

BOOKNEWS from

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sales@poisonedpen.com tel (888)560-9919

<http://www.poisonedpen.com>

<http://poisonedpenblog.com>

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4014 N. Goldwater Blvd.

Scottsdale, AZ 85251

480-947-2974



Sweethearts and Crime...

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

Some Events will be webcast at <http://poisonedpenblog.com/>. Click on the On Demand button below the video screen to see each Event

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4 2:00 PM

William Landay signs [Defending Jacob](#) (Delacorte \$26) Stunner!

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8 7:00 PM

Deborah Crombie signs [No Mark Upon Her](#) (Morrow \$26)
Kincaid & James

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9 7:00 PM

JA Jance signs [Left for Dead](#) (Touchstone \$26) Ali Reynolds

SATURDAY MARCH 11 10:30 AM

Coffee & Crime Club discusses A.D. Scott's [A Small Death in the Great Glen](#) (Simon & Schuster \$15), a wonderful British mystery actually set in 1950s Scotland

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11 5:00 PM

Publication Party! Prosecco and Prizes
Dana Stabenow signs [Restless in the Grave](#) (St Martins \$26)
Kate #19

MONDAY FEBRUARY 13 7:00 PM

Lisa Gardner signs [Catch Me](#) (Dutton \$26) DD Warren

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16 7:00 PM

Publication Party! Chocolates and Champagne
Deanne Raybourn signs [The Dark Enquiry](#) (Mira \$15) Lady Julia Grey
Lauren Willig signs [The Garden Intrigue](#) (Dutton \$26) Pink Carnation

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18 2:00 PM with C-SPAN TV

Barrett Tillman signs [Enterprise: America's Fightingest Ship](#) (Atria \$27)

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 22 7:00 PM

Hilary Davidson signs [The Next One to Fall](#) (Forge \$25) Lily Moore

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22 7:00 PM

Patrick DeWitt signs [The Sisters Brothers](#) (\$15)

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime Club reads Georges Simenon's classic [Dirty Snow](#) (\$15)

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25 5:00 PM

Your host: **Robert Dugoni**
Mary Anna Evans signs [Plunder](#) (Poisoned Pen \$25; \$15) Faye Longchamp
Tina Whittle signs [Darker Than Any Shadow](#) (Poisoned Pen \$25; \$15) Tai Randolph

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 28 7:00 PM

Barry Graham signs [When It All Comes Down to Dust](#) (CreateSpace \$12)

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 29 7:00 PM

Melanie Rawn signs [Touchstone](#) (Forge \$26) Glass Thorns Trilogy #1

SATURDAY MARCH 3 2:00 PM MYSTERY TEA

Frederick Ramsay signs [The Eighth Veil](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15)
Rabbi Gamliel 28 AD

MONDAY MARCH 5 7:00 PM

Josh Bazell signs [Wild Thing](#) (Little Brown \$26) Dr. Peter Brown, aka Pietro Brnwa
Deborah Coonts signs [So Damn Lucky](#) (Forge \$25) Lucky O'Toole
Lisa Lutz signs [Trail of the Spellmans](#) (SimonSchuster \$25).
Spellman Document #5

TUESDAY MARCH 6 7:00 PM

Clive Cussler and Justin Scott sign [The Thief](#) (Putnam \$28)
Isaac Bell

WEDNESDAY MARCH 7 7:00 PM

Thomas Perry signs [Poison Flower](#) (Grove \$25) Jane Whitefield

THURSDAY MARCH 8 7:00 PM

Charles Todd(s) signs [The Confession](#) (Morrow \$26) Ian Rutledge

March 12: Cara Black, Rhys Bowen, Libby Hellmann; 13: David Rosenfelt; 14: Philip Connor; 16: Randy Wayne White; 20: Alex Dryden, Olen Steinhauer; 21: Joanne Fluke; 23: CJ Box; 24: Harlan Coben; 26: Jacqueline Winspear; 27: Joe R. Lansdale, Johnny Shaw with Keith Rawson; 28: Chris Pavone

EVENT BOOKS...

Bazell, Josh. [Wild Thing](#) (Little Brown \$26 March 5). Who can forget the incredible climax of [Beat the Reaper](#) (\$15), a First Mystery Pick and our bestselling first novel of 2009? If you missed it, grab it now before Bazell returns with a wild new story for Dr. Peter Brown, also known as Pietro Brwna. Given its complexity of elements, plot, and outrage, it's easy to see why it took 3 years to write *Wild Thing*. There's no way adequately to describe the ride Bazell pitches you on from the first crunch of the lake monster up in Minnesota's wild Boundary Waters region (think Kent Krueger here on a steroid trip) to when a reclusive billionaire offers Dr. Peter Brown, aka Pietro Brwna, a job accompanying a sexy but self-destructive paleontologist on the world's worst field assignment, to the interplay of murderers, mobsters, and international criminals—not to mention the local and national politicians—that rages along. A fantastic read for an election year is a bonus. And also by lucky timing, the picture of a cruise ship doctor working in careless, even shady circumstances, ties right into the Costa disaster.

Coonts, Deborah. [So Damn Lucky](#) (Forge \$25 March 5). *Booklist* wrote of the first Lucky O'Toole case, "This is chick-lit gone wild and sexy, lightly wrapped in mystery and tied up with a brilliantly flashing neon bow.... [Wanna Get Lucky?](#) hits the proverbial jackpot." Coonts has a wonderful voice in Lucky O'Toole and a touching on-going soap in Lucky's life as it unfolds, hidden by family and by her own defenses. Her job is Head of Customer Relations at The Babylon, premier megaresort on the Vegas Strip. She works for The Big Boss, now revealed as her dad. And in her third investigation, on a night she attends a party for a cabaret she has shut down for a redo of an old casino, a magician stages Houdini's escape-under-water-in-a-box-while-tied-up trick. It goes wrong. He dies—or does he? Is this just a stunt? A stricken Lucky chases leads while struggling with fallout from the Big Boss business and an increasing estrangement from her lover Teddie, off on a pop-music tour in his own quest for success. What with a dishy chef and a plateful of suspicious players in various games, Lucky needs all her nerve, smarts, and native luck.... [Lucky Stiff](#) (\$7.99).

Crombie, Deborah. [No Mark Upon Her](#) (Morrow \$25 Feb. 8). This fantastic novel may well be my Pick for Best British mystery of the year. The focus is on Henley and racing on the river, university (e.g. Oxford) and Olympic (potential) competition, a drowned police officer who was once an Olympic rowing hopeful and is divorced from a City type-it's complicated; and more police. In fact, in its way, though written before the Murdoch scandals hit, it's a book about police politics, the old-boy network, corruption of various types. And of course about Duncan Kincaid and Gemma James who are part of the policing system and have their own footwork to do personally and professionally. Rob, who spent a school year in England and attended the Henley Regatta, recommends highly too.

Cussler, Clive/Justin Scott. [The Thief](#) (Putnam \$28 March 6). The Van Dorn Detective Agency's intrepid chief investigator, Isaac Bell rescues two European scientists with a dramatic invention from aboard the ocean liner *Mauretania*. The scientists are not so lucky the second time when one dies in an attack by two

thugs. What do they have that is so precious? Only something that will revolutionize business and popular culture...OK, and perhaps something more. For war clouds are looming, and a ruthless espionage agent has spotted a priceless opportunity to give the Germans an edge. It is up to Isaac Bell to figure out who he is, what he is up to, and stop him. But he may already be too late... Don't miss Clive's love affair with classic cars, a kind of autobiography too: [Built for Adventure](#) (Putnam \$50).

Davidson, Hilary. [The Next One to Fall](#) (Forge \$25 Feb. 22). Davidson, whose FMC Pick [The Damage Done](#) (\$7.99) won both the Anthony for Best First Novel and a finalist spot for the Arthur Ellis Award, plunges her travel writer Lily Moore, grieving for the death of her addict sister, into perils in Peru. It begins when she witnesses an odd fall down stone stairs in a nearly empty Machu Picchu.... "Lily Moore is one of the most appealing 'amateur' sleuths I've encountered in years. The vivid sense of place — Peru, in this case — is everything one would expect from a seasoned travel journalist like Hilary Davidson, the story is deliciously twisty, the characters engaging." —Laura Lippman. Davidson and I are going to have huge fun discussing the tourist experience in Peru at her event! I will beat up Rob to print some photos.

DeWitt, Patrick. [The Sisters Brothers](#) (\$15 Feb. 23). The year is 1851, the Gold Rush is on, and brothers Eli and Charlie Sisters have a job to do. Commissioned by Oregon City's influential "Commodore," the men must travel south to San Francisco to eliminate a man by the name of Hermann Kermit Warm. Initially unaware of the reasons why the Commodore wants Warm killed, these feared and crafty henchmen—the Sisters Brothers—always get the job done. Following the Sisters' adventures across Oregon, into California, and back again, readers see the sometimes comical, sometimes poignant relationship between these two men. Bloodthirsty, whiskey-loving Charlie is usually in the lead.... Winner of Canada's Governor General award. Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize. Named a Best Book of the Year by *Publishers Weekly* & the *Washington Post*. "If Cormac McCarthy had a sense of humor, he might have concocted a story like Patrick deWitt's bloody, darkly funny western." —*Los Angeles Times*. "Irresistible.... Weirdly funny, startlingly violent and steeped in sadness." —*Washington Post*

Evans, Mary Anna. [Plunder](#) (Poisoned Pen \$25 or \$15 Feb. 25). Archaeologist Faye Longchamp is desperately researching a Mississippi site before the Deepwater Horizon oil slick hits the fragile riparian landscape when she come to the rescue of a teenaged girl whose grandmother and uncle have just been murdered. Did we mention pirates? They hark back to 1812, Jean Lafitte, and earlier. What about Louisiana's draconian inheritance laws? Is there a babysitter handy? Another atmospheric entry in an award-winning series for adults and in schools. Buy the e-book of the first Faye, [Artifacts](#) (\$.99) at www.poisonedpenpress.com where you can find e-books of other PPP titles. Or the [paperback](#) (\$15).

Gardner, Lisa. [Catch Me](#) (Dutton \$27 Feb. 13). I don't know how Gardner summons up the boundless energy and the wicked twists in the plots she throws at DD Warren, Boston cop and now new mom who's trying to give up her worst self to make a

family work. But she does! Why is a young woman who survived a totally terrible childhood with an insane mom the lone survivor of a trio of best friends she developed once she was orphaned and adopted by her aunt? Every January 21 one dies. Read it and find out!

Graham, Barry. [When It All Comes Down to Dust](#) (CreateSpace \$12 Feb. 28). Laura Ponto wouldn't mind watching Frank del Rio being strapped to the executioner's gurney, even if her job is to find mitigating evidence in death penalty cases. Frank's not a client, but a long time ago he did unspeakable things to children—and Laura was one of them. Now Frank is being released on parole, and they both learn that their lives are still intertwined. Their story will end in a place even darker than it began. This shattering noir tale of suspense, sex, violence, love and death in the urban desert of Phoenix, Arizona, has been called “one of the great post-realist novels” by the French magazine *Transfuge*. It is Barry Graham's most uncompromising novel to date, and Laura Ponto is his most unforgettable protagonist. Recommended by Patrick, your host.

Jance, JA. [Left for Dead](#) (Touchstone \$26). When Santa Cruz County deputy sheriff Jose Reyes, Ali's classmate from the Arizona Police Academy, is gunned down and left to die, he is at first assumed to be an innocent victim of the drug wars escalating across the border. But the crime scene investigation shows there's much more to it than that, and soon he and his pregnant wife, Teresa, both fall under suspicion of wrongdoing. In bedside at Physicians Medical Center in Tucson, it's impossible for her to turn away. And knowing Reyes as well as she does, Ali finds it hard to believe that he's become mixed up in the drug trade, despite evidence to the contrary. Summoned to the hospital, Ali finds that her good friend, Sister Anselm, is there, too—working as a patient advocate for an unidentified young woman presumed to be an illegal border crosser, who was raped and savagely beaten. Intrepid Ali takes on both cases....

Landay, William. [Defending Jacob](#) (Delacorte \$26 Feb.4). The timing of this major release for Delacorte is amazing, coming as it does in the wake of the movie *We Need to Talk About Kevin*, based on an Orange Prize winning novel and featuring Tilda Swinton—up for an Academy Award—as the mother of a child who is inexplicably her tormentor, born bad. The mom played by Tilda seems powerless. What would you do if you had to question what kind of child was yours? Landay takes you on a real roller coaster of a ride needing seat belts. The author of First Mystery Club Pick *Mission Flats* goes a new direction with a legal thriller echoing Jodi Picoult or maybe Turow's *Presumed Innocent*.

Assistant DA Andy Barber of suburban Massachusetts is a happily married successful courtroom ace, father of a son called Jacob. Then a shocking crime occurs and, even more devastating, Jacob is charged with the murder of his fellow student. “Harrowing . . . This searing narrative proves the ancient Greek tragedians were right: the worst punishment is not death but living with what you-knowingly or unknowingly-have done.”-*Publishers Weekly* (starred review). “[Landay] reaches a new level of excellence with this riveting, knock-your-socks-off legal thriller. With its masterfully crafted characterizations and dialogue, emotional depth, and frightening implications, the novel rivals the best of Scott Turow and John Grisham. Don't miss it.”-*Booklist* (starred review). “Landay does the seemingly

impossible by coming up with a new wrinkle in the crowded subgenre of courtroom thrillers....it's inevitable that he'll be compared to Scott Turow, but this novel succeeds on its own merits.”-*Kirkus Reviews*

Lutz, Lisa. [Trail of the Spellmans](#) (Simon Schuster \$25 March 5). Isabel Spellman, PI, might be the most normal member of her family. Mom has taken on an outrageous assortment of extracurricular activities (yoga, crafts) with no apparent motive. Dad has a secret. Izzy's brother and sister are at war for no apparent reason. And her niece keeps saying “banana” even though she hates bananas. Plus Izzy isn't without her own troubles. Her boyfriend, Henry Stone, keeps wanting “to talk,” a prospect Isabel evades by going out with her new drinking buddy: a robust elder, who is none other than Gertrude Stone, Henry's mother. Things aren't any simpler on the business side of Spellman Investigations. Rae has been hired to follow a girl, only to fake the surveillance reports. Then a math professor hires Izzy to watch his immaculate apartment while he unravels like a bad formula. Despite her exceptional skills at denial, Izzy needs to be a responsible lead private eye....

Perry, Thomas. [Poison Flower](#) (Grove \$24 March 7). The 7th Jane Whitefield opens as the skilled Seneca spirits James Shelby, a man unjustly convicted of his wife's murder, out of the heavily guarded criminal court building in downtown Los Angeles. But the price of Shelby's freedom is high. Within minutes, men posing as police officers kidnap Jane and, when she tries to escape, shoot her. Jane's captors are employees of the man who really killed Shelby's wife. He believes he won't be safe until Shelby is dead, and his men will do anything to force Jane to reveal Shelby's hiding place. But Jane will do anything to keep it secret.... Perry has just been nominated for the 2012 Hammett Prize for [The Informant](#) (\$27 Signed), an update to [The Butcher's Boy](#) (\$15), his Edgar-winning debut.

Ramsay, Frederick. [The Eighth Veil](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.95 March 3). Dana Stabenow reviews: “It's Jerusalem, 26 AD. A serving girl in Herod Antiphas' palace has been raped and murdered. The local Roman prefect, one Pontius Pilate, summons Gamaliel the Elder to squelch this scandal before it makes Rome's hand-picked satrap look bad. Or, let us say, any worse than Herod and his promiscuous, fratricidal family have made themselves look already. Gamaliel, chief rabbi of the Sanhedrin, does his level best to refuse the call to adventure, but Pilate is insistent. He bestows his ring on Gamaliel as a symbol of the Prefect's absolute authority and charges him with the task of either finding the girl's murderer, or, even better, a reasonable facsimile thereof so the girl and her story can be buried and forgotten. Gamaliel, unfortunately for him, has the habit of honesty...” I, Barbara, add that I am so mad for Gamaliel and the wonderful history behind this mystery that I have persuaded Ramsay to expand to a trilogy! *The Eighth Veil* is our History Paperback Pick for February.

Explore this era with Ramsay in his earlier fiction, [Judas: The Gospel of Betrayal](#) (\$15). Boy Judas Iscariot struggles to understand his mother's god. Despairing, he becomes a survivor in the streets of the first century Roman empire. Later, determined to avenge the wrongs committed against his mother and sister, he returns to join the rebels led by Barabbas, only to be betrayed again. Broken, he is brought to the Zealots at Qumran and eventually to the Rabbi Jesus. During this journey

he discovers God and is baptized into messianic anticipation. His enthusiasm for revolution leads him to out-guess God. He proceeds down a path that will result in a difficult and fateful choice. “If there’s any complaint to be made about the book, it’s that it’s too short, especially at the end, where readers will want to hear more about the familiar cast of characters. Ramsay’s observations about the roles of women in biblical society make the novel a good choice for book clubs.” –*Booklist*

Rawn, Melanie. [Touchstone](#) (Forge \$28 Feb. 29). Why not spend the extra Leap Year day with a fantasy author? Three-time Locus Award nominee Rawn, who resides near Phoenix, returns to her roots with this start of the Glass Thorns trilogy. Cayden Silversun is part Elven, part Fae, part human Wizard—and all rebel. His aristocratic mother would have him follow his father to the Royal Court, to make a high society living off the scraps of kings. But Cade lives and breathes for the theater, and he’s good—very, very good. With his company, he’ll enter the highest reaches of society and power, as an honored artist—or die trying. Cade combines the talents of Merlin, Shakespeare, and John Lennon: a wholly charming character in a remarkably original fantasy world. What fun!

Raybourn, Deanna. [The Dark Enquiry](#) (Mira \$15 Feb. 16). Partners now in marriage and in trade, Lady Julia and Nicholas Brisbane have finally returned from abroad to set up housekeeping in London. But merging their respective collections of gadgets, pets and servants leaves little room for the harried newlyweds themselves, let alone Brisbane’s private enquiry business. Among the more unlikely clients: Julia’s very proper brother, Lord Bellmont, who swears Brisbane to secrecy about his case. Not about to be left out of anything concerning her beloved—if eccentric—family, spirited Julia soon picks up the trail of the investigation. Rescheduled from Nov., Raybourn joins pal Willig in an evening celebrating romantic suspense and historicals with champagne, chocolate, and glee. The Lady Julia Grey series, of which this is the latest, is ideal for readers of Tasha Alexander, Willig, and the legendary Victoria Holt.

Stabenow, Dana. [Restless in the Grave](#) (St Martins \$26 Feb. 11). In Kate #19 Dana teams up two of her most beloved characters, Aleut private investigator Kate Shugak and Alaska state trooper Liam Campbell, in the same story for the first time. Alaska aviation entrepreneur Finn Grant died in the fiery crash of his Piper Super Cub. Someone sabotaged his engine, and virtually everyone in southwestern Alaska has a motive, including his betrayed wife, his bullied children, and Liam’s wife, bush pilot Wyanet Chouinard. With few places to turn, Liam asks his former mentor Niniltna post commander Sergeant Jim Chopin, for help, and Jim quickly brings Kate onto the case. Working undercover as-of all things—a waitress at Bill’s Bar and Grill, Kate learns over beer and burgers that Grant’s business had expanded meteorically over the last two years. After buying the closed Air Force base south of town from the federal government at a bargain-basement price, he became a fixed-base operator running his fishing, hunting, and flight-seeing business, servicing planes flying through the area, and most interestingly and lucratively, getting into the air freight business. But what kind of freight was he moving, and where?

Tillman, Barrett. [Enterprise: America’s Fightingest Ship](#) (Atria \$27 Feb. 18). America’s most decorated warship, *Enterprise* was

constantly engaged against the Japanese Empire from December 1941 until May 1945. Pearl Harbor; Midway; Guadalcanal; Leyte Gulf; Iwo Jima; Okinawa, 20 battles in all. Her career was eventful, vital, and short. She was commissioned in 1938, and her bombers sank a submarine just three days after the Pearl Harbor attack, claiming the first seagoing Japanese vessel lost in the war. It was the auspicious beginning of an odyssey that Tillman captures brilliantly, from escorting sister carrier *Hornet* as it launched the Doolittle Raiders against Tokyo in 1942, to playing leading roles in the pivotal battles of Midway and Guadalcanal, to undergoing the shattering nightmare of kamikaze strikes just three months before the end of the war. C-SPAN, book TV, joins us to film Tillman’s event during which we’ll also speak another of his award-winning military fictions, [Whirlwind: The Air War Against Japan](#) (\$16).

Todd, Charles. [The Confession](#) (Morrow \$25 in stock Signed March 8). Inspector Ian Rutledge, he of the shell-shock syndrome instilled by WWI’s trench warfare, receives a man at the Yard. The man claims to be dying and has come to clear his conscience by revealing he killed his cousin five years ago in wartime. No body, no evidence...and soon, no killer, for the man is found in the Thames two weeks later. Not drowned, but dead from a bullet in the back of the head. With little to go on, Rutledge focuses on a link to a remote village in Essex quite near an estuary, and an isolated family manse. The murdered confessor proves not to be whom he claims, the villagers cold-shoulder Rutledge, and back at the Yard, where Rutledge’s evil supervisor is sidelined by sudden illness, there’s no support for the investigation. In fact they think he has other, better things to do. And then... A nifty plot. And interestingly, little is heard from Hamish.

Whittle, Tina. [Darker Than Any Shadow](#) (Poisoned Pen \$25 Feb. 25). The sequel to multi-starred review [The Dangerous Edge of Things](#) (\$15). The *PW* review: “Money under the mattress, a kitchen full of knives and a bathroom littered with a corpse. Is this any way to run a poetry slam? Gearing up for the Performance Poetry Internationals, Atlanta’s Spoken Word Poetry team decides to oust Lex, reinstate Vigil and debut Rico as their newest member at a splashy dinner event. Rico, however, is scared Vigil will come after him, gun blazing, over a slight misunderstanding involving a switchblade and a run-in with cops. So he asks his best friend Tai’s boyfriend Trey, former cop and SWAT stalwart now rehabbing from a car accident that rearranged his right frontal lobe and rewired him into a human lie detector, to keep an eye open for trouble. Tai, who’s been immersed in trouble ever since inheriting her uncle’s gun shop, tags along to the party, only to overhear a threat about missing money, then getting soaked to her undies by a faulty sprinkler system, and worst of all, discovering Lex dead on the floor of the bathroom. Naturally, Tai, who has the gumption and nosiness of Stephanie Plum, snoops enough to unearth blackmail, suspiciously placed clues, many mentions of a snake and the second dead body she’s come across in a week... A must-read if you dote on romance with a touch of wry and mystery.” Actually the challenges faced daily by Trey animate the series.

Willig, Lauren. [The Garden Intrigue](#) (Dutton \$26 Feb. 16). We’re still in Paris in this 9th Pink Carnation adventure. Secret agent Augustus Whittlesby has spent a decade undercover in France, posing as an insufferably bad poet. The French surveillance

officers are too pained to notice the information cached in his flood of bad verse. Widowed Emma Morris Delagardie is a thorn in Augustus' side. An old school friend of Napoleon's stepdaughter, the New Yorker came to France with her uncle, the American envoy; eloped with a Frenchman; and has been rattling around the salons of Paris ever since. As Napoleon pursues his plans for the invasion of England, Whittlesby hears of a top-secret device to be demonstrated at a house party at Malmaison. The catch? The only way in is with Emma, who has been asked to write a masque for the weekend's entertainment. Emma is at a crossroads: return home? Stay in Paris? Maybe this writing assignment will help her decide, even if she has to put up with the poet. Meanwhile this dilemma is mirrored by that of graduate student/researcher Eloise Kelly who must either return to Boston/Harvard in pursuit of her academic career or stay on in England with her lover and his family (descendants of the Pink Carnation)—doing what?

2012 EDGAR NOMINEES

Best Novel

Atkins, Ace. [The Ranger](#) (\$26)

Hayder, Mo. [Gone](#) (\$14)

Higashino, Keigo. [The Devotion of Suspect X](#) (\$25)

Holt, Anne. [1222](#) (\$25)

Kerr, Philip. [Field Gray](#) (\$15)

Best First Novel by an American

Conlon, Edward. [Red on Red](#) (\$26). Hardboiled Club Pick

Duffy, David. [Last to Fold](#) (\$26)

Rosen, Leonard. *All Cry Chaos* (o/s). First Mystery Pick

Roy, Lori. [Bent Road](#) (\$15)

Ulfelder, Steve. [Purgatory Chasm](#) (\$26 Signed), FMC Pick

Best Paperback Original

Bennett, Robert Jackson. [The Company Man](#) (\$14)

Grindle, Lucia. [The Faces of Angels](#) (\$15)

Hill, Russell. [The Dog Sox](#) (\$16)

Stanley, Michael. [Death of the Mantis](#) (\$15)

Tallis, Frank. [Vienna Twilight](#) (\$15)

To view the whole list: <http://mysterywriters.org/?q=Edgars-Winners>

Congratulations to Nominees Diana Gabaldon for her story in [Down These Strange Streets](#) (\$27) Signed by Gabaldon and to Neil Gaiman for his in [A Study in Sherlock](#) (\$30), Signed by Gaiman.

2012 HAMMETT PRIZE NOMINEES

James Lee Burke, [Feast Day of Fools](#) (\$29 Signed)

Sara Gran, [Claire DeWitt and the City of the Dead](#) (\$25 Signed)

Michael Ondaatje, [The Cat's Table](#) (\$28 Signed)

Thomas Perry, [The Informant](#) (\$27 Signed)

James Sallis, [The Killer Is Dying](#) (\$24 Signed)

IN MEMORIUM

Dorothy Gilman, a writer whose best-known heroine, Mrs. Pollifax, is very likely the only spy in literature to belong simultaneously to the Central Intelligence Agency and the local garden club, died on Thursday at her home in Rye Brook, N.Y. She was 88. Mrs. Pollifax, with her peril and petunias, made an irresistible, early feminist heroine. Two films starred Rosalind Russell and Angela Lansbury. Gilman was named its 2010 Grand Master by the MWA (Mystery Writers of America).

A BONANZA FROM BRITAIN

Beaton, MC. [Death of a Kingfisher](#) (Grand Central \$25). When Scotland is hit by the recession, Police Constable Hamish Macbeth notices that the Highland people are forced to come up with inventive ways to lure tourists to their sleepy towns. The quaint village of Braikie doesn't have much to offer, other than a place of rare beauty called Buchan's Wood, which was bequeathed to the town. The savvy local tourist director renames the woods "The Fairy Glen," and has brochures printed with a beautiful photograph of a kingfisher rising from a pond on the cover. It isn't long before coach tours begin to arrive. But just as the town's luck starts to turn, a kingfisher is found hanging from a branch in the woods with a noose around its neck. As a wave of vandalism threatens to ruin Braikie forever, the town turns to Hamish Macbeth.

Brody, Frances. [Dying in the Wool](#) (St Martins \$25). Our February British Crime Club Pick introduces 31-year-old war widow Kate Shackleton. It's 1922 and, still stunned by the loss (he's missing) of her surgeon husband, she's financially secure and socially rebellious, and keeping busy undertaking investigations for women seeking answers to mostly domestic issues. One April morning she cycles to Bridgestead. The village is a peaceful spot: a babbling brook, rolling hills, with a working mill at its heart. Pretty and remote. And now the Master of the Mill Joshua Braithwaite is mysteriously missing. Joshua's daughter is getting married and wants one last attempt made to find her father for the wedding. Has he run off with his mistress, suffered a medical incident, or has he been murdered? Kate finds the lives of the villagers and of the Braithwaite family hard nuts to crack. Funny and sad, the story's forthright voices and blunt views hooked me.

Christie, Agatha. [Come Tell Me How You Live](#) (Collins \$13). My favorite Christie is not a novel but a memoir of her courtship and life (not to the bitter end which turns out wasn't the idyll one hoped for her) with her marriage to archaeologist Max Mallowan, and the writing of many of her most famous mysteries—some on location, several in the Middle East. Also reissued: [Death Comes As the End](#), set in 2000 BC Egypt, where the concubine to a priest is murdered; [Destination Unknown](#) which includes Casablanca; [Why Didn't They Ask Evans](#) (Harper \$13 each), a cliff-side murder in England.

Carr, John Dickson. [Hag's Nook](#) (Rue Morgue \$15). Martin Starberth stands to inherit his family's estate provided he can fulfill a certain condition. Part of the estate is an old prison where the Starberths had been wardens for generations. From a balcony off the Governor's Room, Starberth wardens watched countless men be hanged from the Hag's Nook gallows, their lifeless bodies dropping to a deep well below. A cholera epidemic wiped out the prison population decades earlier but a curse seems to have settled upon the Starberth family with several heirs meeting their death via a broken neck. To inherit the estate, each prospective heir must spend the night of his 25th birthday locked in that warden's room, hopefully escaping the curse. But when Martin's body is found battered, his neck broken, beneath the balcony, it seems that the curse has once again claimed a victim. Dr. Gideon Fell, a splendid figure in his slouch cap and cape, supported by two canes, suspects murder instead, even though he and several others had the room under observation at the time

of the death. First published in 1933, this is the first of 23 novels that would feature Dr. Fell, perhaps the most accomplished solver of locked room and impossible crime mysteries in the history of the genre.

Carr also wrote as Carter Dickson. Now reissued: [The Peacock Feather Murders](#) (Rue Morgue \$15). “There will be ten teacups at Number 4, Berwick Terrace, W. 8, on Wednesday, July 31, at 5 p.m. precisely. The presence of the metropolitan police is respectfully requested.” So goes the note received by Chief Inspector Humphrey Masters from the murderer. It’s the exact same situation that Scotland Yard faced two years earlier when William Morris Dartley was murdered. The killer escaped justice then. Now the police are out in force, eyes on every door, and yet once again the killer strikes and succeeds. Unfortunately for the killer, when he’s faced with an impossible crime, Inspector Masters turns to old friend Sir Henry Merrivale, the man who can always find the key to any locked room. Six people could have killed Vance Keating but motive alone won’t send the killer to the gallows. If H.M. can’t figure out how it was done, the who in this classic Golden Age whodunit from 1937 will go free.

Dunn, Carola. [Anthem for Doomed Youth](#) (\$15). In Spring of 1926, the corpses of three men are found in shallow graves in Epping Forest outside of London. Each one was shot through the heart. Called in to investigate, DCI Alec Fletcher of Scotland Yard is under urgent orders to accomplish two things: solve the murders quickly, and keep his wife, the Honorable Daisy Dalrymple Fletcher, far, far away from the case! Luckily for Alec, Daisy is off visiting their daughter at school. But when one of the school’s teachers is found dead, the body in the center of a maze, Daisy is, presto, swept into the thick of a case rooted back in WWI.

Eccles, Marjorie. [Cuckoo’s Child](#) (\$16). Yorkshire, 1909. When Laura Harcourt accepts a position in Wainthorpe, home to a prosperous wool mill and its respected owner, Ainsley Beaumont, she does not dream that it will change her life forever. But the Beaumonts have secrets, secrets that DI Charlie Womersely, investigating a body found floating in the mill dam, must uncover if he is to find the truth.

Edwards, Martin, ed. [Guilty Consciences](#) (\$16). A collection of short stories from the Crime Writers’ Association delves deep into secret shames. From convicted killers to experts in victimology, the characters in these eclectic tales cannot fail to bring out the guilty consciences in us all. Includes one by the late and much missed HRF Keating.

Ellis, Kate. [Kissing the Demons](#) (\$16). Thirteen Torland Place is a house with a disturbing past. After a student living there is found murdered, DI Joe Plantagenet wonders whether her death has anything to do with its grim history.

Gallagher, Stephen. [The Bedlam Detective](#) (Crown \$26). Set in England in 1912, this masterful whodunit introduces Sebastian Becker, a former policeman and Pinkerton agent who now works as the special investigator to the Masters of Lunacy, looking into cases involving any “man of property” whose sanity is under question. Who knew there could be such a position? His latest assignment takes him to the small town of Arnmouth to determine whether Sir Owain Lancaster is sane enough to manage his affairs. A pair of terrible deaths, years apart, cloud the picture. Lancaster returned from a disastrous trip to the

Amazon, which claimed the life of his wife and son, only to attribute the catastrophe to mysterious animals straight out of Doyle’s *The Lost World*. Lancaster believes that the creatures that plagued him in South America have followed him home, and are responsible for the deaths, a theory supported by a local legend of a beast of the moor. As events beset Becker and others in London and Arnmouth, readers will realize that nothing is as crazy it appears—and could be worse.

Grant, Barry. [Sherlock Holmes and the Swedish Enigma](#) (Severn \$28). A corpse in a sarcophagus, a headless macaw, and a stolen slice of Black Forest gateau alert Sherlock Holmes to a macabre international crime in progress, and lead him through London’s backstreets to the gloomy moors of Cornwall. People vanish, Greek statues vanish. Even Holmes vanishes – to the distress of his companion, James Wilson, whose emails and text messages go unanswered. But Holmes is in top form, fully recovered from his journey through ice to the twenty-first century and ready to reveal a multitude of secrets...

Gregson, J M. [Merely Players](#) (\$16). Adam Cassidy plays the lead role in a successful TV detective show. It is now his time for a crack at Hollywood and he doesn’t care who he has to betray in order to fulfill his dream. Meanwhile, DCI Percy Peach is in danger of being drawn into the local antiterrorism initiative in this latest procedural from Gregson.

Guttridge, Peter. [The Last King of Brighton](#) (\$16). Brighton, a genteel, fashionable Regency resort has become a focus for hardboiled British crime this century. Peter James. And here. man impaled on the South Downs. Another skinned alive. A skeleton found beneath the West Pier, its feet encased in concrete. Brighton has been invaded. But this is no mere power struggle between rival mobsters; the motives for the killings stretch back through the decades, to an explosive forty-year-old secret Brighton’s crime king John Hathaway would rather forget. But someone else remembers – and that someone has decided that revenge is a dish best served cold...

Hannah, Sophie. [Kind of Cruel Signed](#) (Hodder \$32). When Amber Hewerdine consults a hypnotherapist as a desperate last resort, she doesn’t expect that anything much will change. She doesn’t expect it to help with her chronic insomnia ...She doesn’t expect to hear herself, under hypnosis, saying words that mean nothing to her: ‘Kind, cruel, kind of cruel’ - words she has seen somewhere before, if only she could remember where ...She doesn’t expect to be arrested two hours later, as a result of having spoken those words out loud, in connection with the brutal murder of Katharine Allen, a woman she’s never heard of ... For those who demand emotional intelligence and literary verve from their thrillers, Sophie Hannah is the writer of choice.’ –*Guardian*

Harrison, Rosina. [Rose: My Life in Service to Lady Astor](#) (\$15). Addicted to *Downton Abbey*? In 1928, Harrison arrived at the illustrious household of the Astor family to take up her new position as personal maid to the infamously unconventional Lady Astor, who sat in Parliament, entertained royalty, and traveled the world. Here’s a real-life account of life Downstairs.

Hayder, Mo. [Hanging Hill](#) (Atlantic \$25). One morning in picture-perfect Bath, England, a teenage girl’s body is found on the towpath of a canal. Lorne Wood—beautiful, popular, and apparently the victim of a brutal murder. Why was she on the

towpath late at night alone? Zoe Benedict—Harley-riding police detective, independent to a fault—is convinced the department head needs to look beyond the usual domestic motives to solve the case. Meanwhile Zoe’s sister Sally—recently divorced and supporting a daughter who was friends with the dead girl—has begun working as a housekeeper for a rich entrepreneur who quickly begins to seem less eccentric than repugnant, and possibly dangerous. When Zoe’s investigation uncovers evidence that Lorne’s attempts to break into modeling had delivered her into the world of webcam porn, a crippling secret from Zoe’s past seems determined to emerge. Hayder has shifted from Bristol to Bath here, Peter Lovesey territory but darker.

In [Gone](#) (\$14), Bristol’s Detective Jack Caffery’s newest case seems like a routine carjacking, a crime he’s seen plenty of times before until he realizes the sickening truth: the thief wasn’t after the car, but the 11-year-old girl in the backseat. Meanwhile police diver Sergeant Flea Marley is pursuing her own theory of the case, and what she finds in an abandoned, half-submerged tunnel could put her in grave danger. The carjacker is always a step ahead of the Major Crime Investigation Unit, and as the chances for his victims grow slimmer, Jack and Flea race to fit the pieces together in time.

Heald, Tim. [Death in the Opening Chapter](#) (\$16). On the eve of the Flanagan Fludd Literary Festival, the Reverend Sebastian Fludd is discovered swinging from the end of a rope. While Sebastian’s cousin, Sir Branwell Fludd, is keen to wrap up the affair, Branwell’s friend, Sir Simon Bognor, is more concerned to get to the truth. The Bognors are more Wodehouse than wicked.

Heley, Veronica. [False Money](#) (\$16). Bea Abbot runs a domestic agency that does not do murder. But the disappearance of Tomi, the star of an award-winning short film, is a different matter, especially when charming but feckless Chris bribes Bea to investigate with a bouquet of flowers.

Helton, Peter. [Four Below](#) (Soho \$25). Heavy snow, and it’s still only November. DI McLusky has settled into his new job in Bristol but the severe weather shows an unfamiliar side to the city. After the conviction of a drug baron earlier in the year a new kingpin makes the city a drug hub. But how secure does he feel? A series of seemingly unconnected murders, accidents and dying drug users, investigated by McLusky and his team, slowly reveal the web of violence that spreads across the city. Narrow strips of a cut-up photograph arriving piecemeal at the *Bristol Herald’s* office may hold vital clues, but will the completed puzzle reach McLusky in time to prevent more deaths? Also taking surprise turns, the private lives of both McLusky and his rival, DI Kat Fairfield make the atmosphere at Albany Road station, already considerably cooled by the failed heating, icier still.

Ison, Graham. [Hardcastle’s Obsession](#) (\$16). September 1916. A Zeppelin with a deadly payload is aimed at Victoria station, but when the bombs miss their mark and instead destroy a nearby house in Washbourne Street, mystery ensues for DI Hardcastle. The body of a woman is discovered, who was not only unknown to the tenants of the building but also appears to have died before the bombs were even dropped....

Kelly, Erin. [The Dark Rose](#) (Viking \$27). Paul was led into a life of crime by his boyhood protector, a bully named Daniel; but one night, what started as a petty theft turned into a grisly murder. Now, at nineteen, Paul must bear witness against his friend to

avoid prison. Louisa’s own dark secrets led her to flee a desperate infatuation gone wrong many years before. Now she spends her days steeped in history, renovating the grounds of a crumbling Elizabethan garden. But her fragile peace is shattered when she meets Paul; he’s the spitting image of the one person she never thought she’d see again. These two, scarred and solitary, begin a secret affair. Louisa starts to believe she can again find the happiness she had given up on. But neither of them can outrun his violent past in a story of secrets and guilt set among the ruins of a sixteenth-century English garden. Kelly began with [The Poison Tree](#) (\$16).

McCarthy, Keith. [Nor All Your Tears](#) (Severn \$29). July, 1977. Lance Elliott’s eccentric father, the retired Dr. Benjamin Elliott, has been running a Horticultural Club at a local school in an effort to impress his lady friend, Ada Clarke, who works there. Lance and his girlfriend Max turn up for the parents’ evening to show their support for Benjamin’s efforts, only to find themselves caught up in a local killing spree. Dark suspense characterizes McCarthy’s psychologically acute thrillers.

Moyes, Patricia. [Dead Men Don’t Ski](#) (Rue Morgue \$15). Emmy and Chief Inspector Henry Tibbett are at a small resort in the Italian Tyrol for a spot of skiing and to look into a little matter of interest to Interpol. The “most hated man in Europe” is Fritz Hauser, a fat, odious little man who is a frequent visitor to the lodge, although he does not ski. Yet he is discovered high above the village in the ski chair-lift, the longest in Europe, with a bullet through his heart. Just about all the guests at the resort had motives including a group of youngish Brits, the blustery Col. Buckfast and his ever complaining wife, a lovely but unhappy Baroness, her husband, a dark, young sculptor from Rome, and a German nanny. Even the staff is not beyond suspicion. An Italian policeman is in charge and he does a marvelous job of compiling timetables but it’s up to Henry, what he calls his “nose,” that finally reveals whodunit. Published in 1959, this would be the first of 19 books in which the Tibbetts solve crimes in various locales around the globe. As Katherine Hall Page says in her introduction, Moyes worked in the grand tradition of the Golden Age detective novel and wrote some of *My Mother’s* and my all-time favorite British mysteries.

Myers, Amy. [Classic in the Barn](#) (\$16). A case for Jack Colby, Car Detective—the first in a new mystery series featuring classic cars.

Robinson, Peter. [Before the Poison](#) (Morrow \$26). A splendid standalone fiction from Robinson now in US edition. Chris Lowndes built a comfortable career composing scores for films in Hollywood. But after 25 years abroad, and still quietly reeling from the death of his beloved wife, he decides to return to the Yorkshire dales of his youth. To ease the move, he buys Kilnsgate House, a rambling old mansion deep in the country. Although Chris finds Kilnsgate charming, something about the house disturbs him, a vague sensation that the long-empty rooms have been waiting for him—feelings made ever stronger when he learns that the house was the scene of a murder more than fifty years before. The former owner, a prominent doctor named Ernest Arthur Fox, was supposedly poisoned by his beautiful and much younger wife, Grace. Arrested and brought to trial, Grace was found guilty and hanged for the crime. His curiosity piqued, Chris talks to the locals and searches through archives

for information about the case. But the more he discovers, the more convinced he becomes that Grace may have been innocent. Ignoring warnings to leave it alone, he sets out to discover what really happened over half a century ago, inevitably finding repercussions in the present. A touch of *Laura* here, and marvelous atmosphere. We still have 4 Signed UK firsts (\$43).

Robotham, Michael. [Bleed for Me](#) (Mortalis \$26). A teenage girl—Sienna, a troubled friend of his daughter—comes to psychologist Joe O’Loughlin door one night, covered in blood. The police find Sienna’s father, a celebrated former cop, murdered. Tests confirm that it’s his blood on Sienna. She says she remembers nothing. Investigators take aim at Sienna. Joe senses something deeper is going on in this probing thriller. Joe’s previous case is [Shatter](#) (\$15) where we find him standing on a bridge high above a flooded gorge, trying to stop a distraught woman from jumping. “You don’t understand,” she whispers, and lets go. Joe is haunted by his failure to save the woman, until her teenage daughter finds him and reveals that her mother would never have committed suicide—not like that. She was terrified of heights.

Seymour, Gerald. [Timebomb](#) (Overlook \$26). In 1992, after being fired from a top secret nuclear facility, a KGB operative buried a nuclear suitcase—a dirty bomb. Oops, a whole operation is very likely to be thrown into jeopardy....

Stacey, Lyndon. [No Holds Barred](#) (Severn \$29). When Cartmoor’s ex-police dog handler Daniel Whelan is asked by his former boss to help a friend who is struggling to run her husband’s haulage company while he is recovering from a vicious attack, he and his German shepherd, Taz, rapidly find themselves attracting the wrong sort of attention.

Taylor, Craig. [Londoners: The Days and Nights of London](#) (Harper \$29.99). In the grand style of Studs Terkel and Dave Isay, an epic oral original portrait of today’s city in all its breadth, from Notting Hill to Brixton, from Piccadilly Circus to Canary Wharf, from an airliner flying into London Heathrow Airport to Big Ben and Tower Bridge, and down to the deepest tunnels of the London Underground. A good read for this year’s Olympics host where the Queen’s 60th Jubilee is also slated with great ceremony, some of it on the Thames.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Bates, Quentin. [Cold Comfort](#) (Soho \$25). Officer Gunnhildur, recently promoted from her post in rural Iceland to Reykjavik’s Serious Crime Unit, is tasked with hunting down escaped convict Long Ommi, who has embarked on a spree of violent score-settling in and around the city. Meanwhile, she’s also investigating the murder of a fitness guru in her own city-center apartment. As Gunna delves into the cases, she unearths some unwelcome secrets and influential friends shared by both guru and convict. Set in an Iceland plagued by an ongoing financial crisis, Gunna has to take stock of the whirlwind changes that have swept through the country—and the fact that at the highest levels of power, the system’s endemic corruption still leads, inevitably, to murder. Start Officer Gunna’s career with [Frozen Assets](#) (\$14). A body is found floating in the harbor of a rural Icelandic fishing village. Was it an accident, or something more sinister? It’s up to Officer Gunnhildur, a sardonic female cop, to find out. Her investigation uncovers a web of corruption connected to Iceland’s business and banking communities.

Meanwhile, a rookie crime journalist latches onto her, looking for a scoop, and an anonymous blogger is stirring up trouble. Bates provides a piercing look at the endemic corruption that led to the global financial crisis that bankrupted Iceland’s major banks and sent the country into an economic tailspin from which it has yet to recover.

Benoit, Charles. [Relative Danger](#) (\$15). A reissue of a 2005 Edgar Nominee for Best First Novel earned this Starred Review from PW: “Benoit’s smashingly good, action-packed first novel leads Douglas Pearce, a young brewery worker from Pottstown, Pa., on a quest for information about his long-dead uncle that takes him from Toronto to Casablanca, Cairo, Bahrain and Singapore, before returning him to Toronto. He gets on the trail of a huge stolen gem, and along the way finds rascals, thugs, thieves and vamps among the archeology scholars, ex-museum directors and encyclopedia publishers who appear to be his guides. With much wit and invention, Benoit convincingly portrays the Middle East. A hilarious account of chaos in the Cairo airport reads like an updated scene from Mark Twain’s *Innocents Abroad*. Benoit adroitly contrasts the modern features of North Africa and Asia with the remnants of their ancient pasts. Two murderous chases through urban and rural Egypt build to a resolution that remains well concealed until the final pages. Some readers may find the sex scenes too brief and a bit strange, but this is a quibble. Benoit is a rare discovery, and one hopes that he plans to produce more adventure-oriented mysteries with the same skill and energy that propel this excellent debut.’ Think of a kind of soft-boiled Donald E. Westlake caper.

Benoit then turned to India and its railroads for [Out of Order](#) (\$15) and a nail-biting thriller of Southeast Asia in [Noble Lies](#) (15) before turning to writing for Young Adults. *Noble Lies* earned him another *PW* Starred Review: “Benoit is at the top of his game in his witty third novel as he once again explores the travails of Americans abroad. Mark Rohr, a first Gulf War veteran now bouncing for a bar in the coastal resort of Phuket, Thailand, is a natural action hero. The damsel in distress is the pretty, blonde and very American Robin Antonucci, who offers Mark \$5,000 to help her locate her brother, Shawn Keller, missing since the mighty tsunami inundated Phuket. Naturally, nothing and no one is exactly what it seems as Mark and Robin, linked by mutual distrust and different needs, visit dives and diving shops, deal with gangsters and pirates and manage to stir up trouble everywhere they look. Benoit’s good guys have their faults and the bad guys have surprising virtues, leaving room for lots of unusual twists and turns. The lovingly rendered exotic locale is the perfect setting for this rough and rollicking story of adventure and romance.”

Black, Cara. [Murder at the Lanterne Rouge Signed](#) (Soho \$25 March 12). The Indie Next Pick: “This is a whirlwind mystery featuring Aimee Leduc of the Leduc Detective Agency. The agency specialized in computer security, but Aimee always stumbles onto murders, and in this case she must find the murderer because her partner Rene’s girlfriend is the main suspect. Black expertly weaves the social issues of Chinese sweatshops and illegal immigrants with current science and computer technology, 14th century Templars and guilds, and the local police and French secret service. The murder is only one of the mysteries in this investigation that will delightfully transport you to Paris.”

Eastland, Sam. [Archive 17 Signed](#) (Random \$27). Inspector Pekkala is sent back to the Siberian gulag of Borodok—a hellish fortress where he was once a prisoner—in order to suss out the location of Tsar Nicholas II’s missing gold. Very cool.

Kent, Graeme. [One Blood](#) (Soho \$25). I am crazy about [Devil-Devil](#) (\$14), introducing the Solomon Islands and policeman Ben Kella to mystery fans. In his second case, Kella has his hands full. A sergeant in the Solomon Islands Police Force, as well as an *aofia*, a hereditary spiritual peacekeeper of the Lau people, he’s called to investigate acts of sabotage that threaten the local operations of a powerful international logging company. Meanwhile, Sister Conchita, a young nun with a flair for detection, has been forced to assume command of a run-down mission in the lush Western District of the Solomon Islands. When an American tourist is murdered in the mission church, she and Kella join forces to uncover the links between these goings-on and a sudden upsurge of interest in John F. Kennedy, who was once a wartime U.S. naval officer in the area but now, in 1960, thousands of miles away, about to become the 35th American President....

Kerr, Philip. [Field Gray](#) (\$16). This 7th case for Berlin’s Bernie Gunther is up for a 2012 Edgar. It is 1954 and Bernie is in Cuba. Tiring of his increasingly dangerous work spying on Meyer Lansky, Bernie acquires a boat and a beautiful companion and quits the island. But the US Navy has other ideas, and soon he finds himself in a place with which he is all too familiar: a prison cell. After exhaustive questioning, he is flown back to Berlin and yet another cell with a proposition: work for French intelligence or hang for murder. The job is simple: he is to meet and greet POWs returning to Germany and to look out for one in particular, a French war criminal and member of the French SS who has been posing as a German Wehrmacht officer. The French are anxious to catch up with this man and deal with him in their own ruthless way. But Bernie’s past as a German POW in Russia is about to catch up with him... Set in Cuba, a Soviet POW camp, Paris and Berlin, and ranging over a period of twenty years from the Thirties to the Fifties. Kerr joins us in April to sign [Prague Fatale](#) (Putnam \$27).

Knox, Tom. [The Lost Goddess](#) (Viking \$27). Turns out my January Pick for the Fresh Fiction Club publishes in February. It’s a superb thriller that begins in an archaeological dig in rural France and transports us to the killing fields of the Khmer Rouge and into Thailand. Just amazing.

Lapidus, Jens. [Easy Money](#) (Pantheon \$26). From a Swedish defense lawyer, a look at Stockholm’s underworld, told from the perspective of the mob bosses, the patsies, and the thugs who help operate its twisted justice system. JW is a student having trouble keeping up appearances in the rich party crowd he has involved himself with. He’s desperate for money, and when he’s offered a job dealing drugs to the very crowd he’s vying for a place in, he accepts it. Meanwhile, Jorge, a young Latino drug dealer, has just broken out of jail and is itching for revenge. When JW’s supplier gets wind of Jorge’s escape, he suggests JW track him down and attempt to win his trust in order to cover more area in the drug circuit. But JW’s not the only one on Jorge’s trail...

Larsson, Stieg. [The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet’s Nest](#) (\$16). In the concluding volume of Larsson’s Millennium trilogy, Lisbeth Salander lies in critical condition in a Swedish hospital, a bullet in her head. But she’s fighting for her life in more ways than one: if and when she recovers, she’ll stand trial for three murders. With the help of Mikael Blomkvist, she’ll need to identify those in authority who have allowed the vulnerable, like herself, to suffer abuse and violence. And, on her own, she’ll seek revenge—against the man who tried to kill her and against the corrupt government institutions that nearly destroyed her life.

Lackberg, Camilla. [The Preacher](#) (Free Press \$15). How one wishes the US would catch up with Swedish star Lackberg’s books translated into English in the UK. In this second case for Patrick Hedstrom after First Mystery Club Pick [The Ice Princess](#) (\$7.99 or \$15), a series of sadistic murders spanning two generations remains unsolved—and time is running out for the next victim. Cults are not a US phenomenon.

McClure, James. [The Sunday Hangman](#) (Soho \$14). Back in print, another zinger by McClure. Tollie Erasmus, an unsavory bank robber on the run, is hung from the neck until dead. Unfortunately, execution was administered without the benefit of South African judge or jury. Somewhere there’s a killer who knows far too much about the hangman’s craft, and Lieutenant Tromp Kramer and his Bantu assistant Mickey Zondi must find him before his trail of death continues.

Mosse, Kate. [The Winter Ghosts](#) (\$15). A short but evocative, powerful story of a World War I vet stranded by a snowstorm in a village in the French Pyrenees who unearths a tragic, centuries-old mystery.

Simenon, Georges. [Dirty Snow](#) (New York Review of Books Classics \$15). Nineteen-year-old Frank Friedmaier lives in a country under occupation. Most people struggle to get by; Frank takes it easy in his mother’s whorehouse, which caters to members of the occupying forces. But Frank is restless. He is a pimp, a thug, a petty thief, and, as **Dirty Snow** opens, he has just killed his first man. Through the unrelenting darkness and cold of an endless winter, Frank will pursue abjection until at last there is nowhere to go. Hans Koning has described *Dirty Snow* as “one of the very few novels to come out of German-occupied France that gets it exactly right.”

Thompson, James. [Lucifer’s Tears](#) (\$15). The second case in the Edgar-nominated series for a Finnish cop. Inspector Kari Vaara has left the Arctic Circle and returned—reluctantly—to Helsinki, where he has two cases on his plate: the brutal murder of a Russian businessman’s wife, and—more secretively—an investigation into an elderly Finnish national hero who may have played a darker role in World War II than the public knows. Terrific stuff by an American author resident in Finland. Start with [Snow Angels](#) (\$14). Due in March: [Helsinki White](#) (Putnam \$26).

Tursten, Helene. [Night Rounds](#) (Soho \$25). Irene Huss is a former Ju-Jitsu champion, a mother of twin teenage girls, the wife of a successful chef, and a Detective Inspector with the Violent Crimes Unit in Göteborg, Sweden. Meet her in [Detective Inspector Huss](#) (\$9.99), a gem! And in her second case, one nurse lies dead and another vanishes after their hospital is hit by a blackout. The only witness claims to have seen Nurse Tekla doing her rounds, but Nurse Tekla died sixty years ago.

Detective Inspector Irene Huss of the Violent Crimes Unit has the challenge of disentangling wandering ghosts and complex human relationships to get to the bottom of this intriguing case.

Varesi, Valerio. [Dark Valley](#) (Quercus \$39). It is autumn in Parma. Commissario Soneri decides to escape the city to return to his home village in the Apennines for a much-needed holiday. He plans to spend the time hunting for mushrooms on the wooded slopes of Montelupo. The small and isolated village revolves around the fortunes of the Rodolfi family, salami manufacturers for generations. Its patriarch, the gifted Palmiro, runs a tight ship, but behind the scenes, all is not well: his son, Paride, has other plans for his future. And then all of a sudden the family finds itself in the throes of a financial scandal, with worrying implications for the entire community. Soon afterwards a hiker discovers a decomposing body in the woods. After initial protestations, Soneri soon gives up all hope of a peaceful break. The complicated relationship he uncovers between Rodolfi and his son becomes all the more pertinent when he learns that his own father and Palmiro Rodolfi were once friends. Start with the first for Soneri: [River of Shadows](#) (\$16).

FIRST NOVELS

Upcoming First Mystery Picks include Chris Pavone, [The ExPats](#) (Signed March 28) and Owen Laukkanen, [The Professionals](#) (Signed April 1). And more to come. Both these books rate to be mega hits. *The Expats*, written when the author lived in Luxembourg, is a serpentine tale of greed and espionage as seen through the prism of a complicated marriage, has earned Starred Reviews from *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Booklist*—and definitely from me. *The Professionals* come with raves from authors and from its editor who in my experience is rarely wrong about an author's potential.

Altenberg, Karin. [Island of Wings](#) (Penguin \$15). A truly harrowing story of a missionary couple trying to forge a life and mission on the virtually uninhabitable—other than by birds—west of the Isle of Skye (it is today deserted). “There are shades of Alistair MacLeod and of John McGahern in this beautiful story of love and loss among the dark sea cliffs of St Kilda. The book tastes wonderfully of its own weather, of sea salt on the tongue, and I read it with a rising sense of appreciation—a precise, subtle, spiritually alive debut from archaeologist Karin Altenberg.” —Andrew O’Hagan. She is senior advisor to the Swedish National Heritage Board and is a fellow of the Linnean Society.

Ausubel, Ramona. [No One Is Here Except All of Us Signed](#) (Riverhead \$27). In 1939, the families in a remote Jewish village in Romania feel the war close in on them. Ausubel explores how we use storytelling to survive and shape our own truths. See Modern Firsts Picks below.

✎Brown, Stacia. [Accidents of Providence](#) (Houghton \$25). It is 1649. King Charles has been beheaded for treason. Amid civil war, Cromwell’s army is running the country. The Levellers, a small faction of agitators, are calling for rights to the people. And a new law targeting unwed mothers and lewd women presumes anyone who conceals the death of her illegitimate child is guilty of murder. Rachel Lockyer, unmarried glove maker, and Leveller William Walwyn are locked in a secret affair. But when a child is found buried in the woods, Rachel is arrested. So comes an investigation, public trial, and unforgettable characters: gouty investigator Thomas Bartwain, fiery Elizabeth Lillburne and

her revolution-chasing husband, Huguenot glover Mary Du Gard, and others. Spinning within are Rachel and William, their remarkable love story, and the miracles that come to even the commonest lives. “Intelligent, masterful, suspenseful—one of the best books I’ve read in years. An impressive debut novel from a hugely talented new writer... a rare treat.” —Margaret George

Carrisi, Donato. [The Whisperer](#) (Little Brown \$26). When six severed arms are discovered arranged in a circle out in a clearing in the woods, Mila Vasquez, a celebrated profiler, and Goran Gavila, a criminologist, join a group of investigators trying to unravel a grisly mystery which seems to be orchestrated by someone with the uncanny ability to point the group in a different direction every time they seem to be getting close to an answer. The author is, in short, like the killer, messing with your mind right to the final sentence. Translated from the Italian, yet there is no clear landscape here, merely Europe although one guesses it might be northern Italy. Michael Connelly and Michael Koryta both plug it. I found it could use serious pruning and yet the characters are fascinating and the story engrossing. First published in English in the UK in 2010.

✎Hutton, Ewart. [Good People Signed](#) (Collins \$43). Fallen from grace in Cardiff and exiled to be the catch-all detective in the big bit in the middle that God gave to the sheep. A place where nothing of any significance is meant to happen, a place where supposedly he can do little harm. But trouble has a way of catching-up with Capaldi. Six men and a young woman disappear into the night. They don’t all reappear. The ones that do are good people with a good explanation. Only Capaldi remains unconvinced. In the face of opposition from the locals, he delves deeper and starts to uncover a network of conflicts, betrayals and depravity that resonates below the outwardly calm surface of rural respectability. Capaldi is back in the saddle.

McCafferty, Keith. [The Royal Wulff Murders Signed](#) (Viking \$28). When a fishing guide reels in the body of a young man on the Madison, the Holy Grail of Montana trout rivers, Sheriff Martha Ettinger suspects foul play. It’s not just the stick jammed into the man’s eye that draws her attention; it’s the Royal Wulff trout fly stuck in his bloated lower lip. Fly fisher, painter, and has-been private detective, Sean Stranahan left a failed marriage and lackluster career to drive to Montana, where he lives in an art studio decorated with fly-tying feathers and mouse droppings. He is completely captivated when Southern siren Velvet Lafayette walks into his life, intent on hiring his services to find her missing brother. Hooking up Ettinger, the clues lead the two sleuths back to Montana’s Big Business: fly fishing. The Indie Next Pick: “McCafferty not only captures the startling beauty of the Montana wilderness, but makes fly fishing seem pretty interesting, and in the meantime there’s a delightfully mysterious woman who is searching for her missing brother, a very odd death, a little romance, and a detective who wants to be an artist.” A First Mystery Club Pick from a writer for *Field & Stream* I recommend to readers of CJ Box and Craig Johnson who also blend quirky story lines and environmental issues.

Romano-Lax, Andromeda. [Detour](#) (Soho \$25). Ernst Vogler is twenty-six years old in 1938 when he is sent to Rome by his employer—the Third Reich’s *Sonderprojekte*, which is collecting the great art of Europe and bringing it to Germany for the Führer. Vogler is to collect a famous Classical Roman marble statue,

The Discus Thrower, and get it to the German border, where it will be turned over to Gestapo custody. It is a simple, three-day job. Things start to go wrong almost immediately. The Italian twin brothers who have been hired to escort Vogler to the border seem to have priorities besides the task at hand—wild romances, perhaps even criminal jobs on the side—and Vogler quickly loses control of the assignment. The twins set off on a dangerous detour and Vogler realizes he will be lucky to escape this venture with his life, let alone his job. With nothing left to lose, the young German gives himself up to the Italian adventure. We meet him first when he revisits the brothers' home village after the war. The portrait of the earnest Ernst as a cog in the Reich and its looting machine is unnerving: truly evil comes when good men question nothing.

Smith, Mark Allen. [The Inquisitor Signed](#) (Henry Holt \$27). The Indie Next Pick: "This story will keep you up and give you nightmares, but you will be hooked from page one. Smith has added a surprising new element to the thriller genre with the introduction of his protagonist, a professional torturer, who is himself a tortured individual. Geiger has three rules, one of which is, he doesn't interrogate children." Then he's faced with a 12-year-old boy subject... There's real violence here, but you can skip a few scenes to concentrate on the surprisingly breezy voice and the personalities—and the ethics. "Information retrieval takes on a sinister cast in Smith's mesmerizing thriller debut... [Geiger is] a fascinating piece of work. This may be the most unusual and talked about thriller of the season."—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review).

MODERN FIRST CLUB PICKS

Ausubel, Ramona. [No One Is Here Except All of Us Signed](#) (Riverhead \$27). In 1939, the families in a remote Jewish village in Romania feel the war close in on them. Their tribe has moved and escaped for thousands of years- across oceans, deserts, and mountains-but now, it seems, there is nowhere else to go. Danger is imminent in every direction, yet the territory of imagination and belief is limitless. At the suggestion of an eleven-year-old girl and a mysterious stranger who has washed up on the riverbank, the villagers decide to reinvent the world: deny any relationship with the known and start over from scratch. Destiny is unwritten. Time and history are forgotten. Jobs, husbands, a child, are reassigned. And for years, there is boundless hope. But the real world continues to unfold alongside the imagined one, eventually overtaking it, and soon our narrator-the girl, grown into a young mother-must flee her village, move from one world to the next, to find her husband and save her children, and propel them toward a real and hopeful future. A beguiling, imaginative, inspiring story about the bigness of being alive as an individual, as a member of a tribe, and as a participant in history, Ausubel explores how we use storytelling to survive and shape our own truths.

Johnson, Adam. [The Orphan Master's Son Signed](#) (Random \$26). For a new perspective, here is fellow bookseller Ian: The North Korea that Johnson conjures, though rooted in fact from his travels there, reads like a paranoid wonderland of doublespeak and speculative adventure. You, the reader, are one half horrified by the engines of fascism and one half totally absorbed in the absurdity of it all. The book itself is delivered to us in two

sections. The first is fairly straightforward, though rich in its own weird history. Jun Do is not an orphan, though he may as well be one. Having grown up with a father in charge of a work camp for orphans, Jun Do automatically becomes one himself. And as he grows older this influences his employment. First as a zero-light tunnel fighter, then as a kidnapper of Japanese nationals, and finally as an undercover cryptographer aboard a fishing vessel. The second half is much more serious and its mystery is one I don't want to give away. I went back and read Johnson's previous novel and collection of stories, both of which are also excellent. But there's something about *The Orphan Master's Son* that puts him in a whole other class." Think David Mitchell or Michael Chabon....

A FEW COZIES FOR YOU

Check out entries under A Bonanza from Britain and under History/Mystery and of course in Mass Markets

Child, Laura. [The Agony of the Leaves Signed](#) (Berkley \$28 late Feb.). The opening of the aquarium is a major Charleston event, and Theodosia Browning has been hired to cater tea, scones, and sandwiches for the private party for dignitaries and big buck donors. Things are going swimmingly, until Theodosia discovers the body of a man entangled in a net, drowned in one of the aquarium's state-of-the-art tanks. Oops, the victim is Theodosia's former boyfriend Parker Scully. The EMTs on the scene think Parker's drowning was an accident, but when Theodosia notices what look like defense wounds on his hands, she realizes that someone wanted Parker dead. The local police aren't keen on hearing her theory, so....

Clason, Clyde B. [The Purple Parrot](#) (Rue Morgue \$15). The only door open to Hezekiah Morse's study was under observation when someone slipped in and stabbed the bibliophile to death. To the police, it looked like only his granddaughter could have done the deed, especially since she was to be disinherited—except for a terra-cotta statuette of a purple parrot—if she defied Morse in her choice of a marriage partner. Her real love, lawyer Barry Foster, didn't believe she was capable of murder. Fortunately, for both of them, neither did Theocritus Lucius Westborough, professor of Roman history and sometime amateur sleuth. But the aged, tiny professor must first determine what is so significant about the seemingly worthless piece of statuary from New Zealand or how bottles of rare wine and expensive first editions fit into the case. First published in 1937.

Crawford, Isis. [A Catered St Patrick's Day](#) (Kensington \$24). Catering sisters Bernie and Libby Simmons wade into a Celtic knot of malice and mayhem when a St. Patrick's Day celebration goes terribly wrong..

Groundwater, Beth. [A Real Basket Case](#) (Midnight Ink \$15). Feeling neglected by her workaholic husband, forty-something gift basket maker Claire Hanover joins an aerobics class. In a moment of weakness, Claire agrees to let charming aerobics instructor Enrique come to her house to give her a massage. She realizes she has made a deadly mistake when Enrique is shot and killed in her bedroom and her husband Roger is arrested for the murder. Determined to clear Roger's name and save her marriage, Claire sets out to find the real killer... Starts a new series.

Hess, Joan. [Deader Homes and Gardens](#) (St Martins \$25). Back from her somewhat unusual honeymoon in Egypt, Arkansas bookstore owner Claire Malloy must face the harsh reality of life with her new husband, police chief Peter Rosen, and her teenage daughter Caron: three people simply can't fit into her cozy two bedroom apartment. After a week of fruitless house-hunting she finally finds the perfect place, a well-preserved, spacious home on a large plot out in Hollow Valley. There are a few problems—no sign of the seller, the real estate agent vanishes mid-showing, and the family that owned the estate is now suing the lover of the dead owner over the rights to the property. When this heir arrives in town and dies on the spot, closing the sale let alone the case is some challenge....

Lowecey, Alice. [Back in the Habit](#) (Midnight Ink \$15). It's been a year since Giulia Falcone fled the life as a nun, and now she must face her worst nightmare: going back. A young novice has died at Giulia's former convent and the formidable Superior General hires Driscoll Investigations, hoping the PI firm will confirm the death was suicide in order to squelch a lawsuit. Gathering every ounce of courage to confront the past, Giulia dons the dreaded habit and returns to the Motherhouse to investigate.

Meade, Amy Patricia. [Well Offed in Vermont](#) (Midnight Ink \$15). In bucolic small-town Vermont, Stella Thornton Buckley feels out of her element—and not just because she's fresh from Manhattan. Mere hours after moving to maple syrup country, she and her husband, Nick, find a dead man, Allen Weston, in their well. The police investigation forces the couple out of their lovely farmhouse and—since the motels are packed with leaf peepers—into a less than luxurious deer camp. Instead of mourning the loss of electricity and running water, Stella and Nick drive their Smart Car all over the Vermont hamlet to question the quirky locals about Weston, a shrewd businessman who rubbed a lot of folks the wrong way. Any book featuring a Smart Car is fun; Rob's new one is a brilliant metallic green! Plus our dog thinks it's really his....

FEBRUARY TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

Bates, Quentin. [Frozen Assets](#) (\$14). A debut set in Iceland. See *Where In the World?*

Benoit, Charles. [Relative Danger](#) (\$15). An Edgar-nominated debut starting in Singapore's famous Raffles Hotel. See *Where in the World?*

Boyle, T C. [When the Killing's Done](#) (\$16). Principally set on the wild and sparsely inhabited Channel Islands off the coast of Santa Barbara, Boyle's powerful novel combines pulse-pounding adventure with a socially conscious, richly humane tale about endangered animals and those who protect them.

Goodwin, Jason. [An Evil Eye](#) (\$15). A new case involving the Ottoman navy and various treasons investigated by the Sultan's agent Yashim. See *History/Mystery*

Larsen, K J. [Sticks and Stones](#) (\$15). The second for Chicago PI Cat DeLuca and the Pants on Fire Detective Agency. See the Signed hardcover review in *New Books*.

Robertson, Imogen. [Instruments of Darkness](#) (\$15). An exceptional start to a series set in Georgian England. No cozy, it pulls no punches in a page-turner set on a forbidding country

estate where a wildly dysfunctional family dwells and murder must out. An unlikely duo skilled at the forensics available to them set out to penetrate deadly secrets. See *History/Mystery* for the sequel where our duo has to travel to London on an investigation.

Sansom, C J. [Heartstone](#) (\$16). England is at war this summer of 1545. Lawyer Matthew Shardlake, survivor so far of capricious Henry VIII and his court, is given an intriguing legal case by and old servant to Queen Catherine Parr: to authenticate (or not) claims of "monstrous wrongs" committed against a young ward of the court. One mysterious death has already ensued. Shardlake and his man Barak journey to Portsmouth on their quest....

Sturges, PG. [The Shortcut Man](#) (\$15). A 2011 First Mystery Pick set in the underbelly of LA evokes Chandler and Hammett, hardboiled, laced with street smarts and edgy characters. When people need a problem fixed fast, and discreetly, they call Dick Henry. Henry is known as a "shortcut man," someone who believes that the shortest answer to many problems may not always be legal. As he cuts through the red tape for his clients, who range from an elderly woman ripped off by shady contractors to a landlord with a tenant many months behind on the rent, Henry always gets the job done, no matter what the cost, hunting down slimy con men and devoting his nights to seducing Lynette, an intoxicating, long-legged vixen. But when Henry gets an assignment from porn producer Artie Benjamin, his life suddenly becomes much more complicated.

Thompson, James. [Lucifer's Tears](#) (\$15). The second dark case for a Finnish cop in an Edgar-nominated series. See *Where in the World?*

Watson, JS. [Before I Go to Sleep](#) (\$15). A hot FMC Pick is this disturbing psychological thriller, reminiscent of "Shutter Island" and "Memento," in which an amnesiac desperately tries to uncover the truth about who she is—and who she can trust.

NEIL GAIMAN ALERT

By a sort of fluke and at some expense we were able to get some of [A Study in Sherlock](#) (Poisoned Pen \$30) signed by Gaiman whose story herein is nominated for a 2012 Edgar Allan Poe Award. The books are also signed by Leslie L. Klinger, Laurie R. King, Margaret Maron, Thomas Perry, SJ Rozan, Dana Stabenow, and Jackie Winspear. Supply is limited, one per customer.

NEW BOOKS

Baggott, Julianna. [Pure](#) (Grand Central \$26). This is Baggott's first foray into the post-apocalyptic sub-genre. After the Detonations there exist two kinds of people: The Pures who live a clean, safe life under their domes and the rest of humanity, forced to join local militias or become target practice victims. When a Pure named Partridge realizes that his mother might still be alive outside the Dome he joins with a young outsider named Pressia to get some answers. For fans of *The Hunger Games* chillers.

8039915829S Berenson, Alex. [Shadow Patrol Signed](#) (Putnam \$27). The *NY Times* journalist pens another fine thriller. In 2009, the CIA's Kabul Station fell for a source who promised to lead it to Bin Laden, but instead he blew himself up, taking the station's most senior officers with him. Now, more than two years later, the station is still floundering, agents are dying, and at Langley the CIA's chiefs wonder if the unthinkable has happened, if

somehow the Taliban has infiltrated the station. When they ask John Wells to investigate, he reluctantly agrees to return to the country where his career as an undercover operative began. But there, he finds a vipers' nest of hostility and mistrust—and clues that hint at a drug-trafficking operation involving the Agency, the military, and the Taliban. Americans are dying, and an American is responsible. And only John Wells stands in his way . . . for now. But Wells is off balance thanks to his personal life. . .

Block, Lawrence. [A Drop of the Hard Stuff](#) (\$15). Facing his demons in his first year of sobriety, Matthew Scudder finds himself on the trail of a killer. When Scudder's childhood friend Jack Ellery is murdered, presumably while attempting to atone for past sins, Scudder reluctantly begins his own investigation, with just one lead: Ellery's Alcoholics Anonymous list of people he wronged. One of them may be a killer, but that's not necessarily Scudder's greatest danger. Immersing himself in Ellery's world may lead him right back to the bar stool. The latest Matt Scudder novel circles back to how it all began.

Boyd, William. [Waiting for Sunrise Signed](#) (Bloomsbury \$40). Vienna, 1913. It is a fine day in August when Lysander Rief, a young English actor, walks through the city to his first appointment with the eminent psychiatrist, Dr. Bensimon. Sitting in the waiting room he is anxiously pondering the nature of his problem when an extraordinary woman enters. She is clearly in distress, but Lysander is immediately drawn to her strange, hazel eyes and her unusual, intense beauty. Later the same day they meet again, and a more composed Hettie Bull introduces herself as an artist and sculptor, and invites Lysander to a party hosted by her lover, the famous painter Udo Hoff. Compelled to attend and unable to resist her electric charm, they begin a passionate love affair. Life in Vienna becomes tinged with the frisson of excitement for Lysander. He meets Sigmund Freud in a cafe, begins to write a journal, enjoys secret trysts with Hettie and appears to have been cured. London, 1914. War is stirring, and events in Vienna have caught up with Lysander. Unable to live an ordinary life, he is plunged into the dangerous theatre of wartime intelligence: a world of sex, scandal, and spies, where lines of truth and deception blur with every waking day. Lysander must now discover the key to a secret code which is threatening Britain's safety, and use all his skills to keep the murky world of suspicion and betrayal from invading every corner of his life. Moving from Vienna to London's West End, the battlefields of France and hotel rooms in Geneva, here is a feverish and mesmerizing journey into the human psyche, a beautifully observed portrait of wartime Europe, plus a plot-twisting thriller.

Byatt, A S. [Ragnarok The End of the Gods](#) (Grove \$24). Booker Prize winner Dame Antonia Byatt retells the finale of Norse mythology. A story of the destruction of life on this planet and the end of the gods themselves: what more relevant myth could any modern writer choose? Just as Wagner used this dramatic and catastrophic struggle for the climax of his Ring Cycle, so Byatt now reinvents it in all its intensity and glory. As the bombs of the Blitz rain down on Britain, one young girl is evacuated to the countryside. She is struggling to make sense of her new wartime life. Then she is given a copy of *Asgard and the Gods*, a book of ancient Norse myths, and her inner and outer worlds are transformed. War, natural disaster, reckless gods and the recognition of impermanence in the world—totally modern.

Cabot, Meg. [Overbite](#) (Morrow \$14). Meena Harper has bitten off more than she can chew. She has a special gift, but only now does anyone appreciate it. Her ability to predict how everyone she meets will die has impressed the Palatine Guard, a powerful secret demon-hunting unit of the Vatican, and they've hired her to work at their new branch in Lower Manhattan. Sure, Meena's ex-boyfriend was Lucien Antonescu, son of Dracula. But that was before he (and their relationship) went up in flames, and now she's sworn off vampires for good. And then. . .

Child, Laura. [The Agony of the Leaves Signed](#) (Berkley \$28 late Feb.). The opening of the aquarium is a major Charleston event, and Theodosia Browning has been hired to cater tea, scones, and sandwiches for the private party for dignitaries and big buck donors. See A Few Cozies For You above.

Clason, Clyde B. [The Purple Parrot](#) (Rue Morgue \$15). The only door open to Hezekiah Morse's study was under observation when someone slipped in and stabbed the bibliophile to death. To the police, it looked like only his granddaughter could have done the deed, especially since she was to be disinherited—except for a terra-cotta statuette of a purple parrot—if she defied Morse in her choice of a marriage partner. First published in 1937. See A Few Cozies For You above.

Coben, Harlan. [Promise Me](#) (\$15). Bolitar's clients have been murdered—a real positive for his business. But all that is about to change when a well-intentioned promise goes nightmarishly wrong, and Bolitar must become a hero again to save a young girl's life. . .

Coleman, Reed Farrel. [The Hurt Machine Signed](#) (Tyrus \$26; also unsigned trade paper \$16). PI Moe Prager is in tough shape, but when he's approached by his ex-wife and asked to help in investigating the murder of her sister he jumps at the chance of distraction. But what Prager finds goes way beyond Alta's death and involves a culture of greed and corruption eating at the heart of New York. In [Innocent Monster](#) (\$16), Seven years have passed since the brutal murder that tore Moe Prager's family apart and it's been six years since Moe's brushed the dust off his PI license. But when his estranged daughter Sarah comes to him with a request he cannot refuse, Moe takes a deep breath and plunges back into the icy, opaque waters of secrets and lies. Sashi Bluntstone, an eleven-year-old art prodigy and daughter of Sarah's dearest childhood friend, has been abducted. Three weeks into the investigation, the cops have gotten nowhere and the parents have gotten desperate. Desperation, the door through which Moe Prager always enters, swings wide open. Just as in Sashi's paintings, there's much more to the case than one can see at a glance. With the help of an ex-football star, Moe stumbles around the fringes of the New York art scene, trying to get a handle on where the art stops and the commerce begins. . .

Cooper, Susan Rogers. [Husband and Wives](#) (Severn \$28). When Mary Hudson is discovered on her kitchen floor, bludgeoned to death with a meat tenderizer, Sheriff Milt Kovak of Prophecy County, Oklahoma, and his psychiatrist wife Dr. Jean McDonnell are drawn into a murder investigation that is as intriguing as it is chilling. It soon emerges that Mary's husband, Jerry, is a polygamist, and the family belong to a church called the New Saints Tabernacle. As Milt and Jean delve deeper into the church and its customs, they soon become embroiled in a murky and mysterious world.

Crawford, Isis. [A Catered St Patrick's Day](#) (Kensington \$24). Catering sisters Bernie and Libby Simmons wade into a Celtic knot of malice and mayhem. See A Few Cozies For You above.

De Rosnay, Tatiana. [The House I Loved](#) (St Martins \$26). Paris, France: 1860s. Hundreds of houses are being razed, whole neighborhoods reduced to ashes. By order of Emperor Napoleon III, Baron Haussman has set into motion a series of large-scale renovations that will permanently alter the face of old Paris, molding it into a "modern city." The reforms will erase generations of history, Yet Rose Bazelet is determined to fight against the destruction of her family home until the very end; as others flee, she stakes her claim in the basement of the old house on rue Childebert. Attempting to overcome the loneliness of her daily life, she begins to write letters to Armand, her beloved late husband. And as she delves into the ritual of remembering, Rose is forced to come to terms with a secret that has been buried deep in her heart for thirty years. From the author of *Sarah's Key*, in case this sounds familiar.

Delaney, Frank. [The Last Storyteller](#) (Random \$26). In 1956, the national mood is downtrodden; poverty, corruption, and a fledgling armed rebellion rattle the countryside, and although Ben wants no part of the upstart insurrection along the northern border, he unknowingly falls in with an IRA sympathizer and is compromised into running guns. Yet despite his perilous circumstances, all he can think about is finding his former wife and true love, the actress Venetia Kelly. Parted forcibly from Ben years ago, Venetia has returned to Ireland with her new husband, a brutal man and coarse but popular stage performer by the name of Gentleman Jack. Determined not to lose Venetia again, Ben calls upon every bit of his love, courage, and newfound gun-running connections to get her back.

Dorsey, Tim. [The Pineapple Grenade Signed](#) (Morrow \$28). First, there's the media frenzy over the "Hollow Man," a gutless corpse found on the Florida beach. And yet people think it's perfectly normal to find dead sharks in the middle of downtown boulevards-or to spot black mushroom clouds behind the airport. Then there are the roving bands of carjackers who suddenly find themselves inconvenienced. Not to mention people lurking outside sex-addiction meetings. Could this be the work of Serge Storm, that eccentric trivialist and one-man vigilante? And why is he extensively photographing foreign consulates right before the critically important Summit of the Americas comes to town? Does it have something to do with Serge's declaration to tell his ever-stoned sidekick, Coleman, that he's decided to become a spy?

Dumas, Margaret. [How to Succeed in Murder](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15). Reissue of a charming chick-lit mystery set in San Francisco where a just-wed heiress and her (spy) husband have checked into the Mark for their honeymoon only to find a corpse in the bathtub....

Ellory, R.J. [Anniversary Man](#) (\$15). Twenty years ago, John Costello and his beautiful girlfriend, Nadia, became victims of the deranged "Hammer of God" killer. John survived, but was physically and psychologically scarred to an extent that few people could comprehend. So, when a new spate of murders starts, John is the only one who can discern the complex pattern that lies behind them. Ellory is from Birmingham, England, a foster child who became immersed in American culture and write

crime fiction not because he's hooked on the form but because the history of 20th Century America can be told through the history of crime.

Flanagan, John A. [Avalanche Pass](#) (Berkley \$15). Just for fun—and for skiers—a thriller set in some of Utah's best snow where the guests and staff at a posh lodge are suddenly, surprisingly, taken hostage. Jesse Parker, on the scene in Wasatch County from Steamboat Springs Ski Patrol hoping to recover his full skill set after a horrific accident, is trapped with the others. One hostage is a US Senator so FBI negotiator Colby arrives. Still, it's not clear that this is a money game. With Jesse on the inside and Colby the out, plus a stacked blond security officer who's a former Marine, maybe there's a chance to avoid a bloodbath. Or, maybe not.... Love the writing, the pace, and the use of the landscape.

Flynn, Vince. [Kill Shot Signed](#) (Atria \$30). In the year since the CIA trained and then unleashed him, Mitch Rapp has been steadily working his way through a list of men, bullet by bullet. With each swift and untraceable kill, the tangled network of monsters responsible for the slaughter of 270 civilians in the Pan Am Lockerbie attack become increasingly aware that someone is hunting them. Rapp is given his next target, and finds the man asleep in his bed in Paris. In the split second it takes the bullet to leave Rapp's silenced pistol, the trap is sprung and he finds himself in the fight of his life. The good news: the book is done and Vince has signed. The bad news, no tour. And tip-ins, which is a wonderful effort by this author who is battling cancer.

Fury, Dalton. [Black Site](#) (St Martins \$26). Three years ago, in the mountains of Pakistan, Kolt Raynor made a split-second decision to disobey orders—one that got some of his teammates killed and the rest captured. Now he's been given a second chance to do right by his country, his men, and himself. But Raynor's shot at redemption comes at a price. A shadowy group of former colleagues has asked Raynor to return, alone, to Pakistan's badlands. His assignment seems clear: find his missing men and bring them home. What Raynor never expected was to uncover a sinister al Qaeda plot to capture a Black Site - a secret U.S. prison - and destabilize the region. Meanwhile, a ruthless, unknown enemy is on his trail and he will stop at nothing to make sure that Raynor's mission is not accomplished... Fiction from the Delta Force troop commander tasked to Kill Bin Laden after 9/11...

Garrison, Paul. [Robert Ludlum's The Janson Command Signed](#) (Grand Central \$28 March). Robert Ludlum (1927-2001) would have been proud of Garrison's fine thriller that picks up where his *The Janson Directive* (2002) left off...That Janson is a complicated character makes him more interesting than most action heroes, while Kinkaid proves a capable sidekick. A number of swift, unexpected plot twists will leave Ludlum fans eager to see more in this franchise from Garrison." —*Publishers Weekly*. "A thrilling blockbuster in the great Ludlum tradition. International intrigue and smart suspense put Paul Garrison firmly in the company of the masters." —Linda Fairstein

Goldberg, Lee. [Mr. Monk on Patrol](#) (New American Library \$24). When the local government of Summit, New Jersey, is hit with a string of arrests, Chief of Police Randy Disher finds himself acting as mayor. With a town to run and a series of robberies to investigate, he calls on Adrian Monk to serve as a temporary policeman....

Green, Simon R. [The Bride Wore Black Leather](#) (Berkley \$26). John Taylor is marrying Suzie Shooter, the Nightside's most fearsome bounty hunter. But before he can walk down the aisle he has one more case to solve as a private eye—a case that has him on the run, with his bride-to-be looking to collect the bounty on his head. . . . For readers of Jim Butcher, Kim Harrison, Richard Kadrey.

Grimes, Martha. [Fadeaway Girl](#) (\$15). In the sequel to [Belle Ruin](#) (\$16), young Emma Graham continues her investigation into the disappearance of the Slade baby from the Belle Ruin Hotel more than 20 years before. The sudden appearance in town of the baby's father makes her even more determined to learn the truth.

Gunn, Elizabeth. [The Magic Line Signed](#) (Severn \$28 sometime in March). Detective Sarah Burke is called to a mass shooting in a quiet residential street; it looks like a 'home invasion' gone very wrong. There are several dead bodies but the crime scene just doesn't make sense until one of the "dead" victims suddenly escapes and another man is seen running from the house. . . . Once again, as well as juggling her complicated home life, Tucson cop Burke is faced with a procedural puzzle, just the thing Gunn does so well.

Hand, Elizabeth. [Available Dark Signed](#) (St Martins \$25). Photographer Cass Neary is already wanted by the police for questioning when she receives a mysterious job offer that sends her to Helsinki, where an iconic fashion photographer shows her a trove of gorgeous photos depicting ritual killings. After narrowly escaping death herself, Cass flees to Iceland, where she finds a former lover and a legendary, exiled musician. Soon, unsolved murders are multiplying faster than Cass can run. "Shimmers with gorgeous writing even as it scares the dickens out of you." —Tess Gerritsen. "Intense and atmospheric. . . . An inventive brew of postpunk attitude and dark mystery. Elizabeth Hand writes with craftsmanship and passion." —George Pelecanos. Patrick's Hardboiled Club Pick for Feb. and not an easy signature to get—the author lives in London! Recommended also by me, Barbara, for the brilliance of the writing and the concept even though this one defines "dark."

Harkaway, Nick. [Angelmaker Signed](#) (Cape \$32). From the acclaimed author of *The Gone-Away World* comes a new riveting action spy thriller, blistering gangster noir, and howling absurdist comedy about a mobster's son and a retired secret agent who are forced to team up to save the world. All Joe Spork wants is a quiet life. He repairs clockwork and lives above his shop in a wet, unknown bit of London. At least he's not trying to compete with the reputation of Mathew "Tommy Gun" Spork, his infamous criminal dad. Edie Banister lives quietly and wishes she didn't. She's nearly ninety and remembers when she wasn't. She's a former super spy and now she's. . . well. . . old. Worse yet, the things she fought to save don't seem to exist anymore, and she's beginning to wonder if they ever did. When Joe fixes one particularly unusual device, his life is suddenly upended. The client is one Edie Banister. And the device? It's a 1950s doomsday machine. And having triggered it, Joe now faces the wrath of both the government and a diabolical South Asian dictator, Edie's old arch-nemesis. . . .

Harris, Robert. [The Fear Index](#) (Knopf \$26). A nifty premise never delivers on its promise. Dr. Alex Hoffmann's name is carefully guarded from the general public, but within the

secretive inner circles of the ultra rich he is a legend. He has developed a revolutionary form of artificial intelligence that predicts movements in the financial markets with uncanny accuracy. His hedge fund, based in Geneva, makes billions. But one morning before dawn, a sinister intruder breaches the elaborate security of his lakeside mansion, and so begins a waking nightmare of paranoia and violence as Hoffmann attempts, with increasing desperation, to discover who is trying to destroy him. . . . I am a real fan of Harris but not this one.

Harrison, Kim. [A Perfect Blood](#) (Harper \$27). Ritually murdered corpses are appearing across Cincinnati, terrifying amalgams of human and other. Pulled in to help investigate by the I.S. and the FIB, former witch turned day-walking demon Rachel Morgan soon realizes a horrifying truth: a human hate group is trying to create its own demons to destroy all Inderlanders, and to do so, it needs her blood. She's faced vampires, witches, werewolves, demons, and more in *The Hollows*, but humans are something else. . . .

Hess, Joan. [Deader Homes and Gardens](#) (St Martins \$25). Back from her somewhat unusual honeymoon in Egypt, Arkansas bookstore owner Claire Malloy is faced with house-hunting. What could go wrong? See *A Few Cozies For You* above.

Hilton, Matt. [No Going Back Signed](#) (Hodder \$32). Joe Hunter #7. Jameson Walker approaches Joe Hunter when his daughter Jay and her friend Nicole go missing at a gas station in the Arizona desert while on a cross-country trek across the North American interior. He mentions that a robbery/homicide at the gas station as worrying as the girls were due to be in the vicinity at that time. Joe accepts the job of locating the girls, though not at first convinced there's much to worry about. As Joe picks up the girls' trail he discovers that other young women have also disappeared in the area, and comes across the brutish Logan family.

Kellerman, Faye. [Gun Games Signed](#) (Morrow \$28.) is 20th in the Rina Lazarus/Pete Decker series that began with *The Ritual Bath*. Kellerman, mother of six and grandmother now, shows she can get right inside the skins of tweens and teens in an intense story centered on a posh private LA prep school. The Deckers have taken in a boy called Gabe, virtually parentless. Better off, actually. Through Gabe they are exposed to the horrors and occasional joys of the kids and their crimes large and small, plus first love. It's a powerful and affecting mystery as well as a new chapter in this family's on-going relationships. Brava!

Kellerman, Jonathan. [Victims Signed](#) (Random \$30 March). Not since Jack the Ripper terrorized the London slums has there been such a gruesome crime scene. By all accounts, acid-tongued Vita Berlin hadn't a friend in the world, but whom did she cross so badly as to end up arranged in such a grotesque tableau? One look at her apartment-turned-charnel house prompts hard-bitten LAPD detective Milo Sturgis to summon his go-to expert in hunting homicidal maniacs, Alex Delaware. But even Alex is stymied when more slayings occur in the same ghastly fashion, the victims apparently unconnected. The only clue left behind is a blank page bearing a question mark. Under pressure to end the bloody spree and prevent a citywide panic, Milo redoubles his efforts to discover a common link. Meanwhile, Alex navigates the secretive world of mental health treatment, from the sleek office of a Beverly Hills therapist to a shuttered mental institution

where he once honed his craft—and where an unholy alliance between the mad and the monstrous may have been sealed in blood. As each jagged piece of the puzzle fits into place, an ever more horrific portrait emerges of a sinister mind at its most unimaginable... Also, new, a graphic novel: *Silent Partner* (Random \$23).

Kidd, Sue Monk. [The Secret Life of Bees 10th Anniversary Edition](#) (Penguin \$20). One of our Early Modern First Editions Club Picks has remained a perennial bestseller. It's a quest novel of a sort: a young girl's search for the truth about her mother; her courage to tear down racial barriers; and her joy as she claims her place within a community of women. Way better than *The Help*.

Lansdale, Joe R. [All the Earth, Thrown to the Sky](#) (Random \$17). Juvenile fiction by the Texan. And you can try his screenplay [Shadows West Signed](#) (Subterranean Press \$50). Plus in early April he will appear to sign [The Edge of Dark Water](#) (Mulholland/LB \$26).

Larsen, K J. [Sticks and Stones Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$25 Signed; trade paper \$15). Every once in awhile an original concept comes along to make a wicked and delicious read. Like the Pants on Fire Detective Agency—*We Catch Liars and Cheats*, a career move launched by Catarina DeLuca after divorcing Johnnie Rizzo, a serial cheater. Cat, daughter of a Chicago cops dynasty, has a backlog of surprising skills thanks to surviving her brawling older brothers. They served her well in [Liar, Liar](#) (\$15), named one of 2010's Best Mysteries by *Library Journal*. Cat's new client is Cleo Jones, her apprentice. Cleo is married to the scummy Walter. When she peppered his broad butt with buckshot, he disappeared taking Cleo's money, her dog, and her trumpy sister with him. Cat recover the dog and a bag chock-full of cash—plus Walter, his body still warm. The cops love Cleo for it—there's even a video—but Cat believes someone else killed the jerk. As she sifts through his life, she meets four potential killers including a fabled Chicago designer and fashionista... a woman who doesn't habitually get blood on her Jimmy Choos. Cat has back up like her beagle Inga, a partner likely eat any evidence; her mysterious Uncle Joey; Theo, a deli owner with a deep-cover past; and Chance Savino, elusive FBI agent. Plus a muscle man. But when her fledgling agency is at stake, the go-it-alone scrapper in her surfaces....

Lawrence, Caroline. [The Case of the Deadly Desperadoes](#) (Puffin \$17). In 1862 Nevada Territory, after finding his foster parents murdered and scalped, 12-year-old Pinky Pinkerton, son of a railroad detective and a Sioux Indian, inherits a valuable deed and must hide from dangerous Whittlin' Walt and his gang of desperados. For Young Adults.

Leonard, Elmore. [Raylan Signed](#) (Morrow \$28). With the closing of the Harlan County, Kentucky, coal mines, marijuana has become the biggest cash crop in the state. A hundred pounds of it can gross \$300,000, but that's chump change compared to the quarter million a human body can get you—especially when it's sold off piece by piece. So when Dickie and Coover Crowe, dope-dealing brothers known for sampling their own supply, decide to branch out into the body business, it's up to U.S. Marshal Raylan Givens to stop them. But Raylan isn't your average marshal; he's the laconic, Stetson-wearing, fast-drawing lawman who juggles dozens of cases at a time and always shoots

to kill. But by the time Raylan finds out who's making the cuts, he's lying naked in a bathtub, with Layla, the cool transplant nurse, about to go for his kidneys.

Lester, Toby. [Da Vinci's Ghost](#) (Free Press \$20). Before *The Last Supper* and the *Mona Lisa*, Leonardo created one of the most reproduced images in the world: Vitruvian Man. A "man in a circle and a square," the image continues to be "deployed variously to celebrate all sorts of ideas," but most of all Da Vinci, writes *Atlantic* contributing editor Lester, wanted to "to investigate the makeup and function of everything." One of the great contributions of books like this is to keep the reader from taking for granted a familiar object. Lester's detective story has a satisfying number of insights, such as that Leonardo's drive to accurately represent the human body was grounded in a desire to find the location of the soul. "Lester braids intellectual threads—philosophy, anatomy, architecture, and art—together in a way that reaffirms not only Leonardo's genius but also re-establishes the significance of historical context in understanding great works of art."

Leonard, Peter. [Voices of the Dead](#) (Faber \$17 probably Signed in Tucson March 11). The year is 1971. The place is Detroit. Harry Levin, a scrap metal dealer and Holocaust survivor, has just learned that his daughter was killed in a car accident. Traveling to Washington, DC to claim the body, he learns that the accident was caused by a German diplomat who was driving drunk. This is only the beginning of the horror for Harry, though, as he discovers that the diplomat will never face charges – he has already been released and granted immunity. Enraged and aggrieved, Harry discovers the identity of his daughter's killer, follows him to Munich, and hunts him down. What Harry finds out about the diplomat and his plans will explode his life and the lives of everyone around him.

Long, Jeff. [Ascent](#) (Atria \$25). Super hurricanes. Ozone holes. Acid rain. Invasive species. Fallout from nuclear wars overseas. As these and other calamities converge—as hell boils up—America goes down... into the earth's quiet interior. Anyone with common sense has already joined the exodus into the subterranean earth. Just before the hatches close for good, twelve adventurous people set off from New York City on "The Swan Song Express," an "ultimate road trip" through the mostly empty remains. Jenny is our guide. An embittered ex-primatologist (her great apes have been wiped out by man), she has joined the group in order to free zoo animals along the way. But she is also hoping to catch some familiar glimpse that might lead her to a home she can't remember. A dozen assorted characters travel with her through the still tidy ruins of America. What begins as a lark turns into a hunt, first for monsters no one believes in, then for the devil, rumored to be captured and in chains.

Magson, Adrian. [Deception](#) (Severn \$29 – 1 Signed \$45). Former MI5 officer Harry Tate's skill at tracking down runaways is second to none. The Security Services need his help. When MI6 ask him to trace Vanessa Tan, a lieutenant with the Royal Logistics Corps who failed to report for her return flight to Afghanistan, Harry instinctively feels it's a mission to avoid. But when he learns of the involvement of his former boss, Henry Paulton, the man who tried to have him killed, he agrees to take the job. Oops... Start with [Tracers](#) (\$16).

McDonald, Craig. [El Gavilan Signed](#) (Tyrus \$27; also [trade paper \\$16](#)). Patrick reviews: “Multifaceted Edgar Award-nominated novelist and journalist McDonald has proven himself to be one of our most important new writers. This stand alone novel is a good deal different from his Hector Lassiter series, but it deals with a subject that is certainly familiar to all of us out here in the desert, illegal immigration. However, like the best fiction, it is first and foremost a nuanced novel about people and situations. Tell Lyons is the new Chief of Police in New Austin, Ohio, recently up from the border following the deaths of his wife and child. He is a fluent Spanish-speaker and quickly embraced by the Hispanic community, who dub him El Leon (The Lion). Horton County Sheriff Able Hawk (or, El Gavilan, as he is known) enforces the federal immigration law and is tough on crime, though unlike our own Joe Arpaio, who he seems to resemble at first, Hawk has compassion and works with Lyon (against a good deal of pressure) when a young single mom and legal immigrant Thalia Ruiz is murdered. The pair of very different police officers unite against a notoriously corrupt Sheriff in a neighboring county, near where the body was discovered. Complex and beautifully written, McDonald’s novel offers no simple answers and is critical of both sides of the immigration debate. A must read.”

Murphy, C E. [Raven Calls](#) (Luna \$18). Being bitten by a werewolf is the least of Joanne Walker’s problems. Her personal life in turmoil, her job as a cop over, she’s been called to Ireland by the magic within her. And though Joanne’s skills have grown by leaps and bounds, Ireland’s magic is old and very powerful. In fact, this is a case of unfinished business. Because the woman Joanne has come to Ireland to rescue is the woman who sacrificed everything for Joanne...OK, so it’s wolves, not fairies, for a touch of the Irish this spring.

O’Donovan, Gerard. [The Priest](#) (\$15). Patrick found this a riveting tale steeped in Ireland’s Catholic history. Struggling to find his feet back in Ireland after a lengthy posting with Europol in Spain, drugs specialist Mike Mulcahy is plunged into unfamiliar territory when the daughter of a foreign politician suffers a horrific sex attack. Dragged into the case against his will, Mulcahy becomes convinced there is more to it than a random, frenzied sexual assault. But his know-it-all colleagues and politically motivated bosses, eager for a quick, uncontroversial result, ignore his belief that the attack had religious as well as sexual overtones. Sidelined and overruled, Mulcahy sets out on his own parallel investigation....

Orloff, Alan. [Deadly Campaign](#) (Midnight Ink \$15). Comedy club owner and occasional performer Channing Hayes thought the comedy business was tough, but it’s a stroll in the park compared to politics. When he and his business partner Artie attend a congressional campaign event for their friend Thomas Lee’s nephew, masked thugs storm in and break up Lee’s restaurant with baseball bats. The candidate’s people insist that the police not be involved, so Lee asks Channing to investigate...

Palmer, Michael. [Oath of Office](#) (St Martins \$28). What if a well respected doctor inexplicably goes on a murderous rampage? When Dr. John Meacham goes on a shooting spree the office, his business partner, staff, and two patients are killed in the bloodbath. Then Meacham turns the gun on himself. The blame falls on Dr. Lou Welcome. Welcome worked with Meacham years before as a counselor after John’s medical license had been

revoked for drug addiction. Lou knew that John was an excellent doctor and deserved to be practicing medicine and fought hard for his license to be restored. After hearing the news of the violent outburst, Lou is in shock like everyone else, but mostly he’s incredulous. And when he begins to look into it further... Palmer is writing an interesting medical/political thriller combo lately.

Penzler, Otto, ed. [In Pursuit of Spencer](#) (Ben Bella \$15). From Hawk to Susan Silverman to Jesse Stone and Sunny Randall, from the series’ Boston milieu to Parker’s own take on his character, mystery writers pay tribute to Spencer, and Parker, with affection, humor, and a deep appreciation for what both have left behind.

Persons, Terri. [Blind Sight](#) (\$15). FBI Agent Bernadette Saint Clair and her boss, Tony Garcia, look into the murder of pregnant, 16-year-old Lydia Dunton, found butchered in Paul Bunyan State Forest with her full-term fetus removed and now missing. To make matters worse for the investigators, the victim’s father is a U.S. senator, Magnus Dunton, an outspoken critic of the bureau. And the inverted red pentagram that marked the dead girl’s head mysteriously vanishes soon after the corpse arrives at the morgue... 3rd in series.

Picoult, Jodi. [Lone Wolf](#) (Atria \$28). Luke Warren has spent his life researching wolves. He has written about them, studied their habits intensively, and even lived with them for extended periods of time. In many ways, Luke understands wolf dynamics better than those of his own family. His wife, Georgie, has left him, finally giving up on their lonely marriage. His son, Edward, twenty-four, fled six years ago, leaving behind a shattered relationship with his father. Edward understands that some things cannot be fixed, though memories of his domineering father still inflict pain. Then comes a frantic phone call: Luke has been gravely injured in a car accident with Edward’s younger sister, Cara. Suddenly everything changes: Edward must return home to face the father he walked out on at age eighteen. He and Cara have to decide their father’s fate together.

Rice, Anne. [The Wolf Gift](#) (Knopf \$26 possible Signed copies). The time is the present. The place, the rugged coast of Northern California, a grand mansion full of beauty and tantalizing history set against a towering redwood forest. A young reporter on assignment from the *San Francisco Observer*, is welcomed into her family home by an older woman needing to sell it “with some urgency. That night the young man is inexplicably attacked—bitten—by a beast he cannot see in the rural darkness. This violent episode that sets in motion a terrifying yet seductive transformation, as the young man, caught between ecstasy and horror, between embracing who he is evolving into and fearing what he will become, soon experiences the thrill of the wolf gift.

Robb, JD. [Celebrity in Death](#) (Putnam \$28). Lieutenant Eve Dallas is no party girl, but she’s managing to have a reasonably good time at the celebrity-packed bash celebrating *The Icove Agenda*, a film based on one of her famous cases. It’s a little spooky seeing the actress playing her, who looks almost like her long-lost twin. Not as unsettling, though, as seeing the actress who plays Peabody drowned in the lap pool on the roof of the director’s luxury building. Now she’s at the center of a crime scene—and Eve is more than ready to get out of her high heels and strap on her holster and step into the role she was born to play: cop.

Rosenfelt, David. [Heart of a Killer Signed](#) (St Martins \$25 in stock, Signed March 13) is NOT an Andy Carpenter legal mystery with Tara the wonder dog and her friends, but it's a twin. A NJ lawyer, smart but reluctant to break a courtroom sweat, and a truly terrifying case in that his client's request he help her legally commit suicide in order to donate her heart to her daughter has no precedent.... Same low-key humor, plus amazing plot skills. I don't know how he does it book after book! Don't miss this one.

Sturges, PC. [Tribulation of the Shortcut Man Signed](#) (Scribner \$24) From the writer described as "a worthy successor to Chandler" (Michael Connelly), the follow-up to First Mystery Club Pick [The Shortcut Man](#) (\$15), featuring Dick Henry. It's a rousing tale of sin and salvation in the City of Angels. Henry, a believer in assisting people with their sticky situations in the belief that the shortest answer to many problems may not always be legal, reluctantly provides assistance to an old girlfriend, pole dancer Pussy Grace. After Pussy's boyfriend, rich and famous developer and septuagenarian Art Lewis, has inexplicably cut off communication with her, Dick and Puss enter Lewis's mansion disguised as gas company employees to investigate. Everything quickly goes to hell. Dick and Puss flee, leaving the very dead Art Lewis behind. Dick anticipates arrest until news breaks the next morning: Art Lewis has just gotten married and is now enjoying his honeymoon. Much of the fun here lies in an art scam and in Henry's attempts to reconcile his Japanese girlfriend with who he is. A great read.

Talley, Marcia. [A Quiet Death](#) (\$16). Hannah Ives is returning from a charity luncheon in Washington, D.C., when her train is involved in a horrific crash. Although her arm is broken, she remains at the side of her critically injured seatmate until help arrives—but when she is later discharged from hospital, she finds herself in possession of the man's distinctive bag....

Taylor, Brad. [All Necessary Force](#) (Dutton \$26). Retired Delta Force officer Taylor's debut thriller, [One Rough Man](#) (\$10), was a 2011 Thriller Club Pick. For Pike Logan's second mission, the CIA, FBI, and Department of Defense systems have spiked, but traditional intel is going nowhere. It falls to the Taskforce—a top secret team that exists outside the bounds of U.S. law and is charged with finding and destroying asymmetric threats—to stop the unknown conspirators. A shadowy trailer leads the Taskforce through Asia and into Egypt, where an attack leaves one hardened Taskforce member dead and another barely breathing. Pike Logan and his partner, Jennifer Cahill, are forced to helm the increasingly convoluted and dangerous mission....

Thor, Brad. [Full Black](#) (\$15). Born in the shadows and kept from heads of state, some missions are so deadly, so sensitive, that they simply don't exist. When one such mission goes horribly wrong, only former Navy SEAL Team 6 member turned covert counterterrorism operative Scot Harvath can carry out an audacious plan to prevent one of the biggest terrorist threats the United States has ever faced: plus Horvath has to go full black on this one...

Westlake, Donald E. [The Comedy is Finished](#) (Hard Case Crime \$26). A final, previously unpublished novel from the legendary Westlake. The year is 1977, and America is finally getting over the nightmares of Watergate and Vietnam and the national hangover that was the 1960s. But not everyone is ready to let it go. Not, say, aging comedian Koo Davis, friend to generals

and presidents and veteran of countless USO tours to buck up American troops in the field. And not the five remaining members of the self-proclaimed People's Revolutionary Army, who've decided that kidnapping Koo Davis would be the perfect way to bring their cause back to life...

FEBRUARY MASS MARKET PICKS

Battles, Brett. [No Return](#) (\$7.99). An F-18 Navy fighter careens out of the blue sky above the Mojave desert. A TV cameraman who grew up in a small town just miles away can see what is going to happen next. Frantically, Wes Stewart races to the downed jet and tries to save the pilot's life. When the plane explodes, Wes escapes without harm—and plunges into a murderous conspiracy. It's been 15 years since Wes has been back to the desolate land of his childhood. Now he finds himself up against the U.S. military, the local police, and someone who is tracking his every move. In the moments he spent with the dying pilot, Wes discovered something that could get him killed. But while he tries to untangle a web of lies and secrets surrounding the crash, another danger is stalking him.

Berenson, Alex. [The Secret Soldier](#) (\$9.99). After a plot against the aged monarch of Saudi Arabia is uncovered, John Wells reluctantly agrees to go undercover, with the secret blessing of the CIA. But the more he learns, the more complicated things become, and soon he, too, is unsure of whom to trust, in Saudi Arabia or Washington.

Bowen, Rhys. [Bless the Bride](#) (\$7.99). With Molly Murphy's wedding to NYPD Captain Daniel Sullivan quickly approaching, the immigrant lass heads to the Westchester County countryside, where Daniel's mother can counsel her on a bride's proper place. Surprisingly, Molly seems to be agreeing with her future mother-in-law's advice. Molly promises to leave her detective work behind and settle down after becoming Daniel's wife... but she isn't married yet. So when she gets word of a possible case, Molly sneaks back into the city where a wealthy Chinese immigrant wants Molly to find his missing bride. Molly has a hunch that his intended has run off. But how and where in early 20th Century NY?

Brown, Graham. [The Eden Prophecy Signed](#) (Bantam \$7.99). Hawker teams up with NRI operative Danielle Laidlaw on a quest—when they're not butting heads—to stop a madman with visions of a new Eden... Vivid characters, neat concept and a good foundation under the plot.

Coyle, Cleo. [The Ghost and the Bogus Bestseller](#) (\$7.99). A new chapter in the Haunted Bookshop series, a natural segue from Coyle's Coffeehouse Mysteries, no?

Cussler, Clive. [The Jungle](#) (\$9.99). Juan Cabrillo and his crew on the *Oregon* face a horrendous threat against U.S. security...

Gardner, Lisa. [Love You More](#) (\$7.99). Brian Darby lies dead on the kitchen floor. His wife, state police trooper Tessa Leoni, claims to have shot him in self-defense, and bears the bruises to back up her tale. For veteran detective D. D. Warren it should be an open-and-shut case. But where is their six-year-old daughter? As the homicide investigation ratchets into a frantic statewide search for a missing child, D. D. Warren must partner with former lover Bobby Dodge to break through the blue wall of police brotherhood, seeking to understand the inner workings of a trooper's mind while also unearthing family secrets...

Graves, Sarah. [Knockdown](#) (\$7.99). Jacobia “Jake” Tiptree is deep in her latest home improvement project—repainting the porch of her lovingly restored house in Eastport, Maine—when she notices the man repeatedly biking past her house. His face is unsettlingly familiar, but his chilling message seems inexplicable: Blood shows up again. Murder will out. Then there’s the anonymous email warning her to beware the Fourth of July—just two days away. Jake remembers some shady characters from her days as a hotshot financial manager, but she’s baffled as to the identity of her nemesis—until she receives a photo of a murdered man.

Preston, Douglas/Lincoln Child. [Cold Vengeance](#) (\$9.99). Devastated by the discovery that his wife, Helen, was murdered, Special Agent Pendergast must have retribution. But revenge is not simple. As he stalks his wife’s betrayers—a chase that takes him from the wild moors of Scotland to the bustling streets of New York City and the darkest bayous of Louisiana—he is also forced to dig further into Helen’s past. And he is stunned to learn that Helen may have been a collaborator in her own murder. Peeling back the layers of deception, Pendergast realizes that the conspiracy is deeper, goes back generations, and is unimaginably monstrous...

Rosenfelt, David. [On Borrowed Time](#) (\$7.99). Everything is going right for magazine writer Richard Kilmer. His girlfriend, the beautiful Jennifer Ryan, has agreed to marry him. The happy couple celebrates with a romantic drive up to Kendrick Falls. Even as dark clouds begin to gather, Jen and Richard press on. The freak storm sends Richard careening off the road and throws Jen from the vehicle. Richard seems to be fine, but he can’t find Jen anywhere—neither can the town’s police. The storm has disappeared and with it every trace of the future Mrs. Kilmer. Richard remembers her so vividly, but no one he knows can confirm that Jen ever existed. Could he be crazy? Did he dream her up? After weeks of nightmares, therapy, and unanswered questions, his life is still in pieces. But just as Richard begins to completely unravel, so do the secrets behind Jen’s disappearance...

Silva, Daniel. [Portrait of a Spy](#) (\$9.99). It was supposed to be the start of a pleasant weekend in London for master art restorer and spy Gabriel Allon and his wife, Chiara, living quietly in Cornwall. But a deadly pair of bombings in Paris and Copenhagen has already marred this lovely autumn day. Then, before he can stop a man he suspects is about to launch a third attack in Covent Garden, Gabriel is knocked to the pavement where he can only watch helplessly as the nightmare unfolds. Still shattered, Gabriel is summoned to Washington—and plunged into a deadly confrontation where a Yemeni is a formidable foe. But the London art world and Chiara’s future make crucial story elements, too.

Tursten, Helene. [Detective Inspector Huss](#) (\$9.99). Inspector Irene Huss, stationed in Göteborg, is called through the rain-drenched wintry streets to the scene of an apparent suicide. The dead man landed on the sidewalk in front of his luxurious duplex apartment. He was a wealthy financier connected, through an old-boys’ network, with the first families of Sweden. But the “Society Suicide” turns out to have been a carefully plotted murder. As more murders ensue, she tangles with street gang members, skinheads, immigrants and neo-Nazis—a cross-section

of Sweden’s disaffected—in order to catch the killer.

White, Randy Wayne. [Night Vision](#) (\$9.99). A lot is going on in the trailer park known as Little Guadalajara, inhabited principally by illegal laborers. After a teenage girl witnesses the park manager killing a man, her only hope for survival is Doc Ford... who appears here March 16 in a new thriller.

NEW IN MASS MARKET

Aames, Avery. [Clobbered By Camembert](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Cheese store owner Charlotte Bessette is setting up for the town’s Winter Wonderland fair. Then, after an old friend is found dead in the cottage of Charlotte’s assistant Rebecca, a suspicion falls on Rebecca’s boyfriend, a honeybee farmer. While the town buzzes with gossip, can Charlotte catch the culprit without getting stung herself?

Allen, Jeffrey. [Stay at Home Dead](#) (Kensington \$7.99). After Deuce Winters, a stay-at-home dad in sleepy Rose Petal, Texas, discovers a dead body in his mini-van, it quickly throws his quiet life into disarray, in this first installment of a new series.

Archer, Jeffrey. [Only Time Will Tell](#) (\$9.99). The first novel in the Clifton Chronicles, an ambitious new series that tells the story of a family across generations and oceans. The tale of Harry Clifton’s life begins in 1920, with the words “I was told that my father was killed in the war.” A dock worker in Bristol, Harry never knew his father and expects to continue on at the shipyard, until a remarkable gift wins him a scholarship to an exclusive boys’ school, and his life will never be the same again... As Harry enters into adulthood, he finally learns how his father really died, but the awful truth only leads him to more questions...

Arlington, Lucy. [Buried in a Book](#) (Berkley \$7.99). After losing her job as a journalist at the age of 45, Lila Wilkins accepts an internship at A Novel Idea, a thriving literary agency in North Carolina. When a penniless aspiring author drops dead in the agency’s waiting room—and Lila discovers a series of threatening letters—she’s determined to find out who wrote him off. First in the Novel Idea Series.

Atherton, Nancy. [Aunt Dimity and the Family Tree](#) (\$7.99). Lori Shepherd’s debonair father-in-law has moved to town and is renovating Fairworth House, a grand estate nearby. But once things get truly peculiar at Fairworth—moving furniture, strange sounds, and mysterious visitors—Lori calls on Aunt Dimity for her otherworldly guidance.

Bartlett, Lorraine. [The Walled Flower](#) (Berkley \$7.99). If Katie Bonner’s late husband hadn’t invested all their savings in the crafts fair Artisans Alley, the Webster mansion could have been “hers” to remodel into a bed-and-breakfast. Instead that dream belongs to another young couple. But the dream becomes a nightmare after a skeleton is discovered sealed in the walls of the mansion.

Brady, Jacklyn. [Cake on a Hot Tin Roof](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Pastry chef Rita Lucero’s Mardi Gras party turns funereal when one of her guests is found dead after a public fight with her uncle—leaving Rita no choice but to find the real killer and clear her uncle’s name. Includes recipes.

Clancy, Tom. [Against All Enemies](#) (\$9.99). Here’s a new hero for a new era of warfare—against a new kind of threat...

Coonts, Stephen. [Deep Black Death Wave](#) (\$9.99). In Central Asia, a dangerous shipment has vanished. Twelve nuclear warheads - with a combined power greater than the Hiroshima bomb - have been stolen by a deadly new alliance of international terrorists. Their plan: Use man-made weapons to trigger a devastating natural catastrophe - the largest tsunami the world has ever seen Enter Deep Black: a secret unit of the NSA led by former Marine sniper Charlie Dean. With his hand-picked team of special ops, Dean follows the terrorists' trail to the Canary Islands. But time is running out...

Copperman, E J. [Old Haunts](#) (Berkley \$7.99). The ghosts haunting Alison Kerby's Jersey Shore guesthouse are sad. Maxie wants to know who murdered her ex-husband, and Paul pines for his still-living almost-fiancé. The only one who isn't missing her ex is Alison—because The Swine just arrived on her doorstep.

Coughlin, Jack. [An Act of Treason](#) (\$9.99). Marine sniper Kyle Swanson and his beautiful girlfriend, CIA agent Lauren Carson, are on a mission in Pakistan when their world is turned inside out. Kyle is captured and thrown in prison. Lauren is accused of being a double agent. The one person they trust to help is the man who sent them on the black operation - Jim Hall, a legendary CIA agent, Kyle's sniper mentor, and Lauren's boss and former lover. But Hall has gone rogue.... 4th in series.

Davidson, Diane M. [Crunch Time](#) (\$7.99). When the rental house shared by chef Yolanda Garcia and her irrepressible Aunt Ferdinanda is destroyed by arson, the pair moves in with cop-turned-PI Ernest McLeod. But then Ernest is shot dead and his house is set on fire, nearly killing Yolanda, Ferdinanda, and their good friend, Colorado caterer Goldy Schulz, along with nine beagle puppies that Ernest had recently rescued from a puppy mill. Concerned for her friends, Goldy invites them to stay with her. But even her house isn't safe what with a failed break-in and the discovery of a second body...

Galenorn, Yasmine. [Shaded Vision](#) (Berkley \$7.99). It's Valentine's Day and the D'Artigo women are preparing for their friend Iris's wedding. But when Delilah and her sisters get word that the Super Community Center has been bombed, things get really ugly. The evil coyote shifters—the Koyami—are back, and Newkirk, their new leader, has joined forces with a group of rogue sorcerers. The 11th Otherworld novel.

Greeley, Andrew M. [Irish Love](#) (\$5.99). Because she is fey and has had visions of both the past and the future, Nuala proves too much for the forces of evil unleashed by the prospect of gold in the hills of western Ireland....

Haywood, BB. [Town in a Wild Moose Chase](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Cape Willington's annual Winter Moose Fest is in full swing when the sightings of a mysterious white moose—and rumors of a dead body found in the woods—send Candy scrambling to separate fact from fiction before she finds herself in the bull's-eye of a ruthless killer.

Johansen, Iris. [Bonnie](#) (\$7.99). When Eve Duncan gave birth to her daughter, she experienced a love she never knew existed. Nothing would stand in the way of giving Bonnie a wonderful life - until the unthinkable happened and the seven-year-old vanished into thin air. Eve found herself in the throes of a nightmare from which there was no escape. But a new Eve emerged: a woman who would use her remarkable talent as a

forensic sculptor to help others find closure in the face of tragedy. Deeper to realize that Bonnie's father is a key player in solving this monstrous puzzle.

Larsson, Stieg. [The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest](#) (\$9.99). In the concluding volume of Larsson's blockbuster Millennium trilogy, Lisbeth Salander lies in critical condition in a Swedish hospital, a bullet in her head. But she's fighting for her life in more ways than one: if and when she recovers, she'll stand trial for three murders. With the help of Stockholm journalist Mikael Blomkvist, she'll need to identify those in authority who have allowed the vulnerable, like herself, to suffer abuse and violence. And, on her own, she'll seek revenge—against the man who tried to kill her and against corrupt government institutions....

Ludlum, Robert. [Robert Ludlum's the Lazarus Vendetta](#) (\$9.99). When an attack on a nano-technology research facility leaves thousands dead - protestors and scientists alike - from what appears to be a cloud of inadvertently released but gruesomely deadly nanobots, pandemonium reigns. Lt. Col. Jon Smith is activated by Covert-One to find the truth about Lazarus where all others have failed. As Smith slowly uncovers the deadly underpinnings of the group, he soon learns that the Lazarus Movement is only the very tip of the iceberg in a deadly scheme that threatens billions of lives...

McCleary, Carol. [The Illusion of Murder](#) (\$7.99). Nellie Bly - Victorian Age detective, reporter, and feminist - as she takes up a challenge by Jules Verne to beat the eighty days it took his fictional hero Phileas Fogg to race around the world. Nellie tackles the journey - alone, with a single change of clothes - against the wishes of her publisher, Joseph Pulitzer, who felt it was "too dangerous for a woman to attempt." In her official account of the journey, Nellie leaves out one riveting event: a mysterious death. In the bustling harbor city of Port Said, she witnesses an event that makes her a target for a killer and involves her in international intrigue with the fate of nations at stake.

Meier, Leslie. [The English Tea Murder](#) (\$7.99). Lucy Stone is saying cheerio to Tinker's Cove and jetting off to jolly old England! But when things get dodgy, it appears murder may have followed her across the Atlantic. Reissued for February: [The Valentine Murder](#) (\$7.99).

Nesbo, Jo. [Nemesis](#) (\$7.99). Oslo cop Harry Hole investigates a series of brutal bank robberies and the suspicious suicide of a female artist...

Palmer, Daniel. [Delirious](#) (\$7.99). A fiendishly inventive psychological thriller debut in which the line between what is real and what is imagined twists and turns.

Smith, Wilbur. [Those in Peril](#) (\$9.99). A contemporary tale in which an oil heiress whose daughter has been kidnapped by African Muslim pirates takes the law into her own hands.

Spindler, Erica. [Watch Me Die](#) (\$7.99). Stained-glass restoration artist Mira Gallier had it all. A career she loved. An idyllic marriage. A bright future in her favorite city. Then Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans and Mira lost everything - even her husband, swept away by floodwaters. ears later, Mira has finally healed and is ready to start over. But her fate is once again altered by forces beyond her control. Instead of a killer storm, she faces a psychopath determined to shatter her life once more.

First, church windows that she restored are vandalized - with haunting religious scripture - and a priest is found dead at the scene. Next, New Orleans is rocked by a series of murders that seem to be linked to her...and the police can't help but wonder if the murderer isn't Mira herself.

Wells, Dan. [Mr. Monster A John Wayne Cleaver Novel](#) (\$7.99).

In *I Am Not a Serial Killer*, John Wayne Cleaver saved his town from a murderer even more appalling than the serial killers he obsessively studies, using his own repressed homicidal proclivities to even the odds. But it turns out even demons have friends, and the disappearance of one has brought another to Clayton County. Soon there are new victims for John to work on at the mortuary, and a new mystery to solve. But this time something's different. John has tasted death, and the dark nature he used as a weapon - the terrifying persona he calls "Mr. Monster" - might now be using him. No one in Clayton is safe unless John can vanquish two nightmarish adversaries: the unknown demon he must hunt, and the inner demon he can never escape.

HISTORY/MYSTERY

Alcott, Kate. [The Dressmaker](#) (Doubleday \$26). This one is commercial women's fiction but, timed to the 100th anniversary of the *Titanic* tragedy, it illuminates how people respond to danger. Some of them heroically, some badly, as we have just seen in the ironically timed Costa cruise line disaster. Lady Duff-Gordon and her husband, first class passengers on the *Titanic*, were among those able to secure seats in a lifeboat. Having done so, witnesses swore Lady Duff-Gordon, a noted fashion designer, refused to pick up any of the less fortunate floundering in the icy waters. Aboard her boat was a couple, dancers; the husband had disguised himself via a blanket as a woman, but didn't survive the resulting scandal buzzing New York. This novel is about the fallout for the dressmaker, survivors, Bruce Ismay and his White Star Line, etc, and underlines that the number of deaths was irresponsibly larger than needs be.

Auel, Jean M. [Land of Painted Caves](#) (\$8.99). The 6th novel and conclusion to Auel's Ice Age epic, *Earth's Children*. Ayla, Jondalar, and their infant daughter, Jonayla, are living with the Zelandonii in the Ninth Cave. Ayla has been chosen as an acolyte to a spiritual leader and begins arduous training tasks. Whatever obstacles she faces, Ayla perseveres, but at cost....

Bown, Stephen R. [1494: How a Family Feud in Medieval Spain Divided the World in Half](#) (St Martins \$28). When Columbus first returned from America to Spain, his discoveries inflamed a smoldering conflict between Portugal's King and Spain's monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella. Acting hastily, Pope Alexander VI issued a proclamation providing the foundation for the Treaty of Tordesillas, which created an imaginary line in the Atlantic Ocean dividing the world between Spain and Portugal. Bown argues that the treaty has had a profound influence on centuries of world history, propelling both countries to superpower status, steering many European nations on a collision course and emerging as the central grievance that stimulated two centuries of international espionage, piracy, and warfare. Visitors to both countries, especially their cathedrals, can still be staggered by the sheer enormity of the wealth plundered from the Americas.

☞Clare, Alys. [The Rose of the World](#) (\$16). Autumn, 1210. Helewise has moved into Hawkenlye Manor with Josse. But after a visit to St. Edmund's Chapel, Helewise's 11-year-old granddaughter, Rosamund, goes missing—and soon all that they hold dear is threatened. The latest in a long-running, atmospheric series set in medieval Kent.

Cordery, Stacy A. [Juliette Gordon Low](#) (Viking \$28). Born at the start of the Civil War, Juliette Gordon Low grew up in Georgia, where she struggled to reconcile being a good Southern belle with her desire to run barefoot through the fields. Deafened by an accident, "Daisy" married a dashing British aristocrat and moved to England. But she was ultimately betrayed by her husband and dissatisfied by the aimlessness of privileged life. Her search for a greater purpose ended when she met Robert Baden-Powell, war hero, adventurer, and founder of the Boy Scouts. Captivated with his program, Daisy aimed to instill the same useful skills and moral values in young girls—with an emphasis on fun. She imported the Boy Scouts' sister organization, the Girl Guides, to Savannah in 1912, where it grew into the Girl Scouts. Not sure if this biography mentions cookies...

Crowley, Roger. [City of Fortune: How Venice Ruled the Seas](#) (Random \$32). The rise and fall of the Venetian empire stands unrivaled for drama, intrigue, and sheer opulent majesty. This history is framed around two of the great collisions of world history: the ill-fated Fourth Crusade, which culminated in the sacking of Constantinople and the carve-up of the Byzantine Empire in 1204, and the Ottoman-Venetian War of 1499–1503, which saw the Ottoman Turks supplant the Venetians as the preeminent naval power in the Mediterranean. In between were three centuries of Venetian maritime dominance during which a tiny city of "lagoon dwellers" grew into the richest place on earth. They were traders to their bones. Ultimately both empires were undone by the shift of trade routes to the Atlantic as the Portuguese and Spanish showed the way to India round the Cape and the Spanish to the Americas and ultimately the Pacific. Drawing on firsthand accounts of pitched sea battles, skillful negotiations, and diplomatic maneuvers, Crowley paints a vivid picture of this avaricious, enterprising people. Defiant of emperors, indifferent to popes, the Venetians saw themselves as reluctant freebooters, compelled to take to the open seas "because we cannot live otherwise and know not how except by trade." Beverly Myers paints an 18th Century Venice, still jousting with Constantinople, brilliantly in her mysteries. Start with *Interrupted Aria* (\$15), also available as an e-book at www.poisonedpenpress.com. New package available May 1.

☞Davies, J D. [Mountain of Gold](#) (Houghton \$25). When a captured Barbary pirate saves his neck with a tall tale of a fabled mountain of gold, Captain Matthew Quinton has his doubts. But King Charles II can't resist the chance to outstrip the Dutch with a limitless source of wealth. With the devious pirate O'Dwyer in tow, Quinton embarks on a voyage beyond the map's edge, still convinced that the mountain is mere legend. But as attempts to sabotage his mission draw closer to the mark, he begins to wonder... Back in England, the king has arranged a wedding between Matthew's elder brother, the Earl of Ravensden, and a mysterious lady rumored to have murdered her previous two husbands. Resolved not to fail his meddling sovereign, and to return home in time to protect his family and his home, Captain Quinton approaches the coast of Africa with a troubled mind.

✂Dickinson, David. [Death at the Jesus Hospital Signed](#) (Constable \$43). The first man murdered was Abel Meredith, a resident at the Jesus Hospital Almshouse near London. The second victim, Roderick Gill, was bursar at the Allison's school in Norfolk. Victim number three, Sir Rufus Walcott, was slain in his own hall by the Thames. All had their throats cut, all had strange markings on their chests, carved there by the murderer. Lord Francis Powerscourt, brought in to solve this case of triple murder, has plenty of suspects and suspicions. They all tie to Sir Peregrine Fishbourne, Prime Warden of the Guild of Silkworkers, who had visited all three men shortly before their untimely deaths. Powerscourt is certain he can't crack the case until he cracks the meaning of the murderer's marks. Lord Francis' previous case is [Death in a Scarlet Coat](#) (\$16), our January History Paperback Pick.

✂Doherty, Paul. [Bloodstone](#) (Coronet \$29). December, 1380. When the corpse of Sir Robert Kilverby is discovered in a locked room, Brother Athelstan accompanies the King's coroner to investigate. For Sir Robert had in his possession a priceless relic, a sacred bloodstone, which has now disappeared. Did Sir Robert die of natural causes or was he murdered? If you missed the Signed UK edition, you can now read this long-awaited new case for Brother Athelstan in the US.

Dumas, Alexandre. [The Three Musketeers](#) (Penguin \$15). A wonderful read of France, Louis XIII, his queen, Cardinal Richelieu, and the famous guards Athos, Porthos, Aramis—plus D'Artagnan. Excellent for YA readers too. This has the movie tie-in cover but don't let that put you off. Plus it was filmed in Würzburg Residenz, a UNESCO Heritage Site in Germany; we watched some of the cast at work when last there.

✂Gallagher, Stephen. [The Bedlam Detective](#) (Crown \$25). An amazing thriller about a former Pinkerton agent returned 1912 to his London home where he secures a post as a special investigator to the Masters of Lunacy. See A Bonanza from Britain for more.

Goodwin, Jason. [An Evil Eye](#) (\$15). It's Istanbul in 1839, and as the new sultan installs his harem in the palace, the intrepid investigator Yashim is set adrift on the swirling currents of loyalty and betrayal. The dramatic treachery of Fevzi Ahmet, the admiral of the fleet, brings Yashim up against the one man he has ever hated the only man he has ever feared. Drawn ever deeper into the closed and mysterious world of the Sultan's harem, Yashim must search for a secret that could save a life or destroy an empire. I was so charmed by this superb entry in the Edgar-winning series that Rob and I took the ferry to the Princes' Islands where much of this enthralling tale takes place. Read with Lukas, below.

Jones, J. Sydney. [The Silence](#) (Severn \$29). Lawyer Karl Werthen is puzzling over the suicide of a local councilman when he is assigned by Karl Wittgenstein, a powerful industrialist with many enemies, to find his missing son, Hans. Werthen quickly discovers that the young man appears to be alive and well in another country. But when a friend of Hans—a journalist who wrote a number of articles claiming the councilman who committed suicide was corrupt—is found dead, also from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, Werthen fears that sinister forces are at work. “Jones vividly evokes 1900 Vienna in his splendid third whodunit featuring attorney Karl Werthen and criminologist

Hanns Gross.” —*PW* Starred Review. Suicide was practically a Viennese disease at this era and homosexuality acknowledged but cloaked.

Lukas, Michael David. [The Oracle of Stamboul](#) (\$14). This lovely, elegantly crafted, imaginative tale of a gifted young girl who charms a sultan and changes the course of an empire's history made a History Club Pick in hardcover. Late in the summer of 1877, a flock of purple-and-white hoopoes suddenly appears over the town of Constanta on the Black Sea, and Eleonora Cohen is ushered into the world by a mysterious pair of Tartar midwives who arrive just minutes before her birth. By age 8, a gifted reader, Eleanora stows away on her carpet merchant father's boat to Istanbul where she finds a new life in the household on his partner, Moncef Bey, meets an American who may be a spy, and the eccentric, charming Sultan Abdulhamid II whose empire is crumbling...

MacLean, Anna. [Louisa and the Crystal Gazer](#) (New American Library \$14). When Sylvia Shattuck expresses a desire to contact her long-dead father through a medium, Louisa May Alcott accompanies Sylvia to a séance at the home of Boston's most famous crystal gazer. When the medium is murdered, Louisa must first uncover the surprising truth about the medium's life.

Moran, Michelle. [Madame Tussaud: A Novel of the French Revolution](#) (\$15). Smart and ambitious, Marie Tussaud has learned the secrets of wax sculpting by working alongside her uncle in their celebrated wax museum, the Salon de Cire. From her popular model of the American ambassador, Thomas Jefferson, to her tableau of the royal family at dinner, Marie's museum provides Parisians with the very latest news on fashion, gossip, and even politics. In time she ends at Versailles as a royal tutor in wax sculpting. And then.... This novel spans five years from the budding revolution to the Reign of Terror, a chapter in the life of this amazing woman.

✂Parris, S.J. [Sacrilege](#) (Knopf \$27; [Signed copies](#) Collins \$32 March with much neater cover art!). London, summer of 1584: Radical philosopher, ex-monk, and spy Giordano Bruno suspects he is being followed by an old enemy. He is shocked to discover that his pursuer is in fact Sophia Underhill, a young woman with whom he was once in love. When Bruno learns that Sophia has been accused of murdering her husband, a prominent magistrate in Canterbury, he agrees to do anything he can to help clear her name. In the city that was once England's greatest center of pilgrimage, Bruno turns his detective's eye on history—on Saint Thomas Becket, the twelfth-century archbishop murdered in Canterbury Cathedral, and on the legend surrounding the disappearance of his body—in order to solve the crime. As Bruno's feelings for Sophia grow more intense, so does his fear that another murder is about to take place—perhaps his own—while he hunts down a killer in the shadow of England's ancient cathedral. A fine, dark Tudor series.

Pearl, Matthew. [The Technologists Signed](#) (Random House \$28). Boston, 1868. The Civil War may be over but a new war has begun, one between the past and the present, tradition and technology. On a former marshy wasteland, the daring Massachusetts Institute of Technology is rising, its mission to harness science for the benefit of all and to open the doors of opportunity to everyone of merit. But in Boston Harbor a fiery cataclysm throws commerce into chaos, as ships' instruments

spin inexplicably out of control. Soon after, another mysterious catastrophe devastates the heart of the city. Is it sabotage by scientific means or Nature revolting against man's attempt to control it? The shocking disasters cast a pall over M.I.T. and provoke assaults from all sides—rival Harvard, labor unions, and a sensationalistic press. With their first graduation and the very survival of their groundbreaking college now in doubt, a band of the Institute's best and brightest students secretly come together to save innocent lives and track down the truth, armed with ingenuity and their unique scientific training.

Pintoff, Stephanie. [The Secret of the White Rose](#) (\$15). third in the Turn of the Century New York series featuring Detective Simon Ziele. This one centers on a series of brutal political murders targeting Manhattan's millionaires and explores the radical subculture of Anarchists in New York City of that time. Pintoff excels at discovering unusual and interesting subcultures from the past, making links to the present.

Ramsay, Frederick. [The Eighth Veil](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15 Signed March 3). A puzzling murder mystery begun inside the palace of Herod Antipas set in the year 28 CE in Jerusalem during the feast of Tabernacles. The servant girl found with her throat cut in the ritual baths (which have regularly been misused by party goers contrary to Jewish religious law) proves to be an enigmatic figure. Pontius Pilate, the Roman Prefect, demands an independent investigation. I absolutely loved working on this novel which is not only an intriguing mystery but illuminates tumultuous history. By sheer good luck I traveled in some of the territories relevant to this start of a trilogy during the writing, which made editing a more personal process.

✧Robertson, Imogen. [Anatomy of Murder](#) (Viking \$27). The Indie Next Pick: "London swirls with pomp and intrigue, the Admiralty is dealing with the American Revolution and French spies, and a headstrong woman and her reclusive fellow detective are called upon to discover the story behind a drowning that may be more than it seems. Meandering between the lowest of slums and the glitter of the opera house, a real page-turner." Terrific atmosphere, good plot, and one death very hard to take. For Robertson's, *Instruments of Darkness*, see February Trade Paper Picks.

✧Sansom, CJ. [Heartstone](#) (\$16). Tudor noir. See February Trade Paper Picks.

Sims, Michael, ed. [The Dead Witness](#) (Walker \$20 trade paper). A superior collection of Victorian detective stories, private agents and police at work. Some tales are famed, some overlooked, all are seminal to modern mystery. What lifts this excellent volume to a must-have is Sims' introductory overview of Victorian-era detective fiction, his evaluations and revelations. Highly recommended.

✧Trow, MJ. [Silent Court](#) (Severn \$29). November, 1583. Desperate not to let the Netherlands fall into the hands of Catholic Spain, the Queen's spymaster orders Cambridge scholar and novice spy Christopher Marlowe to go there to assist its beleaguered leader, William the Silent. However, traveling in disguise as part of a troupe of Egyptian players, Marlowe encounters trouble even before he leaves England. When the players make a detour to perform at the home of Dr John Dee, one of their tricks ends in tragedy—and an arrest for murder...

✧Whitworth, V W. [The Bone Thief Signed](#) (Ebury \$45). Edward, son of Alfred the Great, has inherited the Kingdom of Wessex and achieved a precarious set of alliances through marriage and military conquest. But the alliance is uneasy. The elderly Lord of Mercia fears Wessex and his wife, Edward's sister, fears Mercia can't withstand a hostile takeover. The chance to rescue St Oswald's bones, beloved patron saint, to consecrate her new church and unite the people behind her, is too good an opportunity to miss. They are rumored to be interred north, outside Lincoln, deep in hostile territory. Her secretary, Wulfgar, groomed for the priesthood since he was a boy in the elegant cloisters of Winchester cathedral but naïve—is surprised to be sent on this quest, which holds surprises like a maverick priest and a Viking adventuress whose loyalties are far from clear...