

BOOKNEWS from

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MAY MEANS MYSTERY, MAGIC... AND SPIES

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

THURSDAY MAY 1 7:00 PM

Daniel Palmer signs [Desperate](#) (Kensington \$25) Thriller!

FRIDAY MAY 2 7:00 PM American History brought to life

Nathaniel Philbrick signs [Bunker Hill](#) (Berkley \$18)

SATURDAY MAY 3 2:00 PM Aliens!

Gini Koch signs [Alien Collective](#) (DAW \$7.99)

TUESDAY MAY 6 7:00 PM

John Sandford signs [Field of Prey](#) (Putnam \$28.95) Lucas Davenport

WEDNESDAY MAY 7 7:00 PM

John Lescroart signs [The Keeper](#) (Atria \$26.99) Dismas Hardy/Abe Glitsky

THURSDAY MAY 8 7:00 PM

Jeff Guinn signs [Glorious](#) (Putnam \$26.95) 1872 Arizona Western

FRIDAY MAY 9 7:00 PM

Ace Atkins signs [Robert B Parker's Cheap Shot](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Spenser

ALSO ON FRIDAY MAY 9 7:00PM

Scottsdale Library, 3839 N Drinkwater Boulevard (limit 2 per person) can be obtained by calling the library at 480-312-7323
Charlaine Harris signs [Midnight Crossroad](#) (Berkley \$27.95) Midnight, Texas

SATURDAY MAY 10 10:30 AM

Coffee and Crime Club discusses Naomi Hirahara's [Summer of the Big Bachi](#) (\$14.95)

SATURDAY MAY 10 2:00 PM Mother's Day British Tea

Hannah Dennison signs [Murder at Honeychurch Hall](#) (St Martins \$24.99) Series start with Kat, Antiques expert
Jenn McKinlay signs [Death of a Mad Hatter](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Hat Shop #2

SUNDAY MAY 11 4:00 PM Mother's Day

Greg Iles signs [Natchez Burning](#) (Morrow \$27.99) Penn Cage starts a trilogy.

MONDAY MAY 12

1:00 PM Phoenix Public Library, 1221 N. Central Avenue 85004

6:30 PM Peoria's Sunrise Mountain Library, 21109 N 98th Ave, Peoria 85382

Philip Kerr signs [Prayer](#) (Putnam \$26.95) FBI's Gil Martins

TUESDAY MAY 13 7:00 PM

Michael McGarrity signs [Backlands](#) (Dutton \$28.95) Kerney Trilogy #2

THURSDAY MAY 15 7:00 PM

Craig Johnson signs [Any Other Name](#) (Viking \$26.95) Walt Longmire

FRIDAY MAY 16 7:00 PM Arizona Biltmore, 2400 E Thunderbird Trail (Missouri), Phoenix 85016

Douglas Preston signs [The Kraken Project](#) (Forge \$26.99) Thriller
James Rollins signs [The Kill Switch](#) (Morrow \$27.99) Tucker Wayne & Kane

SATURDAY MAY 17 5:00 PM

Jeffery Deaver signs [The Skin Collector](#) (Grand Central \$28) Lincoln Rhyme

TUESDAY MAY 20 7:00 PM

David Downing signs [Jack of Spies](#) (Soho \$27.95) 1913 Spy Story

WEDNESDAY MAY 21 7:00 PM

Stephen Hunter signs [Sniper's Honor](#) (SimonSchuster \$27.99) Bob Lee Swagger

THURSDAY MAY 22 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime Club discusses Bruce Elliott's [One Is a Lonely Number](#) (\$19.95)

TUESDAY MAY 27 7:00 PM

Clive Cussler and Graham Brown sign [Ghost Ship](#) (Putnam \$28.95) NUMA Files #10

THURSDAY MAY 29 7:00 PM Victorian Thrills

Alex Grecian signs [The Devil's Workshop](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Scotland Yard Murder Squad #3
Will Thomas signs [Fatal Enquiry](#) (St Martins \$25.99) The return of Barker & Llewellyn, Victorian sleuths

FRIDAY MAY 30 7:00 PM

Joseph Finder signs [Suspicion](#) (Dutton \$27.95) Thriller Club Pick!

TUESDAY JUNE 3 7:00 PM

Martha Grimes signs [Vertigo 42](#) (Scribner \$26) Richard Jury

THURSDAY JUNE 5 7:00 PM

Jim Butcher signs [Skin Game](#) (Roc \$27.95) Harry Dresden

2014 INDIE CHOICE WINNERS

Adult Fiction

Atkinson, Kate. [Life after Life](#) (\$18)

Adult Nonfiction

Brown, Daniel James. [The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics](#) (\$17)

Adult Debut of the Year

Marra, Anthony, [A Constellation of Vital Phenomena](#) (\$15), a Modern Firsts Club Pick

Young Adult Book of the Year

Rowell, Rainbow. [Eleanor & Park](#) (\$18.99)

2014 LA TIMES PRIZE: CRIME

Robert Galbraith, [The Cuckoo's Calling](#) (\$18)

2014 THRILLER AWARD NOMINEES

Linda Castillo, [Her Last Breath](#) (\$25.99)

Lee Child, [Never Go Back](#) (\$9.99)

Lisa Gardner, [Touch and Go](#) (\$9.99)

Stephen King, [Doctor Sleep](#) (\$17 June)

Owen Laukkanen, [Criminal Enterprise](#) (\$9.99)

Douglas Preston/Lincoln Child, [White Fire](#) (\$10 May 27)

Andrew Pyper, [The Demonologist](#) (\$15)

WE WILL MISS

Peter Martin. He was 83. Martin's books included the mystery series (under the pseudonym James Melville) featuring Superintendent Tetsuo Otani of the Kobe police, as well as histories, often centered on Japan.

EVENT BOOKS

Atkins, Ace. [Robert B Parker's Cheap Shot](#) (Putnam \$26.95). Not surprisingly, Atkins returns to the world of professional sports with Spenser. Kinjo Heywood is one of the New England Patriots' marquee players—a hard-nosed linebacker who's earned his reputation as one of the toughest guys in the league. When off-field violence repeatedly lands Heywood in the news, his slick agent hires Spenser to find the men who he says have been harassing his client. Heywood's troubles seem to be tied to a nightclub shooting from two years earlier. But when Heywood's nine-year-old son, Akira, is kidnapped, ransom demands are given, and a winding trail through Boston's underworld begins, Spenser puts together his own all-star team of toughs. It will take both Hawk and Spenser's protégé, Zebulon Sixkill, to watch Spenser's back and return the child to the football star's sprawling Chestnut Hill mansion. A controversial decision from Heywood only ups the ante... [Mortal Stakes](#) (\$7.99), featuring a baseball player caught in a twisty coil, is one of my top favorite Spensers.

Butcher, Jim. [Skin Game](#) (Roc \$27.95). Because as Winter Knight to the Queen of Air and Darkness, Harry Dresden never knows what the scheming Mab might want him to do. Usually, it's something awful. Mab has just traded Harry's skills to pay off one of her debts. And now he must help a group of

supernatural villains—led by one of Harry's most dreaded and despised enemies, Nicodemus Archleone—to break into the highest-security vault in town, so that they can then access the highest-security vault in the Nevernever. It's a smash and grab job to recover the literal Holy Grail from the vaults of the greatest treasure hoard in the supernatural world—which belongs to the one and only Hades, Lord of the freaking Underworld and generally unpleasant character. Worse, Dresden suspects that there is another game afoot that no one is talking about. And he's dead certain that Nicodemus has no intention of allowing any of his crew to survive the experience. Especially Harry. Dresden's always been tricky, but he's going to have to up his backstabbing game to survive this mess... 15th in the Dresden Files series. [Click here](#) to order #1-14.

Cussler, Clive/Graham Brown. [Ghost Ship](#) (Putnam \$28.95). When Kurt Austin is injured attempting to rescue the passengers and crew from a sinking yacht, he wakes with fragmented and conflicted memories. Did he see an old friend and her children drown, or was the yacht abandoned when he came aboard? For reasons he cannot explain, Kurt doesn't trust either version of his recollection. Determined to know the truth, he begins to search for answers, and soon finds himself descending into a shadowy world of state-sponsored cybercrime, and uncovering a pattern of vanishing scientists, suspicious accidents, and a web of human trafficking. With the help of Joe Zavala, he takes on the sinister organization at the heart of this web, facing off with them in locations ranging from Monaco to North Korea to the rugged coasts of Madagascar. In Sept.: [Eye of Heaven](#) (Putnam \$27.95) with Russell Blake. A new Dirk Pitt Oct. 28.

Deaver, Jeffery. [The Skin Collector](#) (Grand Central \$28). A new killer is on the loose. When a connection is made to the serial killer who terrorized New York more than a decade ago—paralegic forensics ace Lincoln Rhyme's first investigation—he and Amelia Sachs are immediately drawn into the case. But unlike [The Bone Collector](#) (\$9.99), this psycho has a yen for human skin, canvas for tattoo art. The killer's methods are terrifying. He stalks the basements and underground passageways of New York City. He tattoos his victims' flesh with cryptic messages, using a tattoo gun loaded with poison, resulting in agonizing, painful deaths for his victims. What is the message behind the victims' tattoos? Does the killer's own inking—a fanged centipede sporting a woman's face—hold any significance? And what is his ultimate mission? And who his ultimate target?

Dennison, Hannah. [Murder at Honeychurch Hall](#) (St Martins \$24.99). TV Antiques celebrity Kat Sandford has left the network, in part to dodge her boyfriend's ex who is bent on revenge, and learns her widowed mother Iris has recklessly purchased a collapsing carriage house on an isolated estate down in Devon. Horrified—after all, Kat's recently deceased father ran her mother's quiet life—Kat rushes to ancient Honeychurch Hall where she receives several surprises. The family at the Hall is clearly odd. Then the nanny goes missing, the housekeeper is killed, and Iris is accused of the deed. Kat has to wonder if she knows her mother at all...or herself. Starts a British cozy series.

Downing, David. [Jack of Spies](#) (Soho \$27.95). How I love this book. From the German territory of Tsingtau, 1913, to Shanghai, by ship to San Francisco, by train to New York (why can't

we still take the Overland Limited before changing trains in Chicago?), down to Veracruz, then over to Ireland and London. A part time spy, Jack McColl, Scottish luxury automobile salesman who speaks nine languages, faces more and more difficult choices that push him towards accepting regular employment in British intelligence, all while war draws near and the Irish American woman he fell for in China and their many nights of hot sex—friends with benefits, or something more?—colors his every decision. So does his sense of patriotism and the role of religion. Wow! I loved the luxury of the pace as the story unfolds, never feeling rushed from one big bang to another, but never losing a quiet sense of urgency. Downing not only captures the era, he writes in its style, like say did Erskine Childers—a fact lost on reviewers accustomed to slam-bang spy stories. Our **May History Club Pick** rather than a Thriller Club Pick, which will be Hunter and then Finder, below.

Finder, Joseph. [Suspicion](#) (Dutton \$27.95). When single father Danny Goodman suddenly finds himself unable to afford the private school his teenage daughter adores, he has no one to turn to for financial support. In what seems like a stroke of brilliant luck, Danny meets Thomas Galvin, the father of his daughter's new best friend, who also happens to be one of the wealthiest men in Boston. Galvin is aware of Danny's situation and out of the blue offers a \$50,000 loan to help Danny cover his daughter's tuition. Uncomfortable but desperate, Danny takes the money, promising to pay Galvin back. What transpires is something Danny never imagined. The moment the money is wired into his account, the DEA comes knocking on his door. Danny's impossible choice: an indictment for accepting drug money that he can't afford to fight in court, or an unthinkable treacherous undercover assignment helping the government get close to his new best friend. **A Thriller Club Pick**. Finder is the author of numerous standalone suspense gems, some set in the world of finance. [Click here](#) to order. Note: Joe's name is pronounced FIN-DER, FIN as in fish.

Grecian, Alex. [The Devil's Workshop](#) (Putnam \$26.95). How I love the Victorian noir by Grecian. It's clever, dark, but not grungy (a trend in historical fiction for some time). London, 1890. Four vicious murderers have escaped from prison, part of a plan gone terribly wrong, and now it is up to Walter Day, Nevil Hammersmith, and the rest of Scotland Yard's Murder Squad to hunt down the convicts before the men can resume their bloody spree. But they might already be too late. The killers have retribution in mind, and one of them is heading straight toward a member of the Murder Squad, and his family. And that isn't even the worst of it. During the escape, the killers have stumbled upon the location of another notorious murderer, one thought gone for good but now prepared to join forces with them. Jack the Ripper is loose in London once more.... So here's a Victorian serial killer thriller rather than the spooky Gothic noir of his last. See our May Trade Paperback Picks for *The Black Country*.

Grimes, Martha. [Vertigo 42](#) (Scribner \$26). After too long an absence, Scotland Yard's Richard Jury is back—and with a tip of the hat to Alfred Hitchcock's famous film. Supt. Jury is meeting Tom Williamson at Vertigo 42, a bar on the forty-second floor of an office building in London's financial district. Despite inconclusive evidence, Tom is convinced his wife, Tess, was murdered seventeen years ago. The inspector in charge of the case was sure Tess's death was accidental—a direct result of

vertigo—but the official police inquiry is still an open verdict and Jury agrees to re-examine the case. Jury learns that a nine-year-old girl fell to her death five years before Tess at the same country house in Devon where Tess died. The girl had been a guest at a party Tess was giving for six children. Jury seeks out the five surviving party guests, who are now adults, hoping they can shed light on this bizarre coincidence. Meanwhile, an elegantly dressed woman falls to her death from the tower of a cottage near the pub where Jury and his cronies are dining one night. Then the dead woman's estranged husband is killed as well. Four deaths—two in the past, two that occur on the pages of this intricate, compelling novel—keep Jury and his sidekick Sergeant Wiggins running from their homes in Islington to the countryside in Devon and to London as they try to figure out if the deaths were accidental or not. And, if they are connected. Literary references run from Thomas Hardy to Yeats. To order earlier Jurys, [click here](#)

Guinn, Jeff. [Glorious](#) (Putnam \$26.95). Life in the Arizona Territory in 1872. "A trip to Glorious, Arizona, in Jeff Guinn's new western novel is like a cool draft beer after a long, hot day on a dusty trail. *Glorious* is old-fashioned in the very best way: It's good-hearted, optimistic, compelling, comfortable, and extremely well-told. It's wonderful when an author clearly has affection for his characters, and readers will feel the same way."—CJ. Box. "If, like me, you've been waiting for the next Louis L'Amour or Zane Grey, the good news is his name is Jeff Guinn. His newest novel, *Glorious*, has all the elements of a fabulous western: compelling characters, breath-taking scenery, and something more—an unblinking take on the western frontier."—Craig Johnson. Guinn's [The Last Gunfight](#) (\$16.99) took on the legend of the OK Corral whereas [Go Down Together](#) (\$16.99) focuses on Bonnie and Clyde and [Manson](#) (\$27.50) on the infamous Charles Manson.

Harris, Charlaine. [Midnight Crossroad](#) (Ace \$27.95). Welcome to Midnight, Texas, a town with many boarded-up windows and few full-time inhabitants, located at the crossing of Witch Light Road and Davy Road. It's a pretty standard dried-up western town. There's a pawnshop (someone lives in the basement and is seen only at night). There's a diner (people who are just passing through tend not to linger). And there's new resident Manfred Bernardo, who thinks he's found the perfect place to work in private (and who has secrets of his own). Stop at the one traffic light in town, and everything looks normal. Stay awhile, and learn the truth... **This event takes place at the Scottsdale Public Library. Reservations are required and books to be Signed must be purchased from The Pen or at the event.**

Hunter, Stephen. [Sniper's Honor](#) (SimonSchuster \$27.99). You can't write books timed to current events, but the current situation in the Ukraine makes this fabulous thriller relevant as well as fascinating. Bob Lee Swagger uncovers why WWII's greatest sniper was erased from history...and why her disappearance still matters today. Ludmilla "Mili" Petrova was once the most hunted woman on earth, having raised the fury of two of the most powerful leaders on either side of World War II: Joseph Stalin and Adolf Hitler. But Kathy Reilly of *The Washington Post* [Hunter's old employer] doesn't know any of that when she encounters a brief mention of Mili in an old Russian propaganda magazine, and becomes interested in the story of a legendary, beautiful female sniper who seems to have

vanished from history. Reilly enlists former marine sniper Bob Lee Swagger to parse out the scarce details of Mili's military service. The more Swagger learns about Mili's last mission, the more he's convinced her disappearance was no accident—but why would the Russian government go to such lengths to erase the existence of one of their own decorated soldiers? And why, when Swagger joins Kathy Reilly on a research trip to the Carpathian Mountains, is someone trying to kill them before they can find out? The narrative flows on two tracks; Swagger's story in the present, and Mili's in the past. **A Thriller Club Pick.**

Iles, Greg. [Natchez Burning](#) (Morrow \$27.99). The story begins when the murder of retired nurse Viola Turner sets off a firestorm of vicious attacks to prevent the unearthing of long-buried secrets. Penn Cage, a former prosecutor and now Natchez, Mississippi's mayor, becomes personally involved when his father, Dr. Tom Cage, is arrested for Viola's death. Reporter Henry Sexton has accumulated years of information about the Double Eagles, a small splinter cell of the Ku Klux Klan. A young Dr. Cage and his nurse Viola had the misfortune of crossing paths with them during the 1960s. The septuagenarian members have never stopped their illegal operations, and now their children continue their violent legacy. With fiancée Caitlin, Penn must use Henry's information to uncover the truth and save his father. "In this first of a trilogy, best-selling author Iles brings back his Southern lawyer (*The Devil's Punch Bowl*) in an absorbing and electrifying tale that thriller fans will be sure to devour."—*Library Journal* Starred Review. In awarding its Star, *Kirkus* notes, "Iles is a master of regional literature, though he's dealing with universals here, one being our endless thirst to right wrongs. A memorable, harrowing tale." The May Indie Next Pick adds, "As Penn tries to save his father, he is forced to confront the brutal and violent past of his hometown during the fight for civil rights. With strong characters and a taut story line that spans 40 years, Iles delivers a blockbuster that will leave readers hungry for the next two installments in what will surely be an epic trilogy." [Click here](#) to order earlier books by Iles. Meet Penn first in [The Quiet Game](#) (\$9.99).

Johnson, Craig. [Any Other Name](#) (Viking \$26.95). Walt Longmire is sinking into high-plains winter discontent when his former boss, Lucian Conally, asks him to take on a mercy case in an adjacent county. Detective Gerald Holman is dead and Lucian wants to know what drove his old friend to take his own life. With the clock ticking on the birth of his first grandchild, Sheriff Walt learns that the by-the-book detective might have suppressed evidence concerning three missing women. Digging deeper as the clock ticks on the birth back in Philly, Walt uncovers an incriminating secret so dark that it threatens to claim other lives even before the sheriff can serve justice—Wyoming style. This is a dark story told with Johnson's trademark erudition and humor, a terrific blend. [Click here](#) to order earlier Walt Longmires.

Kerr, Philip. [Prayer](#) (Putnam \$26.95). FBI Agent Gil Martins of the Domestic Terrorism Unit started life in Glasgow, Scotland, and in the Catholic Church. His family moved to Boston when his father lost his job and Gil turned away from the church. His job puts him on the line confronting extremists but his faith in everything, especially himself, also his wife and son, is shaken when he discovers he has wrongly, if ignorantly, condemned an innocent man to death row. His struggles heat up as a serial killer terrorizes Houston. A possible religious motivation makes it domestic terrorism. But why are good people, secular icons, the

victims? My friend Peter Cannon, Senior Editor at *PW*, takes this view: "As a big fan of Kerr's Bernie Gunther PI series, I confess I was wary of this standalone, a contemporary thriller whose theme is the power of prayer. I was relieved to discover that the book's hero, Texas-based FBI agent Gil Martins, has a lot in common with Bernie. In investigating the suspicious deaths of a number of prominent atheists, Gil runs into all sorts of unexpected trouble, as bad as any Bernie encounters while trying to be an honest cop in Nazi Germany. Readers into noir with a supernatural tinge will relish how it all plays out for Gil, a lapsed Catholic who struggles with his faith." I add that if searching for an analogue one could consider John Milton's work. **Note: Kerr is appearing mid day at Phoenix Public Library on Central; and at 6:30 in Peoria. If you can't go, please just order as usual.**

Also by Kerr, a YA novel: [The Winter Horses](#) (Random \$16.99). Set in 1941 in war-torn Ukraine, Kerr's novel is also a tale of survival—not only of Jewish orphan Kalinka, but of Przewalski's horses, a rare breed of wild horse that dates back tens of thousands of years. "The story opens on the Askaniya-Nova animal sanctuary where Max, the longtime caretaker, has been ordered by the SS to kill all of the animals, including the nearly extinct Przewalski's horses. As Max struggles with the demands of a cruel Nazi officer who has turned the reserve into his headquarters, he meets Kalinka who is travelling alone after witnessing the deaths of her family. With Max's guidance and support, Kalinka and the last pair of the horses embark on a journey across the Ukrainian wilderness. As Kalinka faces frightening obstacles, her ability to communicate with the horses and other fantastical elements give her the courage to face serious threats and her own fears. Threads of "Little Red Riding Hood" and "Hansel and Gretel" contribute to the sense that this is an "old" story handed down through generations. Like the best stories told around a campfire, it is spellbinding, but it can also be terrifying."—*School Library Journal*

Koch, Gini. [Alien Collective](#) (DAW \$7.99). "Kitty and Jeff Martini and their ever-expanding gang of humans and aliens return for another highly entertaining dose of dangerous and wildly offbeat adventures. Koch continues to be the go-to author for anyone wanting madcap futuristic adventure heavily laced with deadly danger and laugh-out-loud fun."—*RT Book Reviews*. "This delightful romp has many interesting twists and turns as it glances at racism, politics, and religion en route. It will have fanciers of cinematic SF parodies referencing *Men in Black*, *Ghost Busters*, and *X-Men*. Meanwhile, readers who like the smart SF silliness of Douglas Adams' *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* novels, Lois McMaster Bujold's *Vorkosigan Saga*, Pat Murphy's *There and Back Again*, and A. Lee Martinez's *The Automatic Detective* will find it distinctively different, for Koch's humor is more in the vein of MaryJanice Davidson in her *Undead* series, but darned amusing, all the same."—*Booklist*. To order the earlier Aliens, [click here](#).

Lescroart, John. [The Keeper](#) (Atria \$26.99). On the evening before Thanksgiving, Hal Chase, a guard in the San Francisco County Jail, drives to the airport to pick up his step-brother for the weekend. When they return, Hal's wife, Katie, has disappeared without a clue. By the time Dismas Hardy hears about this, Katie has been missing for five days. The case strikes close to home because Katie had been seeing Hardy's wife, a marriage counselor. By this time, the original Missing Persons

case is being treated as a homicide. Hal is the prime suspect. The lawyer he wants for his defense is none other than Hardy himself. And the man Hardy wants working with him is former Homicide Chief Abe Glitsky.... I've always liked the Hardy/Glitsky partnership and here, with Glitsky no longer bound by police procedure, it ramps up. Check out earlier Hardys by [clicking here](#), beginning with *Dead Irish*.

McGarrity, Michael. [Backlands](#) (Dutton \$28.95) advances the story of Patrick Kerney, his ex-wife, Emma; and their young son, Matthew, shortly after the tragic battlefield death of their eldest son, CJ, at the end of World War I. Scarred by the loss of an older brother he idolized, estranged from a father he barely knows, and deeply troubled by the failing health of a mother he adores, eight-year-old Matthew is suddenly and irrevocably forced to set aside his childhood and take on responsibilities far beyond his years. When the world spirals into the Great Depression and drought settles like a plague over the nation, Matt must abandon his own dreams to salvage the Kerney ranch in New Mexico's Tularosa. Plunged into a deep trough of dark family secrets, hidden crimes, broken promises, and lies, Matt must struggle to survive on the unforgiving, sun-blasted, drought-stricken Tularosa Basin. Book Two in McGarrity's American West trilogy giving us the backstory of New Mexico cop Kevin Kerney. Start with [Hard Country](#) (\$16).

McKinlay, Jen. [Death of a Mad Hatter](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Scarlett Parker and her British cousin, Vivian Tremont, are hard at work at Mim's Whims—their ladies' hat shop on London's chic Portobello Road—to create hats for an Alice in Wonderland themed afternoon tea, a fund-raiser for a local children's hospital. It seems like a wonderfully whimsical way to pass the hat, and Scarlett and Viv are delighted to outfit the Grisby family, the hosts who are hoping to raise enough money to name a new hospital wing after their patriarch. Unfortunately, the Grisby heir will not live to see it—he's been poisoned. When traces of the poison are found on the hat Scarlett and Viv made for him, the police become curiouser and curiouser about their involvement. Now the ladies need to don their thinking caps and find the tea party crasher who's mad enough to kill at the drop of a hat... this is the sequel to series start [Cloche and Dagger](#) (\$7.99). Jenn also signs her latest Cupcake Bakery mystery, [Sugar and Iced](#) (\$7.99), Book Six featuring Scottsdale's "Fairy Tale Cupcake" bakery.

Palmer, Daniel. [Desperate](#) (Kensington \$25). Palmer is developing into a terrific author of domestic suspense based on clever plotting and engaging characters. Gage Dekker still blames himself for the car accident that claimed the lives of his first wife and young son. Then he meets Anna, who understands grief all too well. Within a year, Gage and Anna are married. After a heartbreaking miscarriage, they begin the long adoption process, until fate brings Lily into their lives. Young, pregnant, and homeless, Lily agrees to give her baby to Gage and Anna in exchange for financial support. But something isn't right once Lily enters their lives. At work and at home, Gage is being sabotaged, first in subtle ways; then things take a more sinister turn. Every attempt he makes to uncover the truth only drives a wedge between him and Anna. [Click here](#) to order his earlier work.

Philbrick, Nathaniel. [Bunker Hill](#) (Berkley \$18). **Don't miss this opportunity to discuss his work with the noted historian in an interactive evening.** We are so excited. "Philbrick is at his most vivid in conveying scenes of battle, both on the road between

Boston and Concord and on the ridges of Bunker Hill. But what adds depth to the narrative is his fine sense of the ambitions that drive people in war and politics." —*Washington Post*. "The author reminds us that the freedoms colonists wanted were never intended to apply to blacks, American Indians, or women. This was a messy time when decisions were sometimes dictated by ambition instead of some nobler trait."—*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

Preston, Douglas. [The Kraken Project](#) (Forge \$26.99). NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center is designing a probe which will be dropped into the Kraken Mare, one of the methane seas of Titan. There, it will embark on a journey of exploration. As the probe is being tested at Goddard, things go awry, and an explosion kills seven scientists. The AI program in the probe, a powerful, self-modifying AI called "Dorothy," flees into the Internet. Series character Wyman Ford is tapped by the president's science advisor to track down the software with the help of Dorothy's creator, Melissa Veld. As the two of them trace Dorothy in her wanderings in cyberspace, they realize Dorothy's horrific experiences in the wasteland of the Internet have changed her—utterly. But for the better...or worse? At the same time, they learn Dorothy is being pursued by a pair of Wall Street high-frequency traders, who want to turn her into an algorithmic-trading slave-bot. Preston & Child have two books for you this year: a Gideon Crew, [The Lost Island](#) (\$27), signed here Aug. 12; and a Pendergast, [Blue Labyrinth](#) (\$27), signed here November 11.

Rollins, James. [The Kill Switch](#) (Morrow \$27.99). This terrific spinoff from Sigma Force, written with Grant Blackwood, lands former Army Ranger Tucker Wayne and his partner, former military K9 Kane, in Siberia. Their mission is to extract an oligarch, a scientific genius rich from pharmaceuticals, who holds the biological key to a new weapons system. The action is relentless – love the trains – and the landscapes whether the Russian steppes or African savannahs, marvelously painted. The trademark Rollins blend of history, science, and action, gets an extra dimension with Kane. Rollins writes me that an interest in animal heroes, "has always been there in the popular mindset, whether it be Lassie from the old television serials or the horse protagonist from *The Black Stallion* or even the rabbits from *Watership Down*. I think this new rise in interest could be correlated to a rise in our understanding of the bond shared between humans and companion animals. Pet owners already had an innate understanding of this link. Yet, now science and popular media have shown it not only to be real, but also supported by research that suggests animals are more intelligent than we ever imagined, capable of experiencing true emotional love, and in the case of dogs, have a consciousness level equivalent to that of a human child. So it makes it easier to craft animals in significant roles in books without it coming off as wish fulfillment or fantasy. In my particular case, by pairing of a soldier with his military war dog, it offered me the opportunity to display all of this in an action setting, while taking advantage of my background as a veterinarian to write scenes from the dog's point of view, to put the reader in that four-legged soldier's paws, and experience that bond from the other side, from the dog's perspective." Rollins signs his new Sigma Force thriller, [The 6th Extinction](#) (\$27.95) here August 13.

Sandford, John. [Field of Prey](#) (Putnam \$28.95). The night after the Fourth of July, Layton Carlson Jr., of Red Wing, Minnesota, finally got lucky. But he'd picked an abandoned farmyard in

the middle of cornfields to give up his virginity, a private, quiet spot. Unlucky too since it takes no time to detect a terrible smell at the scene. Unluckier since when Layton reports the gagging atmosphere to a county deputy he knows, the cop takes a look and finds a body stuffed down a cistern. Unluckiest of all, there's more than one corpse down the well. By the time Lucas Davenport of the BCA is called in, the police make it fifteen bodies and counting. When Lucas begins his investigation, he determines the victims had been killed over many years, one every summer, regular as clockwork. How could this have happened without anybody noticing? We the readers are let in to what's going on in a classic thriller narrative structure that reminds us that rural Minnesota can be as deadly as urban, something Sandford does exceptionally well in the Prey series as he mixes up locations, made easier by Lucas' assignment to the BCA which has a state-wide remit. To order other fiction by Sandford, [click here](#).

Thomas, Will. [Fatal Enquiry](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Some years ago, Cyrus Barker matched wits with Sebastian Nightwine, an aristocrat and sociopath—it's a Holmes vs. Moriarty scenario. Exposure of his evil sent Nightwine fleeing British justice somewhere in the far corners of the earth. The last thing Barker ever expected was to encounter Nightwine again—but the government, now believing it needs Nightwine's help, has granted him immunity for his past crimes and brought him back to London (is this a modern scenario, or what?). Nightwine, however, has more on his mind than redemption—and as Barker and Llewellyn set out to uncover and thwart Nightwine's real scheme, they find themselves in a second, possibly fatal, duel with the criminal genius/psychopath. "This is what Conan Doyle would write after taking tea with Lee Child..."—Julia Spencer-Fleming, capturing the darker atmosphere that makes a Nero Wolfe/Archie Goodwin comparison less apt.

FIRST NOVELS

Brookes, Adam. [Night Heron Signed](#) (Redhouse/Little Brown \$27). A lone man called Peanut escapes a labor camp in the dead of night, fleeing across the winter desert of north-west China in harrowingly described scenes. You are immediately stunned by his perseverance, patience—and cunning. Two decades earlier, he was a spy for the British. But now Peanut must disappear on Beijing's surveillance-blanketed streets. Desperate and ruthless, he reaches out to his one-time MI6 paymasters via crusading journalist Philip Mangan, offering military secrets in return for extraction. But the secrets prove more valuable than Peanut or Mangan could ever imagine...and not only to the British. A first rate thriller, unusual, and also a June **First Mystery Club Pick**. Don't miss it!

Dahl, Julia. [Invisible City Signed](#) (St Martins \$27). I subscribe to the *NY Times* and so am more familiar with events in metro NY's Hasidic community than say only reading Faye Kellerman (although I do). It's a closed and can be secretive world. A mystery piercing barriers to give an insider look makes a good start for Rebekah Roberts, a reporter. Her mother, a Hasidic Jew from Brooklyn, abandoned her Christian boyfriend and newborn baby to return to her religion. Neither Rebekah nor her father has heard from her since. Now a recent college graduate, Rebekah has moved to New York to follow her dream of becoming a big-city reporter. But she's also drawn to the idea of being closer to

her mother, who might still be living in the Hasidic community in Brooklyn. Then Rebekah is called to cover the story of a murdered Hasidic woman. Rebekah's shocked to learn that, because of the NYPD's habit of kowtowing to the powerful ultra-Orthodox community, not only will the woman be buried without an autopsy, her killer may get away with murder. Rebekah can't let the story end there... "Dahl's convincing dialogue and perfect pacing make for a real page-turner. And her storytelling skills illuminate the intriguing worlds of the tabloid press, Hasidism, the NYPD, and Brooklyn's 20-somethings—as well as the fragile boundaries of family, religion, and life itself."—*Publishers Weekly*. I add that I can't see that the Hasidic beat can be an exclusive for Rebekah if she goes forward as a series character; as a reporter she can cover lots of stories and communities. **Our May Surprise Me Club Pick**.

Go, Justin. [The Steady Running of the Hour Signed](#) (SimonSchuster \$27). The May Indie Next Pick for a **First Mystery Club Pick**: "There are so many reasons to want other readers to immerse themselves in this all-embracing novel — the shimmering unreality of life in London before Ashley's deployment to France; the convincing portrayal of the grim horrors of trench warfare; the struggles of mountaineering on Everest; Tristan's compulsion to discover a piece of his family's past. Justin Go handles all these scenarios with a sure hand, and then concludes the whole with an entirely convincing ending. This beautifully haunting story will appeal to a wide audience of readers." There's a video trailer you will enjoy: [click here](#) to view.

Graedon, Alena. [The Word Exchange Signed](#) (Knopf \$26.95). "Graedon's spectacular, ambitious debut explores a near-future America that's shifted almost exclusively to smart technologies, where print is only a nostalgia, and nostalgia is only an archaism. But while everyone carries 'Memes,' devices with enough data to negate the need for memory—let alone vocabulary—and can even anticipate wants and needs, Anana Johnson works closely with her anti-Meme father Doug, a famous lexicographer, at the North American Dictionary of the English Language. But when Doug goes missing, what once seemed like a Luddite's quaint conspiracy theory takes on new plausibility."—*PW* Starred Review. Graedon herself says, "One of the gifts that my parents gave me for graduation was a copy of the *Oxford American Dictionary* and I took it with me to a visual art residency a couple of months later because I was going to use the line drawings inside for a project. As I was flipping through, I saw these encyclopedia-like entries for important people and I had this weird flash of an idea, what if one of these entries were to disappear? What would this story be? ... I always had this idea that I wanted to have 26 chapters—one for each letter of the alphabet." A **First Mystery Club Pick**.

Granotier, Sylvie. [The Paris Lawyer](#) (Le French Book \$16.95). A legal thriller, French style. As a child, Catherine Monsigny was the only witness to a heinous crime, her mother Violet's peculiar murder. Now, she is a rookie lawyer, Maitre Monsigny, in the midst of investigating her first big case, one where her client Myriam, a Gabones orphan accused of killing her elderly husband whose nephews want to claim the family property she inherits, in Paris, may be playing her. And it leads her out of the city to the Creuse and to Cedric and in time to uncovering hair-raising truths about her past. It's a bit like Mary Stewart in that there are two men and she must choose which to believe.... **Our June Fresh Fiction Pick, out in May**.

Harvkey, Michael. [In the Course of Human Events](#) (Soft Skull \$24). Clyde Twitty could use a break, a helping hand. He's a young man lost – in his finances, in his family – and stuck deep within the fast-settling muck of a dwindling rural Missouri town that has, in every way, given up hope. The hand that reaches down, pulls him up, and leads him forward is that of Jay Smalls, a fiercely charismatic patriarch, a man who exerts a kind of gravitational force and who breeds purpose in those who get caught in it. Un-rattled by the increasingly sinister racial undertones of Jay Smalls and his posse, and desperate to look forward and not down, for once in his life, Clyde hardly stumbles when the path he's being ushered down takes a dark and irrevocable turn. "It's a novel — his first after many years of rewrites, edits, anguish, despair, more rewrites, more despair, rejection, and on and on. And damn, it is great. In short: white trash, anarcho white supremacists, Missouri, paranoid plot. All-out brutal, profane, revolting and just tense as hell. The trick here is that the characters aren't method-out four-tooth, blister-mouthed cornpone caricatures. Nope — Harvkey really gets these people. It's like he was embedded in the movement. I've actually found myself on the subway, reading, all contorted so the person next to me doesn't catch a glimpse of the words on the page and think, you know, that I'm into this stuff. Mike's a friend of mine, so I'm really happy the book came out before it killed him."—Jonathan Segura

Hayes, Terry. [I Am Pilgrim Signed](#) (Atria \$26.99). Probably not arriving until June, a **First Mystery Pick** and super hot thriller. The *PW* Starred Review: "Screenwriter and producer Hayes makes his fiction debut with an exceptional thriller that boasts an utterly credible narrator who has had so many covert identities he can barely remember his original name. Soul-weary Scott Murdoch (aka the Pilgrim) has retired from the top echelon of ultra secret espionage, but duty and faith in the human spirit call him back into service. A lone-wolf Middle Eastern native whom the Pilgrim code names "the Saracen" has a sure-fire bioterrorist plot to destroy the United States. In the cinematic chase that ensues, the action traverses the globe, from the Oval Office to the dusty trails of Afghanistan, each scene fleshed out in the smallest resonating detail (e.g., a Down syndrome child's laughter, the endless nausea of waterboarding). Like many pilgrimages, this one is painfully long and packed with unexpected menace, its glimpses of the goal fitful and far between, but readers will agree that this journey of body and soul is well worth the effort." Terrific to read with *Night Heron*, see above.

MacFarlane, Seth. [A Million Ways to Die in the West](#) (Random \$23). Old Stump, Arizona. 1882. Mild-mannered sheep farmer Albert Stark is fed up with the harsh life of the American frontier, where it seems everything and anything can kill you: Duels at high noon. Barroom brawls. Poisonous snakes. Cholera-infected drinking water. Tumbleweed abrasion. Something called "toe-foot." Even a trip to the outhouse. Yes, there are a million ways to die in the wild, wild West, and Albert plans to avoid them all. Some people think that makes him a coward. Albert calls it common sense. But when his girlfriend dumps him for the most insufferable guy in town, Albert decides to fight back—even though he can't shoot, ride, or throw a punch. Fortunately, he teams up with a beautiful gunslinger who's tough enough for the both of them. Unfortunately, she's married to the biggest, meanest, most jealous badass on the frontier. Turns out Albert has just discovered a million and one ways to die in the West.

Ming-Yi, Wu. [The Man with the Compound Eyes](#) (Knopf \$25.95). "On Wayo-Wayo, an uncharted, floating Pacific Island, second sons are destined to canoe into the sea, to die. Such is the fate of gifted son Atile'i, but as death approaches, he lands on an immense floating island of trash. In Taiwan, Alice, a professor mourning her "disappeared" family, considers only suicide until a reprieve comes from—a cat. Then, in a "convergence of the twain," as the garbage island collides with Taiwan, Atile'i and Alice are almost literally thrown together. On this basic plot-track the book glides along, taking in side characters, flora and fauna, myths and creation stories (both Wayoan and Taiwanese), a Forest Cathedral, walking trees, deer that turn into goats, and disquisitions on everything from applied geology/quartzite-density to baby seal slaughter to the memory theories of Eric Richard Kandel (and lots more). The novel has charm (especially when Atile'i and Alice learn to communicate), adventure, horror, awe, and a heavy pro-environmental theme. Oh, the title character? He shows up at times. Or does he? It's that kind of book. Offering a heady dose of realism, surrealism, and magic realism, with several shots of allegory, award-winning Chinese author Wu offers a work for "literary fiction" readers, but not in the snobbish sense. It's really for any curious, intelligent reader not tethered to the bestsellers lists."—*LJ* Starred Review. A novel for admirers of *The Life of Pi*.

✽Owen, Lauren. [The Quick Signed](#) (Cape \$39). A high-buzz debut, variously described as "A sly and glittering addition to the literature of the macabre... As soon as you have breathed with relief, much worse horrors begin."—Hilary Mantel. Or "A suspenseful, gloriously atmospheric novel, and a feast of gothic storytelling."—Kate Atkinson. What we have is a kind of Dickens or Sarah Walters Victorian—and vampires. A darker, wilder version of Setterfield's [The Thirteenth Tale](#) (\$16) and, appropriately, set in the wilds of Yorkshire where an orphaned brother and sister are bound by tragedy. Then there's London and luxurious rooms of the mysterious Aegolius Club whose members are among the richest, and most ambitious, men in England. At some point, a trapdoor will open, changing the contours of reality... I can't decide which of our book collectors' clubs this remarkable book fits—First Mystery, Historical Mystery, Surprise Me!—so I gave up and we're simply offering Signed copies to you. The US edition publishes in June; so far no word of autographed copies as the author lives in England.

Paull, Laline. [The Bees](#) (Ecco \$25.99). The Indie Next Pick: "This book is completely amazing. Paull uses real bee behavior as the basis for a tale of complex hive society, complete with a religion, a caste system, and threats from the outside world. The heroine, Flora 717, is an abnormally large and intelligent bee. Her size and strength give her opportunities to work at a variety of jobs, and as she begins to uncover the dark secrets of the hive, Flora makes a decision that could change the future of her entire hive. Well-crafted and filled with intrigue and action, this is a brilliant, thought-provoking, and completely original debut that does for bees what Richard Adams did for rabbits in *Watership Down*."

✽Taylor, Abbie. [The Stranger on the Train](#) (Atria \$15). Struggling single mom Emma sometimes dreams of a break. One quiet Sunday evening in the London Tube her rambunctious toddler Ritchie gets on the train while she's struggling with his carriage—and the train rolls away. A woman on board signals Emma to

meet her at the next station. Instead of calling for help, Emma jumps on the next train. And... When she reports Ritchie's abduction to the police, they view her with suspicion. Who will believe her story? So Emma sets off to find him. We've seen this basic plot before but Taylor does a good job capturing Emma's burdens and her resolve to recover Ritchie.

Tucker, Neely. [The Ways of the Dead Signed](#) (Viking \$26). Although Neely is writing in Pelecanos territory, the backstreets of DC, basing his story on the 1990s Princeton Place murders, it's easy to see why Michael Connelly and John Sandford champion it—the protagonist is a reporter, one Sully Carter; the newsroom clearly that of the *Washington Post* if named differently; and the investigation shows how an investigative journalist sinks his teeth into a developing story and won't let go. **Irresistible—thus a First Mystery Club Pick to be signed June 19 alongside Ridley Pearson and his new Rutherford Risk thriller, [The Red Room](#)** (Putnam \$26.95).

Weaver, Rachel. [Point of Direction](#) (Ig Publishing \$16.95). Another Indie Next Pick: “Weaver’s debut novel about two damaged people who withhold much of themselves despite their love for each other had me hooked from the very start, as did the appeal of the remote Alaskan landscape, a compelling character in its own right. Anna and Kyle are two fiercely independent souls hiding huge secrets from each other even as they decide to take a nine-month lease on a lighthouse on Hibler Rock, miles from the coast of Alaska. The last caretaker disappeared over 20 years ago, and that mystery is evenly woven into the discoveries Anna and Kyle make about themselves and their futures. Readers will find *Point of Direction* impossible to put down.”

BRITISH BOOKS

Beechey, Alan. [This Private Plot Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). **Our British Crime Club Pick.** If a blackmail letter drives a man to suicide, is the sender guilty of murder? “Yes,” says Oliver Swithin, author of bestselling Finsbury the Ferret children’s stories and amateur sleuth, who is on holiday in an ancient village. A midnight streak with his naked girlfriend—Scotland Yard’s Effie Strongitham—abruptly ends in the discovery of a corpse. Retired radiobroadcaster Dennis Breedlove has hanged himself from the old gibbet. Evidence suggests blackmail may have driven this celebrity to suicide. Irresistibly intrigued, Oliver believes discovering the dead man’s secret will lead to the identity of the blackmailer. But in Britain today, when shame is a ticket to fame, why suicide? What if it wasn’t? When the mystery abruptly turns inside out, black-clad strangers attack Oliver in the night. The Vicar behaves strangely. So do the village’s five unmarried Bennet sisters, a mysterious monk, the persistent, self-effacing Underwood Tooth, and Oliver’s Uncle Tim, Effie’s superior at the Yard and a part-time Shakespearean actor. Plus Oliver’s aunt and his mother. Who else might play a role in *This Private Plot*? Two William Shakespeares? In this long-awaited third chapter in the career of Oliver Swithin, under the clever wordplay and bawdy jokes lies an inventive and, yes, scholarly plot. Also in trade paperback: [This Private Plot](#) (\$14.95).

Republishing: Oliver’s first two cases: [An Embarrassment of Corpses](#) (\$14.95); [Murdering Ministers](#) (\$14.95). “In the end, it’s difficult to say what’s most appealing about this book: Oliver’s beguiling personality, the inventive plot, or the clever wordplay, raucous jokes, and hilarious

innuendos. No matter. Beechey has concocted a sparkling little gem of a mystery that’s a treat to read.” —*Booklist* on *Murdering Ministers*. You don’t have to read them in order but it’s fun. Remember the first two were not edited by me (Barbara).

Bolton, Sharon. [A Dark and Twisted Tide Signed](#) (Transworld \$32). Anne Perry put Victorian sleuth William Monk into the River Police. What fun that Bolton has moved London copper Lacey Flint onto a houseboat on the Thames and into the 21st Century River Police. Not fun however when one morning Lacey, out for an unlawful swim, finds the body of a shrouded young woman at the old King’s Wharf. She assumes the discovery was one of chance. But what if the body had been left near the mouth of Deptford Creek for Lacey to find? The story highlights the cultural/racial mix of London and provides a surprise killer. Bolton is one of my favorite contemporary British crime writers and this new Lacey Flint confirms her skills (earlier books are written as SJ Bolton). Bolton is a Mary Higgins Clark Award and ITW Thriller Award winner, and a CWA Gold Dagger nominee.

Booth, Stephen. [The Kill Call](#) (\$11.99). On a rain-swept Derbyshire moor, hounds from the local foxhunt find the body of a well-dressed man whose head has been crushed. Yet an anonymous 999 caller reports the same body lying half a mile away. Called in to investigate the discovery, E Division detectives DS Diane Fry and DC Ben Cooper become entangled in the violent world of hunting and hunt saboteurs, horse theft and a little-known sector of the meat trade. As Fry follows a complex trail of her own to unravel the shady business interests of the murder victim, Cooper realizes that the answer to the case might lie deep in the past. History is everywhere around him in the Peak District landscape—particularly in the ‘plague village’ of Eyam, where an outbreak of Black Death has been turned into a modern-day tourist attraction. But, even as the final solution is revealed, both Fry and Cooper find themselves having to face up to the disturbing reality of the much more recent past.

Casey, Jane. [The Last Girl](#) (\$15.99). Vast wealth offers London defense attorney Philip Kennford a lot of things. But his money doesn’t provide a happy marriage, or good relationships with his twin daughters...and it does nothing to protect his family when someone brutally murders his wife and daughter in their own home. When Detective Constable Maeve Kerrigan arrives at the scene, the two survivors—Philip and his second favorite daughter, Lydia—both claim to have seen nothing, but it’s clear right away that this is an unhappy family accustomed to keeping secrets. Maeve soon finds herself entangled in a case with a thousand leads that all seem to point nowhere, and it doesn’t help that her boss, whom she trusts more than almost anyone, is starting to make decisions that Maeve finds questionable at best. Casey’s new case for Maeve and her squad, [The Stranger You Know](#) (St Martins \$25.99), is a crackerjack procedural and will be our **June British Crime Club Pick**.

Dennison, Hannah. [Murder at Honeychurch Hall Signed](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Starts a cozy series featuring an antiques expert with a free-spirited mother. See Event Books.

Galbraith, Robert. [The Cuckoo’s Calling](#) (\$18). Introducing London private eye Cormoran Strike—and JK Rowling as a crimewriter. See our May Trade Paperback Picks for more.

Harvey, John. [Darkness, Darkness Signed](#) (Heinemann \$42). The last Charlie Resnick investigation. See New Books for more.

Hutton, Ewart. [Dead People](#) (St Martins \$25.99). The second case for DS Glyn Capaldi, a Cardiff policeman exiled to Nowhere, Wales, where he's chasing someone mutilating boy sheep. A hillside excavation for a pending wind farm uncovers a skeleton, not ancient (thus derailing the construction project), but not new. The head and hands are missing. His superior, Jack, arrives and calls the site a dumping ground for, possibly, a serial killer. But Glyn, who discovers a second and fresher corpse on site on a hunch, thinks local knowledge is required. Various threads of the investigation lead in surprising directions, a bit of a stretch really but plausible. Capaldi is an interesting character, a real terrier for the work but temperamentally not suited for chain of command. Meet him in *Good People*.

Kernick, Simon. [Relentless](#) (Atria \$15). On an ordinary summer afternoon, John Merton recognizes the voice of his old friend Jack Calley, a big-time City lawyer, screaming for his life. Meron listens helplessly to the sounds of Calley being viciously attacked and murdered. Most shocking of all are Calley's last words: the first two lines of Meron's home address. Confused and terrified, Meron piles his children in the car and drives away, trying desperately to reach his wife on her cell phone or at her office. There is no answer. With his wife missing, an unidentified corpse in her office, his home occupied by three armed men, and the police after him for crimes too horrible to contemplate, Meron's quiet life is about to get a whole lot more interesting.... Think Harlan Coben, British style.

Kelly, Erin. [The Ties That Bind Signed](#) (Hodder \$39). Luke is a true crime writer in search of a story. When he flees to Brighton after an explosive break-up, the perfect subject lands in his lap: reformed gangster Joss Grand. Now in his eighties, Grand once ruled the Brighton underworld with his sadistic sidekick Jacky Nye — until Jacky washed up by the West Pier in 1968, strangled and thrown into the sea. Though Grand's alibi seems cast-iron, Luke is sure there's more to the story than meets the eye, and he convinces the criminal-turned-philanthropist to be interviewed for a book about his life. Luke is drawn deeper into the mystery of Jacky Nye's murder. Was Grand there that night? Is he really as reformed a character as he claims? And who was the girl in the red coat seen fleeing the murder scene? Soon Luke realizes that in stirring up secrets from the past, he may have placed himself in terrible danger.

Link, Charlotte. [The Watcher](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). Carla Roberts lives alone in the top of a high rise in Hackney, frightened by the sound of the lift stopping and opening on her floor, with nobody getting out. Days later, she's found brutally murdered. Meanwhile, Samson Segal, an unemployed thirty-something has taken to spying on his neighbors, particularly beautiful and successful Gillian Ward. When Gillian's daughter comes home to an empty, locked house, Samson takes her in but finds himself venting his anger in his diary when his good Samaritan actions go unappreciated, unaware that his suspicious sister-in-law cracked his password long ago... When Gillian's husband is then murdered in his own home, Samson comes under intense scrutiny but the only man making any progress in the case shouldn't be working on it. Yet he's the only one who believes Samson is innocent...

New in paperback: [The Other Child](#) (\$15.95). In the tranquil northern seaside town of Scarborough, a student is found cruelly murdered. For months, the investigators are in the dark,

until they are faced with a copy-cat crime. The investigation continues, but they are still struggling to establish a connection between the two victims. Ambitious detective Valerie Almond clings to the all too obvious: a rift within the family of the second victim. But there is far more to the case than first appears and Valerie is led towards a dark secret, inextricably linked to the evacuation of children to Scarborough during World War II.... This is German bestseller Link's first work translated into English.

Lovesey, Peter. [The Tooth Tattoo](#) (\$15.95). A brilliantly plotted case for Bath CID's curmudgeonly Supt. Peter Diamond. I love it! See our May Trade Paperback Picks for more.

Owen, Lauren. [The Quick Signed](#) (Cape \$39). A high-buzz debut, variously described as "A sly and glittering addition to the literature of the macabre... As soon as you have breathed with relief, much worse horrors begin."—Hilary Mantel. Or "A suspenseful, gloriously atmospheric novel, and a feast of gothic storytelling."—Kate Atkinson. See First Novels for more.

Parsons, Tony. [The Murder Bag Signed](#) (Century \$21). A smashing start to London-based police series that begins in one of England's oldest public schools, one founded by Henry VIII in 1509 (and where he had his prized dogs interred in a special grave). Max Wolfe follows his conviction in the face of orders to stand down and kills a suicide bomber. He gets The Queen's Medal, but what he wants is to join the Homicide Division, and so he does, at 27 Savile Row, London's West End Central. Working with a mentor he respects, he's thrown into one, then two brutal killings, men with their throats so cut they smothered before they bled out. Max connects the two victims through a photo of a group of boys who were pupils together at Potter's Field school. Max, a single dad with a five-year-old daughter called Scout (shades of *To Kill a Mockingbird*) and a scared King Charles Spaniel puppy, isn't going to last long with all that's thrown at him in this—an exciting, surprising read (albeit with one cliché I wish Parsons had skipped). Love the writing, the characterizations. A **Surprise Me Club Pick** but highly recommended to fans of Peter Robinson and Ian Rankin, Peter James too.

Robotham, Michael. [Lost](#) (\$15). Detective Inspector Vincent Ruiz doesn't know who wants him dead. He has no recollection of the fire that landed him in the Thames, covered in his own blood and that of at least two other people. A photo of missing child Mickey Carlyle is found in his pocket—but Carlyle's killer is already in jail. And Ruiz is the detective who put him there. Accused of faking amnesia, Ruiz reaches out to psychologist Joe O'Loughlin to help him unearth his memory and clear his name. Together they battle against an internal affairs investigator convinced Ruiz is hiding the truth, and a ruthless criminal who claims Ruiz has something of his that can't be replaced. As Ruiz's memories begin to resurface, they offer tantalizing glimpses at a shocking discovery. A reissue of a standalone by the author of the Joe O'Loughlin series.

Silva, Daniel. [The English Girl](#) (\$15.99). This is a Gabriel Allon spy thriller that starts in Corsica but hangs upon British politics—the kidnapped woman is the secret lover of the Prime Minister.

Taylor, Abbie. [The Stranger on the Train](#) (Atria \$15). A single mother who'd occasionally like to escape her life encounters something worse one Sunday evening on the London Tube—the

train departs with her baby while she's struggling to get his carriage on board. . . . See First Novels.

Tope, Rebecca. [Shadows in the Cotswolds](#) (\$16.95). When Thea Osbourne agrees to house sit for Oliver Meadows as a favor to her mother, she expects a few days peace and quiet. But as usual, Thea quickly finds herself at the center of a dark mystery when she discovers a dead body in the gardens of the house. Uncomfortable with the news of her mother's sudden involvement with an old flame, and Thea herself unsure of how to deal with her feelings for Drew Slocombe, she hopes that some time alone in the historic town of Winchcombe will help to clear her head. Instead she's drawn into yet another murder inquiry.

Wyld, Evie. [All the Birds, Singing](#) (Pantheon, \$24.95). The Indie Next Pick: "What is Jake Whyte fleeing from? That's the central question in this dark, compelling novel written by one of Granta's Best Young British Novelists. The story, which goes back and forth in time, starts with Jake on a windswept British island trying to figure out who — or what — is picking off her sheep. Jake is a loner, aside from her disobedient Collie, but why? How did she get the scars on her back? Why is she estranged from her family in Australia? With each new chapter the reader learns what has driven Jake to this lonely existence. Wyld's writing is atmospheric, wild, and scary, but there is a sense of redemption in the end."

GLOBAL CRIMES

Addison, Corban. [The Garden of Burning Sand](#) (Quercus \$26.99). The Indie Next Pick: "This is a captivating thriller that combines page-turning suspense with a social conscience. In contemporary Zambia, an American lawyer who is seeking justice fights entrenched power as well as her own family demons when her father, an influential senator, becomes a candidate for president. Addison's tale is a fantastic read for literary novel lovers and thriller readers alike, as it provides both suspense and the exploration of important global issues in a credible and convincing style."

Alaux, Jean-Pierre. [Treachery in Bordeaux](#) (Le French Press \$12.95). The first in a French series of Winemaker Mysteries although the sleuth, Benjamin Cooker, is really more like Robert Parker (the wine critic, not the mystery guy) than a vintner. This journey to Bordeaux takes readers behind the scenes of a grand cru wine estate that has fallen victim to either negligence or sabotage. World-renowned winemaker turned gentleman detective Benjamin Cooker sets out to find out what happened and why. If you can get MHZ-TV (Direct TV channel) you can watch a French TV series based on the books featuring Cooker.

Aspe, Pieter. [The Square of Revenge](#) (\$14.95). The beautiful medieval architecture of Bruges belies the dark longings of her residents. When the wealthy and powerful Ludovic Degroof's jewelry store is broken into, nothing is stolen, but the jewels have been dissolved in jars of aqua regia, an acid so strong it can even melt gold. In the empty safe is a scrap of paper on which a strange square has been drawn. At first, Inspector Van In pays little attention to the paper, focusing on the bizarre nature of the burglary. But when Degroof's offspring also receive letters with this same square, Van In and the beautiful new DA Hannelore Martens find themselves unraveling a complex web of enigmatic Latin phrase and a baroness' fallen family and Degroof's

relationship with a hostage grandchild, ransomed for a priceless collection of art. "Van In's intuitive and often impulsive detection style can be disorienting, but his powers of observation are sharp and his insider's view of this ancient and grandly aloof city is priceless."—*NY Times Book Review*

Brookmyre, Christopher. [Bred in the Bone](#) (Atlantic \$24). An excellent 3rd joint investigation for Glasgow PI Jasmine Sharp and DS Catherine McLeod that will resonate with fans of Denise Mina and, switching Scottish cities, Ian Rankin, recalling that a Rebus menace is a city gangster. In this book the gangster is Stevie Fullerton, a confident crime lord shot dead while sitting in his Bentley in a car wash he owns. Catherine puts a rival gangster in the cells for killing Stevie, but she's not totally convinced. Meanwhile Jasmine, whose father was murdered before her birth, confronts that idea that his killer, Glen Fallan, who walked, is the guy jailed for Stevie...but is he guilty? If not, does she care? I've always like Brookmyre's hard-hitting funny work and become nimble at translating the Scots. [Where the Bodies are Buried](#) (\$15) and new in paperback, [When the Devil Drives](#) (\$15)

Bruen, Ken. [Merrick](#) (Premier \$17.99). A rogue Irish cop manipulates a transfer to work for the NYPD in an exchange program. However, it turns out that the Irish cop is really a serial killer wanted for murder in Ireland and now NYC. A new character and a new novel for fans of Ken Bruen's Jack Taylor and Inspector Brant series.

Burke, Declan. [Crime Always Pays: A Noir Irish Heist Thriller](#) (Severn \$28.95). Karen and Ray are on their way to the Greek islands to rendezvous with Madge and split the fat bag of cash they conned from her ex-husband Rossi when they kidnapped, well, Madge. But they've reckoned without Stephanie Doyle, the cop who can't decide if she wants to arrest Madge, shoot Rossi, or ride off into the sunset with Ray. And then there's Melody, the wannabe movie director, who's pinning all her hopes on Sleeps, the narcoleptic getaway driver who just wants to go back inside and do some soft time. A European road-trip screwball noir. Ordered upon Request.

Conley, Susan. [Paris Was the Place](#) (\$16.95). Conley composes a love song to Paris in a richly textured debut novel. It's the 1980s. Willow Pears reunites with her brother Luke who's spent years in China. To support herself she takes a job teaching English at a center for immigrant girls. And becomes smitten with Macon Ventri, an attorney working at the same asylum. As Willow's life comes together, will she make a decision that will fracture it? I like Conley's examination of the potential peril of our choices, no matter how light-heartedly or seriously made.

Dahl, Arne. [Bad Blood](#) (\$15.95). When a Swedish literary critic is found tortured to death in a janitor's closet at Newark International Airport, the police realize that the murderer made off with the victim's ticket and boarded a flight to Stockholm. Swedish authorities are placed on high alert, but the killer manages to slip through the customs dragnet and vanishes into the night. With no clear motive in sight, Detectives Paul Hjelm and Kerstin Holm of Intercrime's A-Unit take over the investigation. They learn that the method of torture used was not only a highly specialized means of extracting information secretly developed during the Vietnam War—allowing the victim to whisper, but not to scream—but also that it was the modus operandi of an allegedly deceased homicidal maniac known only

as the Kentucky Killer. As additional victims are discovered on the outskirts of Stockholm, the team finds itself coming up empty-handed. Hjelm and Holm fly to New York, hoping to discover both the killer's identity and the source of his interest in Sweden.

Doerr, Anthony. [All the Light We Cannot See Signed](#) (Scribner \$27). The No. 2 Indie Next Pick for May and a **Modern Firsts Club Pick** was ten years in the writing. The result: braided storylines to savor that explore the impact of a voice coming over radio, how to preserve a heritage as Paris was about to be invaded, and the progress of two different lives, two children's path that cross for but a moment in St. Malo as the Allies arrive to bomb it. How did they reach that moment, and what came after? The girl, blind, is the daughter of a Paris museum employee entrusted with a great treasure. The boy is German, curious, ferociously intelligent, a Jewish orphan with a young sister, a reluctant soldier whose passion is radio. They mature as WWII looms and rages, a time when "the potential of thousands of children will be unrealized or thwarted. Will a mythical gemstone save them or unite them? Gorgeously written, Doerr's epic tale brings alive the beauty of two souls, their quest for learning, the turbulent times they cannot control, and the rock that mysteriously guides their fate." Poignant, intimate, vintage are adjectives that come to mind.

Downie, David. [Paris to the Pyrenees](#) (\$16.95). I've only walked snips of the ancient pilgrim route leading to Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain: in France at Collonges-la-Rouge and Rocamadour, and at the terminus of the Way of St. James in Compostela. Downie and his wife were more ambitious, setting out to walk the route from Paris across France, some 750 miles south to Roncesvalles, Spain, 72 days on an 1100-year-old network of pilgrimage paths and Roman roads. Pilgrimages were, and are, religious tourism, both a phenomenon in themselves and a cultural and geographical exploration that has not lost its grip. While hundreds of thousands take the Spanish route, fewer cross France. Enjoy.

Downing, David. [Jack of Spies Signed](#) (Soho \$27.95). A brilliantly conceived 1913 spy story traveling from Germany's China foothold to America and on to Europe. See Event Books

Eriksson, Kjell. [Black Lies, Red Blood](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Uppsala police officer Ann Lindell is great at solving crimes, but the single mom doesn't have as much luck in her personal life. Then she meets journalist Anders Brant. When this talkative lover disappears without a trace and a homeless man's body is found with Anders' phone number in his pocket, she must keep quiet about her connection to her former beau while racing to find him and clear his name—but can she trust him? 5th in the Lindell series.

Granotier, Sylvie. [The Paris Lawyer](#) (Le French Press \$16.95). A legal thriller, French style. See First Novels.

Hamilton, Ian. [The Water Rat of Wanchai](#) (Picador \$16). I love the Ava Lee capers, recommended to me by a Canadian customer. Here's an enthusiastic review: "American fans of Ava Lee, a Toronto-based forensic accountant who specializes in finding and recovering missing money, will welcome Hamilton's first in the series, whose publication in the U.S. follows that of the fourth entry, 2013's *The Red Pole of Macau*. When her Chinese business partner, Uncle, asks her to help a friend's nephew, who

has lost \$5 million to an unscrupulous seafood distributor, Ava embarks on a multicountry quest to track the funds. She travels to Hong Kong, where the deal originated, then follows the money trail to Bangkok and Georgetown, Guyana. In the seedy South American capital, she bribes Captain Robbins—the de facto power behind the government, military, law enforcement, and the criminal underworld—to help her reclaim the money from Jackson Seto, who masterminded the seafood scam. Despite a somewhat anticlimactic ending, this is an enjoyable romp with a feisty, ingenious heroine whose lethal martial arts skills are as formidable as her keen mind."—*PW*. [Click here](#) to order all the Ava Lees.

Hill, Antonio. [The Summer of Dead Toys](#) (\$15). Inspector Hector Salgado is a transplanted Argentine living in Barcelona. While working on human trafficking case, Salgado's violent temper got the best of him and he beat a suspect within an inch of his life. Ordered on probation, he fled to Argentina to cool off for a few months. Now he's back in Barcelona and is eager for another big case. But his boss has other plans. He assigns Salgado to a routine accidental death: a college student fell from a balcony in one of Barcelona's ritzier neighborhoods. As Salgado begins to piece together the life and world of the victim, he realizes that his death was not all that simple: his teenage friends are either overly paranoid or deceptively calm, and drugs might be involved. Hector begins to follow a trail that will lead him deep into the underbelly of Barcelona's high society where he'll come face-to-face with dangerous criminals, long-buried secrets, and, of course, his own past. But Hector thrives on pressure, and he lives for this kind of case—dark, violent, and seemingly unsolvable. This outstanding debut was a First Mystery Club Pick in its UK edition.

Holt, Jonathan. [Abduction: Carnivia Trilogy #2 Signed](#) (Zeus \$39). Second Lieutenant Holly Boland is an intelligence analyst trained to look for clues ordinary investigators miss. When a U.S. army officer's daughter is kidnapped from an American base in Venice, Holly is sure that the mysterious abductors want more than a ransom. Venetian police captain Kat Tapo has found a webcam feed embedded in the encrypted website Carnivia.com, a virtual Venice. It streams video of a terrified teenage girl, hooded and tied to a chair. A strand of text scrolls across the screen: "Sensory deprivation is not torture." Is the girl the missing daughter of the American military officer? Who is behind the cryptic message? Daniele Barbo, the genius webmaster and creator of Carnivia, has never let the government access his servers, and finding the missing girl is not his problem. But then secrets from Italy's dark wartime past begin to surface—revelations that could put them all in danger. To save his own skin, Daniel must decide how far he's willing to let them in. In a race against time, Holly, Kat, and Daniel join forces....It's fascinating to read a thriller where the Americans are the enemy, on the bad side of law enforcement in Venice and the Veneto—and of some American military on the US base being built. The author is British, hence his perspective. His mix of contemporary thriller elements and of a virtual world called Carnivia scarily modeling Venice exactly, makes it more interesting. [The Abomination](#) (\$14.99) is Book One.

Kestin, Hesh. [The Lie](#) (Scribner \$24). The irony in this engaging thriller is apparent from the opening scene although the way Kestin paints the end game is both surprising and gripping. We're inside Israel and its security forces where a reluctant Dahlia Barr, a ballsy, successful defense lawyer, is reluctantly

working with the national police as an arbiter of interrogation methods (translation: torture). The issue here is one that Stella Rimington, former head of MI6, discussed in her first novel: what to do about the homegrown terrorists, the one within? In this case, Palestinians who live within Israel but may link up with Hezbollah (or...). This is not just a thriller, it's an exploration of the lies we tell until truth is forced upon us. It is I think of special interest to readers of Daniel Silva whose Israeli agent Gabriel Allon most often works outside Israel.

Kirino, Natsuo. [The Goddess Chronicle](#) (\$15). In a place like no other, on a mystical island in the shape of tear drop, two sisters are born into an esteemed family of oracles. Kamikuu is admired far and wide for her otherworldly beauty; small and headstrong Namima learns to live in her sister's shadow. On her sixth birthday, Kamikuu is chosen to become the next Oracle, serving the realm of light, while Namima is forced to serve the realm of darkness—destined to spend eternity guiding the spirits of the deceased to the underworld. As the sisters undergo opposite fates, Namima embarks on a journey that takes her from the experience of first love to the aftermath of scalding betrayal. Caught in an elaborate web of treachery, she travels between the land of the living and the Realm of the Dead, seeking retribution and closure. One of Japan's bestsellers writes a feminist noir reimagining the ancient Japanese creation myth of Izanami and Izanaki.

Knox, Tom. [The Babylon Rite](#) (\$16). *LJ* reviews: "Adam Blackwood interviews Archibald McClintock, the world's most famous Templar historian, at Rosslyn Chapel in Edinburgh, but the conversation is odd. The historian seems to refute all he has ever said about the Templars. Minutes later McClintock's speeding car crashes into a stone wall. By all appearances, his death was a suicide. But Adam would swear the historian was smiling as he sped by. Refusing to believe her father's death was a suicide, Nina McClintock convinces Adam to help her follow her father's trail to find the "secret that will get you killed." But dangerous forces are seeking her father's secret and will stop at nothing to get it as in Peru a young archaeologist finds evidence of mass suicides, amputations of hands and feet, and prisoners fed to flesh-eating insects in the tombs of the Moche civilization, and in London young, wealthy people involved in an underground sex-party scene are killing themselves in gruesome ways. Knox (*The Lost Goddess; The Marks of Cain*) has written a fascinating mystery blending archaeological facts and suppositions into a plausible explanation for the vicious, bizarre behaviors of the Berserkers, the Templars, the Conquistadors, and the bloodthirsty tribes of Central and South America. His thriller is often gory, occasionally disgusting..." but fascinating if you're up for it. His history is enthralling.

Lackberg, Camilla. [The Hidden Child](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). Detective Patrik Hedström of the coastal village of Fjällbacka is on paternity leave, looking after his toddler daughter, Maja, though that doesn't stop him from taking her to a crime scene, much to the chagrin of Patrik's wife, Erica Falck. Someone struck elderly Erik Frankel, an expert on Nazis, a fatal blow to the head in the house he shared with his brother, Axel, who tracks Nazi war criminals. Is the historian's murder related to the uptick in neo-Nazi activity? Meanwhile, Erica has a connection to the victim. She recently asked Erik to examine a Nazi medal that she discovered among the possessions of her late mother, Elsy. Flashbacks to WWII describe how Elsy, the Frankels, and

others befriended a young French Resistance fighter. Horrific secrets come to light as the author skillfully shows how the past has influenced recent events. For the 4th Hedstrom, [The Stranger](#) (\$15.95), see our May Trade Paperback Picks.

Larsson, Åsa. [Until Thy Wrath Be Past](#) (\$14.99). "At the start of Swedish author Larsson's stunning fourth crime novel (after *The Black Path*), the ghost of 17-year-old Wilma Persson describes how she was murdered during a dive beneath the ice of far-north Lake Vittangijärvi while looking for a downed Nazi airplane. Prosecutor Rebecka Martinsson, psychologically fragile from previously killing three men in self-defense, and Insp. Anna-Maria Mella, badly shaken when her impulsive actions nearly killed herself and her detective partner, inexorably uncover old passions and vicious crimes in their search for Wilma's killer, but the real allure of Larsson's meticulously crafted narrative lies in her unflinching dissection of human needs and desires. As doom-filled as Larsson's leitmotif of ravens (in old Scandinavia the messengers of Odin, god of poetry and berserker fury), this remarkable tale of twisted love and vengeance and redemptive nonjudgmental devotion resounds, like its epigraph from the Book of Job, with all the pain of human existence." Perfect to read while awaiting the next James Thompson mystery set in Finland, or any Scandinavian mystery with strong female leads.

Limon, Martin. [Nightmare Range: The Collected Sueño and Bascom Stories](#) (\$14.95). Patrick and I are devoted fans of the Slick Boys as one of Limon's early novels called his 8th Army MPs. Sergeant George Sueño is a young Mexican American army detective stationed on the US 8th Army base in South Korea in the early 1970s, the heart of the Cold War. George and his investigating partner, the rowdy and short-fused Sergeant Ernie Bascom, are assigned cases in which the 8th Army has come into conflict with local Korean law enforcement—often incidents in which American soldiers, who are not known for being on their best behavior in their Asian host country, have committed a crime. George Sueño's job is partially to solve crimes, but mostly to cover top brass's backside and make sure the US Army doesn't look bad. Thoughtful, observant George, who is conversant in Korean, constantly faces difficult choices about whether to follow his orders or his conscience. After nine novels, here is the first collection of stories; all have been published over the last 20 years in a variety of magazines, mostly in *Alfred Hitchcock*, but have never before been available in book form. A joy to devour, or dip into it to prolong the pleasure.

Mallock. [The Cemetery of Swallows](#) (Europa \$18). An unusual historical crime novel. Manuel Gemoni is a devoted father and husband, a man so gentle and centered he was nicknamed "Little Gandhi" as a boy. But with no warning, he leaves his wife and daughter back home in Paris, flies to the Dominican Republic and calmly murders Tobias Darbier, an elderly man whom he has never met before. After shooting Tobias twice, Manuel pauses before firing the bullets that will end his life. "Time stops. Seconds rub their black paws together." Manuel pulls the trigger, and so begins a sinister and terrifying journey. Legendary police superintendent Amédée Mallock travels from his home in Paris to the jungles of the Dominican Republic, but his investigation of Manuel's crime keeps stalling as he descends deeper into disturbing realms that defy categorization. Writing under the pseudonym of his story's hero, Jean-Denis Bruet-Ferreol leads us across the globe and back and forth through time, punctuating

his dark tale with moments of humor as well as moments of staggering brutality. *The Cemetery of Swallows* combines the straightforward tone and quick pacing of a police procedural with a conjectural curiosity that challenges the boundary between life and death.

Mankell, Henning. [A Treacherous Paradise](#) (\$15.95). In 1904, Hanna Renstrom boards a ship bound for Australia hoping to escape the cold and poverty that have dominated her life in Sweden. Her harrowing journey lands her in Portuguese East Africa, a world where colonialism and white colonists rule, where she becomes a peculiar outsider: she is on the outskirts of white society, because of her gender and profession as the owner of a bordello, and separated from the African prostitutes with whom she lives due to her skin color. As her life becomes increasingly intertwined with the brothel, Hanna moves inexorably toward a fateful decision. "It often reads like a fable or folktale... Reminiscent of Latin American magic realism, transplanted to Africa... Carlos the chimp might have come out of a Garcia Marquez novel, and the richly colored details of brothel life could be from a sprawling Jorge Amado tale..."—William Boyd, *NY Times Book Review*

Mayle, Peter. [The Corsican Caper](#) (Knopf \$23.95). A slim delight. To read Mayle is to revel in the pleasures of French wines and meals, the country's culture, and in this series with LA sleuth Sam Levitt, the lives of the mega-rich. Sometimes big boys covet other billionaire's toys, and here the toy in question is the biggest private residence in Marseilles: the Palais du Pharo, originally built for Napoleon III and now occupied by Francis Reboul. Oligarch Oleg Vronsky, seldom (never) thwarted, covets the Palais. Reboul has no interest in selling or otherwise losing it. Levitt, who saved Reboul's neck earlier in the series, engineers Reboul's responses to Vronsky's tactics. I find it a real pleasure to read a thriller that is not about saving the world, and Mayle delivers. Pour a glass of wine, grab some cheese or chocolate, and enjoy. (Reminder, Corsica is one of the 27 *régions* of France.)

Miller, Derek. [Norwegian by Night](#) (\$14.95). A lauded debut is a staff favorite here at The Pen. See our May Trade Paperback Picks.

Ming-Yi, Wu. [The Man with the Compound Eyes](#) (Knopf \$25.95). An unusual novel, a debut by a Taiwan author set on a mythical island. A novel for admirers of *The Life of Pi*.

Nesbø, Jo. [The Son Signed](#) (Knopf \$25.95). Sonny is a model prisoner. He listens to the confessions of other inmates, and absolves them of their sins. But then one prisoner's confession changes everything. He knows something about Sonny's disgraced father. He needs to break out of prison and make those responsible pay for their crimes. Whatever the cost. So he does.... A standalone hardboiled thriller from Norway's Raymond Chandler

Rollins, James. [The Kill Switch Signed](#) (Morrow \$27.99). High octane action in Siberia and across Russia with Tucker Cole and Kane, the military dog who left the service with Tucker. Terrific science powers this thriller. See Event Books.

Sigurdardottir, Yrsa. [I Remember You](#) (Minotaur \$15.99). Karen Shaver joins me in recommending the Icelandic author's most recent novel: "A terrifying tale where suspense plays out in concert with the descriptions of the crisp, stunning environment

of a remote village and the friendship of three people trying to do the right thing." The claustrophobic island setting, the menaces that nature and man provide, and some plot twists add up to a terrific read.

Ullmann, Linn. [The Cold Song](#) (Other Press \$15.95). Siri Brodal, a chef and restaurant owner, is married to Jon Dreyer, a famous novelist plagued by writer's block. Siri and Jon have two daughters, and together they spend their summers on the coast of Norway, in a mansion belonging to Jenny Brodal, Siri's stylish and unforgiving mother. Siri and Jon's marriage is loving but difficult, and troubled by painful secrets. The Indie Next Pick: "Elegant and incisive, *The Cold Song* exposes a complex family drama that revolves around the day a beautiful young woman goes missing. When she is found murdered her family members must sort out their suspicions of one another and question their own degrees of responsibility for her death. This novel is a startling meditation on loss, how we deal with it, how it echoes through generations, and how our mistakes cause us to lose the ones we love."

Vickers, Salley. [The Cleaner of Chartres](#) (\$16). Drawn by the medieval cathedral's famous labyrinth (think Dan Brown), Agnès Morel has made a life in Chartres cleaning for the cathedral; its dean, Abbé Paul; and a variety of townspeople, who are connected by gossip, much of it circulated by the malicious Madame Beck. Vickers tells Agnès's story in chapters that alternate between her current life and her earlier travails: raised by nuns after having been abandoned, she gets pregnant under mysterious circumstances, is forced to give up the baby, then has a breakdown. In Chartres, she learns to read, meets a sexy restorer, and, while ministering in simple but meaningful ways to some of her fellow townspeople, winds her way back to the center of her difficult life and out the other side. "As in her bestselling *Miss Garnet's Angel*, Vickers leavens her realism with a subtle fairytale quality and a version of Christianity in which doctrine is less important than kindness or its absence, and in which the Devil exists."—PW

MAY TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

Burke, Alafair. [If You Were Here](#) (\$15.99). Reporter McKenna Jordan is chasing the latest urban folktale—the story of an unidentified woman who heroically pulled a teenage boy from the subway tracks seconds before the arrival of an oncoming train. When McKenna locates a video snippet that purportedly captures the incident, she thinks she has an edge on the competition scrambling to identify the mystery heroine. McKenna is shocked to discover that the woman in the video bears a strong resemblance to Susan Hauptmann, a close friend—and a classmate of her husband's at West Point—who vanished without a trace ten years earlier. The NYPD concluded that the nomadic Susan—forced by her father into an early military life, floundering as an adult for a fixed identity—simply started over again somewhere else. McKenna, once a fast-tracking assistant DA who torpedoed her career and has reinvented herself as a journalist, is compelled to revisit Susan's story and track down not just the woman in the video but the character of her long lost friend....

Coleman, Reed Farrel. [The Hollow Girl](#) (\$16.99). An aging, grieving Moe Praeger wants out of the wine-shop partnership with his older brother, and out of his life as a private eye, the

one he took up when being a cop went south years ago. But a woman from his past wants Moe to determine what happened to her daughter, a teen who created a role for herself in 1999 on YouTube as a potential suicide that was unmasked as a fake. Now the girl has disappeared leaving her mother distraught and her father puzzlingly incurious. Moe battles his own bleak world view as he searches for a girl who may still be using reality TV in inventing a world of her own.... The 9th and final chapter in a literary hardboiled series.

Connelly, Michael. [The Gods of Guilt](#) (\$15). Mickey Haller, back in the defense game, gets a call to a murder where the victim turns out to be a former client, a prostitute met in *The Lincoln Lawyer* he believed he'd help leave the life for a less dangerous new one. Why was she back in LA—and is her high-tech pimp charged with her murder guilty? Haller finds this fishy and sets out to establish a credible alternative theory, in part to assuage any guilt of his own in Giselle/Gloria's fate....

✎Galbraith, Robert. [The Cuckoo's Calling](#) (\$18). OK, this turns out to be the debut mystery by JK Rowling, but we liked it months before this revelation and made it a Surprise Me Club Pick (April 2013). The fact that it's by Rowling makes it no better (nor worse) than it was when it appeared as the beginning of London inquiry agent Cormoran Strike's career by "Galbraith." I like the quirky characters—Strike is an Afghan wars vet who's lost a leg and is barely scraping by—and the case which asks if the supermodel known as Cuckoo really committed suicide. A sequel emerges in June, *The Silkworm*, also under the Galbraith name. Odds are "Galbraith" won't sign this one for us, but you never know....

Gibson, Gregory. [The Old Turk's Load](#) (15). Angelo DiNoto is a powerful crime lord in 1967, his empire bolstered by importing pure heroin from an old Turkish farmer. But when a five-million-dollar shipment goes missing during the Newark riots, DiNoto isn't the only one willing to turn over every rock—and bust some heads, arms, and legs—to find it. A shady developer sees the heroin as the key to rejuvenating his fading business. His daughter Gloria, literally in bed with a band of wannabe revolutionaries, thinks the stash could be her ticket out of her father's purview. "Mailman," a longtime postal clerk disfigured by cancer, thinks finding the drugs is the perfect cap to a failed life. With this wild cast of characters running rampant through Newark and Manhattan, Gibson's debut made a First Mystery Club Pick and a *Booklist* Best Crime Fiction Debut for 2013.

Gran, Sara. [Claire Dewitt and the Bohemian Highway](#) (\$14.95). When Claire DeWitt's ex-boyfriend Paul Casablancas, a musician, is found dead in his Mission District house, Claire is on the case. Paul's wife and the police are sure Paul was killed for his valuable collection of vintage guitars. But Claire, the best detective in the world, has other ideas. Even as her other cases offer hints to Paul's fate—a missing girl in the grim East Village of the 1980s and an epidemic of missing miniature horses in Marin County—Claire knows: the truth is never where you expect it, and love is the greatest mystery of all. "There's absolutely nothing predictable about either the multilayered investigation—cloaked in references to Indian scriptures, Thomas Merton, and cheesy 1980s TV mysteries—or DeWitt herself, who charms despite her fraying life." —*Entertainment Weekly*

✎Grecian, Alex. [The Black Country](#) (\$16). Victorian noir with Scotland Yard's Murder Squad on a case in the Midlands, that slag-strewn, grimy industrial landscape. Something terrible is going on in the village of Blackhampton where some kind of plague is killing off the populace and a dead boy is found at the bottom of a well. "Grecian's latest Murder Squad adventure is a fast-paced homage to the Victorian countryside mysteries of Wilkie Collins (*The Moonstone*; *The Woman in White*) and Charles Dickens (*Bleak House*; *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*). Recommended for Anglophiles, period mystery enthusiasts, and ..."—*Library Journal*

Johnson, Craig. [A Serpent's Tooth](#) (\$15). Absaroka County's rugged Sheriff Walt Longmire's 9th case is ostensibly about his attempt to reunite a Mormon "Lost Boy"—a teen kicked out of a polygamous group led by his stepfather so as to leave more girls for fewer men—with his mother. But it's also about Walt's worries over his relationship with his Undersheriff Victoria, about fatherhood, and about how to go sheriffing outside his own jurisdiction. Splendid landscapes, witty, and heartwrenching.

Lackberg, Camilla. [The Stranger](#) (\$15.95). A string of suspicious deaths points to a potential serial killer who has turned his eye toward Fjällbacka and her dark forests, where two children vanished decades before. A local woman is killed in a tragic car crash, but it isn't a clear-cut drunk driving case. The victim's blood contains high alcohol levels, but she rarely drank a drop. Meanwhile, a reality television show begins shooting in the town, and as cameras shadow the stars' every move, tempers start to flare. When a party ends with an unpopular contestant's murder, all eyes turn to the cast and crew—could there be a murderer among them? The ratings spike as the country tunes in to a real-life murder mystery. Detective Patrik Hedstrom finds himself increasingly unable to focus on the strange circumstances of the first case, but what if that holds the key to a series of other unsolved cases across Sweden. [Click here](#) to order more Lackbergs.

Loehfelm, Bill. [The Devil in Her Way](#) (\$15). Maureen Coughlin's is starting over in New Orleans as a newly minted member of the police force, but her transition from cocktail waitress to cop hasn't gone as smoothly as she'd hoped. To her commanding officer's amusement, Maureen kicks off her final week of field training by taking a punch to the face as a panicked suspect flees an apartment building, leaving behind several guns and a stash of pot. But out on the street, on the fringes of the action, Maureen sees something transpire that leaves her shaken, and she's sure there's more to this story than meets the eye. "Not only Bill Loehfelm's best book yet—it may just be the best mystery novel to come out of post-Katrina New Orleans since James Lee Burke's *The Tin Roof Blowdown*. I can offer no higher praise than to say that I finished it and wanted to read more. A gem."—John Connolly. "Everything you want a crime novel to be: morally twisty, richly textured, and filled with soul. And perhaps its greatest gift is the battered-but-not-broken Maureen Coughlin, a hero with whom we will go anywhere."—Megan Abbott

✎Lovesey, Peter. [The Tooth Tattoo](#) (\$15.95). How I love this remarkably plotted case by Diamond Dagger winner Lovesey. It draws upon the world of professional musicians and chamber music, tests the acumen of Superintendent Peter Diamond of the Bath CID, and is surprisingly global in scope as it begins with

a corpse in Vienna. A major clue is a tattoo of a music note on a victim's tooth. I continue to marvel at Lovesey's genius in fusing disparate and unlikely elements into a seamless plot resolution.

Miller, Derek. [Norwegian by Night](#) (\$14.95). A Poisoned Pen Staff favorite, nominated for various awards, makes one hope that the award-studded reception for Miller's debut will encourage him to write a second novel. "Sheldon Horowitz is 82 years old and sliding into dementia, one symptom of which is that he talks to the dead. His granddaughter is concerned; Sheldon lives in Oslo with her and her husband because he can no longer care for himself unaided. One day the man witnesses a horrific murder outside the front door of their flat. He runs off with a small boy to save him from the killer, a Kosovo war criminal. Pursued by both the killer and the police, Sheldon revives his military skills from his sniper days during the Korean War. In this fiction debut, Miller (senior fellow, UN Institute for Disarmament Research) has written both an exciting chase thriller and a poignant story about a man who comes into his own again in his dotage..."—*LJ*

✚Robertson, Imogen. [Circle of Shadows](#) (\$16). "Just when life in 1784 Sussex is settling down for Harriet Westerman, she learns that brother-in-law Daniel Clode (honeymooning in the Duchy of Maulberg with Rachel) has been accused of murdering the host country's own Lady Martesen. For political reasons, he is not executed immediately, giving Harriet and her close colleague, anatomist Gabriel Crowther, time to investigate. They step into a scenario in which odd bits of culture matter; opera, potions, and automata all play parts. Soon they realize that a string of seemingly unrelated deaths are really homicides, and the body count is mounting. The race is on to find the killer before the Duke of Maulberg's upcoming and long-anticipated wedding."—*Library Journal*. I find that Robertson's polished, witty prose adds luster to a tricky puzzle rich in historical nuggets and seldom-visited court politics and landscapes. 4th in a remarkable series, all recommended. [Click here](#) to order. The 5th, [Theft of Life Signed](#) (Headline \$44) appears this month also.

GIFTS FOR MOM

Penguin. [A Box of 100 Postcards](#) (\$25). Sometimes you should judge a book by its cover. Each card portrays an iconic Penguin book jacket. In 1935 Allen Lane stood on a platform at Exeter railway station, looking for a good book for the journey to London. His disappointment at the poor range of paperbacks on offer led him to found Penguin Books. The quality paperback had arrived. Declaring that 'good design is no more expensive than bad', Lane was adamant that his Penguin paperbacks should cost no more than a packet of cigarettes, but that they should always look distinctive. And whether they're for classics, crime, reference or prize-winning novels, they still follow Allen Lane's original design mantra.

Poisoned Pen Letters (\$14.95/7). An original painting, a publisher's vision of The Poisoned Pen, fronts a folded blank card for any message you wish to write. Individual cards (\$2.50). Please order by phone or email.

New Yorker Magazine. [The 40s: The Story of a Decade](#) (Random \$30). The 1940s were when *The New Yorker* came of age. A magazine that was best known for its humor and wry social observation would extend itself, offering the first in-depth reporting from Hiroshima and introducing American readers

to the fiction of Vladimir Nabokov and the poetry of Elizabeth Bishop. In this enthralling book, masterly contributions from the pantheon of great writers who graced *The New Yorker's* pages throughout the decade are placed in history by the magazine's current writers. Read here work by W. H. Auden • Elizabeth Bishop • John Cheever • Janet Flanner • John Hersey • Langston Hughes • Shirley Jackson • A. J. Liebling • William Maxwell • Carson McCullers • Joseph Mitchell • Vladimir Nabokov • Ogden Nash • John O'Hara • George Orwell • V. S. Pritchett • Lillian Ross • Stephen Spender • Lionel Trilling • Rebecca West • E. B. White • Williams Carlos Williams • Edmund Wilson. New perspectives include Joan Acocella • Hilton Als • Dan Chiasson • David Denby • Jill Lepore • Louis Menand • Susan Orlean • George Packer • David Remnick • Alex Ross • Peter Schjeldahl • Zadie Smith • Judith Thurman. A treasure, and a terrific gift for Mom or Dad.

Reichl, Ruth. [Comfort Me with Apples](#) (\$16). One of my favorite books ever, a memoir of how Reichl embarked on her career as a restaurant critic and eventual editor of *Gourmet* before Si Newhouse had some kind of brain freeze and closed the magazine. See her debut novel below in New Books.

AND FOR A YOUNG READER

Tan, Shaun. [Rules of Summer](#) (Scholastic \$18.99). In a book that reads like an homage to *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*, Lindgren award-winner Tan (*The Arrival*) offers a sequence of paintings that represent a boy's cumulative summer knowledge, framed as rules and populated by Tan's now-familiar menagerie of one-eyed robots, malevolent rabbits, and windup dinosaurs. The rules appear on the left, while lavish, brilliant paintings of the accompanying disasters light up the opposite pages. An older boy yanks his younger brother away from a platter at a soiree full of glaring raptors ("Never eat the last olive at a party"); frowns when bats, lizards, and sea anemones move into the living room ("Never leave the back door open overnight"); and, after a fistfight, bundles the younger boy into a locomotive and sends him off through Siberian wastes ("Never lose a fight").

SOME NEW BOOKS

Berry, Steve. [The Lincoln Myth Signed](#) (Random \$29). We start this ride on September 10, 1861, when Jesse Benton Fremont confronts Abraham Lincoln in his office. Refusing her demand, he then receives an envelope sent from the home of his predecessor, James Buchanan. Its content stuns the President. Skip ahead to today, Copenhagen, and Cotton Malone, bookseller and former Magellan Billet agent, is on a boat being shot at. Then we skip to southern Utah.... And we're off on a chase where politics, secession, Mormonism, a US Senator and a wealthy Spanish businessman with a scheme, and a letter with a long history could get many people killed. It's a trademark Berry mix of history, real and imagined, and action providing "startling new perspectives on the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and Abraham Lincoln's decision to fight the Civil War."

Block, Lawrence. [Borderline](#) (Hard Case Crime \$26.99). From 1958, pulp fiction uniting a professional gamble, a bored divorcee, a beautiful hitchhiker lured into a live sex show, a redhead with her own agenda, and a killer with a razor in his pocket on the run from the police. Bonus: three rare short stories from the pulps included. Also in paperback: [Borderline](#) (\$9.95)

Boyden, Joseph. [The Orenda Signed](#) (Knopf \$26.95). The Indie Next Pick: “Wrenching and redemptive, *The Orenda* offers a narrative scope so wide it seems to encompass centuries and generations, despite taking place over only a few short years. Though Boyden’s novel closely follows a strange trinity of the displaced and the mournful — a powerful Wendat warrior scarred by the loss of his family, an ungainly but earnest Jesuit missionary, and the troubled, gifted Iroquois girl who equally unites and stands apart from them — he writes of timeless and universal cycles of loss and regeneration and loss again. This is a staggeringly beautiful work.”

Braffet, Kelly. [Save Yourself](#) (\$15). Patrick Cusimano’s father killed a boy while driving drunk. Now Patrick is working at a grubby convenience store, and he and his brother Mike are the town pariahs. Caro, Mike’s girlfriend, is running from her own painful past, with no idea what she’s running toward. Layla Elshere is a goth teenager who befriends Patrick for reasons he doesn’t understand and doesn’t trust. And Layla’s little sister Verna, tortured by her classmates, finds unlikely solace with Layla’s dark tribe of outcasts. As their fates become entwined, everyone is set down a terrifying and twisted path...

Brown, Dale. [Starfire: A Novel](#) (Harper \$27.99). Bradley James McLanahan has been named the head of a team of engineers designing Starfire, the world’s first orbiting solar power plant. It’s an important first step in the exploration of the solar system, and Bradley is right at the cutting-edge. But U.S. President Kenneth Phoenix’s plans to militarize and industrialize Earth orbit sparks an arms race, and before long Bradley and his team are thrust into the middle of what could become a global battle for control of space.

Buckley, Christopher. [But Enough about You](#) (SimonSchuster \$27.50). His first books of essays compiled since 1997 is fun and explores “big ideas” and has useful lines to use in, for example, “All Purpose Lines in Case of Emergency” with discussing literary friendships with Joseph Heller and Christopher Hitchens. Cultural criticism, adventure travel, irreverent history... Buckley says his next book will be *Game of Drones*, “a candid and sure-to-be-controversial account of his experiences deploying miniature, unmanned aerial vehicles in his yard for purposes of deterrence and, to be honest, revenge.”

Campbell, Hayley. [The Art of Neil Gaiman](#) (Harper \$39.99). In the words of the publisher, here is the first book to tell the full story of his amazing creative life. Never-before-seen manuscripts, notes, cartoons, drawings, and personal photographs from Neil’s own archive are complemented by artwork and sketches from all of his major works and his own intimate recollections. Each project is examined in turn, from genesis to fruition, and positioned in the wider narrative of Gaiman’s creative life, affording unparalleled access to the inner workings of the writer’s mind.

Carpenter, Don. [Fridays At Enrico’s](#) (Counterpoint \$25). “Carpenter’s one of those writers whose work has been criminally neglected until recently. George Pelecanos helped to bring him back with his stellar introduction to Carpenter’s masterpiece, *Hard Rain Falling* (16.95), and now another literary heavyweight, Jonathan Lethem, has finished Carpenter’s final book, which is set in Portland in the 50’s and 60’s and follows the lives of four writers living together in a very tumultuous era. Superb and bittersweet. —Patrick

Coughlin, Jack. [On Scope: A Sniper Novel](#) (SimonSchuster \$25.99). Spain is on the brink of economic collapse and European banks demand that any bailout be linked to harsh domestic changes. An alliance of Islamic bankers counters with a rescue package containing no conditions at all. The underlying goal: to break the unity of Europe and put Madrid on the path back to Islamic rule. When the United States stridently opposes that deal, terrorists storm the American consulate in Barcelona and slaughter an entire six-man U.S. Marine security guard. Washington decides the time has come to change the rules of counter-terrorism response, and instead of going after the individual hired gunmen, it unleashes black operations team Task Force Trident to take down the high-ranking financiers known as the Group of Six who were really responsible for the slaughter. Gunnery Sergeant Kyle Swanson, one of the world’s best snipers, and his beautiful sidekick Beth Ledford, go on the attack, and bodies fall from Mallorca to Madrid... Not a subtle or complex thriller, it’s all about the mission. My advice: read Stephen Hunter’s new *Bob Lee Swagger* instead—see Event Books.

Dubois, Brendan. [Fatal Harbor](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). “DuBois’ absorbing eighth *Lewis Cole* mystery picks up where 2011’s *Deadly Cove* left off. In the previous book, Cole’s friend and police contact, Diana Woods, was beaten into a life-threatening coma when a protest against a nuclear power plant in Tyler, N.H., grew violent and protesters attacked a police line. Cole blames the man who instigated the violence, Curt Chesak, a shadowy government operative seeking to subvert the protestors in the interest of rival energy concerns. Cole’s quarry possesses enormous assets, but Cole makes up for his own lone-wolf status with wily moves and an indomitable will to achieve justice. DuBois’ laconic style nicely matches the somber subject matter, and is lightened by his main character’s winning intelligence, courage in adversity, and wit. Cole’s dogged pursuit leads him to unexpected allies, while his unwillingness to compromise renews some relationships from the past and destroys others. The action builds to a rousing climax in the New Hampshire woods.”—*PW*, echoing my own fondness for DuBois’ fiction and New Hampshire landscapes.

Estleman, Loren D. [Ragtime Cowboys Signed](#) (Forge \$26.99). Los Angeles, 1921: Ex-Pinkerton Charlie Siringo is living in quiet retirement when Wyatt Earp knocks on his door and asks him to track down his missing horse. What begins as horse thievery turns into a deeper mystery. Patrick adds, “What can I say? Estleman is a national treasure, and while I’ve always enjoyed his classic Amos Walker series, my favorites are his historical novels. This time out, we travel to prohibition-era California, where former Pinkerton agent turned western pulp writer Charlie Siringo has been persuaded by Wyatt Earp (now a consultant for the silent film industry) to come out of retirement to help track down his beloved horse, which has gone missing under suspicious circumstances. Joining forces with a thin, eccentric, and as-yet unpublished writer, Dashiell Hammett, Siringo follows a trail that becomes much more complex and sinister than a simple horse theft. In fact, it may just lead to notorious politician Joseph P. Kennedy. A fantastic, irresistible read.” Estleman is fantastically prolific: an Amos Walker last month; a new novel in December.

Freeman, Kimberly. [Ember Island](#) (Touchstone \$16). In 1891, Tilly Kirkland is reeling with shock and guilt after her tempestuous marriage ends in horrific circumstances. Fleeing to the farthest place she knows, Tilly takes a job on Ember Island in Moreton Bay, Australia, where she becomes the governess to the prison superintendent's precocious young daughter, Nell. Tilly knows she must keep the past hidden in order to start a new life, but she doesn't know that Nell is watching her every move and writing it all down, hiding tiny journals all over their rambling manor home. More than one hundred years later, bestselling novelist Nina Jones is struggling to complete her next book. A reporter asking questions about her great-grandmother sends Nina retreating to her family's home on Ember Island, where she hopes to find her lost inspiration somewhere in the crumbling walls. Though they are separated by years, both Tilly and Nina must learn that some secrets never stay buried.... One can see the influence of Kate Morton on this layered novel.

Galloway, Steven. [The Confabulist](#) (Riverhead \$27.95). A playful novel on the life, charm, and tricks of Harry Houdini. Martin Strauss—the man who assaulted the magician in 1926—is the book's narrator, and starts things off with the line: "I didn't just kill Harry Houdini. I killed him twice." Many legendary tricks are reimagined with juicy behind-the-curtain details. Houdini himself exposed competitors' methods during his crusade to become the world's greatest magician. Some recent speculation that Houdini might have lived a secret life as an intelligence agent makes for another fun plotline (one of many). May, the month for spy stories in 2014 (so far).

Goldenbaum, Sally. [Murder in Merino](#) (NAL \$24.95). The Seaside Knitters are planning a gala and gift for the 40th wedding anniversary of member Nell Endicott and her husband, Don. In the meantime, the Endicotts' niece, Isabel "Izzy" Chambers Perry, and her husband, Sam, are putting Izzy's old cottage home on the market. Newcomer Julia "Jules" Ainsley puzzles the community when she reveals her determination to buy the cottage, sight unseen, despite having no previous connection to Sea Harbor. "When a murder victim is found in the cottage's backyard, Jules becomes a suspect. Gradually, the knitters realize the killing has its roots in a long-buried town secret. Fans of previous entries will enjoy spending a few more hours with the Seaside Knitters, and the most dedicated might be inspired to reproduce the group's special anniversary afghan, or their Friday-evening martini parties." The latest in paperback: [The Angora Alibi](#) (\$15)

Goldstone, Lawrence. [Birdmen: The Wright Brothers, Glenn Curtiss, and the Battle to Control the Skies](#) (Random \$28). "Goldstone delivers a riveting narrative about the pioneering era of aeronautics in America and beyond, centering on the intense rivalry between Wilbur and Orville Wright and Glenn Hammond Curtiss. At the dawn of the 20th century, while the Wrights were experimenting with flight at Kitty Hawk, Curtiss was designing engines and motorcycles in upstate New York. The controversial meeting of these competing tinkerers, at the Dayton Fair in 1906, spawned years of legal wrangling during the course of bitter patent wars. Meanwhile, excited masses packed the grandstands to witness the world's newest sport wherein "spectacle coexisted with death." According to Goldstone, the implacable animus of the Wrights towards Curtiss persists to this day as a proxy feud, since "historians of early flight tend to deify one and demonize the other." Goldstone also profiles a slew of early aviators,

including masterful daredevil Lincoln Beachey and powered flight's first of many fatalities, U.S. Army Lt. Thomas Selfridge. This is a well-written, thoroughly researched work that is sure to compel readers interested in history, aviation, and invention. Goldstone raises questions of enduring importance regarding innovation and the indefinite exertion of control over ideas that go public."—*PW* Starred Review

Haines, Carolyn. [Booty Bones](#) (St Martins \$24.99). I've loved the charm and wit of the Sarah Booth Delaney series from its inception, including *Jitty*, the family ghost whose constant wish is that Sarah Booth provide a Delaney heir. Sarah Booth has had many affairs of the heart, the latest being with Graf Milieu, an actor who could tip over into a real movie star. This plot centers around Sarah Booth's plan to take an injured Graf on an island vacation to help him heal, a Gulf Coast island where pirate booty maybe somewhere be hidden. But all too predictably.... This is a spoiler, but I feel compelled to say that splitting up romances to keep a series moving is no more valid than working forward with a real relationship.

Harper, Tom. [The Orpheus Descent](#) (\$15.99). Harper writes terrific books. In the words of my favorite UK critic Barry Forshaw: "Tom Harper has been writing elaborate thrillers that marry ironclad narrative skills with some of the most elegantly understated writing in the field; he's the thinking person's Dan Brown." The Signed UK edition of his latest thriller with archaeologist Lily Barnes is a cracker that made one of our Thriller Club Picks. In its Starred Review of this US paperback original edition, *PW* writes, "In 389 B.C.E., a young Plato, who has left Athens following the forced suicide of his mentor, Pericles, seeks Agathon, the most brilliant of Pericles's students, who claims to have found a valuable book of Pythagorean wisdom and has wondrous discoveries to share. Plato's quest for someone who, bafflingly, keeps staying one step ahead of him, parallels Jonah Barnes's present-day search for his archeologist wife, Lily, who vanished from the dig she was working on in Sibari, Italy, after finding a gold tablet. When Jonah finds messages, apparently from Lily, indicating that she wants to be left alone, everyone is ready to write off his concerns, but the absence of direct communication keeps Jonah suspicious. Along the way to a resolution of both suspenseful plotlines, Harper explores the fitness of philosophers as rulers, besides presenting a convincing portrait of Plato's time." [The Orpheus Descent Signed](#) (\$40).

Hart, Carolyn G. [Death at the Door Signed](#) (Berkley \$25.95). Annie Darling—owner of the mystery bookstore, *Death on Demand*—prefers fictional crimes as opposed to the real things. But in one tragic week, two acts of violence shake the island community of Broward's Rock. First, a beloved doctor is found shot dead, seemingly by his own hand. Only days later, a local artist is arrested after his wife is found murdered, bludgeoned by her husband's sculpting mallet. Convinced her brother did not commit suicide, the doctor's sister turns to Annie and her husband, Max, for help. She has found a cryptic sketch her brother drew, linking him with the murdered woman. Did someone want them both out of the picture? With the police considering both cases as good as closed, it's up to Annie and Max to sort through a rogues' gallery of suspects to see if someone is trying to frame the artist.... 24th in the *Death on Demand* traditional mystery series.

Harvey, John. [Darkness, Darkness Signed](#) (Heinemann \$42). Thirty years ago, the Miners' Strike threatened to tear the country apart, turning neighbor against neighbor, husband against wife, father against son—enmities which smoulder still. Resnick, recently made up to inspector, and ambivalent at best about some of the police tactics, had run an information gathering unit at the heart of the dispute. Now, the discovery of the body of a young woman who disappeared during the Strike brings Resnick out of virtual retirement and back into the front line to assist in the investigation into her murder—forcing him to confront his past in what will assuredly be his last case.” In this masterful unearthing of the grudges and resentments left behind by the Miners' Strike of three decades ago, John Harvey has found the perfect case for Resnick to get his teeth into. All the ingredients are here: social history, the problem of male violence, the shadow of death, and, of course, the search for a decent cup of coffee. Anyone new to Resnick's world should probably start here; John Harvey has saved the best for last.”—Jon McGregor, echoed by Michael Connelly.

Hawken, Sam. [Tequila Sunset Signed](#) (Serpent's Tail PBO \$16). Patrick reviews: “Flip Morales is trying to walk the straight and narrow after a four year prison stint. Only problem is, he joined Los Aztecas for protection when he was inside, and the gang has plans for him out on the streets. A female detective in El Paso has dedicated herself to bringing the Aztecas down, and she's recently joined forces with a colleague across the border in Juarez, where the murder rate has reached epic proportions. The appropriated-named Flip might just be the inside ticket they need to destroy one of the large criminal organization's key players. Hawken's exceptional novel is as good as any border noir you'll find out there, and it pleases me to select it as the **May Hardboiled Collector's Club Pick**.”

Heller, Peter. [The Painter Signed](#) (Knopf \$24.95). Heller's debut [The Dog Stars](#) (\$15)—just out in paperback—swept readers into a hauntingly evoked post-apocalyptic world “about a worn-out pilot, his beloved Cessna, his copilot dog and our endless longing for connection—even in a world undone.” —Junot Diaz. He returns with a novel rooted in the past as an expressionist painter tries to outrun his. Jim Stegner shot a man in a bar years ago. The man lived, Jim did time, and now he masters his dark impulses in rural Colorado. His work commands high prices in Santa Fe; he goes fishing, doesn't drink, and has a lovely model. Then one day he sees a man beating a small horse, tackles him, and learning the man's cruel history, goes out the next night and kills him. Now he must navigate his conscience, evade the police, and escape the members of the dead man's clan who are bent on revenge.... Heller is often compared to Cormac McCarthy.

Koryta, Michael. [Those Who Wish Me Dead Signed](#) (LittleBrown \$26). Out May 27, Signed here June 6, a return to crime for the talented Koryta. When 13-year-old Jace Wilson witnesses a brutal murder, he's plunged into a new life, issued a false identity and hidden in a wilderness skills program for troubled teens. The plan is to get Jace off the grid while police find the two killers. The result is the start of a nightmare.... More in the June *Booknews*.

MacDonald, John D. [The Brass Cupcake](#) (\$16). A reissue introduced by Dean Koontz. Ex-cop Cliff Bartells might be the last honest man in Florence City, Florida. After quitting the

force over a crisis of conscience, he takes a job at an insurance company buying back stolen jewelry. Cliff is focused on keeping the bottom line down and staying out of the spotlight. But when an affluent tourist from Boston is murdered over a hefty collection of jewelry, Cliff finds himself wrapped up in a case that's making national headlines. With the victim's beautiful niece, Melody Chance, determined to help retrieve the goods, suddenly Cliff has the partner he never knew he wanted. Now all they need is a suspect... also reissued: [The Neon Jungle](#) (\$16), a noir underlining urban blight in post-war America. MacDonald shaped many a writer. [Click here](#) to order other reissues.

Matthiessen, Peter. [In Paradise](#) (Riverhead Books \$27.95). Karen Shaver reviews what will be the last novel by the late author: “The year is 1996. Some 300 people from diverse faiths and ethnicities have gathered at a former death camp to offer prayer, meditation and to honor those who live and died there. One participant, Clements Olin, an American of Polish ancestry, has come to observe the events of the weekend. Within time, political and personal tensions interrupt the healing process and Olin finds himself moving from observer to participant. *In Paradise* is a profoundly searching new novel by a writer of incomparable range, power, and achievement who writes ‘like an avenging angel.’”

Milchman, Jenny. [Ruin Falls Signed](#) (Ballantine \$26 in stock now, signed June 13). Karen again: “Liz and Paul are taking their two children on a well-deserved vacation. Part of the time will involve a visit with his parents, who have remained distant in both geography and communication. The first morning they wake up, the children are gone and a frantic search begins. Then, Paul also disappears. The police discover that the children, at last citing, were in the company of their father and it can no longer be considered a case for them. Liz is scared, confused and angry. She begins a life completely out of the context she has known. She visits her in-laws who remain distant and uncooperative, even under the circumstances. Liz's discovery of motivations and, finally, resolution, are stunning as she learns of secrets that have been well-kept for many years. Milchman, as in her previous book, *Cover of Snow*, is skilled at engaging the reader at the very beginning and continues to build the suspense throughout the story, surprising the reader with twists and turns of the plot.”

Mosley, Walter. [Debbie Doesn't Do it Anymore](#) (Knopf \$25.95). Mosley, an author always stretching himself, focuses on a pornstar. “Black Debbie Dare, who typically wears a blonde wig and blue contacts, arrives home to find the electrocuted body of husband Theon in the hot tub with an underage girl who is just a little older than Debbie was when she met him. In the following days, she takes care of her husband's affairs, connects with his mother, and chooses a different profession. The premise is jarring, yet Mosley is able to paint a picture of ordinary people. He shows the humanity of the characters despite their flaws.”—*LJ. Booklist* awards this a Star: “This could be the best thing Mosley has written in years, a deeply affecting story of a woman whose determination to pull herself out of one life and into another is tested almost to its limits by things she can't control—until she finds a way to control them...”

Palmer, Michael. [Resistant](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Dr. Palmer, a dedicated physician as well as bestselling writer, died last October 30. He leaves two sons writing novels: Daniel, whose

new book is in Event Books; and Matthew, who signs his first thriller based on his Foreign Service career on June 25. “Palmer, the master of medical suspense, captivates readers with his 20th and final stunning thriller. Dr. Lou Welcome, a recovering drug and alcohol addict with extensive experience in emergency medicine, and Cap Duncan, his longtime friend and former AA sponsor, attend a medical conference in Atlanta. While trail running, Cap slips and sustains a compound fracture of his femur. Although he is taken to the hospital, his gash soon becomes infected with a flesh-eating bacteria. Welcome discovers that a terrorist group has unleashed a ‘Doomsday Germ,’ which they hoped to contain by infecting individuals they alone selected. However, the bacteria have become more potent—resisting all antibiotics and contaminating numerous patients. Hoping to find a cure, the terrorists kidnap Dr. Nazar Farooq, a noted infectious disease specialist. Meanwhile, Lou meets Humphrey Miller, a self-trained microbiologist who urges Lou to treat the bacteria with a controversial, germ-eating microorganism.”—LJ

Patterson, James/Maxine Paetro. [Unlucky 13](#) (LittleBrown \$28). San Francisco Detective Lindsay Boxer is loving her life as a new mother. With an attentive husband, a job she loves, plus best friends who can talk about anything from sex to murder, things couldn’t be better. Then the FBI sends Lindsay a photo of a killer from her past, and her happy world is shattered. The picture captures a beautiful woman at a stoplight. But all Lindsay sees is the psychopath behind those seductive eyes: Mackie Morales, the most deranged and dangerous mind the Women’s Murder Club has ever encountered.

Phillips, Scott. [Hop Alley Signed](#) (Continuum \$27). Patrick reviews: “Set in 1870’s Denver, this slim, raucous and bawdy gem of a novel focuses on Bill Sadlaw (aka Bill Ogden), photographer and raconteur, who’s just recently escaped from the notorious Bloody Benders in Kansas and made his way west. He’s lost his love Maggie to the clutches of a religious cult, and now enjoys the erotic ministrations of Priscilla, a local temptress, one-time singer turned laudanum addict. When his housekeeper’s brother-in-law gets murdered, the townspeople blame it on the local Chinese community, and things foment into a full scale riot. Against the backdrop of real historical events, Phillips has created a supremely entertaining yarn.” New in paperback: [Rake: A Novel](#) (\$15.95)

Quirk, Matthew. [The Directive Signed](#) (LittleBrown \$26). What a pleasure to read a fast-paced, intelligent thriller that isn’t about the fate of nations or global disaster or the coming apocalypse but instead pits a guy against greed. Quirk brought this off in his 2013 First Mystery Club Pick [The 500](#) (\$15.99), and yay, he’s done it again, and again with lawyer/political fixer Mike Ford who is still romancing fellow lawyer Annie, a woman of my heart—although Mike is so not the choice of Annie’s powerful father. That’s because Harvard Law grad Mike comes from a world of small-stakes con men, his father having done time, his brother Jack your basic outlaw. Now, framed for murder, Mike is forced to play front man in a scheme to steal—before its release—the top-secret directive regularly issued by the Federal Reserve to guide U.S. economic policy. Hedged by betrayals, your heart hopes that Mike and Annie will find the steel not to succumb to the bad guys or to their relatives.

Raimondo, Lynne. [Dante’s Poison](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). This is an excellent PBO as was [Dante’s Wood](#) (\$15.95) which introduced blind psychiatrist Mark Angelotti. We’re in Chicago, where attorney Jane Barrett has defended the manufacturer of the antipsychotic drug Lucitrol against product liability claims. But now Barrett’s lover, investigative reporter Rory Gallagher, collapses from a fatal dose of Lucitrol and her professional knowledge makes her the obvious suspect. Her oldest friend Hallie Sanchez recruits Angelotti to discredit the testimony of a crucial eyewitness to the killing—and the outcome comes at a horrendous price. This is a gripping legal thriller, much recommended.

Reichl, Ruth. [Delicious, A Novel](#) (Random \$27). Billie Breslin has traveled far from her home in California to take a job at *Delicious!*, New York’s most iconic food magazine. Away from her family, particularly her older sister, Genie, Billie feels like a fish out of water—until she is welcomed by the magazine’s colorful staff. She is also seduced by the vibrant downtown food scene, especially by Fontanari’s, the famous Italian food shop where she works on weekends. Then *Delicious!* is abruptly shut down, but Billie agrees to stay on in the empty office, maintaining the hotline for reader complaints in order to pay her bills. To Billie’s surprise, the lonely job becomes the portal to a miraculous discovery. In a hidden room in the magazine’s library, Billie finds a cache of letters written during World War II by Lulu Swan, a plucky twelve-year-old, to the legendary chef James Beard. This fiction debut for food-critic and former *Gourmet* editor Reichl is just OK. I mention it because I think her memoir [Comfort Me with Apples](#) (\$16) is absolutely brilliant, a gem for foodies, travelers, and readers. A fabulous Mother’s Day Gift.

Rosnay, Tatiana de. [The Other Story](#) (St. Martins \$26.99). De Rosnay’s knack for exploring the effects of secrets adds complexity to the story of a young, first-time novelist’s sudden rise to fame and fortune. The Indie Next Pick: “Nicolas Duhamel’s first novel is an amazing worldwide bestseller, but one has to have strong legs to carry the weight of such success and Nicolas doesn’t have those. He soon transforms into a vain, egocentric creature, keeping track of his fame through Twitter and Facebook as his friends and family slowly turn away from him. When he takes some time off in an exclusive hotel on an Italian island, Nicolas finally starts to realize that, in spite of all his success and wealth, there is no happiness in his life. A captivating novel about a man in search of his identity and the price of fame.”

Talty, Stephan. [Hangman Signed](#) (Random \$28). The author of First Mystery Club Pick [Black Irish](#) (\$26) brought Buffalo, NY, so vividly to life one could hardly wait to return with the cop Abbie Kearney and to the Buffalo that Talty so brilliantly limns. Patrick is as enthused as I. He writes, “Award-winning nonfiction writer Talty turned his hand to fiction last year with *Black Irish*, the first book in his Absalom ‘Abbie’ Kearney series set in Buffalo, NY. This time out, the brilliant young detective is on the trail of a recently escaped killer called ‘The Hangman,’ who terrorized the area years earlier, leaving four teenage girls dead. Kearney follows his elusive trail across the class divide into the tony older neighborhoods of Buffalo’s gentry. To gain the access she needs, she is forced to rely on ‘The Network,’ a shadowy group of aging former cops from the County, the working class Irish enclave from which Kearney hails. Talty incorporates

some classic Thomas Harris set-pieces here, but avoids the easy cliché with his deft and original take on the serial killer novel.” Irresistible, no? I can’t find a paperback edition listing as of yet for *Black Irish*—but will keep looking.

Tolkien, JRR. [The Fall of Arthur](#) (\$15.95). Here is one of several long narrative poems that Tolkien abandoned. He evidently began it in the 1930s, and it was sufficiently advanced for him to send it to a very perceptive friend who read it with great enthusiasm at the end of 1934 and urgently pressed him, “You simply must finish it!” But in vain: he abandoned it at some unknown date, though there is evidence that it may have been in 1937, the year of publication of *The Hobbit* and the first stirrings of *The Lord of the Rings*. Years later, in a letter of 1955, he said that he “hoped to finish a long poem on The Fall of Arthur,” but that day never came. Associated with the text of the poem, however, are many manuscript pages: a great quantity of drafting and experimentation in verse, in which the strange evolution of the poem’s structure is revealed, together with narrative synopses and significant tantalizing notes. In these notes can be discerned clear if mysterious associations of the Arthurian conclusion with *The Silmarillion*, and the bitter ending of the love of Lancelot and Guinevere, which was never written. Son Christopher is Tolkien’s literary executor.

Ulfelder, Steve. [Wolverine Bros Freight & Storage](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Conway Sax is a man on a mission—this time in Los Angeles, where he uses his race-driving experience in a desperate bid to rescue Kenny Spoon, a washed-up TV star who’s been kidnapped. It’s a favor for Kenny’s mother Eudora, Conway’s dear friend and a fellow member of the Barnburners, his tight-knit maverick AA group. After hauling Kenny back to Massachusetts, Conway finds himself caught between Eudora and her two sons: Kenny, and Harmon, a cop who resents his talented, troubled half-brother. Each member of the Spoon family distrusts and even despises the others, it seems... and each has a past full of dark secrets that may explain why. While Conway tries to learn why Kenny was kidnapped and protect him from further harm, a shocking murder devastates this complex, all-too-human family. “Amazingly, as gritty and violent as Sax is, he is also endearing, a difficult feat to pull off but Ulfelder does it brilliantly. Lots of action and violence along with a dash of humor are the hallmarks of this series, and this latest entry does not disappoint. The twists and turns run wildly through this story right up to the surprising ending. Ulfelder, like Elmore Leonard, exemplifies contemporary noir.” —*Booklist*

Vandermeer, Jeff. [Authority](#) (Farrar \$15). The second volume in a project to publish a trilogy in all volumes within a short time frame. [Annihilation](#) (\$15), the first in the Southern Reach trilogy, appeared in February and introduced Area X, a remote and lush terrain mysteriously sequestered from civilization as we know it. For 30 years the only human engagement with Area X has been a series of expeditions monitored by a secret agency: The Southern Reach. Now in reaction to the disastrous 12th SR foray, the organization is in disarray and “Control,” John Rodriguez, is its newly appointed head. A series of interrogations reveals a cache of hidden notes and hours of disturbing videos. As the secrets of Area X are revealed, they push Control to confront truths about the agency and about himself who’s sworn to serve it....

Viets, Elaine. [Catnapped! A Dead-End Job Mystery](#) (NAL \$24.95). Murder opens the world of show cats. PI team Helen Hawthorne and Phil Sagemont investigate the murder of mega-rich Smart Mort. When Mort’s killed, his show cat is kidnapped for half a million dollars. Helen is up her elbows in cat hair. The PIs’ home, Coronado Apartments, is going to be torn down when their landlady Margery is arrested for murder.

Wellington, David. [The Hydra Protocol](#) (Harper \$25.99 Signed here June 7). Hidden during the cold war, a forgotten Russian supercomputer controls hundreds of nuclear missiles, all aimed at the US. Just one failsafe error, and HYDRA destroys the US completely. Wounded Special Forces veteran Jim Chapel must travel across Eastern Europe into the steppes of Central Asia, deep into enemy territory, find and infiltrate the secret base deep in enemy territory, and stop HYDRA before it plunges the US into nuclear winter. But not everyone wants the weapon out of commission.

Zuckoff, Mitchell. [Frozen in Time](#) (\$15.99). A daring rescue mission unfolds amid the savage Arctic wilderness. When a cargo plane goes missing over the Greenland ice cap in November 1942, a B-17 is dispatched on a perilous search-and-rescue mission. The effort ends in disaster when the plane crashes into a fogged-out glacier. Almost three weeks later, the U.S. Coast Guard learns that contact has been made with the B-17 crew and, after the fuselage cracked in half on impact, they are taking refuge in the tail. Battling the brutality of winter, the Coast Guard sends two men in an amphibious plane to begin the rescue efforts and after successfully extracting two of the B-17 survivors, they promise to come back for the rest. However, the increasingly insurmountable setbacks facing the Coast Guard mean the odds of rescuing the remaining men rapidly diminish. Out of options, they have no choice but to try and survive the winter on the ice cap—148 days, to be precise. Interwoven with this desperate story of endurance against all odds is Zuckoff’s breathtaking account of his 2012 journey with a private crew to recover the wreckage of the crashes and the bodies of the victims entombed in the ice. In doing so, he finally pieces together in its entirety this epic tale of resilience and courage.

OUR MAY MASS MARKET PICKS

Carlisle, Kate. [A Cookbook Conspiracy](#) (\$7.99). *Booklist* writes, “Brooklyn Wainwright can’t cook, but she’s an expert bookbinder. Her sister, Savannah, though, is a top chef, with an array of friends, all classmates from Le Cordon Bleu. One of those friends had given Savannah a manuscript of an eighteenth-century “receipt” book, and now she wants to return it, rebound, as a gift upon the opening of his newest restaurant in San Francisco. Within hours of giving him the cookbook, Savannah finds him dead, stabbed in the restaurant’s kitchen, and the cookbook is nowhere to be found. Brooklyn is sure the cookbook is the key to clearing her sister and studies the photocopies she made before undertaking the rebinding and restoration. She shows her security-expert boyfriend, who in turn calls in his MI6 brother, a code expert. While the sleuths are trying to crack the code in the cookbook, the gathered chefs, who cannot leave San Francisco, cook meals for each other, providing Brooklyn ample opportunity to probe their friendships—and enmities. The descriptions of the meals are luscious, and the history of the book intriguing, as befits the seventh in the series. Includes recipes.” The 7th Bibliophile Mystery by Carlisle. She signs the 8th June 21 here.

Child, Lee. [Never Go Back](#) (\$9.99). Former military cop Jack Reacher makes it all the way from snowbound South Dakota to his destination in northeastern Virginia, near Washington, D.C.: the headquarters of his old unit, the 110th MP. The old stone building is the closest thing to a home he ever had. Reacher is there to meet—in person—the new commanding officer, Major Susan Turner, so far just a warm, intriguing voice on the phone. But it isn't Turner behind the CO's desk. And Reacher is hit with two pieces of shocking news, one with serious criminal consequences, and one too personal to even think about. When threatened, you can run or fight. Reacher fights, aiming to find Turner and clear his name, barely a step ahead of the army, and the FBI, and the D.C. Metro police, and four unidentified thugs. Comes with a bonus: a novella, *High Heat*.

Donally, Claire. [Last Licks](#) (Berkley \$7.99). For cat fanciers. When Sunny Coolidge's curmudgeonly boss, Oliver Barnstable, lands in rehab after breaking his leg, Sunny is stuck shuttling between their offices in Kittery Harbor, Maine, and the facility where Ollie is recuperating. And if putting up with temper tantrums from her boss wasn't enough, his rehab roommate, Gardner Scatterwell, is a shameless flirt. But when Scatterwell dies unexpectedly in the night, Ollie is convinced it wasn't from natural causes. He gives Sunny a new assignment—find out who killed the old tomcat. And speaking of cats, Shadow, Sunny's feline partner in crime, takes a peculiar interest in the rehab's resident angel of death—a calico cat called Portia, with an uncanny talent for cozying up to patients right before they pass away. Together, Sunny and Shadow will have to nose out clues to discover if Portia's jinx had anything to do with Gardner's passing—or if all his catting around finally got him fixed. #3 in series.

Fairstein, Linda. [Death Angel](#) (\$9.99). *Booklist* again: "Prosecutor Alexandra Cooper and detective Mike Chapman are called to the scene when the naked corpse of a young woman turns up in Central Park. Working to identify her and to determine whether a serial killer is on the loose, the two must search Central Park's vast reaches, with its many hidden lakes, waterfalls, and caves. Readers are also swept into the inner recesses of one of New York's most storied icons, the legendary Dakota apartment building, when clues left at the murder scene lead Coop and Chapman to a private collection of one of the building's residents. ... Central Park's topography and history are plenty fascinating, and she nicely contrasts the natural beauty of the park and the dark deeds committed within its environs. The promise of romance between the longtime series leads also adds a certain frisson to this solid fifteenth entry in the series."

Hart, Carolyn G. [Dead, White, and Blue](#) (\$7.99). It's the Fourth of July on Broward's Rock, the sea island off the coast of South Carolina that is home to *Death on Demand*, the mystery bookstore run by Annie Darling, and to Confidential Commissions, the problem-solving agency run by her husband, Max. At a dance at the club that holiday night, it seems that Max and Annie are the only happy couple. Most notably, Shell, the younger, second wife of Wesley Hurst, is making things miserable for him, his first wife, her lover, his kids, and her blackmailer. Several days after the dance, Wesley's daughter comes to Confidential Commissions to ask Max for help in finding Shell, who is missing along with her new green Porsche. Also missing is a waiter at the club. Annie and Max suspect a

connection, but, until a body is found, others assume both Shell and the waiter are just away. As always, Annie and Max use conversations and subterfuge to seek out the truth. "Fans of this series will enjoy the twists on the monthly store contest and the involvement in the case of Max's mother, local author Emma Clyde."—*Booklist* on *Death on Demand* #23

L'Amour, Louis. [The Collected Stories of Louis L'Amour](#) (\$6.99) features 35 action-packed Frontier Stories by the author of 89 novels. Presented for the first time together in paperback.

Sandford, John. [Silken Prey](#) (\$9.99). A Starred Review for the 23rd Prey thriller: "Lucas Davenport gets a call. A volunteer aide to the Republican incumbent inadvertently has found a cache of kiddie porn on the candidate's personal computer. Given the consequences of the discovery, Davenport, the lead investigator for Minnesota's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, is asked by the Democratic governor to handle a quick, discreet inquiry. Though in the opposing party, the governor has known the accused since grade school and is adamant that his friend is innocent. Inevitably, the story leaks and the Democratic candidate begins making up ground in the polls. Her name is Taryn Grant. She's in her mid-thirties, strikingly beautiful, and richer than God, and her ambition knows no limit. As the kiddie-porn scandal breaks, an amoral political operative disappears. When Davenport questions Grant about the scandal, he's taken aback by her vehement denial of any involvement. Is she guilty and attempting to intimidate him, or genuinely offended? Sandford's Davenport novels are always very good, and this is the best one in a long time. It's suspenseful, witty, and wise in the ways of modern politics. And the conclusion is darkly unforgettable. A superb thriller."

Thompson, Victoria. [Murder in Chelsea](#) (\$7.99). In the 15th *Gaslight Mystery*, Manhattan midwife Sarah Brandt is shattered when she learns that a woman has inquired at the Daughters of Hope Mission for Catherine, the abandoned child she has taken as her daughter. The woman claims she was Catherine's nursemaid, and is now acting on behalf of the girl's mother to reunite them. Unwilling to simply hand Catherine over to a complete stranger, Sarah asks Detective Sergeant Frank Malloy to investigate. But when he goes to interview the woman at her tenement in Chelsea, he finds she has been murdered. Though her death leaves Sarah's claim to Catherine unchallenged, her sense of justice compels her to work with Malloy to find the killer. Their search takes them from the marble mansions of the Upper West Side to the dilapidated dwellings of lower Manhattan and into the deepest and darkest secrets of Catherine's past. And while Malloy helps Sarah determine the fate of the child she loves, he faces a challenge of his own...

Thor, Brad. [Hidden Order](#) (\$9.99). The most secretive organization in America operates without any accountability to the American people. Hiding in the shadows, pretending to be part of the United States government, its power is beyond measure. Control of this organization has just been lost. When the five candidates being considered to head this mysterious agency suddenly go missing, covert counterterrorism operative Scot Harvath is summoned to Washington and set loose on the most dangerous chase ever to play out on American soil. But as the candidates begin turning up murdered, the chase becomes an all-too-public spectacle, with every indicator suggesting that the

plot has its roots in a shadowy American cabal founded in the 1700s. Scot Harvath must race to untangle a web of conspiracy centuries in the making...

Viets, Elaine. [Board Stiff: A Dead-End Job Mystery](#) (\$7.99). 12th in this sharp, witty, insightful series. There's a dark cloud over Sunny Jim's Stand-Up Paddleboard Rental business on Florida's Riggs Beach—especially after one of his clients is killed in a tragic paddleboarding mishap. Sunny Jim is sure it was no accident, and he hires Helen and Phil to find the murderer. Between competitors poaching his territory, the city threatening to revoke his license, and a wrongful death suit filed by the victim's husband, Sunny Jim may soon be up the creek without a paddle. Luckily, he has Helen and Phil on his side. As the couple investigates, they discover dark undercurrents of corruption behind the cheerful facades of the beachfront businesses. But the sands of time are running out...

NEW IN MASS MARKET PAPERBACK

Blake, Heather. [The Goodbye Witch](#) (Signet \$7.99) Wishcraft Mystery
Castle, Richard. [Deadly Heat](#) (Hyperion \$9.99)
Conrad, Hy. [Mr. Monk Gets on Board](#) (Signet \$7.99) Adrian Monk #17
Fluke, Joanne. [Dead Giveaway](#) (\$7.99) Not a Lake Eden with Hannah
Hughes, Mary Ellen. [The Pickled Piper](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Pickled and Preserved #1
Kevin, O'Brien. [Tell Me Your Sorry](#) (\$9.99) True Crime
Mann, Don. [Seal Team Six: Hunt the Falcon](#) (\$8)
Maxwell, Edith. [Tine to Live, A Tine to Die](#) (\$7.99) Local Foods Mystery
McKinlay, Jenn. [Death of a Mad Hatter Signed](#) (Berkley \$7.99)
Morrigan, Laura. [A Tiger's Tale](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Call of the Wilde #2
Parra, Nancy J. [Murder Gone A-Rye](#) (Berkley \$7.99) A Baker's Treat #2
Patterson, James. [Private Berlin](#) (\$10)
Price, Cate. [Dollhouse to Die for](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Deadly Notions #2
Ross, Barbara. [Boiled Over](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Maine Clambake Mystery
Thompson, Rod. [Black Hills](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Alternative history Western

Reissues

Abbott, Jeff. [Black Jack Point](#) (\$6)
Abbott, Jeff. [Cut and Run](#) (\$6)
Abbott, Jeff. [Kiss Gone Bad](#) (\$6)
Connelly, Michael. [Darkness More than Night](#) (\$10) Harry Bosch
Deaver, Jeffery. [The Bone Collector](#) (\$9.99) 1st Lincoln Rhyme
Ludlum, Robert. [The Matarese Countdown](#) (\$9.99)
Preston, Douglas. [Book of the Dead](#) (\$10)

SciFi/Fantasy/Horror/Paranormal

Aguirre, AA. [Silver Mirrors](#) (\$7.99)
Fielder, Donna. [Vanished Wife](#) (\$9.99)
Garton, Ray. [Frankenstorm](#) (\$7.99)
Hulick, Douglas. [Sworn in Steel: A Tale of the Kin](#) (\$7.99)
Moon, Elizabeth. [Limits of Power](#) (\$7.99)
Stackpole, Michael. [World of Warcraft Vol'jin Shadows](#) (\$7.99)

HISTORY/MYSTERY

Cheney, Lynne. [James Madison](#) (Viking \$36). A view, possibly hers, of our Fourth President who did great work but often in the shadow of statesmen like Washington and Jefferson. I like him on the Constitution and yet he was a force as Secretary of State in a shaky exercise of power under it: The Louisiana Purchase. I recommend visiting his home in Virginia.

Corby, Gary. [The Marathon Conspiracy](#) (Soho \$26.95). In his 4th investigation, Classical Athens' crimebusters Nicolaos and his fiancée, the shrewd and feisty former priestess Diotima, have their hands full negotiating their wedding. Difficult parents, social classes, etc. Diotima was once a student at the Sanctuary of Artemis, the most famous school for girls. When a student is killed—bear!—and another disappears, Diotima is asked to investigate, which involves a lot of cross-city travel. Meanwhile the discovery of a skull in a nearby cave appears to be that of the city's last tyrant, the one so hated the Athenians battled the invading Persians at Marathon to prevent the tyrant's return. Supposedly the tyrant died 30 years ago in Persia. Surely there's a connection to the two students, one dead, one missing, as they made the discovery of the skull.... A lively and interesting story forged of real history and imagined events and characters. [Click here](#) to order the earlier cases.

Dietrich, William. [The Tree Emperors](#) (Harper \$25.99). Surviving the battle of Trafalgar, quick-witted adventurer Ethan Gage is rushing to rescue "Egyptian priestess" Astiza and son Harry from imprisonment by a ruthless mystic who seeks revenge for disfigurement, and an evil dwarf alchemist who experiments with the occult on Prague's Golden Lane. Using death as his ruse, and a pair of unlikely allies—a Jewish Napoleonic soldier and his sutler father—Ethan must decipher clues from Durendal, the sword of Roland. Astiza uses her own research to concoct an explosive escape and find a lost tomb, their tormentors in relentless pursuit. It's another picaresque outing, and as ever, fun.

Gear, Kathleen/Michael. [People of the Morning Star](#) (Forge \$25.99). Authors and archaeologists Michael and Kathleen Gear begin the stunning saga of the North American equivalent of ancient Rome in *People of the Morning Star*. The city of Cahokia, at its height, covered more than six square miles around what is now St. Louis and included structures more than ten stories high. Cahokian warriors and traders roamed from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. What force on earth would motivate hundreds of thousands of people to pick up, move hundreds of miles, and once plopped down amidst a polyglot of strangers, build an incredible city? A religious miracle: the Cahokians believed that the divine hero Morning Star had been resurrected in the flesh. But not all is fine and stable in glorious Cahokia. To the astonishment of the ruling clan, an attempt is made on the living god's life. Now it is up to Morning Star's aunt, Matron Blue Heron, to keep it quiet until she can uncover the plot and bring the culprits to justice. If she fails, Cahokia will be torn asunder

⌘Grecian, Alex. [The Devil's Workshop Signed](#) (Putnam \$26.95). A Jack the Ripper challenge to Scotland Yard's Murder Squad. See Event Books. New in paperback after First Mystery Club Pick [The Yard](#) (\$16): [The Black Country](#) (\$16). "Devilishly dark... It isn't often that a mystery-thriller enthralls so completely... but as usual with Mr. Grecian, there is more to this

tale than complex plotting... A displaced eye, a crumpled note, cryptic limericks and lost ribbons: like our detective heroes, we follow these trails into the white-blinding snow to its brilliant and unexpected conclusion. Whether you read the tale in the dark night of winter or the haze of a summer sun, be prepared for the chill. The days are dark in *Black Country*.”—*The Huffington Post*
Guinn, Jeff. [Glorious Signed](#) (Putnam \$26.95). Arizona Territory, 1872. See Event Books.

✚Harris, Tessa. [The Devil's Breath](#) (Kensington \$15). 3rd in the Dr. Thomas Silkstone series set in Georgian England, it's a new chapter in the investigations the American-born anatomist conducts, and also in the unusual, passionate, but so far thwarted in terms of a wedding romance between Silkstone and the widowed Lady Lydia Farrell (who killed her husband in the first book). Silkstone is in Oxfordshire at Boughton Hall, her home, looking into mysterious deaths and a deadly miasma. Although Harris can't tell us what it is in the story, excellent notes at the end reveal that 1783 was the year of a terrible volcanic eruption in Iceland at the Laki fissure went sent clouds of toxic gas into the air much more thickly and dangerously than the 2010 eruption of an Icelandic volcano. We are also near West Wycombe, the Dashwoods, and the Hellfire Club, there's a great meteor (hence "Great Balls of Fire"), and Pennsylvanian Silkstone stays in touch with Ben Franklin who's over in Paris. Our **May History Paperback Pick**. Fascinating! [Click here](#) to order all three novels.

Harrison, Cora. [Verdict of the Court](#) (Severn \$28.95). The Burren is still one of the most fascinating regions of Ireland to visit. Travel back in time in this interesting series. Christmas 1519 is the twentieth anniversary of King Turlough Donn's reign over the three kingdoms of Thomond, Corcomroe and Burren, so Mara and her scholars are spending the festive period in her husband's principal court, the castle of Bunratty in Thomond. However, in the midst of celebrations, the Brehon of Thomond is found dead, slumped across a table with a knife protruding from below his shoulder blade, while all around him Turlough's relations and friends dance and feast. Mara's difficult task in probing the motives of the multiple suspects, made worse by her suspicion that someone near and dear to her is involved, is interrupted by a dramatic attack on the castle. Among the key questions facing Mara is how her husband will answer a call to surrender?

Kane, Ben. [Spartacus: Rebellion](#) (\$15.99). Picking up from the author's [Spartacus: The Gladiator](#) (\$15.95), the story joins Spartacus and his troops as they savor an early victory over Rome. But trouble is already brewing: Spartacus celebrates his victory by staging a *munus*, in which 400 Roman captives are made to duel one-on-one until only one is left alive. It's the first of a few signs that the gladiator's bloodlust and thirst for power may be his undoing.

Kaplan, Fred. [John Quincy Adams: American Visionary](#) (Harper \$29.99). A fresh biography of our sixth president, a man often misunderstood and underrated.

Meyer, GJ. [Borgias, The Hidden History](#) (\$18). A reappraisal of accepted history. "Meyer brings his considerable skills to another infamous Renaissance family, the Borgias [and] a fresh look into the machinations of power in Renaissance Italy. . . . [He] makes a convincing case that the Borgias have been given a raw deal."—*Historical Novels Review*

Newman, Sharan. [Defending the City of God](#) (Palgrave Macmillan \$28). "Take a gifted writer-historian, a strong-willed medieval queen, and the result is a biography that is as impossible to put down as the most suspenseful novel." —Sharon Kay Penman. The Queen is Melisende, the time is the 12th Century, and the city is Jerusalem, focus of early crusaders and of its Muslim denizens.

Oliveira, Robin. [I Always Loved You](#) (Viking \$27.95). Belle Époque Paris continues to fascinate us. Laurie R. King, Rhys Bowen, other authors have revisited the City of Light in their most recent novels. Oliveira, author of *My Name Is Mary Sutter*, focuses on American painter Mary Cassatt and the push-me-pull-you of her relationship with Edgar Degas. Even more poignant, IMHO, is the long, painful, cloaked love between Edouard Manet and his sister-in-law Berthe Morisot. Cassatt moved to Paris after the Civil War thinking that to become validated as an artist would be easy. Instead, despite a decade of work, the Paris Salon rejects her work. Her father loses patience and begs her to return to Philadelphia and find a husband. Her sister Lydia, of some mysterious illness, supports Mary's residence abroad. Then Mary meets Edgar... to what degree they consummated an affair isn't the point. What is, also true for Manet/Morisot, is the price people pay for denying love. This is an absorbing, sensitive read and a wonderful portrait of its time.

Potzsch, Oliver. [The Ludwig Conspiracy](#) (\$14.95). Any opera fancier knows the role of Bavaria's King Ludwig in Wagner's career. Travelers and tourists know the castles he built (think Disney for one). And historians know that this fragile, unstable, and wildly extravagant monarch died under mysterious circumstances, in a lake, as did his doctor/keeper. Potzsch, a Bavarian who's written some dandy mysteries incorporating some of family history (hangmen), writes a mystery about Ludwig that only partially succeeds.

✚Robertson, Imogen. [Theft of Life Signed](#) (Headline \$44). London, 1785. When the body of a West Indies planter is found pegged out in the grounds of St Paul's Cathedral, suspicion falls on one of the victim's former slaves, who was found with his watch on the London streets. But it seems the answer is not that simple. The impact of the planter's death brings tragedy for Francis Glass, a freed slave now working as a bookseller and printer in the city, and a painful reminder of the past for William Geddings, Harriet Westerman's senior footman. Harriet is reluctant to be drawn in to the difficult and powerful world of the slave trade, but she and her friend, reclusive anatomist Gabriel Crowther, begin to understand the dark secrets hidden by the respectable reputation of London's slave owners. Together, they negotiate the interests of the British government, the secrets of the plantation owners, and a network of alliances stretching across the Atlantic. 5th in a terrific series, not quite Georgian Noir but unflinching in its look at an era of accelerating change and concomitant greed. Latest in paperback: [Circle of Shadows](#) (\$16), taking the principals to the German Duchy of Maulberg in 1784 to spring Harriet's brother-in-law from a charge of murder.

Rose, Alexander. [Washington's Spy Ring](#) (\$17). For the first time, Rose takes us beyond the battlefield and into the shadowy underworld of double agents and triple crosses, covert operations and code breaking, and unmasking the courageous, flawed individuals who inhabited this wilderness of mirrors—including

the spymaster at the heart of it all, George Washington. “[Rose] captures the human dimension of spying, war and leadership . . . from the naive twenty-one-year-old Nathan Hale, who was captured and executed, to the quietly cunning Benjamin Tallmadge, who organized the ring in 1778, to the traitorous Benedict Arnold.”—*The Wall Street Journal*. Previously published as *Washington’s Spies* and now in a tie-in to the TV dramatization.

Schama, Simon. [Story of the Jews](#) (Ecco \$39.99). Find the Words 1000 BC-1492 AD. An illustrated cultural history ties in to the PBS and BBC series.

Tallis, FR. [The Forbidden](#) (Pantheon \$26.95). 1873. In the wake of the Franco-Prussian War, Tallis sends a disillusioned Parisian doctor to the isle of Saint Sébastien. There he admires the skills and work of a senior physician but experiences the terrifying beheading of a man labeled “undead”—think chemistry, a scientific explanation of the man’s condition and the islanders’ superstitions. The local sorcerer makes him swear never to speak of what he’s seen. Returning to Paris, Paul’s attentions turn to studying the nervous system and resuscitation through electricity. Paul is told of patients who have apparently died, been brought back to life, and, while they lay between life and death, witnessed what they believed to be Heaven itself. Setting aside his oath, he attempts to experience what everyone else has seen, but something goes horribly wrong. *PW* likes this novel of demonic possession, exploring the boundaries of science and the supernatural: “Tallis knows how to elicit fear in his readers, with first-rate prose and atmospherics.”

✦Thomas, Will. [Fatal Enquiry Signed](#) (St Martins \$25.99). The return of a Victorian version of Nero Wolfe and Archie Goodwin, engaged in a fast and brutal duel with to borrow another analogy, a version of Moriarity battling Holmes and Watson. See Event Books.

Thompson, Victoria. [Murder in Murray Hill](#) (Berkley \$25.95). Frank Malloy has never known any life other than that of a cop, but his newfound inheritance threatens his position within his department. While trying to keep both his relationship with Sarah and his fortune under wraps, he’s assigned to a new case—finding a missing young woman for her worried father, Henry Livingston. It seems the girl had been responding to “lonely hearts” ads in the paper for months before she disappeared. Her father thinks that she’s eloped with a deceptive stranger, but Malloy fears the worst, knowing that the grifters who place such ads often do much more than simply abscond with their victims. But as Sarah and Malloy delve deeper into a twisted plot targeting the city’s single women, it’s their partnership—both professional and private—that winds up in the greatest peril. This is an interesting look at the social media of the day, lonely hearts ads, reminding us that stalkers and killers preyed on naïve women then, as now.

✦Trent, Christine. [Stolen Remains](#) (Kensington \$15). After establishing her reputation as one of London’s most highly regarded undertakers, Violet Harper decided to take her practice to the wilds of the American West. But when her mother falls ill, Violet and her husband Samuel are summoned back to England, where her skills are as sought-after as ever. She’s honored to undertake the funeral of Anthony Fairmont, the Viscount Raybourn, a close friend of Queen Victoria’s who

died in suspicious circumstances—but it’s difficult to perform her services when his body disappears... As the viscount’s undertaker, all eyes are on Violet as the Fairmonts and Scotland Yard begin the search for his earthly remains. Forced to exhume her latent talents as a sleuth to preserve her good name, Violet’s own investigation takes her from servants’ quarters, to the halls of Windsor Castle, to the tombs of ancient Egypt—and the Fairmont family’s secrets quickly begin to unravel like a mummy’s wrappings. But the closer Violet gets to the truth, the closer she gets to becoming the next missing body. #2 in the *Lady of Ashes* series.