

Littman from page 9D

Especially with regards to the enigmatic Keith Rothwell. The fastidious accountant who provided luxuries for his family but demanded nothing for himself, whom associates describe as a "man with a hole in the middle," wasn't so selfless after all.

The murder victim, it turns out, had been leading a double life under an assumed name and a separate address. Fun-loving and risk-prone is the way a former girlfriend describes his alter ego.

With the help of a computer expert to crack Rothwell's accounting files, Banks uncovers incriminating correspondence with foreign financial institutions. Further investigations reveal that the victim was knee-deep in money laundering and tax evasion, especially for a Caribbean dictator.

Rothwell, it seems, had been a Walter Mitty success story, that is, until his duplicity caught up with him. Either he knew too much, speculates Inspector Banks, or he'd been helping himself to his client's funds.

The setting then switches from pastoral hamlet to London and the international crime scene. Fast-paced action alternates with brooding introspection. An undercover operation masquerades as police bungling.

Robinson ultimately weaves the diverse threads of his plot into a truly unpredictable pattern. Even a jaded mystery story reader like me was surprised by the ending. "Final Account" — a good book when you're home alone.

Peter Robinson visited Books Connection in Livonia last September, where you can still find copies of his book.

Esther Littman, a resident of Bloomfield Township, is a lecturer of English and German at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield. As an only child, Littman grew up regarding books as substitutes for siblings. You can leave her a message from a touch-tone phone at (313) 953-2047, mailbox 1893. Her fax number is (810) 644-1314.

Writers program scheduled

Poets Patricia Hooper of Birmingham and Linda Nemec-Foster of Grand Rapids will be featured at the next program of the sixth annual Uptown Writers Series 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9, at the Southfield Public Library, in the Southfield Civic Center on Evergreen between 10 and 11 Mile.

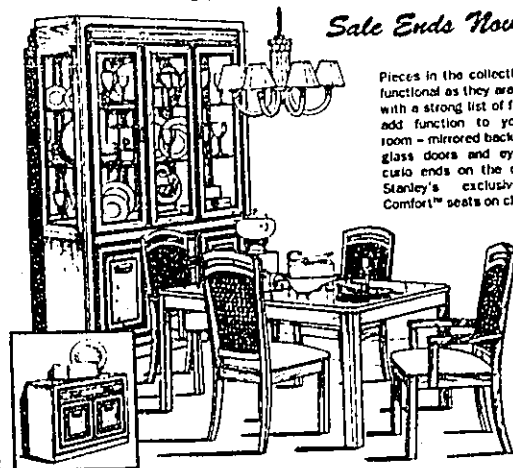
The free program will take place in the Marcotte Room on the lower level of the library. Call (810) 948-0470 for more information.

The series is co-sponsored by the library and the Poetry Resource Center.

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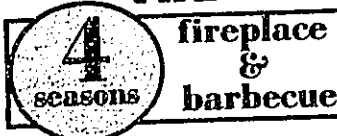


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