

# BOOKNEWS from

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## Another Awesome August... Part 1

### AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

#### SUNDAY AUGUST 3 2:00 PM Military SciFi

**Weston Ochse** signs [Grunt Life](#) (Solaris \$7.99) A Task Force Ombra Novel

#### MONDAY AUGUST 4 7:00 PM Cochise Country Crime

**JA Jance** signs [The Remains of Innocence](#) (Morrow \$26.99)  
Joanna Brady

**Jance also appears with us at 3:00PM Tuesday August 5** at the Tempe Library, 3500 S. Rural Road Tempe, AZ 85282

#### TUESDAY AUGUST 5 7:00 PM Publication Day Party

**Spencer Quinn** signs [Paw and Order](#) (Atria \$25) Chet the Dog and Bernie Little, PI, do DC

#### WEDNESDAY AUGUST 6 7:00 PM Adventure!

**Douglas Preston** signs [Lost Island](#) (Grand Central \$27) Gideon Crew #3, a cross between Clive Cussler and Michael Crichton.  
**Signed also by Lincoln Child who joins us via Skype**

#### THURSDAY AUGUST 7 7:00 PM Suspense!

**Linwood Barclay** signs [No Safe House](#) (NAL \$25.95 Aug. 7). Think Harlan Coben here, or Gillian Flynn—domestic suspense

#### FRIDAY AUGUST 8 7:00 PM Bibliomystery

**Mark Pryor** signs [Blood Promise](#) (Seventh Street Books \$14.95) Parisian Bookseller Hugo Marston #3

#### SATURDAY AUGUST 9 10:30AM

**Coffee and Crime** discusses Elizabeth Craig's [Quilt Trip](#) (Signet \$7.99)

#### SATURDAY AUGUST 9 2:00 PM A Royal Tea Party

**Rhys Bowen** signs [Queen of Hearts](#) (Berkley \$25.95). Her Royal Spyness #8

#### TUESDAY AUGUST 12 7:00 PM All Souls Trilogy #3

**Deborah Harkness** signs [The Book of Life](#) (Viking \$28.95) All Souls Trilogy #3

**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 13 7:00 PM 10<sup>th</sup> Sigma Force Party**  
**James Rollins** signs [The 6<sup>th</sup> Extinction](#) (Morrow \$27.95)

#### THURSDAY AUGUST 14 7:00 PM

**Robert K. Tanenbaum** signs [Fatal Conceit](#) (Free Press \$26)  
Butch Karp

#### TUESDAY AUGUST 19 7:00 PM Taiwan Thriller

**Ed Lin** signs [Ghost Month](#) (Soho \$26.95) Starts a series with Jing-nan

#### WEDNESDAY AUGUST 20 7:00 PM Edgy Suspense

**Emily Arsenault** signs [What Strange Creatures](#) (Harper \$14.99)  
**Elizabeth Little** signs [Dear Daughter](#) (Viking \$26.95) First Mystery Pick

#### THURSDAY AUGUST 21 7:00 PM Southwestern Duo

**Susan Slater** signs [Rollover](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) August Surprise Me Pick—a caper!  
**Reavis Wortham** signs [Vengeance Is Mine](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) Red River Noir #4

#### TUESDAY AUGUST 26 7:00 PM

**Chelsea Cain** signs [One Kick](#) (SimonSchuster \$25.99). Debuts Kick Lannigan

#### WEDNESDAY AUGUST 27

**Margaret Coel** signs [Night of the White Buffalo](#) (Berkley \$26.95) Wind River Reservation (Wyoming) #18.  
**William Kent Krueger** signs [Windigo Island](#) (Atria \$24.99) Cork O'Connor #14

#### THURSDAY AUGUST 28 7:00 PM

**Hardboiled Crime** discusses Jack Black's [You Can't Win](#) (Feral \$17.95)

#### MONDAY SEPTEMBER 1 5:00 PM

**Louise Penny** signs [The Long Way Home](#) (St Martins \$27.99) Armand Gamache #11

## AWARDS UPDATE

### 2014 ANTHONY AWARDS NOMINEES

#### *Best Novel:*

Robert Crais, [Suspect](#) (\$15)  
Sara J. Henry, [A Cold and Lonely Place](#) (\$15)  
William Kent Krueger, [Ordinary Grace](#) (\$16)  
Hank Phillippi Ryan, [Wrong Girl](#) (\$7.99)  
Julia Spencer-Fleming, [Through the Evil Days Signed](#) (\$25.99)

#### *Best First Novel:*

Matt Coyle, [Yesterday's Echo](#) (\$14.99)  
Roger Hobbs, [Ghostman](#) (\$14.95)  
Becky Masterman, [Rage Against the Dying](#) (\$15.99)  
Kimberly McCreight, [Reconstructing Amelia](#) (\$15.99)  
Todd Robinson, [The Hard Bounce](#) (\$25.99)

#### *Best Paperback Original Novel:*

Chris F. Holm, [The Big Reap](#) (\$7.99)  
Darrell James, [Purgatory Key](#) (\$14.99)  
Stephen King, [Joyland](#) (\$7.99)  
Alex Marwood, [The Wicked Girls](#) (\$16)  
Catriona McPherson, [As She Left It](#) (\$14.99)

### 2014 CWA DAGGER NOMINEES

#### *The Gold Dagger:*

Simon Beckett, *Stone Bruises*  
Wiley Cash, [This Dark Road to Mercy Signed](#) (\$28)  
Paula Daly, [Keep Your Friends Close](#) (\$25 Sept.)  
Paul Mendelson, *First Rule of Survival*  
Louise Penny, [How the Light Gets In](#) (\$15.99)  
Mark Roberts, *What She Saw*  
Gerald Seymour, *The Corporal's Wife*  
Nick Stone, [The Verdict Signed](#) (\$40)

#### *The Ian Fleming Steel Dagger:*

Lee Child, [Never Go Back](#) (\$9.99)  
Louise Doughty, [Apple Tree Yard](#) \$26)  
Will Ferguson, [419](#) \$16)  
Robert Harris, [An Officer and a Spy](#) (\$27.95)  
Terry Hayes, [I Am Pilgrim Signed](#) (\$26.99)  
Jonathan Holt, [The Abduction Signed](#) (\$32)  
Greg Iles, [Natchez Burning Signed](#) (\$27.99)  
Gerald Seymour, *The Corporal's Wife*  
*The John Creasey (New Blood) Dagger:*  
Adam Brookes, [Night Heron Signed](#) (\$28)  
MJ Carter, *The Strangler Vine*  
Ray Celestin, *The Axeman's Jazz*  
Terry Hayes, [I Am Pilgrim Signed](#) (\$26.99)  
ASA Harrison, [The Silent Wife](#) (\$16)  
Antonia Hodgson, [The Devil in the Marshalsea Signed](#) (\$42; \$15.99)  
Adam Sternbergh, [Shovel Ready](#) (\$24)  
Christopher J Yates, *Black Chalk*

### 2014 NERO WOLFE AWARD NOMINEES

Max Allan Collins, [Ask Not](#) (\$9.99 Oct.)  
Archer Mayor, [Three Can Keep a Secret Signed](#) (\$28; \$15.99 Sept.)  
David Morrell, [Murder as a Fine Art](#) (\$16)  
Kieran Shields, [A Study in Revenge](#) (\$15)  
Charles Todd, [A Question of Honor](#) (\$14.99)

### 2014 SHAMUS AWARD NOMINEES

#### *Best Hardcover P.I. Novel:*

Tim Hallinan, [Little Elvises](#) (\$14.95), Junior Bender  
Richard Helms, *The Mojito Coast*, Cormac Loame  
Sue Grafton, [W Is for Wasted](#) (\$7.99), Kinsey Millhone  
Brad Parks, *The Good Cop*, Carter Ross  
Bill Pronzini, [Nemesis Signed](#) (\$28), Nameless Detective

#### *Best First P.I. Novel:*

Christopher R. Cox, *A Good Death*, Sebastian Damon  
Gwen Florio, [Montana](#) (\$27.99), Lola Wicks  
Karen Keskinen, [Blood Orange](#) (\$24.99), Jaymie Zarlín  
Lachlan Smith, [Bear Is Broken](#) (\$15), Maxwell  
Ingrid Thoft, [Loyalty](#) (\$9.99), Fina Ludlow

#### *Best Original Paperback P.I. Novel:*

Max Allan Collins, [Seduction of the Innocent](#) (\$9.95), Jack Starr  
Alison Gaylin, [Into the Dark](#) (\$7.99), Brenna Spector  
Darrell James, [Purgatory Key](#) (\$14.99), Del Shannon  
PJ Parrish, [Heart of Ice](#) (\$7.99), Louis Kincaid

### 2014 THRILLER AWARD WINNERS

#### *Best Novel*

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

#### *Best First Novel*

Jason Matthews, [Red Sparrow](#) (\$9.99)

#### *Best Paperback Original*

Jennifer McMahon, [The One I Left Behind](#) (\$14.99)

#### *Best Short Story*

Twist Phelan, "Footprints in the Water" in *EQMM* July 2013)

#### *Best E-Book Original*

Rebecca Cantrell, [The World Beneath](#) (\$14.99)

⌘ = British      PW=Publishers Weekly      LJ=Library Journal

### EVENT BOOKS

Arsenault, Emily. [What Strange Creatures](#) (Harper \$14.99 PBO). The Battle siblings are used to disappointment. Seven years after starting her PhD program—one marriage, one divorce, three cats and a dog later—Theresa Battle still hasn't finished her dissertation. Instead of a degree, she's got a houseful of adoring pets and a dead-end copywriting job for a local candle company. And then... *The NY Times* reviews: "Emily Arsenault's mysteries are so much fun you hardly notice they're essentially academic novels. Theresa Battle, the neurotic narrator, has been a Ph.D. candidate for so long that the new department chairwoman issues a deadline for her dissertation on Margery Kempe. Theresa is the first to admit that this medieval mystic "was absolutely an eccentric and almost certainly a nut job," but the bond between scholar and subject is one of the joys of this quirky book. Another is Theresa's affectionate relationship with her sweet but peculiar brother, Jeff, who talks her into boarding his girlfriend Kim's dog while she's out of town. Things get more complicated (and less believable) when Kim goes missing and Jeff is charged with her murder. But the salient point is that Kim's dog gets along beautifully with Theresa's three cats and her dog, Boober (named

after the theologian Martin Buber), and that Theresa finds a boyfriend who shares her fascination with Margery Kempe.”

Barclay, Linwood. [No Safe House](#) (NAL \$25.95 Aug. 7). Seven years after barely surviving the terrors of 2007’s [No Time for Goodbye](#) (\$7.99), the Archer family of Milford, Conn., once again tempts fate in this darkly comic if decidedly creepy thriller from Arthur Ellis Award winner Barclay. History seems to be repeating itself as mom Cynthia fights to set limits on 14-year-old Grace, who defies her—much as the rebellious 14-year-old Cynthia herself did the night she got drunk with local hood Vince Fleming and her parents and brother disappeared. But Grace’s latest lapse in judgment—agreeing to joyride with pistol-packing bad boy Stuart Koch, whose father assists the now-grown Vince—plunges the entire clan into a deadly perfect storm of greed, violence, dog walkers, and ruthless rival crooks at cross-purposes. The twisty, craftily-plotted action accelerates along with the body count, providing plenty of suspense and a surprising number of laughs...”—*PW*. I quote this because I didn’t get an advance reading copy. Watch the Enews for updated comments.

Bowen, Rhys. [Queen of Hearts](#) (Berkley \$25.95 Aug. 9). Her Royal Spyness, Lady Georgiana Rannoch, cousin to King George V, is stuck in well-fed isolation at the Eynsford stately home with a trio of elderly ladies after [Heirs and Graces](#) (\$7.99) concludes, when her mother drives up in a sporty motorcar. Mum, a bolter, is off to Reno to divorce that Texan so she can marry her rich German lover Max, and she wants Georgie to make the trip with her. Which means her untrained maid Queenie will go too. With mum nothing goes as planned, and before long a new man and a side trip to Hollywood, maybe into the movies, materializes. As does Darcy, the man Georgie would marry if only either of them had any fortune. Darcy may be investigating a suspected jewel thief, so things may look up....

Cain, Chelsea. [One Kick](#) (SimonSchuster \$25.99 Aug. 26). Cain shifts publishers and into the start of a series with a truly edgy character. The Stockholm Syndrome is at work, and at moments one can see Uma Thurman in *Kill Bill*. From which you will gather that Kick Lannigan was kidnapped as a child, forced to live on the run and to make movies for pedophiles, and was famously missing for five years until rescued. The rescue led to the suicide of her “mother,” the imprisonment of her “father”—but alas not to the prosecution of the ring he supplied because Kick herself initiated the auto nuke that erased all his computer files. There lies the endless guilt. Grown now, she has an unusual skill set (like Thurman), she’s in therapy, she’s rescued one James whom she calls her brother, she loves her dog Monster, and her conscience provokes her into agreeing to work with a guy called John Bishop to recover two Portland children who’ve gone missing.... Theirs is partly a partnership, and partly war....

Coel, Margaret. [Night of the White Buffalo](#) (Berkley \$26.95 Aug. 27). Both Coel and Krueger who appear together display Tony Hillerman’s respect for Indians and their culture. For Coel it’s the Arapaho legend of the white buffalo, a rare calf whose arrival brings on floods of pilgrims. But the rancher, Dennis Carey, has been shot dead in his truck along Blue Sky Highway, exposing the news of the sacred calf to a wider audience, which complicates the investigation. Father John of the Jesuit mission had earlier been puzzled by a large and mysterious penitent at the confessional who confessed to murder and fled. And Vicki

Holden is caught up in her law practice and a growing rift with her law partner and lover, Adam. Coel weaves all of this plus the life of the modern cowboy into her 18<sup>th</sup> Wind River Mystery. To order the first 17, please [click here](#).

Harkness, Deborah. [The Book of Life](#) (Viking \$28.95 Aug. 12). Harkness deepens her themes of power and forbidden relationships. In ancestral homes and university laboratories, using ancient knowledge and modern science, from the hills of the Auvergne to the palaces of Venice, the couple at last learns what the witches discovered so many centuries ago. Here’s the August Indie Next Pick: “It’s finally here, the book all Harkness’ fans have been waiting for! Matthew and Diana have returned to the future and things have changed, as have they. Surprising twists and turns make this a delightful conclusion to the All Souls trilogy. While Harkness ties up loose ends, her complex characters leave enough room for her to return to this world should she wish to. With history, genetics, and morality all playing out, this is the very best in escapist fantasy for all readers!” [Click here](#) to order the first two volumes in the trilogy, *The Discovery of Witches* and *Shadow of Night*.

Jance, JA. [The Remains of Innocence](#) (Harper \$26.99 Aug. 4). Can this really be Brady #16? Seems like only the other day that I first met the widowed Joanna Brady who became Sheriff of Cochise County, Arizona. Much has happened to and with her since: a new family, navigating politics and relationships, investigating tough cases. This time she is faced with two that puzzle. One originates when an elderly woman dies in Great Barrington, Mass., leaving a hoard of cash. Where did it come from? And why has her estranged daughter Liza become someone’s target? Then there’s the death of a developmentally disabled man in his sixties, found in a cavern near Bisbee (creating a need for jurisdictional cooperation). Did he have anything to do with the injured kitten found with him or the remains of mutilated pets? Is he like them a victim, or...? Then a shocking murder rocks Brady’s department.... Here is a strong story showcasing wonderful views of Arizona.

Krueger, William Kent. [Windigo Island](#) (Atria \$24.99 Aug. 27). Readers of this long-running series know that Tamarack County’s Cork O’Connor has Anishinaabe blood, as do his children, plus a special relationship with *mide* Henry Meloux who lives at the end of Crow Point, no longer alone but with his great-niece Rainy Bisonette who has become Cork’s lover. No longer sheriff, Cork does private work. And he can’t refuse Henry when the old man asks Cork to investigate the death of Carrie Verga, a Bad Bluff Chippewa from Bayfield, Wisconsin who’s been found dead in Lake Superior near the rez. As shown in one of Cork’s earlier cases [Red Knife](#) (\$15), the Minnesota reservations can be bleak offering little to Indian youth. But what forces are at work here? His daughter Jenny joins him in working the case. Krueger increasingly portrays the ways that crimes and their investigation affects those who work them as well as those who commit them, or are victims.

Lin, Ed. [Ghost Month](#) (Soho \$26.95 August 19). August is Ghost Month in Taiwan, a time to commemorate the dead: burn incense, visit shrines, honor ancestors, and avoid unlucky situations, large purchases, and bodies of water. Jing-nan, a young man who runs a food stand in a bustling Taipei night market, doesn’t consider himself superstitious, but this August is going to haunt him no

matter what he does. He is shocked to the core when he learns his ex-girlfriend from high school has been murdered. And that class valedictorian Julia had dropped out of university in America and was working in a bikini selling betel nuts to passing truckers. Seriously? These women are generally viewed as prostitutes. Guilt-ridden by his abandonment both of his own American dream and of Julia, Jing-nan visits her parents and accepts a mission to discover what happened to Julia? But nothing can prepare him for what he learns, or how it will change his life. This series start is more an exploration than a thriller and gets huge points for its depiction of place and culture which you can view by [clicking on](#) this video trailer for the book. Come and learn about Taiwan.

Little, Elizabeth. [Dear Daughter](#) (Viking \$26.95 Aug. 20). A First Mystery Club Pick. Both Kate Atkinson and Tana French give it raves. It incorporates materials in the way that Minette Walters used to do. The narrator is a socialite who did ten years for the murder of her even more glamorous and impossible mother and was then released thanks to tainted lab work at the LA County Crime Lab. She's thrilled to be free—but she still doesn't know if she killed her mother. So devising various disguises to avoid celebrity seekers and all manner of media, Janie Jenkins, once an "It" girl, makes her way to an isolated South Dakota town. Enlisting the help of some new friends (and the town's wary police chief), Janie follows a series of clues—an old photograph, an abandoned house, a forgotten diary—and begins to piece together her mother's seemingly improbable past, hoping to learn whether or not she, Janie, committed matricide. Janie, like Kick in Chelsea Cain's book above, has a slicing wit, unusual and dangerous skills, leaps into risk, and has a life forever warped by her past.

Ochse, Weston. [Grunt Life](#) (Solaris \$7.99 Aug. 3). Pat King, your host for Ochse, finds this "an incredibly strong start to the new Task Force Ombra series. Benjamin Carter Mason as just come back to the States after several tours from Iraq and Afghanistan; broken and suffering from PTSD, Mason is ready to give it all up and jump from the Golden Gate Bridge. Before jumping, he's approached by an American Agent for Task Force Ombra, a secret branch of the American Government, and given an ultimatum: he can either die now, or he can die saving the world. Mason chooses the latter and discovers that Earth has been infiltrated by a deadly Alien Race know as the Cray. Mason is swept into training and then into the front lines working hard to keep him and his crew alive. Ochse's love of Military Science Fiction is apparent—it's filled with weaponry (both modern and futuristic), modern tactics and a non-stop action. Exciting, surprising, emotional, and a lot of fun to read, perfect for summer."

Penny, Louise. [The Long Way Home](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Armand Gamache has retired from the Sûreté du Québec and is living leisurely and happily in Three Pines. Then villager Clara appears to say that her husband Peter, once the more famous artist of the two, has failed to return as promised on the first anniversary of their separation. She requests the former Chief Inspector for help. Reluctant to leave his new nest, he agrees and together with his former second-in-command, Jean-Guy Beauvoir, and Myrna Landers, begins a journey deep into the province towards the mouth of the St. Lawrence in search of Peter Morrow. I haven't yet read this but it's my view that Peter

merited more kindness than criticism when his life was turned upside down, even if he had become used to fame. I say that having seen over 25 years that many personalities weather failure better than fame which can become as addictive as drugs and can require rehabilitation. I will be interested to read this 11<sup>th</sup> Gamache and see what Peter's story becomes.

Preston, Douglas/Lincoln Child. [Lost Island](#) (Grand Central \$27 Aug. 6). Gideon Crew—brilliant scientist, master thief—is living on borrowed time thanks to a blood vessel malformation in his brain. When his mysterious employer, Eli Glinn, sets him a nearly impossible new mission, well... The task is to steal Ireland's great treasure, the Book of Kells, currently on display in the East Room of Manhattan's Morgan library guarded by the best security imaginable. It's a challenge Gideon may fail. But no, he has an ingenious solution. But wait! The mission is not to steal the whole book, but a single sheet of vellum on which is a greater treasure. And this sends Gideon on a daring mission into the Caribbean where technology may not best armaments nor weather nor the surprising remains of... I tell you, this is huge fun, Cussler meets Crichton. The perfect end of summer read. Catch up with Gideon with [Gideon's Sword](#) and [Gideon's Corpse](#) (\$8 each). The authors sign a new Agent Pendergast, [Blue Labyrinth](#) (Grand Central \$27), for you on November 11, publication day.

Pryor, Mark. [The Blood Promise](#) (Seventh Street Books \$14.95 Aug. 8). The third investigation for Parisian Hugo Marston is a gem! Although Marston is a modern-day bookseller, this case begins in post-Revolution Paris when an old man signs a letter in blood, then hides it in a secret compartment in a sailor's chest. A messenger arrives to transport the chest and its hidden contents, but then the plague strikes and an untimely death changes history. Two hundred years later, Hugo Marston is safeguarding an unpredictable but popular senator who is in Paris negotiating a France/U.S. dispute. The talks, held at a country chateau, collapse when the senator accuses someone of breaking into his room. Theft becomes the least of Hugo's concerns when someone discovers that sailor's chest and the secrets hidden within, and decides that the power and money they promise are worth killing for. The history here intrigues but where Pryor excels is the modern politics while showing that the more things change, the more they remain the same, which is a classic French proverb. I'm a big fan of this series and recommend you begin with [The Bookseller](#) and then [The Crypt Thief](#) (\$14.95 each)—the latter having fun with Père Lachaise Cemetery and the grave of Jim Morrison plus a grave robber who's removed remains of a dancer at the Moulin Rouge. For fans of bibliomysteries and of novels that combine something of politics and terror with local history and atmosphere like Martin Walker's Bruno, Chief of Police, gems.

Quinn, Spencer. [Paw and Order](#) (Atria \$25 Aug. 5 Publication Day). Chet the Dog and Bernie Little, PI, mop up their New Orleans case and head to DC where Suzie Sanchez, Bernie's main squeeze, has taken a new job as a reporter. It's a long way from the Valley of the Sun here in Arizona, but politicians and the power hungry are just the same on a national level as on the state, and Suzie is thus working on a big story she won't discuss. Then her source, a mysterious Brit, runs into dire trouble and Bernie suddenly finds himself under arrest. Chet has meanwhile gotten to know a DC powerhouse. Soon he and Bernie are sucked

into an international conspiracy... The joy of Chet, the voice of this series, is that he's a dog, thinks like one, has attention deficits like one, often losing the thread, but is unwaveringly loyal. Quinn does a masterful job but then I always loved his Peter Abrahams books and their astonishing plots. [Click here](#) to order all the Quinns.

Rollins, James. [The 6<sup>th</sup> Extinction](#) (Morrow \$27.95 Aug. 13). We start visiting the voyage of *HMS Beagle* in 1832, then skip to present-day Mono Lake, California, site of a DARPA research facility and home, thanks to its ancient and inhospitable environment, to extremophiles. From which a distress signal goes out and a chilling command, "Kill us all!" is heard. When personnel from the nearby military base rush in, everyone at the lab is already dead—not just the scientists, but every living thing for fifty square miles is annihilated: every animal, plant, and insect, even bacteria. The land is entirely sterile and blight is spreading. What has been let loose? And what is the fate of the lab director, Dr. Kendall Hess? And of California State Park Ranger Jenna Beck and her Siberian husky (of two eye colors), Nikko? It's a situation for Sigma Force, commanded by Gray Pierce. And sets up another terrific thriller from Rollins (where again, you gotta love the dog as well as the team players). Science, geography, romance, enrich the thrills. Congratulations to Rollins on publishing his 10<sup>th</sup> for Sigma Force.

Note: We still have Signed firsts of Rollins' marvelous May series start, [The Kill Switch](#) (Morrow \$27.99), that come with a special set of dog tags for its K-9 hero, another dog you can't resist, a former military dog. Plus the Russian scenes have gained new meaning with recent global news.

Slater, Susan. [Rollover](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Aug. 21). How I love a caper. Fast paced, full of razzle dazzle, they're such fun. *Rollover* finds Chicago-based insurance investigator Dan Mahoney still in New Mexico and still courting Elaine Linden. His employer sends him to another small town to check into an off-kilter bank-robbery and a missing Tiffany-designed necklace created in the days of the *Titanic* (insured by United Life & Casualty, Dan's employer). There quickly follows an apparently staged accident that kills an ancient driver and nearly does for Dan, who accepted a ride to the robbery scene in Wagon Mound, New Mexico, when his rented Jeep overheats on the road out from Santa Fe. Questions arise. Who wants Dan kept away from Wagon Mound so urgently that a rollover accident is staged? Why did the bank robbers tunnel into the safe deposit room instead of into the vault next door which was flush with two million bucks for a ranch sale? Was the sapphire-and-diamond necklace in the Kennedy family deposit box at the time of the robbery? And soon, who hanged the bank's manager from a chandelier in the bank? Dan and Elaine's debut in *Flash Flood* which I love will be back in print for her signing; I can't link to it yet. Also: *Rollover* (\$14.95).

Tanenbaum, Robert. [Fatal Conceit](#) (Free Press \$26 Aug. 14). Manhattan's DA Butch Karp doesn't usually interrupt his morning to attend a hotel-room suicide. But the identity of the victim, a general and Director of the CIA preparing to testify about a cover-up (think Benghazi, although this is Chechnya and in fact, one could imagine this happening in Russia over Malaysia Flight 17), warrants his presence. Karp's gut quickly tells him San Allen met with foul play. So if someone wanted to

silence the aggressive Allen before he could expose a cover-up, what should Karp do? One line might be to find the Chechnyan rebels who witnessed the attack. Another is to delve into the city's underworld for the assassin. All this is well and good, but the heart of this book is a terrific trial! I love courtroom drama and here it is in spades. Tanenbaum, who never lost a felony case, doesn't lose this fictional one either.

Wortham, Reavis Z. [Vengeance is Mine](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Aug. 21) Red River Mystery #4. *The Godfather* meets James Lee Burke in a small Texas town...It's 1967, the Summer of Love, when a man on the lam—with a hot blonde—could hide somewhere like Center Springs. No GPS, no cell phones, no credit cards...no digital footprints. So is it bad luck, or fate, that a Vegas hit man and his bombshell could turn Center Springs into a combat zone when a squad of gangsters arrives? Oddly they aren't dispatched after him by his former crime boss—they're after something, and someone, else. A sheriff crooked as a dog's hind leg, an unsolved murder in the river bottoms, counterfeit money and a bank robbery all wrapped in a country Shakespearian comedy once again brings together Constable Ned Parker, Constable Cody Parker, Deputy John Washington, Judge O.C. Rains, and the rest of Wortham's real and sometimes wacky cast of characters. *Booklist*, featuring it, writes, "Those who have read the author's earlier books, including *The Right Side of Wrong* (2013), will be familiar with Center Springs and its rather unusual denizens, but knowledge of those earlier volumes is not required. This is a fully self-contained story, and it's a real corker." And then compares it to work by Donald E. Westlake. Trade paperback (\$14.95). To order the earlier Worthams, [click here](#).

## TRAVEL AND ADVENTURE BOOKS

Bertozzi, Nick. [Shackleton: Antarctic Odyssey](#) (\$16.99). A brilliant graphic-novel biography of Ernest Shackleton and his third voyage to the Antarctic. Bertozzi begins with Shackleton's obsession with reaching the South Pole, as he attempts to raise money for his third expedition to the Antarctic. Shackleton interviews Frank Worsley to serve as his captain, then Bertozzi cuts to the full roster of crew plus "*The Endurance* and its lifeboats." The author-artist uses humor to lighten the mood of this challenging voyage, for which the men's lives are often at risk. For instance, Split Lip the dog's escape from the kennel occasions a cutaway view of the *Endurance's* interior, as Split Lip runs from one end of the ship to the other. But Bertozzi lays out the perils of their journey: winter's onset, killer whales, strong currents, potentially fatal icebergs. And he conveys Shackleton's love for this land of extremes—its all or nothing sunshine plus vast expanses of snow and ice. Through it all, Shackleton stays calm and collected, a smart leader who draws upon his crew's expertise to keep the team alive. Black-and-white and gray-scale panel illustrations toggle between vertical and horizontal narrow strips, as well as more traditional panel sequences. Maps and well-labeled dates and times show the expedition's progress.

Bonnett, Alastair. [Unruly Places: Lost Spaces, Secret](#) (Houghton \$25). Social-geography professor Alastair Bonnett turns our explored, explained, and digested world into unmapped possibilities. Bonnett opens the book with a promise to take readers to 47 of the world's most remarkable places, highlighting destinations both unusual and little-known, while examining

what drives people to travel. From the remains of places that no longer exist, to islands charted on maps (though they never actually existed), to fashionably and consciously constructed destinations of our present, Bonnett has organized the book in a way that mimics human exploration. *Unruly Places* is best enjoyed read front to back, but true to the spirit of exploration, you can dive in at any point. For those who engage linearly, Bonnett develops a chronological story of exploration and colonization up to the present day, tying one destination to the next with unifying themes (loss, death and independence, to name a few).

Morais, Richard C. [The Hundred-Foot Journey](#) (\$15). Now a major motion picture starring Helen Mirren and Om Puri, produced by Juliet Blake, Oprah Winfrey, and Steven Spielberg: the culinary fairytale—hailed as “Slumdog Millionaire meets Ratatouille” by *The New York Times Book Review*—about a young Indian boy who becomes a three-star chef in Paris. In theaters August 8, 2014.

Rosenfelt, David. [Dogtripping: 25 Rescues, 11 Volunteers, and 3 RVs on Our Canine Cross-Country Adventure](#) (\$15.95). After 20 years as a marketing executive in the movie business, Rosenfelt lived a quiet, pet-free life in Southern California writing mystery novels like [Hounded Signed](#) (\$28), the latest for Andy Carpenter. Then he met Debbie, his future wife, who came with a golden retriever that died of cancer two years later. In an attempt to honor the loss of their beloved dog, the couple began volunteering at a local animal shelter and eventually established the Tara Foundation, a rescue organization named after the retriever. When Debbie retired, she and David decided they were ready for “real weather” and to be closer to family. They bought a remote, 10-acre wooded lot with a lake in Maine—and then moved 25 dogs (most weighing more than 50 pounds) cross-country. You may say, of driving from California to Maine with 25 dogs: “That man is crazy” or “What a blast. Generous dog lovers volunteered to help, Cruise America allowed him and his wife to rent three RVs, and they devised the logistics with great care. Sweet and entertaining, not just for dog lovers. Enjoy.

#### OUR AUGUST TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

✎Alexander, Tasha. [Behind the Shattered Glass](#) (\$14.99). Lady Emily and her husband are enjoying their twin sons secluded at Anglemore, the Hargreaves Peak District estate, until their neighbor Lord Montagu collapses on their doorstep, mortally wounded. Alexander Scofield had only recently arrived to claim his marquise. “Lady Emily, whose intrepid personality rivals Elizabeth Peters’ fearless Amelia Peabody, chooses at once to investigate Scofield’s new household and, surprisingly, when clues lead her there, to grill her own house staff. In the meantime, she ingeniously solves multiple difficulties for her mother (in residence), her maid (in love), and her friend Matilda (possibly in a great deal of trouble) while maintaining familial equilibrium and marital congeniality with Colin, her admittedly crotchety mate and lord of the manor. This delightful addition to Alexander’s Victorian series, with its requisite cast of aristocrats, locals, and disgruntled staff, is an eminently readable romantic puzzler reminiscent of Deanna Raybourn’s Lady Julia Grey novels and the mysteries of Georgette Heyer.”—*Booklist*. I love a country house murder. [Click here](#) to order earlier Lady Emilys. For October: [The Counterfeit Heiress](#) (St Martins \$25.99).

Benn, James R. [A Blind Goddess](#) (\$15.95). I’m a big fan of Benn’s work and can’t review this one any better than does *PW* which awards it a Star. “Pervasive racism in the U.S. Army during WWII frames Benn’s excellent eighth Billy Boyle whodunit. In March 1944, Billy receives an appeal from an old estranged friend, Sgt. Eugene Tree Jackson. A member of Tree’s colored battalion has been arrested for the murder of Thomas Eastman, an English policeman, who was found with his head bashed in on his father’s grave in the village of Chilton Foliat. Tree is positive that the accused was mistakenly arrested. Boyle wants to help, but he’s pulled away into another homicide investigation west of London in which MI5 has an interest. The intelligence service’s role may be related to the fact that the victim’s landlords were two Germans who fled their native country because they opposed the Nazis. The superior plot and thoughtful presentation of institutional racism directed against American soldiers about to risk their lives for their country make this one of Benn’s best.” You can jump in any time but I like this series read from the beginning with *Billy Boyle*. [Click here](#) to order them all. For Sept.: [The Rest Is Silence](#) Signed (Soho \$29).

Cook, Thomas H. [Sandrine’s Case](#) (\$15). Cook writes intense suspense, often building his plots slowly. This one, up for various awards, starts at the trial with the prosecution’s opening argument and we remain inside the defendant’s head—Professor Sam Madison of Georgia’s Coburn College. The victim is his lovely, faithless wife. The coroner ruled her death a suicide but the cops zero in on Sam. He relates his story, but doesn’t tell us if he murdered his wife....

✎Dean, Anna. [A Place of Confinement](#) (\$15.99). The Regency period (although this is 1807, not quite there yet) is dear to my heart and I’m keen when an author explores its darker side. Miss Dido Kent, spinster, makes an admirable sleuth. In her 4<sup>th</sup> investigation she’s fending off her intrusive (and cheap) sister-in-law’s attempts to marry her off (Dido has a true love, even if he’s not viewed as eligible). In furtherance of getting this relative with no fortune settled, Dido is sent with Aunt Manners on a visit to Charcombe Manor. She soon learns an heiress has disappeared—and wonders why Aunt hasn’t been back to Charcombe for 30 years. [Click here](#) to order her earlier investigations.

Deaver, Jeffery. [The October List](#) (\$15). This standalone is a real tour de force, an amazing story structure that runs backwards. This sounds labored and might be a slog to read, but no, it’s brilliant. Plus it’s one of his specialties, a race against the clock, only in reverse from a Sunday evening to a Friday morning. A six-year-old child has been kidnapped. What of ransom? “Might well be Deaver’s most fiendish thriller ever...as the pace quickens and the story continues to backtrack, solid evidence, established plot points and sturdily built characters all begin to come undone, until what started out as an interactive game becomes a truly unnerving exercise in deception.”—*New York Times Book Review*

Faye, Lyndsay. [Seven for a Secret](#) (\$16). The gripping and moving sequel to 2012’s [The Gods of Gotham](#) (\$16), an Edgar finalist and History/Mystery Club Pick. “One winter evening in 1846, Lucy Adams, a free black woman, calls on copper Timothy Wilde at police headquarters in the Tombs for help. Lucy’s sister, Delia Wright, and her seven-year-old son, Jonas Adams, have vanished from their Manhattan home. Wilde quickly ascertains that even though Delia and Jonas aren’t slaves, men seeking

to profit from capturing them are responsible. Later, Wilde is horrified to discover the still warm body of a murder victim in the quarters of his police-captain brother, Valentine, and removes the body to a shanty near the Hudson to protect Valentine from being implicated in the crime. As this episode shows, Wilde makes mistakes—but his fallibilities are at the core of his appeal, even as his doggedness and insights enable him to tease out what really has been going on beneath the surface. Simple but effective prose, a brilliantly constructed plot, and three-dimensional characters...”—*PW* Starred Review for an author Patrick recommends.

✠Finch, Charles. [An Old Betrayal](#) (\$15.99). Charles Lennox, happily married, achieved his wish to become an MP. His political star is on the rise. Then on a spring morning in London, 1875, he agrees to take time away from his busy schedule to do old friend Lord John Darlington a favor and meet one of the lord’s clients at Charing Cross. The client is connected to the Royal household and is being blackmailed. Things get worse, Lennox becomes enmeshed, and he’s soon sleuthing while dismayed about malicious rumors circling his former butler, now private secretary Graham. I like the resolution plus the unsentimental look at politics in the manner of the BBC’s production of *House of Cards*. For Charles Lennox #8: [The Laws of Murder](#) (St Martins \$25.99), signed here Nov. 22.

Hayes, J.M. [The Spirit in the Skull](#) (\$14.95). Jean Auel meets Tony Hillerman in an arctic landscape... Crime fiction is about suspending disbelief and entering into the special world the author has created. This fascinating standalone mystery takes it to a new level. Kathleen and Michael Gear’s First North Americans sagas imagine small bands who crossed the fragile land bridge from Asia and created a way of life in untouched lands. In JM Hayes’ wonderfully imagined story, with murders, The People, a Paleolithic tribe crisscrossing Alaska, were among the first undocumented immigrants to enter the Americas. For them, murder is forbidden, a poisoning of the tribe’s relationships with nature, the Spirits, and each other. When a tribe member is garroted, aging Spirit Man Raven is on the case. So on the case that, in a twist to today’s popular time-slip structure for fiction, Raven’s skull survives millennia to bear witness to the murder and his investigation. Tucson’s Hayes draws upon his time in Alaska writing this unusual mystery.

Keller, Julia. [Bitter River](#) (\$14.99). The world intrudes cruelly on Acker’s Gap, West Virginia, the hometown to which D.C. lawyer Bell Elkins has returned to try to make a difference. As county prosecutor, Bell is working with childhood friend, Sheriff Nick Fogelsong, on the murder of 16-year-old Lucinda Trimble when a potentially fatal shot is fired into the courthouse and soon followed by a tragedy at the local diner. The town mourns Lucinda—bright, beautiful, bursting with potential, but pregnant and planning to marry her high-school boyfriend—while both Bell and Nick display blind spots in the course of pursuing their investigation.... Once again, Keller combines masterful storytelling, a vivid sense of place—the beauty and poverty of Appalachia—a complex cast of characters, and a suspenseful, superbly executed plot that displays a depth rarely seen in mystery fiction.”—*Booklist* Starred review for the sequel to First Mystery Club Pick [A Killing in the Hills](#) (\$14.99), both recommended by Lea Love and by me.

Mayor, Archer. [Three Can Keep a Secret](#) (\$15.99). Longtime Poisoned Pen customers know that I am crazy for the superb thrillers featuring cop Joe Gunther. For me, Mayor is Vermont’s John Sandford, although Gunther, a respecter of procedure who can step out if he must, is no free-wheeling Lucas Davenport. This wacky case tests him. Hurricane Irene caused nearly every river and creek in Vermont to flood, taking lives, doing billions of dollars of damage, and leaving some towns cut off from outside aid for two weeks. But for Gunther and his VBI team, Irene brings an unearthed coffin, filled with rocks instead of a cadaver; the suspicious death of a once-powerful state senator, who lived in a fabulously expensive retirement home; and a patient has gone missing from the state’s mental hospital. The patient, known as The Governor because she had once been made “Governor for a Day” in a tone-deaf PR campaign, had been in the hospital for 40 years. Why? It’s a treat to watch how this plays out, and also how Gunther takes a small step forward in his personal life. Coming in October, Gunther #25: [Proof Positive Signed](#) (St Martins \$28).

Rogan, Barbara. [A Dangerous Fiction](#) (\$15). Here’s a 2013 Surprise Me Club! Pick both challenging and fun—set in the high-stakes publishing world. Just about every scene connected to this world—the slush-pile meeting in the literary agency, the launch party for a celebrity writer, and the writers’ conference—is divided into winners, losers, and hangers-on. Rogan’s heroine, Jo Donovan, is a young widow who has inherited a literary agency from her husband. Donovan is under no illusion that talent brought her the fortune and agency she enjoys, which goes a long way to make her appealing. But rejecting writers is part of the job. After a series of agency rejections, someone starts sending nasty e-mails, then moves onto cruel pranks, and, finally, murder. Donovan’s longtime friend, a former FBI profiler, and an NYPD cop try to keep ahead of the murders and keep Donovan safe. “A terrific read! A thriller with a psychological heart of mystery, a double-ended love story, and a fascinating look at the world of high-stakes publishing.” —Diana Gabaldon. “Clearly, the most dangerous fictions are the ones we tell ourselves.” —J.A. Jance

Sallis, James. [Others of My Kind](#) (\$14). “Sallis has always been the master of doing more with less, as he demonstrates once again with this startling experimental novella. When Emily Smith was eight years old, she was abducted and suffered unspeakable abuse at the hands of her male captor, who kept her in a box under his bed for two years. The girl finally escaped, living for 18 months in a shopping mall, eventually becoming a ward of the courts. Twenty-five years later, Emily has become Jenny Rowan, a talented video editor for a Washington, D.C., news station. Her craft is an apt metaphor for the life that she’s improvised. Fiercely independent and self-taught, Rowan refuses to see herself as a victim. When a police detective approaches her to help a young abductee, Rowan at first demurs, but she ends up giving the girl, Cheryl, a place to stay. We witness Rowan cobble together her own community, helping a family of squatters who live next door and even reaching out to the U.S. president, whose son has recently been kidnapped. The theme of working with what you have left, a constant in Sallis’ world, permeates every sentence of this slim, insightful work.”—*PW* Starred Review. Sallis lives in Phoenix and our whole staff is fans of his work.

Vichi, Marco. [Death and the Olive Grove](#) (\$14.95). Step away from our world to Florence, and into the 1960s. “The city is still pockmarked from WWII, and the inhabitants of the neighborhoods Bordelli travels through are filled with gang members, prostitutes, petty thieves, smugglers, and, in the latest, a killer who is evil incarnate. Inspector Bordelli, himself a veteran still shaken by his experiences fighting for both Axis and Allies in the war, is melancholy and reflective, a perfect guide through this world. Here a string of sad discoveries starts when Bordelli’s friend Casimiro reports finding the body of a man in an olive grove outside Florence. Nothing is there when the inspector and Casimiro return to the scene. Then Casimiro goes missing and is found grotesquely slain. This is followed by a heart-stopping series of child kidnappings. Vichi weaves all these strands together into a complicated tale that keeps the suspense mounting, and his incorporation of his Italian father’s war stories into the text makes a wonderful addition to the novel.”—*Booklist*. Start with [Death in August](#) (\$14.95).

### A FEW NEW BOOKS

Brooks, Malcolm. [Painted Horses Signed](#) (Grove \$26). Our Modern Firsts Club Pick is the #1 Indie Next Pick (made by independent booksellers nationwide): “Brooks sweeps post-WWII American prosperity, ancient native traditions, and the rush to tame the still-wild West together in a novel driven by diverse and deeply realized characters that come together in a heart-pounding story. Catherine Lemay is a talented young archeologist defying the traditions of a ‘man’s world’ by accepting the challenge to explore a Montana canyon slated for flooding for hydroelectric power. What she discovers is beauty, history, threats, and John H — a former mustanger, Army veteran, and enigmatic canyon dweller. Far from her comfortable New York home, Catherine embraces Montana’s stark conditions and with John H uncovers both secrets of the region and truths within herself. A breathtaking debut!”

Cumming, Charles. [A Colder War](#) (St Martins \$26.99). The Indie Next Pick on an April Signed UK title which we sold out: “This is another smashing tale of spycraft from Cumming. MI6 veteran Thomas Kell, who readers will recall from [A Foreign Country](#) (\$9.99), is sent to Istanbul to determine what really happened to a colleague killed in the crash of the small plane he was piloting. Beautiful women and treacherous double agents are present, but more prominently the reader experiences the beginning of the psychological wiles that ushered in the eponymous ‘colder war.’ Cumming’s descriptions are so evocative I felt as if I had actually traveled to the Bosphorus and experienced the intrigue firsthand!”

Daheim, Mary. [Clam Wake: A Bed-And-Breakfast Mystery](#) (Harper \$25.99). With the holidays gone and Hillside Manor almost empty, Innkeeper Judith McMonigle Flynn has a bad case of the blues. A house-sitting stint at her aunt and uncle’s retirement home on Whoopee Island with cousin Renie seems like the ideal pick-me-up. Surrounded by retirees in the off-season sounds peaceful and pleasant—or so the duo thinks. But it isn’t long before a dead body pops up in their vicinity. Not surprising in an area full of older folks—until they learn it wasn’t a bad ticker that did in the victim, but a very sharp knife. With clouds of suspicion hovering over her and Renie, Judith reluctantly begins sleuthing—if only to prove they didn’t commit

the crime. Digging for clams and answers, the cousins discover that retirement can be deadly—at least among the eclectic, eccentric residents of Obsession Shores.

Fesperman, Dan. [Unmanned Signed](#) (Knopf \$28). Fesperman puts you right in the seat of a drone operator (hence the title). I’ve always admired his imagination, his craft as a writer, and the way he seeks the less traveled path for thrillers. *Library Journal* writes, “Winner of the Crime Writers’ Association of Britain’s John Creasey Memorial Dagger and Ian Fleming Steel Dagger awards and the International Association of Crime Writers’ Dashiell Hammett Award, Fesperman once again proves that he’s great for sophisticated readers with this work about a drone pilot devastated by what the drone’s display revealed (particularly an Afghan child running for her life) after one catastrophic mission. So he teams up with some journalists to discover the anonymous operative who managed that mission—“. *PW* adds, “As Cole and the reporters follow a trail through ex-CIA agents, intelligence contractors, and military technocrats, Fesperman delineates the capabilities of modern drone aircraft in details that evoke wonder as well as chills at their disturbing implications for personal privacy. Though the characters never completely gel and the action sags in places, the technical information will keep readers turning the pages up to the rousing conclusion.”

Grossman, Lev. [The Magician’s Land](#) (Viking \$27.95). Quentin Coldwater is hitting 30 years old. It’s a bit young to be having a mid-life crisis, but when you’ve been living your dreams as the magician king of a fantasyland and get suddenly deported by the very entities you have just saved from destruction, I suppose it’s understandable. Grossman’s quirky prose, his sense of humor, and his great sympathy for his emotionally flawed characters combine in this wonderful final novel in what has become a popular fantasy trilogy.”

Hallinan, Timothy. [Herbie’s Game Signed](#) (Soho \$26.99). Comic crime and crook-heroes fans, here’s LA’s Junior Bender once again, tangling with the San Fernando Valley’s top “executive crook who has set up a secret chain of crooks to execute a hit—and then his safe with the list is hit... The August Indie Next Pick: “Amiable burglar Junior Bender is forced to chase down a stolen list of names before everyone on it ends up dead. First to fall is Junior’s mentor and surrogate father, Herbie, who stole the list in the first place. This delightful mystery poses the question: Do we ever really know the people we love, and do we need to know everything in order to love them?”

Lehane, Dennis. [The Drop](#) (Harper \$14.99 trade paperback original; plus there is to be a Limited Edition Hardcover at \$19.95). I have no idea yet of whether Lehane might sign this “love story wrapped in a crime story” which returns him to the street of *Mystic River* and is slated to be a major motion picture. You may wish a copy signed or not. I do. Lehane is scheduled to publish a new novel next spring.

✠ Lovesey, Peter. [The Last Detective \(Peter Diamond #1\)](#) (\$9.99). The start of cantankerous but brilliant Bath copper Peter Diamond’s stellar career, reissued. Highly recommended to fans of British mystery and anyone who appreciates the sort of ingenious plots Lovesey devises. My late Mother adored his books, as do I and our mail order king, David Brooks, himself a Brit.



MacInnes, Helen. [Cloak of Darkness](#); [Hidden Target](#); [I and My True Love](#); [Rest and Be Thankful](#) (\$9.95 each). Four more reissues of these gems by MacInnes (1907-85), quondam bestseller of espionage novels that reflected her day, both WWII and the Cold War. She made great use of varied backgrounds like Brittany, Salzburg, Venice.... I love rereading them. And the way things are going with Russia, they may be more relevant than you think....

Maron, Margaret. [Designated Daughters Signed](#) (Grand Central \$27). Judge Deborah Knott is summoned to her elderly and ailing Aunt Rachel's bedside where she is dying of a stroke—but has surprised her caregiver by suddenly starting to speak. When Deb arrives, the dying woman is surrounded by her children and half of Colleton County, NC. What a shock when, after she quiets again, an hour later Aunt Rachel is found dead in her bed. And someone impulsively, and not carefully, has smothered her with a pillow. What did Aunt Rachel say that provoked her murder? It takes two family trees, helpfully provided by Maron, to keep the kin straight as you follow various investigative lines. This is a warm book about family and the cycle of generations. And it's nice to see Deborah loving being married!

✎Robinson, Peter. [Abbatior Blues Signed](#) (Hodder \$45). Chief Inspector Alan Banks' 22<sup>nd</sup> case begins when two boys vanish under mysterious circumstances. And when a caravan belonging to one of the youths is burned to the ground and a bloodstain is discovered in a disused WWII hangar nearby, things quickly become much more sinister in Yorkshire....

Rucka, Greg. [Bravo Signed](#) (Mulholland \$27). Still recovering from traumas both physical and emotional, former Special Forces Master Sergeant Jad Bell is tasked with bringing in the Uzbek, principal organizer of the terrorist attack that nearly cost Bell his ex-wife and daughter. But the Uzbek's just the beginning: his employer, the Architect, has already set in motion another, even more devastating attack. The capture of Vosil Tohir (aka the Uzbek), who was the main organizer of the terrorist assault on the California theme park in [Alpha](#) (\$8), offers Bell some hope. Chief Warrant Officer Petra Nessuno—known to the Uzbek as Elisabetta Villanova, a sexy art dealer with a flair for languages—teams with Bell to crack Tohir and learn more about the terrorists' plans. "Trouble is, the Uzbek isn't the highest rung of the ladder; he's merely one bad guy on a list of increasingly shady characters that eventually leads to the man in charge, a mysterious, nationless presence known only as the Architect. Rucka never shies away from violence, but his bloody mayhem serves to underscore an impressively complex plot."—*PW*

Thompson, Jim. [After Dark, My Sweet](#) ; [Alcoholics](#) ; [Bad Boy](#); [Criminal](#); [Cropper's Cabin](#); [Getaway](#); [Golden Gizmo](#); [Grifters](#); [Heed the Thunder](#) ; [Hell of a Woman](#); [Kill-Off](#); [Killer Inside Me](#); [Nothing Man](#); [Nothing More Than Murder](#); [Now and on Earth](#); [Pop 1280](#) ; [Recoil](#); [Rip-Off](#); [Savage Night](#); [Swell-Looking Babe](#) (\$15 each). Wow, a big republishing program! While away some hot summer days with this veritable library of noir from an American master.

✎Todd, Charles. [Unwilling Accomplice Signed](#) (Harper \$27). WWI Nurse Bess Crawford #6 in a series I truly enjoy—it lacks the melancholy of the Ian Rutledge mysteries. Bess, home on leave, is asked to accompany a wounded soldier to Buckingham Palace, where he's to be decorated by the king. The next morning,

when Bess goes to collect him, Wilkins' room is empty and he's nowhere to be found. Both the army and the nursing service blame Bess for losing a patient, a hero at that, but label him a deserter. Feeling her reputation besmirched and that of her father as well, Bess sets off with the aid of family friend Simon to track down the missing soldier across England... As ever with the Todds, the meticulous record-keeping of the British Army commands respect as the case develops into a countryside chase.

Westlake, Donald E. [The Hot Rock](#) (\$14.95). This is the classic that introduced John Archibald Dortmunder, the thief whose capers never quite come off, as he and his convict friends plot to steal the fabulous Balaboma Emerald. They almost carry it off, but then the guy carrying the stone is picked up by the cops. Definitely worth rereading; Hallinan's Junior Benders are of this bent.

✎Willig, Lauren. [Mark of the Midnight Manzanilla Signed](#) (NAL \$16). In October of 1806, the Little Season is in full swing, and Sally Fitzhugh has had enough of the endless parties and balls. And of a rampant vampire craze sparked by the novel *The Convent of Orsino*. When she hears a rumor that the reclusive Duke of Belliston is an actual vampire, she cannot resist the challenge of proving such nonsense false. At a ball in Belliston Square, she ventures across the gardens and encounters the mysterious Duke, Lucien. He is well versed in the trouble gossip can bring. He's returned home to dispel the rumors of scandal surrounding his parents' deaths, which hint at everything from treason to dark sorcery. While he searches for the truth, he welcomes his fearsome reputation—until a woman is found dead in Richmond, her blood drained.... Willig has fun reminding us of this early vampire craze.

#### OUR AUGUST MASS MARKET PAPERBACK PICKS

✎Bowen, Rhys. [Heirs and Graces](#) (\$7.99). In her 7<sup>th</sup> outing, Lady Georgiana Rannoch, 35<sup>th</sup> in line to the British throne, is thrust into a ducal family by Queen Mary to groom the newly discovered heir. Jack Altringham is from Australia, thus by 1934 British upper-crust standards, uncivilized. Arrived in Kent and into the Eynsford's stately home, Georgiana's task switches from schooling to sleuthing when the actual Duke, Cedric, is murdered...with Jack's knife. This rollicking story is Christie-like in structure, a country-house murder. Enjoy. See Event Books for Her Royal Spyness #8.

Coyle, Cleo. [Billionaire Blend](#) (\$7.99). When a car bomb nearly kills tech whiz Eric Thorner, Landmark Coffeehouse owner Clare Cosi comes to his aid and receives a priceless thank you. Not only does the billionaire buy her a barista's dream espresso machine, he hires her to create the world's most expensive coffee blend. As Eric jets Clare around the globe on a head-spinning search for the world's best coffee, she gets to know his world—a mesmerizing circle of money with rivalries that could easily turn deadly. And wonders whether Eric is bent on making a killing...or doing one. 13th in series.

Flynn, Gillian. [Gone Girl](#) (\$9.99). Having lasted an amazing term on the hardcover bestseller list, Flynn's 3<sup>rd</sup> novel, domestic suspense where a husband and wife alternately surprise you, arrives in paperback. It will also arrive one day soon in a major motion picture. My favorite Flynn remains her first, First Mystery Club Pick [Sharp Objects](#) (\$14.99).

Forsyth, Frederick. [The Kill List](#) (\$9.99). *Booklist* reviews: “A retired marine general is gunned down by an unknown assassin—collateral damage, apparently, in an attack on a U.S. senator. The general’s son, code-named the Tracker, is part of a top-secret government agency responsible for locating, and eliminating (without benefit of trial), people on the so-called “kill list” of enemies of the U.S. The Tracker knows almost nothing about the assassin, not even his name, but he is determined to find him, no matter the cost. Imagine Forsyth’s *The Day of the Jackal* told almost entirely from the point of view of investigator Claude Lebel, and you’ll have a pretty good idea of the author’s approach here: this is a procedural told in a straightforward, reportorial style. Forsyth has always been a no-nonsense writer...” Whether you like this latest from him depends on how you like his voice.

Grafton, Sue. [W is for Wasted](#) (\$7.99). You can count—this is the 23<sup>rd</sup> case for private eye Kinsey Millhone. The deaths of two men, one a shady fellow gumshoe, the other an alcoholic vagrant who leaves Kinsey a surprising legacy (including half-a-million bucks), challenge her as does the waste she perceives, of lives, time, and opportunities. In this, Kinsey is much like her creator.

Grisham, John. [Sycamore Row](#) (\$9.99). His first novel, [A Time to Kill](#) (\$9.99), established John Grisham as the master of the legal thriller. Now we return to Ford County as Jake Brigance finds himself embroiled in a fiercely controversial trial that exposes a tortured history of racial tension.

O’Connell, Carol. [It Happens in the Dark](#) (\$9.99). New York fascinates the author as it does the NYPD’s Kathy Mallory. Here we are Broadway bound as on successive nights, a member of the play’s audience dies—the second victim is also the playwright. There’s a ghostwriter at work, sending Mallory messages. Is this some Phantom of the Opera sort of scenario, or...? The enigmatic Mallory is not unlike Lisbeth Salander in various respects and is best appreciated if you follow her career from the beginning in [Mallory’s Oracle](#) (\$7.99).

Ryan, Hank Phillippi. [The Wrong Girl](#) (\$7.99). Winner of the 2014 Agatha Award. Tipped off by an ex-colleague on a desperate quest to find her birth mother, Boston newspaper reporter Jane Ryland suspects that a respected adoption agency is engaging in the ultimate betrayal-reuniting birth parents with the wrong children. For detective Jake Brogan and his partner, a young woman’s brutal murder seems a sad case of domestic violence, resulting in two toddlers being shuttled into the foster care system. Then Jake finds an empty cradle at the murder scene. Where is the baby who should have been sleeping there? Jane and Jake are soon on a trail that takes them to the heart of a foster care system in crisis and an adoption agency scandal. Ryan signs the sequel for us October 23. Start with [The Other Woman](#) (\$7.99).

White, Randy Wayne. [Deceived](#) (\$9.99). Hannah Smith as a series got off to a slow start in [Gone](#) (\$9.99), but here she is in her second outing giving Doc Ford a run for our money. Excellent! A twenty-year-old unsolved murder from Florida’s pot-hauling days first gets Hannah going, but so does a more immediate problem. A private museum devoted solely to the state’s earliest settlers and pioneers has been announced, and many of Hannah’s friends and neighbors in Sulfur Wells are being pressured to make contributions. The problem is, the whole

thing is a scam, and when Hannah sets out to uncover whoever’s behind it, she discovers that things are even worse than she thought. Ford is in the story in case you are missing him before his next adventure publishes in March, 2015.

White, Stephen. [Compound Fractures](#) (\$9.99). This is a bittersweet read as it’s the final, the 20<sup>th</sup>, chapter in the Dr. Alan Gregory series. But points to White, always a conscientious as well as intelligent and entertaining writer, that he is ending the series deliberately, on his own terms. The action begins shortly after that in [Line of Fire](#) (\$9.99) ends, and shows the Boulder, Colorado, psychologist’s life is in disarray and danger, not just to himself although he’s a suspect in three murders. What about his attorney wife, Lauren, and his children? Gregory is a great series character; one hopes he’s moving off into a new phase of his life where although we can’t follow, we can imagine him being.

#### NEW IN MASS MARKET

Abbott, Allyson K. [Murder with a Twist](#) (Kensington \$7.99)

Adams, Ellery. [Murder in the Mystery Suite](#) (Berkley \$7.99)

Baldacci, David. [King and Maxwell](#) (\$10)

Balogh, Mary. [Escape](#) (\$7.99)

Berenson, Laurien. [Gone with the Woof](#) (\$7.99)

Brightwell, Emily. [Mrs. Jeffries and the One Who Got Away](#) (\$7.99)

Casey, Elizabeth Lynn. [Taken In](#) (\$7.99)

Castle, Richard. [Storm Front](#) (\$7.99)

Chase, Erika. [Book Fair and Foul](#) (Berkley \$7.99)

Coco, Nancy. [To Fudge or Not to Fudge](#) (Kensington \$7.99)

Craig, Elizabeth. [Shear Trouble: A Southern Quilting](#) (Signet \$7.99)

Crane, Cheryl. [Dead and the Beautiful](#) (\$7.99)

Delaney, Luke. [Keeper](#) (\$9.99)

Douglas, Jack. [Quake](#) (Picador \$7.99)

Elefteriades MD, John A. [Transplant](#) (Jove \$9.99)

Fluke, Joanne. [Other Child](#) (\$7.99)

Haddam, Jane. [Hearts of Sand: A Gregor Demarkian](#) (St Martins \$7.99)

Hamilton, Donald. [Menacers](#) (Forge \$7.99)

Hooper, Kay. [Hostage](#) (Jove \$9.99)

Jackson, Lisa. [Deserves to Die](#) (Zebra \$7.99)

Kelly, Diane. [Death, Taxes, and Silver Spurs](#) (St Martins \$7.99)

Land, Jon. [Strong Rain Falling: A Caitlin Strong](#) (\$7.99)

Logan, Kylie. [Death by Devil’s Breath](#) (\$7.99)

Martin, Nancy. [Little Black Book of Murder](#) (\$7.99) Blackbird Sisters

Moran, Terrie Farley. [Well Read, Then Dead](#) (Berkley \$7.99)

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Patterson, James. [Nevermore: A Maximum Ride Novel](#) (\$8)

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Schow, David J. [Gabriel Hunt—Hunt Among the Kill](#) (Forge \$7.99)

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*Reissues*

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*SciFi/Fantasy/Horror/Romance*

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Blackmoore, Stephen. [Broken Souls](#) (\$7.99)

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Carr, Robyn. [Promise](#) (\$7.99)

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Mallery, Susan. [Until We Touch](#) (\$8.99)

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Stewart, Mariah. [On Sunset Beach](#) (\$7.99)

Thurman, Rob. [Downfall: A Cal Leandros Novel](#) (\$7.99)