The truth is that I loved this thriller. The characters are very well developed, in general the scenes are very well described and the world building is fantastic and original. The author is very careful when choosing vocabulary and this is noticeable throughout his work. I definitely plan to read the entire series.

[*5.0 out of 5 stars***Death: Is this “how each leaf felt as it fell”?**](https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/R28QJTWSAKWR52/ref%3Dcm_cr_dp_d_rvw_ttl?ie=UTF8&ASIN=B07PHH7KDR)

Character and environmental descriptions stand out. You can feel the pace, the thrill, yearning and hope of characters… his descriptions feel like I was seeing film shots.”

[*5.0 out of 5 stars***A Captivating Mystery of a Veteran**](https://www.amazon.com/gp/customer-reviews/RX5EZVIAYMKIZ/ref%3Dcm_cr_arp_d_rvw_ttl?ie=UTF8&ASIN=B07PHH7KDR)

The author has put every line in a form that will display a mythical image of it happening at the moment. Also, the finale is incredible.

--**5-Star Reader's Favorite Review**

"[A] must-read for action enthusiasts. Peter is the perfect protagonist for the story. He is jaded enough to keep his head in the game and open-minded enough to look for clues where no one in their right minds would look. He is a unique and surprisingly charismatic character... Reading this story is a whole sensory experience and that is largely due to the craftsmanship of the author. Dan Flanigan weaves pictures with his words... descriptions are vivid, the imagery is expressive, and the dialogues are revealing. An easy read that I will pick up again."