

# BOOKNEWS from

ISSN 1056-5655, © The Poisoned Pen, Ltd.

Volume 26, Number 4

April Booknews 2014

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

<http://www.poisonedpen.com>

<http://twitter.com/poisonedpen>

4014 N. Goldwater Blvd.

Scottsdale, AZ 85251

480-947-2974



## APRIL SHOWERS US WITH BOOKS AND AUTHORS

### AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest

#### TUESDAY APRIL 1 7:00 PM Wine and Cheese Party

Janet Hubbard signs [Bordeaux The Bitter Finish](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) Vengeance in the Vineyard #2

#### THURSDAY APRIL 3 7:00 PM Double Trouble

Allison Brennan signs [Notorious](#) (St Martins \$24.99) Starts a series

Jean Zimmerman signs [Savage Girl](#) (Viking \$27.95)

#### TUESDAY APRIL 8 7:00 PM

Nevada Barr with Keith McCafferty

Barr signs [Destroyer Angel](#) (St Martins \$26.99) Anna Pigeon McCafferty signs [Dead Man's Fancy](#) (Viking \$26.95). Sean Stranahan PI/fishing guy #3

#### WEDNESDAY APRIL 9 7:00 PM Victorian Crime

Anne Perry signs [Death on Blackheath](#) (Random \$27 April 9) Charlotte and Thomas Pitt

#### THURSDAY APRIL 10 7:00 PM Sex and the City

Stuart Woods signs [Carnal Curiosity](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Stone Barrington

#### SATURDAY APRIL 12 10:30 AM

Coffee and Crime Club discusses Annelise Ryan, [Working Stiff](#) (\$6.99) A nurse turns coroner

#### WEDNESDAY APRIL 23 7:00 PM Suspense and Surprises

Hilary Davidson signs [Blood Always Tells](#) (Forge \$25.99) A "carefully plotted tale of kidnapping, murder and duplicity. Impressive from the outset, the surprises continue throughout until the clincher at the end."

#### THURSDAY APRIL 24 7:00 PM Photos, videos, sound clips

Nicole Mones signs [Night in Shanghai](#) (Houghton \$25) An American jazz man, a Chinese committed Communist woman, and Holocaust history that may surprise you—as the Japanese prepare to sail up the Huangpu

#### FRIDAY APRIL 25 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime discusses Elliott Chaze's [Black Wings Has My Angel](#) (\$19.95) in a double classic noir combined with Bruce Elliott's *One Is a Lonely Number*.

#### SATURDAY APRIL 26 2:00 PM Tea & Travel: Assam and Burma

Shona Patel signs [Teatime for the Firefly](#) (Harlequin \$15.95) Tea from Assam

Photos, travelogues, fashion (Barbara's Burmese longhi)

#### MONDAY APRIL 28 7:00 PM Disney Night

Ridley Pearson signs [Kingdom Keepers VII](#) (Disney \$17.99)

#### TUESDAY APRIL 29 7:00 PM Antiques and Amour

Michelle Gable signs [A Paris Apartment](#) (St Martins \$25.99) A fabulous trove of antiques, an apartment untouched for decades, an American auction house expert, and surprising lives across a century in Paris

#### THURSDAY MAY 1 7:00 PM Thriller!

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)

#### UPCOMING: BOOKS AT THE BILTMORE 7:00 PM

Friday May 16: Douglas Preston and James Rollins

Tuesday June 10: Diana Gabaldon

Monday July 21: Daniel Silva

**2014 BRUCE ALEXANDER AWARD (historicals)**

Catriona McPherson, [Dandy Gilver and a Bothersome Number of Corpses](#) (\$25)

**2014 CWA/CARTIER DIAMOND DAGGER AWARD**

Simon Brett

**2014 DAVID GOODIS AWARD (Noir)**

Fuminori Nakamura

**2014 DILYS AWARD**

William Kent Krueger, [Ordinary Grace](#) (\$16; \$24.99 Signed). *Ordinary Grace* also won The Squid Award at Left Coast Crime for Best Novel set inside the US. Louise Penny's [How the Light Gets In](#) (\$25.99) won for Best Novel set outside the USA

**2014 INDIES CHOICE AWARDS**

*Book of the Year—Adult Fiction*

Kate Atkinson, *Life after Life*

Warren Ellis, *Gun Machine*

Philipp Meyer, *The Son*

Ruth Ozekia, *A Tale for the Time Being*

George Saunders, *Tenth of December*

Paul Yoon, *Snow Hunters*

*Book of the Year—Adult Debut*

Matt Bell, *In the House Upon the Dirt Between the Lake and the Woods*

NoViolet Bulawayo, *We Need New Names*

Hannah Kent, *Burial Rites*

Anthony Marra, *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena*

Derek B Miller, *Norwegian by Night*

Helene Wecker, *The Golem and the Jinni*

**2014 STRAND MAGAZINE NOMINEES**

*Best Novel:*

Lauren Beukes, [The Shining Girls](#) (\$16)

William Boyd, [Solo](#) (\$26.99)

Thomas H. Cook, [Sandrine's Case](#) (\$24)

Craig Johnson, [A Serpent's Tooth](#) (\$26.95 Signed)

Stuart Neville, [Ratlines](#) (\$15.95)

George Pelecanos, [The Double](#) (\$26 Signed)

*Best First Novel:*

Paula Daly, [Just What Kind of Mother Are You?](#) (\$24)

Roger Hobbs, [Ghostman](#) (\$14.95)

Terry Shames, [A Killing at Cotton Hill](#) (\$15.95)

David Whellans, [Walking into the Ocean](#) (\$14.95)

Derek Miller, [Norwegian by Night](#) (\$26)

**EVENT BOOKS**

Barr, Nevada. [Destroyer Angel](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Riveting, a psychological thriller and wilderness-survival tale. Anna Pigeon leaves home and husband for a vacation that goes horribly wrong. A three-years married Ranger Anna Pigeon is no less intrepid than when she pursued villains across our National Parkers unattached. Her wanderlust undiminished, she joins an autumn camping trip along the Iron Range's Fox River in upstate Minnesota, reuniting with paraplegic Heath Jarrod, Heath's daughter, and a woman who designs outdoor gear and her daughter. Designer Leah will use the group vacation to shake down her new line of equipment for making the outdoors more accessible to the handicapped. While the naturally solitary Anna floats on the river in a canoe, their camp is invaded by a quartet of armed men, leaving the Ranger to mount whatever rescue mission she can. "Barr touches again on her recurring theme, that man is the biggest threat in nature, as Anna works unseen to disarm the thugs and free her friends. Barr's gift for depicting breathtaking scenery elevates the story, as does Anna's complex, ever-evolving personality."—PW Starred Review. To order Barr's earlier books, [click here](#).

Brennan, Allison. [Notorious](#) (St Martins \$24.99). A kind of *Gone Girl* suspense set in Atherton, a bastion of the Bay Area rich for decades. Leafy lots and family mansions mean kids could range into trouble undetected until needing protection. It's this background that brings Max Revere, star of a true crime TV series, home when childhood friend Kevin O'Neal, destroyed by suspicion surrounding the murder of Lindy Ames as a teen, now commits suicide. Believing Kevin an unlikely suicide and jarred by the shooting death of a construction worker at her circle's old high school, Max does what she does best: work a cold case. "Notorious blew me away."—James Rollins, echoed by Lisa Gardner. Bestseller Brennan has a large backlist: [click here](#) to order.

Davidson, Hilary. [Blood Always Tells](#) (Forge \$25.99).

Dominique Monaghan just wanted to get even with her two-timing, married boyfriend, a washed-up boxer stuck in a toxic marriage to a dangerously spoiled socialite. But an elaborate blackmail scheme soon lands her in the middle of an unexpected kidnapping... and attempted murder. But who is actually out to kill whom? Desmond Edgars, Dominique's big brother, has looked out for his wayward sister ever since their mother was convicted of murdering Dominique's father many years ago, so when he receives a frantic phone call from Dominique in the middle of the night, he drops everything to rush to the rescue. But to find out what has really happened to his sister, the stoic ex-military man must navigate a tangled web of murder and deception, involving a family fortune, a couple of shifty lawyers, and a missing child, while wrestling with his own bloody secrets... "Hilary Davidson is the master of plot twists!" — Tess Gerritsen. "A tale of revenge and redemption that keeps the reader guessing until the last page" — Harlan Coben. Davidson is the winner of the Anthony Award for Best First Novel. [Click here](#) to order her earlier work.

**WE WILL MISS...**

**Aimee Thurlo**, February 28, age 62. Co-author of the Ella Clah and Sister Agatha series and many other novels with husband David or on her own.

Gable, Michelle. [A Paris Apartment](#) (St Martins \$25.99). When April Vogt's boss tells her about the discoveries in a cramped, decrepit ninth arrondissement apartment, the Sotheby's continental furniture specialist does not hear the words "dust" or "rats" or "shuttered for seventy years." She hears Paris. She hears escape. From New York, from a possibly dying marriage. And from grief over the Parisian post she lost when the small museum where she worked closed. Arriving at the seven rooms crammed with fabulous furniture—and wait, is that a portrait by the Master of Swish?—a stunned April finds beneath the dust and cobwebs and stale perfumed air lies a goldmine. Not one of actual gold (or painted ostrich eggs or mounted rhinoceros horns or bronze bathtub) but incredible furniture, that painting, and the letters and documents that may supply provenance. They reveal this is all about a life, two lives, one lived in the end of the Belle Époque, another ending in 1940, plus there is a woman still living as the 100-year-lease on the apartment now expires. With the help of a salty (and annoyingly sexy) Parisian solicitor and the courtesan's private documents, April tries to uncover the secrets buried in the apartment. As she digs into one woman's life, April can't help but take a deeper look into her own. I'm happy to say that debut author Gable avoids cliché. Warmly recommended to fans of historical fiction/mystery, lovers of auctions and fine furniture and art, and of all things French. "A Paris Apartment winds between past and present, between two passionate women and their lives, loves and fortunes. Informed and assured, debut author Gable's prose is fresh and emotionally complex. Glimpses into Parisian life, the arts, and the high-end antiques trade are piquant accents to an exceptional mystery."—Sophie Littlefield

Hubbard, Janet. [Bordeaux The Bitter Finish](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). Vengeance in the Vineyard #2. NYPD detective Max Maguire returns to France as bodyguard to a famous American wine critic. Max's mother is French—so Max is not only bilingual but blessed, or cursed, with disapproving (and devious) French relatives. Max is not just escorting the critic, she's also keeping an eye on a very expensive bottle of wine whose authenticity is in dispute, a pawn in cut-throat wine wars involving critics, wine collectors, and auction houses. Checked into their Paris hotel, it's not long before Max discovers her client dead in her room and the bottle stolen from the hotel's safe. So she has no choice but to team up with examining magistrate Olivier Chaumont, the man she had fallen in love with the year before while solving a murder in Champagne. Olivier's sidekick, Commissaire Abdel Zeroual joins in. Max has no police role in France but she stays a step ahead of the French investigators using tactics learned back in New York, while Olivier weaves in and out of Bordeaux society where he is certain the murderer lurks. Is this something local, or is there really a counterfeit wine operation in play? Moving back and forth from Bordeaux to Manhattan among vintners, restaurateurs, auctioneers, collectors, the rich, as well as among less privileged players, everyone is propelled towards a shocking climax. The sequel to [Champagne, The Farewell](#) (\$24.95; \$14.95).

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*. "The variously dark and cheerful seventh installment of Koch's *Alien* series is a crowd-pleaser.... The best hallmarks of the series—frequent banter, head-first dives into action, tangled webs, and Kitty's snark—are in full force again."—*Publisher's Weekly*. To order the earlier *Aliens*, [click here](#).

McCafferty, Keith. [Dead Man's Fancy](#) (Viking \$26.95). We've reviewed McCafferty's work often this year. The Survival and Outdoor Skills Editor of *Field & Stream*, he's a marvelous new author of three mysteries. And clearly the perfect person to interview Nevada Barr about her new book which requires Anna Pigeon to be at the top of her survival and outdoor skills! Sean Stranahan, McCafferty's PI, would just as soon fish as follow up cases. But hey.... In its Starred Review for *Dead Man's Fancy*, PW writes, "The politics of wolves drives Keith McCafferty's beautifully written third mystery featuring Montana fly fisherman and sometimes PI Sean Stranahan..." Nevada too is a major fan and invited Keith to join her for a marvelous evening on April 8. To order *The Royal Wulff Murders* and *The Gray Ghost Murders*, [click here](#)—the three titles are all fishing flies McCafferty can tie.

Mones, Nicole. [Night in Shanghai](#) (Houghton \$25). The author of three of my favorite books ever now writes what she calls "The first novel based on the true experiences of African American musicians in the Chinese jazz age—and what happened when World War II exploded around them." At its center lie an American jazz man bent on upping his skills, and a Chinese woman, a committed Communist. They make their way, separately and together, up to the moment Japanese battleships appear at the mouth of the Huangpu. The poignant last scene reminds me of David Mitchell's *The Thousand Autumns of Jacob De Zoet*. Central to Mones' story are the Jews of Shanghai, many having fled to the city from Europe: Holocaust history unknown to most Americans, and Black history too. Readers of SJ Rozan will recognize Jewish history she portrayed in *Shanghai Moon*. [Click here](#) for Mones' four earlier novels, all fabulous, ranging from the lost bones of Peking Man and lost Imperial china to food. Mones is one of my very favorite novelists.

Palmer, Daniel. [Desperate](#) (Kensington \$25 May 1). 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.

Patel, Shona. [Teatime for the Firefly](#) (Harlequin \$15.95). I read this wonderful debut while floating down the Irrawaddy from Mandalay to Rangoon—Burmese hill tribes were tea pickers in Assam so it was relevant. This zinger is written by an author living here in Fountain Hills! Here are some reviews for a book that introduces you to at least two cultures and takes you inside a marriage as well as into British colonial culture, WWII, and India's independence. "Debut author Patel offers a stunning, panoramic view of a virtually unknown time and place—the colonial British tea plantations of Assam—while bringing them to life through a unique character's perspective.... A lyrical novel that touches on themes both huge and intimate." —*Kirkus Reviews*. "A wonderfully intricate world of the Assam tea plantations and the adventures and heartaches of marriage.... The historical detail makes this debut novel a rich reading experience. Those who enjoy historical fiction and portraits of foreign cultures will surely love this book." —*Library Journal*. And *Booklist* gives it a Starred Review: "Because she is born under an unlucky star, Layla Roy fully expects to forgo marriage in favor of following in her grandfather Dadamoshai's footsteps to help increase educational opportunities for women in India in the 1940s. However, when Layla unexpectedly bumps into Manik Deb, an Anglo-educated Indian who has stopped by her grandfather's home to leave a message, she begins to think there might be more to life than teaching. If only Manik weren't betrothed to another woman in the village. When Manik gives up a lucrative civil-service post to take up a job as an assistant manager of a tea plantation in Assam, however, the possibility of a future with Layla suddenly seems within his grasp. Patel's remarkable debut effortlessly transports readers back to India on the brink of independence, while intriguing details about the tea industry in Assam, which Patel deftly incorporates into the story, add yet another layer of richness and depth. Fans of romantic women's fiction will be enchanted by *Teatime for the Firefly's* enthralling characters, exotic setting, and evocative writing style."

Pearson, Ridley. [Kingdom Keepers VII: The Insider](#) (Disney \$17.99 April 28). The Kingdom Keepers' senior year in high school is almost over. For more than three years, things have been quiet. Their battles are long behind them, they agree, the threat to the Disney realm silenced albeit at great cost. But inside the catacombs of the Aztec temple where Finn Whitman faced down his nemesis, the monstrous Chernabog, a new threat brews. Deception and betrayal rock the Kingdom Keepers as the merciless group of Disney villains known as the Overtakers stage an unexpected comeback. But a discovery by the Keepers provides them with one hope of victory: a lost icon—one believed to be gone forever. [Click here](#) to order the earlier Kingdom Keepers.

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

Philbrick, Nathaniel. [Bunker Hill](#) (Penguin \$18). The distinguished historian visits us with the paperback edition of his latest book. There are numerous reviews. Two I like are: "Quite masterfully, Philbrick does not sink to simply good and evil distinctions in the run-up to Bunker Hill. 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*. "Philbrick ... will be a candidate for another award with this ingenious, bottom-up look at Boston from the time of the December 1773 Tea Party to the iconic June 1775 battle.... A rewarding approach to a well-worn subject, rich in anecdotes, opinion, bloodshed and Byzantine political maneuvering."—*Kirkus (Starred Review)*. Plus this: "Philbrick shows us historic figures, not only as if they had stepped away from their famous portraits, but as if we had read about them in last week's newspaper... Philbrick has developed a style that connects the power of narrative to decisive moments in American history." —*Nantucket Today*. No footnotes, includes excellent maps. Reading for teens through seniors.

Woods, Stuart. [Carnal Curiosity](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Stone Barrington's sex life spirals into security risks, politics, and double crosses. The presidential race where POTUS's wife bids to succeed him is heating up, aided by their friend Stone Barrington and other well-heeled Manhattanites and national players. It's all a bit distracting. So when a series of clever crimes goes down to which Stone is a material witness, he and his former partner Dino are drawn into a world of fraud and high-end security, where systems are designed to keep people safe, but don't. When I saw "drawn" I mean Stone can't resist seduction and being seduced... As ever, fun and fast paced and women as bravura as men. To order earlier cases for Stone, [click here](#).

Zimmerman, Jean. [Savage Girl](#) (Viking \$27.95). *The NY Times* reviews: "The wondrous sights Zimmerman rolls out for us — a picnic on the banks of the Great Salt Lake, a stopover at the "fabulous, glorious" Palmer House hotel in Chicago and visits to mansions up and down the East Coast — are all the more piquant when Bronwyn's admirers begin turning up, cut to ribbons, at almost every whistle stop. If this is civilization, bring on the wolves. Sooner or later, a historical crime novel is bound to drag you down some dark alley and into the nastiest, most lawless precincts of the period. Jean Zimmerman followed this tradition in her first novel, [The Orphanmaster](#) (\$16), a descent into the hellish criminal haunts of 17th-century New Amsterdam. Now this canny author puts all that aside and turns to the Gilded Age for a sweeping narrative, set within the cloistered ranks of high society in 19th-century Manhattan, that raises touchy questions about what it means to be civilized. Even in this exclusive world, the Delegate family is more privileged than most. The paterfamilias, Friedrich-August-Heinrich (also known as Freddy), has taken his family and a retinue of servants on his private, sumptuously appointed 12-car railroad train to Virginia City, Nevada, to visit the silver mine that's boosting his already considerable fortune. But when the Delegates depart from this brawling Wild West boom town, they have an additional passenger, a beautiful, feral young woman from a land that's "savage, wild, forsaken by God and man" — who's said to have been raised by wolves. Found at a sideshow, she'll be the ideal experimental subject, Freddy thinks, for the nature-or-nurture

debate roiling his intellectual set. Using Freddy's intelligent but decidedly peculiar son Hugo as narrator adds another layer of suspense to the story." In its Starred Review, *PW* adds that Zimmerman "keeps the truth hidden until the end, combining suspense with an unsettling look into a tormented mind."

## FIRST NOVELS

Go, Justin. [The Steady Running of the Hour Signed](#) (SimonSchuster \$27). Just after graduating college, Tristan Campbell receives a letter delivered by special courier to his apartment in San Francisco. It contains the phone number of a Mr. J.F. Prichard of Twynning & Hooper, Solicitors, in London—and news that could change Tristan's life forever. In 1924, Prichard explains, an English alpinist named Ashley Walsingham died attempting to summit Mt. Everest, leaving his fortune to his former lover, Imogen Soames-Andersson. Information has recently surfaced suggesting Tristan may be the rightful heir, but unless he can find documented evidence, the fortune will be divided among charitable beneficiaries in less than two months. Tristan pieces together the story of a forbidden affair set against the tumult of the First World War and the pioneer British expeditions to Mt. Everest. Following his instincts through a maze of frenzied research, Tristan crosses paths with a mysterious French girl named Mireille who suggests there is more to his quest than he realizes. Tristan must prove that he is related to Imogen to inherit Ashley's fortune—but the more he learns about the couple, the stranger his journey becomes. I am stretching the definition of "crime fiction" here making this engrossing debut a **First Mystery Club Pick** but go with it, a kind of treasure hunt along with coming-of-age story that plumbs many mysteries. This book was among the hottest tickets at the recent international rights festival.

Graham, Scott. [Canyon Sacrifice: A National Park Mystery](#) (Torrey House \$14.95). Outdoorsman and amateur archaeologist Graham ropes in a piece of Hillerman Country with a novel set at the Grand Canyon. The kidnapping of his new stepdaughter during a visit to the Park causes archaeologist Chuck Bender to face up to his past and his deepest fears. Starts a series and is recommended by CJ Box, Margaret Coel, William Kent Krueger, and CM Wendelboe. **Our April Fresh Fiction Club Pick.**

Guggenheim, Marc. [Overwatch](#) (Mulholland \$26). Alex Garnett has spent his life in the shadow of his father, a former Chief of Staff and Solicitor General to two presidents who's been responsible for getting Alex every job he ever had, including his latest: attorney for the CIA. However, a seemingly routine litigation leads to a series of unexpected events, including poison, kidnapping, torture and murder. As casualties pile up, it becomes clear Alex is the final target in someone's blood-soaked attempts to cover tracks. Enlisting a neurotic hacker, Alex unravels a conspiracy older than the CIA. "Over the years I've used many hyphenated adjectives to describe lawyers (i.e., soul-sucking, bottom-feeding). Now, thanks to Marc Guggenheim's debut novel, I can add a new one to the list: bad-ass. *Overwatch* is a brilliantly-paced novel with ... the white-hot paranoia of a 70s conspiracy flick. Not only is Alex Garnett one of my favorite new heroes, but Guggenheim has also created a seriously warped villain—frightening not only because of what he does, but because you get the sinking feeling he might be alive and working in D.C. right now."—Duane Swierczynski

✂Hodgson, Antonia. [The Devil in the Marshalsea Signed](#) (Hodder \$41). Our **April History Club Pick** is a debut, a kind of "Tom Jones Noir" set in 18<sup>th</sup> Century London in a notorious debtors' prison. See History/Mystery below.

Harun, Adrienne. [A Man Came Out of a Door in the Mountain](#) (Penguin \$16) "proves that Harun is heir apparent to Louise Erdrich and Harry Crews. Her characters shimmer and squirm in liminal space, nether regions of geography, race, spirituality and aesthetics. This novel is a mesmerizing incantation, harrowing and hypnotic."—*NY Times*. A debut, the story turns on a teenager who resolves to rid a logging town of a brute. Girls, mostly Native, are vanishing from the sides of a notorious highway in the isolated Pacific Northwest. Leo Kreutzer and his friends are barely touched by these disappearances—until a series of enigmatic strangers arrive in their remote mountain town, beguiling and bewitching them. It seems as if the devil himself has appeared among them, lending new meaning to the term "a dead-end town."

Kuhn, Shane. [The Intern's Handbook Signed](#) (SimonSchuster \$25). Interns are invisible. That's the secret behind HR, Inc., the elite "placement agency" that doubles as a network of assassins for hire who take down high-profile targets that wouldn't be able to remember an intern's name if their lives depended on it. At the ripe old age of almost twenty-five, John Lago is already New York City's most successful hit man. He's also an intern at a prestigious Manhattan law firm, clocking eighty hours a week getting coffee, answering phones, and doing all the grunt work actual employees are too lazy to do. He was hired to assassinate one of the firm's heavily guarded partners. His internship provides the perfect cover, enabling him to gather intel and gain access to pull off a clean, untraceable hit. Part confessional, part DIY manual, here is John's final assignment, a twisted thrill ride in which he is pitted against the toughest—and sexiest—adversary he's ever faced: Alice, an FBI agent assigned to take down the same law partner he's been assigned to kill. The Indie Next Pick calls this, "A darkly funny novel of office work and assassination — something like what you might get if Joshua Ferris and Josh Bazell ever collaborated. It's full of misdirection, red herrings, and characters so layered with secret identities and hidden agendas that even they may not know the truth. If you learn nothing else from this exciting, exhilarating debut, take this lesson to heart: If the intern offers to make you coffee, just say 'No.'" **A First Mystery Club Pick.**

Scofield, Ted. [Eat What You Kill](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Terrific title, no? And in his trawl through the NY financial district Evan Stoess reminds me of Francis Urquhart in the British *House of Cards* TV series—although Evan's motivation is both a lust for power and riches and a resolve for revenge. Part of the story is why he's high-risk driven, and part is why he's targeted a particular money guy. He's on his way when a small stock he discovers becomes an immediate sensation, maybe returning millions, but then disaster strikes! I like Evan and love Scofield's voice which promises a great career. The conclusion delivers a surprise, actually more than one, and one of the "more than one" is worth discussing when you've read it to see if you believe it (I didn't, which is why this isn't a First Mystery Club Pick, but it doesn't diminish my enjoyment of the prose).

Zevin, Gabrielle. [The Storied Life of A J Fikry Signed](#) (Algonquin \$27). ). **Our April Modern Firsts Pick** is the No. 1 Indie Next Pick for April—of course, it’s about books. “Fikry is a bookseller with a small shop in a sleepy island resort town off the coast of Massachusetts. He’s a bit cantankerous, but with good reason: his wife, the ‘people person’ of the relationship, has recently died and his prized possession, a rare copy of Tamerlane, has gone missing. Despite those losses, there’s one strange addition, a baby girl left on his doorstep with an explicit request for Fikry to take her in. Zevin’s novel offers the reality of both death and rebirth, held together by the spirit of the bookstore. It’s a romantic comedy, a spiritual journey, and if you include the chapter openings, a collection of short story criticisms as well. In short, it’s a celebration of books and the people who read them, write them, and sell them.” And it’s not treacly.

## BRITISH BOOKS

Atherton, Nancy. [Aunt Dimity and the Wishing Well Signed](#) (Viking \$28). When a strapping young Australian named Jack MacBride arrives in Finch to wrap up his late uncle’s affairs, heads turn in the sleepy Cotswold village. Lori Shepherd, American mother of twins and wife to a Boston lawyer practicing in England, volunteers to help Jack clear out his uncle’s overgrown garden. After Lori laughingly tosses a coin into the garden’s old well and makes a wish, she is baffled to find that the wish seems to have come true. Word spreads, and the villagers turn out in droves to make wishes of their own. But as they soon learn, one person’s wish is another person’s worst nightmare and the village is thrown into chaos. As more and more wishes come true, Lori resolves to find out what’s really going on. Is handsome Jack somehow tricking his neighbors? Or are they fooling themselves? With Aunt Dimity’s otherworldly help, Lori discovers that the truth is even more marvelous than a magical wishing well. “Lori’s latest is perfect for those who prefer charmingly low-key puzzles to blood-soaked chills and thrills.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

Bauer, Belinda. [Rubbernecker](#) (\$17). Life is strange for Patrick Fort; being a medical student with Asperger’s Syndrome doesn’t come without its challenges. And that’s before he is faced with solving a possible murder. The body Patrick is examining in anatomy class is trying to tell him all kinds of things. And now he must stay out of danger long enough to unravel the mystery... while he dissects his own evidence.... Gold Dagger winner Bauer is most inventive.

Bradford, Barbara Taylor. [Cavendon Hall](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Cavendon Hall is home to two families, the aristocratic Inghams and the Swanns who serve them. Charles Ingham, the Sixth Earl of Mowbray, lives there with his wife, Felicity, and their six children. Walter Swann, the premier male of the Swann family, is valet to the earl. His wife, Alice, a clever seamstress who is in charge of the countess’s wardrobe, also makes clothes for the four Ingham daughters. For centuries, these two families have lived side-by-side, beneath the backdrop of the imposing stately home in Yorkshire. Lady Daphne, the most beautiful of the earl’s daughters, is about to be presented at court when a devastating event changes her life and threatens the Ingham name. With World War I looming, both families will find themselves tested in ways they never thought possible. Loyalties will be challenged and betrayals will be set into motion. “An evocative

and captivating story, filled with drama, intrigue, love, passion, and revenge... Vintage storytelling from [a] premier romantic novelist.”—*Daily Mail*

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

Cannell, Dorothy. [Murder at Mullings: A 1930s Country House Murder](#) (Severn \$28.95). In its 300-year history, there has never once been a scandal at Mullings, ancestral home of the decent but dull Stodmarsh family. Until, that is, Edward Stodmarsh makes an ill-advised second marriage to the scheming Regina Stapleton, who insists on bringing her family’s ‘ornamental hermit’ to live on the estate. Suddenly everyone wants to visit Mullings to glimpse this mysterious figure. Strange but harmless, thinks Florence Norris, the family’s longstanding housekeeper. But events take a sinister turn with the arrival of sudden, violent death—and suddenly the hermit doesn’t seem so harmless after all. Great to see Cannell back with this **British Crime Club Pick** for April.

Doyle, Arthur Conan. [The Sherlock Holmes Mysteries](#) (Signet \$6.95). 22 stories introduced by Anne Perry. This clever package combines a classic text with a DVD of a film version. The Holmes volume’s 22 stories accompany *Terror by Night* and *The Woman in Green*, starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce. Sweet for the price. And a reminder amid today’s Holmes updates of an earlier era.

French, Nicci. [Waiting for Wednesday](#) (Viking \$27.95). *PW* reviews: “Two strangely parallel murder cases, both involving obvious suspects who are later cleared, preoccupy Frieda Klein in French’s intricate and disturbing third novel featuring the London-based psychotherapist (after 2012’s *Tuesday’s Gone*). Ruth Lennox, a seemingly happy wife and mother, appears to have been the victim of a simple burglary gone wrong. Inconveniently, the burglar has a solid alibi that places him elsewhere at the time of Ruth’s death. George Conley, convicted of murdering 18-year-old schoolgirl Hazel Barton, is set free when the evidence against him is shown to be egregiously flawed. The police have no leads on who actually killed Hazel. In her quest for justice, Frieda succeeds in linking the two cases, but a jealous professional rival sabotages her formal efforts to help. The high personal cost that a number of people pay as Frieda exposes their embarrassing secrets may disconcert some readers. French is the pseudonym of Sean French and Nicci Gerard, a husband-and-wife writing team.”

Hayder, Mo. [Wolf Signed](#) (Bantam \$32). “In Hayder’s best Jack Caffery thriller yet, a worn-out Jack is feeling all the years he has put into police service and his never-ending quest to find out what happened to his long-lost brother. The novel opens with a young girl finding a stray dog with a ripped note tucked into its collar that states, “Help us.” A vagrant known as the Walking Man witnesses this and promises the young girl that he will help the dog. Never one to give out information willingly, the Walking

Man surprisingly contacts Jack—offering up a trade: find out who needs help and, in return, the Walking Man will give Jack some closure about his brother. This deal with the devil sets off a home invasion novel unlike no other. The Anchor-Ferrers, a wealthy family with secrets and issues of their own, are being held hostage in their estate. Will Jack find them in time? And why was this family chosen in the first place? Dark and twisty, this gripping crime novel by an Edgar Award winner is an outstanding read, whether Jack is a new character to the reader or an old friend. For fans of John Connolly.”—*LJ* Starred Review. Unsigned US edition: [Wolf](#) (Atlantic \$24)

New in paperback: [Poppet](#) (\$15). Something is not right at Beechway psychiatric unit. First one resident turns violently to self-harm, then another to suicide—both recalcitrant patients with no prior history of self-directed violence. Whispers between the inmates have traveled to the staff that the place is being terrorized by a creature called The Maude. Clinic higher-ups dismiss this as superstition, but the surviving victim certainly saw something. And what of the drawing the dead woman left behind, showing the creature wearing the sweater of a recently released patient? When staff Nurse AJ LeGrande calls on Detective Jack Caffery to investigate, what he learns about what’s going on inside and outside the hospital will shock readers and place individuals beyond the ward walls in danger. And what of Flea Marley, the police diver whose dark secret Caffery has been keeping? Can he save her from herself, or will she take him down with her?

Hutton, Ewart. [Dead People](#) (St Martins \$25.99). “Hutton’s absorbing second mystery featuring Det. Sgt. Glyn Capaldi (after 2013’s *Good People*) finds the disgraced detective stationed so deep in the wilds of Wales that he’s literally investigating crimes against sheep. Relief, of a sort, comes with the discovery of skeletal human remains at a wind farm construction site. Both the head and hands are missing, and the remains appear to have been in the ground several years. Glyn discovers a corpse of a much more recent vintage soon after, followed by a second, then a third skeleton. The skeletons can’t be readily identified, but DNA analysis confirms that the intact body belongs to Evie Salmon, a young woman who disappeared two years earlier. While his superiors are quick to lay the blame for all the murders on apparent suicide Bruno Gilbert, Glyn has his doubts. Under the guise of tracing “the Evie connection,” Glyn sets out to piece together the scant clues pointing to the actual killer. Hutton is definitely a writer to watch.”—*PW*

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

Maitland, Barry. [The Chalon Heads](#) (\$14.95 reissue). Joy, one of my favorite mysteries. It’s the first for the Brock & Kolla London policing series, and it turns on philately—one very special stamp. Next: [The Marx Sisters](#) (\$14.95). Any fan of British mysteries, of all sorts, should grab these and then the rest of this brilliant series!

Mark, David. [Sorrow Bound Signed](#) (Quercus \$43). Philippa Longman will do anything for her family. Roisin McAvoy will do anything for her friends. DS Aector McAvoy will do anything

for his wife. Yet each has an unknown enemy—one who will do anything to destroy them. *Sorrow Bound* is a powerful police procedural thriller about how those with the biggest hearts make the easiest targets; and how the corrosive venom of evil can dissolve the bonds between good people, until all they are bound by is grief.

Marston, Edward. [Ticket to Oblivion Signed](#) (Allison \$46). Young Imogen Burnhope and her maid Rhoda board a non-stop train to Oxford to visit her Aunt Cassandra, who waits on the platform at Oxford station where the train terminates, to greet them. Only they never arrive. The train is searched and the coachman swears he saw them board a first-class carriage, but they seem to have vanished into thin air. When he learns his daughter is missing, Sir Marcus Burnhope contacts Scotland Yard for help and Inspector Colbeck and Sergeant Leeming are assigned to the case. Is it a merely a case of a runaway girl? Or is there a more sinister, larger conspiracy at work?

McDermid, Val. [Northanger Abbey](#) (Grove \$25). Cat Morland is ready to grow up. A homeschooled minister’s daughter in the quaint, sheltered Piddle Valley in Dorset, she loses herself in novels and is sure there is a glamorous adventure awaiting her beyond the valley’s narrow horizon. So imagine her delight when the Allens, neighbors and friends of her parents, invite her to attend the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh as their guest. With a sunny personality, tickets every night and a few key wardrobe additions courtesy of Susie Allen, Cat quickly begins to take Edinburgh by storm and is taken into the bosom of the Thorpe family, particularly by eldest daughter Bella. And then there’s the handsome Henry Tilney, an up-and-coming lawyer whose family home is the beautiful and forbidding Northanger Abbey. Cat is entranced by Henry and his charming sister Eleanor, but she can’t help wondering if everything about them is as perfect as it seems. Or has she just been reading too many novels?

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

Ripley, Mike. [Margery Allingham’s Mr. Campion’s Farewell](#) (Severn \$28.95). Ripley steps up to complete a Mr. Campion, a task begun by her widower Carter Youngman. “The idyllic English village of Lindsay Carfax isn’t run by the parish council, the rating authority, the sanitary inspector nor the local cops as you might suppose. The real bosses are the Carders – something to do with wool, four hundred years back. They wound stuff on cards, I suppose. But these boys are very fly customers – they’re right on the ball. Boiled down, it comes to this; they’re a

syndicate who run this place – which makes a packet – with their own rules. One way and another they probably own most of it.” Thus ruminated Superintendent Charles Luke to Albert Campion who was contemplating visiting his wayward artistic niece in Carfax. And when a missing schoolteacher reappeared after nine days, and Campion’s car was “inadvertently” damaged, not to mention Campion himself, then all the signs were that not all was what it seemed. Campion himself plays the central role but we also hang with Inspector Luke, Campion’s former manservant Lugg, his wife Lady Amanda Fitton... and more. Ordered upon Request.

Robotham, Michael. [The Suspect](#) (\$15). Australian Robotham writes pitch-perfect British mysteries. His series features psychologist Joe O’Loughlin whose personal life is damaged by the professional crises—including murders—that consume him.

Whellans, David. [Walking into the Ocean](#) (\$14.95). Introducing veteran Scotland Yard Chief Inspector Peter Cammon, this novel finds Cammon journeying to the Jurassic Coast to solve a seemingly ordinary domestic crime. At first glance, the perpetrator appears to have murdered his wife before drowning in the English Channel, but Cammon soon learns that his case is merely a sideshow. A broader series of murders has been unfolding along the cliffs, baffling the local police. Realizing that his assignment cannot be completed without figuring out the serial killings that threaten the region, the detective travels from London, Dorset, and Devon to the island of Malta, relentlessly following the overlapping threads of the two cases to their shocking climax. The first installment in a series of three, this cliffhanger sets a chilling tone for the British sleuth’s forthcoming mysteries.

Willig, Lauren. [The Ashford Affair](#) (\$15.99). One of my favorite novels of 2013, suspense ranging across decades in the manner of Mary Stewart and Kate Morton. See April Trade Paperback Picks.

## GLOBAL CRIMES

Besson, Bernard. [The Greenland Breach](#) (Le French Book \$16.95). New reports about the global effects of climate change are frightening. The catastrophes begin with a horrific meltdown in Greenland where Terre Noire, a Danish-French oil-and-gas company is doing exploratory work. Switch to Paris. Former French intelligence officer John Spencer Larivière, his karate-trained, steamy partner, Victoire, and their computer-genius sidekick, Luc, pick up a freelance assignment that leads them into the glacial silence of the Arctic. American and Canadians are in this, as well as Russians. Lots of sea escapades and science up the game of this intelligent and all too plausible thriller. There’s a helpful map. Michael Crichton, but French, by the author of several thrillers who’s also a former chief of staff in the French intelligence services and a specialist in economic intelligence. Don’t let that scare you off: the book is exciting and fun as well as frightening.

Camilleri, Andrea. [Hunting Season](#) (Penguin \$15). A new Sicilian mystery. See April Trade Paperback Picks.

Cole, Teju. [Every Day Is for the Thief](#) (Random \$23). “Writing in his deeply meditative and personal voice, Teju Cole suspends Every Day Is for the Thief, his second novel, between infatuation and contempt. Many years after his emigration to the United States, the narrator returns to Lagos, Nigeria. What he discovers

there shatters any remaining nostalgic ache he has held for that place, transforming his relationship to the notion of home. The novel “expertly considers money as a social construct, how corruption breeds corruption until all that remains is complacency. Financial prosperity is on every mind and behind every pulpit, while extortion greases the all-too-ubiquitous conniving palm. Surety transfers as unexpectedly, and often with as much threat of violence, as a bout with malaria. Cole’s fiction is a magnificent vehicle, employed to examine systemic corrosion as well as subtle relational shifts. His narrator negotiates gratuities with the same contemplative reserve he offers the friends and family he left in Lagos. The characters in Cole’s second novel resist, ignore, employ and even worship the pervasive corruption of their city.”—ShelfAwareness

Cotterill, Colin. [The Axe Factor: A Jimm Juree Mystery](#) (St Martins \$24.99). The *PW* Starred Review: “Cotterill’s outstanding third Jimm Juree mystery (after 2012’s *Grandad, There’s a Head on the Beach*) opens with an unposted blog entry ‘found two weeks too late.’ Signed with the initials C.C., the text is the first-person account of the slaughter and butchery of a woman with an axe. It concludes with plans for more bloodshed. C.C.’s real identity is apparently Conrad Coralbank, an English writer living in Thailand, whose career parallels that of Cotterill. Juree, a freelance journalist now residing in a rural village on the south coast of Thailand, gets an assignment to profile Coralbank, with whom she’s soon smitten. Meanwhile, the outrageously funny Juree, who conducts an imaginary e-mail correspondence with Clint Eastwood, grows increasingly suspicious about why a local doctor disappeared. Despite the grimness of the violence and the corruption Juree eventually uncovers, Cotterill keeps the tone light, aided by the conceit of starting each chapter with Thai signage, replete with malapropisms (“Ladies are Requested not to Have Children in the Bar”).”

Cumming, Charles. [A Colder War Signed](#) (Collins \$32). From the winner of the CWA Ian Fleming Steel Dagger 2012 for Best Thriller of the Year comes a gripping and suspenseful new spy novel. Perfect for fans of John le Carré, Charles Cumming is ‘the master of the modern spy thriller’ (*Mail on Sunday*) MI6’s Head of Station in Turkey is killed in a mysterious plane crash. Amelia Levene, chief of the Secret Intelligence Service, wants the incident investigated – quickly and quietly. The only man she can trust is Thomas Kell, a disgraced spy searching for redemption. Arriving in Istanbul, Kell discovers that MI6 operations in the region have been fatally compromised: a traitor inside Western Intelligence threatens not just the Special Relationship, but the security of the entire Middle East. Kell’s search for the mole takes him from London, to Greece, and into Eastern Europe. But when Kell is betrayed by those closest to him, the stakes become personal. He will do anything to see this operation through – including putting himself, and others, in the line of fire...

Downing, David. [Masaryk Station](#) (\$15.95). The conclusion of a sterling WWII spy series. Berlin: 1948. See April Trade Paperback Picks. Downing signs a richly engrossing new direction, [Jack of Spies](#) (Soho \$27.95) here May 20. Yum!!

Edelman, Gwen. [The Train to Warsaw](#) (Grove \$24). Jascha and Lilka separately fled from the Warsaw Ghetto in 1942. Reunited years later, they live in London where Jascha has become a celebrated writer, feted for his dark tales about his war

adventures. One day, forty years after the war, Jascha receives a letter inviting him to give a reading in Warsaw. He tells Lilka that nothing remains of the city they knew and that wild horses couldn't drag him back. Nostalgic for the city of her childhood, Lilka prevails; together, traveling by train through a frozen December landscape, they return to the city of their past. When they unwittingly find themselves back in what was once the ghetto, they will discover that they still have secrets between them.

Eisler, Barry. [Graveyard of Memories](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$14.95). What makes a legendary assassin? For John Rain, it began in Tokyo, 1972. Fresh from the killing fields of Southeast Asia, half-American, half-Japanese Rain, a raw 20, works as a bagman under the watchful eye of his CIA handler, delivering cash to corrupt elements of the Japanese government. When a delivery goes violently wrong, Rain finds himself in the crosshairs of Japan's most powerful yakuza clan. To survive, Rain strikes a desperate deal with his handler: take out a high-profile target in the Japanese government in exchange for the intel he needs to eliminate his would-be executioners. As Rain plays cat and mouse with the yakuza and struggles to learn his new role as contract killer, he also becomes entangled with Sayaka, a tough, beautiful ethnic Korean woman confined to a wheelchair. Eventually Rain's new, dark work forces him to a hard choice with Sayaka's life in the balance. This prequel is of interest to fans of the Rain thrillers Eisler wrote before switching gears.

Freely, John. [A Travel Guide to Homer: On the Trail of Odysseus Through Turkey and the Mediterranean](#) (Taurus \$28). In October 1945, at the age of 19, John Freely passed the southernmost tip of Crete on his way home from the war in China, just as Odysseus did on his homeward voyage from the battle of Troy. He has been mesmerized with Homer and the lands of Homer's epics ever since. Throughout his life spent exploring both these lands and the stories by and connected to Homer, Freely has forged a captivating traveler's guide to Homer's lost world and to his epics—*The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*—investigating where such places as the Land of the Lotus Eaters are and what it was about the landscapes of Greece and Turkey that influenced and inspired Homer—arguably the greatest classical epic poet. This will be a traveler's guide to all of those places linked to Homer that can be identified and it will also speculate on where such places as the Land of the Lotus Eaters might be. With a revealing introduction to Homer and his times and an outline of the wanderings of Odysseus, the book follows in his footsteps from Troy to his final return to Ithaca. Finally, Freely illuminates how the Homeric epics took their final form and their subsequent echoes in literature, art, legend and folklore: all part of the romance of the wandering hero.

Hamilton, Ian. [Two Sisters of Borneo](#) (House \$19.95). Ava has been in Hong Kong looking after Uncle. She has also set up an investment company with May Ling Wong and her sister-in-law, Amanda Yee. One of their first investments — a furniture company owned by two sisters in Kota Kinabalu, Borneo — runs into immediate problems with a Dutch customer. Ava goes to the Netherlands to investigate, but her life is threatened when she is confronted by a gang of local thugs in Borneo. Out of the shadows comes a mysterious man from Shanghai... 6<sup>th</sup> in the fabulous Ava Lee series from the Arthur Ellis Award winner. [Click here](#) to order others. He's Canadian so not all are available.

Heivoll, Gaute. [Before I Burn](#) (Grand Central \$26). In 1970s Norway, an arsonist targets a small town for one long, terrifying month. One by one, buildings go up in flames. Suspicion spreads among the neighbors as they wonder if one of their own is responsible. But as the heat and panic rise, new life finds a way to emerge. Amid the chaos, only a day before the last house is set afire, the community draws together for the christening of a young boy named Gaute Heivoll. As he grows up, stories about the time of fear and fire become deeply ingrained in his young mind until, as an adult, he begins to retell the story. At the novel's apex at a literary festival in Italy, the lives of Heivoll's friends and neighbors mix with his own life as the identity of the arsonist and his motivations are slowly revealed. Based on the true account of Norway's most dramatic arson case "[Before I Burn's] power is not in who did it or even why, but in the brutal clarity of Heivoll's unhurried and mesmerizing sentences, pushing through a chilly landscape like the steady shining of blue headlights."—*Harper's Magazine*. "Poetic, gripping and at times even profound. . . . It's impossible to fully experience another person's perspective. To know why they set buildings on fire, or why they feel compelled to write books. But *Before I Burn* makes a persuasive case that the novel is still the best method we've got."—*NPR, All Things Considered*

Hewson, David. [House of Dolls Signed](#) (Macmillan \$35). Anneliese Vos, sixteen-year-old daughter of Amsterdam detective, Pieter Vos, disappeared three years ago in mysterious circumstances. Her distraught father's desperate search reveals nothing and results in his departure from the police force. Pieter now lives in a broken down houseboat in the colorful Amsterdam neighborhood of the Jordaan. One day, while Vos is wasting time at the Rijksmuseum staring at a doll's house that seems to be connected in some way to the case, Laura Bakker, a misfit trainee detective from the provinces, visits him. She's come to tell him that Katja Prins, daughter of an important local politician, has gone missing in circumstances similar to Anneliese. In the company of the intriguing and awkward Bakker Vos finds himself drawn back into the life of a detective. A life which he thought he'd quit.... Starts a series. Our **April Surprise Me Club Pick**.

Holt, Jonathan. [Abomination](#) (Harper \$14.99). Starts the Carnivia Series set in a real and a virtual Venice. See April Trade Paperback Picks.

Hubbard, Janet. [Bordeaux The Bitter Finish Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). Second in a series for wine/food fanciers and those who like a mystery served up. This one embraces wine fraud and the famed vintages of Bordeaux. See Event Books for more and to order the trade paperback edition.

Hughes, Declan. [All the Things You Are](#) (Severn \$28.95). About to turn forty, her youthful dreams of becoming an actress abandoned, there's no doubt in her mind that suburban wife and mother-of-two Clare Taylor has settled. A wild week in Chicago may have shaken things up a bit, but as she turns her key in her Madison, Wisconsin home on the eve of Hallowe'en, she knows that what happened with her ex was nothing more than a distraction, that this is where her life is. Except it's all gone. The furniture gone, the house stripped, her husband Danny, her daughters, all gone; no message; no note, nothing. Outside in the dark, searching for a sign, she steps in one: the eviscerated body of the family dog. By dawn next morning, her supposedly

mortgage-free home has been foreclosed against, one of Danny's childhood friends lies dead in her backyard, and Clare is caught up in a nightmare that began with her husband on Halloween night, 1976. It's been awhile since we've heard from Dublin's Hughes, a Shamus Award winner. Ordered upon request.

Leon, Donna. [By Its Cover Signed](#) (Heinemann \$40). When several valuable antiquarian books go missing from a prestigious library in the heart of Venice, Commissario Brunetti is immediately called to the scene. The staff suspects an American researcher has stolen them, but for Brunetti something doesn't quite add up. Taking on the case, the Commissario begins to seek information about some of the library's regulars, such as the ex-priest Franchini, a passionate reader of ancient Christian literature, and Contessa Morosini-Albani, the library's chief donor, and comes to the conclusion that the thief could not have acted alone. However, when Franchini is found murdered in his home, the case takes a more sinister turn and soon Brunetti finds himself submerged in the dark secrets of the black market of antiquarian books. Alongside his ever-faithful team of Ispettore Vianello and Signorina Elettra, he delves into the pages of Franchini's past and into the mind of a book thief in order to uncover the terrible truth. The 23<sup>rd</sup> case for Brunetti. [Click here](#) to order earlier Brunettis and one or two others sorts of books by Leon. US edition: [By Its Cover](#) (Grove \$26)

And Leon presents a wonderful history with music: [Gondola](#) (Grove \$26). First used in medieval Venice as a deftly maneuverable getaway boat, the gondola evolved over the centuries into a floating pleasure palace, bedecked in silk, that facilitated the romantic escapades of the Venetian elite. Today, the gondola wears black-a gleaming, elegant hue, and is manned by robust gondolieri in black-and-white-striped shirts and straw hats. A tourist favorite, the gondola has never ceased to be a part of authentic Venice. Each boat's 280 pieces are carefully fashioned in a maestro's workshop-though Leon also recounts a tale of an American friend who attempted to make a gondola all on his own. The feat took five years and countless do-overs. But the gondola is a work of art well worth the labor. And once its arched prow pushes off from the dock, the single Venetian at its oar just might break out in a barcarole, a popular Italian boat song. The best of these songs, as timeless as the allure of the gondola itself, are compiled into an accompanying CD.

Magson, Adrian. [The Watchman](#) (Severn \$28.95). When two British intelligence agents are dispatched to negotiate the release of a group of western hostages in Somalia, veteran MI6 operator Tom Vane realizes that something about this operation doesn't stack up. Unwilling to see two promising officers sacrificed in what he believes to be a suicide mission, he covertly hires deep cover specialist Marc Portman to protect them. Heading for the wild, lawless land on the Kenyan/Somali border, Portman soon realizes that the British Intelligence Services have been double-crossed. Can he survive long enough to keep his charges alive and prevent a catastrophe? Ordered upon request. Sorry, the Signed UK edition is sold out.

Marklund, Liza. [The Long Shadow](#) (Atria \$15). Stockholm reporter Annika Bengtzon is picking up the pieces scattered by being thrown headlong into a murder and a search for her missing son in [Lifetime](#) (\$15). Her husband has left her and, thanks to cover-ups by the cops, her insurance company suspects

Annika set fire to her house and has blocked her money. At the paper, she's assigned the story of a former hockey star who has been robbed when thieves pumped gas into his house and killed parents, grandmother, and two children. Annika then makes a shocking discovery—a fifth family member is missing! This is a big story at 500+ pages.

McCarthy, Charles. [The Shanghai Factor](#) (\$15). See April Trade Paperback Picks.

McGowan, Claire. [The Dead Ground Signed](#) (Headline \$45). A stolen baby. A murdered woman. A decades-old atrocity. Something connects them all...A month before Christmas, and Ballyterrin on the Irish border lies under a thick pall of snow. When a newborn baby goes missing from hospital, it's all too close to home for forensic psychologist Paula Maguire, who's wrestling with the hardest decision of her life. Then a woman is found in a stone circle with her stomach cut open and it's clear a brutal killer is on the loose. As another child is taken and a pregnant woman goes missing, Paula is caught up in the hunt for a killer no one can trace, who will stop at nothing. Every decision Paula makes is a matter of life and death...

Patel, Shona. [Teatime for the Firefly Signed](#) (Harlequin \$15.95). A rich, warm, yet unflinching story of a woman of Assam under the Raj who is eventually wooed and won by a man who made a career switch to tea planter employee in Assam in order to wed her. Patel paints a stunning portrait of plantation life, a long marriage, and life in a remote theater of WWII (and before). See Event Books for more.

Pope, Barbara Corrado. [The Missing Italian Girl](#) (\$14.95). See History/Mystery for a third case for Parisian magistrate Bernard Martin of late 19<sup>th</sup>-century Paris.

Simenon, Georges. [Carter of La Providence](#); [The Hanged Man of Saint-Pholien](#) (\$10 each). Reissues of two by the prolific French mystery master. Of the latter, Ann Cleeves writes: "The French cop Maigret is the father of contemporary European detective fiction, and he was made hugely popular by the 1960s TV series. A green Penguin book was my introduction to translated crime. I loved the exotic setting of Parisian bars and run-down hotels, the economic storytelling, Maigret's understanding of the frailty of men and women whatever their social status. I could have chosen any of the novels, but this one illustrates the detective's compassion for the desperate and downtrodden and has just been re-issued."

Weiss, Jan Merete. [A Few Drops of Blood](#) (Soho \$26.95). Naples has long been ruled by the Camorra in nearly all aspects of city life. Weiss, from Puerto Rico, has made the ancient city her own in portraits taking no sides but sparing no details in cases worked by Captain Natalia Monte of the Naples Carabinieri. When the bodies of two men are found, shockingly posed, in the garden of an elderly countess, Natalia is assigned the case. Soon she finds herself shuttling between Naples' decadent art galleries and violent criminal underworld. If she is to succeed in solving the heinous crime, Natalia must deal with not only her own complicated past and allegiances, but also those of the city as a whole. Her BFF, helpful, is also a leader in a powerful Camorra family, promising serious shoals ahead for both women. This is an absorbing read for those wishing not just to visit a major Italian city but to experience ambiguous justice.

## CLASSICS

Adams, Clifton. [Death's Sweet Song / Whom Gods Destroy](#) (Stark House \$19.95). For its 75<sup>th</sup> reprint of past thrillers, Stark House Press combines two by Adams. He is best known for his westerns, having won two Spur Awards for best novel in both 1969 and 1970. But he also wrote two of the best Gold Medal noir thrillers. As August West said of *Death's Sweet Song* in the Vintage Hardboiled Reads blog, "This may be the best crime fiction novel that Gold Medal published in the 50s." It's got it all—a beautiful, conniving woman, a vulnerable safe, and a guy with lots of moral flexibility. *Whom Gods Destroy* is the tense story of a self-destructive bootlegger and the woman he can't forgive. Cullen Gallagher of the *Los Angeles Review of Books* provides a new introduction.

Crichton, Michael. [The Great Train Robbery; Terminal Man; Travels](#) (\$16.95 each reissues)

Brewer, Gil. [Nude on Thin Ice / Memory of Passion](#) (Stark House \$19.95). Two rare and classic Gil Brewer thrillers from the early 1960s. A lonely widow, a hot-eyed tramp, and a half a million bucks create a recipe for murder in *Nude on Thin Ice*. In *Memory of Passion*, a phone call in the night summons a man into a world of secret desire and sudden violence. Two steamy noirs as only Brewer can write them. Includes a new introduction by David Rachels, editor of the definitive Brewer story collection, *Redheads Die Quickly*. "Deliriously delicious." —*Booklist*

Datlow, Ellen, ed. [Lovecraft's Monsters](#) (Tachyon \$16.95). Prepare to meet the wicked progeny of the master of modern horror. H. P. Lovecraft's most famous creations: Cthulhu, Shoggoths, Deep Ones, Elder Things, Yog-Sothoth, and more, appear in all their terrifying glory. Each story is a gripping new take on a classic Lovecraftian creature, and each is accompanied by a spectacular original illustration that captures the monsters' unique visage. Contributors include such literary luminaries as Neil Gaiman, Joe R. Lansdale, Caitlín R. Kiernan, Karl Edward Wagner, Elizabeth Bear, and Nick Mamatas. The monsters are lovingly rendered in spectacular original art by World Fantasy Award-winning artist John Coulthart ( *The Steampunk Bible* ).

Eco, Umberto. [The Name of the Rose](#) (\$15.95). One of the great medieval reads incorporating a mystery. Tip: to read it, skip the footnotes and translating the Latin, then go back if you will. This is a book to experience more than once.

Grey, Zane. [Western Colors: Rainbow Trail, Riders of the Purple Sage, Desert Gold](#) (Forge \$24.99). Three classics from the grand master of the Western.

Hoch, Ed. **Nothing Is Impossible: Further Problems of Dr. Sam Hawthorne** (Crippen & Landru \$19). A hardback edition with an additional story in a pamphlet is available (\$45).

MacDonald, John D. [Condominium; A Girl, The Gold Watch & Everything](#), (\$16). Two more in the MacDonald republishing program.

Steinbeck, John. [The Grapes of Wrath 75th Anniversary Edition](#) (Viking \$30). A novel bursting with gripping social history.

## BOOKS FOR EASTER

Bridwell, Norman. [Clifford's Happy Easter](#) (Scholastic \$3.99)

Carbone, Courtney. [Happy Easter, Princess](#) (Random \$4.99)

Coven, Wanda. [Heidi Heckelbeck and the Tie Dyed Bunny](#)

(LittleBrown \$4.99)

Grambling, Lois G. [Here Comes T Rex Cottontail](#) (Harper \$6.99)

Grosset & Dunlap. [Angelina and the Easter Bonnet](#) (Grand Central \$4.99)

Hall, Katy. [Easter Crack Ups](#) (Harper \$6.99)

Hills, Tad. [Duck and Goose Here Comes the Easter Bunny](#) (Random \$6.99)

Magsamen, Sandra. [I Love You Honey Bunny](#) (LittleBrown \$7.99)

Numeroff, Laura. [Happy Easter Mouse](#) (Harper \$6.99)

O'Connor, Jane. [Fancy Nancy's Elegant Easter](#) (Harper \$6.99)

Park, Barbara. [Junie B First Grader Dumb Bunny](#) (Random \$4.99)

Pilkey, Dav. [The Dumb Bunnies' Easter](#) (Scholastic \$6.99)

Pomaska, Anna. [Invisible Easter Magic Picture Book](#) (Doubleday \$1.5)

Price, Roger. [Easter Eggstravaganza Mad Libs](#) (\$3.99)

Random House. [Spongebob's Easter Parade](#) (Random \$3.99)

Underwood, Deborah. [Here Comes the Easter Cat](#) (Delacorte \$16.99)

Wing, Natasha. [The Night before Easter](#) (Grand Central \$3.99)

## MORE BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

Boynton, Sandra. [Moo Baa La La La](#) (\$5.99)

DePaola, Tomie. [Knight and the Dragon](#) (\$6.99)

Gagnon, Michelle. [Strangelets](#) (Soho \$9.99) Teens

Grisham, John. [Theodore Boone: The Activist](#) (\$7.99) Teens

Pearson, Ridley. [Kingdom Keepers VI: Dark Passage](#) (\$7.99)

Riordan, Rick. [Mark of Athena](#) (\$9.99)

Saenz, Benjamin Alire. [Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe](#) (\$9.99) Teens

## MYSTERIES FOR TEENS

Most YA books incorporate some paranormal or dystopian element. Soho and Poisoned Pen Press are countering by publishing traditional mysteries for the YA audience, some incorporating science. Soho is also doing paranormal stories.

Benoit, Charles. [Cold Calls](#) (Houghton \$17.99). Three high school students—Eric, Shelly, and Fatima—have one thing in common: "I know your secret." Each one is blackmailed into bullying specifically targeted schoolmates by a mysterious caller who whispers from their cell phones and holds carefully guarded secrets over their heads. But how could anyone have obtained that photo, read those hidden pages, uncovered this buried past? Thrown together, the three teens join forces to find the stranger who threatens them—before time runs out and their shattering secrets are revealed. Bullying, blackmail, and bad choices are interwoven through this cautionary tale in a manner that's relatable and engaging."

Chodosh, Janie. [Death Spiral](#) (Poisoned Pencil \$10.95). A terrific "hardboiled" crime story incorporating science like Kathy Reichs' Virals series. Life is tough when you have a junkie for a mom. But when sixteen-year-old Faith Flores—scientist wannabe, loner, new girl in town—finds her mom dead on the bathroom floor, she refuses to believe her mom really OD'd. But the cops have closed the case and her Aunt T, with whom she now lives in the Philly 'burbs, wants Faith to let go and move on. When mom's friend Melinda dies of an overdose, Faith tracks down the scientists behind the trial running at the seedy methadone clinic. Soon she's cutting school and lying to everyone—her aunt, her

best friend, even the cops. Everyone, that is, except the strangely alluring Jesse, who believes the “real” education’s on the street and whose in-your-face honesty threatens to invade Faith’s self-imposed “no-dating” rule. A drug-dealer named Rat-Catcher warns Faith to back off, but it doesn’t stop Faith from confronting a genetics professor with a guilty conscience. When the medical examiner’s body winds up in the Schuylkill River, Faith realizes if she doesn’t act fast, she may be the next body in the morgue. Smart and surprising, I find this a terrific debut read for adults. *PW* agrees: “Sharp characterization and deft descriptions make this a solid addition to the amateur detective shelf. Ages 12–up.”

Kerr, Philip. [The Winter Horses Signed](#) (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*. Kerr appears here with his next adult thriller on May 12.

Reichs, Kathy/Brendan. [Code: Virals Novel #3](#) (\$8.99). Tory and the rest of the Virals are put to the ultimate test when they find a geocache containing an ornate puzzle box. Shelton decodes the cipher inside, only to find more tantalizing clues left by “The Gamemaster.” A second, greater geocache is within reach—if the Virals are up to the challenge. But the hunt takes a dark turn when Tory locates the other box—it contains a fake bomb, along with a sinister proposal from The Gamemaster. Now, the real game has begun: another bomb is out there—a real one....

Smith, Lynsay. [Sekret](#) (Roaring Brook \$17.99). “In this smart and fresh supernatural take on the spy novel, it’s 1963, and the Soviet Union and United States are deep into the Cold War, with spycraft a necessary trade on both sides. Yulia Andreevna Chernina, 17, has the unfortunate luck of getting scooped up by the psychic branch of the KGB for her ability to “read” the past when she touches an object. She is quickly swept into a world of Soviet spies, imprisoned in a house with other similarly gifted young men and women, all conscripted to unearth top-secret information from the Americans.”—*PW* Children’s Reviews

#### OUR APRIL TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

Camilleri, Andrea. [Hunting Season](#) (Penguin \$15). On New Year’s Day in 1880, a steam-driven packet boat from Palermo delivers a mysterious stranger to the little village of Vigata, where everyone knows each other’s secrets. His presence greatly upsets 90-year-old Don Filippo, whose body is soon found in the surf, an apparent suicide. Then Don Filippo’s mentally challenged son is found poisoned by mushrooms—even though

he was a mushroom expert. Is it just a coincidence that, long ago, the new arrival’s father had his throat cut in Vigata, a crime that was never solved? You also need to know that Vigata, the imaginary Sicilian port that’s the setting for *Hunting Season*—a deftly lean, addictive mystery from 88-year-old Andrea Camilleri, Italian noir superstar—is the setting, too, of Camilleri’s contemporary Inspector Montalbano series. At the center of it all is the young stranger, always at the right place at the right time, resisting the overtures of the lusty Signora Clelia while befriending everyone with his saving skills and advice. Secret love and filial vengeance keep this hotbed of a town simmering as the members of the Peluso family begin dying mysteriously, one by one. Figuring out who the central characters are in this dark Sicilian comedy is half the fun, and Camilleri leads you down several false trails before the real plot begins to emerge.

Corby, Gary. [Sacred Games](#) (\$15.95). Not only is this a nifty mystery with a ticking clock like a thriller, it vividly evokes the culture, politics, and skills of the 460 BC Olympics. Athens’ Nicolaos’ best friend, Timodemus, is a competitor in the pankration, the deadly martial art of ancient Greece. Timo is hot favorite to win. His only serious rival is Arakos from Sparta. When Arakos is found beaten to death, it is obvious Timodemus, the very best athlete, must be the killer. The Judges of the Games sentence Timodemus to be executed in four days’ time, as soon as the Sacred Games have finished. Athens and Sparta are already at each other’s throats in the opening stages of a power struggle for control of Hellas. If an Athenian is found to have cheated at the Games by murdering a Spartan, it will be everything the hawks in Sparta need to declare open war the moment the Sacred Truce is over. And that’s a war Athens cannot hope to win. Nico and his partner in sleuthing, the annoyingly clever priestess Diotima, have four days to save their friend and avert a war. 3<sup>rd</sup> in a clever series, 4<sup>th</sup> coming in May: [The Marathon Conspiracy](#) (Soho \$26.95).

Deaver, Jeffery. [The Kill Room](#) (\$15). It was a “million-dollar bullet,” a sniper shot delivered from over a mile away. Its victim was no ordinary mark: he was a United States citizen, targeted by the United States government, and assassinated in the Bahamas. The nation’s most renowned investigator and forensics expert, Lincoln Rhyme, is drafted to investigate. While his partner, Amelia Sachs, traces the victim’s steps in Manhattan, Rhyme leaves the city to pursue the sniper... A terrific thriller with a sequel Signed here May 17: [The Skin Collector](#) (Grand Central \$28).

Delany, Vicki. [Under Cold Stone](#) (\$14.95). Picture a weekend getaway to the fabled Banff Springs Hotel. A Scottish-inspired castle of carved stone, imposing turrets, liveried bellhops, and panoramic views. Perched on the verge of one of the world’s greatest wildernesses where elk wander the golf course when the season ends mid-October. Constable Molly Smith’s widowed mother Lucky is dating—yikes!—Molly’s boss Paul Keller, Chief Constable of Trafalgar, BC. And this unlikely couple checks into the hotel only to discover that Paul’s estranged son has done a bunk. But first Matt called his Dad and Lucky who discover the body left on the shared apartment’s floor. Matt Keller is an experienced wilderness adventurer. To RCMP Sergeant Eddie Blechta, running is all the proof of guilt he needs. Paul can only watch the investigation and hope Blechta is not right, but Lucky calls in Molly... The craftily plotted case does not overshadow

the wonderful cast of characters Canadian Delany develops in this series which will appeal to readers of Louise Penny. *PW* praises the display of “compassion and intelligence” as Molly and Sgt. John Winters who is working a case back in Trafalgar “each deal with a host of distinctive and obstructive characters.”

Downing, David. [Masaryk Station](#) (\$15.95). The final entry in a brilliant WWII series written from the perspective of an American journalist divorced from a German woman with a child living in Berlin, a mistress who’s a German actress, and the British, Russians, and Americans pressuring him into spying. Now it’s 1948, John Russell is juggling the CIA and the NKVD, and trying to cut himself loose from both for life with his loved ones. One final operation remains.... “Epic in scope, Mr. Downing’s “Station” cycle creates a fictional universe rich with a historian’s expertise but rendered with literary style and heart.” —*The Wall Street Journal*. “Downing adroitly elucidates the morass that was post-World War II geopolitics without dumbing it down... One can only marvel at his talent for infusing such a rangy cast of characters with nuance and soul.” —*The New York Times Book Review*. “This is a brilliant finale to one of spydom’s best series. If you haven’t read all the others, get them first and enjoy the whole feast.” —*The Globe and Mail*

Greenwood, Kerry. [Murder and Mendelssohn](#) (\$14.95). “Set in 1929, Greenwood’s lighthearted 20th Phryne Fisher mystery opens with news of a highly unusual murder. Hedley Tregennis, the conductor of the Melbourne Harmony Choir, with the Occasional Orchestra, received a fatal dose of morphine before someone stuffed sheet music from Mendelssohn’s oratorio *Elijah* down his throat. Insp. Jack Robinson, on the pretext that he doesn’t know anything about music or ‘these sort of people,’ easily persuades PI Phryne to investigate. The unflappable flapper soon ascertains that not everyone is saddened by the demise of the lecherous Tregennis. At the same time, Phryne, who spied for the British during WWI, attempts to thwart an attempt on the life of former code breaker Rupert Sheffield, who’s also an expert mathematician. The usual mix of fair-play clues and romantic escapades for Phryne helps keep this 25-year-old series [from Australia] fresh.” Don’t overlook the fabulous TV, *Miss Fisher*, available in Season One on Netflix.

Harvey, Michael. [The Innocence Game](#) (\$14.95). At Northwestern’s renowned journalism school, Ian Joyce has been invited to participate in a prestigious seminar that investigates wrongful convictions and forgotten cases. With only two other classmates—beautiful, strong-willed Sarah Gold and enigmatically brilliant Jake Havens—he begins to investigate the long-ago murder of a young boy, ten-year-old Skylar Wingate, last seen walking home from school, his body discovered three days later in a forest preserve. His alleged killer was murdered decades ago in jail. But two chilling clues delivered to Jake’s house suggest that the killer is still very much alive, and, in fact, in their midst. As the evidence mounts, the three classmates find themselves drawn into web of distrust, deceit, and corruption that will lead from the grittiest corners of Chicago and to the shores of Lake Michigan. I’m crazy for reluctant Windy City PI Mike Kelly who has a cameo in this standalone thriller.

Holt, Jonathan. [The Abomination](#) (\$14.99). Easy to overlook but wonderful to read, a debut from the UK publishing here. It is midnight on the feast day of La Befana, and Venice is celebrating.

Masked figures crowd the vaporetto, fireworks pop over the city, and every trattoria hums with grappa-soaked gossip. But on the steps of Santa Maria, there is a deathly hush. A body has washed up from the Grand Canal: a woman, wearing the robes of a Catholic priest—a desecration known as the Abomination. This is Captain Katerina Tapo’s first murder case. The trail leads her from the labyrinthine backstreets of Venice to an abandoned asylum on the uninhabited island of Poveglia, to Carnivia.com, an encrypted gossip website holding the city’s secrets, to an ancient Catholic monastery, and finally to an American military base. Along the way, she makes uneasy allies of Lieutenant Holly Boland, a young U.S. army intelligence officer with unique ties to the country in which she has been stationed, and Daniele Barbo, a reclusive and brilliant Venetian aristocrat-turned-computer-hacker who operates, and fiercely protects, Carnivia.com. Then, suddenly, the trail goes cold. Evidence goes missing, and Kat is ordered to close the case. What follows is the unraveling of a dark and powerful conspiracy—with sinister roots in post Cold War Italy that will test loyalties Kat did not know she had. First in the Carnivia Trilogy, to be followed in May by [The Abduction Signed](#) (Zeus \$39). I find it hard to resist Venice in any era and adding Carnivia.com is inspired.

Kerr, Philip. [A Man Without Breath](#) (\$16). “When Bernie Gunther, a former Berlin detective now working for the War Crimes Bureau in Nazi Germany, is sent to investigate a possible mass grave site near Smolensk, Russia, in March 1943, he soon finds that nothing is straightforward. Goebbels, the minister of propaganda, is pressuring him to help Nazi public relations by finding evidence of Soviet atrocities against Polish officers in the Katyn Forest, but when several Germans are viciously murdered Bernie believes a German is responsible. Bernie’s bosses are Prussian aristocrats who close ranks against a cynical, sarcastic investigator opposed to the Nazi regime and driven to seek the truth regardless of political considerations. This ninth Bernie Gunther tale (after *Prague Fatale*) focuses on two months of 1943, mixing real-life characters with fictional ones. Kerr’s historical knowledge and writing skills merge these elements seamlessly in a gripping story of murder, but it is Bernie who holds it all together even as he questions the absurdity of attempting normalcy during war. Mystery, historical fiction, and military history buffs will join existing Bernie fans...” —*Library Journal*

McCarry, Charles. [The Shanghai Factor](#) (\$15). A young American spy is sent to Shanghai to absorb the culture and language for a shadowy U.S. agency known only as HQ. While there, he meets a sultry and mysterious woman named Mei, leading to a torrid love affair. Soon the enigmatic head of HQ gives the spy a task that forces him to risk everything: go undercover as the American representative for a massive Chinese conglomerate and learn the secrets of the powerful CEO, who HQ believes to be involved with the nearly uncrackable Chinese Intelligence Agency, Guoanbu. But the spy finds out that HQ isn’t the only one tracking his every move—and that his tryst with Mei might have exposed more than just his heart. As the line between friend and foe blurs, the spy finds himself drawn into a deadly cat-and-mouse game between HQ and Guoanbu that might not only end his life, but upend the very balance of power between East and West. “The Shanghai Factor unfolds with compelling speed, propelled by intriguing incidents, well-drawn characters and authentic-sounding spy world aphorisms.” —*The Wall Street Journal*

✚Perry, Anne. [Midnight at Marble Arch](#) (\$16). The horrifying rape and apparent suicide of Catherine Quixwood, wife of a wealthy merchant banker, falls outside the jurisdiction of new Special Branch head Thomas Pitt, but so pervasively offensive are the rumors about the victim that Pitt quietly takes a hand in the investigation. Yet even with the help of his ingenious wife, Charlotte, and his former superior, Victor Narraway, Pitt is stumped. Why did high-minded, cultured Catherine choose not to accompany her husband to a grand party on the night of her demise? Why did she dismiss all her servants for the evening and leave the front door unlocked? What had been her relationship with the young man seen frequently by her side at concerts and art exhibits? And what can be done to avenge another terrible crime: the assault on Angeles Castelbranco, beloved teenage daughter of the Portuguese ambassador? See Event Books for the sequel.

Walker, Martin. [The Devil's Cave](#) (\$15.95). "Sensational ... Gives Walker more opportunity to play tour guide, leading us through the checkered history of this astonishing region." —*The New York Times*. "A sumptuous French mystery filled with wine, cheese, and a lush Dordogne countryside." —*The Christian Science Monitor*. It's spring in St. Denis. The village choir is preparing for its Easter concert, the wildflowers are blooming, and among the lazy whorls of the river a dead woman is found floating in a boat. This means another case for Bruno, the town's cherished chief of police. With the discovery of sinister markings and black candles near the body, it seems to Bruno that the occult might be involved. And as questions mount—most notably about a troubling real estate proposal in the region and the sudden reappearance of an elderly countess—Bruno plumbs past and present inside the Gouffre de Colombac: the place locals call the Devil's Cave. We all love this fabulous series. [Click here](#) to order the whole, best read in order.

✚Willig, Lauren. [The Ashford Affair](#) (\$15.99). "*The Ashford Affair* is a reader's treat, an artfully-woven saga that sweeps us into the lives of three generations of a family entangled in life-changing secrets. Lauren Willig spins a web of lust, power and loss, taking us from England to Kenya to New York, from World War I to today's modern world, posing a timeless question: what in our own family stories might surprise or shock – or change our lives – if we had access to the whispers from the past?" – Kate Alcott. Inspired by the history of a Bolter, an Edwardian woman who walked away from her marriage(s), Willig writes a standalone in the Kate Morton or Mary Stewart tradition of suspense that embraces a country house, colonial life, wars, and even Arizona. You will lose yourself in the mysteries once you open the book.

✚Winspear, Jacqueline. [Leaving Everything Most Loved](#) (\$15.99). London, 1933. Two months after the body of an Indian woman named Usha Pramal is found in the brackish water of a South London canal, her brother, newly arrived in England, turns to Maisie Dobbs to find out the truth about her death. Not only has Scotland Yard made no arrests, evidence indicates that they failed to conduct a full and thorough investigation. Before her death, Usha was staying at an ayah's hostel alongside Indian women whose British employers turned them out into the street— penniless and far from their homeland—when their services were no longer needed. As Maisie soon learns, Usha was different from the hostel's other lodgers. But with this discovery comes

new danger: another Indian woman who had information about Usha is found murdered before she can talk to Maisie. As Maisie is pulled deeper into an unfamiliar yet captivating subculture, her investigation becomes clouded by the unfinished business of a previous case as well as a growing desire to see more of the world, following in the footsteps of her former mentor, Maurice Blanche. And then there is her lover, James Compton.... Winspear signs a standalone novel here on June 30: [The Care and Management of Lives](#) (Harper \$26.99).

Zimmerman, Jean. [The Orphanmaster](#) (\$16). It's 1663 in the hardscrabble colony of New Amsterdam—today's lower Manhattan. Orphans are going missing and residents suspect a serial killer. The list of possible culprits is long and strange. Among those looking into the mystery are a shrewd young Dutch woman, Blandine van Couvering, and a dashing Englishman, Edward Drummond, whose newfound romance is threatened by horrible accusations. The history and New Amsterdam spring to life along with the horrific mystery. This is a gripping but never prettified story, a debut novel. For Zimmerman's adventurous new effort, see Event Books.

## NEW BOOKS

Albert, Susan Wittig. [Death Come Quickly Signed](#) (Berkley \$27). When China's and Ruby's friend Karen Prior is mugged in a mall parking lot and dies a few days later, China begins to suspect that her friend's death was not a random assault. Karen was a filmmaker supervising a student documentary about the fifteen-year-old murder of a woman named Christine Morris and the acquittal of the man accused of the crime. Is it possible that the same person who killed Christine Morris targeted Karen? Delving into the cold case, China learns the motive for the first murder may be related to a valuable collection of Mexican art. Enlisting the help of her San Antonio lawyer friend Justine Wyzinski—aka the Whiz—China, a lawyer before becoming an herbalist, enlists the help of her business partner Ruby and husband, PI Mike McQuaid, in an investigation that weaves herbal lore and legal into the plot. 22<sup>nd</sup> in a Texas-based series.

Alpert, Mark. [The Furies](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Long ago they were called witches and massacred by the thousands. But they're human just like us, except for a rare genetic mutation that they've hidden from the rest of the world for hundreds of years. Now, a chance encounter with a beautiful woman named Ariel has led John Rogers into the middle of a secret war among the Furies. Ariel needs John's help in the battle between a rebellious faction of the clan and their elders. The grand prize in this war is a chance to remake the human race. For fans of Rollins and Preston.

Baldacci, David. [The Target Signed](#) (Grand Central \$30). At the start of bestseller Baldacci's tense third thriller featuring CIA hit man Will Robie (after 2013's *The Hit*), Earl Fontaine, a terminally ill Alabama death row prisoner, plans one last killing that will personally affect Robie and his fellow agent, Jessica Reel. Meanwhile in Washington, D.C., the U.S. president authorizes an operation to assassinate a foreign leader. Evan Tucker, the head of the CIA, recommends Robie and Reel, whose recent exploits have earned them the CIA's highest medal, for the job. When that mission is scrubbed, Robie and Reel end up attempting a dangerous incursion into North Korea to rescue a couple of prisoners from the notorious Bukchang labor camp, a

move that results in North Korea deciding to retaliate against the U.S. on its own territory. In unsparing detail, Baldacci depicts the brutal conditions in the North Korean camp, in particular their impact on 25-year-old Yie Chung-Cha, a prisoner groomed as a deadly assassin.”—*Publishers Weekly*. This is my favorite Baldacci series.

Barnes, Linda. [The Perfect Ghost](#) (\$15.99). Taking a new direction from her Carlotta Carlyle PI series, Boston’s Barnes draws on her theatre background to set scenes. Em Moore, an agoraphobe who ghostwrites celebrity biographies under the joint pseudonym T.E. Blakemore, worries whether she can complete her current project—an ‘autobiography’ of famed actor-director Garrett Malcolm—without her writing partner, Teddy Blake, after his death in a car crash. Though timid Em always left the interviewing to Teddy, she summons the resolve to talk to Malcolm in his isolated Cape Cod, Mass., beach house. At first, Malcolm casts her aside dismissively, but as Em perseveres and wins his trust and admiration, she persuades both him and herself of her own worth. As she grows closer to Malcolm, secrets about his life begin to pile up—as well as secrets about Teddy’s life.... Barnes delivers a captivating story of love, rivalry, and revenge.

Barry, Max. [Lexicon: A Novel](#) (\$16). A challenging read became a 2013 Modern Firsts Club Pick. Here’s what other critics had to say: “A dark, dystopic grabber in which words are treated as weapons, and the villainous types have literary figures’ names. Plath, Yeats, Eliot and Woolf all figure in this ambitious, linguistics-minded work of futurism.” —Janet Maslin, *New York Times*. “Imagine, if you will, a secret group of people called Poets who have the power to control others simply by speaking to them. Barry has, and the result is an extraordinarily fast, funny, cerebral thriller.” —*Time Magazine*. The reissue of *The Name of the Rose* (see Classics), another linguistic thriller, reminds me of the effort and rewards posed by authors like Eco and Barry.

Clark, Mary Higgins. [I’ve Got You Under My Skin Signed](#) (SimonSchuster \$26.99). When Laurie Moran’s husband was brutally murdered, only three-year-old Timmy saw the face of his father’s killer. Five years later his piercing blue eyes still haunt Timmy’s dreams. Laurie is haunted by more—the killer’s threat to her son as he fled the scene: “Tell your mother she’s next, then it’s your turn...” Now Laurie is dealing with murder again, this time as the producer of a true-crime, cold-case television show. The series will launch with the twenty-year-old unsolved murder of Betsy Powell. Betsy, a socialite, was found suffocated in her bed after a gala celebrating the graduation of her daughter and three friends. The sensational murder was news nationwide. Reopening the case in its lavish setting and with the cooperation of the surviving guests that night, Laurie is sure to have a hit on her hands. But when the estranged friends begin filming, it becomes clear each is hiding secrets small and large. And a pair of blue eyes is watching events unfold, too. News: Clark will be coauthoring a book with Alafair Burke next.

Connolly, John. [Wolf in Winter Signed](#) (Hodder \$39). The community of Prosperous, Maine has always thrived when others have suffered. Its inhabitants are wealthy, its children’s future secure. It shuns outsiders. It guards its own. And at the heart of the Prosperous lie the ruins of an ancient church, transported stone by stone from England centuries earlier by

the founders of the town... But the death of a homeless man and the disappearance of his daughter draw the haunted, lethal private investigator Charlie Parker to Prosperous. Parker is a dangerous man, driven by compassion, by rage, and by the desire for vengeance. In him the town and its protectors sense a threat graver than any they have faced in their long history, and in the comfortable, sheltered inhabitants of a small Maine town, Parker will encounter his most vicious opponents yet. Charlie Parker has been marked to die so that Prosperous may survive. Prosperous, and the secret that it hides beneath its ruins... 12<sup>th</sup> in the Charlie Parker series.

Daheim, Mary. [The Alpine Yeoman](#) (Random \$26). *Advocate* publisher Emma Lord and Sheriff Milo Dodge seem immune to the prevailing angst. The newlyweds’ domestic idyll is most definitely over when a dead man is discovered near the fish hatchery and nobody has a clue as to his identity. Vida Runkel may have insight, but Emma’s redoubtable House & Home editor is mad at the world and saying little. Moreover, whispers of scandal travel through the quaint streets when some high school girls mysteriously take a walk on the wild side. And then Milo’s dedicated deputy, Sam Heppner, a true yeoman, suddenly goes AWOL. What’s happening in Alpine? If Milo knows, he’s not telling Emma. And Emma’s again headed for trouble when she starts snooping. The situation grows even more fraught when a shocking link is revealed between the mystery corpse and one of Alpine’s own, unearthing a long-buried dark secret.

Deaver, Jeffery/Raymond Benson, eds. [Mystery Writers of America Present Ice Cold: Tales of Intrigue from the Cold War](#) (Grand Central \$25). Can be Signed by Deaver May 17; by Lescroart May 7, Joe Finder May 30. Other contributors include Paretsky, Jance, Lippman, TJ Parker, Neville, plus the two editors. A terrific collection and, scarily, relevant again. Also in trade paperback: [Mystery Writers of America Present](#) (\$16).

Delany, Vicki. [Under Cold Stone](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). Constable Molly of Trafalgar, BC, is drawn to a murder and the disappearance of the chief suspect in Banff where her mother, who is dating her boss, the Chief Constable, are having a romantic weekend at the famed Banff Springs Hotel. See April Trade Paperback Picks.

Ferris, Monica. [The Drowning Spool](#) (Berkley \$24.95). Even though running Crewel World keeps Betsy Devonshire plenty busy, a little extra cash on the side doesn’t hurt. So when the local senior complex, Watered Silk, asks her to teach a class on the tricky punch needle technique, Betsy jumps at the opportunity to win over some new customers. Unfortunately, the business that Betsy drums up is not of the needlework variety. A young woman is found floating in Watered Silk’s therapy pool, and Betsy’s sleuthing skills are immediately called upon to figure out who drowned her. But the list of suspects is more twisted than any Betsy has encountered before. The young woman had three lovers—each with a motive for the murder. Needlecraft Mystery #17.

Fforde, Jasper. [The Eye of Zoltar Signed](#) (Hodder \$32). Book 3 in The Last Dragonslayer YA series. The Mighty Shandar, the most powerful wizard the world has ever seen, returns to the Ununited Kingdoms. Clearly, he didn’t solve the Dragon Problem, and must hand over his fee: eighteen dray-weights of gold. But the Mighty Shandar doesn’t do refunds, and vows to eliminate

the dragons once and for all—unless sixteen-year-old Jennifer Strange and her sidekicks from the Kazam house of enchantment can bring him the legendary jewel, The Eye of Zoltar. The only thing that stands in their way is a perilous journey with a 50% Fatality Index through the Cambrian Empire to the Leviathan Graveyard, at the top of the deadly Cadir Idris Mountain. It's a quest like never before,

Fletcher, Jessica. [Murder, She Wrote: Aloha Betrayed](#) (NAL \$23.95). Jessica is on the Hawaiian island of Maui, giving a lecture at Maui College on community involvement in police investigations—a subject she knows well. Her co-lecturer is legendary retired detective Mike Kane, a behemoth of a man who shares his love of Hawaiian lore, legends and culture with Jessica. Sadly, all the talking stops when the body of a colleague is found at the rocky foot of a cliff. Mala Kapule was a botanist and popular professor at the school, known for her activism and efforts on behalf of the volcanic crater Haleakala. The high altitude crater is already the site of an observatory, but plans to place the world's largest solar telescope there split the locals, with Mala fiercely arguing to preserve the delicate ecology of the area. Was someone trying to muffle the protestors? Or was Mala's killer making a more personal statement?

Flynn, Gillian. [Gone Girl](#) (\$15). I am skeptical the paperback of this nearly two-year bestseller will appear on April 22, but just in case...

Ford, G M. [Chump Change](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$14.95). Here's our old friend, Seattle PI Leo Waterman, back at last. When "Leo" is the last word a stranger speaks, our gumshoe launches himself into a search for answers. Not only does the dead man have a connection to Leo's past, but he was also worth millions—and some very dangerous people know it. Before long, Leo is caught between warring factions in a high-stakes game of mayhem and murder, and his search for answers becomes a quest for justice. Turns out, finding the truth is far more painful than Leo ever imagined...

Freeman, Brian. [The Cold Nowhere Signed](#) (Quercus \$24.95). A terrific opener has a terrified 16-year-old diving from an old tanker-turned-museum into the icy waters of Lake Superior off Duluth to escape someone chasing her, someone she believes is trying to kill her. And so begins the 8<sup>th</sup> dark, surprising, a pulse-pounding investigation for Lt. Jonathan Stride of the Duluth PD. He's estranged from Serena, working uneasily with partner Maggie Bei after they unwisely slept together, and haunted by the stabbing death of Catalina Moreno's mother some ten years back. Stride is determined to protect Cat, the knife-carrying child who's bounced around far too much for her years, seen too much. But does she indeed see a killer after her? Answers lie in the past. Great atmosphere, a strong story.

Friedman, Daniel. [Don't Ever Look Back](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Voice is in the ear of the reader, no? Not to mention the place in life's cycle. So being a senior, I am not as charmed with the humor of either the first or this second investigation for 88-year-old retired Memphis cop Buck Schatz (by a 20-something writer) as others. Buck, recovering from serious injuries is living with wife Rose at a retirement center trying to regain greater strength. A figure from his past, dangerous criminal Elijah, pays a visit and offers major money for a favor: Buck is to broken his surrender. Buck agrees but soon regrets it.... While he has some dementia

as well as crankiness, Buck is still sharp and relentless (plus he's bored). Senior noir with a Jewish spin.

Grace, Margaret. [Madness in Miniature](#) (Perseverance Press \$15.95). Miniaturist Gerry Porter regards the grand opening of a giant craft chain emporium in Lincoln Point, California, with mixed emotions. Small towns are always changed by superstores. But the big event hosts not only an earthquake but a murder inside SuperKrafts. Gerry and her techno-savvy granddaughter Maddie know many local business people with motives, but maybe it was the New York entrepreneurs with murder on their minds... Think globally, murder locally.

Graedon, Alena. [Word Exchange](#) (Knopf \$26.95). The Indie Next Pick: "In the near-future, books and other printed-matter have become obsolete. Anana Johnson and her father are preparing to publish the last printed edition of the *North American Dictionary of English Language*, both of them saddened by this end of an era. But then Doug goes missing, leaving only a single clue: ALICE. Soon Anana finds herself racing along subterranean passageways and investigating a secret society for clues. Fans of Robin Sloan's *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* and Jedediah Berry's *The Manual of Detection* will be thrilled."

Graham, Heather. [Waking the Dead](#) (Harlequin \$24.95). The painting *Ghosts in the Mind* by Henry Sebastian Hubert is reputed to come to life—and to bring death. The artist was a friend of Lord Byron and Mary Shelley, joining them in Switzerland during 1816, "the year without a summer." That was when they all explored themes of horror and depravity in their art. Now, almost two hundred years later, the painting appears in New Orleans. Wherever it goes, death seems to follow. Danielle Cafferty and Michael Quinn, occasional partners in solving crime, are quickly drawn into the case. They begin to make connections between that summer in Switzerland and this spring in Louisiana. Danni, the owner of an eccentric antiques shop, and Quinn, a private detective, have discovered that they have separate but complementary talents when it comes to investigating unusual situations. Trying to blend their personal relationship with the professional lives they've stumbled into, they learn how much they need each other. Especially as they confront this work of art—and evil. The people in the portrait might be dead, but something seems to wake them and free them to commit bloody crimes. Paranormal romantic suspense from the author of over 100 novels.

Greenwood, Kerry. [Murder and Mendelssohn](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). Murder, spies, mathematics and music – it's all in a day's work for Phryne Fisher in her 20th adventure! The Melbourne, Australia sleuth could be called an Emma Peel of the 1920s. Enjoy the knockout Art Deco cover. See April Trade Paperback Picks for more.

Griffin, Laura. [Far Gone](#) (Gallery \$18). The Austin PD's Andrea Finch is a rising star until a split-second decision that ends in a shooting derails her career. Disillusioned, she's on leave from her job when she gets an urgent call from her unstable younger brother, the quirky genius she's always protected. She'd prefer to ignore his latest plea for cash, but this time instinct tells her something is very wrong. Following her gut leads to a dusty Texas border town where FBI agent Jon North is working undercover on an unsolved murder that may be linked to a broader plot (which we know, given the opening scene in

Philadelphia). Andrea's determination to absolve her brother may prevent North from completing his assignment as sparks fly all over the place. Fast and fun.

Gross, Andrew. [Everything to Lose](#) (Harper \$26.99). While driving along a suburban back road, Hilary Cantor, who's just lost her job and whose deadbeat husband has left her to care for her son who has Asperger's, witnesses a freakish accident when a deer suddenly darts in front of the car ahead of her. The driver careens down a hill and slams into a tree. Rushing to help, she discovers the car smoking, the driver dead—and a satchel on the floor stuffed with a half million dollars. That money could prevent her family's ruin and keep her son in school. In an instant, this honest, achieving woman who has always done the responsible thing makes a decision that puts her in the center of a maelstrom of unforeseeable consequences and life-threatening recriminations. Gross is an excellent plotter, schooled in the Patterson school.

Gunn, Elizabeth. [Red Man Down](#) (Severn \$27.95). I'm a forever fan of Gunn's witty police procedurals, the first set in Minnesota, and the Sarah Burke series set in Tucson. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> for her and the Tucson PD. *PW* likes her work too: "Sarah Burke and her fellow officers look into an unusual police shooting in Gunn's diverting fifth procedural featuring the Tucson, Ariz., homicide detective (after 2012's *The Magic Line*). In a confrontation with a suspect, rookie cop Dan Spurlock kills a man taking wire from a power box who was acting as if he wanted to be shot. The thief turns out to be Ed Lacey, a former police sergeant who used to be the feared and respected training officer known as the Red Man. Burke discovers that one of Lacey's uncles, Frank Martin, killed himself after being accused of embezzling funds from Old Pueblo Credit Union. Lacey's ex-wife, Angela; his free-spirited mother, Luz García-Lopez; and other relatives all have their opinions, and all seem to be concealing something. A third suspicious suicide within the same family raises the stakes. The convincing interplay between Burke and her colleagues is a plus." With no Advance Reading Copy, I quote this review. Ordered upon request.

Hoffman, Cara. [Be Safe, I Love You](#) (SimonSchuster \$26). Lauren Clay has returned from a tour of duty in Iraq just in time to spend the holidays with her family. Before she enlisted, Lauren, a classically trained singer, and her brother Danny, a bright young boy obsessed with Arctic exploration, made the most of their modest circumstances, escaping into their imaginations and forming an indestructible bond. Joining the army allowed Lauren to continue to provide for her family, but it came at a great cost. When she arrives home unexpectedly, it's clear to everyone in their rural New York town that something is wrong. But her father is so happy to have her home that he ignores her odd behavior and the repeated phone calls from an army psychologist. He wants to give Lauren time and space to acclimate to civilian life. Things seem better when Lauren offers to take Danny on a trip to visit their mother upstate. Instead, she guides them into the glacial woods of Canada on a quest to visit the Jeanne d'Arc basin, the site of an oil field that has become her strange obsession. How this plays out is page-turning in a quiet way as we wonder if Lauren can be pulled back from.... what?

Huston, Charlie. [Skinner](#) (\$16). Skinner—known by the name of the psychological experiment that fostered his emotionless

brutality—founded his career in "asset protection" on fear. To touch anyone under Skinner's protection was to invite destruction. A savagely effective methodology, until Skinner's CIA handlers began to fear him as much as his enemies did and banished him to the hinterlands of the intelligence community. Now, a cyber-terrorist attack on the US power grid is about to end that long exile. His asset is Jae, a roboticist with a gift for seeing the underlying systems violently shaping a new era of global guerrilla warfare. At the root of it all is a young boy, the innocent seed of a plot grown in the slums of Mumbai.

Jakubowski, Maxim, ed. [New Mammoth Book of Pulp Fiction](#) (Running Press \$13.95). Join shady operators, voluptuous molls, ruthless big-shots, and crooked cops in this massive collection filled with seven decades worth of unadulterated pulp fiction. From Mickey Spillane to Dashiell Hammett, 33 hardboiled stories to dip into. Arresting pulp cover, too.

Lentricchia, Frank. [The Dog Killer of Utica](#) (Melville House \$15.95). Patrick should be writing this little review as this is just his kind of book—think William S. Burroughs/hard-assed PI, working in a sordid underworld known as gritty Utica, New York. Ex-PI Eliot Conte has ditched the life to teach American literature and explore love with policewoman Catherine Cruz. No more Mafia networks, unsolved crimes, and the deeds of his political kingmaker father for Conte. But the grove of academe isn't any cleaner. One of his students, a Bosnian Muslim, disappears leaving a trail of texts and emails suggesting a terrorist plot is cooking. And Utica is highly disturbed by a series of brutal killings—of dogs. This kind of fiction is at its best marrying elegant prose and intriguing philosophy with dark, dirty deeds. Duke Professor Lentricchia does it well.

Lewis, Mitchell Scott. [Evil in the 1st House: A Starlight Detective Agency Mystery](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). "David Lowell tackles two cases in Lewis's engrossing third mystery featuring the New York City astrologer and PI. Surgeon Ethan Williamson is willing to pay \$1 million in cash up-front if Lowell will agree to locate his wife, from whom he's separated, and Kevin, his 15-year-old son, who has lived with the mother since soon after birth. Kevin's twin brother, Edward, who lives with Ethan, desperately needs a kidney transplant, and Kevin is the best donor option—if he can be found. In addition, Buddy Ferguson, the owner of the Happy Snappy Marshmallow Company, wants Lowell to identify the embezzler whose theft threatens his employees' entire retirement fund. Hacker Mort Simpson, Lowell's attorney daughter Melinda, and others provide nonpsychic support, as Lowell refines his readings to close in on clever and deadly scams. Astrology fans and skeptics alike will be pleased."—*PW*. Also is trade paperback" [Evil in the 1st House](#) (\$14.95). Click here for [Death in the 11th House; Death in the 12th House](#).

Lilliefors, James. [The Leviathan Effect](#) (\$15.95). Homeland Security Secretary Catherine Blaine receives a frightening communication from a hacker identified only by the pseudonym Janus. The message is the latest in a series correctly predicting natural disasters around the world—disasters that, Janus claims, were manufactured, not natural at all. And, according to the email, unless the United States does as Janus instructs, another disaster is coming—a Category 5 hurricane that will hit the Eastern Seaboard and destroy the lives of tens of millions of people.

Unaware of the crisis in Washington, investigative journalist Jon Mallory stumbles on a list of seven prominent scientists who have been murdered over the past dozen years. When the person who gave him the list disappears herself, Jon realizes he has unwittingly become part of a deadly chain of events and contacts his brother, private intelligence contractor Charles, for help. Meanwhile, Catherine Blaine has also come to Charles for help tracking down the hacker Janus and uncovering the frightening new weather technology that threatens the world.

Logue, Mary. [Lake of Tears](#) (Adams \$24.99). Deputy Sheriff Claire Watkins has had an easy summer in Fort St. Antoine, Wisconsin; the only problem is that her daughter Meg is leaving for college soon. When Claire walks down to the park to watch the Burning Boat—a large replica of a Norwegian longboat set on the shores of Lake Pepin, burned at the autumnal equinox—she has no idea that more than just a wooden structure is going up in flames. The next day, the bones of a young woman are found in the ashes. When Claire learns that the new deputy she has hired, a vet returning from Afghanistan, was the young woman's former boyfriend, and that he is now dating her daughter Meg, she is desperate to find out who is responsible for the death. In order to get to the heart of this mystery, Claire must understand what happened in an attack in the mountains of Afghanistan... Also in trade paperback: [Lake of Tears](#) (\$16.99).

Marra, Anthony. [The Constellation of Vital Phenomena](#) (\$15). A Modern Firsts Club Pick draws reviews and raves: "Technically, 2004 was the fifth year of the Second Chechen War, but in truth, Chechnya had never recovered from the first war, which had begun 1994. Eight-year-old Haava hadn't even been born when this protracted apocalypse began, and now, with her father taken prisoner, she had become yet another victim. Anthony Marra's debut novel tracks her story and that of her missing sister, but it also projects the fates of numerous other villagers caught in events that they cannot control or even avoid."—Barnes & Noble.com. "The moment Akhmed walks into the hospital with Havaa... rivals anything Michael Ondaatje has written in its emotional force..."—*Boston Globe*. "Extraordinary...a 21st century *War and Peace*...Marra seems to derive his astral calm in the face of catastrophe directly from Tolstoy."—Madison Smartt Bell, *New York Times Book Review*

Martin, George RR. [Feast for Crows \(HBO Tie-In Edition\)](#) (Random \$18)

McKevett, GA. [Killer Physique](#) (Kensington \$24). Plus-sized P.I. Savannah Reid gets a taste of the high life when she attends a Hollywood premiere on the arm of husband Dirk Coulter. Savannah may be a newlywed, but even she gets weak in the knees when she meets celebrity athlete-turned-movie-star Jason Tyrone. So imagine how she feels when the star's rock-hard body is found rock-hard dead...Though the autopsy reveals Jason may have gotten his killer body through doping, no one wants to believe the beloved athlete is a fraud, least of all Savannah. Soon she's deeply immersed in the dark world of body enhancing drugs, and wondering if the world-class gym where Jason worked out is really just a front for.... [Click here](#) for earlier cozies in by McKevett.

Milchman, Jenny. [Ruin Falls Signed](#) (Random \$26). To be signed here June 13 with Reed Farrel Coleman, but out in April.

Moore, Christopher. [The Serpent of Venice Signed](#) (Morrow \$26.99). Three prominent Venetians await their most loathsome and foul dinner guest, the erstwhile envoy from the Queen of Britain: the rascal Fool Pocket. This trio of cunning plotters—the merchant, Antonio; the senator, Montessor Brabantio; and the naval officer, Iago—have lured Pocket to a dark dungeon, promising an evening of sprits and debauchery with a rare Amontillado sherry and Brabantio's beautiful daughter, Portia. But their invitation is, of course, bogus. The wine is drugged. The girl isn't even in the city limits. Desperate to rid themselves once and for all of the man who has consistently foiled their grand quest for power and wealth, they have lured him to his death. (How can such a small man, be such a huge obstacle?). But this Fool is no fool . . . and he's got more than a few tricks (and hand gestures) up his sleeve. Greed, revenge, deception, lust, and a giant (but lovable) sea monster combine to create a riotous tale.

Napoleon, Landon J. [Burning Shield: The Jason Schechterle Story Signed by Both Authors](#) (\$19.95). On March 26, 2001, Phoenix policeman Schechterle was terribly burned when his Crown Victoria was hit by a taxi speeding at over 100 mph. The squad car burst into flames, trapping Jason. Freed at considerable risk by fellow officers after 8 minutes, Jason's body suffered over 50% burns. Against all odds, he not only survived but made an astonishing recovery. Today he's a motivational speaker who travels the country. His foundation is called Beyond the Flames. With author Landon J. Napoleon, Jason tells his story of courage, determination, and love which includes his wife and three children.

Oates, Joyce Carol. [High Crime Area](#) (Grove \$23). Eight stories, "Tales of Darkness and Dread."

Parks, Brad. [The Player](#) (St Martins \$25.99). "While covering an investigative lead in lovely downtown Newark, New Jersey, newspaper reporter Carter Morgan Ross, a man with three last names, leads the reader wryly through a maze of mystery. His inquiries into a mysterious flu-like illness that is killing residents of a Newark neighborhood lead him to suspect that a nearby construction site is causing the deaths. After Ross begins to show symptoms of the illness, the project's developer is found murdered, and the reporter stumbles onto mob connections. Plus Ross has issues back at the office..."—AJ Kerns

Patterson, James. [Cross My Heart](#) (\$16). Alex Cross becomes the obsession of a genius of menace set on proving that he is the greatest mind in the history of crime.

Robb, J D. [Concealed in Death](#) (Putnam \$27.95). In a decrepit, long-empty New York building, Lieutenant Eve Dallas's husband begins the demolition process by swinging a sledgehammer into a wall. When the dust clears, there are two skeletons wrapped in plastic behind it. He summons his wife immediately—and by the time she's done with the crime scene, there are twelve murders to be solved. Writing in her actual name, Nora Roberts: [The Collector](#) (Putnam \$27.95). The author of over 200 novels "entices readers with this blend of romance and sizzling suspense. Lila Emerson lives a free-spirited life as a New York housesitter and author of paranormal YA novels. But her peace is irrevocably shattered when she witnesses a woman being pushed through a window to her death. While assisting the police with their investigation, Lila meets artist Ash Archer, whose brother, Oliver, was initially a suspect. Police thought Oliver killed the woman

and then committed suicide, but soon it becomes apparent that he was a victim himself. Ash is instantly attracted to Lila, and as the body count rises, he draws her into his world of wealth and privilege in an attempt to keep her safe. A multifaceted cast of characters, a plot twist involving the legendary Romanovs, and plenty of sensual romance will keep readers riveted.”

Rose, M J. [The Collector of Dying Breaths](#) (Atria \$25). Florence, Italy—1533: An orphan named René le Florentin is plucked from poverty to become Catherine de Medici’s perfumer. Traveling with the young *duchessina* from Italy to France, René brings with him a cache of secret documents from the monastery where he was trained: recipes for exotic fragrances and potent medicines—and a formula for an alchemic process said to have the potential to reanimate the dead. In France, René becomes not only the greatest perfumer in the country, but also the most dangerous, creating deadly poisons for his Queen to use against her rivals. But while mixing herbs and essences under the light of flickering candles, René doesn’t begin to imagine the tragic and personal consequences for which his lethal potions will be responsible. Paris, France—The Present: A renowned mythologist, Jac L’Etoile—trying to recover from personal heartache by throwing herself into her work—learns of the sixteenth-century perfumer who may have been working on an elixir that would unlock the secret to immortality. She becomes obsessed with René le Florentin’s work—particularly when she discovers the dying breaths he had collected during his lifetime. Jac’s efforts put her in the path of her estranged lover, Griffin North, a linguist who has already begun translating René le Florentin’s mysterious formula. Together they confront an eccentric heiress in possession of a world-class art collection, a woman who has her own dark purpose for the elixir.

Rosenfelt, David. [Without Warning](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Here is one of Rosenfelt’s best standalone plots. “At the start of this riveting standalone from Edgar–finalist Rosenfelt, a hurricane destroys a Wilton, Maine, dam. When newspaper publisher Katie Sanford and her staff unearth the time capsule they buried nearly five years earlier to check for water damage, they discover skeletal remains and a set of predictions about future crimes, including the murder of the wife of police chief Jake Robbins. Months after the capsule’s burial, Katie’s husband allegedly killed Jake’s wife, with whom he’d had an affair. Other predictions correlate to an unsolved arson case and a string of murders. When Jake realizes he’s the common denominator among the crimes, he races to piece together the cryptic clues, identify potential victims, and delve into his own past to discover who wants to frame him and why. His feelings for Katie—the high school sweetheart with whom he’s starting to rekindle romance, but who represents the potentially antagonistic press—add complexity and nuance.”—*PW*.

Ross, Ann B. [Miss Julia’s Marvelous Makeover](#) (Viking \$26.95). It’s summer in Abbotsville, and Miss Julia has visions of enjoying a life of leisure. But before she can even sip some iced tea on her front porch, a letter from her long-lost cousin Elsie informs her that Elsie’s granddaughter is on a bus headed to Abbotsville that very day. Reminding Miss Julia of an old family debt, Elsie proclaims that she is sending Trixie to Miss Julia’s to learn to become a lady. When the rude and unkempt Trixie arrives, even Sam and Lloyd agree that Miss Julia faces quite a challenge. Meanwhile, Sam has decided to run for state senate.

But when he has a fainting spell and has to go into the hospital for tests, who will run his campaign? Is his no-good rival going to cakewalk into office? No sir!

Scottoline, Lisa. [Keep Quiet](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Jake Buckman’s relationship with his sixteen-year-old son Ryan is not an easy one, so at the urging of his loving wife, Pam, Jake goes alone to pick up Ryan at their suburban movie theater. On the way home, Ryan asks to drive on a deserted road, and Jake sees it as a chance to make a connection. However, what starts as a father-son bonding opportunity instantly turns into a nightmare. Tragedy strikes, and Jake makes a split-second decision to run that plunges them both into a world of guilt, blackmail, and a murder.... The moral: the better way to raise a child is to stand up rather than cover up.

Shaw, Johnny. [Plaster City](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$14.95). Shaw continues his Anthony-Award winning Imperial Valley Noirs with a second for Jimmy Veeder. A wild man with years of insane irresponsibility behind him, Veeder’s working on a straight life as husband, father, and farmer. Chaos visits him in the form of his just-as-crazy and impulsive drunk buddy Bobby Maves, a man without the anchor of marriage. When Bobby’s teenager Julie goes missing, the two men form a reckless rescue posse. Inevitably it goes drastically askew, putting friendship and lives to the test. No romantic, Shaw delivers a wild ride and a credible outcome that showcases his love for this part of California. He’s a terrific writer.

Simon, Clea. [Panthers Play for Keeps Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). More Pet Noir. When Pru Marlowe takes a dog for a walk, she doesn’t expect to find a body. But Spot, a service dog in training, has too good a nose not to lead her to the remains of the beautiful young woman, and despite her own best instincts, Pru can’t avoid getting involved. The young woman seems to have been mauled by a wild cat – and Pru knows there have been no pumas in the Berkshire woods for years. And while Wallis, Pru’s curmudgeonly tabby, seems fixated on the idea of a killer cat, Spot has been sending strange signals to Pru’s own heightened senses, suggesting that the violent death was something more than a tragic accident. As motives multiply, a cougar of a different sort sets her eyes on Pru’s sometime lover, and another woman disappears. With panther panic growing, Pru may have to put aside her own issues – and her own ideas of domesticity – to solve a savage mystery. Also in trade paperback: [Panthers Play for Keeps](#) (\$14.95).

Teran, Boston. [The Country I Lived In Signed](#) (High Top Publishing \$24). Patrick makes a **Hardboiled Crime Club Pick**: “John Rawbone Lourdes, WWII and Korean War vet and grandson of a notorious outlaw, hits the road in his Packard to explore the country. The year is 1955 and the Cold War dominates the political landscape, with clandestine government ops infiltrating all levels of public discourse, helping to create its own sanitized narrative and suppressing voices of dissent at all costs. Lourdes goes to visit an old friend in Texas who’s called for help, only to find that the man has been tortured and assassinated by CIA agents. Lourdes pursues leads down into Mexico and finds himself targeted by covert agents seeking a cache of classified government documents that threaten to expose their own ruthless tactics. This is not only top notch literary fiction but important social history that has profound implications

today. I've been a fan of the fearless Teran's work since his first book, *God Is a Bullet*. If you like writers such as James Carlos Blake, B. Traven and James Ellroy, you won't want to miss this one..."

Williams, Beatriz. [A Hundred Summers](#) (\$16). Lily Dane has returned to Seaview, Rhode Island, where her family has summered for generations. It's an escape not only from New York's social scene but from a heartbreak that still haunts her. But this summer is different. Budgie and Nick Greenwald—Lily's former best friend and former fiancé—have arrived, too, and Seaview's elite are abuzz. Under Budgie's glamorous influence, Lily is seduced into a complicated web of renewed friendship and dangerous longing. As a cataclysmic hurricane churns north through the Atlantic, and uneasy secrets slowly reveal themselves, Lily and Nick must confront an emotional storm. "An elegant if somewhat old-fashioned delayed-gratification seaside romance with a flavor of Daphne du Maurier."—*Kirkus Reviews*. Williams appears here in June with a new book.

Willis, Connie. [The Best of Connie Willis](#) (\$18). From a near future mourning the extinction of dogs to an alternate history in which invading aliens were defeated by none other than Emily Dickinson; from a madcap convention of bumbling quantum physicists in Hollywood to a London whose Underground has become a storehouse of intangible memories both foul and fair—here are the greatest stories of one of the greatest writers working in any genre today. All ten of the stories gathered here are Hugo or Nebula award winners—some even have the distinction of winning both. With a new Introduction by the author and personal Afterwords to each story—plus a special look at three of Willis's unique public speeches.

#### A DOZEN EASTER PAPERBACK PICKS

Albert, Susan Wittig. [Widow's Tears](#) (\$7.99). The history of the terrible Galveston Hurricane of 1900 combines with a bank robbery and fatality in today's Pecan Springs, Texas to create a haunted house mystery for herbalist and ex-lawyer China Bayles to solve. I love the way the real story of the storm creates suspense that echoes over more than a century. #21 in the series.

✠Carmack, Amanda. [Murder at Westminster Abbey](#) (Signet \$7.99). "Carmack once again delves into the Elizabethan Age, in all its drama, treachery, and religious mania, with this richly textured second outing for court musician Kate Haywood (after 2013's *Murder at Hatfield House*). In 1559, Kate, who is devoted to the recently installed Elizabeth I, puts aside her lute when Nell, a prostitute, is killed and Kate's actor friend Rob Cartman becomes a suspect. Then another of Kate's friends, Lady Mary Everly, who like Nell is a redhead, is murdered. No other link exists between the two crimes, but Kate worries that the redheaded queen may be in danger. Two suspects include Lady Mary's own brother, Lord Henry, and her father, Earl Everly, who doesn't appear particularly grief-stricken. There are political ramifications aplenty as families jockey for position, some Catholic loyalists who hate Elizabeth and the 'new religion.' In Carmack's hands, this period whodunit is deliciously detailed but never heavy-handed."—*PW*

Childs, Laura. [Sweet Tea Revenge](#) (\$7.99). Theodosia Browning's dear friend Delaine Dish has asked her to be a bridesmaid for her wedding. But when the big day arrives, everything seems to be going wrong. First, a massive storm is

brewing over Charleston. A bad omen? Second, Delaine's sister is late for the ceremony. And finally, the groom not only has cold feet—his whole body is cold. A murderer has crashed the wedding. There are plenty of suspects on both sides of the aisle. One thing soon becomes apparent—revenge won't be the only dish served cold at this wedding... Charleston, tea, and recipes blend in this appealing series. #14.

Coes, Ben. [Eye for an Eye](#) (\$9.99). When Dewey Andreas uncovers the identity of a mole embedded at a high level in Israel's Mossad, it triggers a larger, more dangerous plot. The mole was the most important asset of Chinese Intelligence, and the head of China's Ministry of State Security, Fao Bhang, responds to the discovery by placing a kill order on Dewey himself. Dewey is tracked to Argentina, where he is on vacation with his fiancée, Jessica Tanzer, a U.S. national security advisor. A top-level kill team is sent in quickly and quietly, but their attack fails to take him out. The collateral damage, however, is both horrifying and deeply personal. Now, with Chinese Intelligence on his trail, Dewey goes rogue in his quest for vengeance...

DeMille, Nelson. [The Panther](#) (\$10). Anti-Terrorist Task Force agent John Corey and his wife, FBI agent Kate Mayfield, have been posted overseas to Sana'a, Yemen—one of the most dangerous places in the Middle East. While there, they will be working with a small team to track down one of the masterminds behind the USS Cole bombing: a high-ranking Al Qaeda operative known as The Panther. Ruthless and elusive, he's wanted for multiple terrorist acts and murders—and the U.S. government is determined to bring him down, no matter the cost. As latecomers to a deadly game, John and Kate don't know the rules, the players, or the score. What they do know is that there is more to their assignment than meets the eye—and that the hunters are about to become the hunted....

Graves, Sarah. [A Bat in the Belfry](#) (\$7.99). *PW* writes, "A weather front producing heavy rain, gale-force winds, and flooding descends on Jacobia "Jake" Tiptree and other Eastport, Maine, residents... Fourteen-year-old Karen Hansen plots her escape from Eastport and her drunken father; Chip Hahn, a visiting friend of Jake's son, Sam, goes for an evening walk and ends up a murder suspect; a gang of young toughs torments "dweeb" David Thompson; and former Boston cop Lizzie Snow heads to Eastport in search of a child who might be the daughter of Lizzie's dead sister, Sissy. Sam's attempts to clear Chip lead him into danger, and the many story lines begin to merge as the storm intensifies." #16 in the Home Repair & Homicide series.

Hirahara, Naomi. [Murder on Bamboo Lane](#) (Berkley \$7.99). "Young LAPD bicycle cop Ellie Rush (who is half-white, half-Japanese American) aspires to be a detective; her aunt Cheryl, who is assistant police chief, is her professional idol. When a former college acquaintance, Jenny Nguyen, is murdered—and Ellie is one of the officers who find her in an alley—she is assigned to help investigate. While blame initially falls on Tuan Le, Jenny's former boyfriend, other aspects of Jenny's life come to the fore. Jenny was devastated by her mother's untimely death back in Vietnam, plus she was angry about something related to her work for the U.S. Census Bureau. Ellie makes mistakes that almost let a killer get away, but the key word here is "almost." Scoop this one up! Known for her "Mas Arai" series, Hirahara's new series debut strikes just the right tone, neatly tuned into the

twentysomething set. Her multiethnic cast promises a fascinating future for a cozy series tangling with serious topics.”—*Library Journal* on Edgar-winner Hirahara’s new start.

Kava, Alex. [Stranded](#) (\$7.99). When FBI special agent Maggie O’Dell and her partner, Tully, discover the remains of a young woman in a highway ditch, the only clue is a map leading them to spot where they’ll find madman’s next victim. As the body count rises, Maggie must race against the clock to unmask the monster terrorizing America’s highways, even if it means turning to a former foe for help. But as she gets closer to finding the killer, it becomes eerily clear that Maggie may be the ultimate target. Winner of the Florida Book Award.

Matthews, Jason. [Red Sparrow](#) (\$9.99). This First Mystery Club Pick gets raves from all over. Russian intelligence officer Dominika Egorova struggles to survive in the post-Soviet intelligence jungle. Ordered against her will to become a “Sparrow,” a trained seductress, Dominika is assigned to operate against Nathaniel Nash, a young CIA officer who handles the Agency’s most important Russian mole. Spies have long relied on the “honey trap,” whereby vulnerable men and women are intimately compromised. Dominika learns these techniques of “sexpionage” in Russia’s secret “Sparrow School,” hidden outside of Moscow. As the action careens between Russia, Finland, Greece, Italy, and the United States, Dominika and Nate soon collide in a duel of wills, tradecraft, and—invariably—forbidden passion that threatens not just their lives but those of others as well. As secret allegiances are made and broken, Dominika and Nate’s game reaches a deadly crossroads. Soon one of them begins a dangerous double existence in a life-and-death operation that consumes intelligence agencies from Moscow to Washington, DC. Page by page, veteran CIA officer Jason Matthews’s *Red Sparrow* delights and terrifies and fascinates, all while delivering an unforgettable cast, from a sadistic Spetsnaz “mechanic” who carries out Putin’s murderous schemes to the weary CIA Station Chief who resists Washington “cake-eaters” to MARBLE, the priceless Russian mole.

McKinlay, Jenn. [Sugar and Iced Signed](#) (Berkley \$7.99). “A beauty pageant goes awry when one of the judges is murdered, and Melanie and Angie’s friend is the number one suspect. As always, romance complicates the bakers’ lives, too. This sixth culinary entry is a consistently rewarding cozy series set in Scottsdale, AZ. Mouthwatering recipes included, natch.” Jenn will sign it along with her May book, [Death of a Mad Hatter](#) (\$7.99), #2 in her Hat Shop Series, on May 10.

Palmer, Daniel. [Stolen](#) (\$9.99). The future has never looked brighter for Boston couple John and Ruby. But Ruby receives a life-changing diagnosis, and their cut-rate insurance won’t cover her treatment. Faced with a ticking clock, John makes a risky move. Identity theft powers this riveting story. Palmer signs a new book here on May 1. See Event Books.

Woods, Stuart. [Doing Hard Time](#) (\$9.99). The 27<sup>th</sup> Stone Barrington zinger begins when lawyer Stone embarks on a trip to Bel-Air to check in on some business and personal concerns. He expects a relaxing break from the fast pace and mean streets of New York. But trouble has a way of finding Stone. A case that had seemingly been resolved has returned in full force—with lethal results. And this deadly situation makes for strange bedfellows when Stone finds himself teamed with the least likely ally... a gentleman of unique abilities, who can fly below

the radar and above the law. How does a lawyer reconcile his obligations to the law with a lawbreaker of a client? See Event Books for Stone #28.

#### NEW IN MASS MARKET PAPERBACK

- Allan, Barbara. [Antiques Chop](#) (\$7.99)  
Allen, Beverly. [Bloom and Doom](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Starts Bridal Bouquet Shop series  
Alpert, Mark. [Extinction: A Thriller](#) (\$9.99)  
Andre, Bella. [Come a Little Bit Closer](#) (Harlequin \$7.99) Contemporary Romance  
Archer, Connie. [Roux of Revenge](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Soup Lover’s #3  
Bond, Larry. [Shattered Trident](#) (\$9.99)  
Bourbon, Melissa. [Killing Notion](#) (Signet \$7.99) Magical Dressmaking Mystery  
Burton, Mary. [You’re Not Safe](#) (Zebra \$7.99)  
Carr, Robyn. [Chance](#) (Harlequin \$7.99)  
Cook, JJ. [Death on Eat Street](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Starts a Food Truck Series  
Gross, Andrew. [No Way Back](#) (\$9.99)  
Hamilton, Donald. [Devastators](#) (\$7.99)  
Hamrick, Janice. [Death Rides Again](#) (\$7.99)  
Kane, Andrea. [Stranger You Know](#) (Harlequin \$7.99)  
Macomber, Debbie. [North to Alaska](#) (Harlequin \$7.99)  
Mofina, Rick. [Whirlwind](#) (Harlequin \$7.99)  
Mugavero, Liz. [Biscuit a Casket](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Positively Organic Series  
Palmer, Michael. [Political Suicide](#) (\$9.99)  
Pocalyko, Michael. [Navigator](#) (Forge \$9.99)  
Purser, Ann. [Blackwoods Farm Enquiry](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Ivy Beasley #5  
Robb, J D. [Thankless in Death](#) (\$7.99) Lt. Eve Dallas #37  
Ryan, Sofie. [The Whole Cat and Caboodle](#) (Signet \$7.99) Second Chance Cat #1  
Steele, Jon. [Angel City: The Angelus Trilogy 2](#) (\$9.99)  
Stevens, Chevy. [Still Missing](#) (\$7.99)  
Wenger, Christine. [Second Helping of Murder](#) (Signet \$7.99) Comfort Food #2
- SciFi/Fantasy/Paranormal*  
Ashley, Jennifer. [Wild Wolf](#) (\$7.99) Shifters Unbound  
Belcher, R S. [Six-Gun Tarot](#) (\$9.99)  
Cox, Greg. [No Time Like the Past](#) (\$7.99)  
Golemon, David L. [Carpathian](#) (\$7.99) Event Group Thrillers  
Harris, Charlaine. [Dead Ever After](#) (\$7.99) Sookie Stackhouse  
Hughes, Alex. [Marked: A Mindspace Investigations](#) (\$7.99)  
Jaffarian, Sue Ann. [Ghost of a Gamble](#) (\$7.99) Granny Apples Ghost Series #1  
Koontz, Dean. [Deeply Odd](#) (\$9.99)  
Martin, George RR. [Feast for Crows \(HBO Edition\)](#) (\$9.99)  
Modesitt, L E. [Antiagon Fire](#) (\$8.99)  
Monk, Devon. [Stone Cold: A Broken Magic Novel](#) (\$7.99)  
Quick, Amanda. [Mystery Woman](#) (\$7.99) Ladies of Lantern Street  
Sands, Lynsay. [Vampire Most Wanted](#) (\$7.99)  
Sawyer, Robert J. [Red Planet Blues](#) (\$7.99)  
Swain, James. [Shadow People](#) (\$7.99) Magician Peter Warlock #2

## HISTORY/MYSTERY

✚Bordo, Susan. [The Creation of Anne Boleyn](#) (\$15.95). Bordo reconstructs Anne's life and takes an illuminating look at her afterlife in the popular imagination. Why is Anne so compelling? Why has she inspired such extreme reactions? What did she really look like? Was she the flaxen-haired martyr of Romantic paintings or the raven-haired seductress of twenty-first-century portrayals? (Answer: neither.) And perhaps the most provocative questions concern Anne's death more than her life. Bordo also shows how generations of polemicists, biographers, novelists, and filmmakers imagined and re-imagined Anne: whore, martyr, cautionary tale, proto "mean girl," feminist icon, and everything in between.

✚Brightwell, Emily. [Mrs. Jeffries Pleads the Fifth](#) (Berkley \$17). Three cases in one volume: *Mrs. Jeffries Takes the Case*; *Mrs. Jeffries Rocks the Boat*; *Mrs. Jeffries Weeds the Plot*. These reissues are targeting the *Downton Abbey* crowd but they are mysteries.

✚Calkins, Susanna. [From the Charred Remains](#) (St Martins \$24.99), I have wanted to like both this and [Murder at Rosamund's Gate](#) (\$15.99), introducing Lucy Campion who, like many Londoners, is strategizing after the Great Fire of 1660. Lucy, a maid in a magistrate's house, now has no mistress and no purpose there although the household still welcomes her. Circumstances allow Lucy to apprentice herself to a printmaker (and become a sort of bookseller), and also draw her, once again, into helping the local constable with a murder investigation—a man is dead not from fire or plague but from the knife plunged into his chest. I don't know why the voice doesn't grab me; it's one of those things. Having said that, you can read *From the Charred Remains* with this new nonfiction for a fascinating look at disseminating the news:

Pettegree, Andrew. [The Invention of News](#) (Yale \$35). At a time when digital media is transforming the way news is delivered, historian of the printed word Pettegree offers a reminder that newspapers, too, were once a revolutionary form of delivering information. He looks at the changing definition, use, control and distribution of the news, from the medieval world to the age of revolution. Building on his groundbreaking *The Book in the Renaissance*, Pettegree demonstrates that access to news became increasingly widespread, moving from private networks of information run by medieval elites, through 16th-century pamphlets and news singers, to the newspapers of the 18th century. He looks at the development of postal systems, private couriers and the printing press. He considers the importance of the introduction of paper, the rise of coffee shops and the growth of a literate middle class. He discusses the roles played by news pamphlets in the Reformation and by newspapers in the American and French Revolutions. Some of the most interesting sections of *The Invention of News* deal not with the development of new media, but the creation of new audiences. Technology often outpaced demand. Early printers, finding the traditional market for large books would not keep them solvent, created new markets for more ephemeral products. The first newspapers were bewildering to audiences accustomed to news pamphlets that told a single story from beginning to end. Perhaps, at some level, the medium is the message

✚Coates, Berwick. [The Last Viking Signed](#) (SimonSchuster \$39). With the death of Edward the Confessor, the crown of England is hanging in the balance. And in the north Harald Hadrada, the Norwegian Viking leader, is determined to take his chance of capturing the country. But Harold will not let that happen without a fight. Charismatic and the leader of a mighty army, he is determined to make Hadrada the last Viking in England. And so the bloodiest battle yet fought on English soil is about to begin. At stake is sovereignty, freedom and honor. Clearly a winner for readers of Bernard Cornwell!

Cullen, Lynn. [Mrs. Poe](#) (\$16). The triumphant success of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven" compels fledgling poet Frances Osgood to meet her literary idol, a mysterious, complicated man who soon has her under his seductive spell in an all-consuming affair. And when Edgar's frail young wife breaks into their idyll to befriend her rival, Frances fears that deceiving Mrs. Poe may be as impossible as cheating death itself. An odd book about, in part, celebrity worship, which underlines the often odd nature of Victorian morality and marriage.

Davis, Lindsey. [Enemies at Home Signed](#) (Hodder \$42). Young, widowed and fiercely independent, Flavia Alba lives alone on the Aventine Hill in Rome and makes a good living as a hired investigator. An outsider in more ways than one, Albia has unique insight into life in ancient Rome, and she puts it to good use going places no man could go, and asking questions no man could ask. Even as the dust settles from her last case, Albia finds herself once again drawn into a web of lies and intrigue. A mysterious death at a local villa begs may be murder and, as the household slaves are implicated, Albia is once again forced to involve herself. Flavia Alba's second investigation after *The Ides of April*.

✚Doherty, Paul. [Candle Flame](#) (Severn \$28.95). Over the 25 years I've known Paul and read his work, he's from time to time proved elusive. So we see no way to Signed copies of a new Brother Athelstan investigation. February, 1381. London lies frozen in the grip of one of the bitterest winters on record. The ever-rising taxes demanded by the Regent, John of Gaunt, are causing increasing resentment among the city's poor. When the seething unrest boils over into a bloody massacre at a splendid Southwark tavern, The Candle Flame, in which nine people, including Gaunt's tax collectors, their military escort and the prostitutes entertaining them, are brutally murdered, the furious Regent orders Brother Athelstan to get to the bottom of the matter. For not only has Gaunt's treasure trove been stolen, he has reason to believe a French spy is active along the Thames, carefully recording for his masters in the Louvre the state of English war cogs. And a professional assassin, Beowulf, who has sworn vengeance against Gaunt and his minions, also stalks the shadows. Ordered upon request. It may not be available until May.

Donoghue, Emma. [Frog Music Signed](#) (Picador \$41). San Francisco, 1876: a stifling heat wave and smallpox epidemic have engulfed the City. Deep in the streets of Chinatown live three former stars of the Parisian circus: Blanche, now an exotic dancer at the House of Mirrors, her lover Arthur, and his companion Ernest. When an eccentric outsider joins their little circle, secrets unravel, changing everything – and leaving one of them dead. *Frog Music* is inspired by true events and paints a warts-and-all

picture, not pretty, underlining the Sinophobia and merciless roles assigned to women. The Indie Next Pick: “Donoghue has a knack for that great alchemy of turning research — letters, family trees, and newspaper articles buried in archives — into fiction that lives and breathes on the page.” *PW* adds, “Donoghue’s first literary crime novel is a departure from her bestselling *Room*, but it’s just as dark and just as gripping as the latter. Based on the circumstances surrounding the grizzly real-life murder of Jenny Bonnet, a law-flouting, pants-wearing frog catcher who lived in San Francisco in the mid-1870s, this investigation into who pulled the trigger is told in episodic flashbacks from the point of view of Blanche Beunon. . . . Donoghue’s signature talent for setting tone and mood elevates the book from common cliffhanger. . . .” The US edition: [Frog Music](#) (LittleBrown \$27). . . .”

✎Entwistle, Vaughn. [The Revenant of Thraxton Hall](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Arthur Conan Doyle has just killed off Sherlock Holmes in “The Final Problem,” and he immediately becomes one of the most hated men in London. So when he is contacted by a medium “of some renown” and asked to investigate a murder, he jumps at the chance to get out of the city. The only thing is that the murder hasn’t happened yet—the medium, one Hope Thraxton, has foreseen that her death will occur at the third séance of a meeting of the Society for Psychical Research at her manor house in the English countryside. Along for the ride is Conan Doyle’s good friend Oscar Wilde, and together they work to narrow down the list of suspects, which includes a mysterious foreign Count, a levitating magician, and an irritable old woman with a “familiar.” Meanwhile, Conan Doyle is enchanted by the plight of the capricious Hope Thraxton, who may or may not have a more complicated story than first presented. This mash-up of Holmes and the paranormal doesn’t work for me, but little paranormal does.

Fiorato, Marina. [The Venetian Bargain](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Venice, 1576. Five years after the defeat of the Ottoman Empire at the Battle of Lepanto, a ship steals unnoticed into Venice bearing a deadly cargo. A man, more dead than alive, disembarks and staggers into Piazza San Marco. He brings a gift to Venice from Constantinople. Within days the city is infected with bubonic plague—and the Turkish Sultan has his revenge. But the ship also holds a secret stowaway—Feyra, a young and beautiful harem doctor fleeing a future as the Sultan’s concubine. Only her wits and medical knowledge keep her alive as the plague ravages Venice. In despair, the Doge commissions the architect Andrea Palladio to build the greatest church of his career—an offering to God so magnificent that Venice will be saved. But Palladio’s life is in danger too, and it will require all the skills of Annibale Cason, the city’s finest plague doctor, to keep him alive. What Annibale had not counted on was meeting Feyra, who is now under Palladio’s protection—an impossible woman whose medical skills and determination are matched only by his own.

Gale, Iain. [Keane’s Challenge Signed](#) (Heron \$45). The second Keane book is set in the Iberian Peninsula, 1809. French troops led by one of Napoleon’s best generals are massing on the border. Wellington’s outnumbered force and his unreliable Spanish allies need to pick off the smaller French units if they are to stand their ground. For that they need information: accurate intelligence on numbers, arms and whereabouts. That’s where Captain Keane and his company of reformed scouting officers are invaluable tools—despite being unpopular with the regular soldiers. But it soon becomes apparent that someone high up in Wellington’s

headquarters is a spy for the French. Only someone able to travel widely outside the camp, someone privy to battle plans, could be the double agent—and Keane’s enemies within the army are quick to point the finger. Keane must defend his crew against their accusers—or root out the traitor himself.

✎Graeme-Evans, Posie. [The Innocent](#) (Atria \$14 reissue). Starts a trilogy. It’s 1450 when a baby is born deep in the forest despite plots to kill mother and child. In 1465 Edward IV is on the throne and the baby, now a young woman, joins the household of a London merchant. Her unusual beauty and knowledge of healing herbs eventually brings her to the notice of the king. . . . This is fun and absorbing even though you know Edward IV was infamously unfaithful to all.

✎Gregory, Philippa. [The White Princess](#) (\$16). Gregory is a Tudor industry all by herself, ranging from *The Other Boleyn Girl* back to the Yorks (and earlier). Here she looks at Elizabeth of York, daughter of Edward IV, married to Henry Tudor to unify the White and the Red Roses at last. In Gregory’s version Elizabeth is still in love with her widowed uncle, Richard III, despite his death at the decisive battle at Bosworth. And missing her younger brothers who were sent somewhere by their mother, the White Queen. No surprise: one day a young man arrives claiming to be the lost York prince. He would lead an army and invade England, forcing Elizabeth to choose between the new husband she is coming to love and the boy who claims to be her beloved lost brother. Personally I find it unlikely that Elizabeth fell for Henry VII. But it would be fascinating if someday the fate of the two princes in the tower could be determined.

Gulland, Sandra. [The Shadow Queen](#) (Knopf \$25.95). Claudette’s life is like an ever-revolving stage set. From an impoverished childhood wandering the French countryside with her family’s acting troupe, Claudette finally witnesses her mother’s astonishing rise to stardom in Parisian theaters. Working with playwrights Corneille, Molière and Racine, Claudette’s life is culturally rich, but like all in the theatrical world at the time, she’s socially scorned. A series of chance encounters gradually pull Claudette into the alluring orbit of Athénaïs de Montespan, mistress to Louis XIV and reigning “Shadow Queen.” Needing someone to safeguard her secrets, Athénaïs offers to hire Claudette as her personal attendant. The mother of seven royal bastards, Mme de Montespan became ever more desperate to hold the monarch and moved from innocent love charms into Black Magic. It all ended in tears. . . . and a trial. The novel is told from Claudette’s point of view.

✎Hodgson, Antonia. [The Devil in the Marshalsea Signed](#) (Hodder \$41). A wonderfully convincing picture of the seamier side of eighteenth-century life. (The novel is a sort of Tom Jones Noir.) The narrative whips along. The picture of the Marshalsea is quite chilling. “Antonia Hodgson has a real feel for how people thought and spoke at the time. God knows, that’s a rare talent. I very much look forward to discovering what Tom Hawkins does next—I imagine it won’t be a career in holy orders. —Andrew Taylor. “Hodgson’s London of 1727 offers that rare achievement in historical fiction: a time and place suspensefully different from our own, yet real. *The Devil in the Marshalsea* reminds us at every turn that we ourselves may not have evolved far from its world of debtors and creditors, crime and generosity, appetite and pathos. A damn’d good read.”—Elizabeth Kostova. **Our April History Club Pick.**

✚Holsinger, Bruce. [A Burnable Book Signed](#) (Harper \$28). Like Ian Mortimer, below, Holsinger is a scholar of the medieval period. He translates his academic expertise into a thriller set in Chaucer's London, 1385. Richard II, young and new to the throne, is in mortal peril. Surrounded by ruthless courtiers including his uncle John of Gaunt and Gaunt's mistress Katherine Swynford, sister to Chaucer's wife, Richard's fate may rest upon supposed prophecies contained in an ancient book, a "burnable book" or seditious work. To find the manuscript, the wily Chaucer, a government man, turns to fellow poet John Gower who has connections high and low. Gower discovers the book has fallen into hands too innocent to realize they will be drawn into a complex conspiracy. While I have always felt it would have been easier if Richard II had died, preferably naturally so as not to touch off the Wars of the Roses in the coming century, he didn't. So you know the conspiracy will not kill the king, but what other damage will it do? From bookbinding and poetry to court intrigues and the intricate structures of medieval London, Holsinger brings an era to life. Enjoy. This was a contender with Hodgson's debut for our April History Pick but we couldn't get enough Signed firsts.

Iggulden, Conn. [The Blood of Gods](#) (\$16). Book 5 in the Emperor Series. Rome's great hero Julius Caesar has been brutally murdered by his most trusted allies. While these self-appointed Liberators seek refuge in the senate, they have underestimated one man: Caesar's adopted son Octavian. Uniting with his great rival Mark Antony, Octavian, soon known as Augustus, will stop at nothing to seek retribution from the traitors and avenge his father's death. His greatest hatred is reserved for Brutus, Caesar's childhood friend and greatest ally, now leader of the conspirators. As the people take to the streets of Rome, the Liberators must face their fate. Some flee the city; others will not escape mob justice. Not a single one will die a natural death. And the reckoning will come for Brutus on the sweeping battlefield at Philippi.

McPherson, Catriona. [Dandy Gilver and a Deadly Measure of Brimstone](#) (\$15.99). 8<sup>th</sup> in this 1920s series from the UK. Perthshire 1929 and the menfolk of the Gilver family have come down, between them, with influenza, bronchitis, pneumonia and pleurisy. Dandy the devoted wife and mother decides it is time to decamp; Dandy the intrepid detective, however, decides to decamp to the scene of a murder she would dearly love to solve. The family repairs to the Borders town of Moffat, there to drink the sulphurous waters straight from the well and to submit to the galvanic wraps and cold salt rubs of the splendid Laidlaw Hydropathic Hotel. But all is not well at the Hydro. The Laidlaw family is at war, the guests are an uneasy mix of old faithfuls and giddy upstarts, and the secret of the lady who arrived but never left cannot be kept for long. And what of those drifting shapes in the Turkish bath? Just steam shifting in the air? Probably. But the Hydro was built in the lee of a Gallow Hill, and in this town the dead can be as much trouble as the living....

✚Morris, R N. [The Dark Palace](#) (Severn \$28.95). "In Morris's stellar third pre-WWI historical (after 2013's *The Mannequin House*), Silas Quinn has managed to regain command of Scotland Yard's Special Crimes Department, just in time to tackle his most bizarre case yet. Someone has broken into the morgue to remove the eyes of a victim from an earlier case. Baron Dunwich, a senior Admiralty official with a rampant libido, receives a

package containing a cue ball painted to look like an eyeball. And a shocking new film by an Austrian director centers on a killer who takes his prey's eyes as trophies. Quinn must sort all this out while struggling with his inner demons, as well as with the puzzle of his father's suicide. Meanwhile, Quinn with his small squad has to keep watch for any suspicious activities among German nationals in London. Ruth Rendell fans open to stories set a century ago will be well satisfied."—*PW* Starred Review. Ordered upon request.

✚Mortimer, Ian. [The Time Traveler's Guide to Elizabethan England](#) (\$17). Fascinating and absorbing, a book to dip into or read at a gulp. I loved it, as I did an earlier volume, Mortimer's [The Time Traveler's Guide to Medieval England](#) (\$16.99): A Handbook for Visitors to the Fourteenth Century—which title gives you a clue as to the delightful tone of this thoroughly researched book of social history put into a kind of Fodor's framework. Britain's Dr. Mortimer writes Elizabethan mysteries as James Forrester: [click here](#) to order.

Peters, Ralph. [Hell or Richmond](#) (\$15.99). Between May 5 and June 3, 1864, the Union and Confederate armies suffered 88,000 casualties. Twenty-nine thousand were killed, wounded or captured in the first two days of combat. The savagery shocked a young, divided nation. Peters' harrowing account begins and ends in the ocean of blood spilled between the Rappahannock and Cold Harbor. He writes with a fine balance of historical accuracy and drama, turning in telling portraits not just of the generals, but also of the privates from German farms and backwoods Appalachian huts who met and died on those Virginia battlefields. Grant, not shy of sacrificing men, was determined to hold the Union.

Pope, Barbara Corrado. [The Missing Italian Girl](#) (\$14.95). On a sultry night in June 1897, Pyotr Ivanovich Balenov, a young Russian, and two young women transport a dead man through the narrow streets of a working class neighborhood in Paris. They throw the body into the canal and the girls flee to the Latin Quarter to hide with one of Pyotr's anarchist "comrades." They do not realize that they, too, are being watched. Their subsequent disappearance and the violent acts that follow will set Claire Martin, a teacher and mother of a toddler, and her husband, magistrate Bernard Martin (last seen in *Cezanne's Quarry* and *The Blood of Lorraine*) on a dangerous quest to rescue them from a vicious killer in *fin-de-siècle* Paris.

Scarrow, Simon. [Gladiator: A Roman Legend Novel](#) (\$16.95). As Macro and Cato are returning to Rome from a harrowing campaign against the Parthians, their transport ship is almost capsized by a freak tidal wave. After barely making it to the port of Matala in Crete, they are stunned to find a devastated town. An earthquake has struck the island, destroying its cities and killing thousands. In the chaotic aftermath, large bands of the island's slaves begin to revolt and local bandits, taking advantage of the slave rebellion, urge the Cretans to overthrow the Roman administration. With many of the island's troops either killed or wounded, the governor of the province calls on Macro and Cato for help. Can they move swiftly enough to counter the rebellion?

✚Swanston, Andrew. [The King's Return Signed](#) (Transworld \$39). Spring 1661. After years of civil war followed by Oliver Cromwell's joyless rule as Lord Protector, England awaits the coronation of King Charles II. The mood in London is one of

relief and hope for a better future. But when two respectable gentlemen are found in a foul lane with their throats cut, it becomes apparent that England's enemies are using the newly re-established post office for their own ends. There are traitors at work and plans to overthrow the king. Another war is possible. Thomas Hill, in London visiting friends, is approached by the king's security advisor and asked to take charge of deciphering coded letters intercepted by the post office. As the body count rises and the killer starts preying on women, the action draws closer to Thomas—and his loved ones. He finds himself dragged into the hunt for the traitors and the murderer, but will he find them before it's too late?

Tuchman, Barbara. [The Proud Tower](#) (\$18 reissue). A portrait of the world before the war, 1890-1914.

Van Laerhoven, Bob. [Baudelaire's Revenge](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). Fascinating but gruesome, and frank about sexual mores of 1870s Parisians and prostitution on levels high and low. Social and political turbulence as Napoleon III engages in war with the Prussians is met both with despair and hard times and with, on the part of the rich, orgies and séances. Police Commissioner Paul Lefèvre, enthralled by a mysterious prostitute, stumbles upon a murder victim in a brothel. Written on a piece of paper near the body are verses from *Les Fleurs du Mal* by disturbed poet Charles Baudelaire, who died in 1867. As new corpses appear, Lefèvre and his assistant realize that all the victims once opposed Baudelaire in some way—and that the menacing stanzas accompanying each body are in the poet's own handwriting. Is an ardent supporter taking revenge, or is Baudelaire's ghost afoot? Clues offered through the journals of someone who claims a twisted bond with the poet help steer an intense investigation. Flemish writer Van Laerhoven won the 2007 Hercule Poirot Prize for this unusual book that is not for the faint-hearted but offers an intense reading experience. And makes one reflect on the blessings of today's medical arts that can transform a life.