

# BOOKNEWS from

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## MARCH MADNESS—SO MANY BOOKS!

### AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

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#### 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

#### THURSDAY MARCH 6 7:00 at the Scottsdale Library on Drinkwater

**Becky Aikman** signs [The Saturday Night Widows](#) (\$15)

#### SATURDAY MARCH 8 2:00 PM

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

#### TUESDAY MARCH 11 7:00 PM

**Randy Wayne White** signs [Bone Deep](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Doc Ford #18

#### WEDNESDAY MARCH 12 7:00 PM

**Denise Mina** signs [The Red Road](#) (LittleBrown \$27.99 March 12) Alex Morrow

#### THURSDAY MARCH 13 7:00 PM

**CJ Box** signs [Stone Cold](#) (Putnam \$26.95 March 13) Joe Pickett #14

#### FRIDAY MARCH 14 7:00 PM

**Brandon Sanderson** [Words of Radiance](#) (Forge \$27.99)  
Stormlight Archives #2

#### SATURDAY MARCH 15 5:00 PM Baseball Mystery

**John Billheimer** signs [A Player to Be Maimed Later](#) (Five Star \$26) Lloyd Keaton

#### MONDAY MARCH 17 7:00 PM

**Mon. March 17** **Cara Black, Libby Hellman, Sophie Littlefield**

Black signs [Murder in Pigalle](#) (Soho \$25.95) Aimee Leduc  
Hellman signs [A Bitter Veil](#) (Allium \$16.95) Political thriller  
Littlefield signs [House of Glass](#) (Mira \$14.95) Suspense

**NOTE: On March 17 Alice Hoffman drops by to sign her latest bestseller**

#### WEDNESDAY MARCH 19 7:00 PM Super Spy Duo

**Chris Pavone** signs [The Accident](#) (Crown \$26) A "bookworld" spy thriller

**Olen Steinhauer** signs [The Cairo Affair](#) (St Martins \$26.99)  
Think John Le Carré

#### TUESDAY MARCH 25 7:00 PM Berkley Prime Crime Party

**Avery Aames, Margaret Coel, Earlene Fowler, Carolyn G Hart**

**Books listed in Event Books**

#### WEDNESDAY MARCH 26

**Owen Laukkanen** signs [Kill Fee](#) (Putnam \$25.95) Stevens & Windermere #3

#### THURSDAY MARCH 27 7:00 PM

**Bruce DeSilva** signs [Providence Rag](#) (Forge \$25.99) Liam Mulligan

#### WATCH FOR DATE FOR ANNE PERRY

**MARCH 29 OR APRIL 9**

Perry signs [Death on Blackheath](#) (Random \$27) Thomas & Charlotte Pitt

**2014 BRUCE ALEXANDER NOMINEES/HISTORICALS**

Rhys Bowen, [Heirs and Graces](#) (\$24.95 Signed)  
 Susan Elia MacNeal, [His Majesty's Hope](#) (\$15)  
 Catriona McPherson, [Dandy Gilver and a Bothersome Number of Corpses](#) (\$25.99)  
 David Morrell, [Murder as a Fine Art](#) (\$25.99 Signed)  
 Priscilla Royal, [Covenant with Hell](#) (\$24.95 Signed; \$14.95)  
 Jacqueline Winspear, [Leaving Everything Most Loved](#) (\$15.99 April)

**2014 DILYS AWARD NOMINEES**

Lyndsay Faye, [Seven for a Secret](#) (\$26.95 Signed)  
 Alex Grecian, [The Black Country](#) (\$26.95)  
 Anne Hillerman, [Spider Woman's Daughter](#) (\$26.99)  
 William Kent Krueger, [Ordinary Grace](#) (\$16)  
 GM Malliet, [Pagan Spring](#) (\$24.99 Signed)  
 Vidar Sundstol, [The Land of Dreams](#) (\$24.95)

**2014 LA TIMES BOOK AWARDS**

*Fiction*

Percival Everett, [Percival Everett by Virgil Russell](#) (\$15)  
 Claire Messud, [The Woman Upstairs](#) (\$15)  
 Ruth Ozeki, [A Tale for the Time Being](#) (\$16)  
 Susan Steinberg, [Spectacle: Stories](#) (\$14)  
 Daniel Woodrell, [The Maid's Version](#) (\$27 Signed)

*Crime Fiction*

Richard Crompton, [Hour of the Red God](#) (\$16 April)  
 Robert Galbraith, [The Cuckoo's Calling](#) (\$26 reprints)  
 John Grisham, [Sycamore Row](#) (\$28.95 reprints)  
 Gene Kerrigan, [The Rage](#) (\$17)  
 Ferdinand von Schirach, [The Collini Case](#) (\$25.95)

**2014 LEFT COAST CRIME AWARD NOMINEES**

*The Calamari: Best mystery set anywhere else in the world*

Cara Black, [Murder Below Montparnasse](#) (\$14.95)  
 Lisa Brackmann, [Hour of the Rat](#) (\$25.95)  
 Catriona McPherson, [As She Left It](#) (\$14.99)  
 Louise Penny, [How the Light Gets In](#) (\$25.99)  
 Jeffrey Siger, [Mykonos after Midnight](#) (\$15.95; \$25 Signed)

*The Squid: Best mystery set within the United States*

Sue Grafton, [W Is for Wasted](#) (\$28.95 Signed)  
 Darrell James, [Purgatory Key](#) (\$14.99)  
 William Kent Krueger, [Ordinary Grace](#) (\$16)  
 Hank Phillippi Ryan, [The Wrong Girl](#) (\$24.99 Signed)  
 Terry Shames, [A Killing at Cotton Hill](#) (\$15.95)

*The Lefty: Best humorous mystery novel*

Donna Andrews, [The Hen of the Baskervilles](#) (\$7.99)  
 Timothy Hallinan, [The Fame Thief](#) (\$25 Signed; \$14.95)  
 Lisa Lutz, [The Last Word](#) (\$25)  
 Brad Parks, [The Good Cop](#) (\$24.99)  
 Cindy Sample, [Dying for a Daiquiri](#) (\$14.99)

**EVENT BOOKS**

Aikman, Becky. [The Saturday Night Widows](#) (\$15). Becky Aikman—a widow, too young, too modern to accept the role—forms an unlikely group with five other young widows, each seeking a way forward in a strange and disquieting world. A warm, witty, and compassionate guide on this journey, Aikman explores surprising new discoveries about how people are transformed by adversity, learning the value of new experiences, humor, and friendship. The Saturday Night Widows band together to bring these ideas to life, striking out on ever more far-flung adventures and navigating the universal perils of finding love and meaning. There is a transporting true story of six marriages, six heartbreaks, and one shared beginning—an inspiring testament to what friends can achieve when they hold each other up. Also in hardcover: [Saturday Night Widows](#) (Crown \$26)

Billheimer, John. [A Player to Be Maimed Later](#) (Five Star \$25.95). Blaze Stender, a retired pitching superstar, asks his old friend Lloyd Keaton to write his biography, hoping that the book will help ensure his election to baseball's Hall of Fame. Keaton starts work on the biography and continues even after Stender turns up missing following a boating accident. He soon discovers, however, that the facts of his old friend's life are at odds with his popular image, and that Stender was keeping some dark secrets, including blackmail payments that could be related to a mysterious death. Stender's widow tries to cancel the biography, fearing it will tarnish her husband's image. But Keaton can't stop following a story, even when it leads to another killing and the reporter himself becomes the target of an unknown assailant.

Black, Cara. [Murder in Pigalle](#) (Soho \$25.95). June, 1998: Paris's sticky summer heat is even more oppressive than usual as rowdy French football fans riot in anticipation of the World Cup. Private Investigator Aimée Leduc has been trying to slow down her hectic lifestyle, take on only computer security assignments, and maybe try to learn how to cook (*quelle catastrophe!*). She's vowed not to let herself get involved in any more dangerous shenanigans—she's five months' pregnant and has the baby's wellbeing to think about now, too. But all of her best intentions to live the quiet life fall away when disaster strikes close to home. A serial rapist has been terrorizing Paris's Pigalle neighborhood, following teenage girls home from junior high school and attacking them in their own houses. It is sad and frightening but has nothing to do with Aimée—until Zazie, the 14-year-old daughter of the proprietor of Aimée's favorite café, disappears. The police aren't mobilizing quickly enough. Then Zazie's desperate parents approach Aimée for help.... [Click here](#) to buy Black's earlier mysteries.

Bowen, Rhys. [City of Darkness and Light](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Who can resist the idea of Paris—at any season? Not Molly Murphy, now a young mother. When her marital home in the Village is bombed—perhaps in retaliation against her husband, the NYPD stalwart—also their lives now possibly at risk—Daniel urges Molly to accept their neighbors/friends' Gus and Sid's invitation to join their Paris break in their Montmartre *piéd-à-terre* (French for what is usually a modest city apartment). Molly and baby experience rough seas on the ocean liner but

eventually train to Paris. When they reach the *pied-à-terre*, it's empty. The landlady is not helpful, there's no word for Molly. As Impressionism gives way to Fauvism and Cubism, and the Dreyfus affair rocks France, Molly juggles child-care with hunting her friends in an unfamiliar city. Inevitably, she comes across a body.... [Click here](#) to purchase Bowen's earlier books.

Box, CJ. [Stone Cold](#) (Putnam \$26.95). Has Nate Romanowski turned paid assassin? You might think so in the opener to the 14<sup>th</sup> Joe Pickett thriller, but never take anything by Box at face value. Governor Rulon has called in a chip and set Game Warden Joe a troubleshooting task off the grid. The target? A mystery man. Everything about the enigmatic figure is a mystery: the massive ranch in the remote Black Hills of Wyoming that nobody ever visits, the women who live with him, the secret philanthropies, the private airstrip, the sudden disappearances. And especially the persistent rumors that the man's wealth comes from killing people. Ah, now you see where my question about Nate intersects with Joe's mission.... To purchase Joe Pickett's #1-13, [click here](#).

Cussler, Clive/Justin Scott. [The Bootlegger](#) (Putnam \$27.95). Meet a young Isaac Bell. "With his combination of mental and physical prowess, Isaac Bell could easily become a sort of superhero (imagine a blending of Sherlock Holmes and Doc Savage), but the authors do a nice job of keeping him from crossing that line."—*Booklist*. 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. Cussler and Scott have written another wonderful page-turner.... This is historical action-adventure fiction at its rip-roaring best!"—*Library Journal* Starred Review. On May 27, Cussler and Graham Brown: [Ghost Ship](#) NUMA Files.

DeSilva, Bruce. [Providence Rag](#) (Forge \$25.99). Journalist DeSilva won the Edgar and Macavity Awards for Best First Novel with [Rogue Island](#) (\$14.99) introducing old-school newspaperman Liam Mulligan who beat is Providence, Rhode Island. His 3<sup>rd</sup> case "melds moral dilemmas with a suspenseful plot... In 1992, when Mulligan is still handling the sports beat for the *Providence Dispatch*, an editor assigns him to help cover a gory double murder. Mulligan succeeds in getting more information from the police about the slaughter of Becky Medeiros and her 4-year-old daughter, after the paper's lead crime reporter fails. Two years later, a similar crime claims three more lives—a mother and her two daughters, ages 8 and 12. Mulligan ends up cracking the case, but the main action concerns the fate of the convicted killer, who is due to be released after six years thanks to a legal fluke. When a colleague discovers that efforts to lengthen the incarceration may have been unethical, Mulligan must find a way to balance his passion for the truth with his desire to protect the public."—*PW* Starred Review. I add, Serial killer fans, alert! DeSilva lays out one's evolution in horrifying detail.

Hellmann, Libby. [A Bitter Veil](#) (Allium \$16.99). From 2012, a novel, not a mystery by Hellmann. It all began with a line of Persian poetry... Anna and Nouri, both studying in Chicago, fall in love despite their very different backgrounds. Anna, who has never been close to her parents, is more than happy to return with Nouri to his native Iran, to be embraced by his wealthy family. Beginning their married life together in 1978, their world is abruptly turned upside down by the overthrow of the Shah, and the rise of the Islamic Republic. Under the Ayatollah Khomeini and the Republican Guard, life becomes increasingly restricted and Anna must learn to exist in a transformed world, where none of the familiar Western rules apply. Random arrests and torture become the norm, women are required to wear hijab, and Anna discovers that she is no longer free to leave the country. As events reach a fevered pitch, Anna realizes that nothing is as she thought, and no one can be trusted... not even her husband. Also in stock: [Havana Lost](#) (\$16.99). On the eve of the Cuban Revolution, headstrong 18-year-old Francesca Pacelli flees from her ruthless Mafia-boss father in Havana to the arms of her lover, a rebel fighting with Fidel Castro. Her father, desperate to send her to safety in the US, resorts to torture and blackmail as he searches the island for her...

Laukkanen, Owen. [Kill Fee](#) (Putnam \$26.95). More a caper novelist than a thriller (think Elmore Leonard), Laukkanen has created a compelling literary odd couple in FBI Agent Carla Windermere and Minnesota's BCA policeman Kirk Stevens. Middle-aged and married, he's an unlikely partner for the high-octane, handsome African-American Carla. In their third case they dance romance a bit like Margaret Coel's priest and lawyer. And this while working. In fact, they are meeting for lunch when they witness a bullet felling billionaire Spenser Pyatt. And glimpse someone fleeing the scene, a boyish gunman with dead eyes which stop Windermere in her tracks while giving chase. Rallying, she and Stevens follow a twisty trail after the assassin which leads to tracking the organization running him: Killswitch, an Internet contract killing business run by Department of Defense contractor Michael Parkerson. Told from multiple points of view and with a blistering pace, Laukkanen's third engages you with "a serpentine plot that writhes through high-tech and low-life corruption." [Click here](#) for the two earlier Windermere/Stevens thrillers, the first a First Mystery Club Pick.

Littlefield, Sophie. [House of Glass](#) (Mira \$14.95). Jen Glass has worked hard to achieve the ideal life: a successful career, a beautiful home in an affluent suburb of Minneapolis, a seemingly perfect family. But inside the Glass house, everything is spinning out of Jen's control. On an evening that was supposed to be like any other, two men force their way into the Glasses' home, but what begins as a common robbery takes an even more terrifying turn. Held hostage in the basement for more than forty-eight hours, Jen and Ted must put aside their differences if they have any hope of survival. They will stop at nothing to keep their family safe—even if it means risking their own lives.... The prolific Littlefield's earlier work can be ordered by [clicking here](#).

Mina, Denise. [The Red Road](#) (LittleBrown \$27.99). "Edgar-finalist Mina's fourth novel featuring Glasgow Det. Insp. Alex Morrow is perhaps her finest yet, a brilliantly crafted tale of corruption, ruined lives, and the far-reaching ripple effects of crime. Morrow is called to testify against Michael Brown, a recidivist offender whose prints have been found on confiscated

guns. During the trial, Brown's prints turn up at a brand new murder scene. Have they been somehow planted by Brown from prison in a ruse to discredit evidence? Morrow follows a complex trail that leads back to two murders in 1997. One of the murders involved a teenage girl, Rose Wilson, who stabbed her abusive pimp to death; the other was 14-year-old Michael Brown's brutal slaying of his older brother, John "Pinkie" Brown. Wilson now works for her benefactor, elderly attorney Julius McMillan, as a nanny for McMillan's grandchildren. Meanwhile, Robert, Julius's son, has gone missing after an elaborate money-laundering scheme has turned south. Are these decades' old crimes somehow connected? Morrow thinks so, but seeing the investigation through just might cost her the career she's fought so hard to achieve."—*PW* Starred Review. "Like her fellow Scot, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Mina relishes combining elements of the uncanny with crisp insights into the various diseases of the human psyche."—Maureen Corrigan, NPR, who echoes George Pelecanos and Ian Rankin—and Patrick—in recommending Mina. To buy her earlier books, [click here](#).

Nesbit, Tarashea. [The Wives of Los Alamos](#) (Bloomsbury \$25). The Indie Next Pick: "In 1943, families of mathematicians and scientists, escorted under high security, move to The Hill—Los Alamos, New Mexico. Not knowing where they're going or why, these wives from all over the world cut their ties with friends and relatives to live in isolation, without telephones or uncensored mail. Based on the history of the development of 'The Gadget'—the atomic bomb—this novel reads like a collective diary of hundreds of wives. This unique first-person plural recounting of real events culminates with varied reactions to the use of this powerful weapon on the people of Japan. Nesbit portrays these delicate issues brilliantly!" I once lived in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, in the 1960s when wartime memories were still alive, and agree with this *PW* Starred Review: "The author's writing—by turns touching, confiding, and matter-of-fact—perfectly captures the commonalities of the hive mind while also emphasizing the little things that make each wife dissimilar from the pack. This effect intensifies once the nature of the Los Alamos project is revealed and the men and their families grapple with the burden of their new creation. Engrossing, dense, and believable." **Our March History Club Pick.**

Pavone, Chris. [The Accident](#) (Crown \$26). Pavone won the 2013 Edgar Award for Best First Novel with [The Expats](#) (\$15), also a First Mystery Club Pick. He has a great voice for storytelling and goes for nuance in spy fiction rather than big thrills. His second novel blends the bibliomystery with the spy novel to wonderful effect. *PW* agrees with me in this Starred Review: "The contents of 'The Accident,' a manuscript submission by an anonymous author, shock New York literary agent Isabel Reed, the heroine of Pavone's high-wire thriller. Isabel worries that the revelations of this nonfiction work about Charlie Wolfe, a global media baron (think Rupert Murdoch crossed with Charles Foster Kane), pose a real danger. Her fears prove well founded... The Indie Next Pick: "Literary agent Isabel Reed is the first to receive the manuscript of *The Accident*, which, unbeknownst to her, is a dangerous thing to have in one's possession. It reveals secrets that a powerful media mogul and his cronies, including a CIA agent, have spent a lifetime concealing. They will stop at nothing to see that *The Accident* is never published and that their reputations

remain intact. Readers get an insider's glimpse into the gears of the publishing machine as the manuscript changes hands and endangers everyone who knows of its existence. A compelling thriller for book lovers!" I didn't want to choose between Pavone and Steinhauer for our **March Thriller Club Pick** but went with *The Accident* as I'm a sucker for the literary tropes.

Penman, Sharon Kay. [A King's Ransom](#) (Putnam \$35). Penman flung herself into an affair with Richard, Coeur-de-Lion, the warrior king who spent most of his reign outside England, married but produced no heir, and inspired legends (think of Robin Hood as we know him). The favorite of his mother, Queen Eleanor, but not of Henry II, his father, Richard's life, and that of his sibs, was shaped by his family. His brother and heir, John, did not measure up. But Penman's task in two volumes is to portray Richard and she does an ace job. Start with [Lionheart](#) (\$16) and then progress to *Ransom*, the story of his last years. Taken captive by the Holy Roman Emperor while on his way home from a crusade, he spent 15 months imprisoned while his mother used all her wiles to ransom him. The he had five years left.... Historical novelist Penman's earlier books can be bought by [clicking here](#).

Perry, Anne. [Death on Blackheath](#) (Random \$27). As Victoria's reign draws to an end. Britain's wealth and power are global. It's a charmed era for its Empire, but greed and corruption ever coil in its heart. Thomas Pitt, risen to commander of the powerful Special Branch (MI6), is charged with keeping Britain safe from spies and traitors. Why is he ordered to investigate the blood, hair, and shards of glass discovered outside the home of naval weapons expert Dudley Kynaston, and the simultaneous disappearance of Mrs. Kynaston's beautiful lady's maid? Maybe the key lies in the mutilated body of an unidentified young woman soon found near the scientist's home....

Sanderson, Brandon. [Words of Radiance](#) (Forge \$27.99). [The Way of Kings](#) (\$8.99), the first of a promised ten-volume Stormlight Archive series, published in 2010. (Then Sanderson completed Robert Jordan's *Wheel of Time*.) Now we get Volume Two, full of intertwined storylines featuring Shallan, Kaladin, Szeth, Dalinar, Jasnah, and others. "Kaladin's situation echoes the Parable of the Faithful Servant and while most readers will miss the significance, both the myth behind the ascension of the lighteyes and certain aspects of the Parshendi recall the Curse of Lamanites, a now obscure bit of American folklore."

Steinhauer, Olen. [The Cairo Affair](#) (St Martins \$26.99). The Indie Next Pick: "Steinhauer has once again produced an extremely well-constructed page-turner, this time set in Egypt during the initial Libyan uprising. Layers of deceit, betrayal, and duplicity permeate this story of an alleged American plan to steal the revolution from the hands of the Libyan people. The CIA in Cairo is turning Egyptian secret service members; the Egyptians spy on the other services and have sources in many foreign embassies; and there is a leak of the Libyan plan that points to an American diplomat who is murdered. Plenty of intrigue, unreliable sources, shifting allegiances, and philosophy—Steinhauer manages it all superbly." This is a fabulous book; all of his books are in fact. I think of him as John Le Carré as was, back in Smiley's day. For his earlier books, [click here](#). His bestselling breakthrough is [The Tourist](#) (\$9.99) introducing the Milo Weaver trilogy. His years living in Budapest shaped his

early stories set in a fictional Eastern European country. I find all his work to be brilliant, absorbing, the kind of books you sink into as you gobble them up.

Thomson, Keith. [Seven Grams of Lead](#) (Knopf \$7.99). 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. Thomson's debut in [Once a Spy](#) (\$7.99) is an absolute and unorthodox gem: what if a spy develops Alzheimer's and becomes a liability, surprising his son who thought he was a washing machine salesman?

White, Randy Wayne. [Bone Deep](#) (Putnam \$26.95). Doc Ford can't shake his yen for fishing guide Hannah Smith of White's second series, but he's not lost his edge. It's keenest when it comes to protecting Florida's artifacts, so when a stone fetish belonging to a Crow Indian tribe is stolen and a friend of Tomlinson's enlists him and Ford to recover it, off they go. The search leads to central Florida and its infamous Bone Valley where the ruthless operators of a billion-dollar phosphate industry's strip mines and a ruthless subculture of black-marketers trading in illegal fossils and artifacts actively repel public exposure—and nosy outsiders.... 21<sup>st</sup> in a richly rewarding series. To buy #1-10, and the two Hannah Smiths, [click here](#).

*And the Berkley Prime Crime 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Quartet:*  
Aames, Avery. [Days of Wine and Roquefort](#) (\$7.99), #5 in the Cheese Shop Mystery, and, as Daryl Wood Gerber, [Inherit the Word](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Jenna Hart moved back to Crystal Cove, California, to recapture her joie de vivre and to help her aunt Vera run the local culinary bookshop and café. But it's hard to follow a simple recipe for relaxation when murder gets thrown in the mix.... A Cookbook Nook mystery. To order earlier books by Aames, [click here](#).

Coel, Margaret. [Killing Custer](#) (Berkley \$26.95) and [Buffalo Bill's Dead Now](#) (\$7.99). As ever with Coel's fiction, the two most recent Wind River Reservation Mysteries, #17 and #16 respectively, combine history, mystery, and relationships, notably that between Arapaho lawyer Vicky Holden and the Jesuit, Father John. To start at the beginning: [The Eagle Catcher](#) (\$7.99). Coel will have a new book out at the end of summer. To buy her earlier books, [click here](#).

Fowler, Earlene. [The Road to Cardinal Valley](#) (\$7.99). Best known for her Benni Harper mysteries, Fowler followed her heart to write [The Saddlemaker's Wife](#) (\$7.99). No one died but plenty happened. The Road to Cardinal Valley takes us back to the small town of Cardinal, California, along with Ruby McGavin. A year ago she brought her husband's ashes to his family ranch where, amidst surprise, she found safety. And love. Her dead husband's brother Lucas, the Saddlemaker, is thrilled. Maybe he has another chance to win Ruby's heart. Ruby's back because of her troubled brother Nash who absorbs (nearly all) of her attention.... To start the Benni Harper's, one of my favorite series, order [Fool's Puzzle](#) (\$7.99). Then [click here](#) to order more.

Hart, Carolyn G. [Death at the Door](#) (Berkley \$26.95). Cruelly, Hart visits us for the Berkley Prime Crime 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party March 25 and her new Death on Demand mystery publishes May 6<sup>th</sup>. We will arrange for Signed copies. I'm so pleased that Carolyn has dedicated it to me as a nod to our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The paperback of [Dead, White, and Blue](#) (\$7.99), the 23<sup>rd</sup> Death on Demand, publishes May 6 also. So do order them both. We will have loads of Hart's earlier books on hand including [Castle Rock](#) (Seventh Street \$14.95), one of her earlier works now part of a republishing program. Castle Rock is a New Mexico ranch where young orphan Serena Mallory arrived to be the ward of owner Dan McIntire. Now in her early twenties, she's horrified when Dan dies in a riding accident. More horrified to have overheard him arguing with someone the night before his death and by the accidents that have plagued Castle Rock since.... To check out Hart's huge backlist, [click here](#).

## BOOKS FOR ST PATRICK'S DAY

### *Fiction:*

Andrews, Mary Kay. [Irish Eyes](#) (\$14.99). Callahan Garrity is the owner of House Mouse, a cleaning service that tidies up after Atlanta's elite. She's also a former cop and a part-time sleuth. She and her coterie of devoted helpers can ransack a house for clues faster than it takes a fingerprint to set. When Callahan Garrity gets caught in a liquor store holdup on the way home from a St. Paddy's Day party, one of her best friends is shot. Callahan and her House Mouse cleaning crew dive into the investigation—only to discover that her old friend might have been working both sides of the law as an accomplice in a string of robberies. A reissue originally written by Andrews writing as Kathy Trocheck.

Bowen, Rhys. [Murphy's Law](#) (\$15). The first in the Molly Murphy series about an Irish immigrant in 1900s New York City. See Event Books for Molly's latest which takes her to 1905 Paris.

Delaney, Frank. [Ireland](#) (\$14.99). In the winter of 1951, a storyteller, the last practitioner of an honored, centuries-old tradition, arrives at the home of nine-year-old Ronan O'Mara in the Irish countryside. For three wonderful evenings, the old gentleman enthalls his assembled local audience with narratives of foolish kings, fabled saints, and Ireland's enduring accomplishments before moving on. But these nights change young Ronan forever, setting him on a years-long pursuit of the elusive, itinerant storyteller and the glorious tales that are no less than the saga of his tenacious and extraordinary isle. In [The Matchmaker of Kenmare](#) (\$15), Miss Kate Begley, Matchmaker of Kenmare, is the enigmatic woman Ben MacCarthy meets in the summer of 1943 As World War II rages on, Ben remains haunted by the mysterious disappearance of his wife, the actress Venetia Kelly. Searching for purpose by collecting stories for the Irish Folklore Commission, he travels to a remote seaside cottage to profile Miss Begley. They forge a friendship. But when Charles Miller, a striking American military intelligence officer, arrives on the scene, Miss Begley develops an intense infatuation and looks to make a match for herself. Miller needs a favor, but it will be dangerous. Under the cover of their neutrality as Irish citizens, Miss Begley and Ben travel to London and effectively operate as spies. As they are drawn more deeply and painfully into the conflict, both discover the perils of neutrality—in both love and war. These are but two of Delaney's powerful novels to read this March.

Hart, Erin. [The Book of Killowen](#) (\$16). What sort of book is worth a man's life? After a year away from working in the field, archaeologist Cormac Maguire and pathologist Nora Gavin are back in the bogs, investigating a ninth-century body found buried in the trunk of a car. They discover that the ancient corpse is not alone—pinned beneath it is the body of Benedict Kavanagh, missing for mere months and familiar to television viewers as a philosopher who enjoyed destroying his opponents in debate. Both men were viciously murdered, but centuries apart—so how did they end up buried together in the bog? The latest in an outstanding series set mostly in Ireland and always rich in facts, intrigue, and relationships. [Click here](#) to purchase Hart's other Nora Gavin mysteries.

Hughes, Andrew. [The Convictions of John Delahunt Signed](#) (Doubleday UK \$26). Dublin, 1841... See First Novels

McKinty, Adrian. [In the Morning I'll Be Gone](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). See International Reads for this final book in the Troubles Trilogy which Ian Rankin highly recommends. [Click here](#) for McKinty titles. And [click here](#) for Irish noir by Stuart Neville. And [click here](#) for Benjamin Black's fine Dublin-based mysteries.

Osborne-McKnight, Juilene. [Song of Ireland](#) (\$15.99). Historical fantasy portrays the coming of the Celts to Eire and what they find there: a land of abundance and beauty that the Celts would make their own. But the Danu have secrets of their own, and those who wish to conquer find that it is not only their sword hands being challenged but their hearts. And the coming battle to claim a new world may change both races forever...

Rutherford, Edward. [Rebels of Ireland](#) (\$16.95). The conclusion to the Dublin Saga, sweeping historical fiction. Beginning where the first volume, [The Princes of Ireland](#) (\$16.95), left off, it takes us into a world transformed by the English practice of "plantation," which represented the final step in the centuries-long British conquest of Ireland. Once again Rutherford takes us inside the process of history by tracing the lives of several Dublin families from all strata of society – Protestant and Catholic, rich and poor.

Ryan, Donal. [The Spinning Heart](#) (Steerforth \$15). The *PW* Starred Review: "The winner of the Guardian First Book Award features a chorus of voices telling the story of an Irish village undergoing a post-recession crisis and evokes Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*, right down to a section narrated by a recently deceased character. At the center is Bobby Mahon, a building foreman who discovers, as the book opens, that his boss has 'shafted' him and his coworkers, cheating them of a pension and disappearing after the housing boom goes bust. Here's the March Indie Next Pick: "Workers and their families are left to pick up the pieces after the biggest construction company in a small Irish town closes abruptly, with its owner having escaped to Dubai without paying anyone. Along with tensions created by the financial collapse, old family feuds and rampant gossip flare up and push the townsfolk to the edge. Ryan explores the human cost of the recession with consternation, but not without humor and great tenderness for his characters. Told in the Irish vernacular through multiple points of view, *The Spinning Heart* is a sobering account of the social and economic situation in contemporary Ireland. Spectacular!"

Sixsmith, Martin. [Philomena](#) (Penguin \$16). The movie tie-in to a heartbreaking true story of an unwed mother in a version of the Magdalene Laundries whose young son was adopted out to Americans. Her efforts to find him were frustrated in appalling ways. The story is heartbreaking yet uplifted by her capacity to forgive. How terrible that her son never had a chance to do so...

*More for March:*

Brett, Jan. [St Patrick's Day in the Morning](#) (\$6.99)

Gomez, Rebecca. [It's St Patrick's Day](#) (\$3.99)

Hackney, Ryan. [101 Things You Didn't Know About Irish History](#) (\$9.95)

Kelly, Fergus. [Big Little Book of Irish Wit and Wisdom](#) (Black \$12.95)

Kelly, Joan Larson. [Irish Wit and Wisdom](#) (\$5.95)

Shannon, Ashley. [Irish Blessings](#) (\$4.95)

Simon, Christopher Fitz. [Most Beautiful Villages of Ireland](#) (Thames \$26.95)

Taylor, Patrick. [Wily O'Reilly Irish Country Stories](#) (Forge \$25.99)

Tomb, Howard. [Wicked Irish](#) (\$4.95)

Wing, Natasha. [Night Before St Patrick's Day](#) (\$3.99)

#### FIRST NOVELS

Blackwell, Elizabeth. [While Beauty Slept](#) (Putnam \$25.95). The Indie Next Pick: "Humble Elise Dalriss was a companion to the beautiful princess Rose, who, as the fable recounts, was doomed since birth. The king's aunt Millicent, who was banished from the kingdom on the day after Rose's birth because the king felt she had put a spell on his wife, returns on the celebration day and proclaims, 'You will all spend the rest of your life in fear.' Then she disappears, leaving behind a kingdom reeling in shock and horror. Through the eyes of Elise, Blackwell has retold the tale of Sleeping Beauty using dark, sensual, and magical language and a complex plot full of surprises. Readers will be enthralled with this debut."

Brown, Pierce. [Red Rising](#) (Random \$25). The first in a gritty trilogy inevitably compared to *The Hunger Games*. We open on a desolate Mars where Darrow is a Red, bottom of society's heap. A betrayal forges him a revolutionary opposing the ruling elite....

Bushnell, Jeremy P. [The Weirdness](#) (Melville House \$16.95). Love it, a reveal of the dark underbelly of the New York literary scene. At thirty, Billy Ridgeway still hasn't gotten around to becoming a writer; he thinks too much to get anything done, really, except making sandwiches at a Greek deli with his buddy Anil. But the Devil shows up with fancy coffee one morning, promising to make Billy's dream of being published come true: as long as Billy steals The Neko of Infinite Equilibrium, a cat-shaped statue with magical powers, from the most powerful warlock in the Eastern United States. The Indie Next Pick: "If the Devil wanted to make a deal with you but it was because he really wasn't such a bad guy and he needed help saving the planet, would you agree? If you're aspiring novelist Billy Ridgeway, of course you would. It's only Lucifer. What could possibly go wrong? Bushnell does a hilariously great job constructing a contemporary tale of moral and spiritual dilemmas, and also expertly describes the ego and nuances of a struggling writer—a whole other kind of demon!" So, a mash up of Goethe's *Faust* in the bargain, Christopher Moore in the telling, and a nod to Martha Grimes' satires on publishing. Plus a dash of *The Maltese Falcon*, no?

✂Clements, Katherine. [The Crimson Ribbon Signed](#) (Headline \$26). May Day 1646. The Civil War is raging and what should be a rare moment of blessing for the town of Ely takes a brutal turn. Ruth Flowers is left with little choice but to flee the household of Oliver Cromwell, the only home she has ever known. On the road to London, Ruth sparks an uneasy alliance with a soldier, the battle-scarred and troubled Joseph. But when she reaches the city, it's in the Poole household that she finds refuge. Lizzie Poole, beautiful and charismatic, enthralls the vulnerable Ruth, who binds herself inextricably to Lizzie's world. But in these troubled times, Ruth is haunted by fears of her past catching up with her. And as Lizzie's radical ideas escalate, Ruth finds herself carried to the heart of the country's conflict, to the trial of a king. Based on the real figure of the fascinating Elizabeth Poole.

Castell, Sebastien De. [Traitor's Blade Signed](#) (Quercus \$32). The Greatcoats Book One. 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... I append this info about the author as it reminds me of Ian Rankin's bio. "Sebastien de Castell had just finished a degree in Archaeology when he started work on his first dig. Four hours later he realized how much he hated archaeology and left to pursue a very focused career as a musician, ombudsman, interaction designer, fight choreographer, teacher, project manager, actor, and product strategist. He lives in Vancouver, Canada." Plus his photo could come right off the cover of a Romance novel.

Hughes, Andrew. [The Convictions of John Delahunt Signed](#) (Doubleday UK \$26). Dublin, 1841. A young man tells his story as he awaits the hangman in his cell in Kilmainham Gaol. On a cold December morning, a small boy had been enticed away from his mother and his throat savagely cut. This could have been just one more small, sad death in a city riven by poverty, inequality and political unrest, but this killing causes a public outcry. For it appeared the culprit, a feckless student named John Delahunt, is also an informant and in the pay of the authorities at Dublin Castle. And strangely, this young man seemed neither to regret what he did nor fear his punishment...

✂Kavanagh, Julie. [Falling Signed](#) (Random UK \$22). A plane falls out of the sky. A woman is murdered. Four people all have something to hide, and each tells his/her story to propel the plot to the end. Jim is a retired police officer and worried father. His beloved daughter has disappeared and he knows something is wrong. Tom has woken up to the news that his wife was on the plane, and he must break the news to their only son. Cecilia had packed up and left her family. Now she has survived a tragedy and sees no way out. Freya is struggling to cope with the loss of her father. But as she delves into his past, she may not like what she finds. A strong example of the British psychological thriller by former police psychologist Kavanagh who lives in Wales.

McHugh, Laura. [The Weight of Blood Signed](#) (Random \$28). This **First Mystery Club Pick** draws you deep into the Ozark Mountains to the town of Henbane for an urgent look at the dark side of a bucolic landscape beyond the arm of the law, where a person can easily disappear without a trace. Folks there still whisper about Lucy Dane's mother, a bewitching stranger who appeared long enough to marry Carl Dane, birth Lucy, and disappear when Lucy was little. Now on the brink of adulthood, Lucy experiences another loss when her friend Cheri disappears and is then found murdered, her body placed on display for all to see... The Indie Next Pick: "This is a literary thriller that will keep you reading well into the night. Two young women, Lila and Cheri, disappear a generation apart. Lucy, Lila's grown daughter and Cheri's friend, soon realizes there is a connection between the two that runs deep in her family. The Ozark Mountain landscape is the perfect setting for this powerful and haunting mystery. Fans of Gillian Flynn will not be disappointed in this gritty coming-of-age story that tests the limits of family loyalty." Narrated by several characters, powered by revelation, rich in its region's landscape, this is very much a Daniel Woodrell and James Sallis sort of book.

Morley, Isla. [Above](#) (Gallery \$24.99). The Indie Next Pick: "Blythe can't imagine anything worse than the 17 years she has been held captive in an abandoned underground missile silo until she escapes with her teenage son. The book begins as the compelling story of a teenager who has to endure her abduction by a mad survivalist who was convinced that the world was coming to an end, but it ends as a riveting, heart-stopping tale of determination, love, and hope for the future." At first, Beth focused frantically on finding a way out, until the harrowing truth of her new existence settled in—the crushing loneliness, the terrifying madness of a captor who believes he is saving her from the end of the world, and the persistent temptation to give up. But nothing prepared Blythe for the burden of raising a child in confinement. The publisher adds, "A riveting tale of resilience in which "stunning" (*Daily Beast*) new literary voice Isla Morley compels us to imagine what we would do if everything we had ever known was taken away. Like the bestselling authors of *Room* and *The Lovely Bones* before her, Morley explores the unthinkable with haunting detail and tenderly depicts our boundless capacity for hope."

✂Walters, Louise. [Mrs. Sinclair's Suitcase Signed](#) (Hodder \$35). Roberta likes to collect the letters and postcards she finds in second-hand books. When her father gives her some of her grandmother's belongings, she finds a baffling letter from the grandfather she never knew—dated after he supposedly died in the war. Dorothy is unhappily married to Albert, who is away at war. When an aeroplane crashes in the field behind her house she meets Squadron Leader Jan Pietrykowski, and as their bond deepens she dares to hope she might find happiness. But fate has other plans for them both, and soon she is hiding a secret so momentous that its shockwaves will touch her granddaughter many years later... A first novel by an Oxfordshire author in the vein of the charming bestseller [The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie](#) (\$15).

#### BRITISH READS

Ackroyd, Peter. [Three Brothers](#) (Knopf \$26.95). "Three Brothers is an alternative autobiography, a ghost story and a murder mystery all in one slim volume. Dickens, Blake, and Eliot—all

subjects of lives by Ackroyd—cast shadows over the three-ply narrative that is full of chance and coincidence, ‘alliances and affinities,’ ‘contenders and young pretenders,’ shape-shifters and shirt-lifters ... The waspish vignettes of literary London and fusty academe are a delight. The air is full of poison—and echoes of other Ackroyd novels. He sees the capital as ‘a web so taut and tightly drawn’ that the slightest movement sets off a chain of events ... The brilliant result is the quintessence of Ackroyd.” — *The Telegraph*

Archer, Jeffrey. [Be Careful What You Wish for](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Harry Clifton and his wife Emma rush to hospital to learn the fate of their son Sebastian, who has been involved in a fatal car accident. But who died, Sebastian or his best friend Bruno? When Ross Buchanan is forced to resign as chairman of the Barrington Shipping Company, Emma Clifton wants to replace him. But Don Pedro Martinez intends to install his puppet, the egregious Major Alex Fisher, in order to destroy the Barrington family firm just as the company plans to build its new luxury liner, the MV Buckingham. Back in London, Harry and Emma’s adopted daughter wins a scholarship to the Slade Academy of Art where she falls in love with a fellow student, Clive Bingham, who asks her to marry him. But then... it’s like *Downton Abbey*, always a new twist. Book #3 in the Clifton Chronicles. From London: [Be Careful What You Wish for Signed](#) (Macmillan \$45)

Atherton, Nancy. [Aunt Dimity and the Lost Prince](#) (\$14). February in Finch is cold and dreary and boring for young twin boys. Their mom Lori Shepherd thus leaps at the chance to visit Skeaping Manor, a bizarre Jacobean-house-turned-museum. There she meets Daisy Pickering, a sweet, but strange little girl from a poor family who spins a wild tale about the Russian aristocrats who once owned the priceless silver pieces on display. A few days later, Daisy’s shabby pink parka turns up at Lori’s thrift shop—with a silver sleigh figurine in the pocket. Lori tries to track down the Pickering family, only to find that they’ve disappeared without a trace... This is a charming novel where you can revel in country houses while puzzling out a mystery rooted in the past. Terrific. Aunt Dimity and Lori tackle [Aunt Dimity and the Wishing Well Signed](#) (Viking \$28) in late April.

Bauer, Belinda. [Facts of Life and Death Signed](#) (Bantam \$32). Lone women are terrorized and their helpless families forced to watch—in a sick game where only one player knows the rules. And when those rules change, the new game is Murder. Living with her parents in the dank beach community of Limeburn, ten-year-old Ruby Trick has her own fears. Bullies on the school bus, the forest crowding her house into the sea, and the threat of divorce. Helping her Daddy to catch the killer might be the key to keeping him close. As long as the killer doesn’t catch her first... The Gold Dagger winner spins another dark village crime novel.

Bingham, Harry. [Love Story, With Murders](#) (Random \$27). Thank heaven Bingham turned to crime, crimes investigated by prickly, unusual Detective Constable Fiona Griffiths. There’s more to Fiona than we first see in [Talking to the Dead](#) (\$15). Is there a future for Fiona in the Cardiff constabulary? Now she is facing the prospect of a dull weekend when the call comes in, something about illegal dumping in a suburb. But when she arrives on the scene she finds, in a garage freezer, a severed human leg, complete with a pink suede high-heeled shoe. South

Wales police are able to ID the body part as that of a young woman who went missing five years earlier; a young woman who once made a living as an exotic dancer. All at once, Fiona’s job as a detective and her role as a loving daughter collide: Fiona’s father owns a Cardiff strip club and was once deeply involved in the local crime scene. As Fiona gets into the murdered girl’s head, a severed hand is found—and this one is male. Soon, police are swamped with an increasing number of body parts found in and around suburban gardens, sheds, and garages. Horrific—and for Fiona, more horror lies in delving into mysteries of her past which, as an obsessive investigator, she must do to solve this case.

**NEWS FLASH:** A special signed hardcover edition of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Fiona publishes this month in the UK: [The Strange Death of Fiona Griffiths Signed](#) (Orion \$45). When DC Fiona Griffiths says “yes” to her policeman boyfriend, it’s an affirmation that she wants finally to put her psychological breakdown behind her. But she still can’t resist the challenge of an undercover policing course. Finding it remarkably easy to assume a new identity, she comes out top of the class. So when an ingenious payroll fraud starts to look like the tip of a huge criminal iceberg, Fiona is selected to infiltrate the fraudsters’ operation. Posing as a meek former payroll clerk now forced to work as a cleaner, Fiona Griffiths becomes Fiona Grey, hoping the criminals will try and recruit her. If discovered, she’s dead meat. And there’s always the risk that her ever-fragile grip on her sense of self will be lost—and she may never find her way back.

Bolton, SJ. [Lost](#) (\$16.99). A new investigation for London policewoman Lacey Flint which starts on the banks of the Thames... See March Trade Paperback Picks.

Bradley, Alan. [The Dead in Their Vaulted Arches Signed](#) (Orion \$46). With Bradley living on the Isle of Man, it’s challenging to get signed copies of this new investigation for almost-teen Flavia de Luce. The young chemist and sleuth is ever on the trail of what happened to her long-missing mother, Harriet. But now Harriet’s coming home... in a coffin. With the funeral train comes the start of revelations that shake the whole DeLuce family.... Available mid-April but please order now to avoid disappointment.

Brett, Simon. [Blotto, Twinks, and the Bootlegger’s Moll](#) (Felony \$14.95). In their 4<sup>th</sup> comic mystery, the pair ravel to Chicago (and this would be during the Prohibition years) in the hopes of marrying Blotto off to an American heiress and thus saving Tawcester Towers from financial ruin. Thankfully, Twinks is around to nose out the dirty undertakings of the heiress’s father, a meat-packing magnate and Chicago mob associate....

Dymott, Elanor. [Every Contact Leaves a Trace](#) (\$15.95). This debut was a 2013 British Crime Club Pick in hardcover, perfect as a British spin on *Gone Girl*. Alex, a solitary lawyer who has finally found love in the form of his beautiful wife, Rachel. When Rachel is brutally murdered one midsummer night on the grounds of their alma mater, Worcester College, Oxford, Alex’s life as he knows it vanishes. He returns to Oxford that winter, and, through the shroud of his shock and grief, tries to piece together the mystery surrounding his wife’s death. Playing host to Alex’s winter visit is Harry, Rachel’s former tutor and trusted mentor, who turns out to have been involved in almost every significant development of their relationship. Alex also turns to Evie,

Rachel's self-centered and difficult godmother, whose jealousy of her charge has waxed and waned over the years. And then there are her university friends, Anthony and Cissy, who shared with Rachel her taste for literature and for the illicit....

Fowler, Christophe. [Bryant and May and the Bleeding Heart Signed](#) (Doubleday \$45). It's a fresh start for the Met's oddest investigation team, the Peculiar Crimes Unit. Their first case involves two teenagers who see a dead man rising from his grave in a London park. And if that's not alarming enough, one of them is killed in a hit and run accident. Stranger still, in the moments between when he was last seen alive and found dead on the pavement, someone has changed his shirt... Much to his frustration, Arthur Bryant is not allowed to investigate. Instead, he has been tasked with finding out how someone could have stolen the ravens from the Tower of London. All seven birds have vanished from one of the most secure fortresses in the city. And, as the legend has it, when the ravens leave, the nation falls. Soon it seems death is all around and Bryant and May must confront a group of latter-day bodysnatchers, explore an eerie funeral parlor and unearth the gruesome legend of Bleeding Heart Yard. Each novel of this marvelous series is rich in strange characters and steeped in London's true history.

Griffiths, Elly. [The Outcast Dead](#) (Houghton \$27). Forensic archaeologist Ruth Galloway makes a stunning find: the bones of notorious Victorian Mother Hook, a baby-farm proprietor who was hanged in 1867 for the murder of five children. Mother Hook is a local bugaboo, used to scare misbehaving kids. This makes Ruth the reluctant star of the TV series *Women Who Kill*, working alongside the program's alluring history expert, Professor Frank Barker. Meanwhile DCI Harry Nelson is immersed in the case of three children found dead in their home. He is sure that the mother is responsible. Then another child is abducted and a kidnapper dubbed the Childminder claims responsibility. How will—and does—this all intersect in another surprising case for Ruth and Harry, the very married father of her child? And one of our March Trade Paperback Picks: [A Dying Fall](#) (\$14.95).

Hall, M R. [The 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. 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—maybe a connection with the mysterious unsolved abduction of a little girl in the village ten years ago?

Herron, Mick. [Slow Horses](#) (Soho \$9.99). Slough House is a dumping ground for British intelligence agents who've screwed up a case in any number of ways—by leaving a secret file on a train or blowing surveillance. River Carter, one such “slow horse,” is bitter about his failure and about his tedious assignment transcribing cell phone conversations. When a young man is abducted and his kidnappers threaten to broadcast his beheading live on the Internet, River sees an opportunity to redeem

himself. Is the victim who he first appears to be? And what's the kidnappers' connection with a disgraced journalist? Herron is an underrated writer, partly because he keeps doing unusual sorts of standalones.

Kavanagh, Julie. [Falling Signed](#) (Random UK \$22). A plane falls out of the sky. A woman is murdered. Four people all have something to hide. Jim is a retired police officer and worried father. His beloved daughter has disappeared and he knows something is wrong. See First Novels for more.

Lovesey, Peter. [The Stone Wife Signed](#) (LittleBrown UK \$42). Bath's Supt. Peter Diamond is called to a local auction house where, just as the bidding got exciting, armed robbers staged a holdup. Their target: Lot 129, a medieval sculpture on a block of stone. Could it represent Chaucer's Wife of Bath? Sadly someone died trying to protect it... Due in April, order now to avoid disappointment.

Perry, Anne. [Death on Blackheath Signed](#) (Random \$27). See Event Books – she signs March 29 or April 9 here.

Pidgeon, Sean. [Finding Camlann](#) (\$15.95). A marvelous mystery circling around the origins of King Arthur. See March Trade Paperback Picks.

Robertson, Michael. [The Baker Street Translation](#) (\$15.99). Reggie and Nigel Heath—brothers who lease law offices at 221B Baker Street in London, England and answer mail addressed to the location's most famous resident, Sherlock Holmes—find themselves pulled once again into a case straight out of Arthur Conan Doyle. An elderly American heiress wants to leave her entire fortune to Sherlock Holmes. A translator wants Sherlock Holmes to explain a nursery rhyme. And Robert Buxton—Reggie's rival for the love of actress Laura Rankin—has gone missing. Reggie must suss all these things out before an upcoming British royal event. If he doesn't, something very bad will happen to everyone at that event—and to Laura. Dexterous plotting, a sense of fun, and genuine menace combine in this 3rd of four Heath brothers' cases. [Click here](#) to buy all four.

Robinson, Peter. [Children of the Revolution](#) (Morrow \$25.99). “In Edgar-finalist Robinson's absorbing 21st novel featuring DCI Alan Banks, Gavin Miller lives in poverty-stricken isolation after allegations of sexual misconduct cost him his job as a college lecturer. Yet when his battered body is found near a disused Yorkshire railway track, he has £5,000 in his pocket. Believing the money came from drug sales or blackmail, Banks and his team investigate both the recent misconduct charges and Miller's college days decades earlier. Banks quickly uncovers a link between the victim and Lady Veronica Chalmers, once a Marxist rebel and now a successful romance novelist and aunt to the probable next home secretary. Robinson excels at connecting his detectives' personal stories to the investigation, endowing familiar characters with fresh nuance and depth. Impeccable pacing fleshes out Miller's tragic life and unravels the killer's motive.”—*PW*. I read the British hardcover late last summer and thought this was one of Robinson's best.

Robotham, Michael. [Watching You](#) (LittleBrown \$26). Although he lives in Australia, wizard writer Robotham's psychologist/sleuth Joe O'Laughlin is based in London. His cases have exacted a toll on him physically and mentally, as well as on his family. How they cope is part of the journey book to book.

In his 8<sup>th</sup> case Joe gets a troubled new patient called Marnie. He's tenderhearted and supports her claim of innocence when she becomes a murder suspect. But Marnie may be a better psychologist than Joe... "Robotham slowly, expertly begins tightening the screws... Revelations increase rather than release tension until the last page... It will be a long time before memories of this one retreat back into the shadows." —*Booklist* (starred review). "[A] commanding book with an ending that's sure to give even the most jaded reader a shock" —*Publishers Weekly*

Templeton, Aline. [Evil for Evil](#) (\$16.95). Scottish DI Marjory Fleming is called in to investigate a skeleton found shackled to the rocks in a sea-cave on Lovatt Island. She anticipates a straightforward case until she finds a modern watch on the skeleton's wrist. Meanwhile, in the nearby village of Innellan, mysterious events begin to occur. Matt Lovatt, owner of the island, is at the centre of a series of escalating crimes—could someone be targeting him? Fleming becomes increasingly desperate to prevent more violence. Are the skeleton and the current spate of crimes connected? If so, what evil act could have motivated such a deadly, merciless design?

Walters, Louise. [Mrs. Sinclair's Suitcase Signed](#) (Hodder \$35). Roberta likes to collect the letters and postcards she finds in second-hand books. When her father gives her some of her grandmother's belongings, she finds a baffling letter from the grandfather she never knew—dated after he supposedly died in the war. A first novel by an Oxfordshire author in the vein of the charming bestseller [The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie](#) (\$15). See First Novels for more.

#### INTERNATIONAL READS

Bilal, Parker. [Dogstar Rising](#) (\$15). Summer, 2001. The mutilated bodies of young boys are turning up in the backstreets of Cairo, and the finger of suspicion is pointing at the city's Coptic community. As Makana, a private investigator who fled his native Sudan a decade ago, watches the embers of religious hatred begin to glow, he has a premonition that history may be about to repeat itself. But for now, Makana has another case to solve, involving a disgruntled travel agent, stolen money, and threatening letters—an assignment that appears to point to nothing more than a family feud. That is, until Makana meets Meera, a woman with a dangerous secret who asks for his help, and stumbles upon an unlikely link to the murdered boys. When the travel agent's office becomes the backdrop to a brutal killing Makana is the sole witness, and he attracts the unwanted attention of not only the state security services and the police but also a disreputable Sudanese businessman—who claims to hold the key to Makana's past. His search for answers takes him from the labyrinth of Cairo to the city of Luxor and an abandoned monastery near the tombs of the pharaohs, where he uncovers a web of intrigue, violence, and secrecy.... "Excellent crime novel ... The pleasure the book offers is the realistic, eye-opening picture of a place and a lifestyle..." —*Literary Review*. Parker's 2nd mystery.

Carlotto, Massimo. [The Master of Knots](#) (Europa \$15). The reigning king of Mediterranean noir," Massimo Carlotto, gives his readers a work of hardboiled noir fiction that is darker than ever before. A woman has gone missing. Her husband, too ashamed to admit to the police that he and his wife were part of a ring of sexual adventurers that organized sadomasochistic orgies,

turns instead to the Alligator. Burrati enters a depraved demi-world where ferocious deviates prey upon lonely victims. But the savagery of this world is only the first surprise this investigation holds in store for the Alligator. Encountering such violence and desperation triggers memories of his own time in prison. And while the unwritten rule of ex-cons is that you must never talk about your experiences behind bars, the Alligator and his two long-time associates, Max Memory and Beniamino Rossini, are forced to confront demons they thought long buried.

De Giovanni, Maurizio. [Day of the Dead](#) (Europa \$17). Commissario Ricciardi is the lead in masterful crime novels set in Fascist Italy. In this Autumn case he is investigating the death of Matteo, a street urchin. Commissario Ricciardi solves every crime with an uncanny swiftness that leaves his colleagues dumbfounded. Indeed, there are those who think his abilities are an ungodly gift to be exorcised. And maybe they're right: Ricciardi sees and hears the final moments in the lives of those who have suffered violent deaths. Ricciardi's instincts tell him that the dead boy is the victim of a murder. What's worse, his sixth sense is no help to him this time; the scene of the crime is silent... [Everyone in Their Place](#) (\$17). Naples 1931. Summer. Together with his indefatigable partner, Brigadier Maione, Ricciardi, a man driven into solitude by his paranormal 'gift' of seeing the final seconds of the lives of victims of violent deaths - a talent that also makes him a highly effective investigator - is conducting an investigation into the death of the beautiful and mysterious Duchess of Camparino, whose connections to privileged social circles and fascist elite make the case a powder keg waiting to blow. [I Will Have Vengeance \(Winter\)](#); [Blood Curse](#) (Spring \$17 each).

Edwardson, Åke. [Room No 10](#) (\$15.99). A seedy hotel room in Gothenburg, Sweden, is the site of two crimes, 20 years apart. When Paula Ney is discovered hanged in room 10 of the Hotel Revy, her parents are despondent—and perplexed about the mysterious note found near her body. "Chief Inspector Winter suspects the elder Neys of holding back critical evidence about their daughter. Meanwhile, Winter flashes back to the decades-old case of Ellen Borge, who checked into the same room at the Revy and disappeared without a trace. Winter reopens the Borge case and becomes increasingly convinced that the two women fell prey to the same man... Police-procedural fans will savor this meticulously detailed offering by Edwardson, a three-time winner of the Swedish Crime Writers' Award for best crime novel." —*Booklist*

Hustvedt, Siri. [The Blazing World](#) (SimonSchuster \$26). Hustvedt returns to the New York art world with the provocative story of Harriet Burden. After years of watching her work ignored or dismissed by critics, the artist conducts an experiment she calls Maskings: she presents her own art behind three male masks, concealing her female identity. The three solo shows are successful, but when Burden finally steps forward triumphantly to reveal herself as the artist behind the exhibitions, there are critics who doubt her. The public scandal turns on the final exhibition, initially shown as the work of acclaimed artist Rune, who denies Burden's role in its creation. What no one doubts, however, is that the two artists were intensely involved with each other. As Burden's journals reveal, she and Rune found themselves locked in a charged and dangerous game that ended with the man's bizarre death. Ingeniously presented as a collection of texts compiled after Burden's death, the narrative unfolds from multiple perspectives.

Jansma, Kristopher. [The Unchangeable Spots of Leopards](#) (\$16). How I loved this Modern Firsts Pick, now available in paperback. “[A] tricky picaresque thick with literary allusion from Fitzgerald to Amis... [A] clever, tightly paced novel of ever-upping stakes.” —*Vogue.com*. In its Starred Review, *Booklist* writes, “This canny, seductive, and utterly transfixing tale about the magic of storytelling and the misery of writing is told by an itinerant, chameleonic writer who calls himself Nobody. The fatherless son of a flight attendant, he relies on and cares for his rich, gay, and unstable best friend, who turns out to be a truly gifted novelist, and falls hopelessly in love with an actress so beautiful that princes propose marriage. Like a magician pulling a seemingly endless string of colorful scarves from a hat, Jansma streams stories-within-stories-within-stories, each a diabolically clever homage. As Nobody juggles false identities and survives near-catastrophes in New York, Las Vegas, Iceland, Luxembourg, Dubai, Ghana, and Sri Lanka, readers will detect riffs on Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Truman Capote, Bob Dylan, Tolstoy, Salinger, Borges, Kipling, and many more. To add to the droll, romantic, and boldly creative sorcery of it all, Jansma riffs on plagiarism as ‘the new American art form’ and ponders the paradoxes of literary fame. A first novel with the strength and agility of a great cat leaping through rings of fire.”

Jungstedt, Mari. [The Dead of Summer](#) (\$14.95). While vacationing on the Swedish island Gotland, a young father of two is shot on the beach while jogging. Assistant commissioner Karin Jacobsson, who must lead the investigation while Anders Knutas is on vacation, is at a loss until another horrific crime is committed...

Leon, Donna. [The Golden Egg](#) (\$15). “It isn’t so much crime itself that intrigues Venetian police Commissario Guido Brunetti as it is the hidden stories behind the crime, or lurking on its edges. So it is again in this twenty-second Brunetti novel. At the urging of his wife, Paola, Brunetti investigates the death of a mentally handicapped man who worked at the family’s dry cleaners. Did he really die of a sleeping-pill overdose? And why are there no official records indicating that the victim even existed? As Brunetti digs into the matter, he finds himself less bothered by the circumstances of the man’s death than by the fact “that he managed to live for 40 years without leaving any bureaucratic traces.” Others would see only a mildly curious anomaly in the man’s lack of a human footprint across a lifetime; Brunetti sees “mystery and sadness,” and it prompts him to keep digging. What he finds is a saga of appalling human cruelty, but one that eludes the penal code. In stark contrast to the tyranny of silence that shrouded the forgotten man’s life is the outpouring of language and love that encircles the Brunetti family dinner table. In the end, this novel is a celebration of the humanizing power of words....” —*Booklist* Starred Review. **This is a good time to order the April Brunetti: [By Its Cover Signed](#)** (Heinemann \$40).

Mackenzie, Jassy. [Pale Horses](#) (\$14.95). “Sonet Meintjies jumps to her death off a swanky downtown Johannesburg skyscraper when her parachute doesn’t open. Her jumping partner hires private investigator Jade de Jong to clear his name and find out what really happened. De Jong reluctantly takes the case and immediately finds much more than she bargained for. Sonet’s sister, an investigative journalist looking into the timely topic of genetically modified seeds, is missing. As de Jong starts digging, all leads seem to point to a small, mysteriously abandoned

farming community in Limpopo. In another story line, Ntombi Khumalo, a widow with a young son, is working as a driver for a man she is sure is a murderer. Her employer has effectively trapped her in his employ; she is completely dependent on him for all support, and he threatens her very existence. Khumalo is terrified yet determined to protect her young son. De Jong is tough as nails and persistent, despite the fact that every clue leads to a dark and twisted place. The South African setting and culture are fascinating; the strong women characters intriguing; and the way the story lines eventually intersect adds another layer to this compelling and disturbing tale. While not for the faint of heart, *Pale Horses* is sure to appeal to fans of Liza Marklund, Zoë Sharp, and Mackenzie’s fellow South African crime writer Deon Meyer.” —*Booklist* Starred Review

McKinty, Adrian. [In the Morning I’ll Be Gone](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). The explosive conclusion to McKinty’s Troubles trilogy combines an IRA thriller with a locked-room mystery. By late 1983, Sean Duffy has fallen on hard times. Drummed out of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, he has a chance at redemption when MI5 literally comes knocking at his door. MI5 offers Sean back his rank of detective inspector if he will find an IRA bomb maker, Dermot McCann, who broke out of prison and then trained in a Libyan camp before disappearing. Dermot’s ex-mother-in-law, Mary Fitzpatrick, agrees to reveal Dermot’s location if Sean will investigate her daughter Lizzie’s death, which the previous investigating officers were certain was an accident, because, after all, Lizzie was alone in a locked pub when she died. Though it’s the end of the trilogy, readers will hope that this won’t be the last they see of Sean Duffy.” —*PW*.

Mones, Nicole. [Night in Shanghai Signed](#) (Houghton \$25). The author of three of my favorite books ever—[click here to view](#)—writes what she calls “The first novel based on the true experiences of African American musicians in the Chinese jazz age—and what happened when World War II exploded around them.” At its center lie an American jazz man bent on upping his skills, and a Chinese woman, a committed Communist. They make their way, separately and together, up to the moment Japanese battleships appear at the mouth of the Huangpu. The poignant last scene reminds me of David Mitchell’s *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob De Zoet*. Central to Mones’ story are the Jews of Shanghai, many having fled to the city from Europe: Holocaust history unknown to most Americans. Mones signs this May Modern Firsts Club Pick then, but it’s out in March.

Mosse, Kate. [Citadel](#) (Morrow \$26.99). The fiction of Britain’s Mosse digs deep into the roots of the Languedoc region of France (once British under Eleanor of Aquitaine), uniting past and present in marvelous ways. Carcassonne 1942. A spirited and courageous young woman, Sandrine, finds herself drawn into the world of the Resistance in Carcassonne under German Occupation. Her network, codenamed ‘Citadel,’ is made up of ordinary women who risk everything to fight the sinister battles raging around them. As the war reaches its violent and bloody conclusion, Sandrine’s fate is tied up with that of three very different men. And with the question: who is the true guardian of the ancient secrets that for generations have drawn people to the foothills of the Pyrenees? If you’ve never read her fabulous bestseller [Labyrinth](#) (\$17), waste no more time! Still in stock: [The Mistletoe Bride and Other Haunting Tales Signed](#) (\$36).

Naughtie, James. [The Madness of July Signed](#) (Zeus \$32). Radio 4's Jim Naughtie, a sophisticated thriller about loyalty, survival and family rivalry in the endgame of the Cold War, drawing on his experience as a political insider in both Westminster and Washington. July, late 1970s. It is a sweltering summer in Westminster, and for politician Will Flemyng, the temperature is rising with each passing hour. A man's body has been found inside the walls of Parliament, and his death has sparked a political storm that will draw Flemyng back into an old, familiar world of danger and deceit. For Will Flemyng is a man with a past. During the Cold War he was a spy, living a life of secrets behind enemy lines. Now he must revisit that past - but first he must question his loyalties: to his friends, his enemies, and to his own two brothers. Only then can he expose the truth. Only then can he walk into the fire...

Ohlsson, Kristina. [The Disappeared](#) (Atria \$25). "Credible characters whose heartaches are all too close for comfort populate Ohlsson's outstanding third Fredrika Bergman crime novel. Fredrika, a Stockholm detective who has returned from maternity leave too soon, lives with an emotionally fragile, much older partner, who's being targeted by a vengeful student. Recently widowed Alex Recht, a colleague of Fredrika's who became obsessed with the disappearance of Rebecca Trolle two years earlier, must contend with the discovery of Rebecca's dismembered body. That Rebecca had been investigating a possible snuff film suggests the darkest of motivations for her murder. While the main characters often lapse into self-doubt, self-deprecation, and self-disgust, they never abandon their essential humanity. Alex finds the stirrings of new love with Rebecca's grieving mother, and Fredrika confronts the reality of life with the aging partner she still loves—fitful glimpses of redemption in Ohlsson's stark landscape of moral turpitude." —*PW* Starred Review

Quartey, Kwei. [Murder at Cape Three Points](#) (Soho \$26.95). At Cape Three Points on the beautiful Ghanaian coast, a canoe washes up at an oil rig site bearing a dead middle-aged couple—the man gruesomely decapitated. The Smith-Aidoos, pillars in their community, are mourned by everyone, but especially by their niece Sapphire, a successful pediatric surgeon in Ghana's capital, Accra. She is not happy that months have passed since the murder and the rural police have made no headway. The Ghanaian federal police finally send Detective Inspector Darko Dawson of the Accra police force to investigate. Three Points has long been inhabited by tribal villages of subsistence fishers, but real estate entrepreneurs and wealthy oil companies have been trying to bribe the tribes to move out. Dawson roots out a host of motives for murder, ranging from personal vendettas to corporate conspiracies. "Kwei Quartey does what all the best storytellers do. He takes you to a world you have never seen and makes it as real to you as your own backyard. Inspector Darko Dawson is relentless and I look forward to riding with him again." —Michael Connelly. The Indie Next Pick adds: "Quartey portrays the country of Ghana with all its charms and quirks, a culture that stands at the brink of the modern world, yet has not lost its tribal traditions. The result is a thoroughly fascinating book." Our **March Fresh Fiction Club Pick**.

Sigurdardóttir, Yrsa. [I Remember You](#) (St Martins \$26.99). *I Remember You* won the Icelandic Crime Fiction Award and also was nominated for The Glass Key Award. Embarking up

a remote fjord to isolated Hesteyri, a married couple and a widowed friend plan to recoup a considerable investment by renovating a rundown house and turning it into a B&B. Are they up to the task, physically? And as they realize that something or one in the isolated village wants them to leave, are they up to it psychologically? Meanwhile, in a nearby town, a young doctor investigating the suicide of an elderly woman discovers that she was obsessed with his vanished son. The plot accelerates as events collide. How it plays out is a corker, surprising even me! The publisher calls it *A Ghost Story*, but I think it's more like Stephen King and John Ajvide Lindqvist. Partly based on a true story, this is the scariest novel yet from Yrsa Sigurdardóttir. Apparently this chiller is also out in trade paperback: [I Remember You](#) (\$15.99).

Vichi, Marco. [Death in Sardinia](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). I just started this as I write the March *Booknews*—and I'm loving it, the terrific landscape and sense of place, the robust characters. We're in Florence, 1965. A man is found murdered, a pair of scissors stuck through his throat. Only one thing is known about him—he was a loan shark, who ruined and blackmailed the vulnerable men and women who would come to him for help. Inspector Bordelli prepares to launch a murder investigation. But the case will be a tough one for the 55-year-old cop who's worried about looming retirement and arouses mixed emotions: the desire for justice conflicting with a deep hostility for the victim. And he is missing his young police sidekick, Piras, who is convalescing from a gunshot wound at his parents' home in Sardinia. But Piras hasn't been recuperating for long before privately pikes into a suicide he suspects might be a murder.... [Death in August](#) (\$14.95); [Death and the Olive Grove](#) (\$25)

Williams, Timothy. [Another Sun](#) (Soho \$9.99). Debuts a series set in the Caribbean on Guadeloupe. See March Trade Paperback Picks.

Wilson, Robert. [Capital Punishment](#) (Houghton \$28) introduces Charlie Boxer, kidnap recovery specialist, in a case involving an Indian tycoon's missing daughter, the MI6 office in India, and lethal complications. Highly recommended to fans of intelligent thrillers such as those by Pavone and Steinhauer listed in Event Books.

Zouroudi, Anne. [The Lady of Sorrows](#) (LittleBrown \$25). Hermes Diaktoros visits a remote Greek island which is home to an ancient icon famed for its miraculous powers. But something about the Virgin troubles him, and Hermes calls on an old friend to confirm his suspicions that the icon is a fake. Ready to hand the matter over to the authorities, Hermes intends to leave—until the island's icon painter is found dead at sea. Did he die of natural causes or by a wrathful hand? What secret is a dishonest gypsy keeping? And what haunts the ancient catacombs beneath the bishop's house?

## TWO EXTRAORDINARY NOVELS

*"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing"*—Edmund Burke.

Jung-Myung, Lee. [The Investigation Signed](#) (Macmillan \$39). Fukuoka Prison, 1944. Beyond the Japanese prison walls the war rages; inside a man is found brutally murdered. Watanabe, a young guard with a passion for reading, is tasked with finding the killer. Sugiyama, also a guard, was feared and despised throughout the prison. Investigations have barely begun when a

powerful inmate confesses. But Watanabe is unconvinced; and as he interrogates both the suspect and Yun Dong-ju, a talented Korean poet, he begins to realize that the fearsome guard was not all he appeared to be... As Watanabe unravels Sugiyama's final months, he begins to discover what is really going on inside this dark and violent institution. As the war moves towards its devastating close and bombs rain down upon the prison, Watanabe must find a way to protect Yun Dong-ju, no matter what it takes. "At once a captivating mystery and an epic lament for lost freedom and humanity in the darkest of times, *The Investigation*—inspired by a true story—is a sweeping, gripping tale perfect for fans of *The Shadow of the Wind*. A bestseller in Korea is translated into English. I was mesmerized by it. This riveting novel, a **First Mystery Club Pick**, is a murder investigation, a thriller, and a meditation: how can ordinary people behave with astonishing cruelty... or do nothing to protest. This is the Japanese theater, no different than the Nazi war zone of McGee's haunting tale.

McGee, Audrey. [The Undertaking Signed](#) (Atlantic UK \$32). After a marriage of convenience, Peter Faber and Katharina Spinell are surprised by the attraction that develops between them. As Peter lives through the horror of the front and faces the coming battle at Stalingrad, Katharina ruthlessly works her way into the Nazi party hierarchy goaded on by her delusional parents, 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.... The question of how ordinary Germans let themselves be hijacked by the Nazis always intrigues me. Here's a novel using the force of fiction to illustrate such an instance.

#### OUR MARCH TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

Atherton, Nancy. [Aunt Dimity and the Lost Prince](#) (\$14). A charming fable for Lori Shepherd and her friends in Finch combines touring English country houses with theft and crimes rooted in history. See British Books for more.

Bilal, Parker. [Dogstar Rising](#) (\$15). A Sudanese investigator in Cairo, summer, 2001. Dark, atmospheric. See International Reads for more. And [click here](#) for Bilal's other books.

✎Bolton, SJ. [Lost](#) (\$16.99). Unlike the reviewers I'm quoting, I preferred Bolton's Gothic reinvention of the village mystery to the Flint police dramas. Yet Bolton still stands above the pack while bowing to all the pressure on authors to write series. In its Starred Review, *Booklist* writes, "On leave following her horrific experience in *Dead Scared* (2012), Detective Constable Lacey Flint finds herself emotionally ill-equipped to return to the job she once loved, and equally unable to stamp out her growing feelings for colleague DI Mark Joesbury. Consequently, she spends her days alone and unapproachable. Her neighbor Barney Roberts [is] an amiable but obviously troubled preteen, whose single-parent father is clueless. Five young boys who have gone missing in South London have begun to turn up—exsanguinated and very, very dead. When Lacey's midnight forays put her in proximity to one of the murders, she becomes a suspect, though it takes Barney's disappearance to make her react; but by then it may be too late to help her young friend. Bolton sets aside the gothic-tinged atmosphere of her early novels in favor of a more visceral sensibility, exerting immediate and continuing pull by stepping in

and out of an unnamed killer's mind. Couple the strong narrative drive with a pair of dysfunctional but surprisingly sympathetic characters, and you have a nail-biting thriller that will send readers back to Bolton's previous books and, of course, have them lining up for whatever the author comes up with next." "Close-to-the-bone red herrings skillfully strewn across the detectives' paths, convincing cop-shop procedure, and perceptively drawn secondary characters help push this contemporary crime novel ahead of the pack... Bolton looks deep into the lost-soul madness of a killer and makes her vision all too horribly real."—*PW* Starred Review. [Click here](#) to order Bolton's books. [A Dark and Twisted Tide Signed](#) (Transworld \$32) appears in May.

Davidson, Hilary. [Evil in All Its Disguises](#) (\$15.99). When travel writer Lily Moore joins a group of journalists for an all-expenses-paid press junket to Acapulco, Mexico, she expects sun, sand, and margaritas. Instead, she finds that the Mexican city, once the playground of Hollywood stars, is a place of faded glamour and rising crime. Even the luxurious Hotel Cerón, isolated from the rest of the town, seems disturbing to her, with its grand, empty rooms, ever-watchful staff, and armed guards patrolling the grounds. Lily isn't the only one who suspects something rotten under the hotel's opulent facade. Skye McDermott, another journalist on the trip, asks Lily for help with an article she's working on about fraud and corruption in the hotel industry. Skye claims she's eager to write a piece of real journalism rather than the fluff she's known for. But she also lets slip that she's deeply upset at a lover who jilted her, and she plans to exact her revenge by exposing his company's illegal activities. Then Skye disappears... Anthony Award winner Davidson returns April 23 with [Blood Always Tells Signed](#) (Forge \$25.99). [Click here](#) to order all of Davidson's books.

✎Griffiths, Elly. [A Dying Fall](#) (\$14.95). How I enjoy the Ruth Galloway novels, always slightly wacky and soaked in the atmosphere of Cambridgeshire's marshy fens. However, as this Booklist Starred Review shows, Ruth travels north here to Lancashire. "Griffiths, who won the Mary Higgins Clark Award for *The Crossing Places* (2010), her first novel starring forensic archaeologist Ruth Galloway, returns with the fifth in the series. Griffiths again ably fuses a contemporary murder mystery with a mystery from the long-buried past. The contemporary case revolves around the death in a fire of Dan Golding, the golden boy from Ruth's university days, whose life ended in a tiny flat in a broken-down neighborhood near an obscure northern England university housed in an abandoned cigarette factory. The day after Ruth learns of Golding's death, she receives a letter from him, written days before he died, begging her to come to the university and help him identify bones from a find of potentially great importance. Both Ruth and Detective Chief Inspector Nelson, her former lover and father of her daughter (it's complicated), travel north to Lancashire—Nelson to investigate Golding's death, which has moved from accident to murder, and Griffiths to answer her old friend's plea. Both plot strands make compelling reading, but the way Griffiths interweaves them is absolutely masterful. As with all Ruth Galloway mysteries, the application of forensic archaeology is intriguing. Ruth examines the site of a former Roman settlement and then the bones buried beneath a sarcophagus, bones that may have belonged to King Arthur himself. Readers are in for a really good time with this flesh-and-blood bone expert." [Click here](#) to order all Ruth's investigations.

Hannibal, James R. [Shadow Catcher](#) (\$16). Tom Clancy died last year but his style thriller lives on. Over ten years ago, Air Force major Nick Baron was part of a failed special ops mission that left a B-2 stealth bomber at the bottom of the Persian Gulf. Now, leading his men—the Triple Seven Chase team—Baron must find the bomber and dispose of it for good before any unfriendly nation can steal the onboard technology for its own purposes. But as the team embarks on its mission, there are greater dangers waiting. When the CIA intercepts a call signal from an operative in China long thought dead, the Triple Seven Chase team is given the perilous task of retrieving the lone soldier from deep within the Chinese wilderness. There is only one plane for such a dangerous mission: the Shadow Catcher, a plane with capabilities beyond anything that has ever flown. What Baron and his men don't know is that the enemy is already among them...

Krueger, William Kent. [Ordinary Grace](#) (\$16). Up for the 2014 Edgar Best Novel Award and other honors, this heartfelt novel, a step out of Krueger's long-running series, harks back to 1961 New Bremen, Minnesota, from the perspective of Frank Drum remembering the summer's grim events 40 years later. For the then 13-year-old Frank, it was a grim season where death visited frequently and assumed many forms. Accident. Nature. Suicide. Murder. A summer where a tragedy struck his family and an ordinary teen was thrust into an adult world. ... "A pitch-perfect, wonderfully evocative examination of violent loss. In Frank Drum's journey away from the shores of childhood—a journey from which he can never return—we recognize the heartbreaking price of adulthood and it's 'wisdoms.' I loved this book."—Dennis Lehane

✠Pidgeon, Sean. [Finding Camlann](#) (\$15.95). Archaeologist Donald Gladstone is sure that there never was a "real" King Arthur—that is, until a surprising find at Stonehenge seems to offer hard evidence of Arthur's existence. Teaming up with Julia Llewellyn, a gifted linguist working at the Oxford English Dictionary, Donald sets off on a literary and mythological quest that will change both of their lives. I loved this novel both for its narrative and for its argument about the origins of King Arthur.

Pyper, Andrew. [The Demonologist](#) (\$15). Fans of *The Historian* will enjoy a literary horror story in which a Columbia professor must use his knowledge of demonic mythology to rescue his daughter from the Underworld. Professor David Ullman is among the world's leading authorities on demonic literature, with special expertise in Milton's *Paradise Lost*. Not that David is a believer—he sees what he teaches as a branch of the imagination and nothing more. So when the mysterious Thin Woman arrives at his office and invites him to travel to Venice and witness a "phenomenon," he turns her down. She leaves plane tickets and an address on his desk, advising David that her employer is not often disappointed. Then David's life implodes and he decides, why not take his 12-year-old daughter and make the trip? And then....

Raybourn, Deanna. [City of Jasmine](#) (Mira \$14.95). Like Lauren Willig, Raybourn has stepped from her historical series into standalone suspense stories rather in the vein of Kate Morton, and reminding me of Mary Stewart. Famed aviatrix Evangeline Starke never expected to see her husband, adventurer Gabriel Starke, ever again. They had been a golden couple, enjoying a whirlwind courtship amid the backdrop of a glittering social set in pre-WWI London until his sudden death with the sinking of

the *Lusitania*. Five years later, beginning to embrace life again, Evie embarks upon a flight around the world, collecting fame and admirers along the way. In the midst of her triumphant tour, she is shocked to receive a mysterious—and recent—photograph of Gabriel, which brings her ambitious stunt to a screeching halt. With her eccentric aunt Dove in tow, Evie tracks the source of the photo to the ancient City of Jasmine, Damascus. Danger lurks at every turn, and at stake is a priceless relic, an artifact once lost to time and so valuable that criminals will stop at nothing to acquire it—even murder. Leaving the jeweled city behind, Evie sets off across the punishing sands of the desert to unearth the truth of Gabriel's disappearance and retrieve a relic straight from the pages of history. **The March History Paperback Pick.**

Reed, Mary/Eric Mayer. [Ten for Dying](#) (\$14.95). "Ding-Dong! The witch is dead..." Those words belong to the Munchkins in the movie classic *The Wizard of Oz*. But some early version of them was surely echoing around much of 548 Constantinople in the wake of the death of Empress Theodora. A woman some loved but many hated, reviled. And all feared. The widower, Emperor Justinian, is mourning her this hot summer. And so devastated is he, he's tried to call it murder and now sent his Lord Chamberlain, John, the investigator Justinian assigned to the (in his view, unsatisfactory) imperial murder inquiry (in *Nine for the Devil*), into exile. And in some fear for his life as Justinian can be quirkily vengeful, or forgiving. But wait, someone else wishes to bring Theodora back to life. And visits her tomb in the Church of the Holy Apostles for a secret ceremony. The scene becomes chaotic: apparent demons vanish into the night along with one of the city's holiest relics, a fragment of the shroud of the Virgin. With John having set sail with his lover Cordelia and servants to Greece, this crime scene falls to Felix, Captain of the Palace Guard, when Justinian orders him to find the missing relic. Felix, already overwhelmed with gambling debts, an ambitious new mistress, unfamiliar political shoals, and the loss of his exiled friends, is further shaken when someone deposits a corpse at his house. An ill-advised attempt to dispose of it puts Felix in the frame for murder while derailing his investigation into the vanished relic.

Stein, Triss. [Brooklyn Graves](#) (\$14.95). Brooklyn's "hipster" culture is hot—so hot the Brooklyn label has real currency both in the US and abroad. But Brooklyn is more than restaurants and wine bars, music, museums, shopping, and its splendid Botanic Garden. Its history includes a rich variety of immigrants, artists, a whole spectrum of incomes and occupations. And famously, its Brownstones and their—and the borough's—history. It's a great place for a treasure hunt. Who can resist that? Susan Vreeland wrote of Louis Comfort Tiffany's studios and its artists in *Clara and Mr. Tiffany*. Unsung but for chance noted by Ms. Vreeland, Clara Driscoll's career underscored the vital role played in Tiffany's by women. In her second investigation for Erica Donato, Triss Stein imagines yet another woman artist of the era along with the possibility of lost Tiffany works to discover among the mausoleums at Brooklyn's famed Green-Wood Cemetery. Where, one morning, the body of a Russian immigrant is found. Erica, ordered by her employer at the history museum to serve as temporary factotum to an arrogant art expert, has by chance taken the expert to the crime scene. But she has another personal connection: her teen-aged daughter is friends with the murdered man's family. The dead Russian's widow is quick to blame her

husband's shady brother, but Erica digs deeper. An apt verb used to describe a mystery where a cemetery is the crime scene and key to what happened....

Williams, Timothy. [Another Sun](#) (\$9.99). This new entry in Soho Press' Passports to Crime takes Williams, whose 1990s mysteries set in Italy I enjoyed, to the Caribbean. Guadeloupe is technically part of France, subject to French law and loyal to the French Republic. But in 1980, the scars of colonialism are still fresh, and ethnic tensions and political unrest seethe just below the surface of everyday life. French-Algerian judge Anne Marie Laveaud relocated to this beautiful Caribbean island confident that she could make it her new home. But her day-to-day life is rife with frustration. Now she is assigned a murder case in which she is sure the chief suspect, an elderly ex-con named Hégésippe Bray, is a political scapegoat. Her superiors are dismissive of her efforts to prove Bray innocent, and to add insult to injury, Bray himself won't even speak to her because she's a woman. But she won't give up.... This is especially fun if you watch the TV series *Death in Paradise* where the fictional Sainte-Marie is about the same size as Guadeloupe.

### NEW BOOKS

Angleberger, Tom. [Princess Labelmaker to the Rescue!](#) (Amulet \$13.95). For the 8-12 set, a new Origami Yoda treat. At McQuarrie Middle School, the war against the FunTime Menace—aka test prep—wages on. Our heroes have one battle under their belts, and they've even found a surprising ally in Jabba the Puppert. But to defeat the Dark Standardized Testing Forces they're going to need an even bigger, even more surprising ally: Principal Rabbski. But with great forces—aka the school board—pushing her from above, will the gang's former enemy don a finger puppet and join the Rebellion—or will her transformation to Empress Rabbski, Dark Lord of the Sith, be complete?

Baldacci, David. [The Finisher](#) (Scholastic \$17.99). For ages 10-14, an adventure. Vega Jane has never left the village of Wormwood. But this isn't unusual—nobody has ever left the village of Wormwood. At least not until Quentin Herms vanishes into the unknown. Vega knows Quentin didn't just leave—he was chased. And he's left behind a very dangerous trail of clues that only she can decode. The Quag is a dark forest filled with terrifying beasts and bloodthirsty Outliers. But just as deadly are the threats that exist within the walls of Wormwood. It is a place built on lies, where influential people are willing to kill to keep their secrets. Vega is determined to uncover the truth...

Bayard, Louis. [Roosevelt's Beast](#) (Holt \$27). The Indie Next Pick: "It is 1914 and Teddy Roosevelt and his son, Kermit, along with other members of a scientific expedition, are traveling deep into the jungle to map Brazil's Rio da Duvida, the River of Doubt. Kermit and Teddy are kidnapped by a mysterious Amazonian tribe, and the head tribesman explains that the tribe needs their help to kill 'The Beast with No Tracks,' which has been killing jaguars as well as humans, but has never been seen. Another wonderful reinvention of the past by acclaimed author Bayard, whose literary style includes wit, suspense, and psychological horror with a twist." Although the instigating incident for Kermit is down in the jungle, his eventual disintegration, where the book starts and ends, is in WWII Alaska.

Black, Benjamin. [The Black Eyed Blonde Signed](#) (Holt \$27). Booker Prize winner John Banville writes crime fiction as Black. Here he departs from his Irish-based mysteries into "the distinctive narrative voice of Raymond Chandler's world-weary, mean streets-walking L.A. private eye, Philip Marlowe. Despite Robert B. Parker's lengthy experience in the PI genre, his sequel to *The Big Sleep*, *Perchance to Dream*, pales in comparison with Black's pitch-perfect recreation of the character and his time and place. As for the language, Black nails Chandler's creative and memorable similes and metaphors. ... While the mystery is well plotted, Black elevates it beyond mere thoughtful homage with a plausible injection of emotion in his wounded [Marlowe]." —*PW* Starred Review. The Indie Next Pick: "In well-written noir, each sentence feels like a story unto itself and strung together those sentences form a book that feels somehow 'more' than any other out there. Black manages to mimic the style of one of the best-known authors of the 20th century while still keeping a distinct voice. Raymond Chandler fans will be happy to see Phillip Marlowe back roaming the mean streets of L.A. There's a sultry femme fatale, a sinister philanthropist, and plenty of punches thrown, pistols whipped, and suits ruined. *The Black-Eyed Blonde* is a tall drink of whiskey, and I enjoyed every drop!" **A Surprise Me Club Pick.**

Blum, Howard. [Dark Invasion](#) (Harper \$27.99). Blum's gritty, high-energy true-life tale of German espionage and terror on American soil during World War I, and the NYPD Inspector who helped uncover the plot—the basis for the film to be produced by and starring Bradley Cooper.

Bonner, Brynn. [Death in Reel Time](#) (Gallery \$15). The second in a Family History cozy series featuring a professional genealogist. Actually, a duo: Sophreena McClure and Esme Sabatier. They are hired to trace Olivia Clement's family tree. Then Olivia's son-in-law is murdered right there in Morningside, North Carolina. You might wonder why digging into the 1940 disappearance of Olivia's father might tie into the present-day investigation, but Esme has a special gift as a researcher—second sight.... [Paging the Dead](#) (\$15).

Brewer, Gil. [Nude on Thin Ice/Memory of Passion](#) (Stark House \$19.95). Noir revisited. It starts with a letter. Ken McCall is sunning himself in Key West with his current girlfriend, Betty, when he finds out that his old friend Carl has died. Carl's last wish was that Ken look after his wife, Nanette, a request which Ken is only too eager to fill. Besides, there may be a fortune to be had if he can just play his cards right. First he ditches Betty. Then, after a hot drive across country, Ken finds that Carl's New Mexico mountaintop mansion is in the midst of a record-breaking winter. He is warmed immediately by his reception from a lovely young lady named Justine, who lives with Nanette and their surly caretaker Elmer. Ken is beginning to wonder what he's gotten himself into, when Betty shows up in town... In *Memory of Passion*, Bill Sommers, age 39, has a beautiful wife, Louise, and a wonderful daughter, Lolly, and a successful career in commercial art. And then one rainy night Karen calls. Karen, his lost love. Karen, his high school sweetheart. Karen, the one who got away. She insists they meet. Bill is too curious not to agree. Who is the young lady who shows up, claiming to be Karen? She's got all of Karen's memories even her looks, her moves, her delicious figure and all of Karen's passion. But that was over 20 years ago! How can this be Karen?

Campbell, Rick. [The Trident Deception](#) (St Martins \$25.99). *The USS Kentucky*, a Trident ballistic missile submarine carrying a full complement of 192 nuclear warheads, is about to go on a routine cruise. Not long after it reaches the open sea, however, the Kentucky receives a launch order. After receiving that launch order, it is cut off from all counter-orders and disappears into the Pacific while it makes the eight-day transit to the launch site. What the Kentucky's crew doesn't know is that those launch orders haven't actually come from the U.S. government. Rogue elements within the Mossad have learned that Iran has developed its first nuclear weapon and, in ten days, will detonate it. The target is Israel. Israel's only choice is a preemptive nuclear strike...

Cantrell, Rebecca. [The World Beneath](#) (Create Space \$14.99). At her December signing here, Cantrell mentioned she was self-publishing the start of a series. 100 miles of living, breathing, tunnels form a subterranean labyrinth under New York City that inhales three million bustling commuters every day. And every day, it breathes them all out again... except for one. Software millionaire Joe Tesla is set to ring the bell on Wall Street the morning his company goes public. On what should be the brightest day in his life, he is instead struck with severe agoraphobia. The sudden dread of the outside is so debilitating, he can't leave his hotel at Grand Central Terminal, except to go underground. Bad luck for Joe, because in the tunnels lurk corpses and murderers, an underground Victorian mansion and a mysterious bricked-up 1940s presidential train car. Joe and his service dog, Edison, must unearth the mystery here...

Casey, Maud. [The Man Who Walked Away](#) (Bloomsbury \$25). In a trance-like state, Albert walks—from Bordeaux to Poitiers, from Chaumont to Macon, and farther afield to Turkey, Austria, Russia—all over Europe. When he walks, he is called a vagrant, a mad man. He is chased out of towns and villages, ridiculed and imprisoned. When the reverie of his walking ends, he's left wondering where he is, with no memory of how he got there. His past exists only in fleeting images. Loosely based on the case history of Albert Dadas, a psychiatric patient in the hospital of St. André in Bordeaux in the nineteenth century, *The Man Who Walked Away* imagines Albert's wanderings and the anguish that caused him to seek treatment with a doctor who would create a diagnosis for him, a narrative for his pain. In a time when mental health diagnosis is still as much art as science, Maud Casey takes us back to its tentative beginnings and offers us an intimate relationship between one doctor and his patient as, together, they attempt to reassemble a lost life. The unreliable narrator is fascinating in fiction; we recommend this as a kind of "insider's view" of what it would be like to be memory-impaired. Our need for stories, our relationship with time, the inevitability of loss, and our startling endurance all resonate through her beautifully crafted interweaving of image and observation, fairy tale and fact." —*PW* Starred Review

Cassella, Carol. [Gemini](#) (SimonSchuster \$25.99). The No. 1 March Indie Next Pick is, IMHO, a disturbing read, haunting even. "A medical mystery, a love story, and a novel of depth and complexity—Cassella manages all of this in *Gemini*. Jane Doe is transferred late at night into the care of ICU doctor Charlotte Reese. Jane may have been dropped on the hospital doorstep with a thick pile of papers detailing everything that can go wrong with her after a hit-and-run accident, but the crucial detail of her identity is missing, and with it the people who would speak for her while she dwells in a coma. As Charlotte attempts to

unravel the mystery of her patient, she finds herself examining her own life. Full of suspense, heartbreak, insight, and a gripping, unexpected ending, *Gemini* is a pleasure to read."

Chandler, Raymond. [Raymond Chandler: The Library of America](#) (\$80). Introduce yourself, or reread this master.

Chesterton, RB. [The Seeker](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). This is Carolyn Haines building a masterfully written ghost story—a scary one!—around Henry Thoreau. The thesis of modern graduate student Aine Cahill is based on a journal written by her Aunt Bonnie that reveals Bonnie was Thoreau's lover—at Walden. Aine puts up at a small inn near Walden Pond where she intends to use the winter solitude to research local records and write. The inn's bellhop, sexy Patrick, the innkeeper Dorothea, a local ranger, and the aging sheriff all play roles in Aine's gradual disintegration. Is there really a young girl lurking in the woods? What is Aine's dark legacy exactly? Terrific atmosphere.

Childs, Laura. [Steeped in Evil Signed](#) (Berkley \$28). Charleston's Theodosia Browning's thing is tea, tea and the treats she serves at her Indigo Tea Shop. Still, why pass up a fancy wine-tasting invitation at nearby upscale Knighthall Winery? Why anyone invites Thea is a mystery to me since wherever she goes, a body surfaces. This time it's the son of the winery proprietor Jordan Knight. And dissatisfied with the police investigation, he turns to Theo who has a bouquet of suspects to grill... While this is a cozy, no overt violence, the motives and deeds are dark indeed!

Coben, Harlan. [Missing You Signed](#) (Dutton \$27.95). The NYPD's Kat Donovan signs up for an on-line dating site and voila, a photo of her ex-fiancé Jeff appears with a profile. He shattered her heart 18 years ago, bringing back emotions she's ignored during his silence. Is fate bringing them together for a second chance? When she reaches out to him... well, something's not right. Suspicions fill her, then terror. Echoes of the cruel murder that took her father. And finally, a dreadful dilemma.

Deaver, Jeffery. [Trouble in Mind Collected Stories Signed](#) (Grand Central \$24.99). Deaver appears on May 17 with a new thriller [The Skin Collector](#) (Grand Central \$28) and can then sign his 3<sup>rd</sup> volume of collected short stories which includes 5 (of 12 total) brand new tales and a novella called "Forever" which borders on the occult. Lincoln Rhyme and Kathryn Dance get one each. Plus Deaver does a terrific Introduction.

Ellison, J T. [When Shadows Fall](#) (Harlequin \$24.95). A new series introduces Dr. Samantha Owens, forensic pathologist—and earns Starred Reviews galore. "Potent characterizations." "Clever Plotting." "A standout in the romantic thriller genre." "Fascinating forensic details." Settling into her new job at Georgetown University, Dr. Owens' illusion that her life is returning to normal after a terrible personal loss is shattered when she receives a disturbing letter from a dead man imploring her to solve his murder. There's only one catch. Timothy Savage's death was so obviously the suicide of a demented individual that the case has been closed. When Sam learns Savage left a will requesting she autopsy his body, she feels compelled to look into the case. Sam's own postmortem discovers clear signs that Savage was indeed murdered. And she finds DNA from a kidnapped child whose remains were recovered years earlier. The investigation takes Sam into the shadows of a twenty-year-old mystery that must be solved to determine what really happened to Timothy Savage. This is on my reading list.

Estleman, Loren D. [Don't Look for Me Signed](#) (Forge \$28). Detroit may be dueling with bankruptcy, but Amos Walker, a sort of dinosaur PI, is neither down nor out. Instead trouble finds him helped along by rich Alec Wynn who wants Walker to find his missing wife, Cecilia. She'd had a fling with a Wynn employee, but the man swears he hasn't seen her. He does say she consumed a lot of capsules—herbs for her health. Wynn directs Walker to Patti Lochner who spent time with Cecilia. She knows little. Neither does the clerk in the herb shop although this lovely lady also says she knows nothing about the dead body in the basement. Mafia? Then two Mossad agents accost our private eye, and.... This is more than a Detroit tale, surely....

Garrison, Paul. [Robert Ludlum's the Janson Option Signed](#) (Grand Central \$27.99). Paul Janson—a former Consular Ops legend known as “The Machine” for his deadly speed and accuracy—has a new mission. Sickened by the “sanctioned serial killings” ordered by the state department, Janson has left covert operations and is now a private security consultant. In partnership with deadly sharpshooter Jessica Kincaid, he only takes assignments that he believes will lead to the greater good. When American Synergy Corporation oil executive Kingsman Helms begs Janson to rescue his wife, Allegra, from Somali pirates, Janson and Kincaid view it as the perfect opportunity to infiltrate ASC and disrupt the company's scheme to subvert independent oil-rich African countries into wholly-owned ASC subsidiaries. Once on the ground, Janson and Kincaid discover that the pirates may be the least lethal threat in the violent chaos of anarchic Somalia.

Grippando, James. [Black Horizon](#) (Harper \$25.99. “Bestseller Grippando draws inspiration from the 2010 DeepWater Horizon oil spill for his fantastic 11th Jack Swyteck novel. Criminal defense lawyer Jack Swyteck and his new wife, FBI agent Andie Henning, cut short their honeymoon in the Florida Keys after an explosion on Scarborough 8, an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico, results in a massive crude oil spill. Andie returns to Washington, D.C., where FBI higher-ups suspect sabotage was involved in the disaster. Back in Florida, Jack agrees to represent Bianca Lopez, the widow of a Cuban man killed on the rig, in a wrongful-death suit. In a concerted effort to get the case dismissed, the Chinese-Russian-Cuban oil consortium that owns the rig claims that Bianca's marriage doesn't exist. As Jack pursues the truth, he is kidnapped in Cuba and later threatened with disbarment by the FBI.”—*PW* Starred Review

Hallinan, Timothy. [The Fame Thief](#) (\$14.95). In his 3<sup>rd</sup> exploit, Junior Bender is hauled in, quaking, by henchmen of mob-boss-turned-movie-mogul Irwin Dressler. Dressler wants Junior to solve a “crime” he believes was committed more than seventy years ago, when an old friend of his, once-famous starlet Dolores La Marr, had her career destroyed after compromising photos were taken of her at a Los Vegas party. Dressler wants justice for Dolores and the shining career she never had. Junior can't help but think the whole thing is a little crazy. After all, it's been seventy years. Even if someone did set Dolores up for a fall from grace back then, they're probably long dead now. But he can't say no to Irwin Dressler (no one can, really). So he starts digging. [Click here](#) to buy the other Benders.

Hoffman, Alice. [The Museum of Extraordinary Things Signed](#) (Scribner \$27.99). The Indie Next Pick: “Hoffman's latest work

of fiction is a tour de force of imagination which, at the same time, builds a world so real and present that the reader senses a tangible reality. The setting is New York and Brooklyn in 1911, where sideshow ‘curiosities,’ Russian émigré Jews, the emerging workers unions, and the lost, wild beauty of Manhattan's rivers and woods blend into a dream. Hoffman's research is precise, her vision unique, and her writing extraordinarily evocative. This is a beautiful and sensitive novel.”

Kelly, Jill. [Fog of Dead Souls](#) (Skyhorse \$24.95). When sixtyish college professor Ellie McKay walks into the Maverick Bar in Farmington, New Mexico, late one evening, she plans to get drunk, not engaged. But within thirty minutes, she's met cowboy Al Robison, he's proposed to her, and she's accepted. Al only knows that Ellie is attractive, vulnerable, and single; he doesn't know that she has been on the run for weeks from a sociopath who killed her surgeon boyfriend in Pennsylvania and raped and tortured her. Her escape from Paris, then Pittsburgh, and into the bottle played out, she accepts Al's proposal. She doesn't know about his past, and he doesn't know about hers.... Kelly is the author of the memoir *Sober Truths*.

Kelly, Mary Louise. [Anonymous Sources](#) (Gallery \$15). When Boston reporter Alexandra James is assigned to cover the death of Thom Carlyle, the son of a powerful Washington insider, she soon discovers the story is not as simple as it seems. The young man fell from the top of a Harvard bell tower, but did he jump—or was he pushed? Intent on escaping the demons of her past, Alex knows how to outwork, out drink, and out shop anyone else around. Now she is focused on what could be the story of a lifetime—chasing leads from Harvard Yard to the courtyards of Cambridge, England, from a clandestine rendezvous in London to the inside of a nuclear terrorist network. But when she goes to Washington, DC, for a key interview that promises to tie everything together, Alex the hunter becomes Alex the hunted. An assassin is dispatched. Her laptop disappears. Her phone is tapped. And she begins to grasp that Thom Carlyle may have been killed to hide a terrifying conspiracy. Kelly is a former NPR intelligence reporter.

Klay, Phil. [Redeployment](#) (Penguin Press \$26.95). The Indie Next Pick: “In a whirlwind of short stories, Klay gives us a good, strong impression of how it must feel to be an American soldier in the 21st century. The whole gamut of emotions including guilt, worry, post-traumatic stress disorder, and the difficulties associated with homecoming, are presented as real life events. Sometimes chilling to the bone, sometimes heartbreaking, every story has its own value and will touch your heart.”

LaPlante, Alice. [A Circle of Wives Signed](#) (Atlantic \$25). LaPlante one-ups Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl* in her second crime novel. The narration by three women, all married to the San Francisco doctor found dead in his solitary hotel room, perhaps murdered, is perfect for the story. Here's the Indie Next Pick: “What would you do if you discovered your husband had another wife, or even two, at the same time that he is married to you? Full of marital and murderous deception, LaPlante's new novel echoes the tension and suspense of her previous work, [Turn of Mind](#) (\$15)—a First Mystery Club Pick—and leads the reader down a path of betrayal, power, passion, and terror. A fabulous read!”

Lutz, Lisa. [Spellman Six: The Next Generation](#) (\$15). Isabel Spellman is used to being followed, extorted, and questioned—

all occupational hazards of working at her family's private eye firm, Spellman Investigations. Her little sister, Rae, once tailed Izzy for weeks on end to discover the identity of Izzy's boyfriend. Her mother, Olivia, once blackmailed Izzy with photographic evidence of Prom Night 1994. After years of power struggles, Izzy staged a hostile takeover of the company. She should have known better than to think she could put such shenanigans behind her. When Izzy is accused of embezzling from a former client, her troubles are just beginning. If Izzy gets indicted, she could lose her PI license and the Spellman family's livelihood—not to mention her own freedom. [Click here](#) to buy all the Spellmans.

Macdonald, John D. [A Flash of Green](#). Corruption in Palm City; [The Last One Left](#) (Random \$16 each). Murder at sea—and a boatload of cash. Reissues, with Introductions by Dean Koontz.

Marshall, Michael. [We Are Here](#) (LittleBrown \$15). Marshall combines mystery with urban fantasy to create an eerie, convoluted tale of shadow beings living between the cracks of our world. While visiting New York City, writer David Miller encounters a stranger who says cryptically, "Remember me." Meanwhile, John Henderson (protagonist of 2009's *Bad Things*) and his girlfriend, Kristina, investigate her friend's stalker, who they discover belongs to a society of mysterious entities. These people, who call themselves "friends," might be ghosts or forgotten imaginary friends whose creators have grown to adulthood. They have their own factions and agendas, some of which threaten John, Kristina, David, and those David loves.

Martin, Anthony J. [Dinosaurs without Bones](#) (Norton \$29.95). Fascinating, a different kind of mystery, revealing the lives of dinosaurs by their trace fossils. Martin's popular, non-academic debut bubbles over with the joy of scientific discovery as he shares his natural enthusiasm for the blend of sleuthing and imagination that he brings to the field of ichnology—the study of trace fossils and features left by organismal behavior, such as tracks, nests, and burrows. These yield evidence that is both more abundant than the bones, which Martin playfully disparages as "body fossils," and reveal more about how, where, and when dinosaurs live, moved, ate, and raised their young. The book is great fun for anyone looking to revive their childhood dinosaur obsessions.

Parshall, Sandra. [Poisoned Ground Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). Parshall's first for Rachel Goddard, the Agatha Award-winning *The Heat of the Moon*, ratcheted up powerful suspense in Washington, DC. "Parshall's debut is a captivating tale of suspense and romance with gothic twists." —*Booklist*. The fallout sent veterinarian Rachel to Mason County, Virginia, to forge a new professional (and inevitably, personal) life. She's been romanced by, and is now married to, Sheriff Tom Bridger who is part Melungeon with deep roots in the mountains. People living cheek by jowl with animals bring their problems and troubles to the vet, so Rachel was often a part of the Sheriff's Department investigations even before she and Tom were an item and he became the Sheriff. Beautiful rural areas offering space and privacy can become targeted by developers hoping to buy land cheap and sell high to the rich. One such has chosen Mason County as the site for a sprawling resort and is aggressively offering incentives to sell and lobbying the holdouts. Their vision requires everyone in the designated plan to sell. Inevitably this

campaign has pitted neighbors against each other and spawned debate over whether the economic incentives will be a cure for the county's poverty and high unemployment. In short, there will be local winners and losers. And perhaps the whole community will become financially dependent on a predatory company offering no future guarantees once the project is completed. One holdout and vocal opponent is Joanna McKendrick who owns the most desirable property, a key to the project. When her neighbors, a couple who also refuse to sell, are gunned down outside their house, it appears the proponents have moved beyond debate to violence. And soon a small civil war starts raging. But wait—maybe the murders came from another angle and the county war is but cover for some hidden agenda and dark sins.... The trade paperback: [Poisoned Ground](#) (\$14.95)

Patterson, James. [NYPD Red 2](#) (LittleBrown \$28). Known as the protectors of the rich, famous, and connected, NYPD Red is the elite task force called in only for New York City's most high-profile crimes. And Detective Zach Jordan is the best of the best, a brilliant and relentless pursuer of justice. He puts professionalism above all, ignoring his feelings for his partner, Detective Kylie MacDonald, the woman who broke his heart when they first met in the academy. But even with their top-notch training, Zach and Kylie aren't prepared for what they see when they're called to a crime scene in the heart of Central Park. This one is written (with) Marshall Karp. New in paper: [Mistress](#) (\$16) with David Ellis.

Rieger, Susan. [The Divorce Papers](#) (Crown \$25). This is wry, funny, and incisive, or it's all those plus painful—brutally comic—depending on whether you've ever gone through a divorce. Rieger has, so perhaps it's also a revenge novel coupled with a romantic comedy. It brings together almost-30 Sophie Diehl, a prospering criminal law associate at a traditional New England law firm, and Mayflower descendant Mia Meiklejohn Durkheim who has just been served divorce papers in a humiliating scene at the popular local restaurant. Sophie's senior at Traynor, Hand compels her to do the intake interview for Mia (the firm's divorce specialist is away). Sophie hates conflict, but has no choice. Something about her convinces Mia Sophie is the lawyer she needs to battle Dr. Daniel Durkheim, Chief of the Department of Pediatric Oncology, for custody of their ten-year-old daughter Jane—plus burn him all she can. Although dragooned into representing Mia, Sophie does her best. And so their journey begins, changing everyone, with rewards and punishments all around. In its way it's Jane Austen, 2014. Austen wrote one epistolary novel and this is one too: letters, documents, and emails, creating immediacy in the narrative voices.

Scottoline, Lisa. [Don't Go](#) (\$15.99). When Dr. Mike Scanlon is called to serve as an army doctor in Afghanistan, he's acutely aware of the dangers he'll face and the hardships it will cause his wife Chloe and newborn baby. And deep inside, he doesn't think of himself as a warrior, but a healer. As Mike operates on a soldier, country, Chloe dies in their kitchen, a victim of an apparent household accident. Devastated, Mike returns home to bury her, only to discover that the life he left behind has fallen apart. His medical practice is in jeopardy, and he is a complete stranger to the only family he has left. And no one is hunting his wife's killer....

Shoemaker, Karen. [Meaning of Names](#) (Red Hen \$15.95). Karen Shaver reviews: The year is 1918, the setting, a small town in Nebraska that serves a rural community of people much like the leading characters, Fritz and Gerda Vogel, who enjoy a predictable life and are among like-minded people. When Gerda witnesses a brutal act by three young men, she gets her first glimpse of the discrimination against anything German that is seeping into this bucolic community. Such bias starts to play out at the local store that starts refusing credit to those of German heritage, people editing their conversations to suit their audience, a change in vocabulary to be more war like, the coming of the Draft. There is another war going on simultaneously, the fight against a worldwide influenza epidemic. This battle, knows no discrimination, and is as deadly as any weapon of war. As the town doctor observed, ‘While the world focused on a war in which Man killed Man with horrific abandon, Death slipped behind the battle lines and entered their homes, took their families.’ An interesting read on culture and how people change, or reveal their real selves, when their comfort zone begins to crack.

Stein, Triss. [Brooklyn Graves Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). Erica Donato lives in increasingly hipster Brooklyn but her focus is on the borough’s past. An assignment from her boss at the museum sends her to Brooklyn’s historic Green-Wood Cemetery where mysteries unfold including a fascinating investigation into lost works by glass genius Louis Comfort Tiffany—or one of his unknown female artists. You will have read about one in Susan Vreeland’s *Clara and Mr. Tiffany*. See March Trade Paperback Picks for more.

Stevens, Taylor. [The Doll](#) (\$14). There’s not much that can make heavily armed “information specialist” Vanessa “Michael” Munroe do something she doesn’t want to do. But kidnapping and torturing one of her inner circle may be one of them. “When a human trafficker known as the Dollmaker needs a high-profile doll (i.e., kidnapped young woman) delivered to a client, he settles an old score by forcing Michael to choose between the girl and her old friend. To save her friend’s life, Michael has two days to get the doll from Croatia to the client in Italy. She must arrive unharmed—no bruises, no drugs. Emotionally and physically scarred by her own past with a man who wanted to own and control her, Michael has taken justice into her own hands more than once and has proven herself capable of anything.”—*Booklist*. “Stevens excels at depicting pulse-pounding danger, and her prose and plotting are spectacular, especially given her cult background. She was denied all but a sixth-grade education, but her writing places her heads above most authors working in the thriller genre. Only Dan Brown and Lee Child come close; not even the lauded Larsson could turn a phrase or twist a plotline like Stevens can. Really, my only complaint is that I’d like her to please write faster.”—*Dallas Morning News*. [Click here](#) to buy Stevens’ first three thrillers—*The Informationist* was a First Mystery Club Pick.

Suarez, Daniel. [Influx](#) (Dutton \$26.95). Imagine that scientists and researchers have already achieved major technological breakthroughs that could transform billions of lives—fusion reactors, quantum computers, genetic enhancements, and more—but they’ve done so in a world where major technological advances are carefully controlled. All to prevent the social disruption that such radical innovations might bring. In short: what if human civilization was more advanced than you knew? “Science fiction by a guy who actually understands the technology behind it—Suarez has that Crichton touch.”—*Time Magazine*

Vachss, Andrew. [Aftershock](#) (\$15.95). Dell, an ex-Legionnaire was working as a mercenary when he first saw Dolly, a nurse with Médecins Sans Frontières. When they later married, Dell abandoned his work, and Dolly shed her identity. But not her calling—she became a teacher, confidant, and defender of dozens of teenagers in their Coastal Oregon village. When the star softball pitcher guns down a popular boy on the last day of school, Dolly knows this is no “school shooting”. As Dolly uses her contacts to gain access to medical secrets, Dell returns to his no-boundaries past. Using guile, extortion, shadow networks—and, finally, an act of terrorism—he uncovers the secret MaryLou was willing to sacrifice her own life to protect....

Vanderbes, Jennifer. [The Secret of Raven Point](#) (Scribner \$26). The Indie Next Pick: “This story of a young woman’s tour of duty as a WWII Army nurse is remarkable. Headed for a career in science, Juliet veers toward nursing in an effort to find her brother who is missing in action in Italy. Hope, love in many variations, stories of soldiers, doctors, nurses and support staff, the wounded and dying, civilians and officers—it’s all as messy as war and also splendid, heroic, and prosaic. Readers will be drawn in by the characters and deeply moved by the telling of their stories. Books as special as this make my job as a bookseller a joy!”

#### OUR MARCH PAPERBACK PICKS

Atkins, Ace. [Robert B. Parker’s Wonderland](#) (\$9.99). Henry Cimoli and Spenser have been friends for years, yet the old boxing trainer has never asked the private eye for a favor. Until now. A developer is trying to buy up Henry’s condo on Revere Beach—with a push from local thugs. Soon Spenser and his apprentice, Zebulon Sixkill, are on the trail of a mysterious woman, a megalomaniacal Las Vegas kingpin, and a shady plan to turn a chunk of land north of Boston into a sprawling casino. As alliances shift and twisted dreams surface, the Boston political machine looks to end Spenser’s investigation one way or another. Atkins signs a new Spenser, [Robert B Parker’s Cheap Shot](#) (Putnam \$26.95), here on May 9.

Beaton, MC. [Death of Yesterday](#) (\$8). When a local woman tells Sergeant Hamish Macbeth, the village policeman in the Highlands’ Lochdubh, that she doesn’t remember what happened the previous evening, he doesn’t begin to worry. She had been out drinking, after all, and he’d prefer not to be bothered with such an arrogant and annoying woman. But when her body is discovered, Hamish is forced to investigate a crime that the only known witness—now dead—had forgotten.

Box, CJ. [Breaking Point](#) (\$9.99). Joe Pickett always liked Butch Roberson—a hardworking local business-owner whose daughter is friends with his own. Little does he know that when Butch says he is heading into the mountains to scout elk, he is actually going on the run. Two EPA employees have been murdered, and all signs point to Butch as the killer. Soon, Joe hears of the land Butch and his wife had bought to retire on—until they are told the EPA declared it a wetland—and the penalties they charged Butch until the family was torn apart by debt. Finally, it seems, the man just cracked. It’s an awful story. But is it the whole story? See **Event Books for the new Joe Pickett**, [Stone Cold Signed](#) (Putnam \$26.95).

Carlson, Alyse. [Keeping Mum](#) (Berkley \$7.99). The second Garden Society Mystery returns you to Roanoke, Virginia, home

to some of the country's most exquisite gardens. It's Camellia Harris's job to promote them. But when local financial tycoon Derrick Windermere is found dead next to a shattered pot of chrysanthemums, the night's fun and games quickly turn serious. Half the guests had good reason to want Windermere dead, but only one is suspiciously missing in action—Annie's father... Start with [The Azalea Assault](#) (\$7.99). "With a nod to the English Garden Mystery series by Anthony Eglin, the alpha Garden Society Mystery is a fun amateur sleuth starring a likable, caring heroine who relates in the third person her investigation while also providing a delightful tour of the city... Cozy fans and garden aficionados will enjoy Alyse Carlson's entertaining opening act."—*The Mystery Gazette*

Clark, Mary Higgins. [Daddy's Gone a Hunting](#) (\$7.99). A dark secret from a family's past that threatens the lives of two sisters, Kate and Hannah Connelly, when the family-owned furniture firm in Long Island City, founded by their grandfather and famous for its fine reproductions of antiques, explodes into flames in the middle of the night, leveling the buildings to the ground, including the museum where priceless antiques have been on permanent display for years. The ashes reveal a startling and grisly discovery...

Coonts, Deborah. [Lucky Bastard](#) (\$8.99). This series is so much fun, ballsy and a bit bawdy. Booklist likes it too: It's time for another crazy casino caper when Lucky O'Toole, the beleaguered customer services manager of the Babylon Casino Resort, has to deal with yet another corpse. In a luxury car display room, a gorgeous blonde is found stretched across a candy-apple red Ferrari, the heel of a Jimmy Choo stiletto stuck firmly in her neck. But this isn't just any blonde. She's the ex-wife of Lucky's former lover, Dane, who is now the main suspect in the killing. Other murders follow, all somehow linked to the Babylon. On the home front, Lucky's mother, Mona, a former madame, and her father, 'Big Boss,' who owns the casino, have finally tied the knot, and are expecting a new baby. With her hormones running wild, the unpredictable Mona becomes even more capricious. And as if that's not enough pressure, Lucky's love life is on hold until she chooses between hunky French chef Jean-Charles and sexy musician Teddie. With Lucky's third adventure, the talented Coonts takes the reader on another wild ride through Sin City."

Cussler, Clive. [The Striker](#) (\$9.99). Let's go back to 1902 when a bright, inexperienced young man named Isaac Bell, only two years out of his apprenticeship at the Van Dorn Detective Agency, has an urgent message for his boss. Hired to hunt for radical unionist saboteurs in the coal mines, he is witness to a terrible accident that makes him think that something else is going on, that provocateurs are at work and bigger stakes are in play. Little does he know just how big they are. Given exactly one week to prove his case, Bell quickly finds himself pitted against two of the most ruthless opponents he has ever known... **Cussler and Justin Scott sign the sequel March 5. See Event Books**

Daheim, Mary. [The Alpine Xanadu](#) (Random \$7.99). Winter in the small mountain aerie of Alpine should be as quiet as new-fallen snow on the Cascades, but from the Grocery Basket to the Venison Inn, the town is humming. At the *Alpine Advocate*, editor Emma Lord and her staff are on deadline with a feature about the opening of RestHaven, a new rehab and mental health facility. Front Street is buzzing with gossip about Emma's recent

engagement to Sheriff Milo Dodge. And now that fool Wayne Eriks has climbed an electric pole in the middle of a storm and got himself electrocuted. Sheriff Dodge doesn't buy the idea that Wayne's death is an accident. But how—and, more important, why—he died is only one of the conundrums that keep the sheriff and Emma working overtime. ...

Gerber, Daryl Wood. [Inherit the Word](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Jenna Hart moved back to Crystal Cove, California, to recapture her joie de vivre and to help her aunt Vera run the local culinary bookshop and café. But it's hard to follow a simple recipe for relaxation when murder gets thrown in the mix... A Cookbook Nook mystery by Woods, aka Avery Aames, who will sign this March 15.

✚Harris, CS. [What Darkness Brings](#) (\$7.99). In its 8<sup>th</sup> chapter, this terrific Regency mystery series takes yet another twist. The death of a notorious London diamond merchant draws aristocratic investigator Sebastian St. Cyr and his new wife, Hero, into a sordid world of greed, desperation, and the occult, when the husband of Sebastian's former lover Kat Boleyn is accused of the murder. **There are features in this novel that remind me of Georgette Heyer's best novel, [A Civil Contract](#) (\$16). Read them both for twice the pleasure. For book #9, [Why King's Confess Signed](#) (NAL \$26), see [History/Mystery](#).**

Lescroart, John. [The Ophelia Cut](#) (\$9.99). This Dismas Hardy thriller is in its way a sequel to 2002's [The First Law](#) (\$9.99) in that what happened on the pier one night during the so-called Dockside Massacre lies at the root of what faces Hardy and his friend, San Francisco Homicide's Abe Glitsky, now. The third party is Moses McGuire, Diz's brother-in-law. The volatile Moses wants to tell all. Pressure on him is upped when his lovely daughter is raped—the rapist is murdered and Moses looks like the killer. Will Moses keep it together, and if not, then what? Lescroart signs a new novel, [The Keeper](#) (Atria \$26.99), here May 7.

Thoft, Ingrid. [Loyalty](#) (\$9.99). This 2013 First Mystery Club Pick explores various shades of moral gray. The Ludlows are a family of fast-talking Boston lawyers, and patriarch Carl Ludlow treats his offspring like employees—which they are. Black-sheep daughter, Fina, dropped out of law school, but her father keeps her in the fold as the firm's private investigator, working alongside her brothers. Juggling family, business, cops and crooks is no problem for Fina. But when her sister-in-law disappears, she's caught up in a case unlike any she's encountered before. Carl wants things resolved without police, but the deeper Fina digs, the more impossible that seems. As she unearths more dirt, the demands of family loyalty intensify.... And difficult choices arise.

Westlake, Donald E. [The Comedy Is Finished](#) (\$7.99). It's 1977. Engaging comedian Koo Davis is friend to generals and presidents and veteran of countless USO tours to buck up American troops in the field. And not the five remaining members of the self-proclaimed People's Revolutionary Army, who've decided that kidnapping Koo Davis would be the perfect way to bring their cause back to life... This is the final novel from the late, legendary Donald Westlake!

## NEW IN MASS MARKET PAPERBACK

Bradford, Laura. [Shunned and Dangerous](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Amish Mystery #3

Brown, Duffy. [Pearls and Poison](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Consignment Shop #3

Cochran, Peg. [Iced to Death](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Gourmet De-Lite Mystery #3

Coonts, Stephen. [Pirate Alley](#) (\$9.99)

Evanovich, Janet. [Heist](#) (\$8.99)

Fletcher, Jessica. [Murder She Wrote: Prescription for Murder](#) (\$7.99) #39

George, Elizabeth. [Believing the Lie](#) (\$7.99)

Graham, Heather. [Let the Dead Sleep](#) (Harlequin \$7.99)

Hale, Rebecca M. [How to Paint a Cat](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Cats and Curios #5

Harp, Anderson. [Retribution](#) (\$9.99)

Jackson, Lisa. [Tell Me](#) (\$7.99)

Lyle, Dixie. [Taste Fur Murder](#) (St Martins \$7.99)

McKevett, GA. [Killer Honeymoon](#) (\$7.99) Lucy Stone

McRae, Molly. [Spinning in Her Grave](#) (Signet \$7.99) Haunted Yarn #3

Neggars, Carla. [Cider Brook](#) (\$7.99)

Patterson, James. [Alex Cross, Run](#) (\$10)

Pirro, Jeanine. [Clever Fox: A Dani Fox Novel](#) (\$8)

Polisi, Sal. [The Sinatra Club My Life Inside the NY Mafia](#) (\$9.99)

Roberts, Nora. [Witness](#) (\$7.99)

Ryan, Annelise. [Board Stiff](#) (Kensington \$7.99)

Spindler, Erica. [Justice for Sara](#) (\$7.99)

Stewart, Mariah. [At the River's Edge](#) (\$7.99) Chesapeake Diaries #7

Swanson, Denise. [Dead Between the Lines](#) (Signet \$7.99) Dime Store #3

Woods, Sherryl. [Home to Seaview Key](#) (Harlequin \$7.99) Book #2

### SciFi/Fantasy/Paranormal

Ballantine, Pip. [Dawn's Early Light](#) (\$7.99)

Beyer, Kirsten. [Protectors](#) (\$7.99)

Card, Orson Scott. [Gate Thief](#) (\$7.99)

Cornell, Paul. [London Falling](#) (F\$7.99)

McGuire, Seanan. [Half-Off Ragnarok](#) (\$7.99)

Scalzi, John. [Human Division](#) (\$8.99)

Shepherd, Mike. [To Do or Die](#) (\$7.99)

Wood, Jonathan. [No Hero](#) (\$7.99)

### Reissues

Archer, Jeffrey. [First among Equals](#) (\$5.99)

Archer, Jeffrey. [A Matter of Honor](#) (\$5.99)

Archer, Jeffrey. [Not a Penny More, Not a Penny Less](#) (\$5.99)

Archer, Jeffrey. [The Prodigal Daughter](#) (\$5.99)

Gardner, Lisa. [The Killing Hour](#) (\$9.99) FBI Agent Kimberly Quincy

Gerritsen, Tess. [Girl Missing](#) (\$9.99). Reissue of *Peggy Sue Got Murdered*.

"Hunt, Gabriel." [Gabriel Hunt - Hunt Through the Cradle of Fear](#) (\$9.99);

[Gabriel Hunt - Hunt at the Well of Eternity](#) (\$7.99) Indiana Jones-style adventures

## HISTORY/MYSTERY

Barnhill, Anne Clinard. [Queen Elizabeth's Daughter](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Mistress Mary Shelton is Queen Elizabeth's favorite ward, enjoying every privilege. The queen loves Mary and wants her to make a powerful match. The most likely prospect: Edward

de Vere, Earl of Oxford. But Mary knows him to be lecherous, cruel, and full of treachery. No matter how hard the queen tries to push her into his arms, Mary refuses. Instead, Mary falls in love with a man who is completely unsuitable. Sir John Skydemore is a minor knight with little money, a widower with five children. Worst of all, he's a Catholic at a time when Catholic plots against Elizabeth are rampant. The queen forbids Mary to wed the man she loves. But... There is no end to spinoffs in the Tudor Industry, no?

Begg, Paul. [Jack the Ripper: The Forgotten Victims](#) (Yale University \$35). "After 125 years, and dozens of books about the notorious Ripper murders, it's a challenge to come up with a new angle, but experts Begg and Bennett, who previously collaborated on *Jack the Ripper: CSI: Whitechapel*, successfully tread new ground in this thought-provoking book. They focus on women murdered around the time of the so-called Autumn of Terror of 1888 who are generally not considered to be actual Ripper victims. The authors note that most serial killers often begin with crimes lacking all the signature element of their patterns, and argue it's a mistake to exonerate Jack the Ripper off-hand, just because the mutilations differed. Refreshingly, they don't try to advance a new suspect, on the basis of evidence that could only be circumstantial. Instead, they do a convincing job of debunking myths, such as the existence of an extortionate street gang at the time called the High Rips. More importantly, they demonstrate that, whatever the Scotland Yarders of the day wrote, there is no definitive answer as to how many women the sadistic Whitechapel murderer slaughtered."—PW

Bilyeau, Nancy. [The Chalice](#) (\$16). In 1538, England is in the midst of bloody power struggles that threaten to tear the country apart. Aristocrat-turned-novice Joanna Stafford knows what lies inside the king's torture rooms and risks imprisonment when she is caught up in an international plot targeting the king. As the power plays turn vicious, Joanna understands she may have to assume her role in a prophecy foretold by three different seers. Joanna realizes the life of Henry VIII, as well as the future of Christendom, are in her hands—hands that must someday hold the chalice that lies at the center of these deadly prophecies...

Clements, Katherine. [The Crimson Ribbon Signed](#) (Headline \$26). May Day 1646. The Civil War is raging and what should be a rare moment of blessing for the town of Ely takes a brutal turn. Ruth Flowers is left with little choice but to flee the household of Oliver Cromwell, the only home she has ever known. See *First Novels* for more.

DeJean, Joan. [How Paris Became Paris](#) (Bloomsbury \$30). With all the crime writers loving Paris for their books this spring – Rhys Bowen, Cara Black for instance this month – why not familiarize yourself with the city? "Although 19th-century Baron Haussmann often receives credit for Paris's iconic features, this witty and engaging work shows that it was the 17th-century Bourbon monarchs who first transformed Paris into the prototype of the modern city that would inspire the world. Penn Professor DeJean notes that Henri IV (1553–1610) was the first to consider the practical value of public works and how they could improve people's lives. Besides centralizing France's administrative functions, Henri IV built the first bridge to cross the Seine in a single span (the Pont Neuf) and the first urban public square (the Place Royale, now the Place des Vosges). Louis XIV took

his grandfather's plans even further by tearing down the city's fortifications, replacing them with tree-lined boulevards around the city's perimeter, and instituting a "grand design" that would influence Haussmann 250 years later. A charismatic and knowledgeable narrator, DeJean shows how an open city where men and women from all stations could congregate fueled the rise of the self-made man, the financier, the real estate developer, the artisan, the merchant, the Parisienne, and the coquette. With panache and examples from primary sources, guidebooks, maps, and paintings, she illustrates how Paris changed people's conception of a city's potential. B&w illus., 8-page color insert."—*PW*

Dietrich, William. [The Barbed Crown](#) (\$14.99). Set in 1804, Dietrich's exuberant sixth Ethan Gage adventure finds Gage back in Europe, after his frantic search for Montezuma's treasure in 2012's *The Emerald Storm*, spying for the British on his sometime friend and usual nemesis, Napoleon Bonaparte, on the eve of the French leader's coronation. The plot twists one way then another, in wildly uproarious fashion, as Gage—assisted by his Greek-Egyptian wife, Astiza—works his way out of several tight spots and does his best to foil Napoleon's ambitions to invade England. As usual, the action builds to a dramatic climax, this one set during the Battle of Trafalgar, which Gage observes from the crow's nest of a French warship. Along the way, readers will be treated to Dietrich's fascinating touches of historical detail and Gage's infectious personality, one part humble global servant and two parts self-directed opportunist who simply has to be where the action is..." I love swashbucklers and so Gage is in this rousing series.

Doescher, Ian. [William Shakespeare's The Empire Striketh Back](#) (\$14.95). For you Star Wars fans, some fun. Return to the star-crossed galaxy far, far away as the brooding young hero, a power-mad emperor, and their jesting droids match wits, struggle for power, and soliloquize in elegant and impeccable iambic pentameter. Illustrated with beautiful black-and-white Elizabethan-style.

Dunant, Sarah. [Blood and Beauty: The Borgias](#) (\$16). "[Dunant's] depiction of passionate people obsessed by the idea of a dynasty that will outlive them is not only intelligent and restrained but also lit by an affecting streak of lyricism. . . . Like Hilary Mantel with her Cromwell trilogy, Dunant has scaled new heights by refashioning mythic figures according to contemporary literary taste. This intellectually satisfying historical saga, which offers blood and beauty certainly, but brains too, is surely the best thing she has done to date." —*The Miami Herald*

Gentry, Lynne. [The Healer of Carthage](#) (Howard \$9.99). A 21st-century doctor. A third-century plague. First-year resident Dr. Lisbeth Hastings is too busy to take her father's bizarre summons seriously. But when a tragic mistake puts her career in jeopardy, answering her father's call seems her only hope of redeeming the devastating failure that her life has become. While exploring the haunting cave at her father's archaeological dig, Lisbeth falls through a hidden hole, awakening to find herself the object of a slave auction and the ruins of Roman Carthage inexplicably restored to a thriving metropolis. Is it possible that she's traveled back in time, and, if so, how can she find her way back home? Christian/romance/time travel.

✻Harris, CS. [Why King's Confess Signed](#) (NAL \$26). As I received no advance reading copy for this 8<sup>th</sup> Sebastian St Cyr Regency mystery, I have to quote someone else. Like this Starred Review—mine are all raves for this series too. "The past casts a long shadow in Harris's best Regency whodunit yet. In January 1813, a case comes to aristocratic sleuth Sebastian St. Cyr, estranged son of the Earl of Hendon, Chancellor of the Exchequer, from his closest friend, Dr. Paul Gibson. On an East London street, Gibson stumbled across a grisly scene—a woman seriously wounded near the butchered corpse of a French physician, Damion Pelletan, whose heart was removed. The murder and assault coincide with a possible turning point in Anglo-Franco relations. The English are considering making peace with Napoleon, a prospect that does not sit well with the French royalists in exile. The powers that be, including St. Cyr's überpowerful father-in-law, Lord Jarvis, who's a cousin of the king, attribute the Pelletan murder to a footpad, but the investigator finds that theory unpersuasive, especially after learning the mutilation has resonance for survivors of the Terror who remember that the Dauphine's heart was removed in an autopsy. Harris melds mystery and history as seamlessly as she integrates developments in her lead's personal life into the plot."

Hatch, Thom. [Last Outlaws: The Lives and Legends of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid](#) (NAL \$16). Daring bank robberies, riotous lives. Was the Old West coming to an end, or could they keep it alive?

Havill, Steven. [A Race for the Dying](#) (\$14.95). A newly minted graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in 1890, Dr. Thomas Parks heads to the big timber country of Puget Sound to practice trauma medicine. An hour after stepping off the boat he's nearly crushed to death by a less-than-surefooted mule and finds himself a patient rather than a physician. As he convalesces, he discovers that his host, an aging and venerable physician friend of his father's, is running an elaborate medical scam, selling worthless concoctions nationwide, with enormous sales. Limited to practicing medicine with one functioning eye, one hand, and one leg, Thomas grapples with exposing the old family friend. "Havill, author of the Bill Gastner and Posadas County mystery series, shows his skills in characterization and plotting here, as he personalizes nineteenth-century medical mail fraud to create a compelling historical novel."—*Booklist*. Published in hardcover in 2009 and now in paperback.

Hughes, Andrew. [The Convictions of John Delahunt Signed](#) (Doubleday UK \$26). Dublin, 1841. A young man tells his story as he awaits the hangman in his cell in Kilmainham Gaol. See First Novels for more.

✻Hodgson, Antonia. [The Devil in the Marshalsea Signed](#) (Hodder \$41). "A wonderfully convincing picture of the seamier side of eighteenth-century life. (The novel is a sort of Tom Jones Noir, I suppose.) The narrative whips along. The picture of the Marshalsea is quite chilling. Antonia Hodgson has a real feel for how people thought and spoke at the time. God knows, that's a rare talent. I very much look forward to discovering what Tom Hawkins does next—I imagine it won't be a career in holy orders.—Andrew Taylor. "Hodgson's London of 1727 offers that rare achievement in historical fiction: a time and place suspensefully different from our own, yet real. *The Devil in the Marshalsea* reminds us at every turn that we ourselves may not have evolved

far from its world of debtors and creditors, crime and generosity, appetite and pathos. A damn'd good read."—Elizabeth Kostova. This may be a first novel.

Kane, Ben. [Hannibal: Clouds of War Signed](#) (Preface \$32). 213 BC. Syracuse. Under the merciless Sicilian sun, a city is at war. Outside the walls, a vast Roman army waits. Yet the city's incredible defenses, designed by Archimedes, mean that Syracuse will not be taken easily. A veteran of the bitter war since its beginning, Quintus is ready to give his life in the service of the Republic. But dangers face him from within his own ranks as well as from the enemy - who include his former friend, the Carthaginian, Hanno. Hanno has been sent by his general Hannibal to aid Syracuse in its fight against Rome. Pledged to bring death to all Romans, he is diverted from his mission by the discovery of Quintus' sister Aurelia, a captive within the city. Two friends on opposing sides. A woman caught between them. They are about to meet in one of the most brutal sieges ever. Who will survive?

Kertzer, David I. [The Pope and Mussolini](#) (Random \$32). From National Book Award finalist David I. Kertzer comes the gripping story of Pope Pius XI's secret relations with Italian dictator Benito Mussolini. This groundbreaking work, based on seven years of research in the Vatican and Fascist archives, including reports from Mussolini's spies inside the highest levels of the Church, will forever change our understanding of the Vatican's role in the rise of Fascism in Europe. To see it playing out during the war itself you can do no better than read the mystery by James R. Benn: [Death's Door](#) (\$14.95) where all the players are contained in the tightly constricted space of the Vatican.

Kirschner, Ann. [Lady at the OK Corral: The True Story](#) (\$15.99). A biography of Josephine Marcus Earp, a Jewish woman from New York who became the common-law wife of famed lawman and gambler Wyatt Earp. For nearly fifty years, Josephine Sarah Marcus Earp lived with the most famous lawman of the Old West. How did this aspiring actress and dancer—a Jewish girl from New York—land in Tombstone, Arizona, and steal the heart of Wyatt Earp? Robert B. Parker gave his answer in [Gunman's Rhapsody](#) (\$7.99).

Kuhns, Eleanor. [Death of a Dyer](#) (\$15.99). Nate Bowditch and Rees hadn't spoken in many long years, but as children they were closer than brothers, and Rees feels his loss acutely. Asked to look into the circumstances surrounding Nate's death, Rees simply can't refuse. At the Bowditch farmstead, Rees quickly discovers that everyone—from Nate's frosty wife to his missing son to the shy serving girl—is hiding something. But are any of them actually capable of murder? "Kuhns' intimate voice and all-seeing eye make [the Shaker community] seem an exotic world indeed. But she also shows that greed, envy, and materialistic values are nothing if not universal." —Marilyn Stasio, *The New York Times Book Review*. Will first appeared in the terrific [A Simple Murder](#) (\$14.99), a 2012 History Pick.

Ludlow, Jack. [Soldier of Crusade: The Second Novel](#) (\$16.95). Bohemund and his nephew, Tancred, are heading east into the lands of the Byzantine Empire, part of the greatest military expedition of medieval times, the Papal Crusade to take back the holy places of Christendom from the infidel. But Bohemund and his fellow Normans never pass into a new territory without

an eye to the notion of gaining land and power, and this is no exception. On his mission to wrest territory for himself, through a maze of smiling villains and shifting alliances, one man will come to play the deciding role in Bohemund's story, the wily Emperor, Alexius Comnenus...

Lyndon, Robert. [Imperial Fire Signed](#) (LittleBrown UK \$42; 2 left.) In the world after 1066, a new instrument of war appears; gunpowder. The mercenary Vallon, a man made as of grit and earth as much of flesh and blood, is sent by the defeated Byzantine emperor on a secret and near-impossible quest to the far off land of Song Dynasty China...

✚Marston, Edward. [Instrument of Slaughter](#) (\$16.95). January 1916. Britain is on the brink of enforcing conscription. Eligible young men who have not yet signed up to fight are despised as 'conchies' and 'shirkers'. Cyril Ablatt, leader of Shoreditch's group of conscientious objectors, makes a rousing speech at a meeting of the No-Conscription Fellowship, then soon is brutally bludgeoned to death, Scotland Yard detectives Inspector Marmion and Sergeant Keedy are assigned to the case. As the pair build up a portrait of Cyril, they unearth an intriguing private life behind the man's saintly facade. It soon becomes clear there are plenty of suspicious characters with motives for the killing. Meanwhile, public sympathy is lukewarm. Some people even claim that a conchie deserves to die if he won't fight for King and Country. And in the wake of the murder, three close friends of Ablatt fear that they may also be under threat. Marmion and Keedy will have to work fast in Book Two of the Home Front Detective Series by the prolific Marston, a Guest of Honor at the November, 2014 Bouchercon in Long Beach.

McDougall, Claire R. [Veil of Time](#) (Gallery \$16). Here we see the Diana Gabaldon influence, as also with Gentry, above. The medication that treats Maggie's seizures leaves her in a haze, but it can't dull her grief at losing her daughter to the same condition. With her marriage dissolved and her son away at school, Maggie retreats to a cottage below the ruins of Dunadd, once the royal seat of Scotland. But is it fantasy or reality when she awakens in a bustling village within the massive walls of eighth-century Dunadd? In a time and place so strange yet somehow familiar, Maggie is drawn to the striking, somber Fergus, brother of the king and father of Illa, who bears a keen resemblance to Maggie's late daughter. With each dreamlike journey to the past, Maggie grows closer to Fergus and embraces the possibility of staying in this Dunadd. But with present-day demands calling her back, can Maggie leave behind the Scottish prince who dubs her *mo chridhe*, my heart?

Northup, Solomon. [12 Years a Slave: \(Movie Tie-In\)](#) (\$16). Born a free man in New York, Solomon Northup was abducted in Washington, D.C., in 1841 and spent the next twelve years of his life in captivity as a slave on a Louisiana cotton plantation. After his rescue, he published this exceptionally vivid and detailed account of slave life—perhaps the best written of all the slave narratives....

Perry, Douglas. [Eliot Ness](#) (Viking \$27.95). TV made him a crimebusting icon. The real story, he was, ends tragically. "Though he's now a revered as the lawman who helped bring down the Chicago Mob and Al Capone, Eliot Ness was all but forgotten by the time he died, virtually penniless, in 1957, at age 55. Ironically, a book touting his dramatic efforts would hit stores

just six months later. With a shrewd mix of drama, insight, and objectivity, Perry artfully chronicles the life of the leader of the Untouchables squad and illuminates his subject's complicated worldview, passions, and faults. . . . Under constant threat of violence, particularly in the early days, Ness thrived, leading his department on daring raids in a tireless effort to take down Capone, something Ness would later characterize as an obsession. Though he later made great strides fighting crime and corruption as public safety director in Cleveland (though the pursuit of a sadistic serial killer proved elusive), he would never regain the esteem he once enjoyed. By WWII, Ness was scraping for work. After an unsuccessful effort to become mayor of Cleveland, Ness all but gave up."—*PW* Starred Review.

✠Parris, S.J. [Treachery Signed](#) (Collins \$32). 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. . . . Book #4 in Bruno's career.

Pataki, Allison. [The Traitor's Wife](#) (Howard \$14.99). Everyone knows Benedict Arnold—the Revolutionary War general who betrayed America and fled to the British—as history's most notorious turncoat. Many know Arnold's co-conspirator, Major John André, who was apprehended with Arnold's documents in his boots and hanged at the orders of General George Washington. But few know of the integral third character in the plot. Socialite Peggy Shippen is half Benedict Arnold's age when she seduces the war hero during his stint as military commander of Philadelphia. Blinded by his young bride's beauty and wit, Arnold does not realize that she harbors a secret: loyalty to the British. Nor does he know that she hides a past romance with the handsome British spy John André. Peggy watches as her husband, crippled from battle wounds and in debt from years of service to the colonies, grows ever more disillusioned with his hero, Washington, and the American cause. Together with her former love and her disaffected husband, Peggy hatches the plot to deliver West Point to the British and, in exchange, win fame and fortune for herself and Arnold. Told from the perspective of Peggy's maid, whose faith in the new nation inspires her to intervene in her mistress's affairs even when it could cost her everything. I became interested in Arnold's story when traveling up the Hudson to Albany last October. At the Saratoga battlefield park I learned Arnold commissioned a fleet to patrol Lake Champlain and fend off the British sailing south from Canada. Who knew Arnold was also thus an admiral, or at least a commander?

✠Perry, Anne. [Death on Blackheath Signed](#) (Random \$27). As Victoria's reign draws to an end. Britain's wealth and power are

global. It's a charmed era for its Empire, but greed and corruption ever coil in its heart. Thomas Pitt, risen to commander of the powerful Special Branch (MI6), is charged with keeping Britain safe from spies and traitors. Why is he ordered to investigate the blood, hair, and shards of glass discovered outside the home of naval weapons expert Dudley Kynaston, and the simultaneous disappearance of Mrs. Kynaston's beautiful lady's maid? Maybe the key lies in the mutilated body of an unidentified young woman soon found near the scientist's home. . . .

Peters, Ralph. [Cain at Gettysburg](#) (\$9.99). Winner of the American Library Association's W. Y. Boyd Award for Excellence in Military Fiction. Two mighty armies blunder toward each other, one led by confident, beloved Robert E. Lee and the other by dour George Meade. They'll meet in a Pennsylvania crossroads town where no one planned to fight. In this sweeping, savagely realistic novel, the greatest battle ever fought on American soil explodes into life. . . . Peters is the author of the superb Civil War mysteries as Owen Parry. How I miss them!!

Raybourn, Deanna. [City of Jasmine](#) (Harlequin \$14.95). Famed aviatrix Evangeline Starke never expected to see her husband, adventurer Gabriel Starke, ever again. They had been a golden couple, enjoying a whirlwind courtship amid the backdrop of a glittering social set in prewar London until his sudden death with the sinking of the Lusitania. Five years later, beginning to embrace life again, Evie embarks upon a flight around the world, collecting fame and admirers along the way. In the midst of her triumphant tour, she is shocked to receive a mysterious—and recent—photograph of Gabriel, which brings her ambitious stunt to a screeching halt. With her eccentric aunt Dove in tow, Evie tracks the source of the photo to the ancient City of Jasmine, Damascus. There she discovers that nothing is as it seems. Danger lurks at every turn, and at stake is a priceless relic, an artifact once lost to time and so valuable that criminals will stop at nothing to acquire it—even murder.

Reed, Mary. [Ten for Dying Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). 548 CE. It's a hot summer night in Constantinople. Emperor Justinian is mourning his dead wife, Theodora. John, his Lord Chamberlain, has been exiled. And at the Church of the Holy Apostles, an Egyptian magician tries to raise the Empress from the dead while demons vanish into the darkness with one of the city's holiest relics, a fragment of the shroud of the Virgin. As if Felix, Captain of the Palace Guard, didn't have enough problems already what with his gambling debts, political maneuverings, and an ambitious new mistress, Justinian orders him to find the missing relic. Before Felix can begin, someone deposits an anonymous corpse at his house. An attempt to dispose of the body goes wrong, leaving Felix in the frame. It seems as if half the city wants to possess the relic, see Felix dead—or both. If only Felix's friend, the shrewd John, were still in the city, but the former Lord Chamberlain sailed for Greece with his wife the morning after the theft. Felix is left to fight for survival in a situation where he can't be sure who his enemies are, or even whether they are all human. . . . For my write-up, see our March trade paperback picks: [Ten for Dying](#) ( \$14.95)

Rich, Roberta. [The Harem Midwife](#) (Gallery \$16). The Imperial Harem, Constantinople, 1578. Hannah and Isaac Levi, Venetians in exile, have overcome unfathomable obstacles to begin life anew in the Ottoman Empire. He works in the city's growing

silk trade, and she, the best midwife in the capital, tends to the hundreds of women in Sultan Murat III's lively and infamous harem. One night, Hannah is unexpectedly summoned to the extravagant palace and confronted with Leah, a Jewish peasant girl who was violently abducted. The sultan has tagged Leah to produce his heir (he's stuck on his chief wife who has not birthed a boy). His all-powerful mother, the Valide, is desperate for a grandson. But Leah must be a virgin. Taken by Leah's spirit and tenacity, and her story, Hannah risk all she and Isaac have built to help her. And having done so, faces the arrival of a stranger and the revelation of a dangerous secret... I'm in love with the Reed/Mayer series set 1000 years earlier where the politics, though in a Christian Istanbul, are much the same.

Riley, Lucinda. [Midnight Rose](#) (Atria \$16). In the heyday of the British Raj, eleven-year-old Anahita, from a noble but impoverished family, forms a lifelong friendship with the headstrong Princess Indira, the privileged daughter of Indian royalty. As the princess's official companion, Anahita accompanies her friend to England just before the outbreak of World War I. There, she meets young Donald Astbury—reluctant heir to the magnificent, remote Astbury Estate—and his scheming mother. Ninety years later, Rebecca Bradley, a young American film star, has the world at her feet. But when her turbulent relationship with her equally famous boyfriend takes an unexpected turn, the past yields up secrets...

✚Seton, Anya. [Katherine](#) (\$15.95). A reissue of one of my all-time favorite historical novels, the story of Katherine Roet, mistress to and then third wife of John of Gaunt, ancestress of the Tudor line, and sister to Philippa who married Geoffrey Chaucer. There is so much here in a story bigger than any soap—yet it's all true. Remember that children born out of wedlock were not legitimized if their parents later married... I've always thought it was bad luck that John was not the eldest son of Edward III, or that the Black Prince did not die childless.

Silver, Marisa. [Mary Coin](#) (\$16). Dorothea Lange's Migrant Mother photograph is inspiration for a story of two women—one famous and one forgotten—and their remarkable chance encounter. In 1936, a young mother resting by the side of the road in central California is spontaneously photographed by a woman documenting migrant laborers in search of work. Few personal details are exchanged and neither woman has any way of knowing that they have produced one of the most iconic images of the Great Depression. In present day, Walker Dodge, a professor of cultural history, stumbles upon a family secret embedded in the now-famous picture. Who is Dorothea Lange? For a terrific mystery referencing her: Mark De Castrique, [A Murder in Passing](#) (\$14.95).

Standage, Tom. [The Victorian Internet](#) (\$16). The creation of the telegraph and its impact ranging from the eighteenth-century French scientist Jean-Antoine Nollet to Samuel F. B. Morse and Thomas Edison. It shrank the world—and quickly.

Tuchman, Barbara. [The Guns of August](#) (\$18). Reissue of a magisterial work on the first 30 days of WWI. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

Turner, Nancy E. [My Name is Resolute](#) (St Martins \$27.99). The year is 1729, and Resolute Talbot and her siblings are captured by pirates, taken from their family in Jamaica, and brought to the New World. Resolute and her sister are sold into slavery

in colonial New England and taught the trade of spinning and weaving. When Resolute finds herself alone in Lexington, Massachusetts, she struggles to find her way in a society that is quick to judge a young woman without a family. As the seeds of rebellion against England grow, Resolute is torn between following the rules and breaking free. Resolute's talent at the loom places her at the center of an incredible web of secrecy that helped drive the American Revolution. Heart-wrenching

Zimmerman, Jean. [Savage Girl Signed](#) (Mulholland \$27.95 Signed April 3 here). The Starred Review from *PW*: "The prologue of Zimmerman's superior historical thriller will suck most readers in instantly. On the night of May 19, 1876, 22-year-old Hugo Delegate awaits the arrival of the police at a house overlooking Manhattan's Gramercy Park, the site of a savage murder committed by either him or a 'girl murderer.' Hugo soon reveals that the victim, a 'longtime acquaintance and sometime friend,' is but the latest in a series, and after his arrest, he presents the complex backstory to his defense attorney. Flashback to June 1875. Hugo, a Harvard student recently released from a sanatorium, accompanies his family on a cross-country trip. In Virginia City, Nev., he becomes fascinated with a sideshow freak, the so-called Savage Girl, allegedly raised by wolves. Hugo's parents decide to civilize the girl, and introduce her into society on their return to New York. Zimmerman (*The Orphanmaster*) keeps the truth hidden until the end, combining suspense with an unsettling look into a tormented mind."