

# BOOKNEWS from

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## A Fabulous February!

### AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

Some Events will be webcast at <http://new.livestream.com/poisonedpen>.

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#### WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 5 7:00 PM

Scottsdale Public Library 3839 N Drinkwater Boulevard

Daniel Stashower signs [The Hour of Peril](#) (\$16.99) The Baltimore plot to assassinate Lincoln. A 2014 Edgar Award nominee

#### SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8

Coffee & Crime reads Jenn McKinlay's [Cloche and Dagger](#) (\$7.99), the start of a British cozy series involving hats

#### SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8 Poisoned Pen Press Party! Giveaways and Tea

Charlotte Hinger signs [Hidden Heritage](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) Kansas' Lottie Albright

Frederick Ramsay signs [Drowning Barbie](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) Virginia Sheriff Ike Schwartz

#### TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11 7:00 PM

Keith McCafferty signs [Dead Man's Fancy](#) (Viking \$26.95) 3<sup>rd</sup> Sean Stranahan

#### WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12

Carla Buckley signs [The Deepest Secret](#) (Random \$26)

#### THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13 7:00 PM

Dan Price signs [Flight of the Silvers](#) (Blue Rider/Putnam \$27.95)

#### SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15 5:00 PM Launch Party

Dana Stabenow signs [Everything Under the Heavens](#) (Gere \$14.99) First in historical fiction about Marco Polo's granddaughter

#### TUESDAY FEBRUARY 18 7:00 PM A DUET OF DEBUTS

Two First Mystery Club Picks

Kelly Parsons signs [Doing Harm](#) (St Martins \$25.99)

Peter Swanson signs. [The Girl with a Clock for a Heart](#) (Morrow \$25.99)

#### THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20 7:00 PM

JA Jance signs [Moving Target](#) (Touchstone \$25.99) Ali Reynolds

#### SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22 Noon

The Nancy Drew Club discusses Nancy Drew #47 *The Mysterious Mannequin* and #48 *The Crooked Banister*

#### SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22 2:00 PM

Samuel Gailey signs [Deep Winter](#) (Blue Rider/Putnam \$25.95) Dark debut

#### MONDAY FEBRUARY 24 7:00 PM A Night in France

Hosted by Dana Stabenow

Martin Walker signs [The Resistance Man](#) (Knopf \$25.95) Bruno, Chief of Police

#### TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25 7:00 PM

Jennifer McMahon signs [The Winter People](#) (Knopf \$25.95) Ghost story

#### WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26 A Night in Alexandria

Steven Saylor signs [Raiders of the Nile](#) (St Martins \$26.99) Gordianus

#### THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime Club discusses Donald Hamilton's [Death of a Citizen](#) (\$7.99)

#### SATURDAY MARCH 1 2:00 PM

Joanne Fluke signs [Blackberry Pie Murder](#) (Kensington \$25) Hannah Swensen

#### SUNDAY MARCH 2 12:30 PM Writer's Workshop

Robert Dugoni teaches a workshop, Playing God: Creating Memorable Characters. Fee: \$15

#### SUNDAY MARCH 2 2:30 PM

Keith Thomson signs [Seven Grams of Lead](#) (Knopf \$7.99) Thriller

#### TUESDAY MARCH 4 7:00 PM Launch Party

Rhys Bowen signs [City of Darkness and Light](#) (St Martins \$25.99) Molly Murphy does Paris

#### WEDNESDAY MARCH 5 7:00 PM

Clive Cussler and Justin Scott sign [The Bootlegger](#) (Putnam \$27.95) Isaac Bell

#### THURSDAY MARCH 6 7:00 PM

Sharon Kay Penman signs [A King's Ransom](#) (Putnam \$35) Richard Lionheart

#### SATURDAY MARCH 8 2:00 PM

Tarashea Nesbit signs [The Wives of Los Alamos](#) (Bloomsbury \$25) Historical

## EVENT BOOKS

Bowen, Rhys. [City of Darkness and Light](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Molly and Daniel Sullivan are settling happily into the new routines of parenthood, but their domestic bliss is shattered when a gang retaliates against Daniel after he makes a big arrest. Daniel wants his family safely out of New York City as soon as possible. Knowing she needs to protect their young son Liam, Molly agrees to take him on the long journey to Paris to stay with her friends Sid and Gus, who are studying art in the City of Light. But upon arriving in Paris, nothing goes as planned. Sid and Gus are nowhere to be found, and Molly's search for them leads her to the doorstep of a renowned Impressionist artist, whom she's horrified to learn has just been murdered. The longer Molly goes without finding her friends, and the more she learns about the painter's death, the more she starts to wonder if she and Liam might be in even more danger in Paris than they were at home. As Impressionism gives way to Fauvism and Cubism and the Dreyfus affair rocks France, Molly races through Paris to outsmart a killer. For earlier cases for Molly, [click here](#).

Buckley, Carla. [The Deepest Secret](#) (Random \$26). This one gets a rave from me, who is fascinated by both the disease behind the family dynamics and by the story, and by *PW* which gives it a Starred Review: "In Buckley's superb third novel, ordinary human nature and extraordinary circumstances collide to powerful effect. The story offers the intricate suspense and surprise of a thriller, along with rich characterizations and nuanced writing. Teenager Tyler Lattimore has xeroderma pigmentosum, which makes the slightest exposure to ultraviolet light potentially fatal. His mother, Eve, shapes their lives around his safekeeping, struggling to nurture her husband and daughter while managing Tyler's complex needs. On the way to the airport one rainy night, Eve's car hits something as she is texting. Horrified, she discovers not an animal but her best friend Charlotte's young daughter, dead, alongside a deserted road. If she simply drives on, Charlotte will suffer terror, confusion, perhaps even accusation. Yet reporting the accident risks jail time and depriving Tyler of Eve's protection, and Eve of precious moments in his fragile life. The story's suburban world is beautifully observed, its characters convincing, flawed, and sympathetic. Ultimately, Buckley delivers a gripping read and a memorable reflection on the conflicting imperatives of love." Linwood Barclay adds his enthusiasm: "Gets under your skin—when you're not reading it, you're thinking about it....Buckley sets a hook that makes it impossible not to race to the end to find out what happens." And so does Douglas Preston: "A wrenching and utterly engaging story that kept me riveted from the first unsettling chapter to the final surprise... a masterful and assured novel of a boy and his family and of just how far into darkness a mother's love will take them." Buckley's debut in [The Things That Keep Us Here](#) (\$15) was a 2010 Modern Firsts Club Pick. Her second novel is [Invisible](#) (\$15).

Cussler, Clive/Justin Scott. [The Bootlegger](#) (Putnam \$27.95). This rollicking series is so much fun, plus the history is solid so you can actually learn something while swashbuckling along. It is 1920, and both Prohibition and bootlegging are in full swing. When Isaac Bell's boss and lifelong friend Joseph

Van Dorn is shot and nearly killed leading the high-speed chase of a rum-running vessel, Bell swears to him that he will hunt down the lawbreakers, but he doesn't know what he is getting into. When a witness to Van Dorn's shooting is executed in a ruthlessly efficient manner invented by the Russian secret police, it becomes clear that these are no ordinary criminals. Bell is up against a team of Bolshevik assassins and saboteurs—and they are intent on overthrowing the government. For earlier Isaac Bell adventures, [click here](#).

Fluke, Joanne. [Blackberry Pie Murder](#) (Kensington \$25). It's been a sleepy summer for the folks of Lake Eden, Minnesota. In fact, it's been a whole four months since anyone in the Swensen family has come across a dead body—a detail that just made the front page of the local paper. And that means Hannah Swensen can finally focus on her bakery...or can she? Life is never really quiet for Hannah. After all, her mother's wedding is a little over a month away and guess who Delores put in charge of the planning? Yet just when Hannah believes her biggest challenge will be whether to use butter cream or fondant for the wedding cake, she accidentally hits a stranger with her cookie truck while driving down a winding country road in a raging thunderstorm. Hannah is wracked with guilt, and things get even worse when she's arrested...for murder! But an autopsy soon reveals the mystery man, his shirt covered in stains from blackberry pie, would have died even if Hannah hadn't hit him. Now, to clear her name, Hannah will have to follow a trail of pie crumbs to track down the identity of the deceased, find a baker who knows more about murder than how to roll out a perfect pie crust—and get herself to the church on time.... For earlier yummys by Fluke, [click here](#).

Gailey, Samuel. [Deep Winter](#) (Blue Rider/Putnam \$25.95 Feb. 22). In this debut, in the small town of Wyalusing in eastern Pennsylvania, a woman is found brutally murdered one winter night. Next to the body is Danny Bedford, a misunderstood man who suffered a tragic brain injury that left him with limited mental capabilities. Despite his simple life, his intimidating size has caused his neighbors to ostracize him out of fear of what he may do. So when the local bully-turned-deputy discovers Danny with the body, it's obvious that Danny's physical strength has finally become deadly. But in the long, freezing night that follows, the murder is only the first in a series of crimes that viciously upset the town order—an unstoppable chain of violence that appears to make Danny's guilt undeniable. With the threat of an approaching blizzard, the local sheriff and a state trooper work through the predawn hours to restore some semblance of order to Wyalusing. As they investigate one unspeakable incident after another, they discover an intricate web of lies... "A beautiful and brutal debut. Put Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* in a blender with Scott Smith's classic crime novel *A Simple Plan*, then watch as Gailey hits the switch and everything in this world spins dangerously out of hand. A wonderful fast paced read." —Urban Waite

Hinger, Charlotte. [Hidden Heritage](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). *Kirkus* named this 3<sup>rd</sup> case for Kansas genealogist/historian/sheriff's deputy Lottie Albright one of the Best Mysteries of 2013! It combines a vivid portrait of modern Western Kansas with glimpses of ranching life, family dynamics, a curandera with cruelly deformed hands, and some cool history I can't

reveal without creating a spoiler. *Booklist* writes, “This is the third Albright mystery, and, like the previous two, it draws on Lottie’s other occupation—historian—to tell a story in which a modern-day crime connects with mysteries from the past. The author adroitly juggles the primary story with a subplot concerning the effects Lottie’s secrecy about her assignment is having on her family.” *Kirkus* in its Starred Review notes, “Lottie must use all her many skills to solve a case that has far-reaching ramifications...filled with surprising historical information, social commentary, romance and a strong mystery.” Also in trade paperback: [Hidden Heritage](#) (\$14.95). [Click here](#) for Lottie’s two previous cases.

Jance, JA. [Moving Target](#) (Touchstone \$25.99 Feb. 20). Lance Tucker, an incarcerated juvenile offender doing time for expertly hacking into the San Leandro School District’s computer system, is set on fire and severely burned one night while hanging Christmas decorations in a lockup rec room. The police say that he did it to himself, but B. Simpson, Ali Reynolds’s fiancé and the man who helped put Lance in jail, feels obligated to get to the bottom of what really happened. Lance is famous in the hacker world for developing GHOST, computer software that allows users to surf any part of the web completely undetected. Meanwhile, in England, Ali investigates the decades-old murder of Leland Brooks’ father, which Leland himself was once suspected of committing. With Ali otherwise occupied and Lance receiving cryptic threats in the hospital, B. turns to Sister Anselm—a Taser-carrying nun and Ali’s close friend—for help protecting the boy. With unsolved crimes on both sides of the Atlantic, Ali, B., and Sister Anselm are united by their search for answers—though being thousands of miles away may not be far enough away... This is the 7<sup>th</sup> case for Ali and is something different as much of it takes place in England, plus there’s a lot of techno wizardry.

McCafferty, Keith. [Dead Man’s Fancy](#) (Viking \$26.95). There are so many authors you could associate with McCafferty: C.J. Box, Craig Johnson, Paul Doiron, Nevada Barr, the late William Tapply. Though McCafferty’s voice and spin are his own. Reviewers have given this a Star. So do I but then I picked Sean’s first case for our First Mystery Club and lavished praise on the second (and no, the Gray Ghost fly he tied for me came later: I was not bribed). What we get here in book three are wolves, a missing woman from the Culpepper Dude Ranch out in the Madison Valley, and a ranch wrangler impaled on the horn of a giant bull elk—he bled to death. Accident? Chased there by wolves? Sheriff Martha has a murder and a missing person case to work with the reluctant help of Stranahan. And part of it is the missing Fly Fishing Venus, and part of it the Svengali master of an animal rights group. Questions of human vs. wild life produce high emotion. How high? For all three Stranahans, [click here](#). With any luck the *Field & Stream* columnist will bring a tied fly to show you.

McMahon, Jennifer. [The Winter People](#) (Knopf \$25.95). “I don’t believe in ghosts. At least that’s what I kept telling myself as I read *The Winter People*. I also don’t need to sleep with the lights on. I told myself that, too. But I was whistling past a graveyard—or, in this case—past a Vermont landscape that is authentic and recognizable and still altogether chilling. *The Winter People* is terrifying—everything you could want in a classic ghost story.” —Chris Bohjalian. West Hall, Vermont, has always been a town

of strange disappearances and old legends. The most mysterious is that of Sara Harrison Shea, who, in 1908, was found dead in the field behind her house just months after the tragic death of her daughter, Gertie. Now, in present day, nineteen-year-old Ruthie lives in Sara’s farmhouse with her mother, Alice, and her younger sister, Fawn. Alice has always insisted that they live off the grid, a decision that suddenly proves perilous when Ruthie wakes up one morning to find that Alice has vanished without a trace. Searching for clues, she is startled to find a copy of Sara Harrison Shea’s diary hidden beneath the floorboards of her mother’s bedroom. As Ruthie gets sucked deeper into the mystery of Sara’s fate, she discovers that she’s not the only person who’s desperately looking for someone that they’ve lost. But she may be the only one who can stop history from repeating itself... For McMahon’s earlier work, [click here](#).

Nesbit, Tarashea. [The Wives of Los Alamos](#) (Bloomsbury \$25). I once lived in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, in the late 1960s, when its wartime history was still alive in the residents. Los Alamos, its twin city so to speak, surprised me with how similar it looked in architecture, if not its landscape on the high mesas of New Mexico. The marvelous novel by Joe Kanon, [Los Alamos](#) (\$7.99), imagines what life during WWII and the development of the nuclear program was like for the scientists and, to a lesser degree, their families. Nesbit has dug into what it was like for the wives who were uprooted from all over and planted there with mostly zilch idea of why or wherefore. It’s a closed world, and like many hothouses, produces some strange growths and flowerings. As a contribution to women’s history, wartime history, and the story of the modern West, this outstanding debut fiction carries you into a world you can scarcely imagine. I can’t wait to discuss it with the author. “In this fascinating and artful debut, Tarashea Nesbit gives voice to the women closest to one of gravest and most telling moments in our collective history: the development and testing of the nuclear bomb at Los Alamos. Tender and mundane details of marriage and domesticity quietly collide with the covert and solemn work at hand. With chilling implications and charged, sure-footed prose, this is a novel—and writer—of consequence.”—Paula McLain, author of *The Paris Wife*. If you haven’t read Kanon’s award-winning book, do so in conjunction with Nesbit for an amazing experience.

Parsons, Kelly. [Doing Harm](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Hospitals and cutting edge medical procedures spell both help and hope. Yikes—what if there’s a sociopath loose there, someone intent on doing harm in the guise of a healer? This is the dilemma facing surgeon Steve Mitchell at Boston’s prestigious University Hospital. He’s on his way to a coveted post as well as a position as professor at the University Medical School, when his worst nightmares occur: a major surgery goes wrong; another patient mysterious dies. Sworn to do no harm, the Hippocratic Oath, Steve is devastated. And on a selfish level, fearful of the impact on his career, one he’s fought all his life to forge. So, is he the author of his own potential destruction, or a target of a game someone is playing, a game with the highest stakes for the winner? Debut author Parsons is himself a surgeon, bringing his special expertise to plunging readers into his world, as well as evoking emotions one can only hope draw from his imagination and not on real life! This thriller is fueled as much by the actions of characters as by the choices, ethical, moral, and relationship, they face. Steve’s marriage to Sally, into a Korean family and a

community as tight and closed as the hospital's medical staff, is just amazing! Parsons brings off a rare coup: a medical thriller with many familiar tropes that yet offers something refreshing and new. *LJ* gives it a Starred Review: "this skillfully wrought debut gets **high marks for building tension to a breathtaking climax.**" **A First Mystery Club Pick.**

Penman, Sharon Kay. [A King's Ransom](#) (Putnam \$35). Taken captive by the Holy Roman Emperor while en route home—in violation of the papal decree protecting all crusaders—he was to spend fifteen months imprisoned, much of it in the notorious fortress at Trefils, from which few men ever left alive, while Eleanor of Aquitaine moved heaven and earth to raise the exorbitant ransom. For the five years remaining to him, betrayals, intrigues, wars, and illness were ever present. So were his infidelities, perhaps a pattern set by his father's faithlessness to Eleanor. But the courage, compassion, and intelligence of this warrior king became the stuff of legend. Penman's backlist in history and mystery is awesome; she's a stickler for accuracy yet knows how to drive a plot forward as her Edgar nomination for a mystery attests. [Click here](#) to view.

Price, Dan. [Flight of the Silvers](#) (Blue Rider/Putnam \$27.95). From the author of *Slick*, Book One of the genre-bending Silvers Saga. Without warning, the world comes to an end for Hannah and Amanda Given. The sky looms frigid white. The electricity falters. Airplanes everywhere crash to the ground. But the Givens are saved by mysterious strangers, three fearsome and beautiful beings who force a plain silver bracelet onto each sister's wrist. Within moments, the sky comes down in a crushing sheet of light and everything around them is gone. Shielded from the devastation by their silver adornments, the Givens suddenly find themselves elsewhere, a strange new Earth where restaurants move through the air like flying saucers and the fabric of time is manipulated by common household appliances. Soon Hannah and Amanda are joined by four other survivors from their world—a mordant cartoonist, a shy teenage girl, a brilliant young Australian, and a troubled ex-prodigy. Hunted by enemies they never knew they had and afflicted with temporal abilities they never wanted, the sisters and their companions begin a cross-country journey to find the one man who can save them...

Ramsay, Frederick. [Drowning Barbie](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). **Note: anyone coming to the event who buys a book will get a Pickettsville Deputy Sheriff Badge from Ramsay.** Ethyl Smut, everyone agreed, deserved to die. So, when a second body is unearthed in her shallow grave, and the town's worst nightmare in the person of George LeBrun also finds his way onto Sheriff Ike Schwartz's desk so to speak, things get messy fast. Then there is Ethyl's missing daughter, Darla, who could testify against some important people if she were found. And as if Ike hadn't enough on his plate, the FBI's Karl Hedrick and Sam, two of his former deputies, arrive to investigate the source of the second body and it's like old home week in Pickettsville. Finally, there is that Las Vegas wedding Ike and Ruth need to account for.... This is one of my favorite series, in part because of the lively characters and the irony of a Jewish sheriff serving a Baptist town, and in part because the dialogue has that snap achieved by the late Robert B. Parker. If you haven't tried Ramsay you've missed a real treat. [Click here](#) for his earlier work. We highly recommend his three historicals which are both brilliant and funny and treat the New Testament as real history.

Saylor, Steven. [Raiders of the Nile](#) (St Martins \$26.99). In 88, BC, the world from Rome to Greece and Egypt and back is at war, or nearly. Young Gordianus, a Roman citizen, is living in Alexandria scratching a living as a finder, finding this out for pay, and whiling away the other hours with his slave, Bethesda. Then, on the day he turns 22, Bethesda is kidnapped by brigands who have mistaken her for a rich man's mistress. To save her before they discover their error and cut their losses, the kidnappers have to be found. It's time of turmoil: Mithridates is at war with Rome and has conquered Cos nearby to Egypt, and King Ptolemy X may be ousted by his brother Soter.... *Raiders* reads differently than the Gordianus mysteries set in Rome. Saylor notes this is in part because he fell in love with ancient Greek novels which are about "travel and exploration, love and sex, athletic glory and religious exaltation" than the more solemn Roman works. **Here is our February History/Mystery Pick thus.**

Stabenow, Dana. [Everything Under the Heavens](#) (Gere \$14.99). Here starts a trilogy following the adventures of Johanna, the granddaughter of the Venetian, Marco Polo, and Shu Lin, the wife assigned him by the Great Khan. As this mighty ruler lay dying he permitted the Polo males to depart at last from his court after twenty years, but refused permission to Marco's wife and daughter. A power struggle from which the Khan's grandson Temur emerged the victor created chaos in which Shu Lin and Shu Ming were imprisoned, then Shu Lin killed. Rightly blaming his jealous wife, the merchant Wu Hai, the Polos' friend, raised Shu Ming and married her to his son. Their only child Johanna is eventually orphaned and must decide how to live her life. As a foreigner, the most despised community in the Khan's realm, she hits the road after some exciting moves, not surprising for a child born beneath the sign of the broom star. Who shall go with Johanna? Jaufre, the lad orphaned on the Silk Road by brutal bandits and taken in by Johanna's merchant father? Her lover's fabulous steed, North Wind? And what of Gokudo, the ruthless Japanese mercenary and tool of Johanna's evil stepmother—for now? Trained on the road, skilled in trade, Johanna, who looks like her Venetian ancestors and not her Chinese, knows she can only go westward... This is part one of the trilogy that Stabenow has been shaping for years and now brings to life. In the interests of full disclosure, I add that she has dedicated to me, who has always encouraged her to write it. The next two are: *By the Shores of the Middle Sea* (Fall) and *The Land Beyond* (Spring 2015). Dana calls the Silk Road "the Route 66 of the Middle Ages."

Stashower, Daniel. [The Hour of Peril](#) (\$16.99). In February of 1861, just days before he assumed the presidency, Abraham Lincoln faced a "clear and fully-matured" threat of assassination as he traveled by train from Springfield to Washington for his inauguration. Over a period of thirteen days the legendary detective Allan Pinkerton worked feverishly to detect and thwart the plot, assisted by a captivating young widow named Kate Warne, America's first female private eye. As Lincoln's train rolled inexorably toward "the seat of danger," Pinkerton struggled to unravel the ever-changing details of the murder plot, even as he contended with the intractability of Lincoln and his advisors, who refused to believe that the danger was real. With time running out Pinkerton took a desperate gamble, staking Lincoln's life—and the future of the nation—on a "perilous feint" that seemed to offer the only chance that Lincoln would survive to become president. Shrouded in secrecy—and, later, mired in

controversy—the story of the “Baltimore Plot” is one of the great untold tales of the Civil War era. “It’s history that reads like a race-against-the-clock thriller.” —Harlan Coben. A 2014 Edgar Allan Poe Award nominee for Best Fact Crime.

Swanson, Peter. [The Girl with a Clock for a Heart](#) (Morrow \$25.99). George Foss never thought he’d see her again, but on a late-August night in Boston, there she is, in his local bar, Jack Crow’s Tavern. When George first met Liana, she was an eighteen-year-old college freshman from Sweetgum, Florida. She and George became inseparable in their first fall semester—he was a virgin, she was his first lover—so George was devastated when he got the news that she had committed suicide over Christmas break. Heading south to her parents, he sees a photo in their living room and realizes that the girl in it—the one who had committed suicide—was not Liana. Eventually he helps the cops identify who his Liana was. So, drifting along through life in Boston at a literary magazine, George had imagined seeing Liana many times, knowing she was not just a girl who had once broken his heart, she was, as far as he still knew, a wanted criminal who had without doubt murdered one person, and most likely, murdered another. If she isn’t dead, but here in the bar, what is he to do? The “what” keeps surprising. George is not unlike a fly caught in a black widow’s web, unable to break free. But we also see he can’t let go of the most meaningful thing in his life, so he doesn’t want to. **A First Mystery Club Pick.**

Thomson, Keith. [Seven Grams of Lead](#) (Knopf \$7.99). A brand-new heart-pounding techno-thriller from Keith Thomson, acclaimed author of [Once a Spy](#) (\$7.99), a favorite First Mystery Club Pick. Russ Thornton is a hard-hitting journalist known for his ability to take on big targets in government and in business. An old flame, now a Capitol Hill staffer, contacts him out of the blue wanting to disclose some top-secret information. But she is gunned down in cold blood, right in front of him. Worse, the killers are concerned about what Thornton knows, and who he may tell. He finds himself in a game of cat-and-mouse, where the stakes are life and death and the surveillance technology is so sophisticated that he wouldn’t believe it existed—if it weren’t implanted in his own head.

Walker, Martin. [The Resistance Man](#) (Knopf \$25.95). A veteran of the Resistance dies, and among his possessions are documents that connect him to a notorious train robbery. A former British spymaster’s estate is burglarized, the latest in a spree of expert thefts. An academic’s home is broken into just as she is finishing a revelatory book on France’s nuclear weapons program. An antiques dealer is found brutally murdered, and his former lover, the number one suspect, is on the run. It’s just another summer in St. Denis for Bruno, Chief of Police, who must balance the constant barrage of demands on his time and expertise—including the complex affections of two powerful women, town politics (the mayor is having romantic problems of his own), his irrepressible puppy, Balzac, and nights entertaining friends and visitors with ever-sumptuous repasts—with a new focus on the mounting crime wave, whose seemingly unrelated events Bruno begins to suspect are linked. His search for clues to crimes old and new leads to stunning revelations about both his country’s history and his own.... Gastronomy trumps even the wine in this one of our bestselling series. Read in order, starting with [Bruno, Chief of Police](#) (\$14.95), one of our bestselling paperbacks ever. To view the rest, [click here](#). I add that Bruno has taken Europe by

storm, especially the Germans, and Walker will be able to share with us his new honorary role in Le Périgord where he’s forced to sample ducks and wine. I think there is TV coming also.

## FIRST NOVELS

Brekke, Jorgen. [Where Monsters Dwell](#) (St Martins \$24.99). A murder at the Edgar Allan Poe Museum in Richmond, Virginia, bears a close resemblance to one in Trondheim, Norway. The corpse of the museum curator in Virginia is found flayed in his office by the cleaning staff; the corpse of an archivist at the library in Norway, is found inside a locked vault used to store delicate and rare books. Richmond homicide detective Felicia Stone and Trondheim police inspector Odd Singsaker find themselves working on similar murder cases, crimes committed the same way, but half a world away. And both murders are somehow connected to a sixteenth century palimpsest book—*The Book of John*—which appears to be a journal of a serial murderer back in 1529 Norway, a book bound in human skin. A runaway bestseller in Norway, *Where Monsters Dwell* has since sold to over 14 countries. It’s dark, scary, bookish, and haunting.

✎Durrant, Sabine. [Under Your Skin](#) (Atria \$25). “In former newspaper editor Durrant’s gripping debut, morning TV host Gaby Mortimer’s enviably glossy London life starts to careen out of control after she finds a young woman’s body during her daily jog. Though a savvy Oxford grad should know better, Gaby impulsively breaks the cardinal rule of criminal procedure: don’t touch the corpse. Then she submits to police questioning without a lawyer—until it becomes clear that Detective Inspector Perivale regards her as his prime suspect. With her increasingly distant husband, a hedge fund honcho, on a business trip to Singapore, Gaby starts trying to extricate herself by investigating the murder, with the help of an unlikely ally: scoop-hungry freelance journalist Jack Hayward. But further complexities and creepy coincidences soon emerge. Why, for instance, was the victim apparently wearing Gaby’s T-shirt? As the suspense mounts, Durrant skillfully keeps the twisty story on track through convincing characters and domestic detail—right up to the shocking conclusion.”—*PW* Starred Review

Gailey, Samuel W. [Deep Winter Signed](#) (Berkley \$25.95). Hardboiled crime. See Event books. *Kirkus* adds this: “Screenwriter Gailey’s first novel owes a tip of the hat to John Steinbeck’s *Of Mice and Men*. Danny, a gentle giant with a tragic past that’s responsible for his mental challenges, lives in a tiny, bare room over a laundromat in Wyalusing, Pa.... It’s not a plush life, but Danny, whose parents died when he was a little boy, leaving him to the mercy of his vicious uncle, doesn’t ask for or expect much. And that’s a good thing, since Wyalusing holds some of the nastiest people ever to congregate in one place....”

✎Kasasian, Martin. [The Mangle Street Murders](#) (Pegasus \$24.95). An atmospheric debut (a History/Mystery Club Pick in the Signed UK edition) which fits into this winter’s rage for all things Sherlockian. Sidney Grice is that sort of sleuth. See History/Mystery below for more.

Parsons, Kelly. [Doing Harm Signed](#) (St Martins \$25.99). **A First Mystery Club Pick.** See Event books. Here’s another review besides mine: “With a deft initial setup reminiscent of Grisham’s *The Firm*, urologist Parsons’ strong first novel paints a picture of the competitive, ego-driven realm of a world-class teaching hospital and the kind of personalities that thrive there. Steve

Mitchell, the chief surgical resident at a topflight Boston hospital, believes he has his life and career well in hand. Mitchell's arrogance and pride may be justified, but they have primed him for a fall. This comes swiftly when a patient dies and Mitchell is blamed. A lovely and charismatic young medical student serving under him may not be all she seems. With the lives of his patients on the line, Mitchell is forced into a game of medical cat-and-mouse to stop a murderer and to reclaim his shattered life and reputation. The author's attention to detail keeps the action chillingly plausible..."—*PW*.

Shaw, William. [She's Leaving Home](#) (LittleBrown \$26). The UK title for this debut is [A Song from Dead Lips](#)—we have four Signed UK firsts (\$36). It takes us back to London, 1968, and into St John's Wood, not far from the Beatles' Abbey Road Recording Studio, where an unidentified body has been found. See British Books for more.

Swanson, Peter. [The Girl with a Clock for a Heart Signed](#) (Morrow \$25.99). **A First Mystery Club Pick.** *PW* calls this "A Machiavellian debut noir." Dennis Lehane adds, "What do you say when a woman who broke your heart years ago and is wanted for questioning in connection to a murder pops back into your life to ask a favor? If she's as alluring as Liana Dector, you say, 'Yes.' And hope you survive ... *The Girl with a Clock for a Heart* is a twisty, sexy, electric thrill ride." See Event books.

Weir, Andy. [The Martian Signed](#) (Crown \$26). This glorious book lands a mission on Mars. When it departs, the mission crew has to leave one man behind after a glitch. So what would you do if you were he, give up? Or start figuring out, one step at a time, how to survive long enough... for what? He's an engineer. He's ingenious. The suspense is killer. I really love this book and you will too. It's drawing raves all around. "One of the best thrillers I've read in a long time. It feels so real it could almost be nonfiction, and yet it has the narrative drive and power of a rocket launch. This is Apollo 13 times ten." —Douglas Preston. "A book I just couldn't put down! It has the very rare combination of a good, original story, interestingly real characters and fascinating technical accuracy...reads like "MacGyver" meets "Mysterious Island." —Astronaut Chris Hadfield. "Strong, resilient, and gutsy. It's Robinson Crusoe on Mars, 21st century style. Set aside a chunk of free time when you start this one. You're going to need it because you won't want to put it down." —Steve Berry. **A Modern Firsts Club Pick.**

## BRITISH BOOKS

Archer, Jeffrey. [The Best Kept Secret](#) (\$15.99). The Clifton Chronicles continue in this 3<sup>rd</sup> volume. 1945, London. The vote in the House of Lords as to who should inherit the Barrington family fortune has ended in a tie. The Lord Chancellor's deciding vote will cast a long shadow on the lives of Harry Clifton and Giles Barrington. Harry returns to America to promote his latest novel, while his beloved Emma goes in search of the little girl who was found abandoned in her father's office on the night he was killed. When the general election is called, Giles Barrington has to defend his seat in the House of Commons and is horrified to discover who the Conservatives select to stand against him. But it is Sebastian Clifton, Harry and Emma's son, who ultimately influences his uncle's fate.... Volume 4, [Be Careful What You Wish For Signed](#) (Macmillan UK \$45) pubs in March. Order now to avoid disappointment.

Bailey, Catherine. [The Secret Rooms, A True Story](#) (\$16). For fans of *Downton Abbey*: the enthralling true story of family secrets and aristocratic intrigue in the days before WWI. After the Ninth Duke of Rutland, one of the wealthiest men in Britain, died alone in a cramped room in the servants' quarters of Belvoir Castle on April 21, 1940, his son and heir ordered the room, which contained the Rutland family archives, sealed for 60 years. And 50 years later, Catherine Bailey became the first historian given access. What she discovered was a mystery: The Duke had painstakingly erased three periods of his life from all family records—but why? As Bailey uncovers the answers, she also provides an intimate portrait of the very top of British society in the turbulent days leading up to 1914.

Beaton, MC. [Death of a Policeman](#) (Grand Central \$24). It's been awhile since I read a Hamish Macbeth. I'd forgotten how much fun they are even if, in her way, Beaton is heartless about what happens to the players in Lochdubh, the Scottish village policed by Hamish. Whatever his faults, Hamish loves his job and Lochdubh which means he needs to take action when local police stations all over the Highlands are threatened with closure in a cost-saving, consolidation design. Detective Chief Inspector Blair, who would love nothing more than to get rid of Hamish, suggests that his toady, Cyril Sessions, a keen young copper, visit the Lochdubh to monitor exactly what Macbeth does every day. Macbeth hears about Blair's plan as Sessions quizzes townsfolk. Then Sessions is found dead and Hamish becomes a serious suspect....

Billingham, Mark. [From the Dead](#) (Atlantic \$26). It has been a decade since Alan Langford's charred remains were discovered in his burnt-out car. His wife Donna was found guilty of conspiracy to murder her husband and served ten years in prison. But just before she is released, Donna receives a nasty shock: an anonymous letter containing a photo of her husband. The man she hates with every fiber of her being—the man she paid to have murdered—seems very much alive and well. How is it possible that her husband is still alive? Where is he? Who sent the photo, and why? Detective Inspector Tom Thorne becomes involved in a case where nothing and no one are what they seem. It will take him much further from his London beat than he has ever been before—and closer to a killer who will do anything to protect his new life.

Brody, Frances. [Murder in the Afternoon](#) (St Martins \$25.99). This intelligent 1920s series set in Yorkshire is just the ticket for fans of Jacqueline Winspear (her new book pubs in July) and Charles Todd. Kate Shackleton is neither wife nor widow: her husband, a doctor, has never been located since serving in the WWI front. She hasn't given up looking for him among the men with shattered bodies or minds, but by 1923 she has a lover, a London chief inspector. Kate, well off and not liking to be idle, has begun doing some private investigations, assisted by a retired copper. So when a woman from Great Appplewick comes to her Leeds' office with a request she investigate a mystery revolving around a stone mason, she listens. And learns her new client is her sister (Kate was put up for adoption when a baby by her impoverished parents). So the case will be about family as well as taking us into an interesting world of quarries and landowners—and what turns out to be a truly ruthless killer. Excellent. [Dying in the Wool](#) (\$14.99); [A Medal for Murder](#) (\$15.99)

Cleeves, Ann. [Dead Water: A Shetland Mystery](#) (St Martins \$25.99). This Gold Dagger-winning series has been adapted by the BBC for TV as Shetland. I hope we get to see it here in the US. The islands lend themselves to mystery with their isolation and the exploitation of their resources. In this 5<sup>th</sup> and concluding volume, Inspector Jimmy Perez is still shattered by previous events. When the body of a dead journalist is found in a small boat by the Procurator Fiscal (what is she hiding?), Detective Inspector Willow Reeves is drafted from the Orkneys to work the case. The dead man, of local parents operating a luxury hotel, had left the islands for London to pursue his career. What story has brought him home? And why did it get him killed, if indeed that's the motive in his murder? Start the series with [Raven Black](#) (\$14.99).

Delaney, Luke. [Toy Taker Signed](#) (Harper \$32). 3<sup>rd</sup> in the DI Sean Corrigan series. Your child has been taken... Snatched in the dead of night from the safety of the family home. There's no sign of forced entry, no one heard or saw a thing. DI Sean Corrigan investigates. He needs to find four-year-old George Bridgeman before abduction becomes murder. But his ability to see into dark minds, to think like those he hunts, has deserted him – just when he needs it most. Another child vanishes. What kind of monster is Corrigan hunting? And will he work it out in time to save the children?

Dolan, Eva. [Long Way Home Signed](#) (Harvill \$35). A man is burnt alive in a suburban garden shed. DI Zigic and DS Ferreira are called in from the Peterborough Hate Crimes Unit to investigate the murder. Their victim is quickly identified as a migrant worker and a man several people might have had good reason to see dead. A convicted arsonist and member of a far-right movement has just been released from prison, while witnesses claim to have seen the dead man fighting with one of the town's most prominent slum landlords. Zigic and Ferreira know all too well the problems that come with dealing with a community that has more reason than most not to trust the police, but when another migrant worker is attacked, tensions rapidly begin to rise as they search for their killer. Starts a new series for those who like the British taste for dark and brutal, as with Stuart MacBride.

Durrant, Sabine. [Under Your Skin](#) (Atria \$25). For fans of Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl* (will it ever be a paperback?), a domestic suspense thriller that does get under your skin and causes you to revisit the conclusion. Told in the first person, it begins when Londoner Gaby Mortimer, wife to Philip, mother to Millie, glossy TV hostess, is out running in the bone-chilling March pre-dawn and spots a body in the commons' undergrowth. It's a young woman. Gaby keeps it together, calls the cops on her cell (in Britspeak, her mobile). It's a ripple in Gaby's perfect life, but somehow evidence keeps leading back to her and the police treat her as a suspect.... For another review of this debut, see First Novels. **This debut may become the March British Crime Pick once I see what's on tap for March.**

Finch, Charles. [The Last Enchantments Signed](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Not a mystery but one of those books about Oxford that only a former student can write, full of its landscape, custom, special world. An affair changes the life of an American graduate student forever. Think *Brideshead Revisited* for the flavor of this standalone by Finch. "The heart of *The Last Enchantments* is his

Bright Young Things—too young for their own good, let loose upon the medieval city of sherry-sodden intellectuality and rain-soaked romantic debacle, bright about everything except love and life. A witty, touching coming-of-age tale in a town that never ages."—Wilton Barnhardt.

Griffiths, Elly. [The Outcast Dead Signed](#) (Quercus \$39). Forensic archaeologist Ruth Galloway has excavated a body from the grounds of Norwich Castle, a forbidding edifice that was once a prison. She believes the body may be that of infamous Victorian murderess Jemima Green. Called Mother Hook for her claw-like hand, Jemima was hanged in 1867 for the murder of five children in her care. DCI Harry Nelson has no time for long-dead killers. Immersed in the case of three infants found dead, one after the other, in their King's Lynn home, he's convinced that a family member is responsible, though others on his team think differently. Then a child goes missing. Could the abduction be linked to the long-dead Mother Hook? Ruth is pulled into the case, and back towards Nelson.

Hall, M R. [Burning Signed](#) (Pan \$39). In the icy, languid days following Christmas, a dense fog has settled over the Wye Valley. Local Coroner Jenny Cooper, still reeling after being abandoned by her partner for the festivities, is called to the scene of a dreadful tragedy: a house has been burned to the ground, revealing its terrible secrets. Before the fire began, a man – Ed Morgan – shot his two stepdaughters dead, before turning the gun on himself. His infant son is still missing . . . Jenny Cooper investigates. Ed's partner Kelly Hart was spared by the tragedy but has been left shattered by the loss of her children and the man she loved. The only clue to Ed's dark motives remains a jealous note left on his Facebook page. As Jenny delves further into Ed and Kelly's life, something nags her about that fateful evening. What role did Ed's employer, the slaughterhouse at Fairmeadow's Farm, play in the sequence of events? And what could the connection be with the mysterious unsolved abduction of a little girl in the village ten years ago?

Hill, Susan. [The Mist in the Mirror](#) (\$15). For the last twenty years Sir James Monmouth has journeyed all over the globe in the footsteps of his hero, the great pioneering traveler Conrad Vane. In an effort to learn more about Vane's early life—and his own—Sir James sets off for the remote Kittiscar Hall on a cold and rainy winter night. But he soon begins to feel as though something is warning him away at every turn; there are the intense feelings of being watched and the strange apparitions of a sad little boy. And as he learns more about his hero's past, he discovers that they are only the beginning, for Kittiscar Hall is hiding terrible secret that will bind their lives together in ways he could never have imagined... A chilling, ghostly Gothic.

Kurland, Michael. [Who Thinks Evil: A Professor Moriarty Mystery](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Such fun, a mystery told from Professor Moriarty's point of view, and thus a different perspective on Sherlock Holmes. It's London, 1892. A well-guarded young aristocrat has gone missing despite his chaperones and in distressing circumstances—from a high class brothel. Baron Renfrew as it were, the missing man, is tall and reveals a chilling giggle. And has killed a young woman in a manner like the Ripper, trussing her up and disemboweling her. Baron Renfrew's grandmother calls for the most brilliant—and discreet—investigator to find the Baron and clear his name.

Sherlock Holmes is out of the country. So Mycroft Holmes presents Dr. James Moriarty, who is in prison awaiting a retrial on a dastardly crime. Moriarty, who's been framed, wants to know why, and if this case is his ticket out, he'll take it. Of course the stakes are high as the "Baron's" grandmother is Queen Victoria... I am torn between Durrant's debut, above, and this 5<sup>th</sup> case in Kurland's Edgar-nominated series for our British Crime Club and ultimately go with Kurland for February because it fits the current Sherlock mode—and because it's funny. The Durrant may become the March British Crime Pick!

Mann, George, ed. [Further Encounters of Sherlock Holmes](#) (Titan \$14.95). Original Holmes stories by Andrew Lane (of the Young Sherlocks) and some exciting voices in modern horror and steampunk.

Rhodes, Kate. [Killing of Angels](#) (St Martins \$25.99). In the sequel to [Crossbones Yard](#) (\$14.99), psychologist Alice Quentin is still recovering. She's sworn never to do police work again, but she owes DCI Don Burns a favor as well as recognition for all his support during her long hospital stay. He too is marked by the Crossbones case, by the madness of the serial killer at work in Southwark. So how can she refuse to help him when he comes to beg for help? Plus those white feathers are puzzling. They were found in the pockets of a City investment banker, a man who fell under a train and was more or less dismembered. But did he fall? The CCTV suggests he was pushed. Additionally, what of the postcards bearing an image of an angel's face also found in Gresham's pocket? He had worked for a London bank called The Angel Group. Inevitably police, and Alice's, attention is focused on the bank, but nothing untoward seems to be going on. Then comes another death, and then another.... I'm not a fan of the writing—it all feels too self-conscious—but Rhodes does have a nifty concept for this one.

Robinson, Peter. [Watching the Dark](#) (\$14.99). Yorkshire's DCI Banks. See February Trade Paperback Picks.

Sansom, CJ. [Dominion](#) (LittleBrown \$27). Sansom, the author of a brilliant Tudor series, pens a thriller of speculative fiction: What if British Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax succeeds Neville Chamberlain as prime minister on May 9, 1940, instead of Winston Churchill? Later that year, Britain makes peace with Germany. Then flash forward to 1952. Churchill leads a shadowy resistance movement to what is not quite Nazi occupation but is certainly servitude, not to mention a ruined economy. David Fitzgerald, a senior official in the Dominions Office, begins to rebel against his country's leadership after the tragic accidental death of his almost-three-year-old son, and is tapped to aid the resistance in a plan to free a scientist who carries a potentially world-changing secret.... "Gripping . . . A race-against-time thriller set against an imaginative and internally consistent historical backdrop, the novel should definitely appeal to fans of alternate history, especially the WWII novels of Harry Turtledove or Robert Conroy, and, of course, Robert Harris' classic *Fatherland*."—*Booklist*

Shaw, William. [She's Leaving Home](#) (LittleBrown \$26). The UK title for this debut is [A Song from Dead Lips](#)—we have four Signed UK firsts (\$36). It takes us back to London, 1968, and into St John's Wood, not far from the Beatles' Abbey Road Recording Studio, where an unidentified body has been found. The young woman might have been a Beatles fan, thinks DS

Cathal Breen. His reputation already tarnished—a long curve of a story in the novel—Green gets this case as more or less a last chance to show he's up to the Job. As conformity is shifting to other values, Breen has to shift himself. Maybe the brash, brazen, nonconforming partner he gets to assist, young Policewoman Helen Tozer, will help. Or maybe she can't beat the male culture. Whatever, the two of them plunge into the steamy underside of the swinging Sixties to solve a brutal crime. A sequel comes in the Spring.

Smith, Alexander McCall. [The Forever Girl](#) (Knopf \$24.95). Amanda and her husband, David, feel fortunate to be raising their son and daughter in the close-knit community of ex-pats on Grand Cayman Island, an idyllic place for children to grow up. Their firstborn, Sally, has always listened to her heart, deciding at age four that she would rather be called Clover and then, a few years later, falling in love with her best friend, James. But the comforting embrace of island life can become claustrophobic for adults, especially when they are faced with difficult situations. At the same time that Clover falls in love with James, Amanda realizes that she has fallen out of love with David. This is a novel about the way our hearts shape our lives... New in paper: [Trains and Lovers](#) (\$15.95), four strangers on a train from Edinburgh to London share tales of trains that shaped their lives.

## INTERNATIONAL CRIME

Adler-Olsen, Jussi. [A Conspiracy of Faith](#) (\$16). A cold 14-year-old murder-arson case preoccupies crotchety Copenhagen Deputy Det. Supt. Carl Mørck in bestseller Adler-Olsen's third Department Q thriller. Detective Carl Mørck holds in his hands a bottle that contains old and decayed message, written in blood. It is a cry for help from two young brothers, tied and bound in a boathouse by the sea. Could it be real? Who are these boys, and why weren't they reported missing? Could they possibly still be alive? Carl's investigation will force him to cross paths with a woman stuck in a desperate marriage- her husband refuses to tell her where he goes, what he does, how long he will be away. For days on end she waits, and when he returns she must endure his wants, his moods, his threats. But enough is enough. She will find out the truth, no matter the cost to her husband—or to herself....

Arjouni, Jakob. [Brother Kemal: A Kayankaya Thriller](#) (Melville House \$15.95). "Spot-on and often beautiful descriptions distinguish the fifth and final Kemal Kayankaya thriller from Arjouni (1964–2013), in which the Turkish-German PI tackles the Frankfurt underworld—as well as the Frankfurt book world. One day, seductive and rich Valerie de Chavannes calls Kemal to her villa with an urgent job: her 16-year-old daughter, Marieke, has gone missing, kidnapped (she believes) by an older man who claims to be a political photographer. At the suspect's apartment, Kemal finds the traumatized Marieke, ties up the girl's captor, and constructs an elaborate blackmail scheme to ensure her safety. This brash tactic will send ripples through the underworld, piquing the fury of criminal kingpin Sheik Hakim. In a separate assignment, Kemal signs up to protect Malik Rashid, a boisterous Moroccan writer in town for the Frankfurt Book Fair whose new novel has caused outrage in the Arab world. With a shoot-first-think-later ethos, Kayankaya blasts his way out of snafus with the same bravado that got him there in the first place. Although Arjouni (the nom de plume of Jakob Bothe) professed to care



more about his literary fiction, fans of his crime novels will be grateful that he chose to bring back the ruthless Kayankaya for one last raucous outing before his untimely passing earlier this year.”—*PW* Starred Review

Ball, Jesse. [Silence Once Begun: A Novel](#) (Knopf \$23.95).

“Ball’s spare, meditative, Rashomon-like novel, a work of exceptional control and exquisite nuance, consists of contradictory transcripts, poetic letters, a striking fable, and melancholy musings. Enigmatic black-and-white photographs add to the subtly cinematic mode. With echoes of Franz Kafka, Paul Auster, and Kobo Abe, Ball creates an elegantly chilling and provocatively metaphysical tale.” —*Booklist*. Over the course of several months, eight people vanish from their homes in the same Japanese town, a single playing card found on each door. Known as the “Narito Disappearances,” the crime has authorities baffled—until a confession appears on the police’s doorstep, signed by Oda Sotatsu, a thread salesman. Sotatsu is arrested, jailed, and interrogated—but he refuses to speak. Even as his parents, brother, and sister come to visit him, even as his execution looms, and even as a young woman named Jito Joo enters his cell, he maintains his vow of silence. Our narrator, a journalist named Jesse Ball, is grappling with mysteries of his own when he becomes fascinated by the case. Why did Sotatsu confess? Why won’t he speak? Who is Jito Joo? As Ball interviews Sotatsu’s family, friends, and jailers, he uncovers a complex story of heartbreak, deceit, honor, and chance...

Beckett, Simon. [Stone Bruises Signed](#) (Bantam \$44). Sean is on the run. We don’t know why and we don’t know from whom, but we do know he’s abandoned his battered, blood-stained car in the middle of an isolated, lonely part of rural France at the height of a sweltering summer. Desperate to avoid the police, he takes to the parched fields and country lanes only to be caught in the vicious jaws of a trap. Near unconscious from pain and loss of blood, he is freed and taken in by two women, daughters of the owner of a rundown local farm with its ramshackle barn, blighted vineyard, and the brooding lake. And it’s then that Sean’s problems really start... I’m a big fan of stylish author Beckett who here is doing something different, a classic nail-shredder of a thriller in a new landscape.

Berenson, Alex. [Counterfeit Agent Signed](#) (Putnam \$27.95). In an Istanbul hotel, a deep source warns a CIA agent that Iran intends to kill a CIA station chief. Quickly, John Wells is called in to investigate, but before he can get far, the tip comes true. Which means that the next warning the source gives will be taken very seriously indeed. And it’s a big one. We’ve put a package on a ship from Dubai to the United States. A radioactive one. A bomb? Not yet. It’s a test run. As the threat level jumps and the government mobilizes, something still doesn’t smell right to Wells’ old CIA boss Ellis Shafer, and so he sends Wells on a private mission to find out what’s going on. But the two of them are swimming against the tide. From Guatemala to Thailand to Hong Kong to Istanbul, Wells uses every skill he has, including his ability to go undercover in the Arab world, to chase down leads. But it might not be enough.

Black, Cara. [Murder Below Montparnasse](#) (\$14.95). See February Trade Paperback Picks.

Blaedel, Sara. [Farewell to Freedom](#) (\$14.95). A young woman’s body is found on the street in Copenhagen’s Vesterbro district,

her throat slit, and the media is clamoring for the grisly details. Louise assumes it is because Camilla, a crime reporter on a morning paper, wants to be the first to hear of any juicy new developments. Instead, her distraught friend reveals that her eleven-year-old son found an abandoned baby on his way to school. As Louise digs deeper into the murder and the mysterious foundling, every uncovered clue points to organized human trafficking from Eastern Europe, run by ruthless gangsters who despise women and won’t hesitate to kill anyone who gets in their way....

Danticat, Edwidge, ed. [Haiti Noir 2: The Classics](#) (Akashic \$24.95). Nick Stone’s “Barbancourt Blues” presents a man stalked by gangs of young boys, waiting for a chance to take him down. Roxane Gay’s “Things I Know About Fairy Tales” covers the kidnapping of a native who has moved to another country but returned to visit relatives. Almost all of the 16 stories are by actual Haitians. In trade paperback: [Haiti Noir 2: The Classics](#) (\$15.95)

De La Motte, Anders. [Bubble](#) (Atria \$16). This concludes the thriller trilogy initiated by [Game](#) and [Buzz](#) (\$16 each), and obviously targeting the Stieg Larsson crowd. Now it’s summer in Stockholm which is preparing for the wedding of a much loved princess. HP receives a text asking if he’d like to back in The Game. He’s tried to stay hidden from the Game Master and free himself, so hoping to uncover the truth of it all, he decides to accept one more assignment. Rebecca’s life has changed as a result of her brother’s involvement in The Game, so she’s fixed on the connection between her late father’s past and HP’s predicament. And—there is a showdown complete with surprises.

Grossman, Paul. [Brotherhood of Fear: A Willi Kraus Novel](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Paris, 1933. A refugee with no papers, no legal status, and few resources, Willi Kraus lives in fear of deportation back to Nazi Germany. His reputation as a top sleuth however precedes him, and he’s soon enlisted to work as a private eye—if under shady circumstances. Despite his apparent good fortune he finds himself a stranger in a very strange land. France is gripped by a fog of disillusionment, anxious about the tides of fascism rising along her borders. Seduced by a sultry but troubled young French girl and befriended by France’s most flamboyant financier, Willi finds himself unwittingly drawn into a murder mystery whose trail points towards the highest halls of power. Without a badge, working alone, he gradually gets the impression he’s being led into a maze. By whom and for what purpose? To escape this web of intrigue he must learn to navigate not only the grand salons of Paris but her seediest alleys and darkest canals, her smokiest nightclubs—a landscape as disorienting as a hall of mirrors, where sex, politics, money and love are often just tricks of the eye. In its Starred Review, *PW* finds that, “Grossman again manages to make the past come alive, and his complicated investigator displays enough depth and frailty to warrant continued exploits, even without the series’ initial hook of a Jewish cop fighting for justice under the Nazis.” [Click here](#) for the earlier novels.

Hewson, David. [The Killing 3 Signed](#) (Macmillan \$36). Detective Inspector for homicide, Sarah Lund, is contacted by old flame Mathias Borch from National Intelligence. Borch fears that what first appeared to be a random killing at the docks is the beginning of an assassination attempt on Prime Minister Troels

Hartmann. The murder draws attention towards the shipping and oil giant, Zeeland, run by billionaire Robert Zeuthen. When Zeuthen's 9-year-old daughter, Emilie, is kidnapped the investigation takes on a different dimension as it soon becomes clear that her disappearance is linked to the murder of a young girl in Jutland some years earlier. Hartmann is in the middle of an election campaign, made all the more turbulent because of the mounting financial crisis. He needs Zeeland's backing. Lund needs to make sense of the clues left by Emilie's perpetrator before it's too late. And can she finally face the demons that have long haunted her?

Holmberg, John-Henri, ed. [A Darker Shade of Sweden](#) (Grove \$26). Our staff has gone wild over this anthology of 17 stories set in Sweden and never before published in English. This Nordic Noir includes work by Henning Mankell and Åsa Larsson. There's even a never-before-published story by Stieg Larsson. Swedish crime-fiction reviewer Holmberg translated all but one story himself.

Jeffries, Roderic. [In Search of Murder](#) (Severn \$28.95). The long-running Inspector Alvarez series has been a window into the culture of Mallorca. The unconventional and, it must be said, stubborn cop is rudely awakened from his afternoon siesta by a phone call reporting the death of one Senor Picare. On arrival at the Picare villa, it seems his grieving widow is passed out in bed and the housekeeper, Rosalía, is the one dealing with the police and comforting the young maid, Marta, who is devastated by the death of her employer. It soon becomes clear that Senor Picare may have promised Marta – and other young women – more than he should have done and there could be a fair number of disgruntled husbands or fathers around who had a reason to want him gone.

Kerrigan, Gene. [Dark Times in the City](#) (Europa \$17). Danny Callaghan is having a quiet drink in a Dublin pub when two men with guns walk in. They're here to take care of a minor problem—petty criminal Walter Bennett. On impulse, Callaghan intervenes to save Walter's life. Soon, his own survival is in question. With a troubled past and an uncertain future, Danny finds himself drawn into a vicious scheme of revenge. *Dark Times in the City* depicts an edgy city where affluence and cocaine fuel a ruthless gang culture, and a man's fleeting impulse may cost the lives of those who matter most to him. Kerrigan's new novel is his finest yet; a CWA Gold Dagger Crime Novel finalist.

Leon, Donna. [Death and Judgment](#); [Dressed for Death](#) (\$15). Trade paperback reissues of two Commissario Brunetti cases. The Venetian cop works his next in [By Its Cover Signed](#) (Heinemann \$40) Guido Brunetti #23, due here in April.

Magee, Audrey. [Undertaking Signed](#) (Atlantic UK \$32). Desperate to escape the Eastern front, Peter Faber, an ordinary German soldier, marries Katharina Spinell, a woman he has never met; it is a marriage of convenience that promises 'honeymoon' leave for him and a pension for her should he die on the front. With ten days' leave secured, Peter visits his new wife in Berlin; both are surprised by the attraction that develops between them. When Peter returns to the horror of the front, it is only the dream of Katharina that sustains him as he approaches Stalingrad. Back in Berlin, Katharina, goaded on by her desperate and delusional parents, ruthlessly works her way into the Nazi party hierarchy, wedding herself, her young husband and their unborn child to the

regime. But when the tide of war turns and Berlin falls, Peter and Katharina, ordinary people stained with their small share of an extraordinary guilt, find their simple dream of family increasingly hard to hold on to...

Nesbø, Jo. [The Redeemer](#) (\$14.95). *Booklist* writes, "Nesbø's Harry Hole novels have not appeared in the U.S. in the order in which they were written, and given the stunning events detailed in *Phantom* (2012), that disjointed chronology may prove disconcerting for readers of *The Redeemer*. Still, it is a fine crime novel. Redemption of one kind or another has always been on Harry's mind (his preferred method for finding it is usually in a whiskey bottle), but here the theme encompasses nearly every character in the book, from various Salvation Army "soldiers" with multiple secrets in their closets, through an assassin hired to kill one of those soldiers, and on to Harry's former boss, Möller. The freezing Oslo winter nicely parallels the icy righteousness ("the virtue of the lazy and the visionless") that drives most of these would-be redeemers. The thin line separating crooks and cops in all of the intensely character-focused Hole novels has never been thinner or more treacherous than it is here. As Möller puts it, 'It's chance and nuance that separate the hero from the villain.'" For [Cockroaches](#) (Knopf \$14.95), see February Trade Paperback Picks.

Perry, Karen. [The Innocent Sleep](#) (Holt \$26). Harry and Robin are living in Tangiers when, one night while he is making a birthday dinner for Robin, Harry leaves their sleeping son Dillon for a quick run to get Robin's gift. An earthquake hits, their building is shaken—and Dillon disappears, presumed dead although his body is never found. They relocate to their native Dublin where, give years on, Harry's career as an artist is taking off and Robin learns she is pregnant. Then Harry glimpses Dillon on a crowded Dublin street. Is he still alive, really? Where has he been? And what truths are both parents about to have to face? Surprising stuff, well told under this pen name for a pair of Irish writers.

Seymour, Gerald. [The Dealer and the Dead](#) (St Martins \$26.99). "A war crime propels this stellar thriller from Edgar-finalist Seymour. One night during the Balkan conflict of the early 1990s, four Croat fighters crouch in a cornfield outside the town of Vukovar in eastern Slavonia as they wait for a shipment of arms that will enable them to fight off their Serb attackers. The arms never come, they are killed, and the town is almost destroyed. In the present, the name of the man who reneged on the arms deal, Harvey Gillot, has become synonymous in the history of the town with all that is evil. Various people have business with the successful, wealthy Gillot, including Robbie Cairns, a young hit man in a London crime family; Det. Sgt. Mark Roscoe with the Serious Crime Directorate; Megs Behan, a researcher for the antigovernment organization Planet Protection; Penny Laing, a member of HM Revenue and Customs Alpha team; and a retired Secret Intelligence Service officer, flamboyant Benjamin Arbuthnot. How Seymour develops these characters and manipulates them until they all end up in Vukovar is a testament to his talent and skill."—*PW* Starred Review. This is ace novelist Seymour's 27<sup>th</sup> novel. It all started with international bestseller *Harry's Game*.

Simenon, Georges. [The Late Monsieur Gallet: Pietr the Latvian](#) (Penguin \$10 each). The start of a republishing program for the prolific French crimewriter who claimed to have bedded hundreds more women than his some 100 novels. In the first, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Maigret, the circumstances of Monsieur Gallet's death all seem fake: the name he was traveling under, his presumed profession, and, more worryingly, his family's grief. Their haughtiness seems to hide ambiguous feelings about the hapless man. Soon Inspector Maigret discovers the appalling truth.... In the second, Who is Pietr the Latvian? Is he a gentleman thief? A Russian drinking absinthe in a grimy bar? A married Norwegian sea captain? A twisted corpse in a train bathroom? Or is he all of these men? Inspector Maigret, tracking a mysterious adversary and a trail of bodies, must bide his time before the answer comes into focus. Direct-TV has been showing a wide range of Jules Maigret cases.

Smith, Tom Rob. [The Farm Signed](#) (SimonSchuster \$32). Until the moment he receives a frantic call from his father, Daniel believed his parents were headed into a peaceful, well-deserved retirement. They had sold their home and business in London and bid farewell to England, setting off to begin life anew on a remote, bucolic farm in rural Sweden. But with that phone call, everything changes. Your mother's not well, his father tells him. She's been imagining things-terrible, terrible things. She has had a psychotic breakdown and been committed to a mental hospital. Daniel prepares to rush to Sweden on the first available flight. Before he can board the plane, his father contacts him with even more frightening news: his mother has discharged herself from hospital and he doesn't know where she is. Then his mother calls: 'I'm sure your father has spoken to you. Everything that man has told you is a lie. I'm not mad. I don't need a doctor. I need the police. I'm about to board a flight to London. Meet me at Heathrow.' Caught between his parents, and unsure of who to believe or trust, Daniel becomes his mother's unwilling judge and jury as she tells him an urgent tale of secrets, of lies, of a horrible crime and a conspiracy that implicates his own father.

Wilson, Robert. [You Will Never Find Me Signed](#) (Orion \$45). Charlie Boxer messed up his family life. First the army, then the police, then high-stakes kidnap and recovery, his ex-wife and daughter learnt to live without him as his work took him places no man can come back from unscarred. Trying to rebuild a relationship with Amy, his teenage daughter, hasn't been easy. But Charlie only realizes just how wrong things have gone when he finds her empty room and a note: *You will never find me*. Having spent years working to track down kidnap victims, Charlie knows that sometimes, the missing don't want to be found. And he knows the hell it brings for families—the vanished are neither dead or alive, but simply gone. Worse still, Charlie Boxer knows how quickly a life can fall apart once you're living under the radar. For Charlie, danger has finally come to his front door and to crack the hardest case he's ever worked, it's time to face up to the true meaning of the sins of the father.

#### OUR FEBRUARY TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

✦Barber, Ros. [The Marlowe Papers](#) (\$16.99). This is a bold, imaginative work in verse (it works, no worries, and is fascinating to read) that imagines a life for Christopher Marlowe had he not been murdered at Deptford but instead faked it and went into exile. And wrote plays which his friends,

fellow playwrights, got published under the name "William Shakespeare." Something different. I loved it.

Black, Cara. [Murder Below Montparnasse](#) (\$14.95). A long-lost Modigliani portrait, a grieving brother's blood vendetta, a Soviet secret that's been buried for 80 years—it's the black market art world turned murderous. The cobbled streets of Montparnasse might have been boho-chic in the 1920s, when artists, writers, and their muses drank absinthe and danced on cafe tables. But to Parisian private investigator Aimée Leduc, these streets hold darker secrets. When an old Russian man named Yuri hires Aimée Leduc to protect a priceless painting that just might be a Modigliani, she learns how deadly art theft can be. Yuri is found tortured to death in his atelier, and the painting is missing. Every time Aimée thinks she's found a new witness, the body count rises. What exactly is so special about this painting that so many people are willing to kill—and die—for it? Note: Montparnasse some 15 years earlier is the background to Rhys Bowens' March mystery—see below. Black signs Aimée's next case, [Murder in Pigalle](#) (Soho \$25.99), here March 17.

Bowen, Rhys. [The Family Way](#) (\$15.99). Molly Murphy has finally married New York policeman Daniel Sullivan—and she's pregnant. But not one to sit home knitting baby clothes in the heat of a 1905 summer in the city, Molly resolves to investigate the mystery of a missing Irish servant, a maid, despite her promise to Daniel to confine her life to that of housewife. That very day, Molly learns that no fewer than five babies have been kidnapped in the past month. An annoyed Daniel sends her to the country to stay with his (domineering and disapproving) mother, but.... See Event Books for the March 4 Molly Murphy Launch Party here.

✦Chisholm, P F. [An Air of Treason: A Sir Robert Carey Mystery](#) (\$14.95). After his hair-raising adventures in London, Sir Robert Carey has finally tracked down the Queen who is about to make a state visit to Oxford. But instead of giving the Courtier his much-needed warrant and fee for being Deputy Warden of the West March with Scotland, Her Majesty orders him to investigate the most dangerous cold case of her reign – the mysterious death in 1560 of Amy Dudley, née Robsart, unloved wife of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. Dudley, now dead, was, some thirty years back, Elizabeth's favorite suitor and potential husband, to the dismay of her ministers. Amy died at Cumnor Place, close at hand. Since the Queen is one of the most obvious suspects in arranging Amy's murder, Carey is deeply uneasy with his sleuthing role, the more so as his father, Elizabeth's cousin from the wrong side of the blanket, is clearly involved. Then somebody nearly manages to poison Carey with belladonna which temporarily blinds him. Worse still, Sergeant Dodd, the man most often guarding Carey's back, has totally disappeared on the road from London. As the Queen's scandalous past collides with her magnificent State entrance into Oxford, can Carey rally in time to find both Dodd and the true murderer of Amy Robsart? Sixth in a brilliant Elizabethan series so immersive the reader hates to exit the age, and much loved by Diana Gabaldon, Sharon Kay Penman, Dana Stabenow, and me.

Hayder, Mo. [The Devil of Nanking](#) (\$14). This is a reissue of one of the most chilling and terrifying novels I can recall. Brilliant storytelling imagines the appalling atrocities accumulating at the siege of the Chinese city by the Japanese. *Kirkus* echoes my

take: “A superb third thriller from Hayder, who sends a troubled young Englishwoman to Tokyo in search of evidence about a half-century-old war crime. For reasons she initially only hints at, Grey is obsessed with the 1937 Nanking massacre, a month-long orgy of atrocities perpetrated by the Japanese army on Chinese civilians. Learning that a Chinese man who witnessed those atrocities possesses filmed footage of one particularly monstrous event, she sets out to confront Shi Chongming in Tokyo, where he is a visiting professor of sociology. The story alternates between Grey’s odyssey in Tokyo’s darker corners and Shi Chongming’s bitter diary of the ten months leading up to the Nanking massacre. Grey hooks up with Jason, a creepy American expat with a morbid sexual interest in violence, who gets her a job as a hostess at a nightclub. There, she meets Fuyuki, an elderly, ailing gangster whose terrifying “Nurse” fortifies him with a mysterious medicine. It turns out Shi Chongming desperately wants to know what this medicine is; he promises to show Grey the film if she finds out, but warns her that Fuyuki and his Nurse are exceedingly dangerous... But this isn’t just a nail-biter; her heroine is a damaged woman whose emotional and physical scars are gradually revealed to have grim links to the ultimate atrocity Shi Chongming witnesses in Nanking. As the narrative bloodily approaches a final, horrific pair of revelations, you realize that finding out what happened doesn’t answer the real question here. What Grey and ShiChongming, who have both ignorantly precipitated unspeakable tragedies, desperately need to know is: Is there any difference between ignorance and evil if the consequences are the same?”

Hilton, Matt. [The Lawless Kind Signed](#) (Hodder \$46). Ex-counterterrorist soldier Joe Hunter has been called to Mexico to bring an end to a cartel that preys on the people they smuggle across the US border. Once the mission’s ended, however, Joe’s mission leader and mentor, CIA Black Ops director Walter Hayes Conrad, confesses that the bloody mission is not the real reason Joe has been summoned south of the border. For years, Walter has kept the details of his private life—especially of his family—secret from everyone, even his closest friends. But disaster has struck: his great-grandson Benjamin has been abducted, kidnapped by Walter’s sworn enemy, the leader of one of Mexico’s largest drug cartels. Walter will do whatever it takes to get the boy back. And he know Hunter is the man for the job. But there’s one complication—the drug boss just happens to be Benjamin’s father.

Mina, Denise. [Gods and Beasts](#) (\$15). It’s the week before Christmas when a lone robber bursts into a Glasgow post office carrying an AK-47. An elderly man suddenly hands his young grandson to a stranger and helps the gunman fill bags with cash. He opens the door for the gunman and bows his head; the robber shoots the grandfather, tearing him in two. DS Alex Morrow arrives on the scene and finds that the alarm system had been disabled before the robbery. Yet none of the employees can be linked to the gunman. And the grandfather is above reproach. As Morrow searches for the killer, she uncovers a hidden, sinister political network. Soon it is chillingly clear: no corner of the city is safe... Mina signs the sequel, [Red Road](#) (LittleBrown \$27.99), here March 12. Yay!

Nesbø, Jo. [The Cockroaches](#) (\$14.95). When the Norwegian ambassador to Thailand is found dead in a Bangkok brothel,

Inspector Harry Hole is dispatched from Oslo to help hush up the case. But once he arrives Harry discovers that this case is about much more than one random murder. There is something else, something more pervasive, scabbling around behind the scenes. Or, put another way, for every cockroach you see in your hotel room, there are hundreds behind the walls... An early case for Harry which “casts a cold eye on the reality of expatriate life of some Europeans in Asia.” —*The Irish Independent*

Perry, Thomas. [The Boyfriend](#) (\$15). Jack Till, who has retired from the LAPD after a respected career as a homicide detective, now works as a private investigator, comfortable chasing down routine cases while visiting his 24-year-old daughter, Holly, who has Down Syndrome. But when the parents of a recently murdered young girl, about Holly’s age, ask for his help when the police come up empty, Till reluctantly takes the case. It was discovered after her death that the victim had been working as a high-class prostitute, and the police are content to assume she was killed by a client, common in such a dangerous line of work. Yet as Till digs deeper, he realizes that the victim is just one of several young female escorts killed in different cities in the exact same way? All had strawberry blonde hair, and all were shot with a 9mm handgun in the sanctity of their apartments. Till must find his way around the tawdry and secretive online escort business, and decode ads placed by young women who all use false names, sometimes advertise using other women’s pictures, and move from city to city every few months. Yet when Till is finally able to catch up with the killer on his spree, he finds a more dangerous and volatile killer than he had imagined.

✚Robinson, Peter. [Watching the Dark](#) (\$14.99). A decorated policeman is murdered on the tranquil grounds of the St. Peter’s Police Treatment Centre, shot through the heart with a crossbow arrow, and compromising photographs are discovered in his room. Detective Chief Inspector Alan Banks is well aware that he must handle the highly sensitive and dangerously explosive investigation with the utmost discretion. And as he digs deeper, he discovers that the murder may be linked to an unsolved missing persons case from six years earlier, and the current crime may involve crooked cops. “In a bold departure from his normally provincial style, Robinson shows a keen awareness of the global reach of crime... Robinson’s methodical plotting skills are well suited to this complicated story...” —*NY Times Book Review*

Vandermeer, Jeff. [Annihilation](#) (Farrar \$13). The *PW* Starred Review: “The unnamed narrator of this brilliant first in a trilogy from fantasy author Vandermeer (*City of Saints and Madmen*) tells of her ever-more-terrifying, yet ever-more-transcendent experiences, as she, a biologist, and the three other members of her all-women team (a surveyor, an anthropologist, and a psychologist) set out to explore Area X, for some unspecified number of years deliberately isolated from its surroundings. Theirs is the 12th expedition to Area X, sent two years after the last attempt; the team hopes to discover why the zone, so lush and beautiful at first look, is a place from which none return—at least not in the same form that they entered. Using evocative descriptions of the biologist’s outer and inner worlds, masterful psychological insight, and intellectual observations both profound and disturbing—calling Lovecraft to mind and Borges—Vandermeer unfolds a tale as satisfying as it is richly imagined.”

## NEW BOOKS

Adams, Clifton. [Death's Sweet Song/Whom Gods Destroy](#) (Stark House \$19.95). In the first: His face was burned to the color of old leather, and I guessed he was the type that spent a lot of time on a golf course, or maybe a tennis court. We talked a little about the weather and how hot it was, and then I hung up the hose and went to work on the windshield. That was when I got my first good look at the woman. And she just about took my breath away. Originally published in 1955. In the second: He trafficked in rum and women, this modern-day Al Capone. Clifton Adam's famous tale of bootlegging in Oklahoma, 20 years after Prohibition's repeal in 47 other states. Legendary to this day for its dark account of a man on the wrong side of the tracks out to get what's his, any way he can. Originally published in 1953.

Albany, A J. [Low Down: Junk, Jazz, And Other Fairy Tales from Childhood](#) (Forge \$15.95). Patrick writes, "Amy Jo Albany's wonderful memoir about her time with her dad, jazz pianist Joe Albany, is compelling, whether you know a thing about jazz or not. In the 1970's, Albany's star had faded and the musician had sunken into drug-addicted obscurity, living in a flea-bag Hollywood apartment house full of former actors and other casualties of the LA scene. A.J. Albany's account of fending for herself in a very dangerous, yet fascinating world, rubbing elbows with jazz greats such as Louis Armstrong, and looking after her doomed father, is irresistible reading." "Only the slyest and boldest writing about music, and families, comes to mind as you read *Low Down*: James Baldwin's 'Sonny's Blues,' or David Goodis' *Down There*. Yet A. J. Albany's spirit and voice are fully her own—fierce, funny, troubling, sad, rueful, joyous." —Robert Polito

Baker, Tiffany. [Mercy Snow](#) (Grand Central \$26). June McAllister is the wife of the local mill owner and undisputed first lady in town. But the Snow family, a group of itinerant ne'er-do-wells who live on a decrepit and cursed property, have brought her—and the town—nothing but grief. June will do anything to cover up a dark secret she discovers after the crash, one that threatens to upend her picture-perfect life, even if it means driving the Snow family out of town. But she has never gone up against a force as fierce as the young Mercy Snow. Mercy is determined to protect her rebellious brother, whom the town blames for the accident, despite his innocence. And she has a secret of her own. When an old skeleton is discovered not far from the crash, it beckons Mercy to solve a mystery buried deep within the town's past. The January Indie Next Pick reads, "Titan Falls, a small, sleepy town in New Hampshire where life fluctuates with the ups and downs of the local paper mill, gets roughly awakened when a school bus crashes into a ravine. The event brings two families into conflict: the Snow family, always known as good-for-nothing, has to fight for their survival in town when their son is accused of causing the accident; the McAllisters, owners of the mill and the leading family in town, court trouble as old secrets connected to the Snows threaten to be uncovered. This is a captivating story and a thrilling good mystery!" Revenge is terrific fuel for a plot.

Ballard, Mignon F. [Miss Dimple Picks a Peck of Trouble](#) (St Martins \$24.99). It's the summer of 1944. On the home front, the people of Elderberry, Georgia, are doing everything they can to support the troops. Even with a war on, the peaches are ripe

for picking. As veteran teacher Miss Dimple Kilpatrick and her colleagues work in the orchard, they hear frantic calls for help: An eighteen-year-old girl, Prentice, has been missing—and is later found murdered. Miss Dimple and her fellow teachers-turned-sleuths are determined to find the killer. Although Prentice had recently broken up with her boyfriend, the most obvious suspect isn't always the right one: Prentice may have been keeping some secrets; and a local woman claims to have witnessed the whole abduction—except she also believes she is Scarlett O'Hara, that Nazi spies are pursuing her, and that she knows where the Confederate gold is buried. Here's a real challenge....

Barry, Dave. [You Can Date Boys When You're Forty](#) (Putnam \$26.95). In original pieces, Barry tackles everything from family trips, bat mitzvah parties and dating (he's serious about that title: "When my daughter can legally commence dating—February 24, 2040—I intend to monitor her closely, even if I am deceased") to funeral instructions ("I would like my eulogy to be given by William Shatner"), the differences between male and female friendships, the deeper meaning of *Fifty Shades of Grey*, and a father's ultimate sacrifice: accompanying his daughter to a Justin Bieber concert ("It turns out that the noise teenaged girls make to express happiness is the same noise they would make if their feet were being gnawed off by badgers"). Let's face it: families not only enrich our lives every day, they drive us completely around the bend....

Bauer, Carlene. [Frances and Bernard](#) (\$14.95). Frances and Bernard meet in the summer of 1957. Afterward, he writes her a letter. Soon they are immersed in the kind of fast, deep friendship that can change the course of our lives. They find their way to New York and, for a few whirling years, each other. The city is a wonderland for young people with dreams: cramped West Village kitchens, parties stocked with the sharp-witted and glamorous, taxis that can take you anywhere at all, long talks along the Hudson as the lights of the Empire State Building blink on above. Inspired by the lives of Flannery O'Connor and Robert Lowell, Frances and Bernard imagines, through new characters with charms entirely their own, what else might have happened. Can we love another person so completely that we lose our dreams?

Blair, Peggy. [The Poisoned Pawn](#) (Pintail \$16). Detective Mike Ellis returns home after he is cleared in the death of a young boy while on vacation in Cuba, only to discover that his estranged wife, Hilary, is dead, and that he's the main suspect. Meanwhile, Inspector Ramirez, head of the Havana Major Crimes Unit, is dispatched to Ottawa to take custody of a Cuban priest apprehended by authorities while in possession of a laptop full of child pornography. Ramirez will uncover a web of deceit and depravity that extends from the corridors of power in Ottawa to the hallowed halls of the Vatican—and back again. The sequel to the excellent [The Beggar's Opera](#) (\$16).

Blackwood, Algernon. [Day and Night Stories/Ten Minute Stories](#) (Stark House \$19.95). Algernon Henry Blackwood, CBE (14 March 1869 – 10 December 1951) was an English short story writer and novelist, one of the most prolific writers of ghost stories in the history of the genre. The first set of stories here was published in 1917; the second in 1914.

Caine, Rachel. [Prince of Shadows: A Novel of Romeo and Juliet](#) (NAL \$17.99). For Valentine's Day, "Revisit a Shakespearean

classic from a new angle. Romance and intrigue abound; I loved it!”—Melissa Ma

Cameron, Claire. [The Bear](#) (LittleBrown \$25). While camping with her family on a remote island, five-year-old Anna awakes in the night to the sound of her mother screaming. A rogue black bear, three hundred pounds of fury, is attacking the family’s campsite — and pouncing on her parents as prey. At her dying mother’s faint urging, Anna manages to get her brother into the family’s canoe and paddle away. But when the canoe runs aground on the edge of the woods, the sister and brother must battle hunger, the elements, and a wilderness alive with danger. Lost and completely alone, they find that their only hope resides in Anna’s heartbreaking love for her family, and her struggle to be brave when nothing in her world seems safe anymore. This is a suspenseful story with a small narrator, age 5, and a big heart.

Cook, Robin. [Cell](#) (Putnam \$26.95). George Wilson, M.D., a radiology resident in Los Angeles, is about to enter a profession on the brink of an enormous paradigm shift, foreshadowing a vastly different role for doctors everywhere. The smartphone is poised to take on a new role in medicine, no longer as a mere medical app but rather as a fully customizable personal physician capable of diagnosing and treating even better than the real thing. It is called iDoc. George’s initial collision with this incredible innovation is devastating. He awakens one morning to find his fiancée dead in bed alongside him, not long after she participated in an iDoc beta test. Then several of his patients die after undergoing imaging procedures. All of them had been part of the same beta test. Is it possible that iDoc is being subverted by hackers—and that the U.S. government is involved in a cover-up?

Connolly, John. [Conquest Signed](#) (Atria \$24). Book 1 of the Chronicles of the Invaders, coauthored with Jennifer Ridyard, who also signs. Earth is no longer ours...It is ruled by the Illyri, a beautiful, civilized, yet ruthless alien species. But humankind has not given up the fight, and Paul Kerr is one of a new generation of young Resistance leaders waging war on the invaders. Syl Hellais is the first of the Illyri to be born on Earth. Trapped inside the walls of her father’s stronghold, hated by the humans, she longs to escape. But on her sixteenth birthday, Syl’s life is about to change forever. She will become an outcast, an enemy of her people, for daring to save the life of one human: Paul Kerr. Only together do they have a chance of saving each other—and Earth.

Delany, Vicki. [Gold Web: A Klondike Mystery](#) (Dundurn \$17.99). The year is 1898. The place is Dawson City, Yukon. A man staggers out of the dusk to collapse at the feet of a startled Fiona MacGillivray, shattering the peaceful calm of a warm July night. Before breathing his last, he gasps two words: “MacGillivray, Culloden.” Fiona doesn’t know the man and she would prefer not to find out why he linked her name with the “bloodiest of all battles.” As international intrigue abounds and handsome Corporal Richard Sterling of the NWMP searches for the murderer, Fiona’s son Angus takes a job as a photographer’s assistant, a new dancer almost causes a riot, and Fiona tells herself she is not at all bothered by the amount of attention Richard Sterling is paying to the pretty and charming photographer, Miss Eleanor Jennings.

Dobyns, Stephen. [The Burn Palace](#) (\$17). “Award-winning poet and veteran novelist Dobyns, who also pens the Charlie

Bradshaw mystery series, sets his latest thriller in Brewster, Rhode Island, a small town beset by a series of strange occurrences that may be supernatural in nature. Detective Woody Potter has been wracked by emotional turmoil ever since his girlfriend left him. But he knows he’s in for an even rougher patch on the job when he’s called to the hospital in the middle of the night. Someone has stolen a newborn baby and left a huge red-and-yellow snake in the infant’s crib. Then the scalped corpse of an insurance investigator turns up in a parking lot. Throw in a local Wiccan sect, some out-of-control coyotes, and an unemployed plumber who has taken to growling at people, and you have a recipe for small-town hysteria. Dobyns peoples this literary chiller with a fully rounded cast of memorable characters, from an eerily self-possessed 10-year-old with an unusual gift to an opera-loving policeman who secretly longs to be a set designer. Expertly paced and smoothly written, this should appeal to both thriller and horror fans.” —*Booklist*

Dorsey, Tim. [Tiger Shrimp Tango Signed](#) (Morrow \$28). A repeat review since we did end up with Signed copies. Thanks to the Internet, America has become a playground for ruthless scam artists out to make an easy buck. And where do these models of entrepreneurship hail from? Why, the Sunshine State of course! No one loves Florida more, or can keep it safe from invasive criminal species better than self-appointed Sunshine Sheriff Serge Storms. When a particular scam leads to the death of a few innocents and a young woman’s disappearance, Serge and his perpetually self-bent sidekick Coleman—aided by his new pal, latter-day noir private eye Mahoney—load up the car for a riotous road trip to do right. Packed with seafood, mayhem, blood, Coleman’s deep thoughts, Floridian lore, and more, Tiger Shrimp Tango is a hilarious treat from the incomparable Tim Dorsey.

Duncan, Glen. [By Blood We Live](#) (Knopf \$25.95). A stunningly erotic love story that gives us the final battle for survival between werewolves and vampires, “Once more, Duncan’s elegant, striking prose is the star in his enthralling conclusion to the Last Werewolf trilogy . . . There are plenty of battles, blood, and sexy escapades; but the real treat continues to be Duncan’s beautifully twisted way with language and the profound thesis he poses about humanity. Defiant and dramatic to the last, Duncan wraps up his finale with a flourish.” —*Booklist*. [Click here](#) for the whole trilogy.

Evanovich, Janet/Lee Goldberg. [The Chase](#) (Random \$28). Thief and con artist Nicolas Fox’s greatest scam is convincing the FBI to team him up with the only person who has ever caught him, and the only woman to ever capture his attention, Special Agent Kate O’Hare. Together they’ll go undercover to swindle and catch the world’s most wanted—and untouchable—criminals. Their newest target is Carter Grove, a former White House chief of staff and the ruthless leader of a private security agency. Grove has stolen a rare Chinese artifact from the Smithsonian, a crime that will torpedo U.S. relations with China if it ever becomes public. Nick and Kate must work under the radar—and against the clock—to devise a plan to steal the piece back. Confronting Grove’s elite assassins, Nick and Kate rely on the skills of their ragtag crew, including a flamboyant actor, a Geek Squad techie, and a band of AARP-card-carrying mercenaries led by none other than Kate’s dad. A daring heist and a deadly chase lead Nick and Kate from Washington, D.C., to Shanghai, from the highlands of

Scotland to the underbelly of Montreal. But it'll take more than death threats, trained henchmen, sleepless nights, and the fate of a dynasty's priceless heirloom to outsmart Fox and O'Hare. [The Heist](#) (\$8.99).

Everett, Percival. [Glyph: A Novel](#) (\$15). Baby Ralph has ways to pass the time in his crib—but they don't include staring at a mobile. Aided by his mother, he reads voraciously: "All of Swift, all of Sterne, *Invisible Man*, Baldwin, Joyce, Balzac, Auden, Roethke," along with a generous helping of philosophy, semiotics, and trashy thrillers. He's also fond of writing poems and stories (in crayon). But Ralph has limits. He's mute by choice and can't drive, so in his own estimation he's not a genius. Unfortunately for him, everyone else disagrees. His psychiatrist kidnaps him for testing, and once his brilliance is quantified (IQ: 475), a Pentagon officer also abducts him. "Diabolically funny and lacerating in its critique of poststructuralism, *Glyph* has the feverish plot of a thriller and the philosophical depth of a text by Roland Barthes. If anyone can map the wilds of literary theory, it's Ralph," says the publisher.

Gardner, John. [James Bond: Death Is Forever](#) (\$14.95). With the TV "bio" of Ian Fleming showing, all things Bond are hot. Like reissuing Gardner's Bonds. The Cold War is over, but after the deaths of British and American agents in East Germany, surprisingly old-fashioned circumstances bring Bond into the action. Before the Berlin Wall came down, CABAL had been the West's most successful intelligence network in the East. Wolfgang Weisen was once the master spy of East Germany; now he plans to drive Europe to its knees. Known as 'The Poison Dwarf,' he systematically murders the members of CABAL. Revenge? Or something more? Then two experienced case officers, sent to contact the remaining Cabal agents, are killed in turn. James Bond and the CIA's Elizabeth Zara—known as 'Easy' St John—are ordered in to pick up the pieces. And uncover a fanatical conspiracy, dedicated to the destruction of democracy right across Europe. It's not long before Bond and Easy find themselves playing a life-or-death game as they try to figure out who they can trust. All the while, Cabal agents are dying one by one... Carry on with [James Bond: The Man from Barbarossa](#) (\$14.95).

Goldsborough, Robert. [Murder in the Ball Park](#) (\$14.99). With Spring Training coming up here in the Cactus League, a Nero Wolfe takes you out to the ball park. Archie Goodwin and Saul Panzer have ventured into the wilds of northern Manhattan to watch the Giants take on the Dodgers at the Polo Grounds. The national anthem is just winding down when Panzer spies a notable in the box seats: state senator Orson Milbank, a silver-haired scoundrel with enemies in every corner of upstate New York. In the fourth inning, a monstrous line drive brings every fan in the grandstand to his feet—every fan save for one silver-haired senator, who has been shot dead by a sniper in the upper deck. Archie's employer—the rotund genius Nero Wolfe—has no interest in investigating the stadium slaying, but Archie is swayed by the senator's suspiciously lovely widow. Her husband was mired hip-deep in corruption, and sorting out who killed him will be no game....

Greene, Thomas Christophe. [The Headmaster's Wife](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Inspired by a personal loss, Greene explores the way that tragedy and time assail one man's memories of his life

and loves. Like his father before him, Arthur Winthrop is the Headmaster of Vermont's elite Lancaster School. It is the place he feels has given him his life, but is also the site of his undoing as events spiral out of his control. Found wandering naked in Central Park, he begins to tell his story to the police, but his memories collide into one another, and the true nature of things, a narrative of love, of marriage, of family and of a tragedy Arthur does not know how to address emerges. Luminous and atmospheric, bringing to life the tight-knit enclave of a quintessential New England boarding school, the novel is part mystery, part love story and an exploration of the ties of place and family. Beautifully written and compulsively readable, *The Headmaster's Wife* stands as a moving elegy to the power of love as an antidote to grief. "A truly remarkable novel, I read the second half of *The Headmaster's Wife* with my mouth open, my jaw having dropped at the end of the first half. Greene knows how to hook a reader and land him." —Richard Russo

Harris, Joanne. [The Gospel of Loki Signed](#) (Gollancz \$35). International bestseller Harris has a marvelous time writing the epic story of the Trickster God and thus putting the record straight on his role in Nordic mythology. Loki is the Light-Bringer, the elusive, the modest, the misunderstood, the handsome, cast in an unflattering role among the Gods led by Odin. He tells his own story of the rise and fall of the Norse gods—his recruitment from the underworld of Chaos, his many exploits on behalf of his one-eyed master, Odin, through to his eventual betrayal of the gods and the fall of Asgard itself. If you read Tolkien, listen to Wagner, and so forth, here's a wonderful new perspective.

Harris, Thomas. [The Silence of the Lambs: 25th Anniversary Edition](#) (St Martins \$15.99). Like us, 25 years have passed, and here we all are....

Hart, Carolyn. [Castle Rock](#) (Seventh Street \$13.95). Another of Hart's early fiction comes into print. We're in New Mexico where Serena Mallory came to the huge ranch Castle Rock as a 12-year-old orphan. She grew up as the ward of the owner, Dan, who dies in a riding accident when Serena's in her early twenties. But the night before, Serena heard Dan arguing with someone, and since his death a series of strange accidents has plagued Castle Rock.... Hart joins us in a Berkley Prime Crime 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary March 25 with Coel, Fowler, and Aames so you can get her to sign this and other of her suspense stories.

Heywood, Joseph. [Killing a Cold One](#) (Lyons \$26.95). Every fall in northern Michigan brings a spate of dogman sightings. A radio DJ's invention, the dogman was created as an attention-getting joke. But millions of Michiganders believe in angels and vampires, werewolves, Bigfoot... and the dogman. Late summer, the horribly mutilated bodies of two Native American girls are found in a tent in a remote campground in the Huron Mountains. Grady Service, who wants nothing more than to return to patrolling his beloved Mosquito Wilderness, is called into the case. Strange animal tracks are found, mayhem ensues, a bloody trail of victims begins to accumulate, and the governor, in a political panic, and on her way out of office, orders Grady to hunt down and eliminate the killer—on her office's dime. Grady Service does not believe in Easter bunnies, Santa Claus, or dogmen, and the "monster" hunt that unfolds in *Killing a Cold One* builds to a violent finish in some of the Upper Peninsula's

harshes and deadliest terrain. Joseph Heywood's legendary woods cop is called upon to use all of his investigative skills to sort fantasy from reality in order to do what the governor wants. This Woods Cop thriller published last September—we missed it.

Hoffman, Alice. [The Museum of Extraordinary Things Signed](#) (Scribner \$27.99). Coralie Sardie is the daughter of the impresario behind The Museum of Extraordinary Things, a boardwalk freak show that amazes and stimulates the crowds. An exceptional swimmer, Coralie appears as the Mermaid in her father's "museum," alongside performers like the Wolfman, the Butterfly Girl, and a one-hundred-year-old turtle. One night Coralie stumbles upon a striking young man photographing moonlit trees in the woods off the Hudson River. The dashing photographer is Eddie Cohen, a Russian immigrant who has run away from his father's Lower East Side Orthodox community and his job as an apprentice tailor. When Eddie captures with his camera the devastation on the streets of New York following the infamous Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, he becomes embroiled in the mystery behind a young woman's disappearance. New York itself becomes a riveting character as Hoffman weaves her magic, romance, and masterful storytelling to unite Coralie and Eddie. Out in February but signed here March 17.

Jacobsen, Annie. [Operation Paperclip](#) (LittleBrown \$30). Here's a difficult ethical subject still, one Sara Paretsky examined in her last VI investigation, [Critical Mass Signed](#) (\$26.95). As the Nazis went down to defeat and the Cold War loomed, what to do with the scientists, engineers, and medical experts of the Nazi regime? The U.S. government secretly decided that the value of these former Nazis' knowledge outweighed their crimes and began a covert operation code-named Paperclip to allow them to work in the U.S. without the public's full knowledge. Drawing on exclusive interviews with dozens of Paperclip family members, colleagues, and interrogators, and with access to German archival documents (including papers made available to her by direct descendants of the Third Reich's ranking members), files obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, and lost dossiers discovered at the National Archives and Harvard University, journalist Jacobsen follows more than a dozen German scientists through their postwar lives and into one of the most complex, nefarious, and jealously guarded government secrets of the 20th century. As Paretsky pointed out, some of them settled in Chicago.

Katzenbach, John. [The Traveler](#) (\$16). A reissue. Miami detective Mercedes Barren, recovering from a traumatic shooting, has transferred to the relative quiet of the forensics department to get her life back on track. Yet this peace is put on hold when she gets a wrenching phone call: her niece has been brutally murdered. Soon she uncovers the shocking truth: the killer—a professional photographer—is engaging in "copycat" murders across the country, while forcing a young student to document every horrific crime. The woman—he calls her "Boswell"—is his stenographer of cruelty. And if she drops her pen, she'll end up being his next "subject." As her already fragile life begins to fall to pieces, Mercedes makes it her mission to track down this cold-blooded killer—even if it means enlisting the help of his brother, a psychiatrist specializing in sex offenders. But can they catch him before his camera flashes next and snuffs out another life?

Kellerman, Jonathan. [Killer, An Alex Delaware Novel Signed](#) (Random \$29). The City of Angels has more than its share of psychopaths, and no one recognizes that more acutely than the brilliant psychologist and police consultant Dr. Alex Delaware. Despite that, Constance Sykes, a sophisticated, successful physician, hardly seems like someone Alex needs to fear. Then, at the behest of the court, he becomes embroiled in a bizarre child custody dispute initiated by Connie against her sister and begins to realize that there is much about the siblings he has failed to comprehend. And when the court battle between the Sykes sisters erupts into cold, calculating murder and a rapidly growing number of victims, Alex knows he's been snared in a toxic web of pathology....

Klavan, Andrew. [A Killer in the Wind](#) (\$16). Three years ago, Dan Champion uncovered a criminal syndicate run by a kingpin known only as the Fat Woman. Champion infiltrated her world of murder, obsession, and perversity, but the case also broke him. He began hallucinating and taking drugs. Now, Champion is a small-town detective, hoping the ghosts and hallucinations are finally behind him. Then one night he is called to examine the body of a woman who has washed ashore. To his surprise, he recognizes the woman as Samantha, someone he dreamed about during his dark period—a woman who doesn't exist. Soon Champion is haunted by a team of expert killers who want to make sure he never finds the truth...

Larson, Ellen. [The Hatch and Brood of Time](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.95). When you're a hard-nosed, shoe leather reporter like Natalie Joday of Bergen County, NJ, murder investigations are just another day in the life. But when she discovers that her trouble-magnet brother Daniel was the last to see the late Lydia Dow alive, Natalie's enthusiasm for finding the truth turns to dread. But Natalie is determined to find Lydia's killer regardless, even if that means talking to the deceased's nearest and dearest—an eccentric cast of characters ranging from a chauvinistic, bullying father to an introverted sister to an overprotective boyfriend. But Lydia's will complicate the investigation, forcing Natalie to follow the considerable money trail... right back to her brother. Now she must choose between hiding the truth and protecting Daniel or risking everything to investigate long-buried secrets of the past—including her own.

Lee, Patrick. [Runner Signed](#) (St Martins \$27). Sam Dryden is running on the boardwalk of El Sedero at three in the morning after insomnia roused him. He's just a California guy in a place in a moment of time—the moment in which a terrified girl comes running along. Sam can turn away from her, or make a split-second decision to help her. And thereby upend his life.... It's a quest novel or a chase novel, depending on your point of view, as well as a conspiracy theory gem that might even pan out to be true. Our **February Thriller Club Pick**, recommended by Lee Child, Lisa Gardner, and Jesse Kellerman, as well as by me.

Lippman, Laura. [After I'm Gone Signed](#) (Morrow \$26.99). The Baltimore bookmaker skipped on Independence Day, 1976, leaving five women behind: his wife, his daughters, and his mistress. Ten years later, his mistress vanishes. Meanwhile his business partners, legit and not, are high and dry. So where did he go? Did he go? And why?

MacInnes, Helen. [Agent in Place](#); [Double Image](#); [Horizon](#); [Neither Five Nor Three](#); [Snare of the Hunter](#); [While Still We Live](#)



(Titan \$9.95 each). The Scottish author (1907-85) of what are now espionage classics with colorful settings began her career in 1941 with *Above Suspicion*. Her husband, classics scholar Gilbert Highet, worked in MI6 during WWII and carried on after taking a chair in classics at Columbia University, NY. She wrote 21 thrillers, four of which became films. Titan is republishing all of them. I grew up reading them so this is great fun to revisit what feels historical now but was contemporary when she wrote them. Her novels of the Cold War are said to be “a literary extension of George Orwell” with an affinity for Arthur Koestler. *While We Still Live* was originally *The Unconquerable*. This batch of titles come from different years, they aren’t sequential.

Murphy, Shirley Rousseau. [The Cat, the Devil, and Lee Fontana](#) (Morrow \$19.99). A charming adventure involving the devil, a thief, a bet, and a phantom cat. Bringing to life an old legend about a ghost cat who helps his pal outsmart the devil himself—introduced in *Cat Bearing Gifts*. To the devil, the span of a human life is as brief as spit on the wind. But the challenge of playing with flawed humans, like a cat toying with a mouse, is endlessly amusing. If the devil loses a wager, though, he will harass a person’s descendants until he eventually gets his due—which is why he is tormenting Lee Fontana. The night before Lee, a train robber, is paroled from jail, Satan terrifies and tempts him with the promise of one more successful heist. As Lee goes on, struggling to live an honest life working on a farm in Southern California with old friends, opportunities to get rich quick seem to appear at every turn and the temptation becomes too much to bear. But Lee has a secret ally looking out for him. The prison cat Misto, a yellow-tabby ghost, will tail the ex-con on his dangerous mission—an adventure that will leave a long legacy for everyone’s favorite sleuthing cat, Joe Grey, and his pals in the charming California coastal town of Molena Point.

Nunn, Kem. [Chance: A Novel Signed](#) (Scribner \$26). Patrick reviews: “A dark and unsettling psychological noir by the author of cult classics *Tapping the Source* and *Tijuana Straits*. The protagonist is brilliant forensic psychiatrist Eldon Chance, whose well-ordered life begins to unravel when he becomes involved with one of his patients, a beautiful borderline case married to an abusive SF police detective. Chance crosses another line when he decides to sell some cosmetically altered antique furniture as original. He comes under the tutelage of an eccentric master furniture builder and mercenary who takes Chance out on nocturnal adventures into the underbelly of the city, helping the reticent psychiatrist access a part of himself that had been lying dormant. Don’t miss this one, folks...”

Patterson, James/Mark Sullivan. [Private LA](#) (LittleBrown \$28). Thom and Jennifer Harlow are the perfect couple, with three perfect children. They maybe two of the biggest mega movie stars in the world, but they’re also great parents, philanthropists and just all-around good people. When they disappear without a word from their ranch, facts are hard to find. They live behind such a high wall of security and image control that even world-renowned Private Investigator Jack Morgan can’t get to the truth. But as Jack keeps probing, secrets sprout thick and fast—and the world’s golden couple may emerge as hiding behind a world of desperation and deception that the wildest reality show couldn’t begin to unveil. Murder is only the opening scene. A new Patterson paperback: [Second Honeymoon](#) (\$16).

Patterson, Richard North. [The Lasko Tangent](#) (\$14.95). The investigation of a politically powerful industrialist; the death of a key witness; the corruption of a federal agency. These are the explosive elements facing cynical young government lawyer Christopher Paget as he embarks on a mission that will hurl him into a brutal world of murder, kidnapping, and deception. A reissue of Patterson’s first thriller.

Saunders, Mark Harril. [Ministers of Fire](#) (\$16.95). “I haven’t read as good a prologue to a spy thriller all year. And given Mark Harril Saunders’ aspirations, I couldn’t have expected more. . . . The first full chapter carries us decades ahead to China where Burling, now in a more ambiguous operation than before, and several other characters, including the missing April’s husband, posture and gesture against a Chinese crowd of agents, provocateurs, diplomats, dissidents and military. Saunders does all this quite deftly. More bullets fly, ideas bound against ideas, honor ducks for cover, and hope impales itself on the world of practical intrigue.” —Alan Cheuse, *San Francisco Chronicle*. *The Washington Post* adds of this First Mystery Club Pick, “Saunders’s first novel is a brilliant, exciting and profound spy tale about, among other things, what it means to have faith. . . . (T)his is a classic CIA novel, thick with political and moral complications. . . . (A)n incredibly rich reading experience.”

Schopen, Bernard. [Calamity Jane](#) (Baobab Press \$16.95). Where has he been? Schopen wrote dandy mysteries, then went silent. Here’s what his publisher says now. After publishing *The Iris Deception*, the final of his three Jack Ross detective novels, in 1996, Bernard Schopen’s literary voice went quiet. Nearly two decades later that voice makes a distinctive return with *Calamity Jane*, a novel that takes a hard look at the realities of rural and ranching Nevada while also examining the enduring myths of the West. *Calamity Jane* is not a detective novel, but there are mysteries here and fans of Schopen will recognize connections to his earlier work. Set somewhere in the arid basin and range wilds east of Reno and north of Las Vegas, *Calamity Jane* is told through the private journal of retired high school English teacher Winnifred Westrom, long-time resident of Blue Lake and a keen observer with a stake in the story.

Straley, John. [Cold Storage, Alaska](#) (Soho \$26.95). “John Straley writes sweet crime novels about sad people, of whom there are plenty in here in a book that takes its title from a fished-out fishing village in the Far North. ‘Most of the people in this town are drunks or depressives,’ according to one resident, ‘but we have our funny moments.’ Straley strikes the perfect balance of humor and pathos in this story about the McCahon brothers: Miles, a medical assistant who dispenses care and kindness to just about everyone in this sorry town, and Clive, who comes home from prison with enough drug money sewed into his clothes to open what he calls a ‘bar slash church.’ Clive seems content to give up his wild ways and settle down to preach love on Sundays and tend bar the rest of the week. And that’s the way things might have gone if Billy Cox hadn’t set out to paddle his kayak 800 miles to Seattle to meet the Dalai Lama and Jake Shoemaker hadn’t come roaring into town looking for that drug money. But they do, and that means trouble for the hard-luck town that clings to life the way Miles clings to his hope of someday catching a king salmon.”—*NY Times Book Review*. Straley says of this that it “was written as a tribute to one of my favorite genres: the screwball comedy.” Back in print from 2008: [The Big Both Ways](#) (\$14.95).

Teran, Boston. [The Country I Lived in](#) (High Top \$22). The time is 1955—the birth of rock and roll, the Beat Generation, and social rebellion. It is also the era of covert operations and clandestine governmental actions. War hero John Rawbone Lourdes, grandson of an infamous American outlaw and assassin, and son of a renowned agent for the Bureau of Investigation sets off on an odyssey through Texas and into Mexico, to uncover one of the most foreboding true conspiracies of the time. It is a profound novel of social protest and the violence and treachery committed to crushing it. *The Country I Lived In* is also a moving personal story about love and loyalty—loyalty to a woman, to one’s friends, to one’s nation, and ultimately to the truth—and how all three may well be in conflict with each other.

Tesh, Jane. [Bad Reputation](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.95). The latest in a charming cozy series. When Wendall Clarke announces plans to open a new art gallery downtown, it’s both the talk of Celosia, North Carolina and the envy of its residents. But the news is upstaged when Clarke is found murdered, prompting beauty queen turned private investigator Madeline Macklin to take on the case. Faced with a laundry list of suspects including a furious ex-wife, a competing business owner, and jealous local artists, Madeline’s also struggling to keep her con man husband, Jerry Fairweather, out of handcuffs. If Jerry wasn’t enough trouble on his own, enter Honor Perkins, dead set on luring him back into a life of crime. Between foiling Perkins’ plans, stabilizing her marriage and possibly being pregnant, Madeline juggles her responsibilities as she races to solve the crime before the killer strikes again – or her life falls apart.

Theroux, Marcel. [Strange Bodies](#) (Farrar \$26). Literary science fiction has portrayed walking dead, living dead, undead, and to this mix Theroux now adds strange bodies (*mankurt*), in a strange, satisfying novel about possession featuring a literary scholar, a music mogul, assorted East European thugs, and the long dead but still articulate Dr. Samuel Johnson. A gloomy English academic with an unappreciated gift for forensic nuance, Nicholas Slopen is in serious need of money when entrepreneur/collector Hunter Gould asks him to authenticate papers purported to be Dr. Johnson’s handiwork. Close examination convinces Nicholas the papers are indeed Johnson’s, but also that they are fakes (the papers’ old-fashioned script on more modern material suggests foul play). Sure enough, Nicholas is drawn into a network of enslaved human bodies inhabited by the souls of dead people.

Troy, Judy. [The Quiet Streets of Winslow](#) (Counterpoint \$25). When the murdered body of a young woman is found in a river wash in Black Canyon City, Arizona, Deputy Sheriff Sam Rush begins an investigation that leads deeper and deeper into the mystery of her death and the psychological mystery of identity. Nate Aspenall, with whom the young woman had been involved, is forced to confront the facts of her life and his own, and what he may have become with her. Sam Rush confronts the degree to which he is hindered by his assumptions about the Aspenall family, and by the knowledge of his own isolation. And Travis Aspenall, Nate’s fourteen-year-old stepbrother, must come to grips with what love and sex do to people, what choices they make when threatened with loss, and how to figure out what you’re left with when what you thought you knew and trusted has been thrown into question. As the investigation takes Sam north to Winslow and Holbrook and brings Nate home, temporarily,

to Black Canyon City, solving the mystery becomes more complicated. Additional suspects emerge. Nobody tells the truth. The victim’s haphazard life was dangerous, and her relationship with Nate anything but straight-forward. As for Nate, his time in Black Canyon City is running out. His family is no longer certain of his innocence. In the midst of this, Travis struggles to grow up. Set in the gorgeous setting of Winslow, Arizona – where the place becomes a fully realized character in this beautiful story.

Vlautin, Willy. [The Free](#) (Penguin \$14.99). From Patrick: “One of the most talented and versatile writers at work today, Vlautin is just starting to get some of the attention he deserves. *The Free* challenges traditional narrative structure, telling the stories of three characters facing different challenges. Iraq combat veteran Leroy Kervin attempts suicide and lies in a coma, and the reader follows his own interior dreamland, part memory part surrealistic projection. Freddie McCall has lost his wife and kids and works three jobs trying to stay above water. Mounting bills and the threat of losing his house force him into more desperate measures. Finally, Pauline Hawkins is a nurse at a local hospital. She maintains a detached, lonely life taking care of her mentally ill father, but a young sexually abused patient brings her out of her comfort zone. George Pelecanos first turned me onto this amazing writer’s work five or six years back, and I’ve been following his work ever since. *The Free* is one of those books that I can’t stop thinking about.”

Walker, Walter. [Crime of Privilege](#) (\$15). A murder on Cape Cod. A rape in Palm Beach. All they have in common is the presence of one of America’s most beloved and influential families. But nobody is asking questions. Not the police. Not the prosecutors. And certainly not George Becket, a young lawyer toiling away in the basement of the Cape & Islands district attorney’s office. George has always lived at the edge of power. He wasn’t born to privilege, but he understands how it works and has benefitted from it in ways he doesn’t like to admit. Years have passed since a young woman was found brutally slain at an exclusive Cape Cod golf club, and no one has ever been charged. Cornered by the victim’s father, George can’t explain why certain leads were never explored—leads that point in the direction of a single family—and he agrees to look into it. What begins as a search through the highly stratified layers of Cape Cod society soon has George racing from Idaho to Hawaii, Costa Rica to France to New York City. But everywhere he goes he discovers people like himself: people with more secrets than answers, people haunted by a decision years past to trade silence for protection from life’s sharp edges.

Waters, M D. [Archetype](#) (Dutton \$26.95). The *PW* Starred Review: “Emotional involvement powers this absorbing gothic thriller in science fiction trappings. After the narrator awakens from a period of unconsciousness, she is taught that she is Emma Burke, beloved wife of a dashing tycoon. Her husband, Declan, encourages her to depend absolutely on him for protection against the terrorists who brutally attacked her. However, her dreams (and a sardonic interior voice Emma simply calls “Her”) insinuate images of her personally rebelling against an oppressive society that treats women as property.”

#### OUR FEBRUARY MASS MARKET PAPER PICKS

Aames, Avery. [Days of Wine and Roquefort](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Cheese Shop owner Charlotte Bessette’s life seems quieter than

ever with her fiancé out of town and her cousin Matthew and his children out of the house. But before she can put up her feet and enjoy a glass of chardonnay, Matthew asks her to play host to Noelle Adams, a bright sommelier visiting to help grow business for the local winery. An affable wine aficionado, Noelle is paired well with the cheese expert Charlotte—but something seems to be troubling the secretive houseguest, and Charlotte's life is upended when she finds the sparkling woman dead... Cheese Shop Mystery #5. Ames joins Earlene Fowler, Margaret Coel, and Carolyn Hart here on March 25 when she can sign this.

Abbott, Jeff. [Downfall](#) (\$8). Sam Capra doesn't want trouble. An ex-CIA agent, his only desire now is to build a quiet, peaceful home for himself and his infant son. But Diana Keene is no ordinary customer. She's pursued by two gunmen, and when she finds Sam, she whispers an urgent, desperate plea: "Help me." And without any warning, Sam is thrust into a fight for his life. For Diana is being hunted by a deadly network—a shadowy alliance of select, influential men and women who use their connections, their authority, and their wealth to bend the world to their will. Now, this network aims its relentless fury against the man interfering with their plans to seize a new level of power: Sam Capra. Another good page-turner by Abbott.

Arlington, Lucy. [Books, Cooks, and Crooks](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Lila Wilkins—literary agent and sleuth—is setting up a delicious cookbook fair. But the tension in the kitchen is about to boil over... Inspiration Valley, North Carolina, is bubbling with excitement for the Taste of the Town festival, and Lila is right in the middle of it all. Along with her coworkers at the Novel Idea Literary Agency, Lila is organizing a grand celebrity chef event, featuring food television's biggest stars, complete with cooking demonstrations, cookbook giveaways, and even a culinary writing contest. But just as the celebration is about to start, the demo kitchen blows up, taking one of the star cooks with it... Novel Idea Mystery #3.

Baldacci, David. [The Hit](#) (\$10). A highly skilled assassin, Will Robie is the man the U.S. government calls on to eliminate the worst of the worst-enemies of the state, monsters committed to harming untold numbers of innocent victims. No one else can match Robie's talents as a hitman...no one, except Jessica Reel. A fellow assassin, equally professional and dangerous, Reel is every bit as lethal as Robie. And now, she's gone rogue, turning her gun sights on other members of their agency. To stop one of their own, the government looks again to Will Robie. His mission: bring in Reel, dead or alive. But as Robie pursues Reel, he quickly finds that there is more to her betrayal than meets the eye. I like this series by Baldacci more than his DC political players thrillers. The books are leaner.

Berenson, Alex. [The Night Ranger](#) (\$9.99). When four young volunteers in Kenya decide to take a break from working at a Somali refugee camp, they pile into a Land Cruiser for an adventure. But they get more than they bargained for when they are kidnapped. They wake up in a hut, hooded, bound, no food or water. Hostages. John Wells is asked to try to find them, but he does so reluctantly. East Africa isn't his usual playing field. And when he arrives, he finds that the truth behind the kidnappings is far more complex than he imagined. The clocks ticks towards a US invasion of Somalia....

Coben, Harlan. [Six Years](#) (\$9.99). Six years have passed since Jake Sanders watched Natalie, the love of his life, marry another man. Six years of keeping his promise to leave Natalie alone, and six years of tortured dreams of her life with her new husband, Todd. So when Jake comes across Todd's obituary, he can't keep himself away from the funeral. There he gets the glimpse of Todd's wife he's hoping for—but, she isn't Natalie. Who then is she, and where is Natalie? Soon Jake's search for the woman who broke his heart puts his very life at risk.... The theme of loving someone who isn't what s/he seems powers Peter Swanson's debut. See First Novels.

Page, Katherine Hall. [The Body in the Piazza](#) (\$7.99). This delightful chapter in the Faith Fairchild mysteries warms us with Page's love affair with Italian food. Whether eating amazing meals in Rome or north in Tuscany where evil is afoot in Florence, your mouth will water so you may miss the nuances of a clever plot which includes a cooking school near Florence. Yum!

Rollins, James. [The Eye of God](#) (\$9.99). In the wilds of Mongolia, a research satellite has crashed, triggering an explosive search for its valuable cargo: a code-black physics project connected to the study of dark energy—and a shocking image of the eastern seaboard of the United States in utter ruin. At the Vatican, a package arrives containing two strange artifacts: a skull scrawled with ancient Aramaic and a tome bound in human skin. DNA evidence reveals that both came from the same body: the long dead Mongol king Genghis Khan. Commander Gray Pierce and Sigma Force set out to discover a truth tied to the fall of the Roman Empire, to a mystery going back to the birth of Christianity, and to a weapon hidden for centuries.... An excellent example of Rollins' deft mix of history, science, a touch of this and that, and the Sigma Force Team. The next will be signed here in August.

Rucka, Greg. [Alpha](#) (\$8). ex-Delta Force operative Jad Bell defending the most alarming terrorist target since 9/11: a summer theme park. For the visitors to Wilsonville, the largest theme park in the world, the day began with a smile. By the end, they wonder—will they be able to escape with their lives? The threat begins with the announcement of a hidden dirty bomb, but quickly becomes something far, far worse. Trained since the age of seventeen to save innocent victims from impossible hostage situations, Jad, Wilsonville's lead security man, scrambles to assess the threat and protect the visitors. He will come face to face with a villain whose training matches his in every way—and presents a threat Jad may not be able to stop.

Silva, Daniel. [The English Girl](#) (\$9.99). Madeline Hart is a rising star in Britain's governing party: beautiful, intelligent, driven by an impoverished childhood to succeed. But she is also a woman with a dark secret: she is the lover of Prime Minister Jonathan Lancaster. Somehow, her kidnappers have learned of the affair, and they intend to make the British leader pay dearly for his sins. Call for Gabriel Allon—master assassin, art restorer and spy—who is no stranger to dangerous assignments or political intrigue. With the clock ticking, Gabriel embarks on a desperate attempt to bring Madeline home safely. His mission takes him from the criminal underworld of Marseilles to an isolated valley in the mountains of Provence to the stately if faded corridors of power in London—and, finally, to a pulse-pounding climax in Moscow... Silva signs a new Allon thriller here in mid-July.

Slaughter Karin. [Unseen](#) (\$7.99). Will Trent is a Georgia Bureau of Investigation agent whose latest case has him posing as Bill Black, a scary ex-con who rides a motorcycle around Macon, Georgia, and trails an air of violence wherever he goes. The cover has worked and he has caught the eye of a wiry little drug dealer who thinks he might be a useful ally. But undercover and cut off from the support of the woman he loves, Sara Linton, Will finds his demons catching up with him. Although she has no idea where Will has gone, or why, Sara herself has come to Macon because of a cop shooting: Her stepson, Jared, has been gunned down in his own home. Sara holds Lena, Jared's wife, responsible: Lena, a detective, has been a magnet for trouble all her life, and played a role in destroying Sara's. Soon Will's investigation crosses paths with Sara's....

White, Randy Wayne. [Night Moves](#) (\$9.99). Can it really be Doc Ford adventure #20? Yes! While trying to solve one of Florida's most profound mysteries, Ford is the target of a murder attempt by someone who wants to make it look like an accident. Or is the target actually his friend Tomlinson? Whatever the answer, the liveboards and fishing guides at Dinkin's Bay on Sanibel Island are becoming increasingly nervous—and wary—after a plane crash and other near-death incidents make it apparent that Ford and Tomlinson are dangerous companions. What their small family of friends doesn't know is that their secret pasts make it impossible for them to seek help from the law as they go after an assassin on the loose... White signs the sequel [Bone Deep](#) (Putnam \$26.95) here March 11.

#### NEW IN MASS MARKETS

Alden, Laura. [Poison at the PTA](#) (Signet \$7.99)  
 Andrews, Donna. [The Hen of the Baskervilles](#) (\$7.99) Meg Langslow #15  
 Banks, Maya. [After the Storm](#) (Berkley \$7.99) KGI Novel #8  
 Bond, Larry. [Larry Bonds First Team](#) (\$7.99)  
 Bova, Ben. [Farside](#) (\$7.99)  
 Britz-Cunningham, Scott. [Code White](#) (\$7.99)  
 Burdette, Lucy. [Murder with Ganache](#) (Signet \$7.99) Key West Food Critic #4  
 Collins, Kate. [Throw in the Trowel](#) (Signet \$7.99) Flower Shop #15  
 Connolly, Sheila. [Scandal in Skibbereen](#) (Berkley \$7.99) County Cork #2  
 Coughlin, Jack. [Time to Kill: A Sniper Novel](#) (\$9.99)  
 Dunn, Matthew. [Slingshot: A Spycatcher Novel](#) (\$5.99)  
 Finder, Joseph. [Extraordinary Powers](#) (\$9.99)  
 Haywood, BB. [Town in a Strawberry Swirl](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Candy Holliday #5  
 James, Miranda. [The Silence of the Library](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Cat in the Stacks #5  
 Johansen, Iris. [Silencing Eve](#) (\$7.99) Eve Duncan forensics #17  
 Lee, Elizabeth. [A Tough Nut to Kill](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Nut House #1  
 Logan, Kylie. [A Tale of Two Biddies](#) (Berkley \$7.99) League of Literary Ladies #2  
 London, Meg. [A Fatal Slip](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Sweet Nothings #3  
 Margolin, Phillip. [Sleight of Hand](#) (\$9.99) Dana Cutler  
 McDermott, Andy. [Shadow Protocol](#) (Random \$9.99)  
 Mclean, Margaret. [Under Oath](#) (\$7.99) Boston Prosecutor Annie Fitzgerald  
 Michaels, Fern. [Blindsided](#) (\$7.99)  
 Mosley, Walter. [Stepping Stone / Love Machine: Crosstown](#) (\$7.99)  
 Patterson, James. [NYPD Red](#) (\$10)

Reed, Hannah. [Beewitched](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Queen Bee #5  
 Rose, Karen. [Watch Your Back](#) (Signet \$7.99) Baltimore homicide  
 Stephens, Jeffrey S. [Targets of Revenge](#) (\$7.99) CIA's Jordan Sandor  
 Tanenbaum, Robert K. [Tragic](#) (\$9.99) Butch Karp  
 Thomson, Keith. [Seven Grams of Lead](#) (Knopf \$7.99)  
 Wilson, F P. [Nightworld](#) (\$8.99) Repairman Jack/Adversary Cycle

#### Romance

Burton, Jaci. [Hope Flames](#) (\$7.99)  
 Johnston, Joan. [Montana Bride](#) (\$7.99)  
 Lowell, Elizabeth. [Dangerous Refuge](#) (\$7.99)  
 Macomber, Debbie. [Marriage between Friends](#) (\$7.99)  
 Mallery, Susan. [Prodigal Son](#) (\$6.99)  
 Evanovich, Janet. [Back to the Bedroom](#) (\$7.99)  
 Miller, Linda Lael. [Big Sky Secrets](#) (\$7.99)  
 Sparks, Nicholas. [Bend in the Road](#) (\$8)  
 Woods, Sherryl. [Seaview Inn](#) (\$7.99)

#### SciFi/Fantasy/Paranormal

Bledsoe, Alex. [Hum and the Shiver](#) (\$7.99)  
 Briggs, Patricia. [Frost Burned](#) (\$7.99)  
 Frost, Jeaniene. [Up from the Grave: A Night Huntress](#) (\$7.99)  
 Galenorn, Yasmine. [Crimson Veil](#) (\$7.99)  
 Held, Rhiannon. [Tarnished](#) (\$7.99)  
 Herbert, Brian. [Hellhole Awakening](#) (\$8.99)  
 Herbert, James. [Ash](#) (\$8.99)  
 Javins, Marie. [Iron Man: Extremis](#) (\$7.99)  
 Jordan, Robert. [Memory of Light](#) (\$9.99)  
 McCammon, Robert. [Five](#) (\$8.99)  
 Maberry, Jonathan. [Patient Zero: A Joe Ledger Novel](#) (\$9.99)  
 Okorafor, Nnedi. [Who Fears Death](#) (\$7.99)  
 Pratchett, Terry. [Long War](#) (\$9.99)  
 Stirling, S M. [Shadows of Falling Night](#) (\$9.99)  
 Viehl, Lynn. [Clockwork Wolf](#) (\$7.99)  
 Viehl, Lynn. [Disenchanted & Co](#) (\$7.99)  
 Watterson, Kate. [Buried](#) (\$7.99)

#### Reissues

Abbott, Jeff. [Trust Me](#) (\$6)  
 Evanovich, Janet. [Full Blast](#) (\$8.99)  
 Hamilton, Donald. [Matt Helm-The Ravagers](#) (\$7.99)  
 Scottoline, Lisa. [Think Twice](#) (\$7.99)

#### HISTORY/MYSTERY

Alcott, Kate. [The Daring Ladies of Lowell](#) (Knopf \$25.95). Eager to escape life on her family's farm, Alice Barrow moves to Lowell in 1832 and throws herself into the hard work demanded of "the mill girls." In spite of the long hours, she discovers a vibrant new life and a true friend—a saucy, strong-willed girl name Lovey Cornell. But conditions at the factory become increasingly dangerous, and Alice finds the courage to represent the workers and their grievances. Although mill owner, Hiram Fiske, pays no heed, Alice attracts the attention of his eldest son, the handsome and reserved Samuel Fiske. Their mutual attraction is intense, tempting Alice to dream of a different future for herself. This dream is shattered when Lovey is found strangled to death. A sensational trial follows, bringing all the unrest that's brewing to the surface. Based on the actual murder of a mill girl and the subsequent trial in 1833.

✚Barber, Ros. [The Marlowe Papers](#) (\$16.99). An Elizabethan mystery in verse. See February Trade Paperback Picks.

Bowen, Rhys. [The Family Way](#) (\$15.99). A 1905 investigation for a married and now pregnant Molly Murphy. See February Trade Paperback Picks.

✚Brackston, Paula. [The Winter Witch](#) (\$15.99). “There’s a whiff of Harry Potter in the witchy conflict. . . . Love of landscape and lyrical writing lend charm, but it’s Brackston’s full-blooded storytelling that will hook the reader.” —*Kirkus*. In her small early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Welsh town, there is no one quite like Morgana, who has not spoken since she was a young girl. Her silence is a mystery, as well as her magic. Concerned for her safety, her mother is anxious to see her married, and Cai Jenkins, a widower from the far hills, seems the best choice. After her wedding, Morgana is heartbroken at leaving her mother, and wary of this man, whom she does not know, and who will take her away to begin a new life. But she soon falls in love with Cai’s farm and the wild mountains that surround it. Cai works to understand the beautiful, half-tamed creature he has chosen for a bride, and slowly, he begins to win Morgana’s affections. It’s not long, however, before her strangeness begins to be remarked upon in her new village. A dark force is at work there—a person who will stop at nothing to turn the townspeople against Morgana. Forced to defend her home, her man, and herself, Morgana must learn to harness her power, or she will lose everything.

✚Brody, Frances. [Murder in the Afternoon](#) (St Martins \$25.99). For this 3<sup>rd</sup> 1920s Kate Shackleton case set in Leeds, Yorkshire, see British Books. It’s a gem.

Castell, Sebastien De. [Traitor’s Blade Signed](#) (Quercus \$32). Falcio is the first Cantor of the Greatcoats. Trained in the fighting arts and the laws of Tristia, the Greatcoats are travelling Magisters upholding King’s Law. They are heroes. Or at least they were, until they stood aside while the Dukes took the kingdom, and impaled their King’s head on a spike. Now Tristia is on the verge of collapse and the barbarians are sniffing at the borders. The Dukes bring chaos to the land, while the Greatcoats are scattered far and wide, reviled as traitors, their legendary coats in tatters. All they have left are the promises they made to King Paelis, to carry out one final mission. But if they have any hope of fulfilling the King’s dream, the divided Greatcoats must reunite, or they will also have to stand aside as they watch their world burn. . . . “De Castell combines the best of Joe Abercrombie and Alexandre Dumas. He can break your heart and spike your adrenalin with the same sentence. Riveting.”

✚Chisholm, P F. [An Air of Treason](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). PF Chisholm has staked out the story of the grandson of “The Other Boleyn Girl” as her own. Sir Robert Carey is the youngest son of Henry, Mary Boleyn’s son by Henry VIII. This Henry, Lord Hunsdon, is Elizabeth’s half-brother (her cousin too, really) and Carey is himself cousin to the queen. He’s expensive, adventurous, and on dicey terms with her. Plus Carey is hopelessly in love with a married woman. Which is all background to his 6<sup>th</sup> rousing adventure, *An Air of Treason*, one where we the readers finally get to court—at Oxford, where Elizabeth is about to make a state visit. Carey has ridden hard there from London, scene of *A Murder of Crows*. As has Sergeant Will Dodd from the Border Country, the man most often guarding the volatile Carey’s back—but Dodd has disappeared. Both are

eager to return to Carey’s post in Carlisle, but the Courtier needs his royal warrant and fee for serving as Deputy Warden of the West March with Scotland. But first, Her Majesty has a task for him: to investigate the most dangerous cold case of her reign – the mysterious death in 1560 of Amy Dudley, née Robsart, unloved wife of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. Dudley, now dead, was Elizabeth’s favorite suitor and potential husband, to the dismay of her ministers. Amy died at nearby Cumnor Place. Since the Queen is one of the most obvious suspects in arranging Amy’s murder, Carey is deeply uneasy with his sleuthing role, the more so as his father is clearly involved. Meanwhile, what’s up with Dodd? It’s a tangled web and one more than 30 years old by now. As the Queen’s scandalous past collides with her magnificent State entrance into Oxford, can Carey track down both Dodd and the true murderer of Amy Robsart? Will he wish to? This 6<sup>th</sup> Carey is also in trade paperback: [An Air of Treason](#) (\$14.95). Start the series with [A Famine of Horses](#) (\$15), set in 1592 on the Scottish border near Carlisle.

✚Clark, Clare. [Beautiful Lies](#) (\$14.95). Set in Victorian Britain; at its center is Maribel Campbell Lowe, the wife of a Scottish M.P. and a self-proclaimed Chilean heiress. But Maribel’s life is based on a web of lies, and a newspaperman’s uncommon interest in her could prove disastrous” —*New York Times Book Review*. London 1887 s the year to make something of herself. She is torn between poetry and the new art of photography. But it is soon plain that Maribel’s choices are not so simple. As her husband’s career hangs by a thread, her real past, and the family she abandoned, come back to haunt them both. When the notorious newspaper editor Alfred Webster begins to ask pointed questions, she fears he will not only destroy Edward’s career but both of their reputations. This novel is inspired by real-life characters and events.

✚Clements, Rory. [The Queen’s Man Signed](#) (Hodder \$39). The 6<sup>th</sup> investigation for John Shakespeare, brother to William, but the story is actually a return to his early days as an intelligencer. Set in 1582 (five years before *Martyr*), Shakespeare is sent on his first major mission, first to Sheffield where Mary Queen of Scots is held captive—and then to his own home, Stratford-upon-Avon, a nest of treachery and intrigue and family crisis. This is a terrific series you should discover: 1) *Martyr*, which is set in 1587; 2) *Revenger*, set in 1592, and winner of the Ellis Peters Dagger; 3) *Prince*, set in 1593; 4) *Traitor* set in 1594; 5) *The Heretics* set in 1595. John Shakespeare was a real person. Read this series with the fabulous PF Chisholm Elizabethan mysteries for double the fun.

✚Follett, Ken. [The Pillars of the Earth](#) (NAL \$25). A 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, joining *The Silence of the Lambs* (and *The Poisoned Pen*).

Gabalton, Diana. [Trail of Fire Signed](#) (\$15.99). Four novellas gathered from earlier publications which fill in bits or expand upon *Outlander* themes. This is the paperback edition.

Guelzo, Allen. [Gettysburg: The Last Invasion](#) (\$16.95). A king of you-are-there account of the crucial three-day battle of Gettysburg (July 1–3, 186).

Harris, Robert. [An Officer and a Spy: A Novel](#) (Knopf \$27.95). *PW* stars this: “Harris provides easily the best fictional treatment of the Dreyfus Affair yet, in this gripping thriller told from the vantage point of French army officer Georges Picquart. Major

Picquart is present on the day in 1895 that Alfred Dreyfus is publicly degraded as a traitor to his country, before his exile to Devil's Island. Soon afterward, Picquart is promoted to colonel, to assume command of the Statistical Section, which is actually the army's espionage unit. Picquart comes across evidence of another traitor spying for the Germans, and his investigation uncovers something unsettling: the handwriting of the spy, Walsin Esterhazy, is a perfect match for the writing on the letters that the French government claimed were from Dreyfus. Furthermore, review of the classified evidence against the exile reveals nothing of substance. Picquart pursues the truth, at personal and professional risk, in the face of superiors eager to preserve the official version of events. Harris perfectly captures the rampant anti-Semitism that led to Dreyfus's scapegoating, and effectively uses the present tense to lend intimacy to the narrative."

✦Kasasian, Martin. [The Mangle Street Murders](#) (Pegasus \$24.95). An atmospheric debut (a History/Mystery Club Pick in the Signed UK edition) which fits into this winter's rage for all things Sherlockian. Sidney Grice is that sort of sleuth. After her father dies, March Middleton has to move to London to live with her guardian, Sidney Grice, the country's most famous private detective. It is 1882 and London is at its murkiest yet most vibrant, wealthiest yet most poverty-stricken. No sooner does March arrive than a case presents itself: a young woman has been brutally murdered, and her husband is the only suspect. The victim's mother is convinced of her son-in-law's innocence, and March is so touched by her pleas she offers to cover Sidney's fee herself. The investigations lead the pair to the darkest alleys of the East End: every twist leads Sidney Grice to think his client is guilty; but March is convinced that he is innocent. Around them London reeks with the stench of poverty and gossip, the case threatens to boil over into civil unrest and Sidney Grice finds his reputation is not the only thing in mortal danger.

✦Lake, Deryn. [Death on the Rocks](#) (Severn \$28.95). 18<sup>th</sup> Century apothecary John Rawlings is intrigued when a letter arrives asking him to investigate an impostor claiming to be the long-lost step-son of a wealthy Bristol merchant in possession of his dead wife's diamond inheritance. John Rawlings' father, Sir Gabriel Kent joins him on the trip to take the healing waters at Hotwell where they socialize with the crème of Bristol society. But Rawlings is compelled to try and solve the mystery and so he must trawl through the underbelly of society to unearth the sordid secrets at the heart of the investigation. I've always enjoyed this series which so well evokes Georgian England. Ordered Upon Request.

Lambdin, Dewey. [The King's Marauder](#) (St Martins \$25.99). The 20<sup>th</sup> installment in the Naval Adventures of Alan Lewrie, good reading for fans of CS Forester and Patrick O'Brian. The year 1807 starts out badly for Captain Alan Lewrie, Royal Navy. His frigate *HMS Reliant* has a new captain, he's living at his father's estate at Anglesgreen, among spiteful neighbors and family, and he's recovering from a wound suffered in the South Atlantic. At last, there's a bright spot. When fit, Admiralty awards him a new commission; not a frigate but a clumsy, slow two-decker Fourth Rate 50. Are his frigate days over for good? Lewrie's ordered to Gibraltar, but Foreign Office Secret Branch's spies and manipulators have use for him, again! *HMS Sapphire* is the wrong ship for the task, raising chaos and mayhem along the

Spanish coasts, and servicing agents and informers. And, what he's ordered to do needs soldiers, landing craft, and a transport ship, all of which he doesn't have, and must find a way to finagle it all. He could beg off and say that it's asking too much—but Alan Lewrie is not a man to admit failure and defeat. Lewrie #19: [Hostile Shores](#) (\$15.99).

Meltzer, Brad. [I Am Abraham Lincoln; I Am Amelia Earhart](#) (Delacorte \$12.99 each). Two entries aimed at kids, kindergarten-grade 3, showing them how Ordinary People Change the World. It's a kid-friendly, fun approach to biography.

✦Parris, S J. [Treachery Signed](#) (Collins \$32). For fans of C.J. Sansom and Eco's *The Name of the Rose*, the fourth historical thriller featuring Giordano Bruno, heretic, philosopher and spy. August, 1583. Giordano Bruno, a heretic fleeing the Inquisition, finds a new life working as a spy for Sir Francis Walsingham. Along with his friend, Sir Philip Sidney, Bruno travels to Plymouth on the Queen's behalf. There, they meet Sir Francis Drake, who is preparing to launch a daring expedition against the Spanish, which could turn the tide of war. Unbeknownst to Bruno, however, Sidney plans to stowaway with Drake's fleet and return a hero – dragging Bruno with him to the New World. But when a murder occurs aboard Drake's own ship, fear and suspicion grip the fleet and threaten to abort the expedition before it begins. Navigating the jealousies and loyalties of the crew, Bruno learns that someone with a deadly grudge is shadowing his investigation. Tracking the killer through Plymouth's menacing backstreets, he uncovers some of the darkest secrets the city is harboring. Failure will come at the highest cost – not just for Bruno, but all of England

✦Penman, Sharon Kay. [A King's Ransom Signed](#) (Putnam \$35). The final volume in the life of Richard Lionheart by an author who has clearly fallen hard for the king and warrior and, as ever, writes her story superbly. See Event Books.

Riches, Anthony. [Emperor's Knives Signed](#) (Hodder \$39). Empire VII brings Marcus Aquila back to Rome, hunting the men who destroyed his family. But the revenge he craves may cost him and those around him dearly. The young centurion's urge to exact his own brutal justice upon the shadowy cabal of assassins who butchered his family means that he must face them on their own ground, risking his own death at their hands. A senator, a gang boss, a praetorian officer and, deadliest of all, champion gladiator Mortiferum—the Death Bringer—lie in wait...

Saylor, Steven. [Raiders of the Nile Signed](#) (St Martins \$26.99). A young Gordianus explores love, life, a kidnapping, and potential treason in Alexandria. **See Event Books for more on our February History/Mystery Club Pick.**

Seton, Anya. [Green Darkness](#) (\$15.95). 1552. Fifteen years after Henry VIII's brutal reformation of the monasteries, Catholics in England still live in fear. When thirteen-year-old Celia da Bohun first meets Stephen Marsdon, a young Catholic priest, protestant Edward VI has been on the throne for five years. Reluctantly, Stephen agrees to be her teacher but as Celia grows older, her girlish adoration of him and his affection for her deepens into a passionate love that will not be extinguished - even by her violent death. 400 years later, history seems poised to repeat itself. Not long after the marriage of Richard Marsdon and his American wife Celia, something seems to go terribly wrong between them. It is only when Celia is forced to look deep in to the past that

she has a chance to prevent another tragedy. In [Avalon](#) (\$15.95), stretching from France to the eastern shores of America to the plains of Greenland, the journeys of 10th Century lovers Rumon and Merewyn, connected to King Arthur and Avalon, and at the court of King Edgar. And in [Dragonwyck](#) (\$15.95), it is May of 1844. 18-year-old Miranda Wells receives a letter from Nicholas Van Ryn, a distant cousin, inviting her for a visit. Happily accepting the invitation, she travels to Dragonwyck, his manor of Gothic magnificence and eerie manifestations. What evil could possibly befall Miranda in a rich gentleman's house on the Hudson River? A trio of reissues by the bestselling historian now coming back into fashion along with big historical novels. IMHO her greatest novel is [Katherine](#) (\$15.95), sister-in-law of Chaucer, mistress and eventual third wife to John of Gaunt, and ancestress of the Tudors. Some of Seton will appeal to readers of Diana Gabaldon and Susanna Kearsley.

Stabenow, Dana. [Everything Under the Heavens Signed](#) (Gere \$14.99). Volume One of a trilogy taking Marco Polo's granddaughter from the Khan's empire across the Route 66 of its day, the Silk Road, west towards.... See Event Books.