

BOOKNEWS from

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The Pen Turns 25 on October 3

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

THURSDAY OCTOBER 2 7:00 PM Our 25th Birthday Party The Kellermans join us to celebrate!

Faye signs [Murder 101](#) (Harper \$26) Lazarus/Decker move East!
Jonathan and Jesse sign their book [The Golem of Hollywood](#)
(Putnam \$27.95)

TUESDAY OCTOBER 7 7:00 PM Book Launch

John Sandford signs [Deadline](#) (Putnam \$27.95) Virgil Flowers.
It's on-sale date so he'll date the books

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 8 7:00 PM

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

SATURDAY OCTOBER 11 10:30 AM

Coffee and Crime discusses Zoe Ferraris, [City of Veils](#) (\$14.99)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 11 2:00 PM

Steph Cha signs [Beware, Beware](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Oct. 11).
LA's Koreatown PI Juniper Song #2

TUESDAY OCTOBER 14 7:00 PM

Matt Cook signs [Sabotage](#) (Forge \$25.99) Debut & Thriller
Club Pick

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 15 7:00 PM Book Launch

Jana Bommersbach signs her first novel, [Cattle Kate](#) (Poisoned
Pen \$24.95)

THURSDAY OCTOBER 16 7:00 PM

Mike Maden signs [Blue Warrior](#) (Putnam \$26.95), sequel to
FMC Pick [Drone](#) (\$9.99)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 18 2:00 PM Book Launch

Betty Webb signs [Desert Rage](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) Lena Jones

SUNDAY OCTOBER 19 1:00 PM Victorian Duo

Tasha Alexander signs [The Counterfeit Heiress](#) (St Martins
\$25.99 Oct. 19). Lady Emily #9 ranges from London to Paris
David Morrell signs [Murder as a Fine Art](#) (\$16), Thomas de
Quincey #1

SUNDAY OCTOBER 19 2:45 PM Writers Workshop

David Morrell: [Finding Your Voice and Your Subject Matter](#)
Fee: \$30 includes a copy of Morrell's book in paperback

TUESDAY OCTOBER 21 7:00 PM

Timothy Hallinan signs [For the Dead](#) (Soho \$25) Poke Rafferty/
Bangkok

Jeffrey Siger signs [Sons of Sparta](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) Chief
Ins. Andreas Kaldis/Greece

Note: Siger appears with Bommersbach and Webb at 2 PM

at Desert Foothills Library Fee \$15, registration required
480-488-2286

THURSDAY OCTOBER 23 7:00 PM

Marcia Clark hosts and signs
Andrew Grant signs [Run](#) (Random \$26) Marc Bowman
Hank Phillippi Ryan signs [Truth Be Told](#) (Forge \$24.99) Jane
Ryland #3

FRIDAY OCTOBER 24 7:00 PM

Hard Boiled Crime discusses John D. MacDonald, [The Neon
Jungle](#) (\$16)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 25 11:00 AM YA Writers Workshop

Tom Leveen teaches a workshop Fee\$10 includes a copy of his
novel [Sick](#)
Leveen will also sign copies of his new YA novel [Random](#) (Si-
mon Schuster \$17.99)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 25 2:00 PM

AJ Kerns signs [The African Contract](#) (Diversion \$17.99)

SUNDAY OCTOBER 26 1:00 PM Collectors Workshop

No Fee. Barbara, Patrick, and Charlie Lovett
Essential reading: John Dunning, [Booked to Die](#) (\$8.99); Charlie
Lovett, [The Bookman's Tale](#) (\$16)

SUNDAY OCTOBER 26 2:00 PM

Charlie Lovett signs [First Impressions](#) (Viking \$27.95)

TUESDAY OCTOBER 28 7:00 PM

Clive Cussler signs [Havana Storm](#) (Putnam \$28.95)

FRIDAY OCTOBER 31

We close at 5:00 PM for Halloween

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 1 Choose Your Time with Craig

2:00 PM at The Pen
5:00 PM at the Scottsdale Library 3839 N. Drinkwater

Both programs are free and open to all
Craig Johnson signs [Wait for Signs: 12 Longmire Stories](#) (Vi-
king \$22) at both events

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4 7:00 PM Vote first!

CB McKenzie signs [Bad Country](#) (St Martins \$24.99) Hillerman
Prize Winner

T Jefferson Parker signs [Full Measure](#) (St Martins \$25.99)

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5 7:00 PM

Books at the Biltmore, 2400 E. Missouri, Phoenix
Michael Connelly signs [The Burning Room](#) (LittleBrown
\$27.95) Harry Bosch

EVENT BOOKS

Alexander, Tasha. [The Counterfeit Heiress](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Oct. 19). The Duchess of Devonshire holds a great ball on July 2, 1897. It's the event of the season if not the decade. Lady Emily, dressed as Artemis in a Worth gown and carrying the huntress' bow, has a very odd encounter with a costumed male guest. Shortly thereafter a woman thought to be a mysterious, reclusive heiress and world traveler, Estella Lamar, is murdered. Is the woman actually Estella, whom no one has seen for years and years? Or is she an imposter? And regardless, who would kill either of them at a society event? Lady Emily's husband, Colin Hargreaves, a special investigator (often for the Queen), has questions. Emily's childhood friend the Duke of Bainbridge is pressed into service. Working the puzzle takes them to Paris where Estella also maintains a home—a home that, like her London residence, is fully staffed and ready to receive her although she never shows. This narrative, dedicated to the late Elizabeth Peters (!), is actual a dual one: chapters alternate between Lady Emily's voice and that of Estella. There's a climax in Paris' catacombs. [Click here](#) to order all the Lady Emily mysteries.

Bommersbach, Jana. [Cattle Kate](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Oct. 15). "I grew up in Wyoming hearing one story about the lynching of Cattle Kate, but thanks to this revealing and meticulously documented historical novel, I now know the real story. And what a story it is! *Cattle Kate* provides a fascinating and disturbing look at a very dark chapter in the annals of the American West. It literally re-writes history. And a few of the names of the true villains will be painfully familiar to Wyomingites." —C.J. Box, Wyoming native. Here is the *PW* Starred Review: "In her outstanding first novel, a historical mystery, journalist Bommersbach (*The Trunk Murderer*: Winnie Ruth Judd) resurrects the name and reputation of real-life Ellen "Ella" Watson, who was lynched for allegedly rustling cattle in the Wyoming Territory on July 20, 1889. Watson was born out of wedlock in 1860 in Ontario, Canada, to a 15-year-old Irish mother, Frances, and her Scottish lover, Thomas. Her parents married, and produced 16 more children, many of whom died young. In 1877, the family trekked to Kansas to homestead a new farm. Ella married and later divorced an abusive man, then in 1885 boldly struck out on her own for the Wyoming Territory. Hard work earned Ella a measure of success, first as a boardinghouse cook and waitress, later as the secret wife of postmaster Jimmy Averell, and finally as a homesteader with her own claim. But Ella made enemies of several big cattlemen, including rancher Albert J. Bothwell, who will lead her lynching. Bommersbach beautifully recreates the milieu in which Ella struggled to realize her dreams. Extensive endnotes provide further background on this miscarriage of justice." Trade paperback: [Cattle Kate](#) (\$14.95).

Cha, Steph. [Beware, Beware](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Oct. 11). Daphne Freamon, a painter who lives in New York, hires Juniper Song, fledgling Los Angeles PI, to trail her boyfriend, Jamie Landon, ghostwriter for film star Joe Tilley. As Jamie, whom Daphne suspects is using and possibly selling cocaine, cruises the L.A. party scene, the two women develop a long-distance

friendship over the phone. Then Joe is murdered, the police zero in on Jamie, and Song's assignment changes to proving his innocence. After Daphne arrives in town, a sinister man stalking Song's roommate is shot, and both PI and police suspect a link between the cases. Song soon becomes caught in a complex plot involving deception, betrayal, and revenge. Cha follows noir conventions, with Daphne as femme fatale and Song forced into morally ambiguous choices, but she also offers a plucky heroine, warm secondary characters, and a vivid portrait of L.A.'s Koreatown. 2nd in series after *Follow Her Home*.

Connelly, Michael. [The Burning Room](#) (LittleBrown \$27.95 Nov. 5). Harry Bosch is still at work under DROP with about a year to go. And in the LAPD's Open-Unsolved Unit, where as the senior detective he's assigned "Lucky Lucy"—Lucia Soto, new to Homicide having survived a shootout that killed her partner. And that's not all she's survived...as we learn. The two are assigned a look into the death of a mariachi player who succumbed to the bullet lodged in his spine ten years after the shooting. It's now an active homicide. There's not much to work with but that doesn't stop Bosch who revisits Mariachi Plaza, scene of the shooting, and reinterviews the surviving members of the mariachi band. One of them is no longer in LA. So a visit to Tulsa ensues. Meanwhile Harry realizes Soto is working a cold case on her own, one where five children died of smoke inhalation at their unlicensed day care center. How likely is it these cases will connect? The story moves relentlessly forward, like Bosch, and is rich with plot and cynicism. Solving cases in Bosch's world is as much about battling politics and command as it is about detective work.

Cook, Matt. [Sabotage](#) (Forge \$25.99 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 and a Thriller Club Pick.

Cussler, Clive. [Havana Storm](#) (Putnam \$28.95 Oct. 28). Aztecs. Archaeology. Treachery. While investigating a toxic outbreak in the Caribbean Sea that may ultimately threaten the United States, Pitt unwittingly becomes involved in something even more dangerous—a post-Castro power struggle for the control of Cuba (clever and really alarming!). Meanwhile, Pitt's children, marine engineer Dirk and oceanographer Summer, are on an investigation of their own, chasing an Aztec stone that may reveal the whereabouts of a vast historical Aztec treasure. The problem is, that stone was believed to have been destroyed on the battleship *Maine* in Havana Harbor in 1898, which brings them both to Cuba as well—and squarely into harm's way....

Goldberg, Tod. [Gangsterland](#) (Continuum \$26 Oct. 8). "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. David Hunenberg raves about this, saying, "Chicago hitman Sal Cupertine is at the top of his game: beautiful wife,

son he adores, dream house in the suburbs and in demand for his services. David Cohen is the new young rabbi at Temple Beth Israel in Las Vegas, adored by his congregants and respected by the community. Problem is, in his not too distant past, he was Sal Cupertine and he is wanted by the feds for a killing spree that claimed the lives of three agents in an operation that went bad. Tod Goldberg has taken a published short story and expanded it to a full length novel that is slick, darkly humorous with a noir texture. His writing is clever as he takes the absurd story line and makes it believable with the reader hoping for a sequel. In his new life as a rabbi, Cohen begins to piece together the real story behind him being able to live after his rampage with the feds. As he tries to maintain his cover (was that a quote from the Talmud or a line from a Springsteen song?) and protect his wife and son, a rogue FBI agent is also piecing together the same story and is in pursuit of the presumed dead hitman. Filled with a strong storyline and characters bursting with personality, Goldberg will gain a reputation as a bona fide master of crime fiction with this gem." You can think the late Elmore Leonard here also.

Grant, Andrew. [Run](#) (Random \$26 Oct. 23). David Hunenberg writes, "Run down to the Poisoned Pen and purchase a copy of Andrew Grant's latest thrill ride RUN! The buzz from authors plugging the book has included the phrases: "adrenaline-filled, fast-paced and non-stop action." They don't even begin to describe the speed and action of this novel where not one word is wasted and each page is crammed with intense dialogue and meth-ish pacing. Marc Bowman's day quickly heads south when he is fired from his job as a successful software consultant. His boss gives him the brush off and his wife disappears after an argument. Throw in the robbery of Marc's latest project and his uncanny ability to attract more enemies than friends and it seems his week can't get any worse. He has become a human bull's eye with the police, Homeland Security, and the FBI wanting a piece of him. It all boils down to what's on Marc's flash drive, and everyone wants it-at any costs. Marc finds that he can trust no one but himself as he tries to stay one step ahead in this deadly game where the end results could cost more than just his life. An added plus is the humor Grant sprinkles throughout the book making for an even more enjoyable action adventure."

Hallinan, Timothy. [For the Dead](#) (Soho \$25 Oct. 21). Poke Rafferty is happier than he's ever been. He's financially solvent, his family is about to grow larger, and his adopted Thai daughter, Miaow, seems to have settled in at junior high school. All that is endangered when Miaow and her boyfriend, Andrew, buy a stolen iPhone from a shady vendor and discover photographs of two dead police officers on it—disgraced officers, violently murdered to avenge the long-dead. Surrounding the murder investigation is a conspiracy that reaches the top rungs of Bangkok law enforcement, and perhaps beyond. It soon becomes apparent that Miaow's discovery threatens the entire family—which may soon have to rely on someone who earlier betrayed them.... The brilliant Poke Rafferty books are among the very best thrillers being written. [Click here](#) to order the earlier Pokes.

Also by Hallinan: [Herbie's Game](#) (Soho \$25). How I miss Donald E. Westlake, especially writing as Richard Stark. Hallinan's LA burglar lacks the cold steel of Parker, but his warmer persona fits these capers really well. Hallinan has upped his game in this 4th in the Junior Bender series. [Click here](#) to order the first three Benders.

Johnson, Craig. [Wait for Signs: 12 Longmire Stories](#) (Viking \$22 Nov. 1). Ten years ago, Johnson wrote his first short story, the Hillerman Award-winning "Old Indian Trick." This was one of the earliest appearances of the sheriff who would go on to star in Johnson's bestselling, award-winning novels and the A&E hit series *Longmire*. Each Christmas Eve thereafter, Johnson sent out a new short story featuring an episode in Walt's life that doesn't appear in the novels; over the years, many have asked why they can't buy the stories in book form. *Wait for Signs* collects some—and one entirely new story, "Petunia, Bandit Queen of the Bighorns"—for the very first time in a single volume. I found it compelling reading about Martha, Walt's wife, before she died, and Walt mourning her. [Click here](#) to order last Christmas' Longmire too: [The Spirit of Steamboat](#) (\$12 trade paper or \$20 hardcover).

Kellerman, Faye. [Murder 101](#) (Harper \$26 Oct. 2). Think Daniel Silva on this one if set near a college campus back East where Rina Lazarus and former LA cop Pete Dexter have relocated. They spend time in New York City too.

Kellerman, Jonathan/Jesse. [The Golem of Hollywood](#) (Putnam \$27.95 Oct. 2). Stephen King says, "An extraordinary work of detection, suspense, and supernatural mystery... This book is like nothing I've ever read before. It took my breath away." David Hunenberg adds, "Not since Bette Midler's 'Kreplach that ate Cleveland' has something Jewish made such a grand entrance. Jonathan Kellerman and his son Jesse have co-written a book that is part crime, part Jewish lore with the supernatural thrown in to draw everything together. Don't bother trying to figure who wrote what, just sit back and devour this creative endeavor. Detective Jacob Lev is a hard drinking, jaded cop in L.A., living on the edge. Demoted, then reassigned to the 'special project' section, he is thrown into a perplexing case involving a severed head and a cryptic Hebrew message etched into a kitchen countertop. The case becomes extremely frustrating and the facts don't add up as Lev finds himself without the support of his department and supervisors. But Lev proves that despite his failings, he is still a good cop. As the case points to past serial murders around the country, Lev finds himself in Prague in an attempt to trace the beginning of the spree. There is just so much 'stuff' going on here, justice can only be served by saying: read this book. The Kellermans prove themselves to be a creative writing team and have mastered the ability to push the limits of crime fiction. They do a bang up job combining a suspenseful police procedural with the supernatural and will undoubtedly draw new fans. The only thing better than two Kellermans writing together would perhaps be three Kellermans on the back cover of a future novel."

Kerns, AJ. [The African Contract](#) (Diversions \$17.99 Oct. 18). CIA operative Hayden Stone travels to Africa for what he thinks will be an easy assignment. He meets an Israeli Mossad agent who provides disturbing information on a major terrorist plot. What Stone thought would be a short trip turns into a journey from war-torn West Africa to cosmopolitan Cape Town. He unravels a plot by jihadists and South African neo-Fascists intent on dealing a deadly blow to the United States. Complicating matters, Stone unexpectedly is reunited with a former lover who knew him when he was an FBI agent. She now has plans for his future. The landscape for this book is now that of the Ebola epidemic. And it follows Hayden Stone's debut in [The Riviera Contract](#) (\$17.99).

Leveen, Tom. [Random](#) (Simon Impulse for Teens \$17.99). Late at night Tori receives a random phone call. It's a wrong number. But the caller seems to want to talk, so she stays on the line. He asks for a single thing—one reason not to kill himself. The request plunges her into confusion. Because if this random caller actually does what he plans, he'll be the second person connected to Tori to take his own life. And the first just might land her in jail. After her Facebook page became Exhibit A in a tragic national news story about cyberbullying, Tori can't help but suspect the caller is a fraud. But what if he's not? [Party](#) (\$8.99).

Lovett, Charlie. [First Impressions](#) (Mulholland \$27.95 Oct. 26). Calling all bibliophiles and Jane Austen fans to Lovett's second novel after FMC Pick [The Bookman's Tale](#) (\$16), which was set mostly in British book town Hay-on-Wye. Here we skip to contemporary Oxford, then London—and to 1796 Hampshire where Jane Austen strikes up an unlikely friendship with an octogenarian clergyman called Richard Mansfield. Book lover and Austen enthusiast Sophie Collingwood has recently taken a job at an antiquarian bookshop in London when two different customers request a copy of the same obscure book: the second edition of *Little Book of Allegories* by Richard Mansfield. Their queries draw Sophie into a mystery that will cast doubt on the true authorship of *Pride and Prejudice*—and ultimately threaten Sophie's life. One can see the influence of Mary Stewart here also. “In a dual narrative that alternates between Sophie's quest to uncover the truth—while choosing between two suitors—and a young Jane Austen's touching friendship with the aging cleric Richard Mansfield, Lovett weaves a romantic, suspenseful, and utterly compelling novel about love in all its forms and the joys of a life lived in books.”

Maden, Mike. [Blue Warrior](#) (Putnam \$26.95 Oct. 16). From the author of FMC Pick [Drone](#) (\$9.99). We're in the remote Sahara Desert, where a recently discovered deposit of strategically indispensable Rare Earth Elements (REEs) ignites an international rush to secure them. Standing in the way are the Tuaregs, the fierce tribe of warrior nomads of the desert wasteland, who are fighting for their independence. The Chinese offer to help the Malian government crush the rebellion by the Tuaregs in order to gain a foothold in the area, and Al-Qaeda jihadis join the fight. In the midst of all this chaos are Troy Pearce's closest friend and a mysterious woman from his past who ask him for help. Deploying his team and his newest drones to rescue his friends and save the rebellion, Troy finds that he might need more than technology to survive the battle and root out the real puppet masters behind the Tuareg genocide. “Techno thriller fans will welcome Maden's second Troy Pearce novel, which combines grunt-level action, advanced cyber warfare, and plenty of high-tech weaponry.... Maden handles cutting edge technology and the ancient Tuareg culture with equal dexterity.” —*PW*

McKenzie, CB. [Bad Country](#) (St Martins \$24.99 Nov. 4). **A First Mystery Pick.** Originality is the strong suit of Mackenzie's Tony Hillerman Prize-winning debut. PI Rodeo Grace Garnet, a Pascua Yaqui who's the sole resident of Vista Montana Estates in El Hoyo, Ariz., returns home from vacation to find a man shot dead by his front gates, “two jumbled piles of cinder block” on either side of a dirt road. Garnet first calls Sheriff “Apache” Ray Molina to report the crime, then notifies his lawyer, Jarred Willis, in Tucson, just in case law enforcement wants him for questioning. Later, a state trooper asks Garnet about three other recent murders in the area. Meanwhile, Katherine Rocha, a fellow Pascua Yaqui, asks him

to look into the drive-by killing of her gang-member grandson, though she's curiously indifferent to his fate. Wild cards include Garnet's ex-girlfriend and Ray's daughter, Sirena Rae Molina, and anthropology professor Tinley Burke, who dreams of being a writer. Drawing on this mélange of quirky personalities and Southwestern settings, McKenzie offers the reader an intriguing mystery and a new hero. “*Bad Country* is like that perfect arrowhead you stumble onto out on the trail, and then notice that it has bloodstains on it—a charged and unique southwest story that rings with an authenticity rarely seen in crime fiction.” —Craig Johnson. “*Bad Country* is a compelling debut, full of stark imagery and soaring prose. This novel's beautiful conclusion is going to stay with me for a long, long time.” —Jeff Guinn

Morrell, David. [Murder as a Fine Art](#) (\$16). Thomas De Quincey, infamous for his memoir *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater*, is the major suspect in a series of ferocious mass murders identical to the Ratcliffe Highway murders that terrorized London 43 years earlier. The blueprint for the killings seems to be De Quincey's essay “On Murder Considered as One of the Fine Arts.” Desperate to clear his name but crippled by opium addiction, De Quincey is aided by his devoted daughter Emily and a pair of determined Scotland Yard detectives. I think this is a brilliant reconstruction and solution to the Highway murders along with the ones faced by De Quincey. Morrell publishes his second Gaslight Mystery with De Quincey next March 25: [Inspector of the Dead](#) (Mulholland \$26).

Parker, T. Jefferson. [Full Measure](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Since he abandoned journalism in 1985 to make up his own world of Southern California cops and robbers, T. Jefferson Parker has socked away three Edgar Awards and watched his novels climb the bestseller lists. “In its commission and its resolution, *Full Measure*, however, is not a crime novel (although it contains plenty of crimes: arson, vehicular homicide, prostitution, robbery, assault). Rather, it is the story of an avocado-farming family in the small San Diego County town of Fallbrook, just up the highway from the Camp Pendleton Marine base.... a hard look at the effects of war, the bonds of both brothers and brothers-in-arms, the fate of the family farm in modern society, and the economic stress on small American towns after 9/11 and the Great Recession. If that sounds like a lot of weight for one novel to carry, Parker's 30 years of crime writing equip him to pack the load. When it turns out that the wildfire is the result of arson, *Full Measure* picks up the pace as Homeland Security agents come to Fallbrook to investigate a local white-supremacy gang, as well as Muslim and Mexican immigrants.” —Bruce Jacobs

Ryan, Hank Phillippi. [Truth Be Told](#) (Forge \$24.99 Oct. 23). The 2014 Agatha Award winner gets a rave: “Ryan's smart, well-paced third Jane Ryland novel takes aim at the housing crisis of recent years. *Boston Register* reporter Jane Ryland is at work on two stories: an apparent murder in a recently foreclosed house and a supposed puff piece about banking customer service. Both assignments lead straight to revelations of institutional financial malfeasance and possibly more death. Meanwhile, Det. Jake Brogan of the Boston PD receives the solution to a 20-year-old cold case—or has he been handed an inexplicable false confession? Ryan, a Mary Higgins Clark Award winner, cleverly ties the plot together, offers surprising but believable plot twists, and skillfully characterizes the supporting case, which includes a widower attorney, a bleeding heart banker, and an expectant

mother who might be married to a murderer. She also provides just the right amount of romance between Jane and Jake, with a delectable hint that Jake might have some competition....” This novel is also a *Library Journal* Editors’ Pick with a rave from Linda Fairstein. [Click here](#) to order the first two Janes.

Sandford, John. [Deadline](#) (Putnam \$27.95 Oct. 7 on sale date so our copies will be signed and dated). Another zinger from Sandford set in a kind of hillbilly holler in lower Minnesota. Who knew a small town could have such a dark underbelly? It’s first all about the dogs, dogs stolen for ugly purposes. Virgil Flowers’ buddy Johnson Johnson hooks Virgil into working an investigation. But then a boozy local reporter is found shot in the back by the road and other evidence emerges of a local crime ring. Then, up on the ridge above the lovely river valley, could that be a meth lab? This is fast, fun, no prisoners taken, and also in a change from the usual head-butting among law enforcement agencies, offers an example of how they can cooperate to clean up an unexpected mess! Loved it. Still in stock, the May Lucas Davenport: [Field of Prey Signed](#) (\$28.95). [Click here](#) to order Virgil’s earlier investigations.

Siger, Jeffrey. [Sons of Sparta](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Oct. 21). Think Joseph Wambaugh or Ed McBain, or Andrea Camilleri’s Inspector Montalbano Sicilian series. In *Sons of Sparta*, the question is, can outsiders, Greek or other, break into the tight, bloody culture of the isolated Mani region where centuries of blood feuds—vendettas—based on strict codes of honor, have pitted neighbor against neighbor, relatives against relatives? The roots of the Mani, located at the tip of the mountainous Peloponnese peninsula, run deep. Perhaps all the way back to ancient Sparta. Here is the *PW* Starred Review: “For Chief Insp. Andreas Kaldis, interacting with known crime boss Orestes is just another day at the office in Siger’s perfectly plotted sixth mystery set in Greece. But for Special Crimes Division detective Yianni Kouros things get a little too personal when a beloved relative, Uncle, drives his car off a cliff on the road to Cape Tenaro. This fatal “accident” appears directly or indirectly connected to Orestes. Even though Uncle had “retired” from running his own crime syndicate for a decade, he was knee-deep in a land deal that’s beginning to smell fishier than a net full of sun-baked sea bass. Of course, Uncle’s demise puts the kibosh on that deal, and the intrepid detectives must figure out who benefits from the old man’s death before Kouros’ cousins revive ancient family feuds. Siger’s paints travelogue-worthy pictures of a breathtakingly beautiful—if politically corrupt—Greece.” Trade paperback: [Sons of Sparta](#) (\$14.95). [Click here](#) to order the first five Kaldis cases—all have beautiful new covers, like postcards!

Webb, Betty. [Desert Rage](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Oct. 18). If Sara Paretsky’s VI Warshawski left Chicago for Scottsdale and its better weather, she’d hook up (professionally) with private eye Lena Jones. They share the same passion for social justice as well as crime busting. *Desert Rage* brings Lena a client, ruthless US Senate candidate Julia Thorsson, who thrusts her into surrogacy, family secrets, possible genetic components in juvenile crime, and unreliable confessions. Plus one more fascinating facet ... sssh, to reveal it would be a huge spoiler. The mystery opens with the horrific slaughter of a prominent doctor, his wife, and their ten-year-old son inside their Scottsdale home. Trade paperback: [Desert Rage](#) (\$14.95). [Click here](#) to order Lena Jones’ earlier investigations.

FIRST NOVELS

Bommersbach, Jana. [Cattle Kate](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Oct. 15). “I grew up in Wyoming hearing one story about the lynching of Cattle Kate, but thanks to this revealing and meticulously documented historical novel, I now know the real story. And what a story it is! *Cattle Kate* provides a fascinating and disturbing look at a very dark chapter in the annals of the American West. It literally re-writes history. And a few of the names of the true villains will be painfully familiar to Wyomingites.” —C.J. Box. See Event Books.

Chapman, Emma. [How to Be a Good Wife](#) (Picador \$15). Marta has been married to Hector for longer than she can remember. She has always tried hard to be a good wife. But now Hector has come home with a secret. See British Books for more.

Christie, Alix. [Gutenberg’s Apprentice Signed](#) (Harper \$27.99). This debut has powerful parallels to the present day conflicts concerning old and new methods of distributing the written word (and the righteous indignation on both sides). Occasional flash forwards frame the story, giving readers a glimpse into Peter’s long career as a printer and his perspective much later in life. Drawing on historical accounts of the real Peter Schoeffer, as well as Gutenberg and his other apprentices, Christie has created a rich, masterful tale of “the darkest art” and its powerful effect on the written word. The *PW* Starred Review: This detailed historical novel takes readers into Gutenberg’s 15th-century Mainz workshop to experience the frustration and exhilaration of designing, typesetting, and rolling the first printed Bible off the press. Focusing on contributions made by Gutenberg’s associates, the story follows the apprenticeship of future publishing pioneer Peter Schoeffer from the day Peter’s adopted father, merchant-investor Johann Fust, tells him to give up life as a Parisian scribe in order to learn a new trade using Gutenberg’s secret technology and techniques. For unhappy Peter, printed texts seem less sacred, and certainly less artistic, than hand-copied manuscripts. Demanding and sometimes devious, Gutenberg proves a difficult boss; worst of all, the equipment still has bugs to work out. Only when Peter comes up with his own innovation does he appreciate print’s artistry and power. Despite obstacles posed by the Church, guilds, family, and friends, Fust, Gutenberg, and Schoeffer’s tenuous collaboration culminates in the Gutenberg Bible. Contemporary readers suspicious of digital texts will sympathize with Peter’s mixed feelings towards print. History buffs will savor the moment the inventor, the scribe, and the merchant make a decision that leads them out of the Middle Ages into the Renaissance.

Gannon, Joe. [Night of the Jaguar](#) (St Martins \$25.99). “The Nicaraguan Sandinista Revolution provides the intriguing backdrop for Gannon’s riveting, action-packed debut. Once a hallowed warrior and member of State Security, Capt. Ajax Montoya has been relegated to homicide investigations because of the regime’s dissatisfaction with his role in the assassination of Jorge Salazar, a Contra leader. When a prosperous-looking man, apparently the victim of a robbery, turns up dead in a sewage ditch in a poor barrio, Montoya recognizes that the crime scene has been staged and the wound patterns actually bear the signature of a Contra-style execution. Montoya investigates the killing, but since the Sandinistas distrust him, he’s paired with a partner, Lt. Gladys Darío, who’s spying on him and reporting back to Montoya’s archenemy, Vladimir Malhora, Commander of the

Directorate General of State Security. As several other similarly executed corpses turn up, Montoya cannot trust anyone and must singlehandedly find out who is responsible. Readers will eagerly await Gannon's next book."—*PW*

Hayes, Frank. [Death at the Black Bull](#) (Berkley \$15). Virgil Dalton has been sheriff in Hayward, AZ, just like his father before him, for 12 years. It's a quiet place, populated mostly by tumbleweeds and cattle. When Buddy Hinton goes missing after drinking at the local bar, the Black Bull, his friends suspect he fled to Mexico to find a girlfriend. But when Buddy turns up dead in one of his stock tanks, Virgil and Deputy Jimmy need to figure out who wanted Buddy dead and why. See Our October Trade Paperback Picks.

Kepnes, Caroline. [You](#) (Atria \$26). I really tried with this one but found it not to my taste—which makes me reflect on whether my age enters into lower enthusiasm for a new, cutting-edge voice. When aspiring writer Guinevere Beck strides into the East Village bookstore where Joe works, he's instantly smitten. Beck is everything Joe has ever wanted: She's gorgeous, tough, razor-smart, and as sexy as his wildest dreams. Beck doesn't know it yet, but she's perfect for him, and soon she can't resist her feelings for a guy who seems custom made for her. But there's more to Joe than Beck realizes, and much more to Beck than her oh-so-perfect façade. Their mutual obsession quickly spirals into a whirlwind of deadly consequences.... The publisher calls it "perversely romantic" and "dangerously clever...."

McKenzie, CB. [Bad Country](#) (St Martins \$24.99 Nov. 4). **A First Mystery Pick.** Originality is the strong suit of Mackenzie's Tony Hillerman Prize-winning debut. See Event Books.

☞Schumacher, Tony. [The Darkest Hour](#) (Harper \$25.99). David Hunenberg reviews: "This WWII novel is about redemption. John Rossett is damaged. He has lost his family and his country. Great Britain is now occupied by the Germans and Rossett is working for the Nazi, overseeing the deportation of British Jews. Rossett does not think, he does what he is told. He is a shell of his past self. Two chance encounters change all this and Rossett finds himself on the run, trying to save a young Jewish orphan from deportation. The Nazis along with the Royal Resistance and the communists are in hot pursuit believing Rossett and the child have access to a valuable stash of diamonds. Rossett must rely on his own wits to save the child and himself—no one else can be trusted. Schumacher excels at taking a 'what if' scenario of an occupied Great Britain by creating a dark but uplifting story of a man who still believes in justice and goodness—even though he has lost everything. A sense of grayness, cold and desperation are captured here making for a fine novel of a new author."

☞Sykes, Sarah. [Plague Land](#) (Hodder \$42). Oswald de Lacy was never meant to be the Lord of Somerhill Manor. Dispatched to a monastery at the age of seven, sent back at seventeen when his father and two older brothers are killed by the Plague, Oswald has no experience of running an estate. He finds the years of pestilence and neglect have changed the old place dramatically, not to mention the attitude of the surviving peasants. Yet some things never change. Oswald's mother remains the powerful matriarch of the family, and his sister Clemence simmers in the background, dangerous and unmarried. Before he can do anything, Oswald is confronted by the shocking death of a young woman, Alison Starvecrow. The ambitious village priest claims

that Alison was killed by a band of demonic dog-headed men. Oswald is certain this is nonsense, but proving it—by finding the real murderer—is quite a different matter. Every step he takes seems to lead Oswald deeper into a dark maze of political intrigue, family secrets and violent strife. And then the body of another girl is found. SD Sykes brilliantly evokes the landscape and people of medieval Kent in this first novel.

Szarlan, Chrystler. [The Hawley Book of the Dead](#) (Random \$26). Murder, love, horseback riding and witchcraft artfully blended together in a New England setting. Blending the stage illusions of a Las Vegas theater with otherworldly magic, Chrysler Szarlan builds tension from the start in her debut novel. "On the day I killed my husband, the scent of lilacs startled me awake," writes Vegas stage magician Revelation Dyer in an enchanted book. "A rehearsed trick went horribly wrong in performance, so Reve whisks her three daughters home to the abandoned New England village of her ancestors, Hawley Five Corners, where the Dyer women have long been known to be witches. Their attempts to return to a normal life, filled with horseback rides and schoolwork, are only marginally successful, as they can't help but dwell on the past. Reve's apprehension builds, despite defensive measures she takes to keep her girls safe from the presence of something she calls the Fetch. Months pass as Reve delves more deeply into her family's history, examining the extraordinary gifts each Dyer woman naturally possesses; Reve's talent is the skill to disappear. She scrutinizes her own life and her relationships with old friends in the hopes she'll find clues to reveal the identity of the relentless pursuer. Using power she learns along the way, Reve struggles to protect her family against forces and secrets that threaten to take them, one by one."—*ShelfAwareness*

☞Treger, Louisa. [The Lodger](#) (St Martins \$24.99). "In this intriguing blend of fact and fiction, Treger's debut novel explores the socially unacceptable loves of little-read author Dorothy Richardson in early 20th-century London... Readers familiar with the period will recognize echoes of Virginia Woolf and Edith Wharton in Dorothy's views."—*PW*. HG Wells is one of those unacceptable loves.

Weaver, Ashley. [Murder at the Brightwell](#) (St Martins \$24.99). A debut set on England's south coast in a country hotel. Our **British Crime Club Pick for October**. See British Books for more.

Zupan, Kim J. [The Ploughmen](#) (Holt \$26). Two men—a killer awaiting trial, and a troubled young deputy—sitting across from each other in the dark, talking through the bars of a county jail cell: John Gload, so brutally adept at his craft that only now, at the age of 77, has he faced the prospect of long-term incarceration and Valentine Millimaki, low man in the Copper County sheriff's department, who draws the overnight shift after Gload's arrest. With a disintegrating marriage further collapsing under the strain of his night duty, Millimaki finds himself seeking counsel from a man whose troubled past shares something essential with his own. Their uneasy friendship takes a startling turn with a brazen act of violence that yokes together two haunted souls by the secrets they share, and by the rugged country that keeps them. Their strange friendship is pushed to the brink, however, when a new violent incident lands Gload in new trouble and Valentine in an extreme moral conundrum."Nuanced...fascinating...What Zupan offers is a superb, retro prose style, channeling William Faulkner in long

passages engorged with vocabulary, and meditations on what it means to be alive, if barely, in rural Montana circa 1980... a rich, morose meditation on death, law enforcement, and friendship.”

—*Booklist*

BRITISH BOOKS

Barron, Stephanie. [Jane and the Twelve Days of Christmas Signed](#) (Soho \$25 Signed Nov. 22, out in Oct.). See History/Mystery below.

Brett, Simon. [Blotto, Twinks, and the Riddle of the Sphinx](#) (\$18). Yet another financial crisis at Tawcester Towers! So this time the Dowager Duchess decides to sell off the less important family possessions. Blotto and Twinks are dispatched to help the valuer as he carries out an inspection. He spies some Egyptian artifacts, collected by the tenth duke, Rupert the Egyptologist. In some excitement he rushes back to London to consult his reference books, leaving Blotto and Twinks alone in the attic, where they are drawn to a sarcophagus decorated with hieroglyphs. Twinks starts to translate: ‘Anyone who desecrates this shrine will be visited by the Pharaoh’s curse...’—just as Blotto prises the lid off. From that moment on a series of unpleasant incidents start happening at Tawcester Towers but it is only when the Dowager Duchess’s precious pug is struck down with a stomach bug that she instructs her son to sort things out.... Brett riffs on some of the real history behind *Downton* and the Earl of Caernarvon here.

Chapman, Emma. [How to Be a Good Wife](#) (Picador \$15). Marta has been married to Hector for longer than she can remember. She has always tried hard to be a good wife. But now Hector has come home with a secret. “A chilling study of paranoia and doubt... Chapman builds the tension, as Marta’s behavior becomes more erratic and her seemingly benign husband begins to appear in a sinister light. An unnerving tale, where nothing is as it seems.”—*Marie Claire*. “On the surface the book is a highly competent, creepy little chiller, but beneath, like a silent, bolted and half-dark room, there’s a much bigger, equally disconcerting story about the nature of feminine experience. It’s an accomplished debut from a writer who shows insight and emotional power.”—Hilary Mantel, Man Booker Prize winning author of *Wolf Hall*

Francis, Felix. [Dick Francis’s Damage](#) (Putnam \$26.95). I have read every Francis (regardless of which Francis wrote them) and enjoyed them all. *PW*’s Star says it all for this new one by son Felix: “Francis’s fourth solo outing ranks with the best of his late father’s thrillers set in the British horse racing world. At the Cheltenham Racetrack in Gloucestershire, Jeff Hinkley, an investigator for the British Horseracing Authority, spots ex-trainer Matthew Unwin, who’s been barred from the track for horse doping. Unwin approaches a bookie and, without warning, slashes the man’s throat. The murder is open-and-shut, though Unwin’s motive is unclear. Meanwhile, an extortionist, who calls himself Leonardo, reveals that he was responsible for drugging almost all the horses who raced in the Gold Cup, and demands £5 million in exchange for not destroying the integrity of the sport. Jeff takes on the job of stopping Leonardo, but he must also deal with a family illness and a narcotics charge against his sister’s stepson. The compelling main storyline deserves high marks for originality—no mean feat given the almost 50 novels the author’s father wrote.” Or his mother... as is rumored. And really, what does it matter?

Horowitz, Anthony. [Moriarty Signed](#) (Orion \$53). See Suddenly Sherlock below.

James, Peter. [Dead Simple](#) (\$9.99). If you’ve never read one of James’ bestselling Roy Grace detections set in Brighton, here is the first, attractively packaged. It was meant to be a harmless stag-night prank. A few hours later Michael Harrison has disappeared and his friends are dead. With only three days to the wedding, Detective Superintendent Roy Grace—a man haunted by the shadow of his own missing wife—is contacted by Michael’s beautiful, distraught fiancée, Ashley Harper. Grace discovers that the one man who ought to know Michael Harrison’s whereabouts is saying nothing. But then he has a lot more to gain than anyone realizes....

Jennings, Maureen. [No Known Grave](#) (McClelland \$22.95). It’s summer, 1942, and after a tough couple of years, DI Tom Tyler is making a fresh start in Ludlow, Shropshire. On the outskirts of town, St. Anne’s Convalescent Hospital, staffed by nursing sisters who are Anglican nuns, has been established in an old manor house to help victims of the war to recover. After a horrifying double murder is discovered on the grounds, Tyler must figure out how the crime could have occurred in such a secluded and presumably impenetrable place, where most of the patients are unable to walk or are blind, or both, not to mention deeply traumatized. To add to the puzzle, Tyler begins almost immediately to receive mysterious letters recounting terrible crimes far away. He realizes that he is not only seeking the murderer, but that the horrors of the war are closing in on this place that was meant to be a refuge. 3rd in the DI Tom Tyler series.

Kerr, Philip. [January Window Signed](#) (Zeus \$35). Kerr told me at dinner last May that he was inspired by attending a “football match” to write a thriller set in that exciting world. So here it is, of interest to fans of his work and of soccer, or those following the NFL as there are some parallels. Scott Manson is team coach for London City football club. He’s also their all-round fixer; he gets the lads in to training, and out of trouble, keeps the wags at bay and the press in his pocket. The players love him, the bosses trust him. But now London City manager Joao Zarco is dead, killed at his team’s beloved stadium at Silvertown Docks. Even Scott Manson can’t smooth over murder... but can he catch the killer before he strikes again?

Lovett, Charlie. [First Impressions Signed](#) (Viking \$27.95). A lovely bibliomystery with a time-slip narrative between an Oxford/London student/bookseller and 1798 Hampshire

Marston, Edward. [Deeds of Darkness Signed](#) (Allison \$45). In June 1916, a young woman is found murdered in a cinema. Harvey Marmion and Joe Keedy set out to find the killer who so elusively fled in the dark. Before long, two more victims, of striking similarity but differing backgrounds, are found dead around the city. Meanwhile, miles from home, Marmion’s son Paul prepares for life on the front line as he marches towards the Battle of the Somme. Suffering a vicious blow in No Man’s Land, Paul is left blinded for the rest of his life. Marmion must come to terms with the permanent darkness of his son’s life, while continuing to search for the brutal killer who only strikes in the dark.... A Homefront Mystery.

Mosby, Steve. [The Murder Code](#) (\$14.95). The American debut of CWA Dagger winner Steve Mosby, who delivers a riveting psychological crime novel in the vein of Ian Rankin and Denise Mina. Detective Inspector Andrew Hicks thinks he knows all about murder. However horrific the act, the reasons behind a

crime are usually easy to explain. So when a woman is found bludgeoned to death, he suspects a crime of passion and attention focuses on her possessive ex-husband. But when a second body is found, similarly beaten, Hicks is forced to think again. When more murders arrive in quick succession, Hicks realizes he is dealing with a type of killer he has never faced before, one who fits nowhere within his logic. Then the letters begin to arrive... I'm a fan of Mosby's work and am pleased to see this US edition.

Naughtie, James. [The Madness of July Signed](#) (Overlook \$26.95). "Unlike thrillers that focus on spycraft, this debut novel from a British political affairs journalist digs into the psychology of secrets hidden in the crevices between diplomacy and espionage. Will Flemyng, a cabinet minister in London, wants only to get out of town on a hot July day in 1976. Suddenly, he glimpses facets of several puzzles. A dead American is found in a closet in the Palace of Westminster, home to Britain's Houses of Parliament. The ambassadorship to Washington, DC, is open, with rabid competition among the candidates. Will and his two brothers, whose hearts are in the Scottish Highlands, learn that their dear mother was not a faithful wife. A rape accusation from two decades ago ripens to vengeance. The pressure builds because Will intuits that these threads are part of a single web. Naughtie, whose love of Scotland shines in his lyrical and affectionate portrait of the Highlands, writes insightfully about the plight of men at the highest reaches of power when passionate ambitions joust with common sense. Readers on this side of the pond may struggle a bit with elements familiar to a British audience, but perseverance will reward them with the satisfying resolution of a sophisticated conundrum. For mood and atmosphere, Alan Furst's novels come to mind and for tension and pace, think of the British TV series MI-5."—LJ

Parsons, Tony. [Murder Man](#) (St Martins \$24.99). I love this book which was a Surprise Me Pick in its Signed UK edition (sold out). Grab one for a nifty reading experience. I'm pleased that it will do well now that it's being published in the US: "Parsons (*Man and Boy*) targets the snobbery of the British upper classes in his entertaining first foray into crime fiction. Maverick Det. Constable Max Wolfe becomes a hero after he disobeys orders and takes out a suicide bomber headed for a London railway station. Reassigned to homicide as a reward, Wolfe investigates the murders of investment banker Hugo Buck and homeless junkie Adam Jones, who turn out to have attended the same posh school, Potter's Field, lorded over then as now by its headmaster, the haughty Peregrine Waugh. Parsons depicts the boarding school friends of the murder victims as upper-class clichés, but humorously so, sending up their lofty credentials. In this rarefied world, social class is often inversely proportional to morality. As the corpse count grows, Wolfe lets off steam by flirting with Buck's seductive widow, drinking triple espressos, walking his dog, and doting on his five-year-old daughter, whom he's raising as a single father. Readers will hope to see more of him."

Raybourn, Deanna. [Night of a Thousand Stars](#) (Harlequin \$14.95). Jazz Age adventure and danger. See History/Mystery for more.

Rendell, Ruth. [The Girl Next Door](#) (Scribner \$26). In the waning months of the Second World War, a group of children discover an earthen tunnel in their neighborhood outside London. Throughout the summer of 1944—until one father forbids it—the

subterranean space becomes their "secret garden," where the friends play games and tell stories. Six decades later, beneath a house on the same land, construction workers uncover a tin box containing two skeletal hands, one male and one female. As the discovery makes national news, the friends come together once again, to recall their days in the tunnel for the detective investigating the case. Is the truth buried among these aging friends and their memories? The premise is interesting but the action begins with the crime so it's not a puzzle so much as a history of discovery. And of what beauty can do to personality. [The Girl Next Door Signed](#) (\$44).

Sayers, Dorothy L. [The Five Red Herrings](#) (\$14.99). Let's not lose sight of Sayers in all the Christie nostalgia. This Lord Peter Wimsey is a trickily plotted one depending on the British railway timetable working, something more difficult to envision today. The settings in an artists' colony in Galloway.

Sherez, Stav. [Eleven Days](#) (Europa \$17). Eleven days before Christmas, DI Jack Carrigan and DS Geneva Miller race against time to solve a case that spans four decades (1970s forward) and two continents (one being South America), while contending with a homegrown threat that leaves the Met gasping for breath.

Suchet, David. [Poirot and Me](#) (\$13.95). Suchet has wrapped up his TV life as Poirot, not ruling out a movie if one comes along. Here is his autobiography/memoir.

Treger, Louisa. [The Lodger](#) (St Martins \$24.99) "is an evocative, beautifully written first novel. Set against the backdrop of the early 20th century, Louisa Treger conjures up her characters and the turbulence of an era when women were fighting for emancipation with conviction. Dorothy Richardson's journey to finding her own literary feet through her illicit relationship with the novelist HG Wells is moving and revealing. A very accomplished debut novel."—Lucinda Riley

Weaver, Ashley. [Murder at the Brightwell](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Our **October British Crime Club Pick** is a debut set in a country hotel along the south coast in the 1920s. Very Agatha Christie in the puzzle and *Downton Abbey* in the atmosphere. Not to mention the various liaisons. Everyone dresses well and maintains a mannered façade. Our heroine who broke off her engagement with a longtime love for the more exciting man she married, who's not proving to be husband material, gives in to the pleas of her ex to join him at a party convening at the Brightwell in order to convince his naïve sister not to marry a rounder by revealing her own marital story. It's not a tough mystery to crack but it's a very enjoyable (and nostalgic) read with an edgy marriage to keep you turning pages.

Worsley, Lucy. [The Art of the English Murder](#) (Pegasus \$27.95). Worsley, chief curator at the Royal Palaces including the Tower of London, has clearly had time to explore stories of famous murderers and legendary criminals from the Regency to the Gaslight Era and on through the Golden Age of English crime fiction, asking how did the English fixation on murder and turning it into legend develop? And the rise of crime fiction in other countries post WWII, notably America but today globally, introduced a "the decline of English murder," as George Orwell put it? This isn't a flippant study, neither is it academic.

SUDDENLY SHERLOCK

Horowitz, Anthony. [Moriarty Signed](#) (Orion \$53 Lt. Ed.). Sherlock Holmes is dead. Days after Holmes and his arch-enemy Moriarty fall to their doom at the Reichenbach Falls, Pinkerton agent Frederick Chase arrives in Europe from New York. The death of Moriarty has created a poisonous vacuum which has been swiftly filled by a fiendish new criminal mastermind who has risen to take his place. Aply assisted by Inspector Athelney Jones of Scotland Yard, a devoted student of Holmes's methods of investigation and deduction, Frederick Chase must forge a path through the darkest corners of the capital to shine light on this shadowy figure, a man much feared but seldom seen, a man determined to engulf London in a tide of murder and menace.

King, Laurie R and Leslie Klinger. [In the Company of Sherlock Holmes Signed](#) (Pegasus \$25.95 Signed Nov. 18). Story signed by Michael Connelly, too. "Devotees of the greatest of all fictional detectives will welcome this anthology from King and Klinger... who have assembled a murderers' row of talent, including bestselling authors not usually associated with Holmes and Watson." —*PW* Starred Review. Contributors are Michael Connelly, Cornelia Funke, Sara Paretsky, Denise Hamilton, Michael Sims, Michael Dirda, Andrew Grant, Harlan Ellison, Jeffery Deaver, Nancy Holder, Laura Caldwell, Leslie S. Klinger, John Lescroart, Gahan Wilson, and Leah Moore & John Reppion.

Ritter, William. [Jackaby](#) (Algonquin \$16.95) is the first book in a series for readers 12 and up. "Doctor Who meets Sherlock, as a detective of the paranormal and his adventurous assistant, Abigail, investigate a string of murders in a tale brimming with quirky humor and a dose of the macabre."

FROM AROUND THE WORLD...

Abdoh, Salar. [Tehran at Twilight](#) (Akashic \$15.95). "Reza Malek and his father escaped Tehran before the revolution, settling in California, where Reza attended Berkeley and met his best friend, Sina Vafa. After earning degrees, the two inseparable companions acted as interpreters for war correspondents reporting on the violence in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Americanized Reza published a book about his impressions and received a plum job offer at a college in New York City, while Sina returned to Tehran, a city rife with corruption and political intrigue, to become entangled with a reactionary anti-Western organization. When Sina phones Reza, asking for help, Reza has every reason to say no until Sina reveals that he has found Reza's mother, thought to have abandoned her family 30 years before. Straddling two disparate worlds, Reza struggles to understand his mother's story and his friend's involvement in a treacherous game." —*LJ*

Amis, Martin. [The Zone of Interest](#) (Knopf \$26.95). *PW* calls this "An absolute soul-crusher of a book, the brilliant latest from Amis is an astoundingly bleak love story, as it were, set in a German concentration camp, which Thomsen, one of the book's three narrators, refers to as Kat Zet." His French and German publishers turned the book down... in a revenge plot. Amis took on the Holocaust obliquely in *Time's Arrow*. Here he goes at it straight, and the result is devastating." And an important novel in the context of rising anti-Semitism in Europe.

Berest, Anne. [How to Be Parisian Wherever You Are](#) (Knopf \$25). Four women give you "their very original views on style, beauty, culture, attitude and men."

Catton, Eleanor. [The Luminaries](#) (\$18). This debut from New Zealand won the 2013 Man Booker Prize with its parody of a 19th Century novel and its structure where initial long chapters grow shorter as the narrative moves along. It all begins in 1866 when Walter Moody arrives to stake his claim in New Zealand's booming gold rush and, on the dark and stormy night of his arrival, stumbles into a meeting to 12 local men meeting in secret to discuss several mysteries.

Cleave, Paul. [Five Minutes Alone](#) (Atria \$16). In the latest Christchurch (New Zealand) noir by the Edgar-nominated author of *Joe Victim*, someone is helping rape victims exact revenge on their attackers, prompting an edge-of-your-seat, cat-and-mouse chase between old friends, detectives Theodore Tate and Carl Schroder. Carl Schroder and Theodore Tate, labeled "The Coma Cops" by the media, are finally getting their lives back into shape. Tate has returned to the police force and is grateful to be back at home with his wife, Bridget. For Schroder, things are neither good nor bad. The bullet lodged in his head from a shooting six months ago hasn't killed him, but—almost as deadly—it's switched off his emotions. When the body of a convicted rapist is found, obliterated by an oncoming train, Tate works the case, trying to determine if this is murder or suicide. The following night, two more rapists go missing. It's hard to investigate when everyone on the police force seems to be rooting for the killer.

Costantini, Roberto. [The Deliverance of Evil](#) (\$14.99). Winner of the Scerbanenco Prize for the best Italian crime thriller. See our October Trade Paperback Picks.

Di Piazza, Giuseppe. [Four Corners of Palermo](#) (Other Press \$14.95). Palermo in the 1980s. Fourteen hours from any place in what one might call the civilized world, a city of great beauty but torn by the second great Mafia gang wars. A perfect place for a young crime reporter to get his start. As our crime reporter looks back on his own youth, he lyrically retells four tragic stories that marked him: a Mafioso who refused to become a professional killer; a model whom he loved and couldn't save; a father who succumbed to hatred and jealousy; and a daughter in search of her lost honor.

Eastland, Sam. [The Beast in the Red Forest](#) (Opus \$22.95). Inspector Pekkala is missing and presumed dead, his charred remains reported from the front lines. But Stalin doesn't believe his most intelligent investigator could be lost to him and sends Pekkala's assistant into the wilderness of Western Russia in search of information. A wilderness of clues to Pekkala's whereabouts exists, though almost invisible to the untrained eye. And with his most deadly nemesis also closing in for the kill, Pekkala—or someone pretending to be the detective—must use all of his skills to remain alive. This 5th investigation for Inspector Pekkala will appeal to readers of Tom Rob Smith.

Gannon, Joe. [Night of the Jaguar](#) (St Martins \$25.99). "The Nicaraguan Sandinista Revolution provides the intriguing backdrop for Gannon's riveting, action-packed debut... See First Novels

Georget, Philippe. [Autumn: All the Cats Return](#) (Europa \$18). Inspector Sebag is a policeman in the South of France with an unparalleled sixth sense, who excels at slipping into the skin of killers and hunting them down. However, when a retired French Algerian cop is discovered in his apartment with the symbol OAS left near his body and few indications who killed him or why, Sebag's skills are put to the test. Days later, when a controversial

monument is destroyed and another French Algerian is shot down, Sebag begins to put the pieces together. Brings to light the horrors, hopes, and treasons committed during the war in Algeria fifteen years ago.

Giordano, Paolo. [The Human Body](#) (Oxford \$27.95). *PW* Stars this: “Giordano follows *The Solitude of Prime Numbers* with a stunning exploration of war. The novel revolves around a platoon of Italian soldiers stationed in Forward Operating Base Ice in the dangerous Gulistan district of Afghanistan. Giordano makes the tedium of combat fascinating with his well-drawn characters. Included in the cast is Lieutenant Egitto, a medical officer escaping his perilous home life; girlfriend-obsessed First Corporal-Major Torsu; and the boisterous Cderna. Giordano covers everything from preparation for deployment—the weekend before they leave, all the soldiers’ girlfriends want to watch movies, but the soldiers want to “tank up on sex for the upcoming months of abstinence”—to the ways soldiers stay in touch with those left at home....”

Granville, Eliza. [Gretel and the Dark](#) (Riverhead \$27.95). In 1899 Vienna, celebrated psychoanalyst Josef Breuer is about to encounter a mysterious, beautiful woman who claims to have no name, no feelings—to be, in fact, a machine. Intrigued, he tries to fathom the roots of her disturbance. Years later, in Nazi-controlled Germany, Krysta plays alone while her papa works in the menacingly strange infirmary next door. Young, innocent, and fiercely stubborn, she retreats into a world of fairy tales, unable to see the danger closing in around her. When the Ravensbruck camp begins to devolve as the war ends, the real world becomes as frightening as any of her stories. But she needs them when she and young Josef go on the run into the woods and there meet a woman they recognize as a real-life witch despite her attempts to care for them. It’s only Krysta’s storytelling that empowers her. Granville creates an interesting and heartbreaking fusion of the Hansel and Gretel story with actual history if fictional characters in her narrative.

Greene, David. [Midnight in Siberia](#) (Norton \$26.95). A train journey into the heart and substance of the Russian people. NPR Morning Edition correspondent Greene ends his five year Moscow stint by taking a train trip 6,000 miles across Siberia. His original trip was heavily covered and very popular on NPR, and this is the written account of his second trip as he revisits his friends from the first trip. Visits dozens of small towns and meets many Russians on the train. Fares range from \$200 for upper berth in 3rd class, to \$20k for a luxury suite, all on the same train. This is part of the trip that Tucker Kane makes in James Rollins’ Kill [Switch Signed](#) (\$27.99).

Higashino, Keigo. [Malice](#) (St Martins \$24.99). A bestseller in Japan, Higashino’s first US publication, [The Devotion of Suspect X](#) (\$14.99), won an Edgar nomination. Acclaimed bestselling novelist Kunihiro Hidaka is found brutally murdered in his home on the night before he’s planning to leave Japan and relocate to Vancouver. His body is found in his office, a locked room, within his locked house, by his wife and his best friend, both of whom have rock solid alibis. At the crime scene, Police Detective Kyochiro Kaga recognizes Hidaka’s best friend, Osamu Nonoguchi. Years ago when they were both teachers, they were colleagues at the same public school. Kaga went on to join the police force while Nonoguchi eventually left to become a

full-time writer, though with not nearly the success of his friend Hidaka. As Kaga investigates, he eventually uncovers evidence that leads from one surprise to another. I figured this one out at Chapter One but enjoyed the unspooling of the plot—I’m clearly reading way too much detective fiction and should take a break with romance or biography....

James, Marlon. [A Brief History of Seven Killings](#) (Putnam \$28.95). “There are many more than seven killings in James’s (Dayton Literary Peace Prize winner for *The Book of Night Women*) epic chronicle of Jamaica’s turbulent past, but the centerpiece is the attempted assassination of Bob Marley on December 3, 1976. Through more than a dozen voices, that event is portrayed as the inevitable climax of a country shaken by gangs, poverty, and corruption. Even as the sweeping narrative continues into 1990s New York, the ripples of Jamaica’s violence are still felt by those who survived. James’s frenetic, jolting narrative is populated by government agents, ex-girlfriends, prisoners, gang members, journalists, and even ghosts. Memorable characters (and there are several) include John-John K, a hit man who is very good at his job; Papa-Lo, don of the Copenhagen City district of Kingston; and Josey Wales, who begins as Papa-Lo’s head enforcer but ends up being a major string-puller in the country’s most fateful events. Upon finishing, the reader will have completed an indispensable and essential history of Jamaica’s troubled years. This novel should be required reading.”—*PW* Starred Review

Kent, Christobel. [A Darkness Descending](#) (\$14.95). A Florentine mystery. See Our October Trade Paperback Picks.

King, Laurie R. [The Bones of Paris](#) (\$16). “Fans of Woody Allen’s *Midnight in Paris* will feel right at home in the Jazz Age Paris setting...Beyond the cameos and the bohemian atmosphere, there is a compelling thriller here and some fascinating fictional characters to go with the real-life ones. As always with King, the plot is tricky but marvelously constructed, delivering twists that not only surprise but also deepen the story and its multiple levels of meaning. Break out that dusty bottle of absinthe you have stored away and settle in for a treat.”—*Booklist* (starred review). See our October Trade Paperback Picks.

Longworth, M L. [Murder on the Ile Sordou](#) (Penguin \$15). A Christie-like mystery set on an island off Marseilles. See our October Trade Paperback Picks.

Meyer, Deon. [Cobra](#) (Atlantic \$26). Rob and I are heading to Cape Town and up for a day or two to the famous Franschoek wine valley. Here is where Meyer’s 4th thriller for Bennie Greissel opens. British citizen Paul Morris is missing from the guest house where in theory he was protected by his two bodyguards. Instead they lie dead, each shot in the head. Near the bodies are shell casings, each etched with the head of a cobra. And Morris’ new passport, clothing, and suitcase. Back in Cape Town, Tyrone Kleinbooi, committed to putting his sister through medical school, becomes a target of the same cobra killers after picking the wrong pocket. And his sister is abducted!

Moorehead, Caroline. [Village of Secrets: Defying the Nazis in Vichy France](#) (Harper \$27.99). High up in the mountains of the southern Massif Central in France lie tiny, remote villages united by a long and particular history. During the Second World War, the inhabitants of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon and its parishes saved thousands wanted by the Gestapo. This is that story.

Mosier, John. [Verdun](#) (\$16). Conventional wisdom holds that the battle began in February 1916 and lasted until December, when the victorious French wrested all the territory they had lost back from the Germans. In fact, says historian John Mosier, from the very beginning of the war until the armistice in 1918, no fewer than eight distinct battles were waged for the possession of Verdun. These conflicts are largely unknown, even in France, owing to the obsessive secrecy of the French high command and its energetic propaganda campaign to fool the world into thinking that the war on the Western Front was a steady series of German checks and defeats. Although British historians have always seen Verdun as a one-year battle designed by the German chief of staff to bleed France white, Mosier's careful analysis of the German plans reveals a different reality.

Nabb, Magdalen. [The Monster of Florence](#) (\$14.95). The late Nabb wrote wonderful mysteries set in Florence. This is a reissue where Marshal Guarnaccia of the Carabinieri is assigned to work with the city police to track down a vicious serial killer. He feels out of his league. The crimes he must try to understand are grotesque, the case materials harrowing. To make matters worse, the Proc he must report to is Simonetti, the same man he knows drove an innocent man to suicide several years earlier in his blind quest for a conviction....

Nafisi, Azar. [Republic of Imagination](#) (Penguin \$28.95). Taking her cue from a challenge thrown to her in Seattle, where a skeptical reader told her that Americans don't care about books the way they did back in Iran, the author of the powerful [Reading Lolita in Tehran](#) (\$15) energetically responds to those who say fiction has nothing to teach us. Blending memoir and polemic with close readings of her favorite American novels—*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Babbitt*, and *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*, among others—she invites us to join her as citizens of her “Republic of Imagination,” a country where the villains are conformity and orthodoxy and the only passport to entry is a free mind

Neville, Stuart. [The Final Silence Signed](#) (Soho \$26.95 Signed Nov. 8). Rea Carlisle, while cleaning out a house she recently inherited from her uncle, finds a leather-bound book containing detailed descriptions of eight murders, along with fingernails and hair taken from the bodies of victims. Her father, a member of Northern Ireland's parliament, the Stormont Assembly, fears for his political career, and forbids Rea to go to the authorities. Instead, Rea seeks unofficial help from Jack Lennon, who was once her lover, unaware that Lennon is facing suspension for shooting a fellow officer in Stolen Goods....

Rankin, Ian. [The Beat Goes On: The Complete Rebus Stories](#) (Orion \$45).

Sardar, Ziauddin. [Mecca: The Sacred City](#) (Bloomsbury \$26). *PW* writes, “Mecca's magnetism is unrivalled in the Muslim world, but it is known more as a symbol than a living city, the forgotten social and political realities of which Pakistani-British public intellectual Sardar uncovers in this captivating history. Despite its theological centrality, Mecca has often been on the margins of the Muslim polity—buffeted by the “irrational logic that haunts the exercise of empire”—and many of its rulers have “unashamedly offered... allegiance to the highest bidder.” Sardar focuses on human stories. And writes, “Mecca today is a “grotesque metropolis built on the graves of houses and cultural sites of immense beauty and long history.” The house of the

prophet Muhammad is slated to become a parking lot and his first wife's is now a public toilet. The erasure of the city is not confined to its past: “In a city that owes its existence and survival to two women,” Sardar laments, “women are treated as chattels.”

Simenon, Georges. [Dancer at the Gai-Moulin](#); [A Man's Head](#) (Penguin \$10 each). Reissues of two Inspector Maigret cases.

Taylor, Patrick. [An Irish Doctor in Peace and at War](#) (Forge \$24.99). With Maeve Binchy gone, turn to Taylor and his Irish Country Doctor series. This story moves back and forth between Doctor Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly's service in the war and his life today in Ballybucklebo. Then he was a young M.B. with plans to marry midwife Deirdre Mawhinney. Assigned to the *HMS Warspite*, a formidable 30,000-ton battleship, Surgeon Lieutenant O'Reilly soon found himself face-to-face with the hardships of war, tending to the dreadnought's crew of 1,200 as well as to the many casualties brought aboard. Over two decades later O'Reilly and his younger colleagues still have plenty of challenges: an outbreak of German measles, the odd tropical disease, a hard-fought pie-baking contest, and a local man whose mule-headed adherence to tradition is standing in the way of his son's future. Now older and wiser, O'Reilly has prescriptions for whatever ails...until a secret from the past threatens to unravel his own peace of mind. New in paper: [Fingal O'Reilly, Irish Doctor](#) (\$14.99).

Toibin, Colm. [Nora Webster Signed](#) (Scribner \$27.99). Widowed at forty, with four children and not enough money, Nora has lost the love of her life, Maurice, the man who rescued her from the stifling world to which she was born. And now she fears she may be drawn back into it. Wounded, strong-willed, clinging to secrecy Wexford, Ireland, in a tiny community where everyone knows your business, Nora is drowning in her own sorrow and blind to the suffering of her young sons, who have lost their father. Yet she has moments of stunning empathy and kindness, and when she begins to sing again, after decades, she finds solace—herself... the 7th novel from this acclaimed author.

Williams, Timothy. [Converging Parallels](#) (Soho \$9.99). Yay. A reissue of one of Williams' excellent Italian mysteries. Northern Italy, 1978: Commissario Piero Trotti, trusted senior police investigator in an anonymous provincial city off the River Po, has two difficult cases to solve. A dismembered body has been found in the river, and it's up to Trotti to figure out who the murder victim is. At the same time, an estranged friend approaches Trotti with a desperate personal plea: his six-year-old daughter—Trotti's own goddaughter—has been kidnapped. In the wake of the high-profile kidnapping of Aldo Moro, president of Italy's majority party, faith in law enforcement is at an all-time low, and it's no surprise the distraught father isn't willing to take this matter to the police. I believe the original title was Big Italy. “Wake up and smell the grappa. *Big Italy* is a chilling education, a scalpel-sharp exploration of Italy's body politic. Timothy Williams knows the ABC of corruption—Andreotti, Berlusconi, Craxi—and is a convincing and compelling voice.”—Ian Rankin

Yu, Ovidia. [Aunty Lee's Deadly Specials](#) (Harper \$14.99). A delightful, sly, cozy romp through the elite of Singapore where catering a brunch at an opulent house puts the heat on the cook. See our October Trade Paperback Picks.

A Quartet of Urban Noirs from Akashic Press:

Abdoh, Salar, ed. [Teheran Noir](#) (\$15.95). Featuring brand-new stories by: Gina B. Nahai, Salar Abdoh, Lily Farhadpour, Azardokht Bahrami, Yourik Karim-Masihi, Vali Khalili, Farhaad Heidari Gooran, Aida Moradi Ahani, Mahsa Mohebali, Majed Neisi, Danial Haghighi, Javad Afhami, Sima Saeedi, Mahak Taheri, and Hossein Abkenar. From the introduction by Salar Abdoh: “The city may be a hothouse of decadence, a den of inequity, all that. But it still exists under the watchful eye of a very unique entity, the Islamic Republic. The city enforces its own Morality Police and there are regular public hangings of drug dealers and thieves. Because of this, there is a raging sense of a split-personality about the place—the imposed propriety of the mosque rubbing against the hidden (and more and more often not so hidden) rhythms of the real city.”

Keret, Etgar, ed. [Tel Aviv Noir](#) (\$26.95). This hardcover features brand-new stories by: Etgar Keret, Gadi Taub, Lavie Tidhar, Deakla Keydar, Matan Hermoni, Julia Fermentto, Gon Ben Ari, Shimon Adaf, Alex Epstein, Antonio Ungar, Gai Ad, Assaf Gavron, SiLJe Bekeng, and Yoav Katz. From the introduction by Etgar Keret: “Don’t get me wrong—Tel Aviv is a lovely, safe city. Most of the time, for most of its inhabitants. But the stories in this collection describe what happens the rest of the time, to the rest of its inhabitants. From one last cup of coffee at a café targeted by a suicide bomber, through repeat visits from a Yiddish-speaking ghost, to an organized tour of mythological crime scenes that goes terribly wrong, the stories of *Tel Aviv Noir* reveal the concealed, scarred face of this city that we love so much.”

McKinty, Adrian and Stuart Neville, eds. [Belfast Noir](#) (\$15.96 SIGNED by Stuart Neville Nov. 9). Lee Child, Eoin McNamee, and others join previous entries *London Noir* and *Dublin Noir* in exploring the darkest corners of the United Kingdom and Ireland. Featuring brand-new stories by: Glenn Patterson, Eoin McNamee, Garbhan Downey, Lee Child, Alex Barclay, Brian McGilloway, Ian McDonald, Arlene Hunt, Ruth Dudley Edwards, Claire McGowan, Steve Cavanagh, Lucy Caldwell, Sam Millar, and Gerard Brennan.

Thompson, James, ed. [Helsinki Noir](#) (\$15.95). *Helsinki Noir* joins *Copenhagen Noir* in representing the Akashic Noir Series in the far north of Europe, exposing its frigid and sometimes frightening confines. Featuring brand-new stories by: Leena Lehtolainen, Johanna Holmström, James Thompson, Antti Tuomainen, Jesse Itkonen, Joe L. Murr, Jukka Petäjä, Tapani Bagge, Pekka Hiltunen, Teemu Käsänen, Tuomas Lius, Riikka Ala-Harja, Karo Hämäläinen, and Jarkko Sipilä—whose own books from his Ice Cold Crime press are also available. Click here to order Sipilä. Edgar nominee Thompson sadly died last year.

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Anderson, Gillian/Jeff Rovin. [A Vision of Fire](#) (SimonSchuster \$25). Do not imagine that Anderson wrote this! It’s a hook for drawing interest to a supernatural thriller: Book One of the Earthend Saga. Renowned child psychologist Caitlin O’Hara is a single mom trying to juggle her job, her son, and a lackluster dating life. Her world is suddenly upturned when Maanik, the daughter of India’s ambassador to the United Nations, starts speaking in tongues and having violent visions. Caitlin is sure

that her fits have something to do with the recent assassination attempt on her father—a shooting that has escalated nuclear tensions between India and Pakistan to dangerous levels—but when teenagers around the world start having similar outbursts, Caitlin begins to think that there’s a more sinister force at work. With Asia on the cusp of nuclear war, Caitlin must race across the globe to uncover the mystical links among these seemingly unrelated incidents. And save...what?

Armstrong, Kelley. [Otherworld Nights: An Anthology](#) (Picador \$16). Six stories and two novellas expand the Otherworld series.

Brown, Robert Nathan. [The Mythology of Grimm: The Fairy Tale and Folklore Roots of the Popular TV Show](#) (Berkley \$15). NBC’s hit television series *Grimm* pits modern detective Nick Burkhardt of the Portland Police against a cast of terrifying villains—lifted directly from the pages of classic fairytales. In the world of the show, the classic stories are actually a document of real events, and Nick himself is descended from a long line of guardians, or Grimms, charged with defending humanity from the mythological creatures of the world. From “The Big Bad Wolf” to “Sleeping Beauty,” Brown explores the history and folkloric traditions that come into play during Nick’s incredible battles and investigations—tapping into elements of mythology that have captured our imaginations for centuries.

Carroll, Jonathan. [Bathing the Lion](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Five people who live in the same New England town go to sleep one night and all share the same hyper-realistic dream. Some of these people know each other; some don’t. When they wake the next day all of them know what has happened. All five were at one time “mechanics,” a kind of cosmic repairman whose job is to keep order in the universe and clean up the messes made both by sentient beings and the utterly fearsome yet inevitable Chaos that periodically rolls through... “A departure for Jonathan Carroll: a work of surrealist world-building, which reminded me at times of both Philip K Dick and of Julio Cortazar. Carroll unpeels what it means to be human, and why something would pretend to be human in a book that is as exciting as it is thoughtful.” –Neil Gaiman, like Patrick, a fan.

Evan, Chris. [Of Bone and Thunder](#) (Gallery \$26.95). *Apocalypse Now* meets *The Lord of the Rings* in a bold new fantasy from the acclaimed author of the Iron Elves trilogy, filled with “heroic action that keeps fans coming back” (*PW*). Channeling the turbulent period of the Vietnam War and its ruthless pitting of ideologies, cultures, generations, and races against each other, military historian and acclaimed fantasy writer Chris Evans takes a daring new approach to the traditional world of sword and sorcery. In this strange, new world deep among the shadows under a triple-canopy jungle and plagued by dangers real and imagined, soldiers strive to fulfill a mission they don’t understand and are ill-equipped to carry out. And high above them, the heavy rush of wings slashing through the humid air herald a coming wave of death and destruction, and just possibly, salvation.

Feehan, Christine. [Dark Blood](#) (Berkley \$26.95). The fates of a warrior reborn and a seductive Dragonseeker are irrevocably entwined in the new Carpathian novel. Book #25.

Joshi, ST. [The Madness of Cthulhu Anthology Volume 1](#) (Titan \$15.95). 16 stories inspired by the 20th century’s great master of horror, H.P. Lovecraft, and his acknowledged masterpiece, *At the Mountains of Madness*, in which an expedition to the desolation

of Antarctica discovers evidence of an ancient ruin built by horrific creatures at first thought long-dead, until death strikes the group. All but two of the stories are original to this edition, and those reprints are long-lost works by science fiction masters Arthur C. Clarke and Robert Silverberg.

Martin, George RR. [Ice Dragon](#) (\$14.99). Book Five in A Song of Ice and Fire.

Ochse, Weston. [Reign of Evil: A Seal Team 666 Novel Signed](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Nov. 15). Legend holds that when Britain is in its darkest hour, King Arthur will return to save the country, if not the world. That legend is dead wrong. When a Grove of Druids sacrifice the lives of a group of innocents, including the fiancée of a member of SEAL Team 666, the ancient king is brought back from the dead and sets his sight on subjugating humanity and cleansing his land of all who are not true Britons. Because of political sensitivities, Triple 6 is ordered to stand down, but that order is ignored by one of them seeking his own vengeance

Rothfuss, Patrick. [The Slow Regard of Silent Things](#) (DAW \$18.95). A Kingkillers Chronicle novella. A gift idea for fantasy fans.

Sanderson, Brandon. [The Hero of Ages](#) (\$12.99). Mistborn Series #3 for ages 12+.

GHOSTS, VAMPIRES, WITCHES—AND HALLOWEEN
Buckland, Raymond. [Dead for a Spell](#) (Berkley \$15). A Bram Stoker Mystery. See History/Mystery for more

Buehlman, Christopher. [The Lesser Dead](#) (Berkley \$25.95). This is a take-no-prisoners narrative of vampires with a self-proclaimed unreliable narrator and a literary Coda worth reading on its own although one should complete the novel's journey to enter into it. Buehlman does not spare the reader in his depiction of NY's underground undead. The 1978 city is dirty and dangerous above and below ground, its subways are Joey Peacock's playground and highway, and where he strikes to bleed the unsuspecting is... everywhere. Then, one night, he sees "children," vampires like him or not like him. They don't respect the boundaries Joey and his kind observe, and the tunnels of Manhattan are not as safe as once they were....

[Those Across the River](#) (\$9.99). Now in mass market paperback, the debut of a horror/suspense sensation. Haunted by memories of the Great War, failed academic Frank Nichols and his wife have arrived in the sleepy Georgia town of Whitbrow, where Frank hopes to write a history of his family's old estate—the Savoyard Plantation—and the horrors that occurred there. At first their new life seems to be everything they wanted. But under the facade of summer socials and small-town charm, there is a presence that demands sacrifice. It comes from the shadowy woods across the river, where the ruins of the Savoyard Plantation still stand. A debt of blood never been forgotten. Where it has been waiting for Frank Nichols... "One of the best first novels I've ever read." —Charlaine Harris

Childs, Laura. [Gossamer Ghost](#) (Berkley \$25.95). Carmela Bertrand knows that Halloween in New Orleans means a week of rabble-rousing, costumed craziness—and she can't wait to get the party started. But when a local antiques dealer turns up dead, Carmela suddenly finds herself in a real-life *danse macabre*... An evening's work deciding on the class schedule for her scrapbooking shop has put Carmela in the mood to kick up

her heels. But after some strange noises draw her into Oddities, the neighboring antiques shop, Carmela's night is abruptly put on hold when a bloody body falls out of a curio cabinet—and into her arms. While shop owner Marcus Joubert was known for being an eccentric with a penchant for eclectic merchandise, Carmela never thought he was the kind of man who could inspire the passion required to kill. But when Marcus's assistant—and fiancée—Mavis reveals that a priceless death mask was also stolen, it becomes clear that murder wasn't the culprit's sole intention. Carmela can't resist the urge to investigate the growing mystery and unmask evildoers. Scrapbooking Mystery #12.

Clarke, Roger. [Ghosts: A Natural History: 500 Years of Searching for Proof](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Takes you through the key hauntings that have obsessed the world, from the true events that inspired Henry James's classic *The Turn of the Screw* right up to the present day: a story of class conflict, charlatans, and true believers. The cast list includes royalty and prime ministers, Samuel Johnson, John Wesley, Harry Houdini, and Adolf Hitler. The chapters cover everything from religious beliefs to modern developments in neuroscience, the medicine of ghosts, and the technology of ghost hunting. There are haunted WWI submarines, houses so blighted by phantoms they are demolished, a seventeenth-century Ghost Hunter General, and the emergence of the Victorian flash mob, where hundreds would stand outside rumored sites all night waiting to catch sight of a dead face at a window. Written as grippingly as the best ghost fiction.

Davidson, Maryjanice. [Undead and Unwary](#) (Berkley \$25.95). How do you out-devil the devil? For Vampire queen Betsy Taylor, the answer is relative—literally... "Think *Sex and the City*... filled with demons and vampires." —*PW*. Undead Queen Betsy #13

Donohue, Keith. [The Boy Who Drew Monsters](#) (Picador \$26). Ever since he nearly drowned in the ocean three years earlier, ten-year-old Jack Peter Keenan has been deathly afraid to venture outdoors. Refusing to leave his home in a small coastal town in Maine, Jack Peter spends his time drawing monsters. When those drawings take on a life of their own, no one is safe from the terror they inspire. "Both an eerie, engrossing tale of the supernatural, with a sting in its tale, and a superb evocation of troubled youth... reminds us that there is no rage like the rage of children..." —John Connolly. "...a brooding, Serlingesque tale of tragedy, heartbreak, and the things that go bump in the night. Creepy, nostalgic, and understated, a tale meant for the dark of night, but most will want to enjoy it with all of the lights on." —C. Robert Cargill. "The ghostly influence of Henry James's *The Turn of the Screw* haunts this chilling novel... A brisk and winningly creepy narrative." —*PW*

Gaiman, Neil. [The Graveyard Book Graphic Novel Volume 2](#) (Harper \$19.99). Nobody Owens, known as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, being raised by ghosts, and didn't have a guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor the dead. There are adventures in the graveyard for a boy, and if Bod leaves, he will be in danger from the man Jack—who has already killed Bod's family. Despite the danger, Bod wants to leave the graveyard to attend school with the living and find out more about his family's murder. But when Bod uses the Fear on two bullies and gets too close to the man Jack, he will put more things at risk than he knows.

Hart, Carolyn G. [Ghost Wanted Signed](#) (Berkley \$28). Ghostly gumshoe Bailey Ruth Raeburn of Heaven's Department of Good Intentions is checking out a troubling disturbance in Adelaide, Oklahoma. But what seems at first like simple vandalism won't be an open-and-shut case. Her supervisor, Wiggins, is worried about a dear old friend. The ghost of elegant Lorraine Marlow haunts Adelaide's college library. Known as the Lady of the Roses, she plays matchmaker, using the fragrant flowers to pair up students. But someone's making mischief after hours, leaving roses strewn about the library, destroying a gargoyle, and stealing a valuable book. Soon after her arrival, trouble begins to stack up. A campus security guard is shot by an intruder, and Bailey Ruth uncovers a catalog of evidence blaming a student for the crimes. As a ghost, she may not be all there, but even Bailey Ruth can decipher that something isn't adding up. So with police preparing to make an arrest, the spirited detective must race against the clock to find the real culprit...

Howard, Jonathan L. [The Brothers Cabal](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Horst Cabal, the most affable vampire one is ever likely to meet, is resurrected by an occult conspiracy that wants him as a general in a monstrous army. Their plan: to create a country of horrors, a supernatural homeland. As Horst sees the lengths to which they are prepared to go and the evil they cultivate, he realizes that he cannot fight them alone. What he really needs on his side is a sarcastic, amoral, heavily armed necromancer. As luck would have it, this exactly describes his brother. Join the brothers Cabal as they fearlessly lie quietly in bed, fight dreadful monsters from beyond reality, make soup, banter lightly with secret societies that wish to destroy them, and—in passing—set out to save the world. The author wishes to point out that there are no zebras this time, so don't get your hopes up on that count. There is, however, a werebadger.... #4 in the Johannes Cabal novels.

Howe, Katherine. [The Penguin Book of Witches](#) (\$17). From a manual for witch hunters written by King James himself in 1597, to court documents from the Salem witch trials of 1692, to newspaper coverage of a woman stoned to death on the streets of Philadelphia while the Continental Congress met, *The Penguin Book of Witches* is a treasury of historical accounts of accused witches that sheds light on the reality behind the legends. Bringing to life stories like that of Eunice Cole, tried for attacking a teenage girl with a rock and buried with a stake through her heart; Jane Jacobs, a Bostonian so often accused of witchcraft that she took her tormentors to court on charges of slander; and Increase Mather, an exorcism-performing minister famed for his knowledge of witches, this volume provides a unique tour through the darkest history of English and North American witchcraft

Kaufmann, Nicholas. [Die and Stay Dead](#) (St Martins \$15.99). A brutal murder in Greenwich Village puts Trent and the Five-Pointed Star on the trail of Erickson Arkwright, the last surviving member of a doomsday cult. Back in the day, the Aeternis Tenebris cult thought the world would end on New Year's Eve of 2000. When it didn't, they decided to end it themselves by summoning Nahash-Dred, a powerful, terrifying demon known as the Destroyer of Worlds. But something went wrong. The demon massacred the cult, leaving Arkwright the sole survivor. Now, hiding somewhere in New York City with a new identity, Arkwright plans to summon the demon again and finish the job he started over a decade ago. As Trent rushes to locate a long-lost magical artifact that may be the only way to stop him, the clues mount...

✚Newman, Kim. [An English Ghost Story](#) (Titan \$14.95). A dysfunctional British nuclear family seek a new life away from the big city in the sleepy Somerset countryside. At first their new home, *The Hollow*, seems to embrace them, creating a rare peace and harmony within the family. But when the house turns on them, it seems to know just how to hurt them the most, turning them again on one another. This is a charming story, a kind of country-house suspense with a witch and ghosts. Actually, it's like a coming-of-age story for a whole family.

Olsen, Eric. [America's Most Haunted](#) (Berkley \$16). "Haunted Housewife" investigator Theresa Argie and journalist Eric Olsen team up to take you on a first-person tour of some of America's most active paranormal hotspots. Experience the crawl through the death tunnel where visitors have reported sightings of an inhuman creature that creeps along the walls and ceilings. Walk the decks of the *Queen Mary* with the hundreds of souls that met their ends in watery graves. And get to know the spirits that wait in jails, mansions, lunatic asylums, and even a stately old hotel. Combining spine-tingling stories, documented evidence, and interviews with some of the top names in paranormal investigation—including the stars of TV's "Ghost Hunters," "Ghost Adventures," and more.

Rice, Anne. [Prince Lestat](#) (Knopf \$27.95). Rice returns the Prince. "For over a decade, her devotees have been clinging to the slender possibility that Anne Rice would rescind her decision that 2003's *Blood Canticle* was the final volume in her classic *Vampire Chronicles*. With this novel, we can all rejoice that Brat Prince Lestat has returned—and he couldn't have been called from his exile at a more pressing time. The entire vampire world has descended into bloody massacres and the madness of destruction. Many of Rice's hallmark characters return in this novel, but make no mistake: Prince Lestat is no quiet swan song. It ripples with suspense and excitement."—B&N

Washburn, Livia J. [Trick or Deadly Treat](#) (NAL \$14). It's Halloween in Weatherford, Texas—which means Phyllis Newsom is baking up a storm of yummy seasonal treats...but she's about to get even busier unmasking a killer. While Phyllis and her friend Carolyn are preparing for a baking contest, her housemate Sam adopts Buck, an adorable Dalmatian who was hit by a car. To thank local veterinarian Hank Baxter for helping the dog, Phyllis and Carolyn bake a batch of doggie treats for his other four-legged patients. But when they arrive at the clinic, the vet is in the process of being arrested—for the murder of his wife! Convinced that the police are barking up the wrong tree and that someone's been burying evidence, Sam begs Phyllis to help find the real killer. Joined by Buck, the friends engage in a dogged pursuit of the murderer, who will stop at nothing to muzzle them...permanently.

Zeltserman, Dave. [The Boy Who Killed Demons](#) (Overlook \$24.95). "My name's Henry Dudlow. I'm fifteen and a half. And I'm cursed. Or damned. Take your pick. The reason? I see demons." The setting is quiet Newton, Mass., where nothing ever happens. Nothing, that is, until two months after Henry Dudlow's 13th birthday, when his neighbor, Mr. Hanley, suddenly starts to look... different. While everyone else sees a balding man with a beer belly, Henry suddenly sees a nasty, bilious, rage-filled demon. Once Henry catches onto the real Mr. Hanley, he starts to see demons all around him, and his boring, adolescent life is

transformed. There's no more time for friends or sports or the lovely Sally Freeman—instead Henry must work his way through ancient texts and hunt down the demons before they steal any more innocent children. And if hunting demons is hard at any age, it's borderline impossible when your parents are on your case, and your grades are getting worse, and you can't tell anyone about your chosen mission. Sounds like YA fiction but no, it's adult.

GETTING A JUMP ON CHRISTMAS

Andrews, Donna. [The Nightingale Before Christmas](#) (St Martins \$24.99). As the holidays draw near in Caerphilly, Mother volunteers to take part in a big Christmas-themed decorator show house—each room of a temporarily untenanted house is decorated to the hilt by a different decorator for the public to tour. Of course, Mother insists that Meg Langslow pitch in with the organization, and she finds herself surrounded by flamboyant personalities with massive egos clashing and feeling their professional reputations are at stake. Then the rooms start to be sabotaged, and an unfortunate designer turns up dead—making Mother a prime suspect. Can Meg catch the real killer in time to save Mother the indignity of arrest? 18th in the avian-themed cozy series.

Barron, Stephanie. [Jane and the Twelve Days of Christmas Signed](#) (Soho \$25 Nov. 22). Christmas Eve, 1814: Jane Austen has been invited to spend the holiday with family and friends at The Vyne, the gorgeous ancestral home of the wealthy and politically prominent Chute family. As the year fades and friends begin to gather beneath the mistletoe for the twelve days of Christmas festivities, Jane and her circle are in a celebratory mood...until murder strikes one of the party.

Carlson, Melody. [The Christmas Cat](#) (Random \$15.99). A single man is challenged with the task of finding suitable homes for six cats that belonged to his deceased grandmother. Summoned to Vancouver, Wash., to settle her affairs, Garrison is surprised to learn that his frugal Gram—who raised him after his parents died in a car crash when he was 12—left behind her house, fully paid off, along with a substantial nest egg. Before Garrison can claim his inheritance, however, he is designated as “the keeper of the cats,” responsible for following Gram's detailed, stringent criteria to match each of her six very different kitties with a compatible new owner. Once Garrison can prove each cat is happily settled, the selected adoptive families will each receive \$10,000. Where does this leave Garrison—especially with his ill feelings about felines? And just how can he sort the suitable prospective pet-lovers from the opportunists looking for quick cash? What ensues is a lighthearted story of Garrison's reconnection to his old neighborhood, his interactions with strangers who may become friends—or even something more—and his rekindling of old hopes and dreams.

Dallas, Sandra. [A Quilt for Christmas](#) (St Martins \$17.99). A novella of the Civil War. A wife happy in her lot makes a Christmas quilt, a Union flag, for her husband who is off to battle in the Civil War. It's a kind of prequel to [The Persian Pickle Club 20th Anniversary Edition](#) (\$14.99).

Leake, Lisa. [100 Days of Real Food](#) (Harper \$29.99). A way of eating (with recipes and shopping guides) that cuts out processed and refined foods.

Macomber, Debbie. [Mr. Miracle: A Christmas Novel](#) (Random \$18). Angel-in-training Harry Mills heads earthward at Christmas to help a community college student discover what she really wants in life and learns a few things himself.

McCrumb, Sharyn. [Nora Bonesteel's Christmas Past](#) (Abingdon Press \$18.99). When someone buys the old Honeycutt house, Nora Bonesteel is glad to see some life brought back to the old mansion, even if it is by summer people. But when they decide to stay through Christmas, they find more than old memories in the walls. On Christmas Eve, Sheriff Spencer Arrowood and Deputy Joe LeDonne find themselves on an unwelcome call to arrest an elderly man for a minor offense. As they attempt to do their duty, while doing the right thing for a neighbor, it begins to look like they may all spend Christmas away from home. Characters from McCrumb's *Ballad Novels* assemble in a Christmas tale.

Ulriksen, Mark. [Dogs Rule Nonchalantly](#) (Goff Books \$29.95). Renowned illustrator Ulriksen combines his handwritten observations with his intricate paintings of dogs from over 20 years of his career. Mark reaches back to his youth to talk about his first dog and chronicles the idiosyncrasies of each of his ten dogs that have enriched his life.

BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS

Andrews, VC. [Christopher's Diary: Secrets of Foxworth](#) (SimonSchuster \$7.99). “No doubt that there are very few readers out there who do not remember where this all began. Andrews presented, by far, some of the very best in YA fiction: dark, creepy, that had you on the edge of your seat just waiting for the next one to come out... Taking place in the here and now, teenager Kristin Masterwood has lost her mother, who just so happened to have been a distant relative of Malcolm Foxworth... Kristin finds a leather-bound book left behind by Christopher Dollanganger...she brings *Flowers in the Attic* back to life. With one more still to come in this ‘journey back to Foxworth,’ this tale is a true escape with moments that bring the past alive and combine it with a frightening present.” —*Suspense Magazine*

Coben, Harlan. [Found](#) (Penguin \$18.99). A new investigation for Mickey Bolitar. It's been eight months since he witnessed the shocking, tragic death of his father. Eight months of lies, dark secrets, and unanswered questions. While he desperately wants answers, Mickey's sophomore year of high school brings on a whole new set of troubles. Spoon is in the hospital, Rachel won't tell him where he stands, his basketball teammates hate him...and then there's Ema's surprise announcement: She has an online boyfriend, and he's vanished. As he's searching for Ema's missing boyfriend (who may not even exist!), Mickey also gets roped into helping his nemesis, Troy Taylor, with a big problem. All the while, Mickey and his friends are pulled deeper into the mysteries surrounding the Abeona Shelter, risking their lives.

Dora the Explorer. [Dora the Explorer: Guess Who Loves Christmas](#) (Studio Fun \$10.99). Dora loves Christmas. But where are all her friends? With foil on the cover and a sturdy peek-a-boo flap to lift on every spread while searching them out, this is a great holiday favorite for the younger crowd ages 2-5.

Farrey, Brian. [The Grimjinx Rebellion](#) (Harper \$16.99). Jaxter Grimjinx and his family haven't had much time for thieving. Through no fault of their own, they've been too busy saving the day. But danger in the Five Provinces is only just beginning. The Palatinate Mages are almost ready to unveil their master plan,

and legendary monsters will soon roam the land once more. Then Jaxter's sister, Aubrin, is kidnapped by the Mages. It seems she has a power greater than her family ever realized, and she may be the key to the impending battle for the Five Provinces. Jaxter will do anything to get his little sister back—even if it means pulling off the greatest heist of his life and starting a large-scale rebellion. *The Vengekeep Prophecies #3*. Ages 8-12.

Fforde, Jasper. [The Eye of Zoltar](#) (Houghton \$16.99). Although she's an orphan in indentured servitude, sixteen-year-old Jennifer Strange is pretty good at her job of managing the unpredictable crew at Kazam Mystical Arts Management. She already solved the Dragon Problem, avoided mass destruction by Quarkbeast, and helped save magic in the Ununited Kingdoms. Yet even Jennifer may be defeated when the long-absent Mighty Shandar makes an astonishing appearance and commands her to find the Eye of Zoltar—proclaiming that if she fails, he will eliminate the only two dragons left on earth. How can a teenage non-magician outdo the greatest sorcerer the world has ever known? Book #3 in the Kazam Chronicles after [The Last Dragonslayer](#) and [The Song of the Quarkbeast](#) (\$7.99 each). Ages 10-14.

Grant, Michael. [The Messenger of Fear](#) (Harper Teen \$17.99). Fans of Michelle Hodkin's Mara Dyer trilogy and Stephen King will love this satisfyingly twisted series. Mara Todd wakes in a field of dead grass, a heavy mist pressing down on her. She is terrified, afraid that she is dead. She can't remember who she is or anything about her past. Is it because of the boy that appears? He calls himself the Messenger of Fear. He offers the wicked a game. If they win, they go free. If they lose, they will live their greatest fear. Either way, their sanity will be challenged.

Hale, Shannon. [The Princess in Black](#) (Candlewick \$14.99). Princess Magnolia is having hot chocolate and scones with Duchess Wigtower when . . . Brring! Brring! The monster alarm! A big blue monster is threatening the goats! Stopping monsters is no job for dainty Princess Magnolia. But luckily Princess Magnolia has a secret—she's also the Princess in Black, and stopping monsters is the perfect job for her! Can the princess sneak away, transform into her alter ego, and defeat the monster before the nosy duchess discovers her secret? From award-winning writing team of Shannon and Dean Hale and illustrator LeUyen Pham, here is the first in a humorous and action-packed chapter book series for young readers who like their princesses not only prim and perfect, but also dressed in black. Darling cover. Ages 5-8.

Hiaasen, Carl. [Skink No Surrender Signed](#) (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.

Jeter, Derek. [The Contract](#) (SimonSchuster \$16.99) is a middle grade baseball novel inspired by the youth of legendary sports icon and role model. As a young boy, Derek Jeter dreams of being the shortstop for the New York Yankees. He even imagines himself in the World Series. So when Derek is chosen for the Little League Tigers, he hopes to play shortstop. But on the day

of the assignments, Derek Starts at second base. Still, he tries his best while he wishes and dreams of that shortstop spot. And to help him stay focused on school, his parents make him a contract: keep up the grades or no baseball. Derek makes sure he always plays his best game—on and off the baseball field!

Nix, Garth. [Clariel](#) (HarperTeen \$18.99). Clariel is the daughter of one of the most notable families in the Old Kingdom, with blood relations to the Abhorsen and, most important, to the King. She dreams of living a simple life but discovers this is hard to achieve when a dangerous Free Magic creature is loose in the city, her parents want to marry her off to a killer, and there is a plot brewing against the old and withdrawn King Orrikan. When Clariel is drawn into the efforts to find and capture the creature, she finds hidden sorcery within herself, yet it is magic that carries great dangers. Can she rise above the temptation of power, escape the unwanted marriage, and save the King? 4th in the Old Kingdom Series.

Riordan, Rick. [Heroes of Olympus Book Five: The Blood of Olympus](#) (Disney \$19.99). Gaea's giants have risen—all of them—and they're stronger than ever. They must be stopped before the Feast of Spes, when Gaea plans to have two demigods sacrificed in Athens. She needs their blood—the blood of Olympus—in order to wake. The demigods are having more frequent visions of a terrible battle at Camp Half-Blood. The Roman legion from Camp Jupiter, led by Octavian, is almost within striking distance. Though it is tempting to take the Athena Parthenos to Athens to use as a secret weapon, the friends know that the huge statue belongs back on Long Island, where it might be able to stop a war between the two camps. The Athena Parthenos will go west; the Argo II will go east. The gods, still suffering from multiple personality disorder, are useless. How can a handful of young demigods hope to persevere against Gaea's army of powerful giants? As dangerous as it is to head to Athens, they have no other option. They have sacrificed too much already. And if Gaea wakes, it is game over. I recommend adults read Bullfinch's *Mythology* instead. In fact, most of it applies to crime and literary fiction.

Roth, Veronica. [Divergent Collector's Edition](#) (Harper \$19.99)

OUR OCTOBER TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

Costantini, Roberto. [Deliverance of Evil](#) (\$14.95). Winner of the Scerbanenco Prize for the best Italian crime thriller, this masterful psychological thriller charts an edgy policeman's personal evolution—or devolution—as seen through the lens of a devilish case from the 1982 World Cup that consumed him early in his career and continues to haunt him twenty-four years later. A bestseller in the UK, Costantini is less well known here.

Dolan, Harry. [The Last Dead Girl](#) (\$16). Here's the story of David Loogan's dark past. On a rainy night in April, a chance encounter draws David into a romance with Jana Fletcher, a beautiful young law student. Jana is an enigma: living in a run-down apartment with only the barest of possessions, sporting a bruise on her cheek that she refuses to explain. David would like to know her secrets, but he lets them lie—until it's too late. When Jana is brutally murdered, the police consider David a prime suspect. But as he sets out to uncover the truth, he soon learns that Jana's death may be related to an earlier murder, one that she was obsessed with during the last weeks of her life. [Click here](#) to order earlier Loogans.

Hayes, Frank. [Death at the Black Bull](#) (Berkley \$15). “Virgil Dalton has been sheriff in Hayward, AZ, just like his father before him, for 12 years. It’s a quiet place, populated mostly by tumbleweeds and cattle. When Buddy Hinton goes missing after drinking at the local bar, the Black Bull, his friends suspect he fled to Mexico to find a girlfriend. But when Buddy turns up dead in one of his stock tanks, Virgil and Deputy Jimmy need to figure out who wanted Buddy dead and why. The duo work well together; Virgil attends to the details and Jimmy sees the big picture. Virgil Dalton takes no prisoners in Hayes’s satisfying debut novel, and fans of Craig Johnson’s Walt Longmire will cheer the sheriff’s desire to protect his town. With its strong sense of place, this series launch will also keep fans of Western mysteries enthralled. “—LJ

Irwin, Michael. [The Skull and the Nightingale](#) (\$14.99). 1761 London finds young Richard Fenwick back from a Grand Tour and, on a visit to his wealthy godfather’s estate, receiving a surprising proposition. While James Gilbert has led a sedate life in the country, he has an urge to live on the edge—vicariously, through Richard as his proxy in the city. There follows Richard’s ride through London’s salacious side and into a vortex of betrayals where lives are ruined. And a reckoning. It’s a bit like *Candide* remade by Hogarth.

King, Laurie R. [The Bones of Paris](#) (\$16—can be signed Nov. 18). September, 1929. For Harris Stuyvesant, the assignment is a private investigator’s dream—he’s getting paid to prowl the cafés and bars of Montparnasse, looking for a pretty young woman. The American agent has a healthy appreciation for *la vie de bohème*, despite having worked for years at the U.S. Bureau of Investigation. The missing person in question is Philippa Crosby, a twenty-two year old from Boston who has been living in Paris, modeling and acting. Her family became alarmed when she stopped all communications, and Stuyvesant agreed to track her down. With some work it soon becomes clear that one missing girl is a drop in the bucket. Here, amid the glittering lights of the cabarets, hides a monster.

Kadrey, Richard. [Dead Set](#) (\$14.99). Not a Sandman Slim but an exciting standalone. After her father’s funeral, Zoe moved to the big city with her mother to start over. But change always brings trials, and life in the city is not so easy. Money is tight, and Zoe’s only escape, as has always been the case, is in her dreams—a world apart from her troubled real life where she can spend time with her closest companion: her lost brother, Valentine. But something or someone has entered their dreamworld uninvited. And a chance encounter at a used record store, where the vinyl holds not music but lost souls, has opened up a portal to the world of the restless dead. It’s here that the shop’s strange proprietor offers Zoe the chance to commune with her dead father. The price? A lock of hair. Then a tooth.

Kent, Christobel. [A Darkness Descending](#) (\$14.95). When the driven, charismatic leader of a Florentine political movement collapses at a rally, his young party immediately comes under threat. And when it emerges that his wife, Flavia, has disappeared, leaving behind not only a devastated husband but their newborn son, the political becomes dangerously personal—and Detective Inspector Sandro Cellini is summoned to investigate. The trail leads to a somber seaside town, where Flavia chose to end her life. But Cellini isn’t satisfied—why would one so young and

with so much to live for walk away from all she loves? As he digs into Flavia’s secret world, however, Sandro uncovers her hidden life...

Longworth, M L. [Murder on the Ile Sordou](#) (Penguin \$15). Fourth in the sterling Verlaque and Bonnet crime series from Provence’s Longworth is a set-up worthy of Agatha Christie. Judge Verlaque and law professor Bonnet embark upon a relaxing holiday on an isle off Marseilles. The opulent Locanda, playground of the glitterati decades ago, has been bought and renovated into a luxury hotel and this is its opening week. The married proprietors have invited a somewhat motley crew to celebrate including a fading film star with his much younger wife and her pissy teen-age son, a local, eccentric poet, a querulous though elegant Parisian couple, and a pair of casual American tourists. The murder of the (obvious) victim flushes out a bevy of secrets from guests and staff as a violent storm cuts off all communication with the mainland. . . . The ambitious young chef and his local cuisine provides a mouth-watering edge to a story that could have come out of the 1950s. [Click here](#) to order all four Longworths.

Lynch, Paul. [Red Sky in Morning](#) (\$15). It’s 1832 and Coll Coyle has killed the wrong man. The dead man’s father is an expert tracker and ruthless killer with a single-minded focus on vengeance. The hunt leads from the windswept bogs of County Donegal, across the Atlantic to the choleric work camps of the Pennsylvania railroad, where both men will find their fates in the hardship and rough country of the fledgling United States. A Hardboiled Crime Club Pick in hardcover.

Sternbergh, Adam. [Shovel Ready](#) (\$13.99). A Hardboiled Crime Club Pick with a futuristic twist now in paperback. Spademan used to be a garbage man. That was before the dirty bomb hit Times Square, before his wife was killed, and before the city became a blown-out shell of its former self. Now he’s a hitman. In a near-future New York City split between those who are wealthy enough to “tap in” to a sophisticated virtual reality, and those who are left to fend for themselves in the ravaged streets, Spademan chose the streets. When his latest client hires him to kill the daughter of a powerful evangelist, he must navigate between these two worlds—the wasteland reality and the slick fantasy—to finish his job, clear his conscience, and make sure he’s not the one who winds up in the ground. A sequel with, one hopes, the same mordant humor follows in January.

Yu, Ovidia. [Aunty Lee’s Deadly Specials](#) (Harper \$14.99). No sharper nose for scandal in Singapore is there than Aunty Lee’s. She’s right on top of a breaking story over illegal organ donors hooked to prominent citizens. But she’s distracted by preparations for catering a brunch at the stunning home of socialites Dr. Henry Sung and his formidable wife, Mabel. Mabel, a terrifying taskmaster, expects the best (ideally for free, certainly with a discount). Yet rumors circulate the Sung fortune may be crumbling. And what’s with the Sung’s son, Leonard? When Mabel and Leonard are found dead during the party, authorities hurry to blame it on Aunty Lee’s special stewed chicken with local black nut that can be poisonous if not properly cooked. Aunty Lee discards this theory, calls it murder, and goes after motive (also means and opportunity). This is really fun and a little edgy to be called a cozy. Somehow I missed the start of Yu’s crime spree: [Aunty Lee’s Delights](#) (\$14.99).

NEW BOOKS

Andrews, VC. [Christopher's Diary: Secrets of Foxworth](#) (SimonSchuster \$7.99). For Young Adult readers and up, where *Flowers in the Attic* all began.

Bell, David. [Forgotten Girl](#) (NAL \$15). Jason Danvers, the hero of this tense, cleverly plotted thriller from Bell (Never Come Back), has relocated with his wife to his hometown of Ednaville, Ohio, where he's making a fresh start after losing a job in New York City. The couple are surprised to receive a visit from Jason's estranged alcoholic sister, Hayden, who appears to be on the wagon. Hayden has some unfinished business to take care of in town, and asks Jason to look after her daughter, a high school junior, while she leaves for 48 hours. Hayden doesn't return, and her disappearance coincides with the resurfacing of a decades-old mystery involving Jason's best friend, Logan Shaw, who went missing in high school. When a link emerges between Logan and Hayden, Jason realizes that family and friends have been hiding deep secrets for years. Bell skillfully throws curveballs into the story line, though veteran mystery fans may anticipate the jaw-dropping final. The influence of *Gone Girl* continues.

Block, Lawrence. [Defender of the Innocent: The Casebook of Martin Ehrengraf](#) (Subterranean \$30). The clients of Mephistophelean DA Martin Ehrengraf are always innocent, even when they recall committing murder, as shown in this collection of 12 dark, twisted tales from MWA Grand Master Block

Butler, Robert Olen. [The Empire of Night](#) (Grove \$26). Christopher Marlowe "Kit" Cobb returns in Robert Olen Butler's latest WWI thriller. Now a full-blown spy for the US government, Kit is tasked with ferreting out the agenda of Sir Albert Stockman, a possible mole. Taking up residence in a Stockman's castle on the Kentish coast, Kit finds himself knee-deep in secrets and lies. There he is joined by the world-famous stage actress Isabel Cobb—his mother—whose job is to keep Stockman occupied. "The period details are spot on, and though readers even vaguely familiar with the history will put the pieces together, this tale of shifting allegiances and worldwide consequences enthralls."—*PW*

Cameron, W. Bruce. [The Midnight Plan of the Repo Man](#) (Forge \$24.99). Ruddy McCann, former college football star, has experienced a seismic drop in popularity; he is now Kalkaska, Michigan's full-time repo man and part-time bar bouncer. His best friend is his low-energy Basset hound Jake, with whom he shares a simple life of stealing cars. Simple, that is, until Ruddy starts hearing a voice in his head. The voice introduces himself as Alan Lottner, a dead realtor. Ruddy isn't sure if Alan is real, or if he's losing his mind. To complicate matters, it turns out Katie, the girl he's fallen for, is Alan's daughter. When Alan demands Ruddy find his murderers, Ruddy decides a voice in your head seeking vengeance is best ignored. When Alan also demands he clean up his act, and apartment, Ruddy tells him to back off, but where can a voice in your head go? The publisher calls this, "a sweet romance, a murder mystery, a lazy but loyal dog and a town full of cabin-fevered characters you can't help but love."

Castle, Richard. [Raging Heat](#) (Kensington \$26.99). In a follow-up to [Deadly Heat](#) (\$9.99), the NYPD homicide detective Nikki Heat and the journalist Jameson Rook attempt to solve a murder.

Connolly, John. [The Wolf in Winter Signed](#) (Atria \$26 Nov. 17). Comes with CD of music composed by Connolly for this book called "Ghosts." he community of Prosperous, Maine has always thrived when others have suffered. Its inhabitants are wealthy, its children's future secure. It shuns outsiders. It guards its own. And at the heart of Prosperous lie the ruins of an ancient church, transported stone by stone from England centuries earlier by the founders of the town... But the death of a homeless man and the disappearance of his daughter draw the haunted, lethal private investigator Charlie Parker to Prosperous Has Parker been marked to die so that Prosperous may survive?

Coulter, Catherine. [The Lost Key](#) (Putnam \$26.95). Freshly minted FBI agent Nicholas Drummond is barely out of his Quantico training when he and his partner, Mike Caine, are called to investigate a stabbing on Wall Street. Their investigation, however, yields more questions than answers. It quickly becomes clear that the victim, John Pearce, was more than the naval historian and antiquities dealer he appeared to be. What Drummond doesn't know is that buying and selling rare books was Pearce's cover, and that he had devoted his life to discovering the whereabouts of a missing World War I U-boat concealing a stash of gold bullion, and an unexpected surprise that only raises more questions. When Drummond and Caine find both of Pearce's adult children have disappeared, the case assumes a new sense of urgency. The FBI agents know their best lead lies in the victim's cryptic final words—"The key is in the lock."

Dugoni, Robert. [My Sister's Grave](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). "Det. Tracy Crosswhite is a Seattle policewoman obsessed with solving the supposedly closed case of her sister Sarah's disappearance. When the young woman's remains are finally discovered, Tracy returns to her hometown of Cedar Grove, Wash., in the Cascade Mountains. She is determined to reevaluate the evidence that sent suspicious local man Edmund House to prison for Sarah's rape and murder 20 years before. Dan O'Leary, one of Tracy's childhood friends who is now an outstanding courtroom lawyer (and virile but sensitive stud), assists her in obtaining a hearing to free Edmund and reopen the case. The plot elements may not be exactly fresh, but Dugoni does a superior job of positioning them for maximum impact, especially in a climactic scene set in an abandoned mine during a blizzard—which is melodramatic but nevertheless effective."—*PW*, which also praises Dugoni's expert pacing.

Dunn, Matthew. [Dark Spies: A Spycatcher Novel](#) (Harper \$26.99). "Dunn," a former member of SIS, writes spy thrillers of LeCarre flavor with one Will Cochrane, a field operative for the classified (read *secret*) CIA-MI6 Task Force S. Will is in Norway to protect a CIA deep-cover officer meeting with a Russian asset. He grouses at baby-sitting, but bang! The op turns deadly. It would appear that Will's long-time Russian nemesis code-named Antaeus is in the game. And that the game includes a high-ranking CIA intelligent officer who's been turned. Sine Will disobeyed orders in Norway and took a shot at Antaeus despite orders to stand down, the only way to save his career—and his life—is to work inside the US and expose Project Ferryman, and the traitor, for what they are. Opposed is a team of four Russian assassins and an elite FBI team with its own agenda—and of course, the CIA turncoat. It's a nifty scenario for this 4th in the Spycatcher Series.

Egan, Jennifer, ed. [Best American Short Stories 2014](#) (Houghton \$14.95).

Fletcher, Jessica. [Murder She Wrote: Death of a Blue Blood](#) (NAL \$23.95). Jessica Fletcher and her friend Scotland Yard DI George Sutherland are invited to attend a New Year's Eve Ball at Castorbrook Castle, thanks to her British publisher. Shortly after arriving in the idyllic English countryside, Jessica discovers the body of a lady's maid in the garden. While their host, Lord Norrance, his snobbish third wife, other members of the household, and party guests squabble over the tragic death in tight-lipped, perfectly mannered British style, family relations are strained as old wounds are reopened and cutting remarks are freely handed out. And that's only during teatime! As midnight beckons at the ball the next night, the earl offers a toast, complete with fireworks. But the merriment crashes to a halt when he falls ill and dies, apparently poisoned.... 42nd in this cozy series penned by Donald Bain.

Garfield, Brian. [Death Sentence](#) (\$13.95). The sequel to [Death Wish](#) (\$13.95), where Paul Benjamin was an ordinary New Yorker until a gang of drug addicts killed his wife and raped his daughter. When the police proved helpless, Benjamin tracked and killed them one by one. Now he is in Chicago, and the cycle of violence is about to begin anew. On his first night in the city, he stumbles out of a bar in a bad part of town, pretending to be drunk. When two thugs set upon him, he kills them both and escapes before the police arrive. They will not be the last of Chicago's criminal class to suffer his wrath. The author of sixty-some books, an Edgar winner for *Hopscotch*, Garfield's *Death Wish* was the basis for five Charles Bronson films.

Grimes, Martha. [The Way of All Fish](#) (\$16). Writer Cindy Sella is having trouble with her new novel. Aside from her paralyzing writer's block, she's faced with a lawsuit from her ex-agent, L. Bass Hess. Hess will stop at nothing to collect a commission from Cindy on her previous novel, which he did not represent since she had fired him long before it was published. Hit men Candy and Karl—first introduced in [Foul Matter](#) (\$15), possibly my very favorite Grimes!—are asked to “get rid” of L. Bass Hess. They join forces with a publishing mogul, a bestselling author, an out-of-work Vegas magician, an alligator wrangler, a glamorous Malaysian con lady, and Hess's aunt in the Everglades who has undergone a wildly successful sex change, and concoct a plan to save Cindy Sella from the odious machinations of Hess by driving him (slowly, hilariously) crazy.

Grisham, John. [Gray Mountain](#) (Knopf \$28.95). In 2008 the career of fast-tracking Wall Street lawyer Samantha Kofers was abruptly derailed by the recession. Downsized and escorted out of the building, she's still a “lucky” associate as a job in a legal-aid clinic is hers and her old job may reopen in a year. So Samantha moves from Manhattan to Brady, Virginia, population 2,200, in the heart of Appalachia. Mattie Wyatt, lifelong Brady resident and head of the town's legal aid clinic, is primed to teach her how to “help real people with real problems.” This is hands-on legal practice. Which becomes more a full-body engagement when Samantha faces tangled small-town secrets and divisive Big Coal. Litigation soon takes a deadly turn... Sounds like Baldacci, no?

Hart, Carolyn G. [Ghost Wanted Signed](#) (Berkley \$28). See Halloween book section above for this latest in the cozy ghost series.

Hart, Ellen. [The Old Deep and Dark](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Hart has been writing mysteries with the lesbian Jane Lawless for some 20 books now and has won both Lambda and Minnesota Book Awards for her work. Here Jane, in the thick of an investigation into a famous country-western singer's family scandal, agrees to help theater director Cordelia Thorn with an unexpected development in the renovation of an historic theater in downtown Minneapolis—there's a body buried in a basement wall. And it's a new one, not related to the Prohibition-era double murder that occurred there and caused the building, then a speakeasy, to be called “The Old Deep and Dark.”

Hoffman, Alice. [The Museum of Extraordinary Things](#) (\$16). Coralie Sardie is the daughter of the sinister impresario behind The Museum of Extraordinary Things, a Coney Island freak show that thrills the masses. An exceptional swimmer, Coralie appears as the Mermaid in her father's “museum,” alongside performers like the Wolfman and the Butterfly Girl. One night Coralie stumbles upon a striking young man taking pictures of moonlit trees in the woods off the Hudson River. The dashing photographer is Eddie Cohen, a Russian immigrant who has run away from his community and his job as a tailor's apprentice. When Eddie photographs the infamous Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, he becomes embroiled in the mystery behind a young woman's disappearance. And he ignites the heart of Coralie.... Signed edition: [The Museum of Extraordinary Things](#) (\$28).

Hoffman, Patrick. [The White Van Signed](#) (Grove \$26). Patrick makes the **October Hardboiled Crime Club** Pick: “A woman on the make in San Francisco meets a Russian businessman in a bar. Thinking that he might be the ticket out of her grim reality, she leaves to party with him. A week later, she finds herself in a drugged stupor, wanted for robbery, and on the run. A dissolute cop hears about the unsolved bank job and decides to retrieve the stolen loot on his own. Desperate, damaged people ruled by their baser desires. What else could you ask for? An addictive noir debut.” With a sharply drawn cast of characters—dirty cops, Russian drug dealers, Chinese black-market traders, street smart Cambodians, and shady entrepreneurs—all take part in this terrifying tour through San Francisco's underbelly.

Johansen, Iris. [The Perfect Witness](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Teresa Casali, daughter of a crime boss and gifted with the ability to read memories, rejected being a pawn and went on the run. She had the perfect new life. The perfect cover as Allie Girard with a new family. She flourishes for years. And then—her cover is blown and she becomes the perfect target. But this time, she won't run....

Lansdale, Joe R. [The Thicket](#) (\$16). Jack Parker thought he'd already seen his fair share of tragedy. His grandmother was killed in a farm accident when he was barely five years old. His parents have just succumbed to the smallpox epidemic sweeping turn-of-the-century East Texas—orphanning him and his younger sister, Lula. Then catastrophe strikes on the way to their uncle's farm, when a traveling group of bank-robbing bandits murder Jack's grandfather and kidnap his sister. With no elders left for miles, Jack must grow up fast and enlist a band of heroes the

likes of which has never been seen if his sister stands any chance at survival. “This latest work reads like a dark version of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and feels like a Coen Brothers movie. It’s the perfect mix of light and dark, with plenty of humor mixed in.” —*Houston Chronicle*

Lippman, Laura, ed. [Best American Mystery Stories 2014](#) (Houghton \$14.95)

MacDonald, John D. [Neon Jungle](#) (Random \$16). Reissue. The constant threat of violence is simply reality for the family that runs Varaki Quality Market. Its patriarch, Gus Varaki, is doing all he can to keep his business afloat after his beloved middle child, Henry, is killed in action. But his oldest son is at a crossroads, his teenage daughter has been seduced by a rough crowd, and one of his employees is running a racket of his own. Only Henry’s despondent widow, Bonny, sees the awful truth—and the deadly plot hanging over all of their heads. Introduction by Dean Koontz. “No writer captured the urban blight that befell postwar America in all its grime and commotion as well as noir legend John D. MacDonald.”

Mayne, Andrew. [Angel Killer](#) (Harper \$14.99). Professional illusionist Mayne uses his background for an unusual detective novel. Jessica Blackwood is an FBI agent who spends her time trying to keep her head down and do good. Born into a family of magicians, she spent the first two decades of her life onstage working to perfect the family craft while dodging her mercurial grandfather’s moods. She left the life and her family when an escape attempt went awry and nearly ended her life. But she is forced to acknowledge her unusual skills when a murderer known as the Warlock stages a series of ghoulish, impossible-seeming crimes. Jessica debunks these as the work of an actual sorcerer: it’s really just a devious and elaborate combination of illusions, much like those she used many years ago. As the FBI draws closer to the killer, however, Jessica begins to suspect she may be in grave danger.

McCullough, Colleen. [Sins of the Flesh](#) (\$16). It’s August 1969 in the sleepy college town of Holloman, Connecticut, and police Captain Carmine Delmonico is away on vacation. Back at home, first one, then two anonymous male corpses turn up, emaciated and emasculated. After connecting the victims to four other bodies, Sergeant Delia Carstairs and Lieutenant Abe Goldberg realize that Holloman has a psychopathic killer on the loose. Luckily, Carmine comes back early from vacation. Carmine’s team begins to circle a trio of eccentrics, who readily admit to knowing all the victims, but their stories keep changing. They share family ties, painful memories, and a dark past. When another vicious murder rocks the town, Carmine faces the revelation that two killers are at large—even as he barely escapes being the next to die....

Meier, Leslie. [French Pastry Murder](#) (Kensington \$25). Norah Hemming, the hostess of a daytime TV show in Tinker’s Cove, Maine, rewards Lucy Stone and three of her friends for their charitable fund-raising efforts with a free trip to Paris, complete with lessons at Le Cooking School from famous pastry chef Larry Bruneau. Adding to Lucy’s delight is the opportunity to spend time with her oldest daughter, Elizabeth, who works as a concierge at Paris’s posh Cavendish Hotel. The four friends plus husbands enjoy the usual tourist activities, until Lucy finds Larry stabbed and barely clinging to life in his classroom. *PW*

adds, “The stakes rise after Elizabeth’s shady roommate vanishes. Those who can overlook the preposterous plot developments will have fun...” with Lucy’s 21st cozy.

Mosley, Walter. [Rose Gold Signed](#) (Knopf \$27). Patrick reviews: “Set in 1967 Los Angeles, amid political upheaval, the escalating Vietnam War, hippies, free love and free drugs, Mosley crafts an unforgettable tale that captures the tense, powder keg feeling of the times. This time out, Rawlins is approached by the LAPD, to investigate the disappearance of Rosemary Goldsmith, daughter of a wealthy arms dealer. “Rose Gold” had been keeping company with young black boxer-turned-political-radical Bob Mantle. Was she kidnapped? Or did she leave willingly and is now trying to extort her millionaire daddy? To say that Easy is ambivalent about taking this case is an understatement, and soon the cops and the FBI are at odds with each other, with Easy in the middle. Mosley is a national treasure and this is one of the great, enduring series in modern fiction.”

Patterson, James/Michael Ledwidge. [Burn](#) (LittleBrown \$28). Michael Bennett. With Maxine Paetro, [Confessions: The Paris Mysteries](#) (Little Brown Teen 18). Teen-age detective Tandy Angel explores dark family secrets in the City of Lights.

Penzler, Otto, ed. [The Black Lizard Big Book of Locked-Room Mysteries](#) (Knopf \$25). “Penzler’s thoughtful introduction makes plain why this intelligently assembled anthology of 68 short stories will be catnip for fair play fans, since the locked-room story “is the ultimate manifestation of the cerebral detective story.” He also notes that while the tales are “astoundingly inventive,” disappointment will be inevitable when the solution is revealed.” This is a wide-ranging collection of the impossible, including murder in sealed environments or by an invisible killer who leaves no footprints in the sand or snow. There are entries by familiar masters of the subgenre—John Dickson Carr, Clayton Rawson, Edward Hoch—as well as by mystery writers better known for other kinds of stories—Dorothy L. Sayers, Erle Stanley Gardner, Georges Simenon, Dashiell Hammett—and even a straight detective story from P.G. Wodehouse. “The real treat is in the revelations of the gifts at misdirection from undeservedly obscure authors such as Julian Hawthorne (Nathaniel’s son), J.E. Gurdon, Augustus Muir, and Vincent Cornier.”—*PW*

Picoult, Jodi. [Leaving Time](#) (Random \$28). The heart of this novel lies with elephants. For more than a decade, Jenna Metcalf has never stopped thinking about her mother, Alice, who mysteriously disappeared in the wake of a tragic accident. Refusing to believe that she would be abandoned as a young child, Jenna searches for her mother regularly online and pores over the pages of Alice’s old journals. A scientist who studied grief among elephants, Alice wrote mostly of her research among the animals she loved, yet Jenna hopes the entries will provide a clue to her mother’s whereabouts. Desperate to find the truth, Jenna enlists two unlikely allies in her quest. The first is Serenity Jones, a psychic who rose to fame finding missing persons—only to later doubt her gifts. The second is Virgil Stanhope, a jaded private detective. I can’t say more, nor make the obvious literary comparison, without spoiling what Picoult wants to achieve for you.

Pitlor, Heidi, ed., [Best American Short Stories 2014](#) (Houghton \$28)

Plame, Valerie/Sarah Lovett. [Burned Signed](#) (Blue Rider/Putnam \$26.95 Nov. 8 by Plame). Covert CIA ops officer Vanessa Pierson has dedicated her career to capturing one man: Bhoot, the world's most notorious nuclear arms dealer. That mission has been impeded by the murders of her assets, who were betrayed by a mole within her own agency. When she narrowly escapes death during a devastating explosion at the Louvre, Vanessa immediately suspects that Bhoot was the architect of the brazen terrorist attack. But when a previously unknown militant group claims responsibility for the bombing and promises even greater carnage, she is forced to rethink her initial assumptions. Especially when she hears from Bhoot!

Rieger, Susan. [The Divorce Papers](#) (\$15). This is a painful narrative, especially if you've been through a divorce, or a cautionary tale if you have not. But the language and style lift this out of chicklit or above revengelit. "*The Divorce Papers*, through its ingenious setup and voyeuristic pleasures, overcomes these hurdles as Rieger excavates the humor and humanity from a most bitter uncoupling... The novel's most distinguishing characteristic is Rieger's modern twist on the epistolary form, the narrative cleverly unfolding through handwritten correspondence, office memos and emails, news articles and legal papers, even floral delivery cards. Rieger... is clearly equipped to handle the legal aspects of the story, as evidenced by the settlement offers and memorandums that document the contentious back-and-forth between the warring parties. But it's in the personal correspondence that she really shows a storyteller's imagination."—*NY Times*.

Stanley, Kelli. [City of Ghosts](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Despite its title this is not a ghost or Halloween-suited crime novel, but the 3rd in the hard-edged Miranda Corbie series. "Full of evocative detail (the scent of Hills Brothers Coffee, the sound of Artie Shaw's 'Frenesi'), *City of Ghosts* has the vigor and pace of a terrific Warner Bros. film noir... Ms. Stanley brings 1940 San Francisco to life in flamboyant language, reminiscent at times of such period prose-poets as radio's Norman Corwin and Bay Area newspaperman Herb Caen."—*The Wall Street Journal*. Stanley says the series is about a world on the brink of cataclysmic changes. About a San Francisco and a California and a 1940 America that the textbooks and movies don't show you. Most of all, the series is about a woman... defeated but not vanquished, shattered but not broken, a Red Cross nurse in a Spain torn apart by Civil War, a paid escort, and now a private investigator in pre-war San Francisco. In the summer of 1940, Miranda not only receives a mysterious postcard purportedly from her long-lost mother but is also courted by the government to help sniff out a Nazi spy hiding in plain sight as an art-loving University of California chemistry professor, Dr. Huntington Jasper. She's torn between devoting all her efforts to tracking down her mother—Stanley slowly unpeels more layers of Miranda's troubled history—and helping her country. Eventually, the State Department's offer, which comes with an enticing bonus that could mean reuniting with her mother, wins out, and Miranda starts uncovering the true nature of Dr. Jasper. Along the way, corpses start popping up, and Miranda herself is even in the frame for murder."—*PW*, summing up for me the best Corbie to date.

Stein, Garth. [A Sudden Light](#) (SimonSchuster \$26.95). In the summer of 1990, 14-year-old Trevor Riddell travels with his

newly separated father Jones Riddell from Connecticut where the family has declared bankruptcy to Riddle House. Built from the spoils of a massive timber fortune, the legendary family mansion is constructed of giant whole trees and is set on a huge estate overlooking Seattle's Puget Sound. It's decaying but still solid. Jones is on a mission to join forces with his sister, Serena, place their ailing, ancient father Samuel to a nursing home, sell off the house and property for development, divide up the profits, and live happily ever after. Trevor explores the house's secret stairways and hidden rooms and senses old secrets. And something at work with a different agenda. What sounds like a ghost story is actually one of family pain and long-buried secrets, more of a cautionary tale I think—but you have to read it to see what I mean.

Twelve Hawks, John. [Spark](#) (Knopf \$25.95). Jacob Underwood is a contract employee of the Special Services Section, a small shadow department buried within the multinational corporation DBG, headquartered in New York City. Jacob is not a businessman—he is a hired assassin whose job is to neutralize problems deemed unacceptable by the corporation. But Jacob is not like other employees, nor is he like other people. After a catastrophic motorcycle accident leaves him with Cotard's syndrome—an actual condition that causes those afflicted to believe they are dead—Jacob perceives himself as nothing but a "Shell," with no emotions and no tether to the concept of right and wrong. Emily Buchanan is a bright young second-year associate for DBG, and she has disappeared without a trace. Suspecting that Emily has stolen either vast sums of money or valuable information from the company, Ms. Holquist, Jacob's handler at DBG, assigns him the task of tracking down the young woman and neutralizing her. Ms. Holquist fails to allow how the assignment may neutralize Jacob....

Waite, Urban. [Sometimes the Wolf Signed](#) (Morrow \$28). Patrick reviews: "Returning to the characters from his acclaimed debut, [The Terror of Living](#) (\$14.99), Waite surpasses the earlier work's promise with this dark, layered novel of fathers and sons, violence and small town secrets. After twelve years in prison, former lawman Patrick Drake is paroled and returns to the small Pacific Northwest town where his family has lived for generations. His son Bobby is now a deputy sheriff and has been trying to put the family shame behind him. When two thugs hit town looking for Patrick and talking about a cache of hidden drug money, things get interesting fast..."

Westlake, Donald E. [The Getaway Car](#) (University of Chicago \$18). "Mystery Writers of America Grand Master Donald Westlake (1933–2008) didn't have an inflated opinion of his own work, as suggested by several of the delightful and revealing selections chosen by editor Stahl. Speaking as Timothy J. Culver, one of his alter egos, he says: "I write what other people want me to write. I'm a hack, I'm making a living." However, Westlake worked diligently at his craft and was employed as an associate editor at the Scott Meredith Literary Agency, which he joined in 1958. He wrote his first short stories there (for \$50 each) and quit the agency after he completed his first "sex novel" for \$600. Westlake's outpouring of half-a-million words in 1959 resulted in 46 short stories and novelettes, 27 of which were published. The author's quick wit is displayed throughout this collection, whether discussing his own fiction or the work of other writers, such as George V. Higgins and Rex Stout. He also touches on his

relationship with films and filmmaking, and with peers such as Lawrence Block and John D. MacDonald. Block contributes an insightful foreword, and Westlake's wife, Abby Adams, offers her perspective on living with Westlake's various selves, as exemplified by his multiple characters and aliases. This is a must-have for Westlake fans."—PW Starred Review. I add that in a piece on Rex Stout, he proclaimed Stout a "far better writing craftsman than Conan Doyle." In an essay on "Hardboiled Dicks," Westlake suggested that Raymond Chandler's "homosexual content" gave his stories their "texture and fascination." Also included is a lengthy list of book titles Westlake never used.

Woods, Stuart. [Paris Match Signed](#) (Putnam \$29). Stone Barrington, NY lawyer to the glitterati and also the politician—including the pregnant Democratic nominee for President, Kate—is also co-owner of the Arrington Hotel empire. And L'Arrington is opening in Paris. Naturally Stone jets over. And naturally he is quickly coopted by the CIA for an assignment. Between bouts of sex with a Frenchwoman who is the sister of the Prefect of the Paris Police and with Holly Barker, plus his former lover Ann on the phone from Kate's campaign HQ, Stone has to keep up his strength with Knob Creek and many meals. This is a kind of male bodice-ripper with Stone working the gears of government along with the CIA's Lance and local personnel. It reads so smoothly you scarcely notice it's like ingesting whipped cream.

Zahler, S. Craig. [Mean Business on North Ganson Street](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Dystopian detection. I give you the *PW* review as I have not read this. "The botched handling of an interview with a distraught man results in Arizona detective Jules Bettinger's forced transfer to the police department in decaying Victory, Mo., a town of 26,000 with an extraordinarily high crime rate. Each of 24 officers "is responsible for a minimum of 700 criminals, 400 to 500 hundred of which have committed violent acts." Bettinger soon discovers that other cops, including his new partner, Dominic Williams, don't play by the rules. Their brutality, which reduced one criminal to a shattered cripple, initiates a war that begins with the murder of two cops and turns Victory into a cratered battleground. When Bettinger's family comes under threat, he descends to the level of his new colleagues. The over-the-top tough guy dialogue wears thin, as does the constant graphic violence. Zahler, a screenwriter about to make his directorial debut, is adapting this book into a movie for Warner Brothers, with both Jamie Foxx and Leonardo DiCaprio attached to the project."

OUR OCTOBER MASS MARKET PICKS

Brandon, Ali. [Literally Murder](#) (Berkley \$7.99). From her Brooklyn bookstore, Darla Pettistone not only sells mysteries, but solves them, aided by her big-boned black cat, Hamlet—who has suddenly pounced into the spotlight after unleashing his fists of furry... After a video of Darla and Hamlet performing at a martial arts tournament goes viral, the Florida chapter of the Feline Society of America invites the "Karate Kitty" to be the guest of honor at their championship cat show in Fort Lauderdale. Upon arrival, Darla discovers that not everyone in the Sunshine State has a sunny disposition. Animal rights activists are on the march, and a cat show contestant stages his own angry protest when his special breed Minx—half Sphynx, half Manx—doesn't win. Then Hamlet disappears—only to be found next a dead man's body.

Connolly, Sheila. [Picked to Die](#) (Berkley \$7.99). It's harvest time in Granford, Massachusetts, and orchard owner Meg Corey and her fiancé, Seth, are both racing to beat the New England winter. Meg is bringing in her apple crop with a team of workers, while Seth is working to restore an old building in the center of town. But when his project is set back due to the unexpected discovery of a skeleton under the building—and even worse, a young man related to one of Meg's former apple pickers is found dead behind the local feed store—the couple's carefully laid plans are quickly spoiled... Meg can't help but wonder: are they just unlucky, or is there something rotten in Granford? Orchard Mystery #8, perfect for the season.

Crais, Robert. [Suspect](#) (\$9.99). *Kirkus* reviews: "Trained in bomb sniffing in Afghanistan, German Shepherd Maggie is not sent to live out her life on the farm, but instead teamed up with trauma-stricken, guilt-ridden LAPD officer Scott James, who, like Maggie, has lost his partner in action. The difference is that Maggie's handlers know who the bad guys were, whereas James has to go Rambo and find out who shot up him and his friend. The answer, revealed after a sequence of carefully plotted, well-described episodes, won't come as a surprise to anyone who's read James Ellroy's *L.A. Confidential*, though the resolution is more up-to-date. The story takes in vast swaths of Los Angeles in all its multicultural glory, with baddies in the drug and diamond and policing businesses alike." I put this in our Picks for you dog lovers.

Gerber, Daryl Wood. [Stirring the Plot](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Halloween in Crystal Cove, California, is a big deal, involving a spooky soiree where the Winsome Witches, a fund-raising group, gather to open up their purse strings and trade superstitions. But party magicians, fortune-tellers, and herbalists are only the beginning of this recipe for disaster Jenna Hart has packed The Cookbook Nook chock-full of everything from ghostly texts to witchy potions in anticipation of the annual fund-raiser luncheon. But there's one unexpected addition to the menu: murder. When the Head Priestess of the Winsome Witches is found dead under mysterious circumstances, there's no logical answer and plenty of blame to go around.

Hess, Joan. [Murder As a Second Language](#) (\$7.99), I enjoyed this a lot. So did *PW* which writes, "In Hess's winning 19th Claire Malloy mystery), Claire's daughter, Caron, and Caron's best friend, Inez, sign on as ESL tutors so they can put community service on their college applications. Claire also tries to volunteer at the Farberville, Ark., Literacy Council, but she winds up instead joining the board of directors. One of the ESL students, elderly Ludmila Grabowski, is found dead in a council storage room, and it appears as though she fell and hit her head against a copying machine, but someone appears to have dragged her body into a corner to try to conceal it. Claire's new husband, Deputy Chief Peter Rosen, actually asks for her help in what becomes a murder case—which is a good thing, since she's going to snoop anyway. Claire discovers that her fellow board members had plenty to hide as she investigates with her usual humor and panache."

Khoury, Raymond. [Rasputin's Shadow](#) (\$9.99). FBI special agent Sean Reilly is tasked with a delicate case. A Russian diplomat seems to have committed suicide by jumping out of a sixth-floor window in Queens, New York. The apartment's owners are

missing, while a faceless killer known only as Koschey—"the Deathless"—is roaming the city and leaving a trail of death in his wake. Joined by Russian FSB agent Larisa Tchoumitcheva, Reilly's investigation soon uncovers a deadly, desperate search for a mysterious device whose origins reach back in time to the darkest days of the Cold War and to Imperial Russia. A device that, in the wrong hands, could have a devastating impact on our world. Packed with the twists and suspense, the impeccable historical research, and the present and past story lines that Khoury's fans have come to expect

Lowry, Jackson. [The Great West Detective Agency](#) (Berkley \$7.99). On the run from some sore poker losers, gambler Lucas Stanton ducks into an office housing the "Great West Detective Agency"—followed by a client who mistakes him for a sleuth. Amanda Baldrige lives in one of Denver's more well-to-do neighborhoods, and someone has snatched Tovarich, her Russian wolfhound puppy. Unable to resolve this case of mistaken identity—and unwilling to refuse the up-front cash from such a lovely patron—Lucas agrees to find the purloined pooch. But what he believes to be easy earnings for an absurd request becomes a riskier proposition when Lucas finds himself in the crosshairs of the wealthy and powerful Jubal Dunbar, who has already set his sights on Colorado's governorship—and on the missing mongrel...

Maden, Mike. [Drone](#) (Berkley \$9.99). A First Mystery Pick in hardcover. Troy Pearce is the CEO of Pearce Systems, a private security firm specializing in drone technologies. A former CIA SOG operative, Pearce used his intelligence and combat skills to hunt down America's enemies—until he opted out, having seen too many friends sacrificed for political expediency. Now Pearce and his team choose which battles they will take on. Pearce is done with the United States government for good, until a pair of drug cartel hit men assault a group of American students on American soil. New U.S. president Margaret Myers secretly authorizes Pearce Systems to locate and destroy the killers wherever they are. Now Pearce and his team are in a showdown with the hidden powers behind the El Paso attack—unleashing a host of unexpected repercussions. A brilliant read...Mike Maden's trail of intrigue will captivate you from page one!"—Clive Cussler. See Event Books for Troy Pearce #2.

Reed, Hannah. [Off Kilter](#) (Berkley \$7.99). After the recent death of her mother and the dissolution of her marriage, thirty-something Eden Elliott is seriously in need of a fresh start. At the urging of her best friend, bestselling author Ami Pederson, Eden decides to embark on an open-ended trip to the picturesque village of Glenkillen in the Scottish Highlands, to do some hands-on research for a book of her own. But almost as soon as Eden arrives in the quaint town, she gets caught up in a very real drama. The town's sheep shearer is found murdered—clipped with his own shears—and the locals suspect Vicki MacBride, an outsider whose father's recent death left her the surprise heir to his lucrative sheep farm. Eden refuses to believe the affable heiress is a murderer, but can she prove that someone is out to frame her new friend. The first in a brand-new series, in which a young writer finds herself swept up in a murder amidst the glens and lochs of the Scottish Highlands...

Reich, Christopher. [The Prince of Risk](#) (\$9.99). "The newest financial thriller from the best-selling author Reich brings

espionage to the New York Stock Exchange. Bewildered by a text message that was sent to him by his estranged father right before his sudden death, Bobby, head of the investment firm Comstock Partners, launches an investigation which entangles him in a conspiracy plot against an unknown U.S. target. Meanwhile, Bobby's ex-wife Alex, a supervisory special agent and head of CT-26, finds an investigation of an arms smuggler in Long Island leading her into the very same conspiracy. The story is propelled forward by short, fast-paced chapters which keep the reader's eyes glued to the page. Reich is akin to Dan Brown in that he has an everyman hero uncover an extravagant conspiracy." About money, which is not just fun but you learn something!

Sandford, John. [Storm Front](#) (\$9.99). Sandford has a fling with Virgil and a religious icon/Dan Brown sort of thing in a hugely successful and satisfying story. An ancient relic is unearthed during an archaeological dig. A Minnesota college professor is keeping a secret that could change the world's history as we know it. For Virgil Flowers, the link between the two is inescapable. I love the way bestseller Sandford works to change up his game and keep his books exciting and surprising. For Virgil's new escapade, see Event Books.

Sears, Michael. [Mortal Bonds](#) (\$9.99). Ex-Wall Street trader, ex-con, and devoted father to an autistic son, Jason Stafford first appeared in First Mystery Club Pick [Black Fridays](#) (\$9.99), "one of the year's finest crime debuts"—*Booklist*. Now, he goes to work for the wealthy family of a financial criminal. William von Becker's multibillion-dollar fund was limited to only the luckiest investors. Or so they thought. After the house of cards collapses and the disgraced von Becker commits suicide in prison, his family asks Jason Stafford to find out where the money is—and who is targeting them with attempted kidnappings. There are plenty of angry suspects to take a look at. But with roughly three billion of von Becker's ill-gotten dollars floating around somewhere, there are other interested parties as well. They're determined. They're powerful. And they're not nearly as polite as the Feds...

NEW IN MASS MARKET PAPERBACK

Blake, Heather. [One Potion in the Grave](#) (\$7.99). Magic Potion Mystery #2

Castle, Richard. [Deadly Heat](#) (\$9.99)

Childs, Laura. [Gilt Trip](#) (\$7.99). Scrapbooking Mystery #11

Clancy, Tom/Mark Greaney. [Command Authority](#) (\$9.99) Jack Ryan #4

Collins, Max Allan. [Ask Not](#) (Forge \$9.99)

Coulter, Catherine. [Final Cut](#) (Jove \$9.99)

Garrison, Paul. [Robert Ludlum's the Janson Option](#) (Grand Central \$10)

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

Hart, Carolyn G. [Ghost Gone Wild](#) (\$7.99) Bailey Ruth Ghost Novel

James, Miranda. [Bless Her Dead Little Heart](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Southern Ladies Mystery #1

Kelly, Sofie. [A Midwinter's Tail](#) (Signet \$7.99) Magical Cats #6

Logan, Kylie. [The Legend of Sleepy Harlow](#) (\$7.99). League of Literary Ladies #3

Ludlum, Robert. [Aquitaine Progression](#) (Random \$9.99)

Lustbader, Eric Van. [Beloved Enemy: A Jack McClure Novel](#) (\$9.99)

Macdonald, Siobhan. [Twisted River](#) (Osprey \$7.99) Suspense

links Manhattan with Limerick, Ireland
 Margolin, Phillip. [Worthy Brown's Daughter](#) (\$9.99) Historical thriller/slavery in the new Oregon frontier
 Martin, Carol Anne. [Weave of Absence](#) (Signet \$7.99). A Weaving Mystery
 Martin, George RR, ed. [Dangerous Women Vol. 1](#) (\$7.99)
 Mrazek, Robert. [Valhalla](#) (Signet \$9.99) Thriller in Greenland with Norse archaeology and a runic code
 Newman, Dan. [The Journalist](#) (Osprey \$7.99) Suspense
 Patterson, James. [Christmas Wedding](#) (\$8)
 Patterson, James. [Cross My Heart](#) (\$10)
 Rowland, MK. [Murder off the Beaten Path](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Search & Rescue Mystery #2
 Washburn, Livia. [The Fatal Funnel Cake](#) (\$7.99). Fresh-Baked Mystery #8
 Wilson, Valerie Plame. [Blowback](#) (\$9.99) Vanessa Pierson #1 with Sarah Lovett
 Woods, Stuart. [Standup Guy](#) (\$9.99). Stone Barrington

Reissues

Block, Lawrence. [A Walk Among the Tombstones \(Movie Tie in\)](#) (\$7.99)
 Connelly, Michael. [Lost Light](#) (\$10)
 Grey, Zane. [Spirit of the Border](#) (\$9.99)
 Rowling, J K. [Casual Vacancy](#) (\$10)
 Slaughter, Karin. [Undone](#) (\$7.99)

Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Paranormal

Castle, Jayne. [Hot Zone](#) (\$7.99) Rainshadow Book #3
 Farrey, Brian. [Shadowhand Covenant](#) (\$7.99)
 Gaiman, Neil. [Fortunately, The Milk](#) (\$5.99)
 Gaiman, Neil. [Graveyard Book Commemorative Edition](#) (\$9.99)
 Galenorn, Yasmine. [Priestess Dreaming](#) (\$7.99)
 Hunter, Faith. [Broken Soul: A Jane Yellowrock Novel](#) (\$7.99)
 Kirkman, Robert. [Walking Dead: The Fall of the Gove](#) (\$7.99)
 McDermott, Andy. [Valhalla Prophecy](#) (\$9.99)
 Ward, JR. [King](#) (\$7.99)

Women's Fiction

Carr, Robyn. [Homecoming](#) (\$7.99)
 Chapman, Janet. [Highlander Next Door](#) (\$7.99)
 Foster, Lori. [No Limits](#) (\$7.99)
 Gibson, Rachel. [What I Love About You](#) (\$7.99)
 Leigh, Lora. [Ultimate Sins](#) (\$7.99) Callahan's Book #4
 Norton, Carla. [Edge of Normal](#) (\$7.99)
 Putney, Mary Jo. [Not Quite a Wife](#) (\$7.99)

HISTORY/MYSTERY

✦Ackroyd, Peter. [Civil War: The History of England Volume III](#) (Macmillan \$46). US Title is *Rebellion* – James I to the Glorious Revolution
 ✦Barron, Stephanie. [Jane and the Twelve Days of Christmas Signed](#) (Soho \$25 Nov. 22). Christmas Eve, 1814: Jane Austen has been invited to spend the holiday with family and friends at The Vyne, the gorgeous ancestral home of the wealthy and politically prominent Chute family. As the year fades and friends begin to gather beneath the mistletoe for the twelve days of Christmas festivities, Jane and her circle are in a celebratory mood: Mansfield Park is selling nicely; Napoleon has been banished to Elba; British forces have seized Washington, DC; and on Christmas Eve, John Quincy Adams signs the Treaty of Ghent, which will end a war nobody in England really wanted.

But one of the Yuletide revelers dies in a tragic accident, which Jane immediately views with suspicion. If the accident was in fact murder, the killer is one of Jane's fellow snow-bound guests. With clues scattered amidst cleverly crafted charades, dark secrets coming to light during parlor games, and old friendships returning to haunt the Christmas parties, whom can Jane trust here?

Mullan, John. [What Matters in Jane Austen](#) (Berkley \$18), And Sinead Murphy, [The Jane Austen Rules: A Classic Guide to Modern Love](#) (Melville \$15.95). Two additions to the ever-expanding Janeworld.

✦Buckland, Raymond. [Dead for a Spell](#) (Berkley \$15). March 1881. The Lyceum is abuzz with the news that American actor Edwin Booth is going to be sharing the stage with their own Shakespearean star, Henry Irving. But stage manager Harry Rivers has other matters preoccupying him. One of the regular actresses has disappeared, and after a disturbing tarot card reading, Harry's boss, Bram Stoker, is convinced that something wicked is coming their way. When the poor girl's body is found, Stoker's suspicions prove to be founded—the murder scene is riddled with strange clues that Stoker recognizes as the trappings of an occult ritual. Someone is conjuring up a pernicious plot against cast and crew of the Lyceum, and if Harry doesn't track down the slaying sorcerer quickly, it could spell disaster for those he holds dearest...

✦Colquhoun, Kate. [Did She Kill Him?](#) (Overlook \$27.95). In the summer of 1889, young Southern belle Florence Maybrick stood trial for the alleged arsenic poisoning of her much older husband, Liverpool cotton merchant James Maybrick. The "Maybrick Mystery" had all the makings of a sensation: a pretty, flirtatious young girl; resentful, gossiping servants; rumors of gambling and debt; and tor-rid mutual infidelity. The case cracked the varnish of Victorian respectability, shocking and exciting the public in equal measure as they clambered to read the latest revelations. But, did she kill him? Addiction, deception, adultery....

Chiaverini, Jennifer. [Mrs. Lincoln's Rival](#) (\$16). Beautiful, intelligent, regal, and entrancing, young Kate Chase Sprague stepped into the role of establishing her thrice-widowed father, Salmon P. Chase, in Washington society as a Lincoln cabinet member and as a future presidential candidate. How did that play with Mrs. Lincoln? Here is a look at her through a different lens...

✦Cornwell, Bernard. [The Empty Throne Signed](#) (Collins \$45). The Warrior Chronicles, Book 8, most likely will arrive in Nov. What will be the fate of his great hero, Uhtred of Bebbanburg? The forces of Wessex and Mercia have united against the Danes, but instability and the threat of Viking raids still hang heavy over Britain's kingdoms. For Aethelred, Lord of the Mercians, is dying, leaving no heir and the stage is set for rivals to fight for the throne. Uhtred of Bebbanburg, Mercia's greatest warrior, has always supported Athelflaed to be Mercia's next ruler, but will the aristocracy ever accept a woman as their leader? Even one who is Aethelred's widow and sister to the king of Wessex? As the Mercians squabble and the West Saxons try to annex their country, new enemies appear on the northern frontier. The Saxons desperately need strong leadership, but instead they are fighting for an empty throne and threatening to undo the unity and strength they have fought so hard to achieve.

At the same time, the bicentenary of Waterloo in 2015 inspires Cornwell to pen his first work of nonfiction: [Waterloo Signed](#) (Collins \$50). On the 18th June, 1815 the armies of France, Britain and Prussia descended upon a quiet valley south of Brussels. In the previous three days the French army had beaten the British at Quatre Bras and the Prussians at Ligny. The Allies were in retreat. The blood-soaked battle of Waterloo would become a landmark in European history, to be examined over and over again, not least because until the evening of the 18th, the French army was close to prevailing on the battlefield. Now, brought to life by the celebrated novelist Bernard Cornwell, this is the chronicle of the four days leading up to the actual battle and a thrilling hour by hour account of that fateful day. “Cornwell combines his storytelling skills with a meticulously researched history to give a riveting account of every dramatic moment, from Napoleon’s escape from Elba to the smoke and gore of the battlefields. Through letters and diaries he also sheds new light on the private thoughts of Napoleon and the Duke of Wellington, as well as the ordinary officers and soldiers.” I can also recommend a work of fiction that illuminates aspects of Waterloo: Georgette Heyer’s [An Infamous Army](#) (\$14.95).

✦Erickson, Carolly. [The Spanish Queen](#) (\$15.99). A version of Catherine of Aragon’s tragic marriage to Henry VIII.

Freeman, Philip. [Saint Brigid’s Bones](#) (Pegasus \$24.95). In ancient Ireland, an island ruled by kings and druids, the nuns of Saint Brigid are fighting to keep their monastery alive. When the bones of Brigid go missing from their church, the theft threatens to destroy all they have worked for. No one knows the danger they face better than Sister Deirdre, a young nun torn between two worlds. Trained as a bard and raised by a druid grandmother, she must draw upon all of her skills, both as a bard and as a nun, to find the bones before the convent begins to lose faith. Readers of Peter Tremayne and Cora Harrison, take note.

Goodwin, Doris Kearns. [The Bully Pulpit](#) (\$22) ... gives us “revealing portraits of Theodore Roosevelt and his close friend, handpicked successor and eventual bitter rival, William Howard Taft... Ms. Goodwin uses the Roosevelt and Taft presidencies to view timely issues through the prism of the early 20th century, prompting us to reconsider the ways political dynamics have, and have not, changed.”—*NY Times*

Gwynne, SC. [Rebel Yell](#) (Scribner \$28). Stonewall Jackson today remains a figure of almost mythical proportions and embodies the more heroic elements of the Southern cause. Gwynne, in a primarily chronological narrative, reveals him to have been an early master of modern mobile warfare and a clear-eyed interpreter of what modern “pitiless war was all about.” In 1861, Jackson was “part of that great undifferentiated mass of second-rate humanity who weren’t going anywhere in life.” But underneath his efflorescent eccentricities, he was “highly perceptive and exquisitely sensitive,” as well as an “incisive and articulate observer.” In the spring of 1862 those qualities shaped the brilliant Shenandoah Valley campaign that reinvigorated a stagnant Confederate war effort and established him as the “most famous military figure in the Western world.”

✦Hadlow, Janice. [A Royal Experiment the Private Life of King George III](#) (Holt \$35). Beautifully written, impeccably researched, this heartbreaking narrative of family dysfunction and royal sacrifice is an absolute page-turner.” —Amanda

Foreman, author of *Georgiana: Duchess of Devonshire and A World on Fire*. “Truly engrossing. George III and his relatives give us the ultimate family saga; it almost defies belief that these events really happened. A real-life period drama to lose yourself in.”

—Lucy Worsley, Chief Curator at Historic Royal Palaces

✦Horowitz, Anthony. [Moriarty](#) (Orion \$53 Signed Limited Edition with ribbon marker). The sequel to *House of Silk*, a Sherlock Holmes case.

Illies, Florian. [1913: The Year Before the Storm](#) (Melville \$16.95). It was the year Henry Ford first put a conveyor belt in his car factory, and the year Louis Armstrong first picked up a trumpet. It was the year Charlie Chaplin signed his first movie contract, and Coco Chanel and Prada opened their first dress shops. It was the year Proust began his opus, Stravinsky wrote *The Rite of Spring*, and the first Armory Show in New York introduced the world to Picasso and the world of abstract art. It was the year the recreational drug now known as ecstasy was invented. It was 1913, the year before the world plunged into the catastrophic darkness of World War I....

✦Irwin, Michael. [The Skull and the Nightingale](#) (\$14.99). A Georgian tale. See Our October Trade Paperback Picks.

✦Jones, Dan. [Wars of the Roses](#) (Viking \$36). From the fall of the Plantagenets to the Ascendancy of the Tudors, here is the historical backdrop for *Game of Thrones*. The crown of England changed hands five times over the course of the fifteenth century, as two branches of the Plantagenet dynasty fought to the death for the right to rule. Basically the descendants of Henry II and Eleanor tore the royal family apart, allowing an unlikely king to gain the throne.

Kent, Kathleen. [Outcasts](#) (\$16). It’s the 19th century on the Gulf Coast, a time of opportunity and lawlessness. After escaping the Texas brothel where she’d been a virtual prisoner, Lucinda Carter heads for Middle Bayou to meet her lover, who has a plan to make them both rich, chasing rumors of a pirate’s buried treasure. Meanwhile Nate Cannon, a young Texas policeman with a pure heart and a strong sense of justice, is on the hunt for a ruthless killer named McGill who has claimed the lives of men, women, and even children across the frontier. As Lucinda and Nate’s stories converge, guns are drawn, debts are paid—and maybe a new life is forged.

King, Ross. [Michelangelo and the Pope’s Ceiling](#) (\$18). A reissue of the bestseller focused on the Sistine Chapel, commissioned in 1508.

Kinzer, Stephen. [Brothers: John Foster Dulles, Allen Dulles](#) (\$17.99). During the 1950s and the height of the Cold War, the Secretary of State and the Director of the CIA led the US into “an unseen war” that is still shaping our world. It’s always interesting to read history one actually lived through....

Larson, Edward J. [The Return of George Washington 1783-1789](#) (Harper \$29.99). After leading the Continental Army to victory in the Revolutionary War, George Washington shocked the world: he retired. In December 1783, General Washington, the most powerful man in the country, stepped down as Commander in Chief and returned to private life at Mount Vernon. Yet as Washington contentedly grew his estate, the fledgling American experiment floundered. Under the Articles of Confederation,

the weak central government was unable to raise revenue to pay its debts or reach a consensus on national policy. The states bickered and grew apart. When a Constitutional Convention was established to address these problems, its chances of success were slim. Jefferson, Madison, and the other Founding Fathers realized that only one man could unite the fractious states: George Washington. Reluctant, but duty-bound, Washington rode to Philadelphia in the summer of 1787 to preside over the Convention. Here is how he shaped it and how his willingness to serve as President secured its adoption.

Lawhon, Ariel. [The Wife, the Maid, and the Mistress](#) (\$15.95). Stella Crater, Judge Crater's wife, is the picture of propriety draped in long pearls and the latest Chanel. Ritzi, a leggy showgirl with Broadway aspirations, thinks moonlighting in the judge's bed is the quickest way off the chorus line. Maria Simon, the dutiful maid, has the judge to thank for her husband's recent promotion to detective in the NYPD. Meanwhile, Crater is equally indebted to Tammany Hall leaders and the city's most notorious gangster, Owney "The Killer" Madden. On a sultry 1930 summer night, as rumors circulate about the judge's involvement in wide-scale political corruption, the Honorable Joseph Crater steps into a cab and disappears. After 39 years of necessary duplicity, Stella Crater is finally "ready to reveal what she knows" in this novel based on Crater's real-life disappearance. The book is less fascinating than this celebrated and still unsolved case, so read it as nonfiction

Leveen, Lois. [Juliet's Nurse](#) (Atria \$25.99). Romeo and Juliet is my least favorite of Shakespeare's plays. I once watched a production set in Ludlow against the ancient's castle's walls in the moonlight but even that atmosphere didn't draw me in. What can I say? Here is a retelling of the ill-fated Verona-based romance told from the perspective of Juliet's nurse who entered the Cappelletti household as a wet nurse to Juliet as a baby. Her grief at her own baby's death and the history of her charge plays against the feuds, politics, and rivalries of the city.

MacGregor, Neil. [Shakespeare's Restless World](#) (\$18). View it through A History of 100 Objects. And in the same vein: Doyle, Peter. [World War I in 100 Objects](#) (Picador \$30)

MacInnes, Helen. [Home is the Hunter](#) (\$9.95). After years of war and still more years of travelling, Ulysses finally returns to his beloved Ithaca, penniless and alone. Rather than the joyous welcome he had hoped for, he finds his palace full of quarrelling suitors, all scheming to possess his wife and his land. Meanwhile the beautiful Penelope is speculating on why it should take any man seven years to get home. As the couple find their way back to each other, Homer becomes increasingly irritated that they are not adhering to the plot of his new book, and Athena, the Goddess of Reason, has had enough of irrational mortal behavior. Finally, what really happened on that historic day in 1177 BC can be revealed....

Maclean, Rory. [Berlin: Portrait of a City Through the Centuries](#) (St Martins \$27.99).

Maxwell, Alyssa. [Murder at Marble House](#) (Kensington \$15). Newport, Rhode Island became an Edwardian playground for America's super rich. Especially the Vanderbilts, two branches of dueled building palatial homes and ruling society. Emma Cross, from a cadet branch, owns a Newport home left to her by an aunt and has a stake in her family home. In summer of 1895

her terrifying Aunt Alva summons her to the Marble House to help persuade young Consuelo Vanderbilt to accept the suit of the (nearly broke) Duke of Marlborough, a society wedding that will crown newly divorced Alva's ambition. Emma reluctantly agrees. Next thing she knows Consuelo has disappeared and murder strikes. Rob and I visited Newport and the two Vanderbilt mansions last fall so I can say that Maxwell does an excellent job with Newport's history and real as well as fictional characters. [Murder at the Breakers](#) (\$15) comes first.

Meltzer, Brad. [I Am Albert Einstein](#) (Delacorte \$12.99). The latest short biography in Meltzer's series of same.

Michener, James. [Alaska](#) (\$15.95) and [Hawaii](#) (\$17). Reissues.

Nethercott, Michael. [The Haunting Ballad](#) (St Martins \$25.99). "In his rollicking second outing with the sleuthing duo of Plunkett and O'Nelligan, Nethercott offers readers a wonderfully entertaining spin on the classic PI genre. Set in the Greenwich Village of the early beat era, rich with fascinating, detailed references to that time and place, and featuring two of the most mismatched and delightful protagonists you're likely to stumble upon these days..."—William Kent Krueger

Raybourn, Deanna. [Night of a Thousand Stars](#) (Harlequin \$14.95). Jazz Age adventure and danger. On the verge of a stilted life as an aristocrat's wife, Poppy Hammond does the only sensible thing—she flees the chapel in her wedding gown. Assisted by the handsome curate who calls himself Sebastian Cantrip, she spirits away to her estranged father's quiet country village, pursued by the family she left in uproar. But when the dust of her broken engagement settles and Sebastian disappears under mysterious circumstances, Poppy discovers there is more to her hero than it seems. With only her feisty lady's maid for company, Poppy secures employment and travels incognito—east across the seas, chasing a hunch and the whisper of clues. Danger abounds beneath the canopies of the silken city, and Poppy finds herself in the perilous sights of those who will stop at nothing to recover a fabled ancient treasure. Torn between allegiance to her kindly employer and a dashing, shadowy figure, Poppy will risk it all as she attempts to unravel a much larger plan—danger that stretches to the very heart of the British government.

Russell, S. Thomas. [Until the Sea Shall Give Up Her Dead](#) (Putnam \$27.95). Master and Commander Charles Hayden has received fresh orders that take him and the *HMS Themis* to the Caribbean, with instructions to meddle with French shipping to the colonies. While en route, they rescue two Spanish castaways who beg for help fleeing from a vengeful family situation. Hayden agrees to do what he can, though it's soon clear his two new guests aren't exactly what they seem. Arriving in the lawless Caribbean seas, Hayden and *Themis'* crew find themselves torn between the forces of reckless English captains, conflicts between royalist and revolutionary Frenchmen, and Spanish ships that are enemies to both England and France. And when someone very dear to him is kidnapped, Hayden may sacrifice everything in a reckless pursuit to save her.

Seward, Desmond. [Eleanor of Aquitaine](#) (Pegasus \$27.95). The life of this great heiress, first Queen of France, then of England, would be shrugged off as unbelievable if appearing in fiction. No matter how many studies and novels and plays you encounter, some new aspects of her life await you.

✂Sansom, CJ. [Lamentation Signed](#) (Macmillan \$45). Summer, 1546. King Henry VIII is slowly, painfully dying. His Protestant and Catholic councilors are engaged in a final and decisive power struggle; whoever wins will control the government of Henry's successor, eight-year-old Prince Edward. As heretics are hunted across London, and the radical Protestant Anne Askew is burned at the stake, the Catholic party focuses its attack on Henry's sixth wife, Matthew Shardlake's old mentor, Queen Catherine Parr. Shardlake, still haunted by events aboard the warship *Mary Rose* the year before, is working on the Cotterstoke Will case, a savage dispute between rival siblings. Then, unexpectedly, he is summoned to Whitehall Palace and asked for help by his old patron, the now beleaguered and desperate Queen. For Catherine Parr has a secret. She has written a confessional book, *Lamentation of a Sinner*, so radically Protestant that if it came to the King's attention it could bring both her and her sympathizers crashing down. But, although the book was kept secret and hidden inside a locked chest in the Queen's private chamber, it has—inexplicably—vanished. Only one page has been found, clutched in the hand of a murdered London printer. Shardlake's investigations take him on a trail that begins among the backstreet print shops of London but leads him and Jack Barak into the dark and labyrinthine world of the politics of the royal court; a world he had sworn never to enter again. The theft of Queen Catherine's book proves to be connected to the terrible death of Anne Askew, while his involvement with the Cotterstoke litigants threatens to bring Shardlake himself to the stake.

✂Shepherd, Lynn. [The Pierced Heart](#) (Random \$26). When an Austrian nobleman offers a substantial donation to the Oxford's Bodleian Library, Charles Maddox is called on to investigate the bona fides of the benefactor. It is a decidedly mundane task for the increasingly renowned criminal investigator, but Maddox welcomes the chance to trade London's teeming streets for the comforts of a castle in the Viennese countryside. Comfort, however, is in short supply once Maddox steps onto foreign soil—and into the company of the mysterious Baron Von Reisenberg. OK, it's Dracula here, maybe derivative, but the prose is elegant. 3rd for Maddox.

Smith, Richard Norton. [On His Own Terms: A Life of Nelson Rockefeller](#) (Random \$38). Fourteen years in the making, this magisterial biography of the original Rockefeller Republican draws on thousands of newly available documents and over two hundred interviews, including Rockefeller's own unpublished reminiscences of a man, grandson of oil magnate John D. Rockefeller, who coveted the White House from childhood. A question: why was Joe Kennedy more successful with his clan? Arguably, because Rockefeller stuck with the wrong party...the wrong fit.

✂Stapleton, Victor. [Jack the Ripper](#) (Osprey \$17.95). Stapleton reviews what evidence there is, explores the cases of all of the primary suspects, both those that were part of the original police investigation, and those that have been named by later writers and theorists. And then Stapleton maps the transition of Jack from a historical figure into a character of folklore, literature, and cinema. Truth is, we will never know the truth about Jack and the legend keeps evolving.

✂Sykes, Sarah. [Plague Land Signed](#) (Hodder \$42). Sykes brilliantly evokes the landscape and people of medieval Kent in this first novel. See First Novels.

Twigger, Robert. [Red Nile: A Biography of the World's Greatest River](#) (St Martins \$29.99). Twigger connects the comprehensive history of the Nile with his personal experience of living in Egypt while researching the Nile's historical origins. Twigger covers the entirety of the river, charting the length of the Nile from its disputed origins through Africa on a whirlwind tour of the rulers, explorers, conquerors, generals, and novelists who painted the Nile "red." Both comprehensive and intimate, this narrative guides readers through history by way of the world's longest river, one whose rhythms are predictable. As Twigger says, "For all its floods and famines and small tantrums, this is a river you can rely on."

Ward, Geoffrey C. [The Roosevelts](#) (Knopf \$60). The companion volume to the seven-part PBS documentary series on the political dynasty. 796 photographs, some never before seen.

✂Weaver, Ashley. [Murder at the Brightwell](#) (St Martins \$24.99). A debut set on England's south coast in a country hotel. Our **British Crime Club Pick for October**.