Hello USC School of Pharmacy Book Club Members,

Hope you are all doing well. A poll for book discussion dates has been posted on Facebook if you do not have a Facebook account please email me with your choice(s). Below is a link for book purchase and book description.

**Book discussion dates**
Monday, February 22, 2021 at 6:00 pm  
Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 6:00 pm  
Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 6:00 pm

**Book Description**

*Every Dog* is a contemporary crime story about people on the bottom rung of the social ladder struggling to move up. The story addresses issues such as poverty, prejudice, abandonment, friendship, justice, karma, loss, and love.

Doc is a young African American who met the love of his life while attending college, only to lose everything when wrongly convicted of a violent crime that resulted in years behind bars. His life derailed and without skills or education, he scrapes out a living sweeping floors and cleaning bathrooms at a clothing factory in downtown Boston. He befriends Billy, a 20-something loner who works on the loading docks. Desperate to get a foothold on life, the Black man and his younger White friend are recruited by Billy’s girlfriend, a dancer at a strip club, to rob the club’s night courier for the cash receipts on New Year’s Eve.

Expecting a few thousand dollars, Doc and Billy discover the take is millions, and that the cash was being laundered for Russians mobsters. Pursued by the police, gangsters, and the dancer’s silent partner, Doc and Billy escape with the money south to Gainesville, Florida, and ultimately to Venice Beach and Santa Monica, California, where one night on a beach in Malibu, the consequences of their crime come to an end, and Doc finds himself confronting the man whose false testimony sent him to prison.

**Author's Biography**

Richard C. Katz received his B.A. in Psychology and his M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Massachusetts, and his Ph.D. from the University of Florida. He worked as a clinician, supervisor, administrator, lecturer, adjunct professor and funded researcher during his career as a speech-language pathologist specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of aphasia and other neurologic communication disorders. He worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs for 36 years, 13 at the Los Angeles, VA Outpatient Clinic. He authored a textbook, published book chapters and peer-reviewed articles, served on the editorial board of six professional journals, chaired professional committees, and was the Chair of the Clinical Aphasiology Conference, President of the Academy of Neurologic Communicative Disorders and Sciences, and President of the Association of VA Speech-Language Pathologists. He was elected a Fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and received their Award for Outstanding Clinical Achievement in Human Communication Sciences and Disorders. He was senior author on the first peer-reviewed article to describe a phase-3 study of the efficacy of computerized aphasia treatment and lectured extensively nationally and internationally on the topic of efficacy of aphasia treatment.

Richard is a fan of crime fiction and film noir and since young wrote short stories and screenplays. While living in Los Angeles, he honed his craft by taking night courses at UCLA and attending various workshops. He continued to study writing after moving to Arizona, periodically traveling back to Los Angeles to attend workshops and to meet one-on-one with writers. His first short crime fiction, “The Oath”, was read almost 15 years ago on the podcast, CrimeWav. Two more short stories of his were later read on CrimeWav and posted on crime fiction websites. In 2017, an indie director contracted Richard to write a screenplay based on his second short story. In late 2019, his first novel, “Every Dog”, was simultaneously published as a paperback and ebook and this summer, released as an audiobook narrated by Ethan River. Richard is currently writing a second crime novel, based on the true assassination of an investigative reporter in Phoenix.