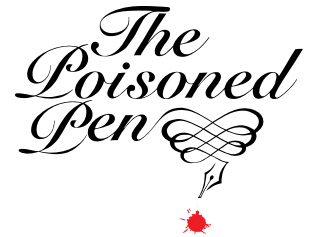


BOOKNEWS from

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September's Crop of Authors and Books...

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 8 Debut

Todd Moss signs [The Golden Hour](#) (Putnam \$26.95) First Mystery Club Pick

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10 7:00 PM

Judith Starkston signs [Hand of Fire: A Novel of Briseis and the Trojan War](#) (\$18) Debut

Plus a Hercule Poirot Party celebrating The Monogram Murders Puzzles. Wear a costume for a cool photo op. Plus there's a Prize: Agatha Christie tote bag filled with 4 Agatha Christie paperbacks, 1 Hercule Poirot (starring David Suchet) DVD with fan favorite episodes, 1 mustache prop and a catalog from Acorn (who produces the David Suchet DVDs). And we're serving brownies!

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 11 7:00 PM

Reed Farrel Coleman signs [Robert B Parker's Blind Spot](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Jesse Stone. Coleman, the quintessential New Yorker, may spend a few moments in remembrance of 9/11/2001

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13 10:30 AM

Coffee and Crime discusses Nevada Barr's [A Winter Study](#) (\$9.99)

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13 2:00 PM

An Octet of Poisoned Pen Press Authors

Books are all in hardcover (\$24.95) and trade paper (\$14.95)
Refreshments and ARC Giveaways

Warren Easley signs [Dead Float](#) Cal Claxton

JM Hayes signs [The Spirit and the Skull](#) Auel meets Hillerman

Tammy Kaehler signs [Avoidable Contact](#) Kate Reilly

Ken Kuhlken signs [The Good Know Nothing](#) Tom Hickey

Dennis Palumbo signs [Phantom Limb](#) Daniel Rinaldi

Jon Talton signs [The Night Detectives](#) David Mapstone

David Wagner signs [Death in the Dolomites](#) Rick Montoya

And YA author Janie Chodosh signs [Death Spiral](#)

A WRITERS WORKSHOP

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14 12:00-2:00 PM

Dana Haynes, How to Write a Kickass Thriller

\$30 includes a Signed copy of [Gun Metal Heart](#) (St Martins \$25.99)

2:00 PM: Haynes will do a short talk on his thriller and sign copies

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 16 7:00 PM A Kellerman Trio

Faye signs [Murder 101](#) (Harper \$26) Lazarus/Decker move East!

Jonathan and Jesse sign their book [The Golem of Hollywood](#) (Putnam \$27.95)

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 17 7:00 PM

Tod Goldberg signs [Gangsterland](#) (Counterpoint \$26) Surprise Me Pick!

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18 7:00 PM

Jeb Rosebrook signs [Purgatory Road](#) (\$15.99) Charlemagne (Mojave Rattlesnake)

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25 7:00 PM

Deborah Crombie signs [To Dwell in Darkness](#) (Morrow \$25.99) Kincaid and James

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26 7:00 PM

Hard Boiled Crime discusses Joe R. Lansdale's [Cold in July](#) (\$14.95)

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27 Subject to Postponement

Anne Perry signs [Blood on the Water](#) (Random \$26) William Monk

And teaches a Writers Workshop. \$50, Registration required)

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 29 7:00 PM Horrors!

The authors request you bring a donation to a local Food Bank

In keeping with Harrison's series, a can of tomatoes works

Kim Harrison signs [Witch with No Name](#) (Harper \$26.99) Rachel Morgan #13

Richard Kadrey signs [The Getaway God](#) (Harper \$24.99) Sandman Slim

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 30

Richard Paul Evans signs [Michael Vey 4: Hunt for Jade Dragon](#) (SimonSchuster \$18.99)

TUESDAY OCTOBER 7 7:00 PM Book Launch!

John Sandford signs [Deadline](#) (Putnam \$27.95) Virgil Flowers

EVENT BOOKS

Chodosh, Janie. [Death Spiral](#) (The Poisoned Pencil \$10.95 PBO Sept. 13). This YA novel kicks off the YA imprint for Poisoned Pen Press with a first investigation for Faith Flores. *PW* reviews: “Faith Flores, a Philadelphia teenager reeling from the recent death of her heroin-addicted mother. Certain that her mother didn’t actually die from an overdose, the 16-year-old investigates the experimental treatment program she was on up until the end. When another member of the program dies in a similar fashion, and the people she’s talking to start perishing in suspicious ways, Faith knows she’s on to something. With the help of her friends, including best friend Anj and possible love interest Jesse, Faith risks all for the truth, which leaves her marked for death as well. Chodosh spins a dark and gritty tale set amid the seedy underbelly of urban Philly, and her protagonist is resourceful and grounded, despite deep-rooted traumas, insecurities, and other flaws. The science, which involves gene therapy and disease manipulation, is plausible, though the plot is straight-up conspiracy theory. Sharp characterization and deft descriptions make this a solid addition to the amateur detective shelf. Ages 12–up.”

Coleman, Reed Farrel. [Robert B Parker’s Blind Spot](#) (Putnam \$26.95 Sept. 11). Coleman wrapped up his excellent Moe Praeger series with [The Hollow Girl Signed](#) (\$24.95) and now steps into the Parker franchise with Police Chief Jesse Stone. It’s been a long time since Stone left L.A., and still longer since the tragic injury that ruined his chances for a major league baseball career. When Stone is invited to a reunion of his old Triple-A team at a hip New York City hotel, he is forced to grapple with his memories and regrets over what might have been. Jesse left more behind him than unresolved feelings about the play that ended his baseball career. The darkly sensuous Kayla, his former girlfriend and current wife of an old teammate is there in New York, too. As is Kayla’s friend, Dee, an otherworldly beauty with secret regrets of her own. But Jesse’s time at the reunion is cut short when, back in Paradise, a young woman is found murdered and her boyfriend, a son of one of the town’s most prominent families, is missing and presumed kidnapped. This is crime fiction so you may imagine there will be a connection forged between the reunion and the crimes. Look for a review by Robert Anglen in the *Arizona Republic* closer to publication date for this first Stone by Coleman. [Click here](#) to order earlier Stones.

Crombie, Deborah. [To Dwell in Darkness](#) (Morrow \$25.99 Sept. 25). Recently transferred to the London borough of Camden from Scotland Yard headquarters, Superintendent Duncan Kincaid and his new murder investigation team are called to a deadly bombing at historic St. Pancras Station. By fortunate coincidence, Melody Talbot, Gemma’s trusted colleague, witnesses the explosion. The victim was taking part in an organized protest, yet the other group members swear the young man only meant to set off a smoke bomb. As Kincaid begins to gather the facts, he finds every piece of the puzzle yields an unexpected pattern, including the disappearance of a mysterious bystander. The bombing isn’t the only mystery troubling Kincaid. He’s still questioning the reasons behind his transfer, and when his former boss—who’s been avoiding him—is attacked, those suspicions deepen.... This

long-running series is one of my favorites. [Click here](#) to order earlier investigations. The 5th. [Dreaming of the Bones](#) (\$7.99), is included in the Best 100 Mysteries List put together by mystery booksellers nationwide.

Easley, Warren. [Dead Float](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). Cal Claxton—a small town lawyer who works to fish—has to pinch himself when his best friend and fishing guide, Philip Lone Deer, asks him to help guide an upcoming trip with a group of executives from a high tech firm in Portland. But the trip through the remote Deschutes River Canyon turns ugly when a member of the fishing party turns up murdered. Everyone in the party is a suspect, including Cal himself. Does the fact that the company’s value is about to explode play into the crime? And what about the freight line running along the river. Does Philip’s theory that the killer came and left on a train hold water? Cal better come up with answers because he’s suspect number one. “Cal—a dog devotee who loves a good bottle of pinot and is a mean hand at Scrabble—makes an engaging narrator. The Pacific Northwest setting provides good atmosphere, and Cal’s memories of his dead wife lend some emotional depth.”—*PW*. Paperback (\$14.95). Start with [Matters of Doubt](#) (\$14.95 or \$14.95).

Evans, Richard Paul. [Michael Vey 4: Hunt for Jade Dragon](#) (SimonSchuster \$18.99 Sept. 30). Michael Vey, Taylor, Ostin and the rest of the Electroclan head to China in search of a girl who may have discovered why Michael and his friends became electric. Her name is Lin Julung, or Jade Dragon, and she’s a child prodigy with an IQ higher than Einstein’s—and Ostin’s. But Hatch gets to her first, and the Elgen are holding her prisoner in their Taiwan Starxource plant. Now the Voice wants Michael and the Electroclan to go to Taiwan and free her before Hatch can realize his dreams of an army of electric children. The hunt for Jade Dragon is on... 4th in series. [Click here](#) to order Veys #1-3.

Goldberg, Tod. [Gangsterland](#) (Counterpoint \$26 Sept. 17). “*Gangsterland* is rich with complex and meaty characters, but its greatest strength is that it never pulls a punch, never holds back, and never apologizes for life’s absurdities. If this novel were a person, you could ask it for a bookie.” —Brad Meltzer. “Goldberg injects Talmudic wisdom and a hint of Springsteen into the workings of organized crime and FBI investigative techniques and makes it all work splendidly.”—*Publishers Weekly* Starred Review. “With his eye for human detail and trademark wit, as dry as a desert breeze, Tod Goldberg charts Sal Cupertine’s unlikely transition from stone-cold mob hitman to Las Vegas rabbi. This tale of witness relocation-by-mob—part Elmore Leonard, part Theatre of the Absurd—is a compelling examination of salvation, which comes in various guises and moves in elusive ways. A wholly unique tale from a wholly unique voice.” —Gregg Hurwitz. My favorite Goldberg to now is the brilliant [Fake, Liar, Cheat](#) (\$12.95), a classic of the unreliable narrator!

Harrison, Kim. [Witch with No Name](#) (Harper \$26.99 Sept. 29). #13 in the bestselling Rachel Morgan series marks its conclusion—well, what else but #13 fits so well? Here’s another example of world-building that captures readers. Rachel Morgan’s come a long way from the klutzy runner of

Dead Witch Walking. She's faced vampires and werewolves, banshees, witches, and soul-eating demons. She's crossed worlds, channeled gods, and accepted her place as a day-walking demon. She's lost friends and lovers and family, and an old enemy has become something much more. But power demands responsibility, and world-changers must always pay a price. That time is now, the time to save Ivy's soul and the rest of the living vampires, to keep the demonic ever after and our own world from destruction....

Haynes, Dana. [Gun Metal Heart](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Daria Gibrón—former agent for Israel's Shin Bet (secret service) and now freelance operative—is recovering from injuries incurred during her previous escapade, [Ice Cold Kill](#) (St Martins \$25.99). She's in rural Italy when her old colleague Diego tracks her down. Diego and his friend Vince were hired as bodyguards for a female engineer and her mysterious invention, but Vince has disappeared and Diego fears the worst. After warning Diego that she's not yet operating at 100%, Daria dives into an international situation that even someone in top shape might not survive. Among its other uses, the engineer's invention is turned into a deadly weapon against Daria. To add to her troubles, several former CIA agents she disgraced in the last book are out to murder her. What to do? If she's Daria, she kicks butt. Daria is an arresting character, like a female, petite Jack Reacher; at one point, a villain advises that five men must be sent to take down Daria if they're to have any chance of success. She's not only good in a fight but finds extremely clever ways to outwit her pursuers. Here, she finds a worthy adversary in a woman whose reputation is about as lethal as her own. The cinematic action is fun, and a crash course in the history of the former Yugoslavia helps make this a smart thriller for Daria Gibrón, the female Israeli operative who's as tough as Jack Reacher.

Hayes, J M. [The Spirit and the Skull](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Sept. 13). 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 that 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. And to offer up painfully prophetic dreams of when human no longer live in harmony with nature, oil exploration despoiling the arctic world. Starred Reviews for this imaginative work include one from Anne Hillerman and one from *Booklist*, which ends: "Dealing with themes of primitive religion, social relationships, and even women's rights, this fascinating tale, which adroitly straddles both mystery and fantasy genres, will attract readers from both camps." Also in paperback; [The Spirit and the Skull](#) (\$14.95).

Kaehler, Tammy. [Avoidable Contact](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Sept. 13). Danica Patrick meets Dick Francis...on the race track. Think

of the Corvette as a racing thoroughbred, Le Mans or Daytona like the Derby, and you've got it. The third Kate Reilly mystery takes you to Daytona International Speedway. The story has a built in ticking clock: the race's 24 grueling hours. The race, and sleuthing, all end as the clock reaches zero. Jeffery Deaver could not do better. Dick Francis never bored his readers with TMI. Tammy Kaehler has that same gift, making the thrills and skills—and the sleuthing—come alive. To order the first three Kate Reillys, each set at a different raceway, click here. Also in paperback: [Avoidable Contact](#) (\$14.95)

Kadrey, Richard. [The Getaway God](#) (Harper \$24.99 Sept. 29). Trying to live a quiet life in L.A. was always probably a losing proposition for James Stark, the man formerly known as Sandman Slim (and for a brief period of time acting Lucifer in Hell), especially since the City of Angels is fraying at the seams. The old gods, known collectively as Angra Om Ya, are more determined than ever to break through to our realm, and our God is too fractured to stop them. It's up to Stark to save the city, as he's the only man who can control the Qomrama Om Ya, the only weapon effective against the invading deities. This series has kept its energy well, even six volumes in, partially owing to the stubborn character of Stark. He doesn't evolve, per se; he's still a rude and violent walking weapon, but he never makes the same mistake twice. Kadrey is getting a resounding support for his utter chutzpah in blowing the entire mythos – which he has carefully worked to build over the course of six books – all to hell. Sandman Slim will begin anew next year, with more contained, dark/noir tales of supernatural mystery. [Click here](#) to order earlier Sandman Slims, one of our favorite series.

Kellerman, Faye. [Murder 101](#) (Harper \$26 Sept. 16). Art theft provides the theme for bestseller Kellerman's deftly researched 22nd Peter Dekker/Rina Lazarus novel. Dekker, recently retired from the LAPD, has traded palm trees and sunshine for the snowy winters of upstate New York, taking a job in law enforcement in the sleepy college town of Greenbury. The effect of Dekker's Orthodox Jewish beliefs add color to the narrative: for example, when he looks into a theft from a cemetery, it's Shabbat, so he has to travel on foot, instead of by car. After two homicides in the area, Dekker picks up the trail of an art thief whose sights are set higher than a few graveyard treasures. [Click here](#) to order earlier Lazarus/Dekkers including my favorite, and series start, *The Ritual Bath*.

Kellerman, Jonathan/Jesse. [The Golem of Hollywood](#) (Putnam \$27.95 Sept. 16). In the spring of 2011, a "hard-domed insect" attacks a serial killer in Prague as he stalks a victim. A year later, Det. Jacob Lev, a wise ass who has been relegated to analyzing data in an LAPD traffic unit, catches a career break when he's assigned to a bizarre murder case. At a house high in the Hollywood Hills, a severed head has been found on the living room floor; a burn mark on a kitchen counter spells out the Hebrew word for justice. In the course of the ensuing murder investigation, Lev repeatedly encounters a strange beetle. Eventually, his search for the truth takes him to Prague, long known for its Golem.

Kuhlken, Ken. [The Good Know Nothing](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Sept. 13). What if T Jefferson Parker's Edgar-winning *California Girl* drilled down into the early 20th Century? Like Philip Kerr, whose bestselling Bernie Gunther series moves back in forth

in time during the mid-20th Century, Ken Kuhlken's Hickey family story covers a lot of ground. We're in 1936 here. But the story dips farther back, providing the final chapter, the one on which the mystery underlying the whole series rests: what happened to Tom's father, Charlie Hickey, an LA cop who just disappeared one day—forever? In his relentless effort to find out what happened to Charlie, Tom lures the novelist B. Traven to Catalina and accuses him of manuscript-theft and homicide. Traven's tale is that the Sundance Kid, having escaped from his reputed death in Bolivia, killed Charlie. But Tom has always believed media mogul William Randolph Hearst is the only one who knows the real story. Patrick adds, "I've been a fan of Kuhlken's Hickey family novels for years. Over the course of seven novels, he's given us a multi-generational portrait of Southern California, exploring the by-roads of pop culture and social history in a unique way, as if Raymond Chandler had sat down with Brian Wilson and Dave Alvin over a few margaritas. And now we finally get to hear the story behind Tom Hickey's father's disappearance back in the 1930's, with a take on the legend and lore of B. Traven that is as plausible as anyone else's. Don't miss it!" Kuhlken won the St. Martins Press/*PWA* Best First Private Eye Novel contest with *The Loud Adios* (\$14.95) our first meeting with the Hickey family. To order the whole series, click here. [Paperback: [The Good Know Nothing](#) (\$14.95)]

Moss, Todd. [The Golden Hour](#) (Putnam \$26.95). The title refers to "the hundred hours immediately after a coup, when there is still a chance that diplomacy, a secret back channel, military action—something—may yet reverse the chain of events. And in Mali, West Africa, when a coup occurs, what a test for Judd Ryker. An academic recruited and appointed Director of a new State Department Crisis Reaction Unit, he's been sidelined ever since, a victim of intense turf battles among Washington, DC agencies. In the Mali coup he sees a mandate, a chance to test his theory and prove and the Golden Hour actually works. Alas, in the real world those 100 hours move more quickly than he expects, and include factors he never imagined. A **First Mystery Club Pick**.

Palumbo, Dennis. [Phantom Limb](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Sept. 13). The *Booklist* Starred Review: "Amputees say a missing arm or leg can itch and demand to be scratched, as though it were still there. That's a "phantom limb," and its ghostly presence is one of the keys to this lively novel. The premise is conventional enough: a has-been film star, married to a gazillionaire coot, is kidnapped. The stock characters are present: the old boy's bitter, boozy son; officious police and feds; a woman cop who chafes at not being taken seriously; and even the hero, the penetratingly analytical psychologist Daniel Rinaldi. A minor figure, who lost a leg in Afghanistan, waits in the wings as the plot races to its conclusion. But after the kidnap drama ends, there are about 170 pages to go. What follows is a reexamination of the evidence, when the phantom limb makes its nonpresence known. Could it be that the kidnap-ransom plot was really about something else? We're on the psychologist's turf now, and the revelations are more interesting than the author's attempt to turn this into an actioner. It's about fragmented people's attempts to be whole." Paperback: [Phantom Limb](#) (\$14.95). To order the first three Rinaldis, all of which earned Starred Reviews and other acclaim, [click here](#).

Perry, Anne. [Blood on the Water](#) (Random \$26 Sept. 27—this date is iffy since Perry is dealing with US Immigration. We will update you). Perry's 20th William Monk Victorian historical opens with a powerful scene. Monk, commander of the Thames River Police, witnesses an explosion aboard a pleasure boat, which rapidly sinks. Despite his heroic efforts to save lives, almost 200 are lost in the tragedy, which the detective quickly concludes wasn't an accident. To Monk's dismay, the authorities take the case away from his force and assign it to the London Metropolitan Police. An Egyptian man, Habib Beshara, is charged with planting the bomb that caused the deadly explosion, though his motive is far from clear. Monk has misgivings about Beshara's guilt, but with the case reassigned and a culprit identified, he can investigate only at risk to his career. It's a pleasure to return to this series' main characters—Monk; his wife, Hester; and their 16-year-old surrogate son, Scuff.

Rosebrook, Jeb. [Purgatory Road](#) (\$15.99). Arizona, 1951. Introducing Charlemagne, a deadly Mojave Rattlesnake, who lives on the road between Heaven and Hell, as the town of Apache Falls celebrates its annual July barbecue celebration. Thereby are entwined the fates of a Korean War veteran, a young woman engaged to a 1950s marriage, her mother, who believes this to be the last day of her life, a pyromaniac barber, and a man known as The Redeemer, in search of Snakes for Salvation.... There's a memorable softball game in this first Charlemagne book by longtime customer and successful screenwriter Rosebrook.

Sandford, John. [Deadline](#) (Putnam \$27.95 Oct. 7 on sale date). Virgil Flowers works the murder of a local reporter down in SE Minnesota where a school board has met behind closed doors. The proposal up for a vote was whether to authorize the killing of a local reporter. The vote was four-to-one—in favor.... Virgil is fabulous and fun. [Click here](#) to order his earlier investigations.

Starkston, Judith. [Hand of Fire: A Novel of Briseis and the Trojan War](#) (\$18). Briseis is the woman Achilles and Agamemnon fought over in *The Iliad*. When Achilles, the half-immortal Greek warrior, takes Briseis captive in the midst of the Trojan War, he gets more than he bargained for: a healing priestess, a strong-willed princess—and a warrior. She raises a sword against Achilles and ignites a passion that seals his fate. "Why does Briseis love Achilles? This mightiest of Greek warriors has, after all, killed her brothers, destroyed her city, and taken her captive. Finding too much to like in the existential hero Achilles to blame this peculiarity on an ancient version of Stockholm syndrome," Starkston went digging into the past. Her on-the-scene research unearthed some information in cuneiform tablets describing magical rites and political intrigue. A powerful role for Briseis, that of a healing priestess, called in Hittite a *hasawa*, also came to historic light. That role made perfect sense for a woman who fell in love with a half-immortal warrior who was a healer and a bard.

Talton, Jon. [The Night Detectives](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). The private-detective business starts out badly for former Phoenix Deputy David Mapstone, who has teamed up with his old friend and boss, Sheriff Mike Peralta, when both lose their jobs in the wake of a highly charged election. Their first client is gunned down just after hiring them. The case: a suspicious death investigation involving a young Arizona woman who fell from a

condo tower in San Diego. The police call Grace Hunter's death a suicide, but the client doesn't buy it. He's her brother. Or is he? Actually—who is he? The cops working the murder scene find multiple driver's licenses on his body. Traveling to San Diego, Mapstone finds the dead woman's boyfriend, who is trying to care for their baby and can't believe Grace would kill herself. He, too, hires our new PIs to solve Grace's death. But a darker story emerges. Grace was putting herself through college as a high-priced call girl, an escort for rich men who valued her looks and discretion. Before the day is out, the boyfriend is murdered and Mapstone barely escapes with his own life. Someone is killing Peralta's and Mapstone's clients. And may be coming for them. Neither the lovely beaches of San Diego nor the enchanting desert of Arizona can conceal the brutal danger that lies beneath. While the pair no longer wears badges, they are still detectives. And like cops who work a graveyard beat, they are (for now) night detectives. Paperback (\$14.95). [Click here](#) to order Talton's wonderful earlier work.

Wagner, David. [Death in the Dolomites](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Sept. 13. Rick Montoya, half New Mexican, half Italian, tours readers through Italy like a less cynical Donna Leon or Michael Dibdin. Rick's taking a skiing break when the Roman cops send those of ski-resort Campiglio his way. An American banker posted to Milan is missing, last seen on his way to the slopes.... *La dolce vita* underscores the mystery—the sights, smells and tastes of Italy, experienced in a picture-perfect Alpine town where perfect ski conditions are punctuated by glorious wines and bowls of fresh pasta—and this near Milan, by fashionistas. Paperback: [Death in the Dolomites](#) (\$14.95). Start with [Cold Tuscan Stone](#) (\$14.95).

FIRST NOVELS

Christie, Alix. [Gutenberg's Apprentice Signed](#) (Harper \$27.99). Out the end of September but signed for us Oct. 8 in NY. **This marvelous book is thus both our September Modern Firsts Pick and our History/Mystery Pick.** Order early if you aren't in either club in case we can up our order. At some point, since this is British author, we can't get extras. Youthful, ambitious Peter Schoeffler is on the verge of professional success as a scribe in Paris when his foster father, wealthy merchant and bookseller Johann Fust, summons him home to corrupt, feud-plagued Mainz to meet "a most amazing man." Johann Gutenberg, a driven and caustic inventor, has devised a revolutionary—and to some, blasphemous—method of bookmaking: a machine he calls a printing press. Fust is financing Gutenberg's workshop and he orders Peter, his adopted son, to become Gutenberg's apprentice. Resentful at having to abandon a prestigious career as a scribe, Peter begins his education in the "darkest art." As his skill grows, so, too, does his admiration for Gutenberg and his dedication to their daring venture: copies of the Holy Bible. But mechanical difficulties and the crushing power of the Catholic Church threaten their work. As outside forces align against them, Peter finds himself torn between two father figures: the generous Fust, who saved him from poverty after his mother died; and the brilliant, mercurial Gutenberg, who inspires Peter to achieve his own mastery. "Schoeffler anchors the story, but Gutenberg flashes-megalomaniacal and duplicitous, with hair 'wild and bristling to his shoulders...beard cascad[ing]...glinting here and there like twists of wire,' and 'glowing, canine eyes.' Christie masterfully depicts the time and energy required to print

the first Bibles... A bravura debut."—*Kirkus* Starred Review. "Enthralling... Christie demonstrates a printer's precision... in her account of *quattrocento* innovation, technology, politics, art and commerce."—*Publishers Weekly* Starred Review. "Gorgeously written...dramatizes the creation of the Gutenberg Bible in a story that devotees of book history and authentic historical fiction will relish...An inspiring tale of ambition, camaraderie, betrayal, and cultural transformation based on actual events and people, this wonderful novel fully inhabits its age."—*Booklist* Starred Review. I have twice visited Mainz and the Gutenberg Museum there—it looks so ordinary now for such revolutionary technology.

Cook, Matt. [Sabotage Signed](#) (Forge \$25.99 Signed Oct. 14). A debut thriller where the evil extortionist "Viking" hijacks a luxury cruise liner to fend off attempts to kill his control of dangerous weapons technology. Celebrated Stanford professor (Cook wrote this while a student at the university) Malcolm Clare has disappeared. One of his doctoral candidates enlists Clare's daughter and other students to devise a Trojan horse and, mixing metaphors, outfox the Viking.... This is smart and fun.

Giltrow, Helen. [The Distance](#) (Knopf \$26.95). In British author Giltrow's riveting debut, the rich, sophisticated Charlotte Alton is the alter ego of Karla, who operates a high-tech information network. Eight years earlier, Karla established a new identity for Simon Johanssen, a hit man fleeing gangster John Quillan. Now Johanssen wants her help infiltrating the Program, a prisoner-run society in a heavily guarded London neighborhood, to kill inmate Catherine Gallagher. Because Quillan is the most powerful man in the Program, Karla has misgivings about sending Johanssen inside, but reluctantly agrees. She also looks into Catherine's background but finds no record of a crime, conviction, sentencing, or incarceration—only a year-old missing person report. Meanwhile, Catherine saves Johanssen from Quillan's sadistic sidekick, and he begins to reconsider the hit.

Hoffman, Patrick. [The White Van](#) (Grove \$24). A heist propels Hoffman's outstanding first novel. Sophia, a Russian émigré, plans to rob a San Francisco branch of US Bank with some inside assistance from its manager, Rada Harkov, and the help of two people recruited (decidedly against their wills) for the job: "the Russian," another émigré and a black-market trader who owes Sophia money; and Emily, a young woman coerced into helping with drugs and threats ("She had been made into a slave"). The robbery nets some \$880,000, a powerful temptation for another major character, Elias, an officer with the SFPD Gang Task Force. An alcoholic, Elias is plagued by money worries. Beyond the engaging plot, the book focuses on people's behavior in the face of impossible choices. Hoffman, who spent nine years working as a PI in San Francisco, writes with great authority about the city's seamy side and the grim realities of life for its down-on-their-luck denizens. We may pursue Signed copies.

Koenig, Minerva. [Nine Days](#) (St Martins \$24.99). "Texas architect Koenig's complex and intriguing suspense debut introduces 'Julia Kalas'—the name the WITSEC program assigned her after neo-Nazis made her a widow...Fans of distinctive female characters like Nevada Barr's Anna Pigeon and Becky Masterman's Brigid Quinn will be thrilled to add Koenig to their ranks."—*PW* Starred Review. More on this when I get to read it.

La Seur, Carrie. [The Home Place Signed](#) (Harper \$28). **A First Mystery Club Pick** is as much about life in Montana, notably Billings—by a lawyer and scholar who lives there. The death of a very drunk Vicky pulls her sister Alma, the only Terrebonne who made an escape—to a new life as a hard-driving lawyer in Seattle—back to Billings and to her highly dysfunctional clan. Did Vicky freeze to death—or did she have help? Alma reluctantly reunites and slowly reworks history she thought she knew, all the while surprised by how powerful is the pull of home. La Seur unfolds the story at a leisurely pace allowing her to examine her landscape unflinchingly and painting it with great beauty. This debut is as much about the wonderful writing as it is about an intriguing new female character.

Olsson, Fredrik T. [Chain of Events Signed](#) (LittleBrown UK \$42). A high-concept thriller on a grand stage begins the shooting of a man in Berlin, moves on with the kidnapping of an aged agent—a genius—from a Swedish hospital who meets another kidnappee, a young woman research student in Archaeology at the University of Amsterdam at an ancient Alpine castle where they are both imprisoned. There's General Connors. And Williams the genius' journalist wife, and many more... To say it's complicated is a vast understatement. The sweeping plot involves ancient Sumerian cuneiform, cryptography, coding, and laboratory experiments. And multiple action channels. It all digs deeply into the past as a threat to our future may be at stake. Arriving late in September so it's our **October Thriller Club Pick**.

Riordan, JF. [North of the Tension Line](#) (Beaufort Books \$24.95). This charmer is more than women's fiction—in fact, Roger, the asocial physicist running tourist/local spot Coffee who moves glacially towards romance and an actual interest in becoming a barista, is hilarious. So are the animals whether Rocco the protective German Shepherd or Robert, the unfortunate goat. The ferry captain who writes poetry, the wicked witch of a neighbor on Washington Island, the vicious politics of small town life as well as its many kindnesses and accommodations all enrich the story of Fiona Campbell, a veteran journalist who moved to Wisconsin's Door County, first to the tourist port of Ephraim on Lake Michigan, and then, falling in love with an old house, up to the tip of the peninsula and onto an island. Her friend Elizabeth, owner of a gallery inn Ephraim and possessor of a private income, and oddly taken with Roger, is fabulous, too. This book is filled with the unexpected alongside things you do see coming, and is narrated from various points of view but all in Riordan's engaging voice. I hope she writes a new novel quickly!

BRITISH BOOKS

Beaton, MC. [The Blood of an Englishman](#) (St Martins \$24.99 comes with Recipe Bookplate signed by Beaton). Beaton must be dipping into *Fifty Shades of Grey* these days. Agatha Raisin's libido is high, as apparently is true among her pals. Her friend Mrs. Bloxby, the vicar's wife, has persuaded her to support the local pantomime. Stifling a yawn at the production of *Babes in the Woods*, Agatha watches the baker strutting his stuff on the stage—until a trapdoor opens and the Ogre disappears in a puff of smoke. When he fails to reappear at the final curtain, they check and discover the Ogre... was spiked. Agatha puts her team of PIs on the case. They soon discover more feuds and temperamental behavior plague this pantomime than in a professional stage show. And Agatha's love life remains as tangled as ever....25th in series.

Cleeves, Ann. [Thin Air Signed](#) (Macmillan \$42). 6th in her award-winning and TV-adapted Shetland series. A group of old university friends leave the bright lights of London and travel to Unst, Shetland's most northerly island, to celebrate the marriage of one of their friends to a Shetlander. But late on the night of the wedding party, one of them, Eleanor, disappears—apparently into thin air. It's mid-summer, a time of light nights and unexpected mists. The following day, Eleanor's friend Polly receives an email. It appears to be a suicide note, saying she'll never be found alive. And then Eleanor's body is discovered, lying in a small loch close to the cliff edge. Detectives Jimmy Perez and Willow Reeves are dispatched to Unst to investigate. Before she went missing, Eleanor claimed to have seen the ghost of a local child who drowned in the 1920s. Her interest in the ghost had seemed unhealthy—obsessive, even—to her friends: an indication of a troubled mind. But Jimmy and Willow are convinced that there is more to Eleanor's death than they first thought. Is there a secret that lies behind the myth? One so shocking that someone would kill—many years later—to protect? Ann Cleeves' striking new Shetland novel explores the tensions between tradition and modernity that lie deep at the heart of a community.

Crombie, Deborah. [To Dwell in Darkness Signed](#) (Morrow \$25.99). See Event Book for the new London investigations for Kincaid and James.

Faulks, Sebastian. [Jeeves and the Wedding Bells](#) (\$15.99). A glorious return to the world of Jeeves and Bertie Wooster. See September Trade Paperback Picks

Hannah, Sophie. [The Monogram Murders Signed](#) (Harper \$25.99). “Hannah does a superb job of channeling Agatha Christie in this wholly successful pastiche authorized by the Christie estate. One evening in February 1929, Hercule Poirot is dining alone at a London coffee shop when a woman arrives who looks as if she had ‘come face to face with the devil.’ Poirot joins the distraught woman, known at first as Jennie, who tells the sleuth that no one can help her because she's “already dead,” and that no one should search for her killer. ‘The crime must never be solved,’ she proclaims. Another cryptic remark Jennie makes before fleeing into the night—‘please let no one open their mouths’—resonates with Poirot and Inspector Edward Catchpool, the Scotland Yard detective with whom he rooms, after two women and a man are found poisoned in a hotel near Piccadilly Circus, each with a monogrammed gold cuff link inserted in his or her mouth. The rest of the novel lives up to the promise of the opening, complete with dazzling deductions, subtle cluing, false endings, and superb prose. After the first chapter, Catchpool, who brings his own psychological baggage to the case, serves splendidly as the book's narrator. Lovers of classic whodunits can only hope Hannah continues to offer her take on the great Belgian detective.”—*PW* Starred Review

Harvey, John. [Darkness, Darkness](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). Charlie Resnick, recently promoted to Detective Inspector and ambivalent, at best, about some of the police tactics used in the British Miner's Strike some thirty years back, had run an surveillance-gathering unit at the heart of the dispute. Now, in virtual retirement, the discovery of the body of a young woman who disappeared during the Strike brings Resnick back to the front line to assist in the investigation into the woman's murder—

forcing him to confront his past—in what will assuredly be his last case. But, “he lives in the imaginations of all those lucky readers who have picked up a book and travelled with him like an old friend. Darkness, Darkness is yet another superb telling of the character by John Harvey. As distinctly as I remember reading the first Resnick I will always remember this one. Rich in wistful telling, the story holds your heart steady in a tight fist. It doesn’t let you go. It doesn’t let you let go of the man either.” Signed UK edition: [Darkness Darkness](#) (\$44).

Harris, Oliver. [Deep Shelter](#) (Harper/Bourbon Street \$15.99). This superb, unorthodox police procedural is our **September British Crime Club Pick**. Nick Belsey, who made his debut in [The Hollow Man](#) (\$14.99) as an unprincipled if sharp investigator, tumbles into trouble again. He’s taken a date to an abandoned WWII bomb shelter buried beneath London’s heart, so fascinated is he with it. And—she vanishes into the dark labyrinth of the secret tunnels. Nick, knowing if he reports her disappearance he’ll be the prime suspect, resolves to find her. What else is down those forgotten tunnels? Where do they lead? In an edgy, subversive probe, Nick comes smack up against old Cold War secrets and an enemy who would rather Jemma—and Nick—die than have them revealed. Fabulous! I literally could not put this down.

Ireland, DE. [Wouldn’t It Be Deadly](#) (St Martins \$24.99). The co-authors co-opt Shaw’s *Pygmalion* (and *My Fair Lady*) to create a mystery for former Cockney flower seller Eliza Doolittle to solve—despite the volatile Professor Henry Higgins. I tried to like this but some works can’t be imitated. This isn’t even up to the level of an homage. Few Americans can write British novels with success. Fortunately we have Crombie and Malliet this month!

Kelly, Erin. [Broadchurch](#) (St Martins \$24.99). The popular BBC-TV drama starring David Tennant and Olivia Colman debuted in 2013 and was acquired for BBC America, debuting in August, 2013. Set on the coast of Dorset, it begins with an 11-year-old boy who is found dead beneath cliffs and declared murdered. It’s going to be called *Gracepoint* in a new US version. Anyway, here is the novelization based on the story of series creator Chris Chibnall. It’s a classic British police enquiry in a quiet seaside town with results that are tragic but not truly surprising. It’s hard to say if you should watch or read *Broadchurch* first. And it has been renewed by the BBC for a second season, so a new investigation will have to be created. Erin Kelly is an excellent new British author with several books to her credit. [Click here](#) for them.

Kernick, Simon. [Ultimatum](#) (Atria \$15). After a bomb explodes in a central London café and terrorists warn worse is to come, William Garrett, aka “Fox,” claims only he can name the bombers—at a price. He’s currently awaiting trial for murder. DI Mike Bolt and Deputy Commissioner Tina Boyd face a desperate bid to forestall a major atrocity....

Lane, Andrew. [The Young Sherlock Holmes #7: Stone Cold Signed](#) (Pan \$35). Sherlock Holmes has been sent to live in Oxford to focus on his education. But something strange is happening in the university pathology labs. For more, see YAs of Note below.

Lewis, Ted. [Get Carter](#) (Soho \$14.95). A reissue of a hardboiled classic set in Northern England’s industrial hell, a 1960s mill

town where London fixer Jack Carter is home for her brother’s funeral. And puzzled—Frank didn’t drink, so how did he drunk drive his car off a cliff? Michael Caine starred in the classic film by Mike Hodges who writes a new Introduction. Dennis Lehane writes, “Aristotle, when he defined tragedy, mandated that a tragic hero must fall from a great height.” Or here, from low. Think *Mystic River* or Lehane’s *The Drop*, reviewed below in New Books....

Lovesey, Peter. [The Stone Wife](#) (Soho \$26.95). This may be the 14th investigation for Bath’s portly and often surly Superintendent Peter Diamond, but it maintains Lovesey’s creativity and pace as strongly as ever. A Bath auction house puts a slab of stone up for sale, expecting a civilized bidding process. Instead it grows intensely competitive before being interrupted by a hold up attempt. Three masked men enter, shoot the high bidder, a professor, then flee, leaving the stone behind. The victim had recognized the carving thereon as Chaucer’s Wife of Bath... “One of the great things about reading one of Lovesey’s police procedurals starring Chief Superintendent Peter Diamond of the Bath CID is the natural way Diamond’s cases take the reader into the history of Bath itself. Lovesey’s latest is filled with [Chaucerian] details... riveting. If you’ve never encountered Diamond before, this is a good place to start.” —*Booklist* Starred Review

Malliet, GM. [Pagan Spring](#) (\$15.99). A delightful, funny, spin on the traditional village mystery. 3rd in the Max Tudor series. See our September Trade Paperback Picks.

Marr, Andrew. [Head of State Signed](#) (Fourth Estate \$40). Two corpses. A country on the edge of a political precipice. A conspiracy so bold it would make Machiavelli wince. Andrew Marr’s debut novel imagines what really might be going on behind the door of 10 Downing Street. When a young investigative reporter is found dead on the streets of London few people notice. But when another body – minus its head and hands – is washed up on the banks of the Thames, its grisly condition arouses a little more interest. There appears to be no connection between the two dead men. But, unsuspected by the electorate, there is a shocking and dangerous secret at the very heart of government. While the United Kingdom approaches a crucial and delicately-balanced referendum on Europe, a group of ruthlessly determined individuals will stop at nothing – including murder – to prevent the truth from getting out. If you’ve missed the BBC’s 1990s dramatization of Michael Dodd’s *House of Cards*, Marr’s first novel presents “a gleefully twisted spin through the corridors of power.”

McDermid, Val. [Skeleton Road Signed](#) (LittleBrown \$42). When a skeleton is discovered hidden at the top of a gothic Victorian building in Edinburgh, which is scheduled for renovation, Cold Case Squad detective Karen Pirie is given the task of identifying the decades-old bones. Her investigation leads her back to past conflicts, false identities and buried secrets...

McEwan, Ian. [The Children Act Signed](#) (Canongate \$40). At 59, Fiona May is at the height of her career. She’s a highly respected judge specializing in family law, known for her sensitive and intelligent verdicts in cases complicated by religion. She is famous for a ruling in favor of separating conjoined infants who would otherwise both have died to ensure one would survive, against the wishes of the parents and the Catholic Church. Her decision haunts her despite the resulting acclaim.

She has just seen the case of Adam, a lovely and gifted teenaged Jehovah's Witness, just shy of legal adulthood, who is dying of leukemia. For reasons of faith, Adam and his parents refuse the blood transfusions needed to save his life. Can Fiona overrule a boy's choice, which is based on his sincere belief? Can a teenager know what he really wants? Burdened by her own regrets, especially about her childlessness, she has withdrawn into the details of the case when her husband, Jack, shocks her with his threat to embark on an affair in reaction to their sterile marriage. "McEwan seems less interested in exactly how Fiona will decide her case or whether her marriage will survive; instead, *The Children Act* derives its power from the character's infinitely varied and intimately observed emotional responses—encompassing anger, grief, hope, joy and fear—to love offered or withdrawn." US Edition: McEwan, Ian. [The Children Act](#) (Knopf \$25)

Millar, Louise. [The Hidden Girl](#) (Atria \$15). Our **Fresh Fiction Pick for September** is a variation on the country-house murder. Hannah Riley desperate for a baby, persuades her musician husband Will to risk buying a tumbledown manor in a remote Suffolk village. They arrive on a tight deadline to turn the place into a refuge that the social services worker will deem suitable for their adoption hopes. Will commutes up to London and Hannah is left on her own as the worst snowstorm in years descends upon Tornley. Suspense builds as Hannah learns to know Tornley all too well while her life disintegrates.... This isn't just a crime novel, it's about people making (bad) choices and keeping them secret. While unorthodox, it's surprisingly moving.

Mosse, Kate. [The Taxidermist's Daughter Signed](#) (Orion \$40). Sussex, 1912. In a churchyard, villagers gather on the night when the ghosts of those who will die in the coming year are thought to be seen. Here, where the estuary leads out to the sea, superstitions still hold sway. Standing alone is the taxidermist's daughter. At 17, Constantia Gifford lives with her father in a decaying house: it is all that is left of Gifford's once world-famous museum of taxidermy. The stuffed animals that used to grace every parlor are out of fashion, leaving Gifford a disgraced and bitter man. The bell begins to toll and all eyes are fixed on the church. No one sees the gloved hand pick up a flint. As the last notes fade into the dark, a woman lies dead. While the village braces itself against rising waters and the highest tide of the season, Connie struggles to discover who is responsible, but finds herself under suspicion. Is Constantia who she seems — is she the victim of circumstances or are more sinister forces at work? And what is the secret that lies at the heart of Gifford House, hidden among the bell jars of her father's workshop?

Moyes, Jojo. [Silver Bay](#) (Penguin \$16). "Beautifully crafted characters battle with everything nature has to throw at them as they fight to save Silver Bay and keep their secrets hidden. Moyes has mastered grown-up chick lit" — *News of the World*. Liza McCullen will never fully escape her past. But the unspoiled beaches and tight-knit community of Silver Bay offer the freedom and safety she craves—if not for herself, then for her young daughter, Hannah. That is, until Mike Dormer arrives as a guest in her aunt's hotel. The mild-mannered Englishman with his too-smart clothes and distracting eyes could destroy everything Liza has worked so hard to protect: not only the family business and the bay that harbors her beloved whales, but also her conviction that she will never love—never deserve

to love—again. For his part, Mike Dormer is expecting just another business deal—an easy job kick-starting a resort in a small seaside town ripe for development. But he finds that he doesn't quite know what to make of the eccentric inhabitants of the ramshackle Silver Bay Hotel, especially not enigmatic Liza McCullen, and their claim to the surrounding waters. As the development begins to take on a momentum of its own, Mike's and Liza's worlds collide.

Pryor, Mark. [The Button Man](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). A prequel set in England to the Hugo Marston, bookseller, series. See Our September Trade Paperback Picks.

Rendell, Ruth. [The Girl Next Door Signed](#) (Hutchinson \$43). Before the advent of the Second World War, beneath the green meadows of Loughton, Essex, a dark network of tunnels has been dug. A group of children discover them. They play there. It becomes their secret place. Seventy years on, the world has changed. Developers have altered the rural landscape. Friends from a half-remembered world have married, died, grown sick, moved on or disappeared. Work on a new house called Warlock uncovers a grisly secret—the bones of two severed hands—buried a lifetime ago, and a weary detective, more preoccupied with current crimes, must investigate a possible case of murder. Interesting that like Harris above, Rendell writes about wartime tunnels.

Taylor, Andrew. [The Silent Boy Signed](#) (Collins \$40). Paris, 1792. Terror reigns as the city writhes in the grip of revolution. The streets run with blood as thousands lose their heads to the guillotine. Edward Savill, working in London as agent for a wealthy American, receives word that his estranged wife Augusta has been killed in France. She leaves behind ten-year-old Charles, who is brought to England to Charnwood Court, a house in the country leased by a group of émigré refugees. Savill is sent to retrieve the boy, though it proves easier to reach Charnwood than to leave. And only when Savill arrives there does he discover that Charles is mute. The boy has witnessed horrors beyond his years, but what terrible secret haunts him so deeply that he is unable to utter a word?

Taylor, DJ. [The Windsor Faction](#) (\$14.95). London, 1939: Journalists gather like vultures for the funeral of Wallis Simpson, and a mournful King Edward VIII sits on the throne. If Wallis Simpson had not died on the operating table in December 1936, Edward VIII would not be King of England three years later. He would have abdicated for "the woman he loves," but now, the throne is his. If Henry Bannister's car had not careered off the Colombo back-roads in the summer before the war, Cynthia Kirkpatrick would never have found out about The Faction. It is autumn 1939, and everything in history is just as it was. Except, that is, for the identity of the king in Buckingham Palace—and the existence of a secret organization operating at the highest levels of society and determined to derail the war effort against Nazi Germany. *The Windsor Faction* is an ingenious exercise in what-might-have-been that assembles a cast of real and imaginary characters.

Tyler, LC. [Crooked Herring Signed](#) (Allison \$42). Ethelred Tressider, mid-list crime writer, is surprised when fellow author Henry Holiday unexpectedly turns up on his doorstep. He's even more surprised when Henry confesses that he may have committed murder while drunk on New Year's Eve. Though

he has little recollection of the night, Henry fears he may have killed drinking companion and fellow crime writer Crispin Vynall, and asks Ethelred to discreetly make enquiries in order to discover the truth. As Ethelred and his trusty agent Elsie begin to investigate, they discover that Henry has been set up, and now all that remains is for them to find out why and, more importantly ...whodunnit?

Wheatley, Dennis. [Devil Rides Out](#); [Forbidden Territory](#) ; (\$15 each). Dennis Wheatley (1897–1977) was an English author whose prolific output of stylish thrillers and occult novels made him one of the world’s best-selling writers from the 1930s through the 1960s. Bloomsbury reissues two Duke du Richelieu adventures. [To the Devil, A Daughter](#) (\$15) contains tales of the supernatural.

Whitehouse, Lucie. [Before We Met](#) (\$15). “Hannah Reilly waits at Heathrow to welcome her husband, Mark, home from a business trip. Only Mark never shows. Credit Whitehouse for opening her latest novel with a crackerjack premise that will hook readers from the first page. Mark’s reappearance—a lost cell phone and a last-minute client meeting explain away his absence—does little to relieve the tension, as seeds of doubt have been planted in Hannah’s mind. Having watched her mother drive her father away with suspicions of cheating, Hannah has been almost willfully trusting of Mark, but the more she digs into her husband’s business dealings and past, the more questions arise. Because Whitehouse has cleverly structured her work as a romantic thriller, with Mark presented as a classic leading man, she’s able to pull off a red herring of a revelation that amps up the plot’s suspense. She doesn’t fully maintain her momentum as the novel gets caught up in exposition, but when Whitehouse sticks to the chase, this is a gripping cat-and-mouse read.”—*Booklist*

ALL OVER THE WORLD

Adler-Olsen, Jussi. [The Marco Effect](#) (Dutton \$27.95). It’s Denmark, and Detective Carl Morck, and Department Q. Rob and I have just watched all 32 episodes of Unit One from Danish TV (great tours of the country included). What we have is a missing teen from a gypsy clan. The 15-year-old just wanted to be a normal kid, but his iron-fisted uncle, Zola, set all the clan’s children to beg and steal (this is so Dickens, no?). Then Marco discovered a dead body, proving Zola’s badness, and went on the lam. However, it isn’t just other clan members who want to silence Marco. And a chase extending from Denmark to Africa is on.... 5th in the Department Q series.

Alaux, Jean-Pierre. [Nightmare in Burgundy](#) (Le French \$12.95). Adapted from the French TV Winemaker series, book #2. The Winemaker Detective leaves his native Bordeaux to go to Burgundy for a dream wine tasting trip to France’s other key wine-making region. Between Beaune, Dijon and Nuits-Saint-Georges, it turns into a troubling nightmare when he stumbles upon a mystery revolving around messages from another era. What do they mean? What dark secrets from the deep past are haunting the Clos de Vougeot?

Barker, Susan. [Incarnations Signed](#) (Doubleday UK \$35). Beijing, 2008, the Olympics are coming, but as taxi driver Wang circles the city’s congested streets, he feels barely alive. His daily grind is suddenly interrupted when he finds a letter in the sunshade of his cab. Someone is watching him. Someone who claims to be

his soul mate and to have known him for over a thousand years. Other letters follow, taking Wang back in time: to a spirit-bride in the Tang Dynasty; to young slaves during the Mongol invasion; to concubines plotting to kill the emperor; to a kidnapping in the Opium War; and to Red Guards during the Cultural revolution. And with each letter, Wang feels the watcher in the shadows growing closer. Barrett, who spent several years living in Beijing, researching modern and imperial China while writing this novel, mixes contemporary Beijing and interwoven with tales from the Tang dynasty, the invasion of Genghis Khan, the Ming dynasty, the Opium War, and the Cultural Revolution. And spent several years living in Beijing, researching modern and imperial China.

Cussler, Clive. [The Eye of Heaven Signed](#) (Putnam \$28.95). Baffin Island: Husband-and-wife team Sami and Remi Fargo are on a climate-control expedition in the Arctic, when to their astonishment they discover a Viking longship in the ice, perfectly preserved—and filled with pre-Columbian artifacts from Mexico. How can that be? As they plunge into their research, tantalizing clues about a link between the Vikings and the legendary Toltec feathered serpent god Quetzalcoatl—and a fabled object known as the Eye of Heaven—begin to emerge. But so do many dangerous people. Soon the Fargos find themselves on the run through jungles, temples, and secret tombs, caught between treasure hunters, crime cartels, and those with a far more personal motivation for stopping them.

Disher, Garry. [The Dragon Man](#) (\$9.99). Enjoy the first case for Southeast Australia copper Hall Challis. A serial killer is on the loose in a small coastal town near Melbourne. Detective Inspector Challis and his team want to catch him before he strikes again. But first, Challis has to contend with the editor of a local newspaper who undermines his investigation at every turn, and with his wife, who attempts to resurrect their marriage through long-distance phone calls from a sanitarium, where she has been committed for the past eight years for attempted murder—his. I’m a fan of this series.

Fitzgerald, Conor. [Bitter Remedy](#) (Bloomsbury \$26). This is not the Italy of *la dolce vita*. It’s both dark and bitter. Commissario Alec Blume, on health leave and fleeing his partner Caterina, has retreated from Rome to central Italy. At the Villa Romanelli he enrolls on a natural remedies course conducted by a young woman named Silvana. But far from recuperating or resolving his differences with Caterina, a feverish Blume becomes isolated and sluggish with sickness. Increasingly ill-at-ease in the stifling environment, the dark history of the crumbling villa and its once-magnificent gardens draws him in. And when a Romanian girl who works for Silvana’s ambiguous fiancé Niki asks for his help, Blume finds himself dragged into the shadowy case of a missing girl, and the secret horrors of the garden’s malign beauty. Pretty horrifying, really.

Follett, Ken. [Edge of Eternity](#) (Dutton \$36). In Book Three of the Century Trilogy, the five intertwined families—American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh—move into the 1960s-80s, encompassing civil rights, assassinations, Vietnam, the Berlin Wall, the Cuban Missile Crisis, presidential impeachment, revolution—and rock and roll.

French, Tana. [The Secret Place Signed](#) (Viking \$27.95). A Starred Review begins: “In French’s mesmerizing fifth Dublin Murder Squad mystery, Det. Stephen Moran, who works in the

cold-case unit, is biding his time until he can make the Murder Squad. When 16-year-old Holly Mackey, a colleague's daughter, shows up with a clue to an old crime, Moran sees his chance. A student at St. Kilda's boarding school, Holly vividly remembers the previous year's murder of Chris Harper, a popular teen from Colm's, the neighboring boys' school. From the St. Kilda's personal notice board known as the Secret Place, Holly brings Moran a photo of Chris with the words "I know who killed him" pasted across his chest." So here is the public school setting beloved of much crime fiction: insular, secret-laden, pulsing with adolescent hormones...dangerous. The girls have an argot of their own on top of whatever cool new language is circulating. And a very large Notice Board is put up by the school to facilitate sharing fears and secrets and hatreds. Thereon appears a clue... French is very good at claustrophobia and the pulse of secrets.

Indridason, Arnaldur. [Strange Shores](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Karen reviews: *The Sunday Times* says the author is "one of the most brilliant crime writers of his generation." Such high praise is appropriate for this new title. Detective Erlendur is dispatched to investigate the twenty-year-old disappearance of a young woman, and also for his brother who disappeared during their childhood. As an outsider to the community, Erlendur uses that to his advantage as he blends in various, what appears to be, trivial threads to further the investigations. The combined threads, plus his intense curiosity, lead him to a crime he had not pursued. Constant suspense, strong characters, and a consistent sense of place make this a great read." The latest Erlendur in paperback: [Black Skies](#) (\$16).

Kallentoft, Mons. [Autumn Killing](#) (Atria \$16). Kallentoft pulls off a good trick by making his lead cop, Supt. Malin Fors, truly unlikeable. A drunk with few relationship skills, poor judgment, and a temper. This is a kind of country-house murder, but in an ancient castle sold by its impoverished aristocrat owner. Autumn rains are pouring down on the Swedish countryside, but it's the discovery of a brutally stabbed body floating face down in the moat of Skogså Castle that chills one town to the bone. Jerry Petersson, the castle's new owner and a notoriously ruthless lawyer and entrepreneur, is now, shall we say, permanently out of business. Meanwhile, Malin Fors, the brilliant but flawed star of the local police force, is already struggling to keep her life together following the recent murder attempt on her teenage daughter, Tove. As the Petersson case forces Malin to delve deep into her town's history and her own family's past, the secrets she uncovers threaten to drown her, too.

Kepler, Lars. [The Sandman Signed](#) (Collins \$46). Jurek Walter, Sweden's most prolific serial killer, is serving a life sentence. Kept in solitary confinement, he is still considered extremely dangerous by psychiatric staff. He'll lull you into a sense of calm. Mikael knows him as "the sandman". Seven years ago, he was taken from his bed along with his sister. They are both presumed dead. When Mikael is discovered on a railway line, close to death, the hunt begins for his sister. To get to the truth, Detective Inspector Joona Linna will need to get closer than ever to the man who stripped him of a family; the man who wants Linna dead.... Kepler began with First Mystery Pick [The Hypnotist](#) (\$16).

Krajewski, Marek. [The Minotaur's Head: An Eberhard Mock Investigation](#) (Melville \$25.95). When Abwehr Captain Eberhard Mock is called from his New Year's Eve revelries to attend a particularly grisly crime scene, his notoriously robust stomach is turned. A young girl—and suspected spy—who arrived by train from France just days before, has been found dead in her hotel room, the flesh torn from her cheek by her assailant's teeth. Ill at ease with the increasingly open integration of S.S., Gestapo, and police, Mock is partially relieved to be assigned to liaise with officers in Lvov, Poland, where a series of similar crimes—as yet unsolved—cast a long shadow over the town. In Lvov he joins the ongoing investigation conducted by Commissioner Popielski, a fellow classicist who relies on a highly unorthodox method of deduction. Meanwhile, Popielski is worried by the behavior of his only daughter, Rita. Her head has been turned by her charismatic drama teacher, and now, unbeknownst to her father, she has started receiving letters from an ardent secret admirer.

Lapidus, Jens. [Life Deluxe](#) (Knopf \$26.95). In this final chapter in the Stockholm Noir Trilogy, Jorge was making a living as a drug dealer until he was caught and thrown into prison. Recently released and warned to keep out of trouble, he's already bored with his new existence: selling lattes and cappuccinos at a café. Who wouldn't be? But Jorge has a plan, and big money looms on the horizon if he can pull off one final audacious heist and flee the country before the police close in. Meanwhile, Deputy Inspector Martin Hägerström—entrusted with a secret mission, code name Operation Tide—has gone deep undercover as a disgraced cop turned corrections officer. He's slowly earning the trust of Stockholm's imprisoned expert money launderer, Johan Westlund. A career criminal with a taste for the jet-setting lifestyle, JW is a dangerous man to befriend, one who may demand more loyalty than Hägerström had planned on offering.

Mantel, Hilary. [The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher Signed](#) (Fourth Estate UK \$36). In these ten bracingly subversive tales, all her gifts of characterization and observation are fully engaged, summoning forth the horrors so often concealed behind everyday façades. Childhood cruelty is played out behind the bushes in "Comma"; nurses clash in "Harley Street" over something more than professional differences; and in the title story, staying in for the plumber turns into an ambiguous and potentially deadly waiting game. Whether set in a claustrophobic Saudi Arabian flat or on a precarious mountain road in Greece, these stories share an insight into the darkest recesses of the spirit and display all of double Booker-Prize-winner Mantel's unmistakable style and wit. US Edition: [The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher](#) (Holt \$26)

McIlvanney, William. [Papers of Tony Veitch](#) (\$16). Eck Adamson, an alcoholic vagrant, summons Jack Laidlaw to his deathbed. Probably the only policeman in Glasgow who would bother to respond, Laidlaw sees in Eck's cryptic last message a clue to the murder of a gangland thug and the disappearance of a student. With stubborn integrity, Laidlaw tracks down a seam of corruption that runs from the top to the bottom of society. "The Laidlaw books changed the face of Scottish fiction. Because of what arrived in their wake, it's hard to comprehend how radically different William McIlvanney's novels were from anything that had preceded them. But rereading them for the third or fourth time, I remain entranced. From the opening chapter of *Laidlaw*, I knew I'd never read a crime novel like this. Patricia Highsmith

had taken us inside the head of killers; Ruth Rendell tentatively explored sexuality; with *No Mean City*, Alexander McArthur had exposed Glasgow to the world; Raymond Chandler had dressed the darkness in clever words. But nobody had ever smashed those elements together into so accomplished a synthesis... McIlvanney harnessed the vigor of vernacular Scots speech and made it sing... Without his books, there might not have been tartan noir. He kicked the door open so the likes of Ian Rankin, Denise Mina, and me could sneak through behind him. But they're much more than a monument. They're still a bloody good read."—Val McDermid, one terrific book reviewer when she writes them.

Muir, T. Frank. [Eye for an Eye](#) (\$9.99). Six corpses have appeared in the cobbled back streets of St. Andrews in recent times, all known spousal abusers who suffered the same gruesome fate: stabbed to death in the left eye. But with no new leads left to explore, Detective Inspector Andy Gilchrist of the Scottish city's constabulary is forced off the case. What is the significance of the left eye? Gilchrist can't seem to focus on anything else, and with his career and his reputation on the line, he vows to catch the killer even if it means he must do it alone. Starts the series.

Nadel, Barbara. [Poisoned Ground Signed](#) (Quercus \$45). Ex-soldier Lee Arnold and his Muslim assistant Mumtaz Hakim run a detective agency in London's ethnically diverse, crime-ridden East End. Mumtaz is approached by an Egyptian woman, Salwa, whose husband is in Belmarsh on terrorism charges. Salwa convinces Mumtaz of her husband's innocence and persuades her to go undercover to prove it. But Salwa is not what she seems. Trapped in an old tunnel that leads to the London docks, will Mumtaz escape with her life?

Quinn, Peter. [Dry Bones](#) (\$15.95). A spellbinding story of an ill-fated OSS mission into the heart of the Eastern front and its consequences more than a decade after the war's end. As the Red Army continues its unstoppable march toward Berlin in the winter of 1945, Fintan Dunne and his fellow soldier Dick Van Hull volunteer for a dangerous drop behind enemy lines to rescue a team of OSS officers trying to abet the Czech resistance. When the plan goes south, Dunne and Van Hull uncover a secret that will change both of their lives. 3rd in the Fintan Dunne series.

Rankin, Ian. [The Beat Goes On: The Complete Rebus Stories Signed](#) (Orion \$45). Not out until October but please order now to avoid disappointment.

Simenon, Georges. [Night at the Crossroads](#) (Penguin \$10). Maigret has been interrogating Carl Andersen for 17 hours without a confession. He's either innocent or a very good liar. So why was the body of a diamond merchant found at his isolated mansion? Why is his sister always shut away in her room? And why does everyone at Three Widows Crossroads have something to hide? Georges Simenon's riveting tale of deception in an isolated community, part of Penguin's series of new Inspector Maigret translations. Three more: [Crime in Holland](#) ; [Grand Banks Cafe](#); [Yellow Dog](#) (\$10 each)

And Ice Cold Crimes set in Finland

Sipila, Jarkko. [Helsinki Homicide Against the Wall](#) (\$11.95)

Sipila, Jarkko. [Helsinki Homicide Darling](#) (\$13.95)

Sipila, Jarkko. [Helsinki Homicide Nothing But the Truth](#) (\$13.95)

Sipila, Jarkko. [Helsinki Homicide Vengeance](#) (\$12.95)

Sipila, Jarkko. [Helsinki Homicide Cold Trail](#) (\$13.95)

And new:

Tervo, Jari. [Among Saints](#) (\$13.95), the story of a murdered Laplander told by 35 people.

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Briggs, Patricia. [Shifting Shadows](#) (Ace \$26.95). Six new stories and six recycled from the urban fantasy world of Mercy Thompson

Cato, Beth. [The Clockwork Dagger](#) (Harper \$14.99). Orphaned as a child, Octavia Leander was doomed to grow up on the streets until Miss Percival saved her and taught her to become a medician. Gifted with incredible powers, the young healer is about to embark on her first mission, visiting suffering cities in the far reaches of the war-scarred realm. But the airship on which she is traveling is plagued by a series of strange and disturbing occurrences, including murder, and Octavia herself is threatened. Suddenly, she is caught up in a flurry of intrigue: the dashing attractive steward may be one of the infamous Clockwork Daggers—the Queen's spies and assassins—and her cabin-mate harbors disturbing secrets. But the danger is only beginning, for Octavia discovers that the deadly conspiracy aboard the airship may reach the crown itself. A Steampunk Fantasy debut.

Donaldson, Stephen R. [The Last Dark](#) (\$17) brings to an end the Last Chronicles of Thomas Covenant tetralogy and completes a ten-novel series.

Goodkind, Terry. [Severed Souls](#) (Forge \$29.99). From the far reaches of the D'Haran Empire, Bishop Hannis Arc and the ancient Emperor Sulachan lead a vast horde of Shun-Tuk and other depraved "half-people" into the Empire's heart, raising an army of the dead in order to threaten the world of the living. Meanwhile, far from home, Richard Rahl and Kahlan Amnell must defend themselves and their followers from a series of terrifying threats, despite a magical sickness that depletes their strength and which, if not cured, will take their lives....

Grossman, Lev. [The Magician's Land Signed](#) (Viking \$27.95). In ways, malcontent antihero Quentin Coldwater had no choice. He had to return to Brakebills Preparatory College of Magic and Fillory, the scenes of his early struggles; but a spontaneous act of courage sends his life spiraling in unforeseen directions. The satisfying finale of a fantasy coming-of-age trilogy; a cunning mix of magical lands, ironic Harry Potter references, Narnia retakes, and real world realizations.

Hobb, Robin. [Fool's Assassin Signed](#) (Collins \$45). Tom Badgerlock has been living peaceably in the manor house at Withywoods with his beloved wife Molly these many years, the estate a reward to his family for loyal service to the crown. But behind the facade of respectable middle-age lies a turbulent and violent past. For Tom Badgerlock is actually FitzChivalry Farseer, bastard scion of the Farseer line, convicted user of Beast-magic, and assassin. A man who has risked much for his king and lost more.... On a shelf in his den sits a triptych carved in memory stone of a man, a wolf and a fool. Once, these three were inseparable friends: Fitz, Nighteyes and the Fool. But one is long dead, and one long-missing. Then one Winterfest night a messenger arrives to seek out Fitz, but mysteriously disappears, leaving nothing but a blood-trail. What was the message? Who was the sender? And what has happened to the messenger? Starts the Fitz and the Fool series with Volume 1. US Edition: [Fool's Assassin](#) (Random \$28)

✚Hunter, Sylvia Izzo. [The Midnight Queen](#) (Ace \$15). Gray Marshall has spent his entire life scrambling to get by in the Kingdom of Britain. With no family or money, he depends on his natural talent for magick and the kindness of his teachers to stay at Merlin College in Oxford, although not all of his teachers like him. His academic advisor, Professor Callender, is invested only in gaining power for himself and has no interest in Gray's learning or success. After Professor Callender sends Gray on an errand that results in the death of another student, Gray is blamed and suspended from school. Before Gray can defend himself or tell anyone that he was operating under orders, the professor whisks the boy away to his own home for the summer. Confined to the house, Gray meets the professor's daughter, Sophie, who convinces him to instruct her in magick—an art not taught to women. In the course of these lessons, the two young magicians discover Professor Callender's plays for power are not confined to academia and have far broader implications, both magickal and political. Gray isn't safe, but his life isn't the only one that hangs in the balance if they fail to get away from the professor.

Jackson Bennett, Robert. [City of Stairs](#) (Crown \$15). Dead gods, buried histories, and a mysterious, protean city. The city of Bulikov once wielded the powers of the gods to conquer the world, enslaving and brutalizing millions—until its divine protectors were killed. Now Bulikov has become just another colonial outpost of the world's new geopolitical power, but the surreal landscape of the city itself—first shaped, now shattered, by the thousands of miracles its guardians once worked upon it—stands as a constant, haunting reminder of its former supremacy. Into this broken city steps Shara Thivani. Officially, the unassuming young woman is just another junior diplomat sent by Bulikov's oppressors. Unofficially, she is one of her country's most accomplished spies, dispatched to catch a murderer. But as Shara pursues the killer, she starts to suspect that the beings who ruled this terrible place may not be as dead as they seem—and that Bulikov's cruel reign may not yet be over. SciFi from a rising young star.

Mandel, Emily St John. [Station Eleven Signed](#) (Picador \$35). "Station Eleven is that rare find that feels familiar and extraordinary at the same time, expertly weaving together future and present and past, death and life and Shakespeare. This is truly something special." —Erin Morgenstern. For Kirsten Raymonde, Shakespeare came before and after the end of the world. At eight years old, she played a hallucination in a stage production of *King Lear* starring middle-aged film star Arthur Leander. As an adult, she portrays Cordelia, Titania, and others for the Traveling Symphony, an orchestra and Shakespearean theater company touring the wasteland of the former United States under the banner of a *Star Trek: Voyager* quote: "Survival is insufficient." Twenty years after a virus wiped out so much of the human population that no statisticians were left to tally up the damage, many comforts are relics of a lost past: electricity, medicine, digital technology, automobiles. The Traveling Symphony offers cultural enrichment in exchange for food and shelter in loosely governed towns. In one such place, the company meets a dangerous cult leader known as the Prophet and his rabidly loyal followers. When the performers inadvertently attract the Prophet's wrath, they struggle to escape. Their intended destination, an airport rumored to hold a Museum of Civilization, may also hold the key to the Prophet's true identity—and link

directly back to Arthur Leander, whose rise to fame, fortune and regret is told in interludes between pieces of the Symphony's story. Thoroughly chilling, Mandel's vision of the apocalypse gives humanity neither blame nor control; the collapse snuck up. Still, Mandel uses the before-and-after timeline to place modern life under a microscope. **A SciFi/Fantasy/Horror Club Pick.**

Pratchett, Terry. [A Slip of the Keyboard: Collected Nonfiction](#) (Knopf \$29.95). He has been writing nonfiction throughout his career. Some of it relates to Discworld, of course, but much of it—especially in recent years—is part of his outspoken campaigns for causes such as Alzheimer's research and animal rights. *A Slip of the Keyboard* is the first collection of Pratchett's nonfiction work.

Richardson, Kat. [Revenant: A Greywalker Novel](#) (Roc \$25.95). "Greywalker Harper Blaine reunites with her love Quinton in Portugal but not for a vacation. The two are hunting Quinton's father, James Purlis, a dark mage who plans to unleash a necromantic creature on the world. An ancient city, Lisbon is a challenge for Harper because of her affinity for ghosts and spirits, but luckily she and Quinton have vampire Carlos, who lived (and died) in the city, along for the ride. The three chase after Purlis, as he and his allies raid the ossuaries for the bones needed for his ritual. Every long-running series can do with a change of locale, and choosing Portugal allows Richardson to give readers the backstory for Carlos while still developing Harper and Quinton's relationship. The stakes are higher in this volume, but the story suffers a bit as it departs from Harper's private investigation roots."—LJ

Scalzi, John. [Lock In](#) (Forge \$24.99). Haden's syndrome results from a virus that can, in 1% of the cases, "lock in" its victims, leaving them conscious and aware in a body that can no longer move or respond at all. In the 25 years since the virus first appeared, a culture has risen around these victims; these paralyzed people are now able to control robotic bodies remotely (called "threeps," after Star Wars' famous golden droid) and live productive lives. Newly minted FBI agent Chris Shane is one of those affected by the disease. When his threep stumbles across a complicated murder at the Watergate Hotel involving an "integrator"—a human whose body can be taken over in the same way a threep can—there's no telling how far up the political food chain the evidence may lead. His veteran partner, Leslie Vann, is no slouch, but it will take their combined talents and life experiences to get to the bottom of the murder and the high-level corporate and governmental players who may be behind it all. Science-fiction writer John Scalzi (Redshirts; Old Man's War) again proves his facility with both world building and character, "Hugo-winner Scalzi (*Redshirts*) successfully shifts away from space opera with this smart, thoughtful near-future thriller resonant with the themes of freedom, ethics, and corporate greed. ... Scalzi's characters possess tangible motivations and inhabit a thoroughly believable world, and the growing partnership between Shane and Vann is a pleasure to watch unfold. This powerful novel will intrigue and entertain both fans and newcomers."—PW Starred Review

Stirling, SM. [Golden Princess](#) (Ace \$27.95). The 11th Novel of the Change set in the post-apocalyptic, alternate history world of Emberverse dispatches two brave women on a quest to the Valley of Death. To retrieve the legendary Japanese Imperial

Grass-Cutting Sword, Princess Orlaith and Empress Reiko face a perilous mission against determined foes. The first novel in a new Emberverse series.

Stross, Charles. [The Bloodline Feud](#) (\$16.99). Here is an omnibus edition of the first two novels in Charles Stross' The Merchant Princes series.

YA FICTION OF NOTE

Chodosh, Janie. [Death Spiral Signed](#) (The Poisoned Pencil \$10.95 PBO Sept. 13). This YA novel kicks off the YA imprint for Poisoned Pen Press with a first investigation for Faith Flores. *PW* reviews: "Faith Flores, a Philadelphia teenager reeling from the recent death of her heroin-addicted mother. Certain that her mother didn't actually die from an overdose, the 16-year-old investigates the experimental treatment program she was on up until the end. When another member of the program dies in a similar fashion, and the people she's talking to start perishing in suspicious ways, Faith knows she's on to something. With the help of her friends, including best friend Anj and possible love interest Jesse, Faith risks all for the truth, which leaves her marked for death as well. Chodosh spins a dark and gritty tale set amid the seedy underbelly of urban Philly, and her protagonist is resourceful and grounded, despite deep-rooted traumas, insecurities, and other flaws. The science, which involves gene therapy and disease manipulation, is plausible, though the plot is straight-up conspiracy theory. Sharp characterization and deft descriptions make this a solid addition to the amateur detective shelf. Ages 12–up."

Daley, James Ryan. [Jesus Jackson](#) (The Poisoned Pencil \$10.95). **Don't miss the book's video: [click here to view](#). And read much more about it by [clicking here](#).** "When high school football hero Ryan Stiles is found dead at the bottom of a ravine, the only person not consumed by grief is his younger brother. Jonathan has reason to believe his brother's death was no accident. While everyone around him goes through the many stages of grief, Jonathan can only investigate. The book works as parallel mysteries: On one track are the shady details of Ryan's death, and on the other are the religious and spiritual questions brought up by his demise. Jonathan's friend Henry and Ryan's girlfriend, Tristan, help him solve the murder, while the mysterious "Jesus Jackson" helps Jonathan with his theological needs. Daley's use of Jesus as a sounding board for Jonathan's crisis of faith makes for the book's most surreal and intimate moments. The author argues the necessity of faith regardless of where it is placed, a simple concept that is refreshed when delivered in such an unusual fashion. The book excels, sidestepping holier-than-thou rhetoric and addressing the pain of loss head-on as well as painting a wonderful depiction of a young man coming to terms with how he was raised and how he wants to lead his own life. The mystery element and minor romance are icing on the cake: well executed and finely tuned, complementing the book's major themes in all the right ways. Smart and sweet, comforting and moving."—*Kirkus* Starred Review

Delaney, Joseph. [The Last Apprentice I Am Alice](#) (Harper \$9.99). Alice Deane—best friend and true love to Tom Ward—must venture into the Dark to find one last weapon to defeat the Fiend. And there's something Tom didn't tell her. She is hunting for the very blade that will eventually kill her. Book #12 in a series for ages 13+.

Evans, Richard Paul. [Michael Vey 4: Hunt for Jade Dragon Signed](#) (SimonSchuster \$18.99). Michael Vey, Taylor, Ostin and the rest of the Electroclan head to China in search of a girl who may have discovered why Michael and his friends became electric. Her name is Lin Julung, or Jade Dragon, and she's a child prodigy with an IQ higher than Einstein's—and Ostin's. But Hatch gets to her first, and the Elgen are holding her prisoner in their Taiwan Starsource plant. Now the Voice wants Michael and the Electroclan to go to Taiwan and free her before Hatch can realize his dreams of an army of electric children. The hunt for Jade Dragon is on... 4th in series Signed here Sept. 30.

Griffin, Adele. [The Unfinished Life of Addison Stone](#) (Soho \$17.99). Bright and talented Addison Stone is a rising star in the New York art world. By the time she's 18, she's living on her own in New York City—where she dies under mysterious circumstances. To unravel the mystery of Addison's death, Adele Griffin structures the novel as a series of interviews with and photographs of Addison's friends, family and colleagues. The resulting work resembles an in-depth article one might read in the *New Yorker*, and is just as compelling. Through this layering of e-mails, text messages and interviews, readers realize some of Addison's supporters are thrilled with her opportunity, but many, including close friends from home, grow concerned that Addison is spiraling out of control. Although her talent rapidly becomes legendary, so do her antics. Addison fights a constant battle to balance her medication—which she feels inhibits her—with her productivity. Despite one or two caring friends and mentors, Addison has very few healthy relationships. Her journey to the top of the New York art scene illuminates the world of fame, where the motives of agents, art dealers, patrons and groupies are questionable. As Addison struggles between creativity and sanity, readers will likely sense what's coming and wonder if anyone will step in.

✚Lane, Andrew. [The Young Sherlock Holmes #7: Stone Cold Signed](#) (Pan \$35). Sherlock Holmes has been sent to live in Oxford to focus on his education. But something strange is happening in the university pathology labs. Body parts are being stolen from corpses and are being posted one by one to an address in London. What can these sinister goings-on mean, and what message is someone trying to send? In an attempt to find out, Sherlock follows the trail to a very sinister house deep in the countryside. Can he get to the bottom of another baffling mystery? No. 7 in this ostensibly YA series that's fun for adults, too.

Lore, Pittacus. [Revenge of Seven](#) (Harper \$17.99). In this fifth book in the *New York Times* bestselling I Am Number Four series for YA readers, the Garde are reeling from unbearable losses. Five has betrayed them. Eight is gone forever. Ella has been kidnapped. The others are scattered. In Chicago, John makes the unlikeliest of allies: Adam, a Mogadorian who turned on his people. And he knows exactly where to hit them: their command base near Washington, D.C. During the assault, however, John and Adam learn it's too late. The Mogadorians have commenced with their ultimate invasion plans. With a front-row seat to the impending invasion, Ella finds herself in the hands of the enemy. For some reason she's more valuable to them alive, and they'll stop at nothing to turn her. Meanwhile, Six, Nine, and Marina make their way through the Florida Everglades, hot on the trail of the traitorous Five. [Click here](#) for earlier entries.

Percival, Tom. [Tobias and the Super Spooky Ghost](#) (Harper \$17.99). Night after night, Tobias the ghost hangs around the empty house where he lives, longing for something interesting to happen. That is, until one day, a girl named Eliza moves in with her family... Armed with his grandad's book of spells, Tobias starts to play tricks on Eliza, but has he met his match in this feisty little girl? Tobias might just be in for a few surprises... A Picture Book for Little Readers, and nice gift.

Yancy, Rick. [The Infinite Sea](#) (Penguin \$18.99). Quoting another bookseller: "More aliens! More mistrust! More betrayal! More explosions and mayhem! Twists, reversals, surprises!" These are the teasers that author Rick Yancey tempted us with about the still mysterious second installment of his addictively popular 5th Wave series. For readers who thought that 16-year-old Cassie Sullivan could not endure more emotional tsunamis, *The Infinite Sea* will be like a middle of the night wake-up call. The lynchpin novel of a trilogy that just won't let you go. (Meanwhile, a movie of the series title novel, [The 5th Wave](#) (\$18.99), is brewing, with Chloë Grace Moretz slated for the starring role.)

OUR SEPTEMBER TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

Buehlman, Christopher. [The Necromancer's House](#) (\$16). Andrew Ranulf Blankenship is a stylish nonconformist with wry wit, a classic Mustang, and a massive library. He's also a recovering alcoholic and a practicing warlock. His house is a maze of sorcerous booby traps and escape tunnels, as yours might be if you were sitting on a treasury of Russian magic stolen from the Soviet Union thirty years ago. Andrew has long known that magic is a brutal game requiring blood sacrifice and a willingness to confront death, but years of peace and comfort have left him more concerned with maintaining false youth than with seeing to his own defense. Now a monster straight from the pages of Russian folklore is coming for him, and frost and death are coming with her. A kind of Dickensian whimsy infuses this: "You find yourself believing the unbelievable and fearing what you thought belonged only in those Old World, pre-sanitized fairytales."—Andrew Pyper, author of *The Demonologist*

Dallas, Sandra. [Fallen Women](#) (\$15.99). "Bestseller Dallas memorably evokes the raw, rough-edged Denver of 1885 in this blend of suspenseful mystery and nuanced romance. Wealthy Manhattan mission worker Beret Osmundsen breaks off ties with her willful younger sister, Lillie, after she discovers that Lillie has betrayed her trust. When Lillie, now a prostitute in one of Denver's brothels, is found stabbed to death, the guilt-stricken Beret travels west. Beret's socially prominent aunt and uncle provide a home for her in the city, where she teams with Det. Sgt. Michael "Mick" McCauley, who, like Beret, is a child of privilege pursuing an unconventional profession. After they discover that Lillie was pregnant, a second murder forces their investigation uncomfortably close to people each loves dearly. The author's depiction of 19th-century Denver, especially its seedier side, is vividly authentic, while the nascent bond between Mick and Beret will have readers eagerly anticipating their next encounter."—*PW*. It's hard to beat Dallas for the unexpected as well as the authentic.

Dorsey, Tim. [Tiger Shrimp Tango](#) (\$13.99). Thanks to the growth of the Internet, America finds itself plagued by a noxious epidemic of ruthless scam artists. Where do they all come from? If you guessed 110 percent of them are spawned in Florida, you

win. When a new digital scheme goes horribly awry—causing innocents to die and a young woman to go missing—only one person can set things right: obsessive Florida trivia buff and reluctant serial killer Serge Storms. Aided by his perpetually addled sidekick, Coleman, and latter-day noir private eye Mahoney, Serge launches a crusade to rid his beloved state of predators and save the girl. But Serge's mission is hampered by one pesky little detail: he's being tracked by a hit man dispatched from his murky past. 17th in the Serge Storms series.

Faulks, Sebastian. [Jeeves and the Wedding Bells](#) (\$15.99). This is just delightful. In an author's note included with the galley of this homage to P.G. Wodehouse (1881–1975), Sebastian Faulks asserts that he's "no expert," that he's "just a fan," with a modesty becoming Bertie Wooster. Despite such protests, the Wodehouse estate chose well in authorizing him to pen the first new Jeeves and Wooster novel since 1974's *Aunts Aren't Gentlemen*. "In addition to concocting an intricate farce complete with fresh metaphors and literary allusions worthy of the master himself, Faulks has varied the standard Wodehouse formula in ways both subtle and daring. At the start, Bertie explains how he has wound up working downstairs at a country house in Dorset one weekend, while Jeeves masquerades as Lord Etringham among the upstairs crowd."—Peter Cannon. Think of this as standing *Upstairs, Downstairs* on its head, all for the better.

Higashino, Keigo. [Salvation of a Saint](#) (\$15.99). The *NY Times* writes, "To dispute a common complaint: They are indeed writing confounding puzzle mysteries the way they used to. They just happen to be writing them in Japanese. And by 'they,' I mean Keigo Higashino, whose elegant whodunits featuring a physicist known as Detective Galileo are feats of classic ratiocination." Which is why Rob is wild for Higashino, whose first translated into English, [The Devotion of Suspect X](#) (\$14.99), was nominated for an Edgar Award. Now physics professor Manabu Yukawa—Detective Galileo—returns in a new case of impossible murder, where instincts clash with facts and theory with reality. Yoshitaka, who was about to leave his marriage and his wife, is poisoned by arsenic-laced coffee and dies. His wife, Ayane, is the logical suspect—except that she was hundreds of miles away when he was murdered. The lead detective, Tokyo Police Detective Kusanagi, is immediately smitten with her and refuses to believe that she could have had anything to do with the crime. His assistant, Kaoru Utsumi, however, is convinced Ayane is guilty. While Utsumi's instincts tell her one thing, the facts of the case are another matter. So she does what her boss has done for years when stymied—she calls upon Professor Manabu Yukawa. But even the brilliant mind of Dr. Yukawa has trouble with this one, and he must somehow find a way to solve an impossible murder and capture a very real, very deadly murderer.

Indridason, Arnaldur. [Black Skies](#) (\$16). The *LJ* Starred Review: "Indridason's usual main character, Inspector Erlendur, is away, so his colleague Sigurdur Óli is running the show. A best friend asks Óli to help someone who is being blackmailed. Óli agrees to assist—but as a favor and not as a police matter. It quickly becomes a criminal case, however, as Óli walks in seconds after a vicious attack on the blackmailer. His police cohorts wonder why Óli was there, yet he convinces them that he should continue working on what has now become a murder case. He unravels a trail that involves Icelandic politics and banking prior to the financial crash that devastated the country's economy.

Another case, involving a disturbing kidnapping, is also being investigated. Óli is an intricate character plodding through life and his cases. He's an average guy, someone whom the reader can identify with, and will become a favorite. Readers who enjoy Henning Mankell and Ian Rankin will be intrigued by this character." 8th in this series, but you can start here.

Lancet, Barry. [Japantown](#) (\$15.99). A First Mystery Pick in hardcover introduces San Francisco antiques dealer Jim Brodie who inherited a Tokyo-based PI firm from his father. The SFPD calls him in when an entire family is gunned down in the city's Japantown. With his array of Asian contacts and fluency in Japanese, Brodie follows leads gathered from a shadow powerbroker, a renegade Japanese detective, and the elusive tycoon at the center of the Japantown murders along a trail that takes him from the crime scene in California to terrorized citizens and informants in Japan. Step by step, he unravels a web of intrigue stretching back centuries and unearths a deadly secret that threatens not only his life but also the lives of his entire circle of family and friends. For the sequel, see New Books.

✂Malliet, GM. [Pagan Spring](#) (\$15.99). "An English village as pretty as Nether Monkslip needs a romantic local legend—and perhaps a tasteful murder—to entice readers who love a cozy mystery."—*NY Times*, and me. This book is a delight on all levels from the villagers of Nether Monkslip to the shy romance between the Anglican vicar Max Tudor, a former spook, and his New Age lover Awena Owen—and the murder. "A mysterious death following a dinner honoring playwright and actor Thaddeus Bottle, who recently retired with his wife to Nether Monkslip, his boyhood home. Familiar elements include a polarizing figure whom many wish ill, the planting of red herrings, and a well-clued solution, but Malliet isn't content simply to update the golden age template. Between her unusual lead, his love interest, and the other village residents, she's created well-thought-out characters who are much more than stereotypes, and has added plenty of wry humor to boot."—*PW* Starred Review for the 3rd in the Max Tudor series. The 4th comes in October.

Pelecanos, George P. [The Double](#) (\$15). The job seems simple enough: retrieve the valuable painting "The Double" that Grace Kinkaid's ex-boyfriend stole from her. It's the sort of thing Spero Lucas specializes in: finding what's missing, and doing it quietly. But Grace wants more. She wants Lucas to find the man who humiliated her—a violent career criminal with a small gang of brutal thugs at his beck and call. Lucas is a man who knows how to get what he wants, whether it's a thief on the run or a married woman. In the midst of a steamy, passionate love affair that he knows can't last, in pursuit of a dangerously vicious killer, Lucas is forced to decide what kind of man he is.... "Pelecanos' work has antecedents in the books and films of Richard Stark (Donald Westlake), John D. MacDonald, Elmore Leonard and Don Siegel but also a spooky magic all his own — thanks to the utter believability he maintains."—*Wall Street Journal*

Pryor, Mark. [The Button Man](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). In this prequel to *The Bookseller*, former FBI profiler Hugo Marston has just become head of security at the US Embassy in London. He's asked to protect a famous movie-star couple, Dayton Harper and Ginny Ferro, who, while filming a movie in rural England, killed a local man in a hit and run. The task turns from routine to disastrous almost immediately. Before Hugo even meets them,

he finds out that Ferro has disappeared, and her body has been found hanging from an oak tree in a London cemetery. Hours later a distraught Harper gives Hugo the slip, and Hugo has no idea where he's run off to. Taking cues from a secretive young lady named Merlyn, and with a Member of Parliament along for the chase, Hugo's search leads to a quaint English village. There, instead of finding Harper, more bodies turn up. Teaming with local detectives and then venturing dangerously out on his own, Hugo struggles to find connections between the victims. You can read this first and then the (to date) three Hugo Marstons, all set in France. Terrific! [Click here](#) to order.

Ryan, William. [The Twelfth Department](#) (\$15.99). "The shooting murder of Boris Azarov, a high-level Russian scientist conducting secret psychological research, propels Ryan's excellent third pre-WWII thriller featuring Alexei Korolev, a Moscow CID detective Korolev, a methodical, almost plodding investigator, gets assigned to the case, but he soon realizes that several arms of the secret police either want him to back off entirely or to arrest someone just to clear the books. Korolev gets a quick demonstration of the power he's up against: his 12-year-old son, Yuri, is kidnapped amid subtle assurances that the boy will be returned safely if Korolev goes with the flow. While the police work will keep readers engaged, the series' chief strength comes from Ryan's skillful evocation of everyday life under Stalin. Ordinary Soviet citizens, Korolev included, have become resigned to all forms of corruption and hypocrisy, yet must still wear the mask of communist devotion."—*PW*. Apply this to Putin's reign.

Scott, AD. [The Low Road](#) (Atria \$16). 1950s Scotland is a place in transition. Glasgow is starting to regenerate, clean up its dismal mews and alleys. Up north, old ways and attitudes are slower to transition. Editing the local newspaper is filled with challenges despite its low-key community approach (and circulation). And for John McAllister, once a Glasgow star, it makes him itch for the pulse of the city. So does ambitious Mary Ballantyne whom he meets when he comes to Glasgow both to investigate why gangster Gerry Dochery is threatening the life of Jimmy McPhee, a childhood friend and one of the Travelers, and to reconcile in a way with his mother. But what really makes McAllister question his life is the brain injury dealt to his fiancée in the last book. Joanne's not making much of a recovery and he wonders.... 5th in an exceptional series. [Click here](#) to order all 5.

Scottoline, Lisa. [Accused](#) (\$15.99). Mary Dinuzio has just been promoted to partner and is about to take on her most unusual case yet, brought to the firm by a thirteen-year-old genius with a penchant for beekeeping. Allegra Gardner's sister Fiona was murdered six years ago, and it seemed like an open-and-shut case: the accused, Lonnie Stall, was seen fleeing the scene; his blood was on Fiona and her blood was on him; most damningly, Lonnie Stall pleaded guilty. But Allegra believes Lonnie is innocent and has been wrongly imprisoned. The Gardner family is one of the most powerful in the country and Allegra's parents don't believe in reopening the case, so taking it on is risky. But the Rosato & Associates firm can never resist an underdog.

Woodrell, Daniel. [The Maid's Version](#) (\$15). In a grand "gesture of reconciliation" from his father, young Alek is sent to West Table, Mo., to spend the summer of 1965 with his grandmother, Alma Dunahew, a hardworking maid to a wealthy local. The

bad blood between Alek's father and Alma stems from her opinion of what transpired just before the 1929 Arbor Dance Hall explosion, a tragedy that claimed her outspoken sister Ruby and 41 others. Who was responsible? "In fewer than 200 pages, but with a richness of theme and character worthy of the weightiest Victorian novel, Woodrell brings West Table to life in the varied experiences of its sons and daughters. "—Wendy Smith, *Washington Post*. "[Woodrell] belongs within a great, predominantly male tradition of American writing that stretches back to Mark Twain and runs on through Willa Cather, William Faulkner, James Dickey, Larry McMurtry to Cormac McCarthy. From the vantage of their willed exile they have produced, down the generations, some of their country's finest fiction and poetry."—Peter Pierce, *Australian*

NEW BOOKS

Albert, Susan Wittig. [Darling Dahlias and the Silver Dollar Bush](#) (Berkley \$25.95). It's the spring of 1933 and times are tough all over. The only businessman not struggling is moonshiner Mickey LeDoux, though he still has to steer clear of federal agents. But banks are closing all over the country, and the small town of Darling is no exception. Folks are suddenly caught short on cash and everyone is in a panic. Desperate to avoid disaster, several town leaders—including Alvin Duffy, the bank's new vice president—hatch a plan to print Darling Dollars on newspaperman Charlie Dickens' printing press. The "funny money" can serve as temporary currency so the town can function. But when the first printing of the scrip disappears, the Darling Dahlias set out to discover who made an unauthorized withdrawal. And to pursue various romantic ups and downs....

Amis, Martin. [Zone of Interest Signed](#) (Canongate \$43). There was an old story about a king who asked his favourite wizard to create a magic mirror. This mirror didn't show you your reflection. Instead, it showed you your soul; it showed you who you really were. But the king couldn't look into the mirror without turning away, and nor could his courtiers. No one could. What happens when we discover who we really are? And how do we come to terms with it? "Fearless and original, *The Zone of Interest* is a violently dark love story set against a backdrop of unadulterated evil."

Atwood, Margaret. [Stone Mattress: Nine Tales](#) (Knopf \$25.95). In her first story collection since 2006's *Moral Disorder*, Margaret Atwood brings readers nine narratives that concentrate on relationships, revenge and the gradual decline of the human body and mind in old age. In classic Atwood style, each piece is full of succinct, descriptive prose that nails an image to a tee. In the opening lines from the first story, "Alphinland," we learn that Constance is old, alone and faced with the prospect of venturing out in an ice storm; Atwood describes the freezing rain as "handfuls of shining rice thrown by some unseen celebrant. Whenever it hits, it crystallizes into a granulated coating of ice. In the streetlight, it looks so beautiful: like fairy silver...." As Constance watches the weather, she resents the high-definition television that shows "the pores, the wrinkles, the nose hairs, the impossibly whitened teeth shoved right up in front of your eyes so you can't ignore them the way you would in real life." "Alphinland" is connected to the next two stories via a tangled love story among several characters; the remaining tales stand alone.

Baldacci, David. [The Target](#) (\$16). The President knows it's a perilous, high-risk assignment. If he gives the order, he has the opportunity to take down a global menace, once and for all. If the mission fails, he would face certain impeachment, and the threats against the nation would multiply. So the president turns to the one team that can pull off the impossible: Will Robie and his partner, Jessica Reel. Together, Robie and Reel's talents as assassins are unmatched. But there are some in power who don't trust the pair and a ghost from the past who comes back after Reel....

Benn, James R. [The Rest is Silence Signed](#) (Soho \$29). Wonderful, a country house murder. "With its very smooth mix of mystery and historical references (with a dash of *Downton Abbey*), just about everybody will find something of interest in this fizzy retro cocktail."—*LJ*. I'm excited about this new chapter from one of my favorite authors. Benn, like Furst, has taken us into theaters and aspects of WWII with verve and skill, mixing fact and fiction and different genres. Here he uses the backdrop of D-Day, the run up to it in June, 1944, for a classical whodunnit. Billy Boyle who works on a special investigative remit from Dwight D Eisenhower (a distant cousin), is on England's South Coast looking into whether a washed-up corpse might be a Nazi agent. The location is one of those used to practice amphibious assaults—and Benn lets us see one Navy clusterfuck that kills troops. The body could result from a feud among local gangsters, but as he and his partner lodge with a friend in his nearby country house, new theories and truths emerge, as do new facets of the affable, former Boston-cop Boyle and his pals. Dana Stabenow joins me in giving a shout-out for this superior series, writing of Billy's role: "Far from being far from the front lines, in his role as Ike's special investigator Billy finds himself, variously, sneaking into German-occupied Norway, going ashore in Algeria ahead of the first wave, fighting off a division of Tiger Tanks in Sicily, and sneaking into the Vatican in the middle of Nazi-occupied Italy. Just don't tell his mom and everything'll be fine."

Johnson, Paul. [Eisenhower: A Life](#) (Viking \$25.95). An entertaining and informative 144-page biography of the Five Star General whom we see through the lens of fiction here in the new Benn.

Beukes, Lauren. [Broken Monsters](#) (LittleBrown \$26). Detective Gabriella Versado has seen a lot of bodies. But this one is unique even by Detroit's standards: half boy, half deer, somehow fused together. As stranger and more disturbing bodies are discovered, how can the city hold on to a reality that is already tearing at its seams? If you're Detective Versado's geeky teenage daughter, Layla, you commence a dangerous flirtation with a potential predator online. If you're desperate freelance journalist Jonno, you do whatever it takes to get the exclusive on a horrific story. If you're Thomas Keen, known on the street as TK, you'll do what you can to keep your homeless family safe—and find the monster who is possessed by the dream of violently remaking the world. Here is a new spin on the serial killer thriller.

Brown, Rita Mae. [Fox Tracks](#) (\$15). Hunt clubs from all over North America have gathered for their annual gala in Manhattan's Hotel Pierre, and nobody is in higher spirits than "Sister" Jane, Master of the Jefferson Hunt in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains. Braving the blizzards, Sister and her young friend "Tootie" Harris pop out to purchase cigars for the celebration at a nearby tobacco shop, finding themselves regaled by the colorful stories

of its eccentric proprietor, Adolfo Galdos. Yet the trip's festive mood goes to ground later with the grisly discovery of Adolfo's corpse. The tobacconist was shot in the head but found, oddly enough, with a cigarette pack of American Smokes laid carefully over his heart. When a similar murder occurs in Boston, Sister's "horse sense" tells her there's a nefarious plot afoot—one that seems to originate in the South's aromatic tobacco farms....
Sister Jane Foxhunting #8

Cao, Lan. [The Lotus and the Storm](#) (Viking \$27.95). Alternating between the voice of Mai, a Vietnamese American law librarian, and her father, Minh, a former commander of the airborne brigade in the South Vietnamese army, Cao's second novel spans the Vietnam War, from the 1963 coup resulting in the assassination of South Vietnam's first President to the plight of the Vietnamese boat people. It also illuminates an insular, fabled world where a child's grief is alleviated by the verbal eloquence of a mynah bird and where a seasoned soldier finds peace by practicing yoga in a sanctuary amid lush foliage, far from the ripples of warfare and political betrayals. "Offering a rarely discussed perspective on the Vietnam War, Cao contends that the loss of Vietnam was not inevitable, but due largely to the U.S.'s misguided exit strategy that left South Vietnam vulnerable to the Communist North. Shifting her focus to life in the U.S., Cao also questions the trajectory of material success among Asian Americans. Her novel suggests that a calm, integrated self—in spite of any traumatic history—promises more fulfillment than any outward embrace of the American Dream. As such, *The Lotus and the Storm* upholds Buddhism's fundamental tenet: the need to cherish the present and let go of lost dreams." —Thuy Dinh, editor, *Da Mau* magazine.

Carcatera, Lorenzo. [The Wolf](#) (Random \$25). Vincent Marelli is The Wolf, head of one of the largest crime syndicates in operation. Although he mostly shies away from world politics, one chance mistake will cost him dearly. When his wife and daughter are murdered in a commercial airline attack, the Wolf and his associates set out to destroy every known terrorist organization in the world. It's a classic revenge tale...on a much larger scale. If anyone can pull off a "mafia vs. terrorists" story, it's Carcatera. For fans of *The Godfather*. I admire the way Carcatera links NYC with Naples so well.

Castle, Richard. [Wild Storm](#) (Kingswell \$25.99). Derrick Storm is 33,000 feet in the air, returning from a rock climbing vacation in the Swiss Alps, when the plane spirals into a nose-dive. Storm uses his climbing gear to tether himself to the wing and heroically save the plane, but he's not available to come to the aid of the three other planes that have crashed under similar circumstances, killing everyone on board. Interestingly, many of the victims are powerful people in politics, business and religious groups. The always elusive Jedidiah Jones, leader of the National Clandestine Service that has no name, calls on Storm to investigate. Storm determines that an unknown extremist has secured enough of the rare earth element promethium to create a laser with the power to shoot down planes from the ground. The problem swiftly becomes a global one as four more planes crash in the Arabia Desert, and Storm goes global to Monaco, Panama City, and Egypt, etc, to fix this. New in paper: [Storm Front](#) (\$17.99). I put this in for Ariel, a TV-series fan.

Child, Lee. [Personal Signed](#) (Bantam UK \$45—the true first edition). Once a go-to hard man in the US military police, Jack Reacher is now a drifter of no fixed abode. But the army once again tracks him down—someone has taken a long-range shot at the French president. Only one man could have done it. And Reacher is the one man who can find him... The Signed US edition: [Personal](#) (Random \$28). We still have half a dozen signed UK copies of last year's Reacher: [Never Go Back](#) (Bantam \$45)

Cook, Robin. [Coma](#) (\$15). They called it "minor surgery," but Nancy Greenly, Sean Berman and a dozen others—all admitted to Boston Memorial Hospital for routine procedures—were victims of the same inexplicable, hideous tragedy on the operating table. They never woke up. Susan Wheeler is a third-year medical student working as a trainee at Boston Memorial Hospital. Two patients during her residency mysteriously go into comas immediately after their operations due to complications from anesthesia. Susan begins to investigate the causes behind both of these alarming comas and discovers the oxygen line in Operating Room 8 has been tampered with....

Coonts, Deborah. [Lucky Catch](#) (CoolG \$11.99). At least that's what Lucky O'Toole, the VP of Customer Relations for Las Vegas' primo Strip casino/hotel, the Babylon, has heard for years from her mother. So, tonight, when Teddie, her former lover shows up at her office unannounced and very unexpected, her father offers Teddie a job at the Babylon, she is called to deal with a pig in residence at one of the hotels most exclusive and opulent suites, and Lucky's current lover, Jean-Charles Bouclet stops answering his phone leaving Lucky to handle his five-year-old son, Lucky figures she has tonight's compliment of chaos covered. But with a cadre of celebrity chefs with the maturity of teenagers in Vegas for a televised cook-off, a prized Alba truffle in the Babylon's care, and her mother's pregnancy racing toward the inevitable, what could go wrong? Ordered upon Request.

Duncan, Paul. [Film Noir:100 All Time Favorites](#) (Taschen \$49.99). Now here is a treat—and super gift idea. The first film-by-film photography book on film noir and neo-noir, this essential collection begins with the early genre influencers of German and French silent film, journeys through such seminal works such as *Double Indemnity*, *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, and *Vertigo*, and arrives at the present day via *Chinatown*, *Pulp Fiction*, *Heat*, and the recent cult favorite, James Sallis' *Drive*. Entries include posters, tons of rare stills, cast/crew details, quotes from the films and from critics, and analyses of the films. Film director, film noir scholar, and *Taxi Driver* screenwriter Paul Schrader provides the introduction to this feast of noir worship.

Ellroy, James. [Perfidia Signed](#) (Knopf \$27.95). America stands at the brink of World War II. Last hopes for peace are shattered when Japanese squadrons bomb Pearl Harbor. Los Angeles has been a haven for loyal Japanese-Americans – no longer. Patrick writes, "If you're a fan of Ellroy's classic *LA Quartet*, you can't afford to miss this brilliant prequel, which starts on December 6th, 1941. The case centers on the murder of a Japanese-American family staged to look like ritual hara-kiri. Hideo Ashida is a talented young forensic scientist (and the only Asian on the LAPD) and he suspects foul play. Trouble is, of course, that the trail may lead to some very important people. Numerous figures from later novels, such as Dudley Smith, Preston Exley

and a rising William H. Parker, feature prominently here. Ellroy's plot is operatic and compelling, as always, and one really gets a feel for the attitude out there in the street during these early days of the war, when eugenics and anti-Japanese and anti-Semitic sentiment were widespread. History tends to downplay this, but Ellroy's never been one to present a sanitized version of events. A stunning work of fiction."

Feiffer, Jules. [Kill My Mother](#) (Liveright \$27.95). It's not often that a graphic novel generates the kind of prepublication attention that this rare graphic novel effort by the multitalented, Pulitzer Prize-winning Feiffer has generated, but this is no ordinary graphic novel. Intertwining the lives of five well-rounded female characters in an exceptionally complex narrative, the novel takes us through the Depression and war years at a pace that is positively frenetic. With hidden secrets, dual identities, mystery, and murder, Feiffer creates a fusion of genres that reads like a film noir written by a dramatist or a cartoonist's version of a pulp detective story done as a stage play—all mediums that the author has triumphed in. The result is an achievement of tremendous breadth and scope. *Kill My Mother* is as epic and complex as a James M. Cain novel, not to mention as dark; the body count keeps rising and no character is safe. The octogenarian's almost feminist empowerment of women prevents the story from becoming mere trite tribute. Feiffer has taken his fervor for noir and skillfully rendered it onto the page; the result stands worthily beside its influences, but is as fresh and new as anything the comic industry is currently producing.

Fuller, Samuel. [Brainquake](#) (Forge \$12.95). Here is a lost novel, the last novel by the screenwriter and director of various movie classics. Step into the world of bagmen who transport money about metro NY for organized crime and live by a set of rules like monks—plus one more: never look inside the bag you are carrying. Paul Page of a brain disorder lasted ten years until one day he saw a Mob wife become a Mob widow....

Fusco, John. [Dog Beach](#) (Tor \$25). Fusco channels Elmore Leonard and Quentin Tarantino in this vivid, action-packed tale of Asian gangsters and Hollywood moviemaking. Louie Mo's career as the best stunt double in Hong Kong ended with a run-in with the Chinese mafia. Now addicted to painkillers, Louie works in L.A. as an enforcer, breaking the knees of anyone who owes his criminal bosses. His latest case takes him to the house of aspiring filmmaker Troy Raskin and several housemates, which is located on a stretch of Malibu nicknamed "Dog Beach." There's a reason why Troy and his friends, who can't quite finish anything, are called the "Dogs of Entropy." Troy is behind on the movie he's working on for producer and gangster Avi Ghazaryan. Before Louie can beat up Troy, however, the young filmmaker recognizes his potential assailant. While Louie at first denies he's the former stuntman, he winds up getting a role in Troy's next film project, which Troy may actually finish. Sharp dialogue complements the pitch-black comedy.

Giraldi, William. [Hold the Dark](#) (Liveright \$24.95). A fellow bookseller writes, "Somewhere between Cormac McCarthy and Daniel Woodrell, *Hold the Dark* captures the essence of the genre with enormous literary skill. When three children disappear from a small Alaskan village, the residents' first thought is wolves. Medora Slone, mother of one of the missing boys, calls on nature writer Russell Core for help. But what Core discovers is

a dark secret at the heart of the village and its people, and with Medora's husband Vernon returned from Afghanistan and cutting a bloody swath of vengeance through the area, his chance of survival is..." "A chilling, mysterious, and completely engaging novel that will keep readers turning pages late into the night. The cold and unforgiving Alaskan wild becomes much more than a backdrop for this spellbinding story. It becomes a character—a living creature with its own hungers, its own secrets, its own icy motives, its own implacable will. I was entranced."—Tim O'Brien. I am not as enchanted with the story, very Greek tragedy, but I agree that Alaska is a magnificent character.

Griffin, WEB. [Top Secret](#) (Putnam \$28.95). In the first weeks after World War II, a squeaky-clean new second lieutenant named James D. Cronley Jr. is spotted and recruited for a new enterprise that will eventually be transformed into something called the CIA. One war may have ended, but another one has already begun, against an enemy that is bigger, smarter, and more vicious: the Soviet Union. The Soviets have hit the ground running, and Cronley's job is to help frustrate them, harass them, and spy on them any way he can. His recruiter thinks he has the potential to become an asset—though, of course, he could also screw up spectacularly. And in his first assignment, it looks like that's exactly what might happen. He's got seven days to extract a vital piece of information from a Soviet agent... Starts a new series.

Haddam, Jane. [Fighting Chance](#) (St Martins \$26.99). The insider looks at an Armenian enclave add texture to this always well-plotted series by Haddam. Bennis, Gregor Demarkian's (wealthy) wife, is more the focus than the former FBI agent as the story of a murdered judge, slain inside her courthouse, unfolds.

Hales, Dianne. [Mona Lisa, A Life Discovered](#) (SimonSchuster \$28). We'll be doing an event with Hales next February giving us a chance for her to tell us the history of the woman behind the famous painting (complete with images). But, it publishes now....

Hiaasen, Carl. [Skink—No Surrender](#) (Random \$18.99). Swamp justice for Young Adults (and you mature ones can join in). We first met Skink more than 25 years ago in [Double Whammy](#) (\$7.99), and he quickly became Hiaasen's most iconic and beloved character, appearing in six novels to date. Both teens and adults will be thrilled to catch sight of the elusive "captain" as he finds hilariously satisfying ways to stop internet predators, turtle-egg poachers, and lowlife litterbugs in their tracks. With Skink at the wheel, the search for a missing girl is fast and funny.

Hoklotubbe, Sara Sue. [Sinking Suspicions](#) (U of AZ Press \$16.95). Suspicions run high when murder mixes with identity theft in the latest installment of the popular Sadie Walela mystery series set in Cherokee Country. No sooner does Sadie embark on an unexpected business trip to the beautiful island of Maui, when her long-time neighbor, Buck Skinner, a full-blood Cherokee and World War II veteran, goes missing and becomes the prime suspect in the murder of a petty identity thief. Iconic lawman Lance Smith joins a community-wide search, but Buck is nowhere to be found. As evidence mounts against her old friend, Sadie rushes to return home to help—only to be delayed by an island-wide earthquake and her own sinking suspicions.

Keller, Julia. [Summer of the Dead](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Keller was born and raised in Huntington, W.Va. For many years she

was chief book critic at the *Chicago Tribune*, where she won a Pulitzer Prize for feature writing. She has taught writing at Princeton University, the University of Notre Dame and the University of Chicago asked which character do you most relate to: “Oh, the agony! Anyone who answers this question honestly is just asking for trouble, leaving herself open to instant psychoanalysis. Okay, here goes: it’s a tie. The deeper I go into Sue Grafton’s series of alphabet mystery novels, the closer I feel to Kinsey Millhone, her resourceful, wisecracking—and just plain wise—protagonist. But I also feel a strong kinship with Quirke, the moody, hard-drinking Dublin pathologist in John Banville’s series of crime novels that he writes under the pen name Benjamin Black. The latest, *Holy Orders*, is suffused with gloom and fog and black webs of regret—just my cup of tea.” I thought this bit of an interview with the award-winning reporter-turned-novelist was interesting enough to include here. Plus it illuminates her series about prosecutor Bell Elkins who chooses to live and work in Acker’s Gap, West Virginia, at the cost of first her marriage, and now her almost-grown daughter who picks Oxford over Acker’s Gap for the summer. Bell is tracking a serial killer. And handicapped by the return of her older sister, Shirley, from prison (Shirley murdered their abusive father, thus saving Bell at the cost of her own freedom). No one is making good choices in this 3rd book in an atmospheric series.

Lansdale, Joe R. [Black Hat Jack](#) (Subterranean \$25). Due out September 30 but order now to avoid disappointment. In the vein of the old dime novels containing stories about such heroes as Buffalo Bill, Wild Bill Hickok, and Jesse James, comes the “true story” of one of those ten-cent novel heroes, Deadwood Dick, disguised in those novels as a white champion of justice and adventure, but in reality a black cowboy, buffalo soldier, Indian fighter, and general hell raiser. Here, Nat Love, the one and only Deadwood Dick, writes down his version of certain events, straightening out numerous misconceptions raised in the popular and sanitized dime novels. Though his “version”—as penned by Lansdale—varies considerably from the numerous volumes of adventures attributed to him, his true story, with perhaps a bit of exaggeration, is no less fascinating or exciting.

Lehane, Dennis. [The Drop Signed](#) (Harper \$26). “This gritty gem from Lehane has a curious origin. The short story “Animal Rescue,” which appeared in 2009’s *Boston Noir*, was the basis for the screenplay of the soon-to-be-released film *The Drop*, to which this is the tie-in. Boston bartender Bob Saginowski pulls a beaten pup from a winter trash can, a small good deed with large consequences. The rescue leads Bob to Nadia Dunn, who helps him take care of the dog, and also to crazy Eric Deeds, who claims the dog is his. While Bob tries to fend off Deeds, his cousin Marv, onetime owner of Cousin Marv’s bar, contends with money issues and pride and the Chechens, who now own his bar and use it as a money drop. A parade of weary, quirky characters—thieves, thugs, and hard guys—will resonate with Lehane fans. Amid his struggles, Bob establishes a tenuous relationship with Nadia, and finally takes a stand in this stark and moving short novel.”—*PW*. The movie stars Tom Hardy, Noomi Rapace, and is the final performance for the late James Gandolfini. Lehane wrote the script. In paper: [The Drop](#) (\$14.99).

Lancet, Barry. [Tokyo Kill Signed](#) (SimonSchuster \$25). Lancet’s [Japantown](#) (15.99) set a high bar for Tokyo-based PI Jim Brodie. In his second case, antiques dealer-turned-P.I. Brodie matches wits with an elusive group of killers chasing a long-lost treasure that has a dangerous history. “A stellar novel of action, adventure, and intrigue. Jim Brodie is a true 21st century hero, part of the new, gritty mythos, warts and all, but capable of turning the ordinary into the extraordinary. On page after page of *Tokyo Kill*, skeletons bang on every closet door longing to be set free—and Barry Lancet delivers.”—Steve Berry. For Brodie’s first amazing case, *Japantown*, a First Mystery Club selection, see Our September Trade Paperback Picks.

Leotta, Allison. [Speak of the Devil](#) \$14.99). On the very night she gets engaged to the man she loves, sex-crimes prosecutor Anna Curtis’s professional life takes a shocking turn that threatens everything she holds dear. A few miles away from where she’s enjoying her romantic dinner, two separate groups are gearing up to raid a brothel. A vicious killer known as Diablo—the Devil—leads one group. A few minutes later, Anna’s own investigative team heads in to search the brothel, as part of an ongoing fight against human trafficking in DC. Both groups are caught off guard, with deadly results. As Anna investigates the bloody face-off, the boundaries between her work and home life begin to blur when she discovers a web of long-buried secrets and official lies that lead straight to her doorstep. And everything Anna counted on—the happiness she seemed so close to securing—comes into question as Diablo moves in for yet another kill.

Mayor, Archer. [Proof Positive Signed](#) (St Martins \$28) Joe Gunther’s 25th case! The *PW* Starred Review: “Over 26 years and 25 books (most recently, 2013’s *Three Can Keep a Secret*), Joe Gunther has moved from police detective in Brattleboro, Vt., to special agent of the Vermont Bureau of Investigation, and, as he has grown in stature, so has the series. During the Vietnam War, Signal Corps photographer Benjamin Kendall suffered a head wound and PTSD. Now a reclusive hoarder, he has turned his Dummerston farmhouse property into a massive warren of junk. When Kendall’s body is found crushed “under a pile of personal effects,” it looks like an accident, but Kendall’s first cousin (and Gunther’s lover), Beverly Hillstrom, asks Gunther to take a look. Recently, Hillstrom’s college-age daughter, Rachel Reiling, discovered a cache of Kendall’s war photographs while shooting a school project, and they became part of an exhibit at an art gallery that attracted a couple of hit men. A wave of killings ensues. Stopping the killers means nothing unless Gunther can locate the man behind them. Mayor makes full use of Gunther’s excellent supporting cast, including Willy Kunkle, Lester Spinney, and Sammie Martens, in this smoothly plotted and absorbing mystery.” I collect Mayor, so good is he.

McCrumb, Sharyn. [King’s Mountain: A Ballad Novel](#) (\$15.99). I put this review here even though this is historical fiction, since fans of the Ballad Novels should know about it. John Sevier had not taken much interest in the American Revolution. Homesteading in the Carolina mountains, Sevier was too busy fighting Indians and taming the wilderness to worry much about a far-off war, but when an arrogant British officer sends a message over the mountains, threatening to burn the settlers’ farms and kill their families, the war becomes personal. Threatened by the

Loyalists with invasion and the loss of their land, Sevier knows that British Army Major Ferguson and his troops have to be stopped. In response, Sevier and his loyal comrades—many of whom would play key roles in later parts of American history—raise an unpaid volunteer militia of more than a thousand men. Bringing their own guns, riding their own horses, and wearing just their civilian clothes, the Overmountain Men ally themselves with other states' militias and march toward Charlotte in search of Ferguson's marauding army. On a hill straddling the North and South Carolina lines, in what Thomas Jefferson later called "the turning point of the American Revolutionary War," the Overmountain Men triumph, proving that the British forces can be stopped. Their victory at King's Mountain inspired the colonies to fight on, ending the war one year later at Yorktown.

Mezrich, Ben. [Seven Wonders](#) (Running Press \$26). When the reclusive mathematician Jeremy Grady is murdered, it's up to his estranged brother Jack to find out why. Jack's search leads him on a far-flung journey—from Brazil, India, Peru, and beyond—as he unravels the mystery that links the Seven Wonders of the World, and discovers that Jeremy may have hit upon something that's been concealed for centuries. "Most readers probably know Mezrich as the author of such nonfiction gems as *Bringing Down the House* (2002) and *The Accidental Billionaires* (2009). It might seem like a surprise that he's written a novel, but before he turned his hand to narrative nonfiction, he wrote a handful of novels under his own name and a pseudonym (Holden Scott). This new novel compares nicely with those; it's a fast-moving thriller involving murder, conspiracy, historical mystery, and the Seven Wonders of the World (specifically the startling correlation between the Seven Ancient Wonders and the Seven Modern Wonders, several of which seem to have been built on the remains of the Ancient Wonders). Mezrich builds the characters in this made-up story the same way he builds them in his nonfiction: slowly, piece by piece, adding layers of motivation and complexity as the story progresses; and his writing here is as fluid as it's ever been."—*Booklist*. Readers who enjoy artifact-seeking books with behind-the-scenes tours of real-life sites will be delighted. Ratner is set to adapt a film version.—*Library Journal*

Mitchell, David. [The Bone Clocks](#) (Random \$30). Something truly fantastical: an epic in many voices featuring supernatural beings, rips in reality and a global battle between good and evil. Yet Mitchell's superlative prose makes this much more than a tall tale: the novel also takes in family love and loss, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and a horribly plausible near-future in which the end of oil is catapulting the world towards barbarism . . . It's a globe-trotting, mind-bending, hair-raising triumph, already sitting pretty on the Booker longlist." — *Guardian*. A US Starred Review concludes, "From gritty realism to far-out fantasy, each section has its own charm and surprises. With its wayward thoughts, chance meetings, and attention to detail, Mitchell's (*The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet*) novel is a thing of beauty." The Signed UK Edition is our September Modern Firsts Club Pick: [The Bone Clocks](#) (\$45).

Mosley, Walter. [Rose Gold](#) (Knopf \$25.95 probably Signed). Set in the Patty Hearst era of radical black nationalism and political abductions, a black ex-boxer self-named Uhuru Nolica, the leader of a revolutionary cell called Scorched Earth, has kidnapped Rosemary Goldsmith, the daughter of a weapons

manufacturer, from her dorm at UC Santa Barbara. If they don't receive the money, weapons, and apology they demand, "Rose Gold" will die—horribly and publicly. So the FBI, the State Department, and the LAPD turn to Easy Rawlins, the one man who can cross the necessary borders to resolve this dangerous standoff. The publisher says, "With twelve previous adventures since 1990, Easy Rawlins is one of the small handful of private eyes in contemporary crime fiction who can be called immortal. Rose Gold continues his ongoing and unique achievement in combining the mystery/PI genre form with a rich social history of postwar Los Angeles—and not just the black parts of that sprawling city."

Oates, Joyce Carol, ed. [Prison Noir](#) (Akashic \$26.95). Patrick reviews: "Akashic Books solicited stories from prison inmates around the country, the results carefully culled and selected by Joyce Carol Oates (herself a veteran prison writing instructor). The stories are astonishing and often heartbreaking. The prison experience is examined from a variety of different perspectives and sheds light on a segment of the population that rarely gets a voice, and, in some cases, will never see freedom again. What we're left with, as Oates points out in her intro, is not just a glimpse into a different world, but a real sense of humanity and identification." In paperback: [Prison Noir](#) (\$15.95).

Payton, Brian. [The Wind is Not a River](#) (\$15.99). A Modern Firsts Club Pick in hardcover, this exquisite book's context is the Japanese invasion of Alaska's Aleutian Islands during World War II, a theater generally overlooked. A journalist probing the death of his brother there heads north after a quarrel with his wife they both regret. He vanishes. . . . And she searches. "A haunting love story wrapped in an engaging and unsettling history lesson. . . . Along the way, readers will learn not just about a fascinating and largely forgotten slice of American history, but what it felt like to live through it."—*USA Today*

Phillips, Susan Elizabeth. [Heroes Are My Weakness](#) (Harper \$26.99). Down-on-her-luck puppeteer Annie takes refuge at Moonraker Cottage on Peregrine Island, planning to gather her thoughts over the long Maine winter in the remote home her mother left her. However, her plans are quickly upset by Theo Harp, bestselling horror author and owner of Harp House, the mansion that looms over Annie's cottage. After a dangerous and demented prank Theo pulled on her when they were teens, Annie will never believe he's anything but a psychopath. Theo wants Moonraker Cottage as his studio, so when Annie finds the place trashed, Theo's her first suspect. But when he tries to protect her as the incidents escalate, Annie's accusations lose steam and her attraction to him grows. The question of whether Theo has changed (or has a different perspective on their long-past conflict) is wrapped up in a more frightening problem: if Theo isn't the one attacking her, who is? Phillips serves up a contemporary *Jane Eyre* with a helping of Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*.

Robb, JD. [Festive in Death](#) (Putnam \$27.95). Personal trainer Trey Ziegler was in peak physical condition. If you didn't count the kitchen knife in his well-toned chest. Lieutenant Eve Dallas soon discovers a lineup of women who'd been loved and left by the narcissistic gym rat. While Dallas sorts through the list of Ziegler's enemies, she's also dealing with her Christmas shopping list—plus the guest list for her and her billionaire husband's upcoming holiday bash. Feeling less than festive,

Dallas tries to put aside her distaste for the victim and solve the mystery of his death. There are just a few investigating days left before Christmas, 2060....

Reichs, Kathy. [Bones Never Lie Signed](#) (Random \$27). Unexpectedly called in to the Charlotte PD's Cold Case Unit, Dr. Temperance Brennan wonders why she's been asked to meet with a homicide cop who's a long way from his own jurisdiction. The shocking answer: Two child murders, separated by thousands of miles, have one thing in common—the killer. Years ago, Anique Pomerleau kidnapped and murdered a string of girls in Canada, then narrowly eluded capture. It was a devastating defeat for her pursuers, Brennan and police detective Andrew Ryan. Now, as if summoned from their nightmares, Pomerleau has resurfaced in the United States, linked to victims in Vermont and North Carolina. When another child is snatched, the reign of terror promises to continue—unless Brennan can rise to the challenge and make good on her second chance to stop a psychopath. But Brennan will have to draw her bitter ex-partner out of exile, keep the local police and feds from one another's throats, and face more than just her own demons as she stalks the deadliest of predators.... Reichs' UK tour preempts our usual event with her, but she's signing our copies.

Richtel, Matt. [A Deadly Wandering](#) (Morrow \$28.99). Watch the video by [clicking here](#), buy the book. Richtel explores the science of attention going back to say 1850: the dopamine squirt of texting or talking, its attention-diverting power, and how that impacts driving or any other potentially dangerous activity. How many of us even understand the risks? The narrative by the Pulitzer-winning *NY Times* reporter pairs the story of a mysterious, deadly car crash with a study of the science of attention to answer the question: what is technology doing to our brains? Can our minds keep up with the pace of change, and with the demands of technology? "Not only is this an extraordinarily important book that everyone—and I mean everyone—should read, but it is also a gripping and moving story, beautifully researched and written. I simply could not put this book down. What a tour de force." —Douglas Preston. The Indie Next Pick adds: "Richtel's exceptional reporting will absolutely change the way you think about the devices that keep us online, and you will close this book transformed."

Rohmer, Sax. [Fu-Manchu—The Island of Fu-Manchu](#) (Titan \$9.95). The latest reissue in the Dr. Fu Manchu series. 1941. The world is engulfed in war. Having consolidated his forces, Fu-Manchu seeks to tip the balance of power by launching assaults from a hidden stronghold in the Caribbean. His target: the United States naval forces, just entering the global conflict. To stop the Devil Doctor, Sir Denis Nayland Smith and his ally, Bart Kerrigan, pick up the trail in London during the blackout, following it to New York, then the Panama Canal, and finally the land of voodoo—Haiti. There they face the enemy's deadly combination of advanced technology and deep-rooted mysticism! Rohmer is Arthur Henry Ward, born in 1883 and one of the most successful novelists of the 1920s and 1930s. Ironically, he died a victim of Asian flu in 1959

Sallis, James. [Death Will Have Your Eyes](#) (\$15). Patrick writes of this reissue, "I've always had a soft spot for this remarkable stand alone. Many years after his last assignment, David (as he's called) has reinvented himself as an artist and is living the quiet

life until he gets a call one night. A fellow agent has apparently gone rogue and David is the only one out there that can be trusted to find him. What follows is an exquisite, multi-layered road novel across the American landscape as David pursues his prey by getting the man to chase him. Rereading it fifteen years later, it not only holds up but seems especially relevant."

Simmons, Dan. [Hardcase](#) (\$16). *The Boston Globe* finds this reissue "very tough, with a high body count...Simmons writes better than most, and his ex-PI. Joe Kurtz, who tries to hold onto a semblance of ethics while working for a semi-retired Mafia don, is an interesting character...there are some nifty Chandleresque twists and some nicely done upstate New York scene layering." There are I think two more Joe Kurtzes to follow.

Smith, April. [A Star for Mrs. Blake](#) (\$15.95). After losing her son in World War I, small-town librarian Cora Blake is surprised over a decade later to receive a letter from the U.S. government inviting her to go to Europe to visit his grave as part of a "Gold Star Mother" tour. Looking forward to the adventure, Cora also hopes that she and the other mothers will be able to find the closure that has eluded them for so long. A chance encounter with an embittered journalist gives her the opportunity to tell her story to the world and leads her to discover some unexpected truths about the long-term legacy of the war. *LJ* writes, "What initially feels like a straightforward and heartwarming road trip novel becomes more complicated as the women draw nearer to their destination and squabbles over class and personality differences give way to increasing criticism of the government and military bureaucracy." "Everyone who has served or is serving in the military, and also their families and friends, should read this book." —Nelson DeMille

Thurlo, Aimee. [Ghost Medicine](#) (\$15.99). Former Navajo Police officer Harry Ute's body is found in an isolated part of the Navajo Reservation, rumored to be skinwalker country. This makes Navajo Police Special Investigator Ella Clah's job much harder—no one wants to speak to her for fear of incurring the wrath of the Navajo witches. Harry's latest P.I. case involves tracking down property stolen from the county. This leads Ella to work with county Detective Dan Nez. Ella doesn't trust Nez but can't deny her growing attraction to him. The murder and thefts turn out to be the tip of an iceberg. This is the final collaboration between the late Aimee and her husband David, who survives her.

Tobar, Hector. [The Tattooed Soldier](#) (16). A reissue. This debut novel is a tragic tale of destiny and consequence set in downtown Los Angeles on the eve of the 1992 riots. Antonio Bernal is a Guatemalan refugee haunted by memories of his wife and child murdered at the hands of a man marked with a yellow tattoo. Not far from Antonio's apartment, Guillermo Longoria extends his arm and reveals a tattoo—yellow pelt, black spots, red mouth. It is the mark of the death squad, the Jaguar Battalion of the Guatemalan army. A chance encounter ignites a psychological showdown between these two men who discover that the war in Central America has followed them to the *quemazones*, the "great burning" of the Los Angeles riots.

VanderMeer, Jeff. [Acceptance](#) (Farrar \$15). The final installment of Jeff VanderMeer's Southern Reach Trilogy It is winter in Area X. A new team embarks across the border on a mission to find a member of a previous expedition who may have been left behind. As they press deeper into the unknown—navigating new terrain

and new challenges—the threat to the outside world becomes more daunting.

Walter, Jess. [Beautiful Ruins](#) (\$10). Take one part sun-drenched Italian coastal village and mix in two parts Hollywood studio back lot. Add a larger-than-life cast of characters and cameo appearances by Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. Stir in unbearable sadness tempered with a sprinkling of hilarity, then whisk in sharp observations about human nature shared via a piercing wit and lush turns of phrase. Bake in an oven set to span 50 years. The *NY Times* writes of this long-term bestseller: ...”Walter is simply great on how we live now, and—in this particular book—on how we lived then and now, here and there. *Beautiful Ruins* is his Hollywood novel, his Italian novel and his Pacific Northwestern novel all braided into one: an epic romance, tragicomic, invented and reported...magical yet hard-boiled... His balanced mixture of pathos and comedy stirs the heart and amuses as it also rescues us from the all too human pain that is the motor of this complex and ever-evolving novel. Any reservations the reader might have about another book about Hollywood, about selling one’s soul (or someone else’s, and pocketing the change) will probably be swept aside by this high-wire feat of bravura storytelling.”

Vreeland, Susan. [Lisette’s List Signed](#) (Random \$29). In 1937, newlyweds Andre and Lisette Roux move from France’s vibrant capital to the pastoral southeastern town of Roussillon to care for his grandfather, Pascal, who has written that he is dying. A passionate Parisian, Lisette is at first miserable in the backwater town, and infuriated when Pascal turns out to be healthier than he let on: he simply wanted their company, and to share what he remembers about the famous French artists he has known. But Lisette is as fervent about art as she is about Paris, and Andre has trained in his grandfather’s trade of carving fine frames for fine paintings. She is captivated by Pascal’s collection of seven paintings. As a miner in the nearby ochre mines and later a pigment salesman, Pascal made the most of his access to these men, and now shares his recollections with the rapt Lisette—as well as his wisdom about life and love. Then war arrives. Before going off to fight, Andre hides the paintings without telling her where to protect her from inquisition. During the Occupation Lisette meets Marc Chagall and his wife, Bella, who are hiding in a nearby town. Upon receiving a gift painted specially for her by Chagall, she begins her own art collection and narrative. And with war’s end, comes the question of where is Pascal’s collection?

White, Randy Wayne. [Haunted Signed](#) (Putnam \$28). This is the 3rd Hannah Smith thriller and thrill it does thanks to some dangerous creatures, only a few of which are human. Plus—there’s a haunted house! Which had a role in the Civil War, site of a bloody skirmish in which two of Hannah’s distant relatives played a part. The house is endangered by a condo project, so Hannah becomes engaged both in halting it and in her family history. It begins when a rich Palm Beach widow hires her to prove the seller didn’t disclose everything he knew about the house when he unloaded it. What Hannah learns is that ghosts take a back seat to real dangers and that a palmetto burn may have surprising consequences. There’s a bit of *Deliverance* here, but so much more. 3rd in series (no Doc Ford in this one).

Whitmer, Benjamin. [Cry Father Signed](#) (Gallery \$25). Patrick reviews: “Patterson Wells is a man haunted by the past, in

particular the death of his young son, Justin. Wells makes a hardscrabble living traveling the country clearing trees in disaster zones. Alcohol serves to partially numb the pain but he’s getting older and it’s become increasingly keep the pain at bay. When he stops to visit a meth-addled friend and discovers a young woman hog-tied in his bathtub, Patterson sets the woman free, which in turn opens up a whole can of worms. Returning to his rustic Colorado retreat, Patterson tries to keep his down and do the right thing, but violence and grief are never too far behind him. The narrative alternates with very moving diary entries addressed to Patterson’s son. Fans of Daniel Woodrell and Larry Brown will particularly enjoy this outstanding novel, which more than fulfills the promise of Whitmer’s award-winning debut, *Pike*.” This **September Hardboiled Crime Club Pick** gets strong endorsements from authors too: “*Cry Father* is strong medicine. It burns going down, but there’s healing in that dose as well. It’s a book that put me in the mind of my own Dad and made me think of my own duties as a father. And any book that can reach inside your heart and mind and force you to reflect on such things is doing something very, very right indeed.”—Craig Davidson, author of *Rust and Bone* and *Cataract City*. “Searing, spare, beautiful prose and characters who arrive on the page already well-worn. A pebble tossed into this novel reveals concentric waves of violence, guilt, culpability, shame, and vengeance – and yet when the surface settles, astonishingly, there is hope.” – Sophie Littlefield

OUR SEPTEMBER MASS MARKET PAPERBACK PICKS

Abbott, Victoria. [The Wolfe Widow](#) (Berkley \$7.99). As Thanksgiving approaches, Jordan Bingham is grateful for her job researching rare books for Vera Van Alst, the infamous curmudgeon of Harrison Falls, New York. But when an imperious uninvited guest makes an appearance, much more than dinner is at stake. Muriel Delgado has designs on the Van Alst estate—and on Vera’s collection of Nero Wolfe mysteries by Rex Stout.... A Book Collector’s Mystery from the author of [The Christie Curse](#) and [The Sayers’ Swindle](#) (\$7.99 each).

Andrews, Donna. [Duck the Halls](#) (\$7.99). “The residents of Caerphilly, Va., must struggle to maintain their Christmas cheer in Andrews’s lighthearted 16th Meg Langslow mystery (after *The Hen of the Baskervilles*). Pranksters are creating some not-so-merry problems for police chief Henry Burke, volunteer fire chief Jim Featherstone, and the parishioners of the town’s churches. Some very unhappy skunks fill the choir loft of the New Life Baptist Church; a large snake puts in a surprise appearance at Trinity Episcopal’s Christmas concert; and the sanctuary of St. Byblig plays host to a flock of messy ducks. Meg’s organizational skills come in handy as she takes charge of coordinating revamped schedules for the many holiday activities that can’t take place in the affected churches. The stakes rise when another prank takes a life at Trinity. Andrews leavens the action with her trademark humor, including dueling Christmas dinners and an extravagant—and extravagantly funny—live nativity scene.”—*PW*. Get a jump on your holidays stocking stuffers!

Brandman, Michael. [Robert B Parker’s Damned If You Do](#) (\$9.99). She was barely out of her teens, not exactly beautiful, but she’d tried to make the most of her looks. Now, defiled and alone in a seedy beachfront motel, she was dead. And Paradise Police Chief Jesse Stone doesn’t even know her name. But when his investigation lures him into the crosshairs of two ruthless

pimps, Jesse finds out more about the girl than he ever dreamed. Because in pursuit of justice, if anyone can see the truth in dark, dark places, it's Jesse Stone. See Event Books for Reed Coleman's first Jesse Stone.

Brown, Rita Mae. [The Litter of the Law](#) (\$7.99). Autumn has descended and crops are being harvested all over Crozet, Virginia, ideal conditions for a scenic drive for Harry and husband Fair. Bucolic views are all well and good, but Harry's nose for trouble leads her straight to a cornfield's macabre scarecrow—an all too real murder victim that frightens all but the noisy crows. This accountant's gruesome death is only the first of many disturbing events in this normally pastoral corner of the world. While Harry tends her beloved grapes and sunflowers, a killer edges closer—as does Harry's protective menagerie of animals headed by feline Mrs. Murphy.... A nice Halloween read/gift.

Coel, Margaret. [Killing Custer](#) (\$7.99). On the anniversary of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, Colonel Edward Garrett, a well-known Custer impersonator, leads a troop of reenactors in a cavalry parade down Main Street in Lander, Wyoming. But a group of Arapaho youth disrupts the parade by riding their horses around the column, just to remind everyone who actually won the battle. Then history repeats itself when, in the confusion, Garrett is shot dead. Father John O'Malley knows in his heart the Arapaho are not guilty. And Vicky Holden finds herself professionally and personally compromised from getting involved. But what begins as a murder soon reveals itself as a conspiracy that neither Father John nor Vicky could have foreseen. Coel excels at the blurry line between fact and fiction, truth and legend, as well as painting vivid landscapes and characters.

Cussler, Clive/Thomas Perry. [The Mayan Secrets](#) (\$9.99). Husband-and-wife team Sam and Remi Fargo are in Mexico when they come upon a remarkable discovery—the mummified remains of a man clutching an ancient sealed pot. Within the pot is a Mayan book larger than any known before. The book contains astonishing information about the Mayans, their cities, and about mankind itself. The secrets are so powerful — many men and women are going to die for that book.

Johansen, Iris. [Live to See Tomorrow](#) (\$7.99). “Stealth CIA operative Catherine Ling is recruited, in spite of her reluctance, to rescue renowned journalist Erin Sullivan. Sullivan is being held captive at an abandoned Tibetan monastery by Kadmus, a sadistic megalomaniac who believes she is the link to the fabled lost Eden of Shambala. Though Ling wants nothing more than to spend precious time with her 11-year-old son, Luke, Ling's mentor and protector, Hu Chang, persuades her to accept the assignment. Things, of course, don't go according to plan, and Ling is teamed with the enigmatic Richard Cameron, whose supernatural powers of mental telepathy are manifested in mind games that leave Ling in his thrall and her son in mortal danger. Although the battle for ultimate control over the idyllic mountain kingdom rages between Kadmus and Cameron, Ling's world, also, is threatened in intensely intimate ways. In a genre laden with macho, action-hero figures, Johansen's shrewd and steely female operative is as tough as they come.”—*Booklist*

Paretsky, Sara. [Critical Mass](#) (\$9.99). In 1939, Dr. Lotty Herschel, PI VI Warshawki's closest friend in Chicago, escaped the Holocaust in Vienna with her childhood playmate, Kitty Saginor

Binder. Though the two drifted and animosities grew between them over the years, when Kitty's daughter finds her life in danger, she turns to Lotty for help. In turn, Lotty summons V.I. to take the case. The threats on the daughter's life at first seem a simple case of bad drug dealings, but V.I. soon discovers that they are just the tip of an iceberg of lies, secrets and silence whose origins trace back to the deadly race among America, Germany, Japan, and England to develop the atomic bomb. And while the secrets may be old, they are still zealously guarded... Wow, I grew up in a Chicago suburb never realizing the city was such a locus for the secret importation of scientists, some who served the Nazis.

Peikoff, Kira. [No Time to Die](#) (\$9.99). In a Washington, D.C. research lab, a brilliant scientist is attacked by his own test subjects. At Columbia University, a talented biochemist is lured out of her apartment and never seen again. In the Justice Department's new Bioethics Committee, agent Les Mahler sees a sinister pattern emerging. Zoe Kincaid is a petite college student whose rare genetic makeup may hold the key to a powerful medical breakthrough. Then she is kidnapped... Lee Child calls this “Breathless... A Nail Biter.”

Sullivan, Mark. [Outlaw](#) (\$9.99). The U.S. Secretary of State and the foreign ministers of China and India have been kidnapped. The “Sons of Prophecy” take responsibility and issue an ultimatum: If their demands are not met in seven days, the three will be beheaded live on the Internet. With the presidential election in only eight days, The President has few options—he can't meet their demands and he can't let them be executed. In desperation, he calls upon former CIA operative and master thief Robin Monarch. Think Ludlum's Jason Bourne here in this high-action series with great landscapes. Start the Monarchs with [Rogue](#) (\$9.99).

NEW IN MASS MARKETS

Aarons, Kathy. [Death is Like a Box of Chocolates](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Starts a series in a bookstore/chocolate shop

Albert, Susan Wittig. [Darling Dahlias and the Texas Star](#) (\$7.99)

Belle, Josie. [Marked Down for Murder](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Good Buys Girls Mysteries

Benson, Raymond. [Hunt Through Napoleons Web](#) (Forge \$7.99)

Brady, Jacklyn. [Rebel Without a Cake](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Piece of Cake Crime—recipes

Cantrell, Janet. [Fat Cat at Large](#) (Berkley \$7.99). First in a series; recipes for people and cats included

Cavender, Chris. [The Missing Dough](#) (\$7.99) Pizza Lovers Mystery

Cornwell, Patricia. [Dust](#) (\$9.99) Kay Scarpetta

De La Motte, Anders. [Bubble](#) (\$7.99) Game Trilogy Book 3

Dunnett, Kaitlyn. [Vampires, Bones, and Treacle Scones](#) (7.99) Liss MacCrimmon cozy for Halloween

Fletcher, Jessica. [Murder She Wrote: Close-Up on Murder](#) (\$7.99) Jessica Fletcher

Follett, Ken. [Winter of the World](#) (\$9.99) Century Trilogy Book 2

Genova, Rosie. [Wedding Soup Murder](#) (Signet \$7.99) Italian Kitchen Mystery

Iles, Greg. [Death Factory](#) (Harper \$3.99) Penn Cage novella!

Kennedy, Mary. [Nightmares Can Be Murder](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Dream Club Mystery

Knox, Annie. [Groomed for Murder](#) (Signet \$7.99) Pet Boutique Mystery

Lee, Alan L. [Sandstorm](#) (\$9.99) Debut thriller about an ex-CIA agent and a covert operation designed to derail Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Rich, David. [Middle Man](#) (Signet \$9.99) Lt Rollie Waters covert ops thriller

Richards, Douglas E. [The Cure](#) (\$9.99) Neuroscience thriller

Rogers, Kenny. [What Are the Chances](#) (\$9.99) Nashville 1975 thriller

Simple, Maria. [Where'd You Go, Bernadette?](#) (\$8) Bestseller about a runaway Seattle mom

Shaffer, Anthony. [Last Line](#) (\$9.99) Debut covert ops thriller

Swanson, Denise. [Murder of a Needled Knitter](#) (Signet \$7.99) Scumble River Mystery

Velez-Mitchell, Jane. [Exposed: The Secret Life of Jodi Arias](#) (Harper \$7.99) Truecrime

Wood, Tom. [No Tomorrow](#) (Signet \$9.99) Victor the Assassin thriller

Reissues

Berenson, Laurien. [Dog Eat Dog](#) (\$7.99)

Berenson, Laurien. [Pedigree to Die For](#) (\$6.99)

Berenson, Laurien. [Underdog](#) (\$7.99)

Crawford, Isis. [A Catered Halloween](#) (\$6.99)

Granger, Bill. [The November Man](#) (\$8)

Meier, Leslie. [Trick or Treat Murder](#) (\$7.99)

Meier, Leslie. [Wicked Witch Murder](#) (\$7.99)

Sandford, John. [Chosen Prey](#) (\$9.99)

SciFi/Fantasy/Paranormal/Horror/Romance

Bein, Steve. [Year of the Demon](#) (\$7.99) Novel of the Fated

Boyce, Brandon. [Here By the Bloods](#) (\$6.99) Western

Fairlie, Emily. [Magician's Bird](#) (Harper \$6.99) Tuckermuck Mystery

Feehan, Christine. [Dark Wolf](#) (\$7.99)

Gagnon, Michelle. [Don't Look Now](#) (\$9.99)

Hilderbrand, Elin. [Beautiful Day](#) (\$8) Summer wedding

Jacka, Benedict. [Hidden](#) (\$7.99) SciFi

Jeffries, Sabrina. [How the Scoundrel Seduces](#) (\$7.99)

Jordan, Robert. [Conan the Destroyer](#) (\$6.99)

L'Amour, Louis. [Collected Short Stories](#) (\$6.99) Western

Lyle, Dixie. [To Die For](#) (\$7.99) A Paranormal Cozy

Mallery, Susan. [Almost Perfect](#) (\$7.99) Fool's Gold #2

Mallery, Susan. [Chasing Perfect](#) (\$7.99) Fool's Gold #1 Romance

Mallery, Susan. [Finding Perfect](#) (\$7.99) Fool's Gold #3

Mcguire, Seanan. [Winter Long](#) (\$7.99) Fantasy

Modesitt, L E. [Dawn for a Distant Earth](#) (\$7.99) SciFi

Perry, Carol J. [Caught Dead Handed](#) (\$7.99) Witch City Mystery

Perry, Leigh. [The Skeleton Takes a Bow](#) (\$7.99) Skeleton in the Family Cozy Mystery

Stirling, SM. [Given Sacrifice: A Novel of the Change](#) (\$9.99)

Vaughn, Carrie. [Kittys Greatest Hits](#) (\$7.99)

HISTORY/MYSTERY

✚Ackroyd, Peter. [Tudors: The History of England from Henry VIII through Elizabeth I](#) (\$16.99). Life with the Tudors was like living in a soap, but you also get a good look at the English Reformation, the beginnings of the Anglican Church, and the transformation from largely feudal to central state governance.

Bell, Albert A, Jr. [The Eyes of Aurora](#) (Perseverance \$15.95). Pliny the Younger's 5th case begins when his determined mother arranges a marriage contract for him he doesn't wish to honor.

The woman he loves is his slave, Aurora. Stealing away with her and his friend Tacitus for a day in the countryside before the engagement banquet, they come across a real house of horrors. Pliny cracks the case, but as it concludes, a fresh horror awaits him. . . . I find Pliny more interesting in Bruce Macbain's two mysteries where he is sleuth: *Roman Games*, which is a clever locked-room mystery, and *The Bull Slayer*, taking him to the shores of the Black Sea (\$14.95 each): [click here](#) to order.

Brouwer, Sigmund. [Thief of Glory](#) (Waterstone \$14.99). War. Love at first sight. Rivalry. Human nature. Art. Brouwer weaves timeless themes into the story of a 70-year journey toward redemption. In 1942, Japanese soldiers invaded Java, an island in what was then the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia), taking men from the ruling class to use as slave labor and incarcerating the women and children. A Dutch headmaster's 12-year-old son, Jeremiah Prins, is left to help his younger siblings and their emotionally troubled mother survive. An extremely intelligent boy, he proves courageous and resourceful, but those qualities are not enough to overcome the wartime despair and devastation. Decades after the war, as secrets from that chapter of his life threaten his family's current security and happiness, Jeremiah searches for peace, remembering old enemies and old loves. He recounts his life's story in a series of journals, describing events and people from the war and reflecting on his resultant emotional and spiritual states. Thorough historical research, skillful use of foreshadowing, and keen insight into the human spirit make this one of Brouwer's best—and our **September History Paperback Pick**.

Enger, Lin. [The High Divide](#) (Algonquin \$24.95). "It is 1886 when Ulysses Pope leaves his wife and two sons at their Minnesota home, with no explanation as to why, or if he plans to return. The boys strike out on their own, determined to find him. Their mother, Gretta, feels she has no choice but to attempt to find them and, possibly, her husband. Along the way, Gretta learns that Ulysses was a man with a secret and wonders if she ever really knew him. Ulysses was involved in a battle with Native Americans and did something that took away a piece of his soul. His trip west was an effort to cleanse his conscious and make him whole once again. Ulysses's return from battle is reminiscent of our modern military men who return from combat, whole in body but who have left pieces of themselves behind. A powerful read, haunting, redemptive, a tale of forgiveness."—Karen Shaver. The Indie Next Pick adds: "Early one morning in 1886, Ulysses Pope leaves his family to embark on a journey that he hopes will save his immortal life. The wife and two sons he leaves behind are devastated by his unannounced departure, and so begins a life-altering adventure for all concerned that addresses questions far beyond the usual trope in a classic Western novel."

Forsyth, Kate. [Bitter Greens](#) (St Martins \$25.99) is based on the real-life story of Charlotte-Rose de la Force, the storyteller behind the most well-known version of *Rapunzel*. Charlotte-Rose's account of survival and hope is paired with that of her famous fairy tale heroine as both women face extraordinary circumstances. "Forsyth, a PhD candidate in fairy tale retellings, reflects her depth of knowledge in this captivating novel that enchants with its gorgeous narrative and memorable characters who discover how the choices we make define and bind us. Full of palace intrigue, dark magic, romance, and lush, evocative

descriptions, this is historical fiction at its finest.”—LJ

✚Gregory, Philippa. [The King's Curse](#) (Touchstone \$28.99). Regarded as yet another threat to the volatile King Henry VII's claim to the throne, Margaret Pole, cousin to Elizabeth of York (known as the White Princess) and daughter of George, Duke of Clarence, is married off to a steady and kind Lancaster supporter—Sir Richard Pole. For his loyalty, Sir Richard is entrusted with the governorship of Wales, but Margaret's contented daily life is changed forever with the arrival of Arthur, the young Prince of Wales, and his beautiful bride, Katherine of Aragon. Arthur dies, Katherine marries his brother Henry, and Margaret is set up for a lifetime of horrible choices.... It was much better not to be related to any of the Royals in this age.

Hunt, Laird. [Neverhome](#) (LittleBrown \$26). I'm always amazed by stories of women who disguise themselves as men and go off to sea or to fight wars, as does farmer's faithful wife "Ash" in this spare but evocative Civil War story. Why did she go and her husband stay? Why did no one smoke her out considering no sanitary facilities? She couldn't have been wounded. And, did she make it home and if so, to what?

✚Iggulden, Conn. [Wars of the Roses Trinity](#) (Joseph \$43). 1454: King Henry VI has remained all but exiled in Windsor Castle, struck down by his illness for over a year, his eyes vacant, his mind a blank. His fiercely loyal wife and Queen, Margaret of Anjou, safeguards her husband's interests, hoping that her son Edward will one day know the love of his father. Richard Duke of York, Protector of the Realm, extends his influence throughout the kingdom with each month that Henry slumbers. The Earls of Salisbury and Warwick make up a formidable trinity with Richard, and together they seek to break the support of those who would raise their colors in the name of Henry and his Queen. But when the King unexpectedly recovers his senses and returns to London to reclaim his throne, the balance of power is once again thrown into turmoil. The clash of the Houses of Lancaster and York will surely mean a war to tear England apart... Start this trilogy with [Wars of the Roses: Stormbird](#) (Putnam \$27.95 Signed).

Kearsley, Susanna. [Season of Storms](#) (\$16). A reissue. In 1921, Celia Sands was the muse of Galeazzo D'Ascanio, the celebrated playwright. He wrote a spectacular play for her to star in, but she vanished the night before it opened and was never seen again. Now, some 70 years later, Galeazzo's grandson Alex D'Ascanio plans to stage the play in order to bring attention to the palatial family estate, Il Piacere, which is being given to an Italian historical trust for preservation. Alex offers the lead to a struggling young English actress—also named Celia Sands. Celia is reluctant at first, because she's tried to avoid trading on her famous name, since she's no relation to Celia the First (as she's dubbed her namesake). But Celia can't resist the lure of playing the role of a lifetime in the midst of a star-studded cast, and she's excited to give up her waitressing job in London to head to Italy. Once at Il Piacere, however, strange things happen. Servants vanish, artwork goes missing, actors squabble and Celia could swear that Celia the First haunts her bedroom. She finds herself turning to the handsome Alex for answers—answers that may not be Alex's to share. Think Mary Stewart—a young Englishwoman in a seductive foreign setting dodging danger! I'm a fan of all Kearsley's books. [Click here](#) to order more.

✚Lipscomb, Suzannah. [Journey Through Tudor England](#) (\$15.95). For the armchair traveler or for those looking to take a trip back to the colorful time of Henry VIII and Thomas More, *A Journey Through Tudor England* takes you to the palaces, castles, theatres, and abbeys to uncover the stories behind this famed era. Lipscomb visits over fifty Tudor places, from the famous palace at Hampton Court, where dangerous court intrigue was rife, to less well-known houses such as Anne Boleyn's childhood home at Hever Castle, or Tutbury Castle, where Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned. In the corridors of power and the courtyards of country houses, we meet the passionate but tragic Catherine Parr, Henry VIII's last wife; Lady Jane Grey, the nine-day queen; and come to understand how Sir Walter Raleigh planned his trip to the New World. History—viewed through the lens of place.

Liss, David. [The Day of Atonement Signed](#) (Random \$28). Lisbon is one of my favorite cities. We've visited it several times; love the architecture, art, and cuisine. But thanks to a terrible earthquake in 1755, much of its history was lost. The icon of survival is the great church of San Roque. Liss starts his wonderful new novel, much akin to his Edgar-winning [A Conspiracy of Paper](#) (\$15), in roughly 1745 when Sebastião Raposa is 13, so we know the quake is like a ticking clock behind the drive of the action. The Raposas are among Lisbon's conversos, Jews forced into Catholicism as the merciless Inquisition grinds on. One day his parents are seized but they have arranged for him to escape on a ship bound for England (a major trading partner thanks to Portugal's wines). Ten years later, in the guise of English merchant Sebastian Foxx, he returns to Lisbon well schooled by Benjamin Weaver, the notorious bounty hunter of earlier Liss work, in the mental and physical (weapons) skills needed to seek vengeance on whoever ratted out his family, and on the ruthless Inquisitor priest Pedro Azinheiro, who we quickly realize is in this for the money (maybe for the Church, but using the Inquisition for gain nonetheless). How it unfolds with twists, surprises, sorrow and joy, is what makes this another delight from Liss and our **September History/Mystery Club Pick**. Note: Liss writes killer comics. *The Spider*, being one. They aren't easy for us to sell but check them out on-line.

✚Michael, Livi. [Succession Signed](#) (Penguin UK \$35). 1445. Henry VI is married by proxy to Margaret of Anjou: an unpopular choice that causes national uproar. At the same time, the infant Margaret Beaufort is made a great heiress after her father, the Earl of Somerset's, death. Everyone at court is competing to be her guardian: she brings with her the Beaufort fortune and an advantageous alliance with her uncle. In the years that follow, English rule in France collapses, Henry VI goes insane, civil war erupts, and families are pitted against each other. And though Margaret Beaufort is still little more than a child, by the age of thirteen she has married twice and given birth to her only son, the future King of England. For readers like me fascinated by Anya Seton's Katherine; also background for the Conn Iggulden historical listed here.

Miley, Mary. [Silent Murders](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Vaudeville actress Leah Randall took on her most daring role ever when she impersonated missing heiress Jessie Carr in order to claim Jessie's inheritance in [The Impersonator](#) (\$15.99). Now that the dust has settled around that tumultuous time in her life, Leah has adopted Jessie's name as her own and moved to Hollywood, where she's taken a modest but steady job in the silent film

industry. Jessie's thrilled when Bruno Heilmann, a movie studio bigwig, invites her to a party. She's even more delighted to run into a face from her past at that party. But the following day, Jessie learns that sometime in the wee hours of the morning both her old friend and Bruno Heilmann were brutally murdered. She's devastated, but with her skill as an actress, access to the wardrobes and resources of a film studio, and a face not yet famous enough to be recognized, Jessie is uniquely positioned to dig into the circumstances surrounding these deaths—at the risk of her own. Have fun with Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford, and a very young Myrna Loy.

Pajer, Bernadette. [The Edison Effect](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). We're familiar with the wars of the tech giants like Microsoft, Amazon, Google, and Apple battling for total market share. Patents and innovation are part of their tool kits. Over a century ago it was not Gates or Bezos or Jobs at corporate helms, but Thomas Alva Edison, ruthlessly battling rivals like Nikola Tesla and Westinghouse. In *The Edison Effect*, Bernadette Pajer's 4th investigation for University of Washington Electrical Engineering Professor Benjamin Bradshaw, Edison has come to Seattle himself in pursuit of a mysterious invention lost in 1901 in Elliott Bay. Though Edison had agents in place, few will refuse him information. Bradshaw does-hoping that the device conceived by an anarchist and harnessed for murder will elude Edison's hired divers. But it all begins one December morning, 1903, with an electrician found dead in a Men's Wear Window clutching a string of Edison's new holiday lights.... As with all Pajer's mysteries, the past illuminates the present. And there's much to ponder and enjoy about the changing roles of women and of science in society. Her Bradshaw Mysteries have earned the Seal of Approval for Science from the Washington Academy of Sciences (established 1898). In paperback: [The Edison Effect](#) (\$14.95). Highly recommended!! There's a continuing love story, a lot of cool (actually, hot) stuff to learn, and a clever plot per each book. [Click here](#) for the earlier Bradshaws.

✚Perry, Anne. [Blood on the Water Signed](#) (Random \$26 Sept. 27—this date is iffy since Perry is dealing with US Immigration. We will update you). Perry's 20th William Monk Victorian historical opens with a powerful scene. Monk, commander of the Thames River Police, witnesses an explosion aboard a pleasure boat, which rapidly sinks. Despite his heroic efforts to save lives, almost 200 are lost in the tragedy, which the detective quickly concludes wasn't an accident. To Monk's dismay, the authorities take the case away from his force and assign it to the London Metropolitan Police. An Egyptian man, Habib Beshara, is charged with planting the bomb that caused the deadly explosion, though his motive is far from clear. Monk has misgivings about Beshara's guilt, but with the case reassigned and a culprit identified, he can investigate only at risk to his career. It's a pleasure to return to this series' main characters—Monk; his wife, Hester; and their 16-year-old surrogate son, Scuff.

New in paper: [Blind Justice](#) (\$15). Hester questions the finances of a London church whose members' hard-earned charitable gifts appear to have ended up in the pocket of charismatic preacher Abel Taft, paying for his fine home and the stylish outfits of his wife and daughters. Taft is accused of extortion, and brilliant barrister Oliver Rathbone, newly appointed a judge, is chosen to preside over his trial. It seems clear that Taft is indeed guilty. However, at the last second, the

defense produces a witness who completely undermines the charges. Then Rathbone makes a well-meaning but reckless move that could ruin his career, his reputation, even his life. Excellent courtroom work!

✚Rutherford, Anne. [The Twelfth Night Murder](#) (Berkley \$15). When the body of a young boy—murdered, mutilated, and clothed in women's attire—is found under London Bridge, Constable Pepper believes him to be a member of The New Globe Players, one of the actors who specialize in women's parts. He is not, but Suzanne Thornton, a member of the cast for *Twelfth Night*, is summoned to make an identification. She recognizes the victim from an encounter in the tavern the night before—as the alluring doxy who caught the eye of more than a few of the patrons. Suzanne suspects that whoever hired him for the night reacted violently when his true sex was discovered. Moved by the lad's fate, Suzanne determines to find his killer. But first, she must uncover his identity.... The premise is interesting but, as is so often true, however careful the research, American authors make many slips writing “British.”

Stott, Andrew McConnell. [The Poet and the Vampyre](#) (Pegasus \$29.95). So much happened during those fateful days of spring, 1816. Stott writes a group biography. Lord Byron. Women swooned over him, no one more persistently than Claire Clairmont, stepsister of Mary Shelley, who began her pursuit when she was 16. Claire, Mary and her lover, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and Byron's sometime friend and personal physician John Polidori make up the tragic cast of characters entangled with, and wounded by, the self-serving Byron. “Despite this book's sensational title, Stott focuses not on the creature in *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* or *The Vampyre*, a tale by Polidori that Byron stole and published under his own name; the literary monsters who emerge from this story of selfishness and manipulation are Byron and Shelley. Although Byron deigned to sleep with Clairmont, he rejected her when she became pregnant, then insisted on sole custody of their daughter, refusing to allow Claire to see her. Shelley's abandoned wife, Harriet, killed herself at 21; Mary's half sister Fanny killed herself, as well, “unsettled” by Mary and Percy's elopement. Polidori, a victim of Byron's scorn and his own failed aspirations, committed suicide at the age of 25. As Stott reveals in this engrossing history, lust, greed and the unquenchable thirst for fame were forces of evil that imbued the age of Romanticism with grief.”—*Kirkus* in just one of this book's Starred Reviews. Author Amanda Foreman finds it, “A thrilling tale about the pursuit of love, sex, and fame. Provides a dual portrait of the Romantic spirit during its most intense period of creativity—and uncovers the emotional devastation that was left in its wake.”

✚Trow, MJ. [Traitor's Storm: A Tudor Mystery](#) (Severn \$28.95). May, 1588. Sir Francis Walsingham dispatches undercover agent Christopher Marlowe to the Isle of Wight, the first line of defense against the approaching Spanish Armada. Is there reason to doubt the Islanders' loyalty to the Crown—and can Marlowe unmask a cunning murderer before the might of the Armada descends? 6th in series. Ordered Upon Request.

✚Waters, Sarah. [Paying Guests Signed](#) (Viking UK \$46). It is 1922, and London is tense. Ex-servicemen are disillusioned, the out-of-work and the hungry are demanding change. And in South London, in a genteel Camberwell villa, a large silent house now bereft of brothers, husband and even servants, life is about to be

transformed, as impoverished widow Mrs. Wray and her spinster daughter, Frances, are obliged to take in lodgers. For with the arrival of Lilian and Leonard Barber, a modern young couple of the “clerk class,” the routines of the house will be shaken up in unexpected ways. And as passions mount and frustration gathers, no one can foresee just how far-reaching, and how devastating, the disturbances will be. This is vintage Sarah Waters: beautifully described with excruciating tension, real tenderness. The Indie Next Pick adds: “At the end of WWI, 26-year-old Frances and her mother find themselves in dire financial circumstances. Both of Frances’ brothers died in the war, and now her father’s death has left them in debt. Frances and her mother reconfigure their home in a gracious London neighborhood so that they can take in lodgers. From the moment Mr. and Mrs. Barber — the ‘paying guests’— arrive, the young couple pulls Frances out of her staid routine, and before long sexual sparks are flying. Waters is a brilliant writer, a master of the hothouse atmosphere and the slow reveal, and her new novel is utterly absorbing.” [US Edition: [Paying Guests](#) (Riverhead \$28.95).]

Wilson, John P. [Peoples of the Middle Gila](#) (\$34.95). A documentary history of the Pimas and Maricopas 1500s-1945 drawn from the Gila River’s Anthropological Research Papers (Book 6).

Winchester, Simon. [Men Who United the States](#) (\$15.99). Winchester follows the footsteps of America’s most crucial innovators, thinkers, and explorers, from Lewis and Clark and the leaders of the Great Surveys of the West to the builders of the transcontinental railroad and the great highway systems to show how these daring men from three centuries left their mark on America’s natural landscapes through courage, ingenuity, and hard work.