

BOOKNEWS from

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

Volume 26, Number 11

November Booknews 2014

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Happy Thanksgiving to All...

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 1 7:00 PM Craig Johnson signs [Wait for Signs: 12 Longmire Stories](#) (Viking \$22)

MONDAY NOVEMBER 3 7:00 PM Support our Military Christopher Kelly signs [America Invades](#) (AI \$29.95) 5% of AI sales go to military charities. Barrett Tillman joins in and will sign copies of his three outstanding military histories: The Forgotten Fifteenth (Regnery \$29.99); The D-Day Encyclopedia (\$18.99); US Marine Corps Fighter Squadrons of WWII (Osprey \$25.95) [Click here](#) to order them

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4 7:00 PM Vote first!
CB McKenzie signs [Bad Country](#) (St Martins \$24.99 Nov. 4) Debut; Hillerman Prize Winner
T Jefferson Parker signs [Full Measure](#) (St Martins \$25.99)

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5 7:00 PM Doors Open 6:00 PM
Books at the Biltmore, 2400 E. Missouri, Phoenix
Michael Connelly signs [The Burning Room](#) (LittleBrown \$27.95) Harry Bosch

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8 10:30 AM
Coffee and Crime discusses Joe Dicker's [The Truth about the Harry Quebert Affair](#) (\$18)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8 2:00 PM A Cupcake Cozy!
Annette Mahon signs [Bright Hopes](#) (Five Star \$25.95) St Rose Quilting Bee

Jenn McKinlay signs [On Borrowed Time](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Library Lovers #5
And Lea Wait drops by to sign [Shadows on a Maine Christmas](#) (Penguin \$15.95) Antiques prints specialist Maggie Summer

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9 2:00 PM
Stuart Neville signs [Final Silence](#) (Soho \$26.95) Dublin's Jack Lennon, and [Belfast Noir](#) (Akashic \$15.95)

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11 7:00 PM
Scottsdale Library 3839 N. Drinkwater Lower Level
Douglas Preston signs [Blue Labyrinth](#) (Grand Central \$27)
Agent Pendergast Signed also by Lincoln Child who joins us by Skype

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 12 7:00 PM
F Paul Wilson signs [Fear City](#) (Forge \$25.99) Repairman Jack #18

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15 2:00 PM
Weston Ochse signs [Reign of Evil: A Seal Team 666 Novel](#) (St Martins \$25.99)

MONDAY NOVEMBER 17 7:00 PM
John Connolly signs [Wolf in Winter](#) (Atria \$26) Charlie Parker Comes with CD of original music

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 18 7:00 PM
Laurie R. King and Leslie Klinger sign [In the Company of Sherlock Holmes](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). With story signed by Connelly as well as King and Klinger.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20 7:00 PM
Hardboiled Crime discusses Vern Smith's [The Jones Men](#) (\$15.95)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 2:00 PM Jane Austen Christmas Party, Eggnog!
Stephanie Barron signs [Jane and the Twelve Days of Christmas](#) (Soho \$25 Nov. 22) Get the "Host a Jane Austen Christmas Party" app by [clicking here](#)
Charles Finch signs [The Laws of Murder](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Nov. 22) Victorian sleuth Charles Lenox

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 23 1:00 PM Could be rescheduled
Anne Perry signs [A New York Christmas](#) (Random \$18) A holiday novella and [Blood on the Water](#) (Random \$26) William Monk
3:00 PM Perry teaches a Writers Workshop
\$50 Keep Your Story Strong and Moving Compellingly

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 27
Closed for Thanksgiving

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 29 Small Business Saturday
Celebrate The Pen's 25th with Rhys Bowen, Dana Stabenow, and us
AND at 2:00 PM, Dana Stabenow signs [By the Shores of the Middle Sea Book II of Silk and Song](#) (Gere \$14.95)

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30 2:00 PM A Western
Filmmaker Eric Heisner signs [West to Bravo](#) (Skyhorse \$22.95)

TUESDAY DECEMBER 2 7:00 PM
Gini Koch signs [Universal Alien](#) (Daw \$7.99)

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3 7:00 PM
Lisa Scottoline signs [Betrayed](#) (St Martins \$27.99) Rosato & Associates

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6 10:30 AM
Coffee and Crime discusses [Christmas at the Mysterious Bookshop](#) (\$15.95)

EVENT BOOKS

Barron, Stephanie. [Jane and the Twelve Days of Christmas](#) (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. The Vyne is situated near the rectory where live Jane Austen's clerical brother James and his second wife. Jane is thrilled to move from the discomforts of the rectory (James is notably stingy) to the comforts of a country home. Her mother and Cassandra, ditto. As the year fades and friends begin to gather beneath the mistletoe for the twelve days of Christmas festivities, the house party, except for James' pill of a wife, is in a celebratory mood...until murder strikes. Barron really puts her talent for edgy satire into the narrative. It's almost like Austen noir.... In its Starred Review, *PW* writes, On the Feast of St. Stephan, Lt. John Gage arrives at the Vyne from Ghent, bearing the signed peace treaty that has ended the War of 1812. The next day, Gage breaks his neck after falling from his horse, and the treaty disappears. Vivid characters propel the subtle plot to its surprising conclusion. The first-person narration captures Austen's tone as revealed in her letters: candid, loving, and occasionally acerbic." This is understatement—"Jane" really pillories her sister-in-law Mary, clerical brother James' second wife. Also James who is tight-fisted and sees what he wishes. [Click here](#) to order earlier Jane Austens.

Connelly, Michael. [The Burning Room](#) (LittleBrown \$28 Nov. 5).). I gave you my review in October; you can go back to that Booknews to read it. Here is the new *PW* Starred Review: "An autopsy opens Edgar-winner Connelly's superb 19th Harry Bosch mystery. Orlando Merced, a mariachi musician, was transformed into a symbol for urban violence by an opportunistic mayoral candidate when he was wounded a decade earlier, a random victim of a drive-by shooting. Merced's death prompts a reexamination of the case, and Bosch and his young new partner, Lucia Soto, get to work. With his usual deftness, Connelly links the Merced shooting to an act of arson—an apartment fire that killed nine on the same day—and returns to his perennial themes: local politics, the media, the LAPD's internecine warfare, and, of course, Los Angeles itself, from the wealthy enclaves of Mulholland Drive to the barrios of East L.A." I say again that 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.

Connolly, John. [The Wolf in Winter](#) (Atria \$26 Nov. 17). Charlie Parker, dangerous PI, arrives in Prosperous, Maine. The community 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 Parker to Prosperous Has Parker been marked to die so that Prosperous may survive? Come with CD of original music by Connolly, called "Ghosts." Those who bought the (sold out) UK edition will get one upon request with your next book shipment.

Copperman, E.J. [Inspector Specter: Haunted Guesthouse Mystery #6](#) (Berkley (\$7.99 Dec. 10). Detective Lieutenant Anita McElone is one of Harbor Haven's finest. She's also a hard-boiled ghost skeptic. So when she shows up on the doorstep of Alison Kerby's Haunted Guesthouse to ask for supernatural help in solving the murder of her former partner, it's hard to tell which woman is more flabbergasted. But McElone is dead serious, so Alison promises to help in any way she can—even asking her resident ghosts, Paul and Maxie, for help with the case. As Paul's spirit source reveals some troubling information about the deceased detective, Alison wrestles with what to tell McElone. First, though, she has to find her

Finch, Charles. [The Laws of Murder](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Nov. 22). I'm a fan of Charles Lenox, a man in the Lord Peter Wimsey tradition (once LPW married Harriet, not when he was a silly ass early in the game). It's 1876 and Lenox, once London's leading private investigator, is trying to find his footing after giving up his seat in Parliament (to find out why, read his last case: [An Old Betrayal](#) (\$15.99; \$15.99 Signed), which is fascinating about parliament and politics and Disraeli). With three colleagues he's formed an agency, but it's a hard slog for Lenox. Has he been off the game too long, or is someone sabotaging his new start? A chance to become a player arrives when, tragically, a friend, a member of Scotland Yard, is shot near Regent's Park. Near the elegant home of a man Lenox considers to be truly evil. As Lenox begins to parse the peculiar details of the death – an unlaced boot, a days-old wound, an untraceable luggage ticket – he realizes that the incident may lead him into grave personal danger, Lady Jane and his loved ones as well. One reason I love this series is that each book—this is the 8th—propels you toward the next.

Heisner, Eric. [West to Bravo](#) (Skyhorse \$22.95 Nov. 30). Post Civil War, the vacated military presence in west Texas is on the rise to protect the waves of settlers moving into the region. Living peaceably with the Mescalero Apache, half-breed former military scout Holton Lang promotes the tentative harmony between the US cavalry and the Native American population. But when the delicate peace between the two nations is broken, Holton is asked to negotiate a new agreement with the US military at Fort Davis. Angered by Holton and his respected position in the Apache camp, brave Stalking Wolf joins other hostile warriors in bloody warfare against the white settlers and blue-coated military. Leaving behind his Apache wife and the domestic life he was building, Holton journeys back to his former home in white civilization for talks of peace. The battle becomes personal. The publisher says, "Written in the style of the traditional John Ford/John Wayne cavalry pictures, *West to Bravo* evokes an era of classic Western fiction and paints an exciting and touching tale of one man stuck in the middle of a terrible conflict."

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).

Kelly, Christopher. [America Invades](#) (AI \$29.95). The author writes, “The nature of what constitutes an invasion has, of course, changed dramatically over the years. The old cry of “Send in the Marines!” could, in the days of cyber-warfare, be replaced by “Send in the nerds!” Should the introduction of a computer virus be considered an invasion? In the end, we decided to define an “American invasion” as an “armed attack or intervention in a country by American forces.” Christopher Kelly and Stuart Laycock take you on a global tour of America's military activity around the world from the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli and everywhere in-between. Comes with personal photos, maps, and index. This is a good time to remind everyone that we host a wide variety of authors whose views do not necessarily match our own. It's important that The Pen be more than a store—it is a meeting place and home to debate and learning.

King, Laurie R./Klinger, Leslie S., eds. [In the Company of Sherlock](#) (Pantheon \$24.95 Nov. 18). Note: Michael Connelly's story is Signed. “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.

King also signs [The Bones of Paris](#) (\$16), [The Beekeeper's Apprentice 20th Anniversary Edition](#) (\$25 or \$16). **And click here to order the new Mary Russell/Sherlock Holmes novel, [Dreaming Spires](#) (\$26), signed here Feb. 28 at a Mary Russell Day!**

Klinger also signs [The New Annotated HP Lovecraft](#) (\$39.95); [The New Annotated Dracula](#) (\$39.95); [The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes Novels](#) (\$59.95) and [The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes Stories](#) (\$95), all from W.W. Norton.

Koch, Gini. [Universal Alien](#) (Daw \$7.99 Dec. 2). 10th in this scifi/adventure series. The process of saving her planet – yet again – is violently interrupted when Kitty is thrown into an alternate reality. “Aliens, danger, and romance make this a fast-paced, wittily-written scifi romantic comedy.” —*Library Journal*. [Click here](#) to order the first 9 Aliens.

Mahon, Annette. [Bright Hopes](#) (Five Star \$25.95 Nov. 8). What are those loud explosions erupting during hot July night in Scottsdale? Maggie Browne's heart sinks when she opens the door to find a policeman—her son is a local cop. But Michael Browne is injured, not dead. Then a man does die when one blast topples a roof on to the chair where he lies sleeping. The women of the St. Rose Quilting Bee, short on sleep thanks to the nighttime bangs, think bored teens may be playing with fireworks. Edie is thinking terrorists—but targeting what? Her friends scoff until a bomb at a power station throws the entire neighborhood into darkness (and no air conditioning!)....

McKenzie, CB. [Bad Country](#) (St Martins \$24.99 Nov. 4). The

2014 Tony Hillerman Prize winner and a First Mystery Club Pick. “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. 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...” —*PW*. “*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

McKinlay, Jenn. [On Borrowed Time](#) (Berkley \$7.99 Nov. 8) Library Lovers #5. Loving a good cup of coffee runs in the family for Briar Creek library director Lindsey Norris. But when her globetrotting, playboy brother, Jack, a consultant for a coffee company, goes missing, her favorite beverage becomes a key clue in a dangerous mystery. Afraid that involving the police could brew trouble for Jack, Lindsey takes matters into her own hands. But as her quest for her brother embroils her in a strange case involving South American business dealings and an enigmatic and exotic woman, it'll take the help of both her library book club—the crafternooners—and her eager-to-please suitors to keep Jack from ending up in hot water... Jenn has many mysteries in print—[click here](#) to order.

Neville, Stuart. [The Final Silence](#) (Soho \$26.95 Nov. 9). Memories of Belfast's troubled history haunt every street corner, but for one tortured soul, the incredible violence in his past is also his most cherished legacy. Rea Carlisle—daughter of influential Stormont politician Graham Carlisle—has inherited a house from an uncle she never knew. While cleaning it out, she 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... [Click here](#) to order earlier books by Neville.

Neville is the co-editor of [Belfast Noir](#) (Akashic \$15.95) and will sign copies. 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.

Nichols, Amy. [Now That You're Here](#) (Knopf \$16.95 Dec. 14). A YA debut from a James Sallis student earns a coveted Starred Review: “Danny Ogden is a graffiti artist for an extremist sect when an explosion thrusts him into a Phoenix classroom on a parallel Earth—ours. Eevee Solomon, 15, is his only connection to home; a romantic acquaintance in his semi-totalitarian dimension, she's a brilliant science nerd in this one, and perhaps the only person who can help him return to his world. Debut novelist Nichols explores this jarring turn of events from both characters' perspectives as a disoriented Danny muddles through a world where his parents are dead while Eevee must reconcile that the Danny who tormented her best friend has been replaced by a boy

with whom she's falling in love. Nichols infuses the story with a smattering of science fiction and science fact, while making a welcome departure from the stereotype of the book-smart outcast trying to fit in. These geeks own their intelligence like a badge of honor, using science to help a friend and explore strange new worlds. Riveting in its own right, the story sets the stage for a mirror-image sequel, which will follow the other Danny and Eevee. Ages 12–up.”

Ochse, Weston. [Reign of Evil: A Seal Team 666 Novel](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Nov. 13). This exuberant vampire series is a favorite of our staffer Pat King. Fun more than collectible but rumor has it a film is in the works.... 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... 3rd in series.

Parker, T. Jefferson. [Full Measure](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Nov. 4). 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

Perry, Anne. [A New York Christmas](#) (Random \$18), one of her holiday novellas. Tentatively scheduled for Nov. 23 but it depends on Perry's visa status. Eventually she will return to The Pen to sign, we just can't promise when. When she does arrive she will sign September's William Monk mystery, [Blood on the Water](#) (Random \$26), with its wonderful that could jump a century and be relevant today, and teach her Writers Workshop. Please check our website for updates.

Preston, Douglas/Lincoln Child. [Blue Labyrinth](#) (Grand Central \$27 Nov. 11). Agent Pendergast slowly came back to life in [White Fire](#) (\$10; \$27) after the terrible events of [Two Graves](#) (\$10; 4 Signed at \$26.95). And now he's back in Manhattan with his ward Constance when one of his most relentless enemies shows up at the door—as a corpse. It's a perfect murder—but for one clue: the dead man has a bit of turquoise lodged in his stomach. This leads Pendergast west to the bleak Salton Sea (a fabulous landscape and history) and an abandoned mine. Nevertheless a long-buried family secret eventually surfaces with wide-

ranging repercussions. Constance gets a co-starring role in this wickedly plotted addition to the bestselling Pendergast novels. Don't overlook the pair's 3rd Gideon Crew, [Lost Island](#) (Grand Central \$27), and Preston's solo [Kraken Project](#) (Forge \$26.99).

Scottoline, Lisa. [Betrayed](#) (St Martins \$27.99 Dec. 3). Scottoline, a Philly lawyer herself, has clearly loved creating the all-women firm Rosato & Associates, then giving the various lawyers therein starring roles in her legal thrillers. This time out it's gutsy Judy Carrier, who has yet to make partner and chafes at Bennie Rosato's control—and especially at being assigned 75 asbestos case referrals. It's big bucks, but boring work. Plus Mary DiNunzio, newly minted partner, has her mind on her upcoming wedding. Judy's down and sinks lower when a call from her beloved Aunt Barb reveals a breast-cancer diagnosis—and Judy's disapproving mother's arrival from Santa Barbara. And then Barb's caregiver, Iris, a Hispanic who works part-time in the local mushroom industry, is murdered. And leaves unexplained stashes of cash.... There are major surprises as this unusual case unfolds—don't think this is a girlfriends' book—and you will enjoy Judy's end game. [Click here](#) to order other Scottoline fare.

Stabenow, Dana. [By the Shores of the Middle Sea](#) (Gere \$14.95 Nov. 29). Silk and Song Vol. II after Vol. I: [Everything Under the Heavens](#) (\$14.99) where 16-year old Johanna fled Cambaluc—and her murderous stepmother—to join her uncle's westbound caravan on the Silk Road. With her foster brother Jaufre and a few faithful companions, they made it to the rooftop of the world—Terak Pass—separating Mongol China from the scattered sheikdoms of the Persian Empire. Then, disaster struck. Now Johanna is a prisoner in the harem at Talikan, with Baron Ogo-dei's army pillaging the countryside and preparing to sack the tiny Persian enclave. In Kabul, thousands of leagues to the south, Jaufre lies recovering from his near-fatal wound. Their journey has taken them thousands of miles from home, yet thousands more lie between them and Gaza, where Johanna and Jaufre once meant to take ship for Venice and the sanctuary of Johanna's grandfather Marco Polo's family. Gaza and Venice: two cities on opposite shores of the Middle Sea that together open a door to the West. For Johanna and Jaufre, it's a passage that will shape their destiny, if only they can reach it (hence Vol. III in 2015).

Wilson, F. Paul. [Fear City](#) (Forge \$25.99 Nov. 12). Repairman Jack #18. Set in 1993, the riveting chronicle of Jack's early years finds the score-settling “fixer” living in Manhattan, straddling the boundary between both sides of the law. “A brutal murder catalyzes the collision of several subplots developed in Jack's two previous outings, notably the Ancient Septimus Fraternal Order's backing of Muslim extremists, whose passion for bringing jihad to America sets them on course to bomb the World Trade Center. Jack loses several people dear to him in the destruction of the Twin Towers, and is witness to interrogations that come close to being torture porn, discovering just how cruelly the darkness inside him can express itself. Wilson skillfully cross-cuts between characters and their viewpoints as the clock ticks down to the exciting climax. If, as the author's note suggests, this may be the last Repairman Jack adventure, Wilson has certainly sent the series off with a bang,” says *PW*. Say it ain't so, Paul. [Click here](#) to order earlier work by Wilson

Wait, Lea. [Shadows on a Maine Christmas](#) (Perseverance \$15.95)

A new case combining blackmail and murder plus romantic developments for antiques prints specialist Maggie Summer. There's a wonderful Victorian in the Maine town, perfect for a kind of antiques mall. Wait also signs a children's fiction: [Uncertain Glory](#) (iBook \$16.95).

GIFT IDEAS

Please check the numerous gift books in History/Mystery...and elsewhere

Ackroyd, Peter. [Charlie Chaplin](#) (Knopf \$25.95). The versatile—and indefatigable—Ackroyd pens one of his insightful biographies.

Binchy, Maeve. [Maeve's Times: In Her Own Words](#) (Knopf \$26.95). Enjoy five decades of selected writings from the *Irish Times* by the bestselling author who described herself as “an accidental journalist.”

Brotton, Jerry. [A History of the World in 12 Maps](#) (\$20). Beginning with Ptolemy's Geography and ending with the satellite-powered behemoth of Google Earth, Brotton examines a dozen world maps from around the globe and through the centuries to trace the long road to our present geographical reality. Perfect for map and history buffs like me, and beautifully illustrated, this was a big UK hit

Brown, Dan. [Inferno: Special Illustrated Edition Signed](#) (Knopf \$40 tip-ins). Designed for holiday gift giving. Harvard professor of symbology Robert Langdon awakens in a hospital in the middle of the night. Disoriented and suffering from a head wound, he recalls nothing of the last thirty-six hours, including how he got there . . . or the origin of the macabre object that his doctors discover hidden in his belongings. Langdon's world soon erupts into chaos, and he finds himself on the run in Florence with a stoic young woman, Sienna Brooks, whose clever maneuvering saves his life. Langdon quickly realizes that he is in possession of a series of disturbing codes created by a brilliant scientist—a genius whose obsession with the end of the world is matched only by his passion for Dante Alighieri's dark epic poem *The Inferno*. Over 200 color illustrations.

Bush, George W. [41](#) (Crown \$28). A biography of the senior Bush president by the younger Bush president.

Datlow, Ellen. [The Cutting Room: Dark Reflections of the Silver Screen](#) (Tachron \$16.95). “Superstar editor Datlow makes no missteps in this reprint collection of dark tales involving movies and moviemaking. The one original piece, Stephen Graham Jones's “Tenderizer,” is a haunting exploration of tragedy on both a personal and national level. A.C. Wise's “Final Girl Theory,” about a cult film that's an “infection, whispered from mouth to mouth in the dark,” is disturbing and gory without fetishizing its horrors. Kim Newman's brilliant “Illimitable Dominion” tells an alternate history of Edgar Allen Poe, Roger Corman, and American International Pictures that's particularly suited to film buffs who will probably spot the (initially) subtle changes to the time line.”—*PW* Starred Review

Editors of Garden and Gun. [Good Dog](#) (Harper \$25.99). The 51 true stories in the anthology are from notable writers—novelists, journalists and humorists—most of whom have a connection to the South and whose lives have been affected, for better or worse, by dogs. The anthology divides into five sections: The Trouble-

makers, Afield, Man's Best Friend, Family Ties and Life Lessons. Some essays are profound, such as “Swim Team” by Dominique Browning, about teaching a frightened Labrador retriever to follow his natural aquatic instincts.” Comic relief infuses several essays, such as “Fetch Daddy a Drink,” in which P.J. O'Rourke draws clear parallels between training gun-dogs and raising children. In “The Trophy Huntress,” Jonathan Miles offers a send-up of his quirky, wanna-be bird-dog who loved guns more than birds. These touching stories make a wonderful gift. On the feline front: Erspamer, Lisa. [A Letter to My Cat: Notes to Our Best Friends](#) (Crown \$25). Alongside beautiful four-color photos of their cats, Erspamer collects personal letters from celebrities offering love and gratitude to feline friends.

Flynn, Gillian. [The Complete Gillian Flynn](#) (Crown \$43). Her three unusual novels: *Dark Places*; *Gone Girl*; *Sharp Objects*.

Follett, Ken. [Winter of the World Boxed Set](#) (Putnam \$150). The trilogy.

Gaffigan, Jim. [Food: A Love Story](#) (Crown \$26). Bacon. McDonald's. Cinnabon. Hot Pockets. Kale. Stand-up comedian and author Jim Gaffigan has made his career rhapsodizing over the most treasured dishes of the American diet. Fans flocked to his New York Times bestselling book *Dad is Fat* to hear him riff on fatherhood but now, in his second book, he will give them what they really crave—hundreds of pages of his thoughts on all things culinary. You can read this as an Awful Warning about what you eat—or for fun. On a healthier note: Ann Mah, [Mastering the Art of French Eating](#) (\$16).

And don't forget my all-time favorite for foodies: Ruth Reichl's [Comfort Me with Apples](#) (\$16), her journey to becoming a food critic, editor of *Gourmet*, and now author of fiction with [Delicious](#) (\$27).

Garfield, Simon. [To the Letter: A Celebration of the Lost Art of Letter Writing](#) (\$18). Give it to your kids with a package of thank-you note cards.

Gooderham, Wayne. [Dedicated to... Signed](#) (Bantam UK \$25) Used book ephemera reveal hidden stories and loves. Charming, a nice gift for the bibliophile. Pair it with Charlie Lovett's [The Bookman's Tale](#) (\$16) where such an item, a portrait, is a plot point.

Harkness, Deborah. [All Souls Trilogy Boxed Set](#) (Viking \$98). An elegant trilogy combining history and the paranormal.

Isaacson, Walter. [The Innovators](#) (SimonSchuster \$35). How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution. Plenty to consider here.

Munro, Alice. [Family Furnishings](#) (Knopf \$30). Selected stories from Canadian Munro, the winner of the 2013 Nobel Prize in literature.

Paul, Pamela, ed. [By the Book: Writers on Literature and the Literary Life from The New York Times Book Review](#) (Holt \$28). The Nov. Indie Next Pick on a nice gift for the book lover: “I love talking about books, and reading this collection of wonderful By the Book columns from *The New York Times Book Review* was like getting to have dozens of such conversations with my favorite authors. I learned what David Sedaris would give the president to read, what Ira Glass thinks of guilty pleasures, and who Donna Tartt admires. There's a wide selection of interview-

ees, including some non-authors, and it's fascinating to see how many of their answers overlap. Whether read in short bursts or in one decadent gulp, this is the perfect gift for bibliophiles!"

✠Perry, Anne. [Anne Perry's Christmas Crimes: Two](#) (Random \$15). "A Christmas Homecoming" gives the lead to Charlotte Pitt's mother Caroline, on holiday with her young husband Joshua Fielding in Whitby. "A Christmas Garland" finds young Lieutenant Victor Narraway in 1857 India, soon after the violent siege of Cawnpore, where a luckless medical orderly has been arrested in the death of a prison guard. New for 2014, [A New York Christmas](#) (Random \$18). The year is 1904. Twenty-three-year-old Jemima Pitt, the daughter of Thomas Pitt, head of Britain's Special Branch, is crossing the Atlantic. She is traveling with an acquaintance, Delphinia Cardew, who is to marry the aristocratic Brent Albright in a high-society New York wedding—a grand affair that will join together two fabulously wealthy families, titans of the international financial world. But Jemima senses a mysterious shadow darkening the occasion. Missing from the festivities is Delphinia's mother, Maria.... If Perry gets her visa, she will sign these for you.

Sharpe, John. [Las Posada Turquoise Room Cookbook Signed](#) (\$40). Acclaimed chef Sharpe signed this mouthwatering and gorgeously color photographed volume for me when I stopped in Winslow for a night at the renovated Santa Fe Railroad hotel and managed both dinner and breakfast in his extraordinary restaurant. Did I mention the bar where the Ruby Margarita is peerless? This is a marvelous gift for any foodie. Also fans of Route 66. Dana and I are indulging in an overnight in mid-December before Rob and I depart for South Africa, so we can get more. But don't count on it—order now while we have it.

Sussler, Betsy, ed. [Bomb: The Author Interviews](#) (Soho \$40). This essential new anthology from *Bomb* magazine offers a rich trove of author interviews. The 35 selections span 30 years, revealing many of the subjects at the height of their fame: Jonathan Franzen in 2001, Martin Amis in 1987, and Kathy Acker in 1983, to name a few. The interviews are not conducted with nameless interlocutors—rather, they're conversations between colleagues: Lydia Davis talks with Francine Prose, Junot Díaz with Edwidge Danticat, Jeffrey Eugenides with Jonathan Safran Foer, and Tobias Wolff with A.M. Homes. The collection format makes it easy to dip in—readers may succumb to the temptation to skip right to a favorite author's interview. Insights abound, with some writers revealing intensely personal feelings and others focusing on books, writing, and broader ideas about literature

Vandermeer, Philip. [Burton Barr](#) (University of Arizona \$40). Burton Barr represented north central Phoenix in the Arizona House of Representatives for the twenty-two years from 1964 to 1986. As the Republican House Majority Leader for twenty of those years, he left his fingerprints on every major piece of legislation during those decades, covering such issues as air pollution, health care for indigents, school aid, the tax code, prison reform, child care, groundwater management, and freeway funding. Burton Barr's political life unfolded during the very time his state and region shifted from being outliers to trendsetters. His influence and his life as viewed by Professor Vandermeer. The Phoenix Central Library is named for Mr. Barr.

Zafon, Carlos Ruiz. [Shadow of the Wind](#) (Penguin \$25). A reissue of the Barcelona authors' fabulous bibliomystery in hardcover, perfect for the gifting season. I think of it and *The Name of the Rose* together, different eras and landscapes, but fearlessly imaginative. Thank the Lord I made it a First Mystery Club Pick when it originally published.

Zamperini, Louis. [Don't Give Up, Don't Give In](#) (Harper \$22.99). Lessons from the extraordinary life of the WWII war hero who was the subject of Laura Hillenbrand's bestseller, *Unbroken*.

Zoellner, Tom. [Train: Riding the Rails](#) (\$16). A veritable Walt Whitman of rail travel" is how historian Richard Rhodes characterized the author of this book. Zoellner—coauthor of the bestselling *An Ordinary Man*—travels the globe to tell the story of the sociological and economic impact of the railway technology that transformed the world—and could very well change it again. From the frigid trans-Siberian railroad to the antiquated Indian Railways to the Japanese-style bullet trains, Zoellner offers a stirring story of this most indispensable form of travel. A masterful narrative history, *Train* also explores the sleek elegance of railroads and their hypnotizing rhythms, and explains how locomotives became living symbols of sex, death, power, and romance.

And some celebrity books:

Cumming, Alan. [Not My Father's Son](#) (Harper \$26.99). The No. 1 Nov. Indie Next Pick: "Every so often reading a memoir feels like a conversation rather than a strict narrative or — the death knell for memoir — a self-indulgent romp down memory lane. Cumming's memoir is a gorgeous, intimate conversation and it reads beautifully. The pace is perfect, the presentation truly lovely, and I felt like a close friend rather than an impersonal audience. Cumming's early life was a struggle and he hardly shies from relating details, but the driving force behind this book is the demonstration of the many ways one can bring oneself to peace after hardship."

Huston, Anjelica. [Watch Me](#) (Scribner \$27.99)

Idol, Billy. [Dancing with Myself](#) (Tor \$28)

Levy, Shawn. [De Niro: A Life](#) (Crown \$33)

Poehler, Amy. [Yes, Please](#) (Harper \$28.99)

Shields, Brooke. [There Was a Little Girl](#) (Dutton \$26.95)

Tyson, Mike. [Undisputed Truth](#) (\$18)

FIRST NOVELS

Black, Robin. [Life Drawing](#) (Random \$25). Owen and Augusta, a writer and a painter, respectively, have retreated from their former cosmopolitan life in Philadelphia to a rural idyll in a farmhouse, hoping to devote themselves to their work. Soon, however, a neighbor, Alison Hemmings, moves into a nearby rental. At first, Augusta and Alison get along famously, but then Alison's early-20s daughter, Nora, arrives for a visit and becomes infatuated with Owen. "A brutal yet tender look at marriage and creative partnership that hums with thriller-like tension"—*The Bookseller* UK. "In her debut novel, Black skillfully conveys the way a long-term relationship can so easily shift between love and affection and a petty tallying of old hurts and disappointments. In addition, she delivers a hair-raising portrait of a poisonous female friendship. Full of emotional turmoil yet subtle in its effect, this elegant novel is sure to draw in both women's-fiction and literary-fiction fans."—*Booklist*

Cantero, Edgar. [The Supernatural Enhancements](#) (Knopf \$26.95). Taking the title from a phrase used in Edith Wharton's classic ghost story "Afterward," the author employs an original narrative method involving diary entries, transcriptions from both audio and video recordings, letters, security footage, and even advertisements to move the action along. The novel begins with twentysomething A. inheriting a mansion in Virginia from an unknown distant cousin. Accompanying A. is Niamh, a mute Irish teenager; together they investigate the odd nature of Axton House, the home of the Wells family for several generations, and the rumors that it is haunted and was the site of ghoulish meetings throughout the years. Letters written in code lead to hidden rooms and treasures. Once the duo discovers a society that was run by the last Wells family member, the world as they know it begins to break down. Using sophisticated code-breaking techniques, they learn of quests that could prove the existence of ghosts and the supernatural. "Cantero's fresh, original prose style and the steady flow of twists, turns, and code breaking will have mystery, thriller, and supernatural fans glued to their seats until they reach the electrifying conclusion."

Geary, Valerie. [Crooked River](#) (Harper \$25.99). Still grieving the death of their mother, Sam and Ollie McAlister move to rural Oregon to live with Bear, their teepee-dwelling, beekeeper father. But shortly after they arrive a young woman is found dead floating in the river and the police arrest their eccentric father as the prime suspect. The sisters know Bear isn't the murderer, and are greeted by "shimmerings" that tell them the same. The Indie Next Pick adds, "Debut author Geary has written an engaging psychological thriller set in rural Oregon. After their mother's sudden death, Sam and Ollie McAlister move to live with their recluse beekeeper father, Bear, in a tepee in the middle of a meadow. Shortly after their arrival, a young woman is found dead in the nearby river and their father is arrested for the murder. Both girls know their father is innocent — younger Ollie has been shown the real killer by the spirits that only she can see — and the sisters take it into their own hands to prove it. This debut is a family story, a ghost story, and a mystery that readers will be thinking about long after the last page."

Olsson, Fredrik T. [Chain of Events](#) (LittleBrown \$26). The Signed UK hardcover made our October Thriller Club Pick. A group of elite scientists and mathematicians have been holed up in a remote European castle for more than 50 years. Led by a British military strategist known only as Connors, they have been trying to crack a complex code discovered in human DNA that appears to prophesy disaster for Earth—unrelenting plague, followed by worldwide conflagration. The time is getting close, and the scientists, stymied for decades in their attempt to redirect the code, have resorted to kidnapping other experts, including Swedish cryptologist William Sandberg, in a last-ditch try to save humanity. It's fun if more high-concept than credible.

Walker, Casey. [Last Days in Shanghai Signed](#) (Consortium \$26). This edgy first novel delivers a scathing indictment of congressional politics as it follows a young aide on a business trip to China. Walker's smart writing on a host of issues, including China's frenzied construction boom, which has paved over ancient traditions block by block, and the sorry state of American politics, gives this cautionary tale *frisson*." —*Booklist*. Walker's shockingly plausible literary debut...[turns] an outrageous tale of embezzlement into a rollicking moral drama." — *PW* Starred Review for our **Dec. Thriller Club Pick**.

Willis, Lynn Chandler. [Wink of an Eye](#) (St Martins \$24.99). The winner of the 2014 St Martins/PWA Best First Private Eye Novel Competition is filled with low-key humor I found charming. PI novels more often showcase street-smart dialogue but Gypsy Moran's voice is both ironic and rueful. The Vegas PI has crossed someone dangerous so, despite his wish never to return to hometown Wink, Texas, here he is at his sister Rhonda's door. They are close having been deserted by their father (or did he run off, a thread in the plot?) when very young. And Rhonda sees Gypsy's arrival as perfectly timed: she wants him to take on a 12-year-old client whose father has been ruled a suicide. Why would a deputy sheriff hang himself in the backyard rather than eat a bullet? And what about his work on eight missing girls, a huge number considering the small local population? Gypsy reluctantly agrees to snoop. This brings hostile officers of the law into his life as well as his unforgettable (now married) high school flame and an ambitious, sexy reporter. This is neither a cozy nor a romance; neither is it hardboiled fiction nor noir. In its Starred Review, *LJ* says, "this engrossing debut is told with a great eye for the gritty details of life in west Texas. The setting is extremely well done, and the twisty, compelling plot will keep readers hooked. Gypsy is a likable hero, but his sexual exploits will be his downfall." I plan to pursue Signed copies but can't yet confirm them.

BRITISH BOOKS

Berry, Julie. [The Scandalous Sisterhood of Prickwillow Place](#) (Roaring Brook Press \$15.99). You might think this confection—with bite—about seven pupils at St. Etheldreda's School for Young Ladies left with a bothersome dilemma when first their tyrannical headmistress, Mrs. Plackett, and then her surly brother, Mr. Godding, drop down on the table, poisoned, at Sunday dinner, is intended for a Young Adult audience. And you'd be right—and also wrong. Recommended to me through chuckles by a lawyer from Dallas, I agree that this tale of how the students bury the two corpses in the garden and fake their way through a birthday party and the horrors of Victorian housework unsupervised is adult fare. It's a nice little hardcover, handsomely designed, and with some delightful artwork. Do not miss this gem as a gift, or for your own reading pleasure.

While Natalia Fenollera's [The Awakening of Miss Prim](#) (SimonSchuster \$15) takes place in a remote French village where British Miss Prudencia Prim with four advanced degrees has answered an advertisement for the post of librarian at the big house in San Ireneo de Arnois, it makes an excellent companion read as both novels are about awakenings, curiosity, education, and savoring every moment. I loved this one too.

Christie, Agatha. [The Big Four](#) (\$12.99); [Dead Man's Folly](#) (\$12.99each). Reissues of two Hercule Poirot brain teasers.
Dunn, Jane. [Daphne Du Maurier and Her Sisters](#) (\$15.99). "In biography, families are the soil out of which character grows," biographer of Virginia Woolf and Vanessa Bell, in this study of novelist Daphne Du Maurier and her much lesser-known siblings: elder sister, Angela, who wrote two memoirs and a novel about lesbian love, and youngest sister, Jeanne, who became a visual artist. Born to prominent theater family, they grew up among a glamorous set in Edwardian London before moving to Cornwall. Sheltered by their conservative parents, the sisters created a world of make believe and depended on another for companionship. Dunn's eager, if repetitive narrative follows the sisters as

they discover their place in the world...”—*PW*. One can see how difficult it is to be the child of a famous parent—here, actor Gerald Du Maurier, himself the son of an artist.

Frank, Matthew. [If I Should Die Signed](#) (Joseph \$36). I have somehow failed to convey my enthusiasm for Constable Joseph Stark, once handsome and now scarred war veteran and newly minted cop at London’s Met. He’s a terrific character with compelling voice and is working a gripping case. I find Stark more dimensional than Mark Billingham’s Tom Thorne, less jaded than other British police protagonists. In ways he reminds me of Helen Mirren’s portrayal in *Prime Suspect*, or of SJ Bolton’s policewoman Lacey Flint. This is a first novel—I was prevented from making it a FMC Pick by not enough available Signed firsts. Don’t miss it whether you are a fan of British crime fiction or no. “A gripping murder story ... Frank brilliantly maintains a balance between the demands of a complex plot and his character’s difficulty in returning to civilian life ... an accomplished first novel (*Sunday Times*)

Fraser, Anthea. [Justice Postponed](#) (Severn \$27.95). The 9th Rona Parrish mystery. Ordered upon Request.

Griffiths, Elly. [The Zig Zag Girl Signed](#) (Quercus \$40). When the body of a girl is found, cut into three, Detective Inspector Edgar Stephens is reminded of a magic trick, the Zig Zag Girl. The inventor of the trick, Max Mephisto, is an old friend of Edgar’s. They served together in the war as part of a shadowy unit called the Magic Men. Max is still on the circuit, touring seaside towns in the company of ventriloquists, sword-swallowers and dancing girls. Changing times mean that variety is not what it once was, yet Max is reluctant to leave this world to help Edgar investigate. But when the dead girl turns out to be known to him, Max changes his mind. Another death, another magic trick: Edgar and Max become convinced that the answer to the murders lies in their army days. When Edgar receives a letter warning of another ‘trick’, the Wolf Trap, he knows that they are all in the killer’s sights.... Starts a new series by the author of the nearly magical cases featuring Ruth Galloway, a Cambridgeshire archaeologist.

James, Peter. [Want You Dead](#) (St Martins \$26.99). “Bryce Laurent, a violent narcissist who can’t bear to see ex-girlfriend Red Westwood dating someone else, rents an apartment nearby, and spies on her using the night-sights of his crossbow and several bugging devices. Shortly after Red’s new boyfriend, Dr. Karl Murphy, fails to show up for a date, the police question her about his disappearance, while also enquiring after Laurent, against whom Red has a restraining order. When a group of golfers discover a badly burned corpse, Grace gets on the case. The author is unflinching in his descriptions of domestic abuse, and paints a vivid picture of Brighton with daily life punctuated by cigarettes, booze, and greasy food. A subplot involving Grace’s vanished wife, Sandy, will please series regulars.”—*PW* on the 10th for the Brighton copper. New in paperback: [Dead Man’s Time](#) (\$16.99)—also two Signed Firsts (\$30).

Kerr, Philip. [January Window Signed](#) (Zeus \$35). 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? Set in the glamorous but corrupt world of Premier League football, this is a gripping thriller. Kerr told me at dinner last May that he was inspired by attached 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.

Malliet, GM. [A Demon Summer Signed](#) (St Martins \$25.99; 3 Signed copies remain). This charming and just sufficiently quirky English village series gets spice from the handsome Rev. Max Tudor’s previous life as an agent of MI6. And his romance with Awena, the owner of the village’s New Age center. Before Max works up a way to tell his bishop about his upcoming marriage, that cleric dispatches Max to the nunnery of Monkbury Abbey, where the sisters produced a fruitcake that sickened the Earl of Lislelivet some months after a visit. Was the poisoning an accident? Can Max gain the sisters’ confidence and learn the truth about the fruitcake. The community, Max learns, is divided between those who want the abbey to have more contact with the outside world and those who don’t. Meanwhile, he has a possibly related crime to solve. Readers of Louise Penny’s *The Beautiful Mystery* will find extra enjoyment in a case that ends with a Golden Age gathering together of all the murder suspects.

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.

Marwood, Alex. [The Killer Next Door](#) (Penguin \$16). The winner of the 2013 Edgar, Best Paperback Original, for [The Wicked Girls](#) (\$16), pens a second psychological thriller. Everyone who lives at 23 Beulah Grove has a secret. If they didn’t, they wouldn’t be renting rooms in a dodgy old building for cash—no credit check, no lease. It’s the kind of place you end up when you you’ve run out of other options. The six residents mostly keep to themselves, but one unbearably hot summer night, a terrible accident pushes them into an uneasy alliance. What they don’t know is that one of them is a killer. He’s already chosen his next victim, and he’ll do anything to protect his secret.

McPherson, Catriona. [Dandy Gilver and the Reek of Red Herrings Signed](#) (Hodder \$45). #9 for the 1920s Scottish detective. On the rain-drenched, wave-lashed, wind-battered Banffshire coast, tiny fishing villages perch on ledges which would make a seagull think twice and crumbly mansions cling to crumblier cliff tops while, out in the bay, the herring drifters brave the storms to catch their silver darlings. It’s nowhere for a child of gentle Northamptonshire to spend Christmas. But when odd things start to turn up in barrels of fish—with a strong whiff of murder most foul—that’s exactly where Dandy Gilver, in her 9th case, finds herself. Enlisted to investigate, she and her trusty cohort Alec Osborne are soon swept up in the fisherfolk’s wedding season as well as the mystery. Between age-old traditions and brand-new horrors, Dandy must think the unthinkable to solve her grisliest case yet.

The US publisher is not in sync. The latest for Dandy here is [A Deadly Measure of Brimstone](#) (St Martins \$26.99) and it's a gem, witty like Wodehouse as it satirizes the upper-crust Gilver family—Dandy's portrait of her conventional husband Hugh is fabulous. It's late September, 1929. He and their two sons have been ill with lung complaints. Sensing opportunity to get the family manse equipped with central heating, Dandy arranges a family spa holiday at the Hydro in the Moffat hills where, not coincidentally, an elderly client recently died and her children have approached the enquiry firm of Gilver (Dandy) and Osborne (Alec) for answers the Laidlow Hydropathic Hotel has refused to supply.... Highly recommended.

Moore, Christopher J. [How to Speak Brit](#) (Gotham \$20). This publisher, part of the Penguin Random House Group, offers a number of literary and word-play (and serious punctuation etc) delights. In a small hardcover, you can pick up some Britspeak to heighten your enjoyment of reading. Or be useful should you travel.

Muir, T. Frank. [Tooth for a Tooth](#) (\$14.95). It's hard to resist St Andrews, home to an ancient university as well as the Royal and Ancient Golf Club (founded 1754). This is the beat for Muir's DCI Andy Gilchrist. In his second case, when a woman's skeleton is discovered in a shallow grave, Gilchrist is tasked with finding her murderer. But a psychic's warnings and markings on a rusted cigarette lighter found among the rotted remains take Gilchrist on a journey into his own past that brings him closer to discovering the identity of his brother's killer from a hit-and-run case some thirty-five years before. Dental records from an extracted tooth force Gilchrist to confront the unthinkable—that his brother might have been her killer. He keeps his fears to himself, only to be suspended on suspicion of destroying evidence. [Eye for an Eye](#) (\$9.99).

Peace, David. [GB84](#) (\$16.95). Called by its author "fiction based on fact," the book depicts a real-life 1984 coal miner's strike more violently dystopian than even Orwell imagined. Slowly starving strikers find themselves pitted against a prime minister—Margaret Thatcher—determined to crush them; a police force willing to use infiltration and violence to achieve her will; and equally hungry scabs who need a job —Peace's take on all this as he mixes real events and characters with the voices of the increasingly desperate strikers.

Rendell, Ruth. [No Man's Nightingale](#) (\$16). A female vicar named Sarah Hussein is discovered strangled in her Kingsmarkham vicarage. A single mother to a teenage girl, Hussein was working in a male-dominated profession. Moreover, she was of mixed race and wanted to modernize the church. Could racism or sexism have played a factor in her murder? Maxine, the gossipy cleaning woman who discovered the body, happens to also be in the employ of retired Chief Inspector Wexford and his wife. Wexford is intrigued by the unusual circumstances of the murder, and when he is invited by his old deputy to tag along with the investigators, he leaps at the chance. Wexford's lost none of his skills in retirement and he's learning to navigate consulting rather than commanding.

Walters, Louise. [Mrs. Sinclair's Suitcase](#) (\$16). Roberta likes to collect the letters and postcards she finds in second-hand books. When her father gives her some of her grandmother's belongings, she finds a baffling letter from the grandfather she never knew—

dated after he supposedly died in the war. Dorothy is unhappily married to Albert, who is away at war. When an airplane crashes in the field behind her house she meets Squadron Leader Jan Pietrykowski, and as their bond deepens she dares to hope she might find happiness. But fate has other plans for them both, and soon she is hiding a secret so momentous that its shockwaves will touch her granddaughter many years later...

SUDDENLY SHERLOCK

Davies, David Stuart. [Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Devil's Promise](#) (Titan \$9.95). Holmes and Watson are holidaying on the English coast when they discover a corpse on the beach... which then disappears. They can get little help from the nearby village, populated by strange and unfriendly characters. Then the corpse suddenly reappears in their cottage and they are attacked by persons unknown. Watson comes to, and discovers that months have passed, and Holmes is not the man he remembers. What has happened to his friend? Does it have something to do with a dead devil worshipper, whose children happen to live in the cursed village?

Estleman, Loren D., ed. [Adventure of the Plated Spoon and Other Tales of Sherlock Holmes](#) (Adams \$26.99). Estleman has written a pastiche or two—one is included in this collection of eight reprints and four original tales, with commentary written by Estleman, ranging in date of composition from Arthur Conan Doyle's day to our own. J.M. Barrie's "The Adventure of the Two Collaborators" and Doyle's "How Watson Learned the Trick" are curiosities that require background information to appreciate fully, while Vincent Starrett's "The Adventure of the Unique Hamlet" is one of the best of the early imitations. Perhaps the piece most true to Doyle's style is his son Adrian's "The Red Widow," about a nobleman's murder in a moorland castle.

Klinger, Leslie S./Laurie R. King, ed. [In the Company of Sherlock Holmes](#) (Pantheon \$24.95). See Event Books.

Riffenburgh, Beau. [Pinkerton's Great Detective](#) (Penguin \$18). So thrilling were James McParland's cases that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle included the cunning detective in a story along with Sherlock Holmes... Interesting factoid, no? See History/Mystery for more on this book.

Strand Magazine. [2015 Sherlock Holmes Calendar](#) (\$12.95). Full color, on glossy paper, with dozens of illustrations of all of your favorites, Sherlock Holmes, Basil Rathbone, Professor Moriarty, art from the original Strand, as well as oil paintings by artist Jeffrey McKeever. Each page is lavishly illustrated with original artwork, photographs and excerpts from the stories. 8.5x11

AROUND THE WORLD...

Alaux, Jean-Pierre. [Deadly Tasting](#) (LeFrench Press \$12.95). First published in France in 2005, this slight tale is the fourth Wine-maker Detective mystery to appear Stateside (after Nightmare in Burgundy). Bordeaux resident and oenologist Benjamin Cooker is busy creating his latest wine guide when police inspector Barbaroux calls him to assist at a murder scene. Elderly Jules-Ernest Grémillion was savagely attacked, yet 11 empty wineglasses have been neatly arranged nearby and a 12th filled with what Cooker identifies as 1942 Chateau Pétrus. Soon a second elderly victim is discovered, this time near two glasses filled with the same rare vintage and 10 empty. The ritual promises more crimes to come, while the costly wine's year and victims' ages suggest that Bordeaux's WWII history may be the key. This series,

like the French TV series for the Winemakers, runs to slim and simple, unlike some of the great wines it showcases. More of a curiosity thus than a crime novel.

Bunn, Davis. [The Patmos Deception](#) (Baker \$14.99). I don't often include works from the Christian Publishing segment, but bestseller Bunn won me with this one which is characteristic of his fiction. "Carey Mathers is a recently graduated forensic archeologist who abruptly loses a new job in Greece when the research foundation mysteriously shuts down. After she meets up with old family friend and journalist Nicholas Hennessy, the two of them join Dimitri Roubinos, a sailor who is contemplating smuggling to make a living, to unravel the mystery of disappearing religious artifacts from the island of Patmos. Carey gives readers plenty of biblical, historical background from the period surrounding John the Apostle's exile there. The romance between Carey and Nicholas is richly textured with spirituality. While characters in Bunn's previous novels have been more diverse than these two Texans meeting up in Greece, it's still a great story that bridges ancient life 20 centuries ago with a brilliant mystery plot and plenty of regional charm."—*PW*

Fossum, Karin. [The Murder of Harriet Krohn](#) (Houghton \$24). I have tried to engage with Norwegian Fossum's work and find it just too bleak. Here is critic Marilyn Stasio of the *NY Times Book Review*: "Karin Fossum writes grim suspense novels on abnormal-psychology themes, but in a perversely delicate style that brings Ruth Rendell to mind. Her stories, many of which feature the introspective Inspector Sejer, are set in insular villages where the locals do their best to ignore appalling crimes committed by homegrown pedophiles, juvenile delinquents and mental cases, while working themselves into a state about a perceived invasion of immigrants. [This new book] is told from the tormented perspective of a killer, brooding about the horrific murder he has committed in a quiet neighborhood in a quiet town. ('No God, no other people, only the empty street outside and her terrified breathing.')" For an excellent if chilling essay on Nordic crime fiction by Stasio covering many authors, [click here](#).

Farah, Nuruddin. [Hiding in Plain Sight](#) (Putnam \$27.95). The murder of a good man creates a vacuum his bereaved sister bravely tries to fill in this intimate family drama by African novelist Nuruddin Farah (*Crossbones*). After her elder brother, Aar, a U.N. ambassador in Somalia, loses his life to a terrorist bomb, fashion photographer Bella leaves her job in Italy to take over as guardian of his teenage son and daughter in Nairobi, Kenya. Her grief at losing the person who loved and supported her most overwhelms her, but Bella knows she must stay strong for her niece and nephew's sake. A Somalia-born novelist delves into the intricate bonds of family while also exploring the dangers homosexuals face in Africa.

Indridason, Arnaldur. [Reykjavik Nights](#) (Random UK \$28.99 trade paper). An Inspector Erlendur prequel, published in the US in 2015. Ordered upon request.

Jones, Stephen Lloyd. [Written in the Blood Signed](#) (Headline \$44). High in the mountains of the Swiss Alps, Leah Wilde is about to gamble her life to bring a powerful man an offer. A promise. Leah has heard the dark stories about him and knows she is walking into the lion's den. But her options are running out. Her rare lineage, kept secret for years, is under terrible threat. That is, unless Leah and her mother Hannah are prepared to join

up with their once deadly enemies. Should the prey ever trust the predator? Is hope for future generations ever enough to wash away the sins of the past? With a new and chilling danger stalking them all, and the survival of their society at stake, they may have little choice...

Mosse, Kate. [Citadel](#) \$16.99). France, 1942. While war blazes at the front lines of Europe, in the walled southern city of Carcassonne, nestled deep in the Pyrenees, a group of courageous women is engaged in an equally lethal battle. Like their ancestors who fought northern invaders seven hundred years before, these members of the French Resistance—code-named Citadel—fight to liberate their home from the Nazis. Led by a daring eighteen-year-old, Sandrine Vidal, and her elder sister, Marianne, the women of Citadel work quickly to sabotage their German occupiers, safeguard their neighbors, and smuggle refugees over the mountains into neutral territory. But that is only part of their mission. Their struggle will reveal an older, darker combat being fought in the shadows, one meant to protect an ancient secret that must not fall into the wrong hands....

Pattison, Eliot. [Soul of the Fire Signed](#) (St Martins \$28). Shan Tao Yun #8. The magic of his Edgar winner *Skull Mantra* never fades despite the horrors confronting Tibetans and those (Chinese, America, whatever) in sympathy with them. Plus Pattison has worked in some Native American elements from time to time. Former rising star in the Party Inspector Shan Tao Yum was sent into grim exile in Tibet and, though free, remains tied to its brave people. Per a Starred Review, "Pattison's superlative eighth mystery featuring Shan Tao Yun, takes the former Beijing government investigator to Zhongjie, a Tibetan community that the Chinese regard as a 'showcase for the motherland.' To Shan's astonishment, he's been tapped to serve on the People's International Commission for Peace and Order, 'dedicated to eliminating the criminal acts of self-aggression that undermine harmonious coexistence in ethnic geographies.' Shan, who has served time in labor camps, is to fill the designated slot reserved for a reformed criminal, but on his first day on the commission, he witnesses a self-immolation. His police training causes him to doubt that the death was a suicide, and his refusal to ignore the facts puts him at odds with his superiors, who don't want the truth derailing their political agenda. Pattison impressively combines a thrilling plot with a passionate denunciation of the Chinese oppression of the Tibetan people." Truly this is a knockout entry in a brilliant series. I bet you won't forget its startling conclusion.

Rankin, Ian. [The Beat Goes On: Complete Stories Signed](#) (Orion \$50). Brought together for the first time, and including brand new material, this is the ultimate Rebus short-story collection

Simenon, Georges. [The Bar on the Seine](#) (Penguin \$10). Maigret must visit a prisoner he arrested and bear the news that his reprieve has been refused and he will be executed at dawn. But when the condemned man tells Maigret a story, his investigations lead him to the Guinguette à Deux Sous, a bar by the River Seine, and into the seamy underside of bourgeois Parisian life. Prolific Simenon wrote "solid police procedurals, but beyond that they are charming and sometimes magical evocations of a Paris now long vanished." —*The Washington Post*

Smith, Alexander McCall. [The Handsome Man's Deluxe Cafe](#) (Knopf \$24.95). Mma Ramotswa has her hands full both at home and in the office. To add to her current challenges, her devoted

partner, Grace Makutsi, has decided to branch out on her own and open The Handsome Man's Deluxe Cafe. But even "Miss 97 Per Cent" can't quite meet all the demands of running a business—not to mention those that a lightning strike makes on her building. Eventually, she'll have to accept all the help she can get—even if it comes from a completely unexpected source. 15th in a delightful series set in a kind of magical Botswana.

Smith, Martin Cruz. [Tatiana](#) (\$16). A chiller of the new Russia with Arkady Renko adapting (as much as he ever does). More about this knockout in Our November Trade Paperback Picks below.

Thompson, James, ed. [Helsinki Noir](#) (Akashic \$15.95). The late Edgar-nominated Thompson presents a new entry in the Urban Noir series.

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Aaronovitch, Ben. [Foxglove Summer Rivers of London #5 Signed](#) (Gollancz \$39). A SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick, 5th in a bestselling fantasy series recently highly recommended to me by Deborah Crombie. Aaronovitch takes Peter Grant out of whatever comfort zone he might have found and takes him out of London to a small village in Herefordshire where the local police are reluctant to admit that there might be a supernatural element to the disappearance of some local children. But while you can take the London copper out of London you can't take the London out of the copper. Travelling west with Beverley Brook, Peter soon finds himself caught up in a deep mystery and having to tackle local cops and local gods. And what's more all the shops are closed by 4pm...

Anderson, Gillian. [Vision of Fire Signed](#) (SimonSchuster \$25 in stock. Signed, not tip-ins). 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?

Gibson, William. [Peripheral](#) (Putnam \$28.95). *PW* writes, "Seminal cyberpunk author Gibson, who has spent the last several years writing the more-or-less present-day Zero History series of novels, returns to the future with this slow-burning thriller, ambitiously structured on either side of an economic and ecological collapse known afterward as 'the jackpot.' In the hardscrabble 'pre-jackpot America' of our near future, gamer Flynne Fisher is covering a beta-testing shift for her ex-Marine brother when she witnesses what she thinks is a gruesome murder—'some kind of nanotech chainsaw fantasy.' In a depopulated London decades post-jackpot, Wilf Netherton, a disgraced publicist, is caught unawares when his latest client's sister disappears. The resulting investigation kicks Gibson's discursive narrative into high gear as Flynne, allowed across time lines by use of a 'peripheral' ('an anthropomorphic drone... a telepresence avatar'), proves to be exactly the savvy, principled ally that enigmatic Det. Insp. Ainsley Lowbeer has been looking for."

Kadrey, Richard. [Metrophage](#) (Harper \$14.99). Jonny was born into a Hobbesian, late 21st-century LA paradise. A streetwise hustler who deals drugs on the black market—narcotics that heal the body and cool the mind—he looks out for nobody but himself. Until a terrifying plague sweeps through LA, wreaking death and panic, and no one, not even a clever operator like Jonny, is safe.

Lovecraft, H P. [New Annotated H P Lovecraft](#) (LittleBrown \$39.95).

Martin, George RR. [The World of Ice and Fire](#) (Random \$50). "This illustrated 256-page coffee-table hardcover is the cornucopia reference for which Game of Thrones acolytes have been begging. This detailed history of the Seven Kingdoms contains 100% all-new material, more than half of it written by George R.R. Martin specifically for this gala edition. In addition, *The World of Ice & Fire* contains 170 pieces of full-color artwork and maps; family trees; and extensive information on the folklore, history, and culture of Westeros. Martin is joined in the enterprise by Elio Garcia and Linda Antonsson, the founders and keepers of the famed Westeros.org website. Certain to be a gift choice," says B&N.com

With Melinda Snodgrass, Martin presents [Lowball: A Wild Cards Mosaic](#) (Forge \$25.99): eight standalone stories collectively explore the continuing struggle of superpowered Aces and Jokers to live harmoniously with ordinary humans.

Modesitt, L E. [Heritage of Cyador](#) (Forge \$27.99). #18 in the Recluce fantasy series. Scarcely a year after the events of Cyador's Heirs, Lerial uses his mastery of Order and Chaos, the competing natural forces that shape his world and define the magic that exists within it, to utterly destroy an Afritan military force crossing into Cigoerne. Five years later, Lerial, now an overcaptain and a field commander of Cigoerne's Mirror Lancers, must lead three companies of troops into Afrit on a mission of mutual interest: neighboring Helyda is threatening to invade Afrit, and if that nation falls, Cigoerne is certain to be next.

Pratchett, Terry. [The Compleat Ankh-Morpork](#) (Knopf \$39.95). A brand-new street directory of Discworld city Ankh-Morpork complete with a beautifully illustrated pull-out map of the city celebrated in Discworld. Speaking of Discworld, there is this: [Raising Steam](#) (\$14.95). Mister Simnel has produced a great clanging monster of a machine that harnesses the power of all the elements—earth, air, fire, and water—and it's soon drawing astonished crowds. To the consternation of Ankh-Morpork's formidable Patrician, Lord Vetinari, no one is in charge of this new invention. Who better to take the lead than the man he has already appointed master of the Post Office, the Mint and the Royal Bank? Moist von Lipwig is not a man who enjoys hard work—unless it is dependent on words, which are not very heavy and don't always need greasing. He does enjoy being alive, however, which makes a new job offer from Vetinari hard to refuse... See New in Mass Markets for more of Pratchett.

Rice, Anne. [The Prince Lestat Signed](#) (Knopf \$27.95 tip-ins). "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. ..." 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 also return.

Rothfuss, Patrick. [The Slow Regard of Silent Things Signed](#) (DAW \$18.95). The University, a renowned bastion of knowledge, attracts the brightest minds to unravel the mysteries of enlightened sciences like artificing and alchemy. Yet deep below its bustling halls lies a complex and cavernous maze of abandoned rooms and ancient passageways—and in the heart of it all lives Auri. Formerly a student at the University, now Auri spends her days tending the world around her. She has learned that some mysteries are best left settled and safe. No longer fooled by the sharp rationality so treasured by the University, Auri sees beyond the surface of things, into subtle dangers and hidden names.

Stross, Charles. [The Trader's War: A Merchant Princes Omnibus](#) (Forge \$16.99). An omnibus edition of the third and fourth novels in Charles Stross' Merchant Princes series.

Tepper, Sheri S. [Fish Tails](#) (Harper \$32). Xulai and Abasio venture from village to village looking for other people and for sentient creatures who might want to have children like their own two babies—genetically altered, water-dwelling children—for the future of the planet (never directly named, but obviously Earth). As punishment from its beleaguered planetary spirit, it is destined to be covered in water within the next 200 years. Tepper's 35th novel brings together characters from 11 of her previous works into a science fiction tale with a staggering breadth of vision. The two protagonists are from 1993's *A Plague of Angels* and 2010's *The Waters Rising* (the latter of which is more or less a direct prequel to the current volume, as it deals with the same ecological disaster). They gradually win more allies in their goal to populate the planet with a new, modified human race but soon become involved with a galactic civil servant who has an elaborate do-gooder scheme that may turn their plans upside down

THE COZY CORNER

See New in Mass Market Paperbacks also

Brown, Rita Mae. [Let Sleeping Dogs Lie](#) (Random \$26). Sister Jane Arnold and the Jefferson Hunt Club have traveled from Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains to the Bluegrass State of Kentucky to ride with the members of the Woodford Hounds—in the teeth of foul weather. Sister knows better than anyone that an ill wind blows no good. After the hunt, Sister Jane and her boyfriend, Gray Lorillard, head to a sumptuous party on a nearby estate, also home to a historic equine graveyard. The revelry is interrupted by jarring news: The discovery of grisly remains in the cemetery that are decidedly not equine. Now Sister and her hounds are on the case, digging up clues to an old murder that links three well-connected Southern families. Then the mayhem follows the Jefferson Hunt back to Virginia...

Carl, Joanna. [The Chocolate Clown Corpse](#) (Penguin \$22.95). Everyone who knew the bozo wanted him dead. Odd, then, that a complete stranger was accused of bursting Moe Davidson's balloons. But it's been a month since the miserable shop owner of Clowning Around was killed, and everybody's moving on, including Lee Woodyard. Her chocolate shop, TenHuis Chocolate, is next door to Moe's shuttered tourist trap, and it's giving her delicious ideas to expand. But over whose dead body? Moe's widow, Emma, and her two stepchildren list the property for sale, but when Lee tours the building, she finds Emma unconscious. Now Lee wonders whether Moe's real killer is still at large....

Dunnett, Kaitlyn. [Ho Ho Homicide](#) (Kensington \$24). "Liss MacCrimmon is working at her store, the Scottish Emporium in Moosetookalook, Maine, when her high school friend Gina stops by. Gina asks if Liss and husband Dan would check out her recently inherited Christmas tree farm since she has to get back to her law firm in Chicago. Envisioning a quiet, romantic week with Dan, Liss agrees. When they arrive, however, they soon find that Gina neglected to tell them a few important details—such as the unexplained disappearance of the tree farm owner seven years ago and the body found wrapped up in a Christmas tree shipment. Liss can't resist asking a few questions around town, but it appears that someone is trying to silence her and Dan—permanently."—*LJ* on this Christmas Cozy.

Hall, Parnell. [Safari](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). I'm not a Stanley Hastings, PI, reader. But I opened this one and was charmed by the way the ever loquacious Hastings recounts his wife Alice's dealing with the airlines, travel, and Stanley as they traverse Zambia with a tour group... and murder.

Hechtman, Betty. [Knot Guilty](#) (Berkley \$25.95). Molly and her Tarzana Hookers can't wait to get more people hooked on crochet at the annual SoCal Knit Style Show, where Shedd & Royal has been granted a vendor booth. In the past, the show has always been about knitting, and this is the first year there'll be crochet classes and a crochet competition. The show's organizer is K. D. Kirby, publisher of several knitting magazines and owner of a yarn store that caters to an elite Beverly Hills crowd. Everyone is shocked when K.D. doesn't show up for the opening reception, but that's nothing compared to how they feel when she's finally found—dead in her hotel suite. 9th in the Crochet Mysteries.

OUR NOVEMBER TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

Cash, Wiley. [This Dark Road to Mercy](#) (\$14.99). Winner of the 2014 CWA Gold Dagger (Best Novel). After their mother unexpectedly dies, twelve-year-old Easter Quillby and her six-year-old sister, Ruby, aren't expecting to see their errant father, Wade, ever again. But the ex-minor league baseball player who's been gone for years has suddenly appeared at their foster home to steal them away in the middle of the night. Brady Weller, the girls' court-appointed guardian, begins looking for them, and quickly turns up unsettling information linking their father to a multimillion-dollar robbery. But Brady isn't the only hunter on the trail. Robert Pruitt, a mercurial man nursing a years-old vendetta, is determined to find Wade and claim his due. "The voice is Southern and oh so charming in a crime novel that's also a road movie and a baseball tale and a wicked twist on Sixth-Grade Father-Daughter Night."—*NY Times Book Review*

Hall, Tarquin. [The Case of the Love Commandos](#) (\$15.99). How I love Hall's Vish Puri, Delhi private eye. Each of his intricate and, on the surface, wacky cases explores Indian culture. Here we have marriage—and love. When Ram and Tulsi fall in love, the young woman's parents are dead set against the union. She's from a high-caste family; he's from the lowest strata of Indian society. Young Tulsi's father locks her up and promises to hunt down the "loverboy dog." Fortunately, India's Love Commandos, a real-life group of volunteers dedicated to helping mixed-caste couples, come to the rescue. But just after they liberate Tulsi, Ram is mysteriously snatched from his hiding place. The

task of finding him falls to India's "Most Private Investigator." Unfortunately, Vish Puri is not having a good month. He's failed to recover a cache of stolen jewels. His wallet has been stolen, and he's having to rely on his infuriating Mummy-ji to get it back. And to top it all, his archrival, investigator Hari Kumar, is also trying to locate Ram. To reunite the star-crossed lovers and reclaim his rightful place as India's unchallenged "Most Private Investigator," Puri and his team of operatives must infiltrate Ram's village and navigate the caste politics shaped by millennia-old prejudices. If you have missed reading this glorious (so far) quartet, waste no time [clicking here](#) to order.

Harris, Robert. [An Officer and a Spy](#) (\$15.95). Winner of the CWA Steel Dagger, a novel based on France's infamous Dreyfus Affair: a stain upon its Army, an exposure of deep anti-Semitism, and also of a few dedicated to the real truth of the spy scandal.

Howard, Jonathan L. [Johannes Cabal: The Fear Institute](#) (\$15.99). A necromancer of some little infamy, Cabal is employed by the mysterious Fear Institute to lead an expedition into the Dreamlands to hunt and destroy the dread Phobic Animus, the very source of all the world's fear. Along the way, they will encounter witches, vile abominations, and far too many zebras. And, when they finally come close to their goal, Cabal will have to face his own nightmares. Howard's affectionate, witty homage to Lovecraft's dream stories, complete with early-20th-century setting and language, is an enjoyably macabre comic adventure, and his antihero Cabal is, for all his overweening self-confidence, an engaging protagonist whose heart is not quite as hard as he would like to pretend." —*PW*. "Howard's characters, relentless imagination, twisting plotlines, and use of language make the Johannes Cabal series a real pleasure to read." —Richard Kadrey on the 3rd in this astonishing series.

Lawton, John. [Then We Take Berlin](#) (\$14). Joe Wilderness is a World War II orphan, a condition that he thinks excuses him from common morality. Cat burglar, card sharp, and Cockney wide boy, the last thing he wants is to get drafted. But in 1946 he finds himself in the Royal Air Force, facing a stretch in military prison . . . when along comes Lt Colonel Burne-Jones to tell him MI6 has better use for his talents. Posted to occupied Berlin, interrogating ex-Nazis, and burgling the odd apartment for MI6, Wilderness finds himself with time on his hands and falls in another Brit, a Yank, and a Russian. Together they lift the black market scam to a new level. And Joe falls for Nell Breakheart, a German girl who is driven by all the scruples that Wilderness lacks. June, 1963. Wilderness is free-lance and down on his luck. A gumshoe scraping by on divorce cases. Frank is a big shot on Madison Avenue, cooking up one last Berlin scam. He needs Wilderness once more. Only now they're not smuggling coffee, they're smuggling people. And Nell? Nell is on the staff of West Berlin's mayor Willy Brandt, planning for the state visit of the most powerful man in the world...

⌘Marwood, Alex. [The Killer Next Door](#) (\$16). Everyone who lives at 23 Beulah Grove has a secret. If they didn't, they wouldn't be renting rooms in a dodgy old building for cash—no credit check, no lease. It's the kind of place you end up when you've run out of other options. The six residents mostly keep to themselves, but one unbearably hot summer night, a terrible accident pushes them into an uneasy alliance. What they don't know is that one of them is a killer. He's already chosen his next victim, and he'll do anything to protect his secret. From the 2013 Edgar winner for [The Wicked Girls](#) (\$16).

Muller, Marcia/Bill Pronzini. [The Spook Lights Affair](#) (\$14.99). In 1895 San Francisco young debutantes don't commit suicide at festive parties, particularly not under the eye of Sabina Carpenter. But Virginia St. Ives evidently did, leaping from a foggy parapet in a shimmer of ghostly light. The seemingly impossible disappearance of her body creates an even more serious problem for the firm of Carpenter and Quincannon, Professional Detective Services. Sabina hadn't wanted to take the assignment, but her partner John Quincannon insisted it would serve as entrée to the city's ultra rich and powerful. That means money, and Quincannon loves the almighty dollar. Which is why he is hunting the bandit who robbed the Wells, Fargo office of \$35,000. Working their separate cases (while Sabina holds John off with one light hand), the detectives give readers a tour of The City the way it was.

Rendell, Ruth. [No Man's Nightingale](#) (\$16). Inspector Wexford's retirement continues to amaze. See British Books for more.

Smith, Martin Cruz. [Tatiana](#) (\$16). Arkady Renko has survived the cultural journey from the Soviet Union to the New Russia, only to find the nation as obsessed with secrecy and brutality as was the old Communist dictatorship. The fearless reporter Tatiana Petrovna falls to her death from a sixth-floor window in Moscow the same week that a mob billionaire, Grisha Grigorenko, is shot and buried with the trappings due a lord. No one else makes the connection, but Arkady is transfixed by the tapes he discovers of Tatiana's voice describing horrific crimes in words that are at odds with the Kremlin's official versions. The trail leads to Kaliningrad, a Cold War "secret city" that is separated by hundreds of miles from the rest of Russia. The more Arkady delves into Tatiana's past, the more she leads him into a surreal world of wandering sand dunes, abandoned children, and a notebook written in the personal code of a dead translator. Finally, in a lethal race to uncover what the translator knew, Arkady makes a startling discovery that draws him still deeper into Tatiana's past—and, paradoxically, into Russia's future, where bulletproof cars, poets, corruption of the Baltic Fleet, and a butcher for hire combine to give Kaliningrad the "distinction" of having the highest crime rate in Russia. More than a thriller, this zinger is filled with unnerving insights.

Whittle, Tina. [Deeper Than the Grave](#) (\$14.95). When a tornado blows by a Kennesaw Mountain cemetery near Atlanta, the storm wreaks havoc, striking a mausoleum and scattering the bones of a Confederate hero. But wait—there's more buried beneath the Georgia red clay and a live murderer on the loose. . . . Tai Randolph's lover, Trey Seaver, a former SWAT cop brain-injured in an accident, faces huge challenges, challenges he must relearn skills to meet. He's been relying on *GQ* for cues on how to dress or decorate his apartment where Tai is gradually gaining a foothold—moving up to decent drawer space and half the closet. But can Trey go further? This question is as compelling as the mystery in Confederate-themed gun-shop owner Tai's 4th case.

Weir, Andy. [The Martian](#) (\$15). Can't wait for the movie. A chemical engineer as a thriller hero! Gotta love it right there. But there's so much more in this debut and Modern Firsts Club Pick about a member of a mission stranded on Mars when his team evacuates. He solves one survival crisis after another while maintaining hope. Pat King of our staff made it a mission to sell every copy he could lay hands on.

Williams, Timothy. [The Puppeteer](#) (\$14.95). I loved this series when it published, and here it is again. Northern Italy, 1982: Inspector Piero Trotti is enjoying his breakfast at a café when gunmen drive up and shoot the man sitting at the next table. Was Trotti their intended target? He isn't sure. The case falls under the jurisdiction of the local Carabinieri, but Trotti decides to make his own inquiries. The Puppeteer is the follow-up to CWA award-winner Timothy Williams' dazzling crime fiction debut, [Converging Parallels](#) (\$9.99). This tautly written novel brings us to the depths of a corrupt, scheming Italian society in which bank officials, clergymen, masons, lawyers, and, of course, politicians are all suspect of resorting to criminal activity for personal gain. Only the police are presumed trustworthy, and even they are sorely divided by departmental rivalries and jealousies.

USEFUL LISTS FOR THE MYSTERY LOVER

Lugar, Austin, ed. [The Mystery Company's Guide to Series](#) (\$20 trade paperback). A handy guide with checklists for you of over 800 active series, 7000+ titles, put in order. An easy way to track your books and a nice gift for a mystery fancier on your list.

Also available: [They Died in Vain](#) (\$14), a list of overlooked, underappreciated, and forgotten mysteries (with an article by me); [Mystery Muses](#) (\$15), 100 classics that inspire modern mystery writers.

NEW BOOKS

Bacigalupi, Paolo. [Doubt Factory](#) (LittleBrown \$18). "In this provocative thriller, Bacigalupi traces the awakening of a smart, compassionate, and privileged girl named Alix Banks to ugly realities of contemporary life, while seeking to open readers' eyes, as well. Alix's life is thrown into disarray when an activist group targets her family, its eyes on her father's powerful public relations business. Moses is a charismatic black teen living off the money from a settlement with a pharmaceutical company after one of its medications killed his parents. Along with four other brilliant teens who have lost family to this sort of legal/medical malfeasance. Moses hopes to enlist Alix's help to release incriminating data from her father's files, à la Edward Snowden. This openly didactic novel asks challenging questions about the immorality of the profit motive and capitalism, but does so within the context of a highly believable plot (backed up with references to actual front groups, lawsuits, warning labels, and literature on the subject, which will send readers to their search engines) and well-developed, multifaceted characters. Fans of Cory Doctorow's work should love this book. Ages 15-up."—*PW* Starred Review

Baldacci, David. [The Escape Signed](#) (Grand Central \$29). "In bestseller Baldacci's clever third John Puller thriller, the chief warrant officer faces his most difficult and most personal assignment yet. Puller's older brother, Robert, a former major in the USAF, is a convicted traitor serving a life sentence in Leavenworth. A seemingly impossible chain of events ends with Robert escaping and a corpse left in his cell. A trio of high-placed officials, Army, Air Force, and National Security, go against normal protocol, and charge Puller with finding and arresting Robert. Puller has to figure out the identity of the dead man found in his brother's cell, as well as who enabled Robert to escape. To add to his problems, he's not sure he can trust the Army Intelligence agent assigned to work with him, Veronica Knox. The Puller brothers are in deep trouble, and it will take all their ingenuity and skills just to survive. Baldacci handles the complex plot with consummate ease as the Pullers navigate nearly endless surprises."—*PW*

Belsky, RG. [The Kennedy Connection](#) (Atria \$16). In this bold and entertaining thriller from a true media insider, discredited newspaper reporter Gil Malloy breaks the story of the link between seemingly unconnected murders—a Kennedy half dollar coin found at each of the crime scenes. At the same time, a man emerges who claims to be the secret son of Lee Harvey Oswald and says he has new evidence that Oswald was innocent of the JFK killing. Malloy, who has fallen from grace at the New York Daily News and sees this as an opportunity to redeem himself as an ace reporter, is certain there is a connection between the Oswald revelations and the NYC murders, but first he has to get someone to believe him. Convinced that the answers go all the way back to the JFK assassination more than fifty years ago, Malloy soon uncovers long-buried secrets that put his own life in danger.

Bruen, Ken. [Purgatory](#) (\$14). Galway policeman Jack Taylor has managed to kick, however tenuously, the substances that had a stranglehold over his life. Yet this fragile existence is threatened when a vigilante killer begins targeting citizens, signing mysterious notes with the moniker "C33" and addressing them to Jack. As Jack tries to unravel the mystery of this demented murderer, he is brought into the fold of an enigmatic tech billionaire who has been buying up massive amounts of property in Galway, seemingly in the hopes of offering this downtrodden city a better future. But if Jack has learned one thing, it's that people who outwardly claim to be on the side of righteousness are likely harboring more nefarious motives. With the help of a former-drug-dealer-turned-zen-master and a dogged police sergeant, Jack is determined to track down "C33," even if it jeopardizes everything.

Buckley, Carla. [The Deepest Secret](#) (\$15). Twelve years ago, Eve Lattimore's life changed forever. Her two-year-old son Tyler on her lap, her husband's hand in hers, she waited for the child's devastating diagnosis: XP, a rare genetic disease, a fatal sensitivity to sunlight. Tonight, Eve's life is about to change again, forever. It's only an instant on a rainy road—just a quick text as she sits behind the wheel—and another mother's child lies dead in Eve's headlights. The choice she faces is impossible: confess and be taken from Tyler, or drive away and start to lie like she's never lied before.

Burns, Rex. [Crude Carrier](#) (Mysterious \$14.99). Denver's excellent Edgar winner Burns went quiet for some 17 years, but now he's back with a new series featuring the Touchstone Agency, a Denver father-and-daughter PI team. Their new clients, the Rossis, received few dispatches from their son once he shipped out as a hand in the crew of supertanker Aurora Victorious. The last communication, brief, came from the ship's owners announcing his death. Desperate to learn more, perhaps locate the site of their son's burial at sea, the Rossis bring what they have to Touchstone. When James Raiford contacts the Heberling Agency regarding Marine Carriers Worldwide Insurance forwarding of the death claim to it for investigation, and flies east to meet with Bertram Heberling, he learns the man has been killed. So Raiford risks going undercover on the supertanker to learn what he can... And the very cool thing is that this exciting story is also like a primer to the world of Lloyds of London and the world of cargo ships, carriers, and marine underwriting and risks. I was completely fascinated and hope Burns will produce a sequel soon.

Clark, Mary Higgins/Alafair Burke. [The Cinderella Murder](#) (SimonSchuster \$26.99). MWA Grand Master Clark uses the main characters of her thriller *I've Got You Under My Skin* for this engaging collaboration with Burke. The novel launches a series centered on Under Suspicion, a TV show that purports to re-enact (and often solve) cold cases. One such case is the 20-year-old "Cinderella Murder." Susan Dempsey, a UCLA theater student with a talent for computer programming, missed her father's birthday party to audition for a part in director Frank Parker's latest film, but she never made it to the audition. Her body was found the next day in L.A.'s Laurel Canyon Park, ten minutes from Parker's house. Laurie Moran, the producer of Under Suspicion, decides to bring all the potential suspects together with Susan's friends and family to see whether new evidence will come to light.

Cornwell, Patricia. [Flesh and Blood](#) (Harper \$28.99). In this 22nd Scarpetta novel, the master forensic sleuth finds herself in the unsettling pursuit of a serial sniper who leaves no incriminating evidence except fragments of copper.

Crais, Robert. [The Promise](#) (Putnam \$27.95). When Elvis Cole is hired to locate a woman who may have disappeared with a stranger she met online, it seems like an ordinary case—until Elvis learns the missing woman worked for a defense contractor and was being blackmailed to supply explosives components for a person or persons unknown. Elsewhere, LAPD officer Scott James and his patrol dog, Maggie, enter an abandoned building to locate an armed and dangerous thief, only to discover the fugitive is dead, the building is filled with explosives—plus they are assaulted by a man who escapes. Soon, Scott and Maggie find themselves targeted by that man, and, as their case intertwines with Elvis and a bloodied Joe Pike, joining forces to follow the trail of the missing woman as well.

De Castrique, Mark. [Risky Undertaking Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). Dialogue like Robert B. Parker, cultural sensitivity like Tony Hillerman, richly portraying his region like James Lee Burke or, as these are North Carolina-based mysteries, like Margaret Maron. Gainesboro's Barry Clayton, part time sheriff's deputy and fulltime undertaker, and Sheriff Tommy Lee Wadkins are drawn to the Cherokee Reservation when Cherokee activist Jimmy Panther is found executed atop a recently deceased public figure's grave. The cemetery was already the scene of controversy when Cherokee burial remains were uncovered at a planned expansion. And there's much more including a Boston hit man, the cop on his tail, and a possible rival casino on the rez. "De Castrique's latest mystery continues the irreverent wit and independent spirit that has marked the series thus far. The focus on the beautiful setting of western North Carolina and its Cherokee traditions is well crafted. While there are a number of other series featuring sleuthing funeral directors, this is a complex and well-executed police procedural as well."—*LJ*. Also in trade paperback: [Risky Undertaking](#) (\$14.95).

Donohue, Keith. [The Boy Who Drew Monsters](#) (Picador \$26). Jack Peter Keenan has always been an odd boy. Even before the accident three years ago, he was not exactly normal. Now almost 11 years old, he doesn't go outside, ever. As Christmas approaches, there are strange happenings afoot: things that go bump in the night, apparitions in the snowy roadway, screams of people who aren't there. Jack has begun drawing monsters. His parents, Holly

and Tim, are increasingly worried. "Multiple mysteries enliven the terror, which becomes ever more disturbing as the source of danger comes gradually into focus. In his sensitive, incisive treatment of Jack's behavior and its effect on his family, Donohue explores the challenges of mental disorders, but suspense and a bright thread of terror evoke the very best of the horror genre."—Julia Jenkins

Estleman, Loren D. [You Know Who Killed Me Signed](#) (Forge \$27). "Edgar-finalist Estleman's compelling 24th Amos Walker novel finds the hard-bitten Detroit PI in rehab, after overdosing on alcohol and Vicodin. The doctor treating Walker gives him a break by not reporting his possession of the pain medication without a prescription. Meanwhile, an old friend asks his help with a murder case in nearby Iroquois Heights: Donald Gates, who maintained the computer that operated the city's traffic lights, was gunned down in his basement. Lt. Ray Henty, who's in charge of the corrupt Iroquois Heights PD, has a tough job made harder by the placement of huge billboards featuring Gates' photo and the legend, "You Know Who Killed Me." The responses to the ads flood the sheriff's department tip line with dozens of anonymous calls, which Walker is deputized to look into. The solution is among the author's craftiest and bleakest," says the Starred Review—which is why it's our **Dec. Surprise Me! Pick**, paying homage to veteran Estleman.

Evanovich, Janet/Lee Goldberg. [The Job](#) (Random \$28). He's a charming con man and she's a dedicated FBI agent, and they're about to drive each other crazy...again! The FBI had one demand when they secretly teamed up Special Agent Kate O'Hare with charming con man Nicolas Fox—bring down the world's most-wanted and untouchable felons. This time it's the brutal leader of a global drug-smuggling empire. The FBI doesn't know what their target looks like, where he is, or how to find him, but Nick Fox has a few tricks up his sleeve to roust this particular Knipschildt chocolate-loving drug lord. From the streets of Nashville to the back alleys of Lisbon, from the rooftops of Istanbul to the middle of the Thames, Nick and Kate chase their mark.

Faber, Michel. [The Book of Strange New Things Signed](#) (Crown \$28). Peter Leigh is a missionary called to go on the journey of a lifetime. Leaving behind his beloved wife, Bea, he boards a flight for a remote and unfamiliar land, a place where the locals are hungry for the teachings of the Bible—his 'book of strange new things'. It is a quest that will challenge Peter's beliefs, his understanding of the limits of the human body and, most of all, his love for Bea. A wildly original tale of adventure, faith and the ties that might hold two people together when they are worlds apart. The Indie Next Pick deals with questions: "Why wasn't his wife allowed to accompany him? Why is everyone in the human base camp uninterested in the catastrophes that are befalling Earth while they are light years away? Why was Peter's appointment as pastor to the aliens so urgent? Faber does a great job addressing the question of faith and its consequences. A great book group selection!"

Gyllenhaal, Liza. [Bleeding Heart](#) (Berkley \$15). Hmm— a gardening thriller. Welcome to Woodhaven, an idyllic small town in Massachusetts where everyone has something to hide. After her accountant husband disappears with millions of dollars he'd apparently stolen from his company's clients, Alice Hyatt flees New York City to her family's long-time summer home in Western

Massachusetts. There, she begins to make a new start, reconnecting with old friends and finding peace—and a growing sense of pride—as a landscape architect. When the extremely wealthy newcomer Graham Mackenzie asks her to design an elaborate garden for him, she can't turn down the opportunity, despite misgivings about Mackenzie's energy company that specializes in the controversial practice of "fracking". But just as the project nears completion, she learns Mackenzie's offer is not all it seems. Once again, Alice finds herself embroiled in someone else's crimes, this time putting her new-found success—and possibly her life—in jeopardy. *LJ* says, "The multilayered plot and deceptive characters makes this a strong crossover chick lit/mystery novel. Great for book club discussion group."

Harris, Charlaine. [Dead But Not Forgotten](#) (Berkley \$26.95). A group of writers, specifically chosen by Charlaine, pays tribute to "the southern, mind-reading belle who gets mixed up in the world of vampires and magical creatures" with a collection of 15 all-new stories about your favorite residents of Sookie Stackhouse's Bon Temps. Contributors include Rachel Caine, Dana Cameron, Bill Crider, MaryJanice Davidson, Christopher Golden, Dean James, Jonathan Maberry.... Lively and entertaining. A gift for any *True Blood* fan. And here is the final Sookie novel: [Dead Ever After](#) (\$15).

Hill, Joe. [Horns](#) (\$15.99). A horror reissue to tie into the new movie starring Daniel Radcliffe.

Jin, Ha. [Map of Betrayal](#) (Knopf \$26.95). *PW* Stars this new novel from the National Book Award– and PEN/Faulkner-winning author Jin: "The narrative alternates between the present day and the years spanning 1949 to 1989. In the present, American-born Lillian Shang unravels her father Gary's mysterious life as a U.S.-based Chinese spy feeding information to the Mao administration. She pieces together his evolution from student, to spy, then prisoner—he ultimately ended up being a high-profile mole caught by the CIA. Lillian undertakes her research primarily through Gary's extensive diaries, bequeathed to Lillian by his longtime mistress. Gary's story is too messy for journalistic prose alone, so Lillian travels to northeast China to connect with his other family."

King, Stephen. [Revival](#) (Scribner \$30). In a small New England town, over half a century ago, a shadow falls over a small boy playing with his toy soldiers. Jamie Morton looks up to see a striking man. Charles Jacobs, along with his beautiful wife, will transform the local church. The men and boys are all a bit in love with Mrs. Jacobs; the women and girls feel the same about Reverend Jacobs—including Jamie's mother and beloved sister, Claire. With Jamie, the Reverend shares a deeper bond based on a secret obsession. When tragedy strikes the Jacobs family, this charismatic preacher curses God, mocks all religious belief, and is banished from the shocked town. Jamie has demons of his own. Wed to his guitar, he plays in bands across the country, living the nomadic lifestyle of bar-band rock and roll while fleeing from his family's horrific loss. In his mid-thirties—addicted to heroin, stranded, desperate—Jamie meets Charles Jacobs again. Their bond becomes a pact beyond even the Devil's devising. "King's depiction of Jacobs as a man unhinged by grief but driven by insatiable scientific curiosity is as believable as it is frightening. The novel's ending—one of King's best—stuns like lightning."

Lanh, Andrew. [Caught Dead Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). Think SJ Rozan's Lydia Chin, a private eye in New York's Chinatown. Or San Francisco's Sharon McCone if male, half-Vietnamese instead of half-Indian, relocated to Hartford, Connecticut, and operating in Little Saigon. "At the outset of this masterful series debut from Lanh (the pseudonym of Ed Ifkovic, author of *Final Curtain* and four other Edna Ferber mysteries), set in Hartford, Conn., Hank Nguyen begs his former professor, insurance fraud investigator Rick Van Lam, to take a look at the drive-by shooting of his relative, Mary Le Vu, who was known as one of the local Vietnamese community's "beautiful Le sisters." While the Hartford police are convinced Mary's death was just collateral damage in a gang war, Rick insists that the solution must lie in the lives of the first- and second generation immigrants in her family. The Le family members initially seem to fit into obvious molds—the spoiled heiress, the grieving widower, the conservative immigrant parents—but Lanh expertly avoids stereotypes. Each character proves to be a richly drawn enigma. Indeed, Rick's exploration of the Le family is so engaging that readers may forget about the mystery itself. Lanh's faithful portrayal of the complexity of the human experience demonstrates that people, with their secrets and devious motives, are the most captivating mysteries of all."—*PW* Starred Review for our **November Surprise Me! Club Pick**. Also in trade paperback: [Caught Dead](#) (\$14.95)

Lebor, Adam. [The Washington Stratagem](#) (Harper \$15.99). UN covert negotiator Yael Azoulay went rogue in Geneva and nearly lost her life. Now back in NY, the Secretary-General asks her to meet with the CEO of the Prometheus Group, an asset managing and lobbying firm with links to the Pentagon and dubious interests in the Middle East. Yael quickly begins work under Prometheus' radar, discovering a chilling conspiracy—and a shocking source to her own past. Lebor, a distinguished journalist and columnist whose work has been up for many awards (his nonfiction, too), works in Budapest. Check out his earlier fiction, set in Budapest and Geneva, by [clicking here](#). You might like his nonfiction also.

Lewis, Ted. [Jack Carter and the Mafia Pigeon](#) (Soho \$14.95). The final novel featuring Carter makes it first North American publication. Jack Carter is not thrilled when his frustratingly unprofessional employers—London mob kingpins Gerald and Les Fletcher—force him to take a vacation. Jack doesn't like leaving the business in other people's hands, but the company villa in Spain promises sunshine and some time to plot his next move. Jack soon finds he is on anything but a vacation. The villa is already inhabited by a cowardly house steward and a knuckle-dragging American gangster. Jack has apparently been sent to protect the American, who has turned informant. There are few things that Jack Carter hates more than surprises. Informants being chief among them. Republishing Lewis' work is a pet project of Soho Press' Paul Oliver.

Littlefield, Sophie. [The Missing Place](#) (Free Press \$16), writes the *NY Times*, "is something else again, a disturbing tale of two very different women, both anxious mothers, who meet in the remote North Dakota boom town where they've traveled in search of their sons, now missing from the oil rig where they worked. Colleen Mitchell comes from a wealthy suburb of Boston and is so shocked by the primitive living conditions in the oil fields

that she's barely able to function. Shay Capparelli, the scrappy woman who rescues her, has better survival skills and is less inhibited about challenging the big oil company that's intent on stonewalling them. The two mothers are the unlikeliest of buddies, but when they learn how to work together they're positively ferocious — and as brave as any of those macho guys up on the rigs." Littlefield is versatile in many genres.

Morrow, Bradford. [The Forgers Signed](#) (Grove \$24). The rare book world is stunned when a reclusive collector is found dead, with hands severed, surrounded by his destroyed collection. The collector's sister and her lover—a book forger named Will—struggle to come to terms with the murder, but when Will begins receiving handwritten letters penned by long-dead authors, the couple realizes that their life is also on the line. **Our Nov. Modern Firsts Club Pick** is an Indie Next Pick: "This literary thriller is all about book collectors, booksellers, old books and manuscripts, and, of course, forgers. A famous book collector is found murdered and one of the suspects is Will, his future brother-in-law, who was once arrested for forgery. Nothing is proven, but soon Will starts to receive threatening letters written in the hand of long-dead authors. Feeling challenged in his craftsmanship, Will goes into a forgery duel that will force him to the limits to save his livelihood and the love of his life. So well written, *The Forgers* will take some time to finish as readers might want reread every sentence!" We have only a dozen signed firsts left, so hurry!

Patterson, James. [Hope to Die](#) (LittleBrown \$29). Detective Alex Cross is being stalked by a psychotic genius, forced to play the deadliest game of his career. His family has been ripped away. Must Cross give a psychotic genius what he wants if he is to save his loved ones? With Ashwin Sanghi: [Private India: City on Fire](#) (\$16). When Jack Morgan opens the Mumbai branch of Private, the world's most elite detective agency, he hands the reins to top agent Santosh Wagh. Now, in this teeming metropolis of over thirteen million people where the guilty have everywhere to hide, Santosh goes on the hunt for one elusive killer. A killer who is targeting seemingly unconnected women and placing strange objects at their death scenes in a series of chilling rituals...

Rabe, Peter. [Dig My Grave Deep/The Out is Death](#) (Stark House \$23.95). Peter Rabe created the archetypical gangster in Daniel Port and wrote about him in six different thrillers. These first three books introduce us to Port and his criminal world. Here is Port the mastermind, trying to get out of the racket he helped create, and Port the savior, defending an old criminal against a younger, meaner hood. Rick Ollerman provides another one of his exceptional introductions.

Robinson, Thatcher. [Black Karma](#) (Seventh Street \$14.95). In the sequel to [White Ginger](#) (\$14.95), Bai Jiang—San Francisco's most celebrated *souxun* (people finder), is hired to track down one Daniel Chen. Police Inspector Kelly suspects Chen of being involved in a botched drug heist (an undercover op) that left an officer dead. But Bai suspects that the PD wants Chen dead. Her investigation sandwiches her between international intelligence agencies and merchants of war. And to make matters worse, at thirty-something she's dating again.... Fans of the much-missed Tim Maleeny will like Bai Jiang.

Schwartz, Karen Winters. [The Chocolate Debacle](#) (Goodman \$14.95). A young man struggling with schizophrenia becomes

the prime suspect in a murder investigation in his hometown. A straight-A student at Brown University before he mentally unraveled, Trey now lives with his affluent parents in the small town of Skaneateles, N.Y. Painfully self-conscious, plagued by schizophrenia, he caters to 15 dog clients and their owners, though some folks in the close-knit community consider him an unstable outsider and keep their distance. He finds a friend in Florence Loughton, a lonely, 58-year-old widow who dotes on Hector, her fluffy little white dog. While under Trey's charge, however, Hector is accosted outside the town grocery store by a rambunctious child indulging in a messy chocolate bar that dirties the little dog's fur. Trey, with free access to Florence's home, steps inside to wash Hector, and there he finds Florence's body. An instant prime suspect, he has little defense. The final unraveling of Florence's death is hardly classic crime fiction stuff, but is far more touching (and actually, scarier).

Self, Will. [Shark](#) (\$26). The novel reacquaints us with the unconventional psychiatrist Zack Busner, the proprietor of the Concept House, a mental health residence in which residents are given free rein. In an unbroken wall of text (no chapters or paragraph breaks), Self describes the many characters of the Concept House, including Lt. Claude Evenrude, who is scarred by what he did over Hiroshima as the target spotter for the Enola Gay, and Michael Lincoln, who watched men die as he floated in the shark-filled Pacific waters after the sinking of the USS Indianapolis. Their narratives, along with others, converge in a labyrinth of psychedelic high modern voices, capturing the frightening bad trip of modern life.

Twelve Hawks, John. [Spark Signed](#) (Knopf \$25.95). Another signed book late to confirm. 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.... Terrific premise from a skilled writer.

Waite, Urban. [Sometimes the Wolf Signed](#) (Morrow \$26.99). The Indie Next Pick: "In this powerful story set amidst the lush landscape of the Northwest, former sheriff Patrick Drake has just been released from prison. As he tries to make a new start with his son, who is a sheriff's deputy in his father's old department, his past comes back to haunt him. Violence from Patrick's old life plays out in the forefront, and the issues of family loss, disappointment, and forgiveness are the backdrop for this rapidly paced, spellbinding novel." Patrick gave it a rave in the October *Booknews* and makes it the **Nov. Hardboiled Crime Club Pick**. It is also a Nov. Indie Next Pick: "In this powerful story set amidst the lush landscape of the Northwest, former sheriff Patrick

Drake has just been released from prison. As he tries to make a new start with his son, who is a sheriff's deputy in his father's old department, his past comes back to haunt him. Violence from Patrick's old life plays out in the forefront, and the issues of family loss, disappointment, and forgiveness are the backdrop for this rapidly paced, spellbinding novel."

Wallace, Edgar. [Jack O'Judgment / Captains of Souls](#) (Stark House \$19.95). A pair of classic thrillers from the creator of *King Kong*, the *Four Just Men*, Mr. J. G. Reeder and other famous characters. Who is the mysterious charlatan who calls himself Jack o'Judgment and eludes both criminals and cops alike? And in *Captains of Souls*, a woman's honor is at the heart of a crime, but who will take up the cause of a man accused of murder? These two intriguing mysteries also include a new introduction by Ed Hulse.

Whittle, Tina. [Deeper Than the Grave Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). When a tornado blows by a Kennesaw Mountain cemetery near Atlanta, the storm wreaks havoc, striking a mausoleum and scattering the bones of a Confederate hero. But wait—there's more buried beneath the Georgia red clay and a live murderer on the loose... Tai Randolph's lover, Trey Seaver, a former SWAT cop brain-injured in an accident, faces huge challenges, challenges he must relearn skills to meet. He's been relying on *GQ* for cues on how to dress or decorate his apartment where Tai is gradually gaining a foothold—moving up to decent drawer space and half the closet. But can Trey go further? This question is as compelling as the mystery in Confederate-themed gun-shop owner Tai's 4th case. Whittle's series is a must for fans of Meg Gardiner and Sara Paretsky and a less-dark Karin Slaughter who like "a little whiplash humor and a lot of slightly crooked heart." And here's what bestseller Beatriz Williams has to say: "*Deeper Than the Grave* hooked me from the first page: a deliciously addictive fusion of mystery, history, and combustible physical chemistry. Whittle has created an unforgettable crime-solving duo in Tai Randolph and ex-FBI agent Trey Seaver, who kept me guessing to the end as they tracked down a series of murders linked to Atlanta's Civil War past. A thoroughly satisfying read." For the trade paperback, see our November Trade Paperback Picks.

Wilson, Valerie Plame. [Burned Signed](#) (Blue Hen/Putnam \$26.95). 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! Written with Sarah Lovett.

FOR YOUNG READERS

Dietrich, William. [The Murder of Adam and Eve](#) (Burrows \$13.99). Nick Brynner is a 16-year-old student at Anacortes, Washington, High who stumbles on a time wormhole in an old fort. He is ultimately catapulted to prehistoric Africa with another teen named Eleanor Terrell. An alien race called the Xu (pronounced Zoo) inform the pair that humans have done such a

poor job of earthly stewardship that our species' genetic ancestors – the real-life man and woman whose genes survive in all of us – may be killed to allow a Reset of history. Maybe different ancestors, or a different species, can do a better job. "Adam" and "Eve" have one chance: if the modern teens can survive, find the pair, and protect them, our world and existing history will be preserved. The hunt is on. Dietrich writes, "The novel is inspired by recent anthropological science tracing DNA backward and identifying the approximate time and place of our ancestral Adam and Eve." Ages 13+.

Grey, Mini. [Hermelin the Detective Mouse](#) (Knopf \$17.99). Ratatouille meets a young Sherlock Holmes. The Indie Next Pick: "After making his home in the attic of an apartment building, Hermelin, a small, mystery-solving mouse, notices the building bulletin board covered with notices of missing items. Hermelin sets out to help recover a missing bracelet, a purse, a teddy bear, and more. When the tenants throw a party in the mysterious Hermelin's honor, he's touched, until the attendees scatter in a panic at the sight of a mouse. When Hermelin discovers that mice are considered pests, he sadly decides to leave his home behind, until a young tenant befriends him and reminds him to be proud of who—and what—he is!" Ages 4-8/

Herriot, James. [James Herriot's Treasury for Children](#) (Simon-Schuster \$24.99). His award-winning stories for young readers bring the farmyard world of Herriot's Yorkshire to vibrant life. Featuring a host of adorable animals and colorful townsfolk, each of the stories is narrated by the country vet himself. I devoured Herriot's wonderful books; this is a nice way to revisit his world.

Kinney, Jeff. [Diary of a Wimpy Kid, The Long Haul](#) (Aladdin \$13.95). A family road trip is supposed to be a lot of fun... unless, of course, you're the Heffleys. The journey starts off full of promise, then quickly takes several wrong turns. Gas station bathrooms, crazed seagulls, a fender bender, and a runaway pig—and a road trip becomes an adventure.

Melvin, Treva Hall. [Mr. Samuel's Penny](#) (Poisoned Pencil \$10.95). Tragedy as seen through the eyes of a 14-year-old city girl from Queens, NYC, thrust into a small North Carolina town in the summer of 1972. When Miss Violet Samuel's husband and child drown in a mysterious car accident, Lizbeth Lander's heart breaks too. Mr. Samuel died clutching a wheat penny from 1909; a penny that is stolen from the sheriff's office the night of the death. Lizbeth happens to be a collector of unusual pennies, so she resolves to find who took the penny and learns a lot about what makes the world of the 1970s go round. The ultimate lesson: that even those we love can turn and descend to deadly violence. This one will make you think of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. "Melvin's tale of mystery opens with action, but then the story veers from murder to explore the thornier mysteries of human relationships. As a character, Lizbeth Landers is a spunky girl whose take on life is both illuminating and familiar. ... A smart, funny pleasure, as satisfying as sipping lemonade on the front porch with a favorite grandparent." —*Kirkus*. Ages 10-14 (and up).

Myers, Suzanne. [Stone Cove Island](#) (Soho \$17.99). *The Stepford Wives* meets Stephen King in this debut mystery. When a catastrophic hurricane devastates Stone Cove Island, a serene New England resort community, everyone pulls together to rebuild. 17-year-old Eliza Elliot volunteers to clean out the island's iconic lighthouse and stumbles upon a secret in the wreckage:

a handwritten, anonymous confession to a 30-year-old crime. Bess Linsky's unsolved murder has long haunted the island, and the letter turns the town inside out. Everyone who knew Bess is suddenly a suspect. Soon Eliza finds herself in the throes of an investigation she never wanted or asked for. As Stone Cove Island fights to recover from disaster, Eliza plunges the locals back into a nightmare they believed was long buried. A Nov. Indie Next Pick for teens.

Patterson, James. [Angel Experiment](#) (\$8) Maximum Ride #; [Fang](#) (\$8) Maximum Ride #6; [Nevermore](#) (\$8) Maximum Ride #8; [Saving the World](#) (\$8) Maximum Ride #3.

CHRISTMAS CRIMES

✦Brightwell, Emily. [Mrs. Jeffries and the Merry Gentlemen](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Orlando Edison is a stockbroker using London's infatuation with foreign mining ventures to make a fortune. He has curried favor with the nation's most respected aristocrats, even inviting three influential investors—known as the Merry Gentlemen—to be part of his latest enterprise. Edison is welcomed in the highest circles and moves with ease among the rich and powerful. But a few days before Christmas, he is found murdered. Inspector Witherspoon and his household are looking forward to the festive season. But they all know their duty, led by the intrepid Mrs. Jeffries...Victorian mystery.

Bryan, Mollie Cox. [A Crafty Christmas](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Sheila Rogers is on a holiday scrapbooking cruise in the Caribbean when she trips—losing her glasses—over something. It's a dead man rules a crew member....

Crawford, Isis. [A Catered Christmas Cookie Exchange](#) (\$7.99). Bernie and Libby Simmons, caterers extraordinaire, are hosting a televised cookie contest just in time for Christmas, but unfriendly rivalries cook up a cutthroat competition in tiny Longley, NY. Millie Piedmont is certain that Millie's Majestic Meltaways will win the competition—but she dies in a suspicious car accident en route to the show....

Hollis, Lee. [Death of a Christmas Caterer](#) (Kensington \$7.99). The Christmas season in Bar Harbor, ME, has Hayley Powell, office manager and food columnist at the Island Times newspaper, making her fifth appearance in the cozy culinary mystery series (Death of a Chocoholic). Hayley is busy holiday shopping for her teenage kids, trying to figure out her love life, and using her ex-husband's exploits as fodder for her column. Agreeing to help a local caterer in order to earn some extra money, Hayley is shocked to find him dead in his kitchen, which means it's time for some amateur sleuthing. *LJ* calls this, "A fun Christmas cozy that includes food and cocktail recipes from the brother-and-sister team who write together under the pen name Hollis."

✦Kingsbury, Kate. [Mulled Murder](#) (Berkley \$7.99). With one of her housemaids leaving to get married, Cecily Sinclair Baxter wants nothing more for Christmas than some good help. Instead of visions of sugar plums, she's calling the plumber to deal with flooded bathrooms. Then there's the surly new janitor, who acts like he got coal in his stocking. But as Cecily scrambles to hire and train new staff in time for the holidays, one of her guests is beyond help. Gerald Evans is found stabbed to death on the beach, and Cecily soon discovers he was a private investigator from London looking into dark doings involving the Pennyfoot. Who among the staff or guests was being pursued, and what se-

cret drove that person to murder? A holiday entry in the Victorian Pennyfoot Hotel series.

Kyle, CJ. [Silent Night](#) (Harper \$7.99). Christmas, Tennessee, is a town where no one locks their doors and the worst crime is a stolen bicycle. Until the night blood is found . . . but there's no body. Police Chief Tucker Ambrose hopes it's just a prank, but his years as a cop in Chicago tell him different. Then a body is discovered in the middle of the woods, staged with a bible, a crucifix, and a rosary. Miranda Harley knows exactly what's going on. In fact, she's been tracking this serial killer, hoping to gather enough evidence to convict him. Trouble is, no one will believe her, not even the sexy police chief. Then Miranda falls into the crosshairs of a psychopath,

Meier, Leslie. [The Christmas Carol Murder](#) (\$7.99). Lucy Stone normally loves planning for the holidays, but this year, Tinker's Cove has fallen on hard times. With so many residents struggling, Christmas festivities are a luxury some can't afford. But the story's not so bleak at Downeast Mortgage, whose tightfisted owners, Jake Marlowe and Ben Scribner, are raking in profits from everyone's misfortune. Half the town is in their debt, so when the miserly Marlowe is murdered, the mourners are few and the suspects are many. Scribner believes Marlowe's ghost has come to warn him of his own demise, and when he starts receiving death threats, Lucy wonders if there's more to the omen than the ravings of a bitter old pinchpenny. 20th in a cozy series.

And don't forget

Andrews, Donna. [Duck the Halls](#) (\$7.99). It's clear that some serious holiday pranksters are on the loose, not to mention skunks and ducks, challenging Meg Langslow when it's discovered an elderly vestryman has been murdered...

✦Bowen, Rhys. [The Twelve Clues of Christmas](#) (\$7.99). Her Royal Spyness escapes freezing Castle Rannoch by landing a position as a hostess at a house party in Tiddleton-under-Lovey... where murder is a guest. Includes an English Christmas companion, full of holiday recipes, games, and more.

✦Christie, Agatha. [Hercule Poirot's Christmas](#) (\$12.99). A classic country house murder wherein an elderly man unwisely invites various relatives (and beneficiaries) to celebrate Christmas with him...

OUR NOVEMBER MASS MARKET PICKS

Carl, Joanna. [The Chocolate Book Bandit](#) (\$7.99). Who knew serving on a library board could be so dangerous? When Lee McKinney Woodyard is asked to serve on the Warner Pier Library board, she attends a meeting to see if the task fits her already busy lifestyle, which includes running TenHuis Chocolade. The meeting is uneventful until library clerk Betty Blake discovers the body of board member Abigail Montgomery dead at the bottom of the basement steps. Although Abigail's death looks like an accident, further investigation shows that the murder weapon was a wooden rod Lee finds on the floor. It soon becomes obvious that several members of the board have something to hide... For the new TenHuis mystery, see The Cozy Corner.

Chapman, Drew. [The Ascendant](#) (\$7.99). One of our bestselling First Mystery Club Picks (in hardcover) gets this praise from *PW*: "Warfare goes digital in movie and TV writer Chapman's fast-moving debut, a high-stakes thriller that pits the online might of China against that of the United States. With China

on the move—using a variety of Internet techniques to cripple the American economy—the Pentagon figures it needs someone who’s not shackled by the strategic thinking of previous generations to lead a counterattack. Enter Garrett Reilly, a tech-savvy Wall Street bond trader with a particular knack for spotting mathematical patterns, who reluctantly agrees to head the military’s top-secret Ascendant program, “to prosecute a stealth war against the Chinese.” Despite the grumbles of old-line generals, Reilly harnesses a group of energy-drink-swilling cyber nerds, not only to outmaneuver Beijing but to try to topple the Communist Party leadership. Chapman has created an unlikely, offbeat hero....”

Connelly, Michael. [The Gods of Guilt](#) (\$10). Always looking for a payable case, cash-strapped, defense attorney Mickey Haller who maintains a rolling LA office in a Lincoln town car, springs into action when he gets a text involving a homicide. To his dismay, he discovers he knows the victim, a prostitute and one-time client he’d helped get her life together. Or did he? Instantly guilt-ridden, he sets out to learn her story as well as work the case....

Deaver, Jeffery. [The Kill Room](#) (\$10). It was a “million-dollar bullet,” a sniper shot delivered from over a mile away. Its victim was no ordinary mark: he was a United States citizen, targeted by the United States government, and assassinated in the Bahamas. The nation’s most renowned investigator and forensics expert, Lincoln Rhyme, is drafted to investigate. While his partner, Amelia Sachs, traces the victim’s steps in Manhattan, Rhyme leaves the city to pursue the sniper himself. As details of the case start to emerge, the pair discovers that not all is what it seems. When a deadly, knife-wielding assassin begins systematically eliminating all evidence—including the witnesses—Lincoln’s investigation turns into a chilling battle of wits in Lincoln Rhyme’s 10th challenging investigation.

Gardner, Lisa. [Fear Nothing](#) (\$9.99). The *Kirkus* Starred Review: “Recovering from a nasty fall down a flight of stairs, Detective D.D. Warren, of Boston Homicide, tangles with a pair of sisters who put her pain in a whole new perspective. Forty years ago, Harry Day, about to be arrested for killing eight prostitutes, got his wife to slit his wrists before the police closed in. He left behind two young daughters: Shana, a sociopath who followed so closely in her father’s footsteps that she was jailed for life when she killed a neighborhood boy at age 14, and Adeline, not quite a year old, who’s grown up cursed by an inability to feel physical pain. Naturally, Adeline went to medical school and became a psychiatrist specializing in pain management. DD consults her after an accident at a blood-soaked crime scene leaves her with an impressive set of injuries. Christine Ryan, the victim who’s been smothered and flayed by someone ... is followed distressingly quickly by a second victim, occupational therapist Regina Barnes. Even worse, the handiwork of the Rose Killer is gruesomely linked to the criminal careers of Harry Day and Shana, who’s been in the Massachusetts Correctional Institute for over 25 years.”

Lawson, M A. [Rosarito Beach](#) (\$9.99). “I love tough guys, even when they’re gals, and Glock-toting, fast-thinking, wise-cracking DEA agent Kay Hamilton is one of the toughest going.”—Stephen Hunter. Me, too, Here is a bold new series lead who doesn’t like to play by the rulebook. Transferred to San Diego after a case in Miami brought her more notoriety than medals, Kay once again finds herself embroiled in an international bust. But when a

mysterious stranger shows up on her doorstep, the Olivera cartel case suddenly becomes far more personal—and far more dangerous. “Lawson has written a great start to a promising new series, with a gripping story line and a gutsy, likable heroine. Readers who enjoy fast-paced thrillers and detective novels with a female protagonist who’s fully developed, vulnerable, and intriguing will gobble this one up and ask for more.”—*Library Journal* Starred Review

Lowell, Elizabeth. [Night Diver](#) (\$7.99). Tense and full of surprises, this thriller brings the dangerous world of diving and salvage vividly to life as a young woman reluctantly returns to her grandfather’s dive boat of St. Vincent Island and use her financial expertise to save a business drowning in red ink. Former British military diver Holden Cameron, missing the adrenaline rush of active duty, resents being sent to babysit what he thinks is a family of thieves. But after Kate and Holden join forces, they have to ask where equipment, treasure—even divers—have disappeared. And why? Treasure. Adventure. Hot romance. Terrific.

McKinlay, Jenn. [On Borrowed Time Signed](#) (\$7.99). 5th in the Library Lovers Series. See Event Books.

Viets, Elaine. [A Dog Gone Murder](#) (Signet \$7.99). Josie has been asked to investigate Uncle Bob’s Doggy Day Camp, known for its commercials featuring Uncle Bob liking dogs so much that he acts like one. But Josie soon learns how Uncle Bob acts when the cameras are off. Her mother’s new tenant, Franklin, who works for Uncle Bob, plans to quit after seeing the man’s true nature. But before he gets the chance, Bob is murdered, and Franklin goes from the doghouse to the big house. Now it’s up to Josie to clear Franklin’s name. Her investigation reveals that Bob was more of a dog than anyone knew... Latest in the Josie Marcus Mystery Shopper Series.

Wilson, F. Paul. [Dark City](#) (\$8.99) is the second of a new prequel trilogy, Repairman Jack: The Early Years, and 17th Repairman Jack. It’s February 1992. Desert Storm is raging in Iraq but twenty-two-year-old Jack has more pressing matters at home. His favorite bar, The Spot, is about to be sold out from under Julio, Jack’s friend. Jack has been something of a tag-along to this point, but now he takes the reins and demonstrates his innate talent for seeing biters get bit. With a body count even higher than in *Cold City*, this second novel of the Early Years Trilogy hurtles Jack into the final volume in which all scores will be settled, all debts paid.

NEW IN MASS MARKET PAPERBACK

Adams, Ellery. [Lethal Letters](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Books by the Bay Mystery #6
Burton, Mary. [Cover Your Eyes](#) (Zebra \$7.99) Attorney Rachel Wainwright
Carlisle, Kate. [A High-End Finish](#) (Signet \$7.99) Fixer Upper Mystery #1
Chance, Maia. [Snow White Red-Handed](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Fairy Tale Fatal #1
Corrigan, Maya Ann. [By Cook or By Crook](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Five-Ingredient Mystery
Evanovich, Janet. [Chase](#) (\$8.99)
Fluke, Joanne. [Cold Judgment](#) (\$7.99)
Grant, Ellie. [Traacherous Tart](#) (Pocket \$7.99) Pie Shop Cozy
Grippando, James. [Black Horizon](#) (\$9.99) Attorney Jack Swyteck

Hamilton, Victoria. [No Mallets Intended](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Vintage Kitchen #4
 Hechtman, Betty. [For Better or Worsted](#) (\$7.99) Crochet Mystery #8
 Lutz, John. [Frenzy](#) (\$9.99) NYPD's Frank Quinn
 McCrae, Molly. [Plagued By Quilt](#) (Signet \$7.99) Haunted Yarn Shop
 Mann, Don. [Seal Team Six: Hunt the Jackal](#) (\$8)
 Marks, Mary. [Knot in My Backyard](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Quilting Mystery
 McEwen, Scott. [Target America](#) (\$9.99)
 McHugh, Mary. [Chorus Lines Caviar and Corpses](#) (Kensington \$7.99)
 Murphy, Shirley. [The Cat, the Devil, and Lee Fontana](#) (\$7.99) Feline Joe Grey
 Olsen, Gregg. [Girl in the Woods](#) (Pocket \$9.99)
 Patterson, James. [Mistress](#) (\$10)
 Rule, Ann. [Lying in Wait Ann Rules Crime File](#) (Pocket \$7.99)
 Rule, Ann. [Practice to Deceive](#) (\$7.99) True crime
 Vallere, Diane. [Suede to Rest](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Material Witness #1

Reissues

Burke, James Lee. [Cimarron Rose](#) (\$9.99)
 Burke, James Lee. [To the Bright and Shining Sun](#) (\$8)
 Connelly, Michael. [The Narrows](#) (\$10)
 Cussler, Clive. [Night Probe! A Dirk Pitt Adventure](#) (\$9.99)
 Flynn, Gillian. [Dark Places](#) (\$9.99)
 Flynn, Gillian. [Sharp Objects](#) (\$9.99)
 Levine, Laura. [This Pen for Hire](#) (\$7.99)
 Ludlum, Robert. [Apocalypse Watch](#) (\$9.99)
 Ludlum, Robert. [Road to Omaha](#) (\$9.99)
 Ludlum, Robert. [Scorpio Illusion](#) (\$9.99)
 Olsen, Gregg. [Wicked Snow](#) (\$7.99)
 Picoult, Jodi. [Salem Falls](#) (\$9.99)

SciFi/Fantasy/Horror/Romance

Arthur, Keri. [Penumbra: The Spook Squad 3](#) (Random \$7.99)
 Fanning, Diane. [Under Cover of the Night](#) (Berkley \$9.99)
 Gifford, Blythe. [Return of the Border Warrior](#) (Harlequin \$7.25)
 Hunter, Erin. [Warriors: Tales from the Clans](#) (Harper \$6.99)
 Graham, Heather. [Betrayed](#) (Harlequin \$7.99) Krews of Hunters
 Koontz, Dean. [Innocence: A Novel](#) (\$9.99)
 Pratchett, Terry. [Going Postal](#) (\$9.99)
 Pratchett, Terry. [Making Money](#) (\$9.99)
 Pratchett, Terry. [Thud](#) (\$9.99)
 Pratchett, Terry. [Unseen Academicals](#) (\$9.99)
 Sparks, Nicholas. [Longest Ride](#) (\$8)
 Steel, Danielle. [Winners](#) (\$7.99)

HISTORY/MYSTERY

✦ Ackroyd, Peter. [Civil War: The History of England Vol. II Signed](#) (Macmillan \$46). Ackroyd is England's version of prolific King and Koontz. He's everywhere but here he's in the 17th Century after Vol. II: *The Tudors*. Dazzled by the relative wealth of England compared to his native Scotland, James I spent far more than his treasury took in. When he incurred the wrath of Parliament as a result, he refused to justify the royal expenditures, instead relying on the Duke of Buckingham to shield him from "mere" politics. His younger son, Charles I, continued both his father's spendthrift habits and acrimony with Parliament, refusing to accept the king's subjection to English common law—a fight that ultimately cost Charles his head and plunged the country into civil war, resulting in the rise of Oliver Cromwell and an interregnum government that wielded absolute military authority.

Cromwell's death saw the return of the monarchy in Charles II and his brother James II, the latter of whom found himself banished in a "Glorious" (bloodless) rebellion three years after his coronation. Spliced between the chapters that move the chronological history forward are vignettes on daily life in 17th-century England, covering the theatres, literature, politics and economics, and the emerging popular press, as well as contemporary analysis of historical events. This is a fascinating look at life in England during tumultuous times.

Armstrong, Karen. [Fields of Blood: Religion and the History of Violence](#) (Knopf \$30). While many historians have looked at violence in connection with particular religious manifestations (jihad in Islam or Christianity's Crusades), Armstrong looks at each faith—not only Christianity and Islam, but also Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Judaism—in its totality over time. As she describes, each arose in an agrarian society with plenty powerful landowners brutalizing peasants while also warring among themselves over land, then the only real source of wealth. In this world, religion was something that permeated all aspects of society. And so it was that agrarian aggression, and the warrior ethos it begot, became bound up with observances of the sacred. In each tradition, however, a counterbalance to the warrior code also developed. Around sages, prophets, and mystics there grew up communities protesting the injustice and bloodshed endemic to agrarian society, the violence to which religion had become heir.... Explore this dynamic and how it is working in today's world with a noted religious scholar.

Bernstein, Richard. [China, 1945: Mao's Revolution and America's Fateful Choice](#) (Knopf \$30). What happened during 1945 to effect a sea change? Personalities. A revolutionary movement. Fear of Communism. Fascinating, and fateful.

Bradley, James. [The China Mirage](#) (LittleBrown \$35). Beginning in the 1850s, Bradley introduces us to the prominent Americans who made their fortunes in the China opium trade. As they—good Christians all—profitably addicted millions, American missionaries arrived, promising salvation for those who adopted Western ways. And that was just the beginning. From drug dealer Warren Delano to his grandson Franklin Delano Roosevelt, from the port of Hong Kong to the towers of Princeton University, from the era of Appomattox to the age of the A-Bomb...there's much that goes defines our relations with China today.

Brotton, Jerry. [History of the World in 12 Maps](#) (Penguin \$20). See Gift Ideas.

Carroll, Sean B. [Brave Genius](#) (\$16.99). In the spring of 1940, the aspiring but unknown writer Albert Camus and budding scientist Jacques Monod were quietly pursuing ordinary, separate lives in Paris. After the German invasion and occupation of France, both men joined the Resistance to help liberate the country from the Nazis, ascended to prominent, dangerous roles, and were very lucky to survive. After the war and through twists of circumstance, they became friends, and through their passionate determination and rare talent they emerged as leading voices of modern literature and biology, each receiving the Nobel Prize in his respective field. Drawing upon a wealth of previously unpublished and unknown material gathered over several years of research, *Brave Genius* tells the story of how Camus and Monod endured the most terrible episode of the twentieth century and then blossomed into remarkably creative and engaged individuals.

Cooney, Kara. [The Woman Who Would Be King](#) (Crown \$28). Hatshepsut—the daughter of a general who usurped Egypt’s throne and a mother with ties to the previous dynasty—was born into a privileged position in the royal household, and she was expected to bear the sons who would legitimize the reign of her father’s family. Her failure to produce a male heir proved to be the twist of fate that propelled her improbable rule as Pharaoh. Obviously much of this narrative biography has to be speculative but Cooney cites her sources. Rob and I visited Hatshepsut’s beautiful tomb in 2010.

Dekker, Ted. [AD 30](#) (Hachette \$25). Step back in time to A.D. 30. The outcast daughter of one of the most powerful Bedouin sheikhs in Arabia, Mavia is called on to protect the very people who rejected her. When their enemies launch a sudden attack with devastating consequences, Mavia escapes with the help of two of her father’s warriors—Saba, who speaks more with his sword than his voice, and Judah, a Jew who comes from a tribe that can read the stars. Their journey will be fraught with terrible danger. If they can survive the vast forbidding sands of a desert that is deadly to most, they will reach a brutal world subjugated by kings and emperors. There Mavia must secure an unlikely alliance with King Herod of the Jews. But Mavia’s path leads her unexpectedly to another man. An enigmatic teacher...

Dueñas, Maria. [The Heart Has Its Reasons](#) (Atria \$26). Dueñas’ first novel, [The Time Inbetween](#) (\$16), captivated me with its heroine, its voice, its underlying history of Spain, North Africa, and Portugal leading to WWII, and its premise that a fashionable dressmaker could become a valuable spy, transmitting information in dress patterns. If you missed it, grab it now—a marvelous fit with Alan Furst, Philip Kerr, and such. Alas this second fiction, bringing a middle-aged Madrid scholar whose husband has left her to 1999 California on a funded scholarly position at a university near San Francisco where she is entrusted with the papers of Andres Fontanta, a fellow Spaniard and former faculty member who died in the 1960s. At Santa Cecilia, Blanca meets former professor Daniel Carter, an American who spent time in Spain and knew Andres before his death. As Blanca digs through Andres’s documents, she learns about the missions that were started by the Franciscans in America and develops a closer friendship with Daniel. But she also uncovers secrets deeper than those found in the decades-old papers. I just couldn’t get into this, but can’t explain why since normally it’s the kind of novel I devour.

✎Donald, Angus. [Grail Knight](#) (SimonSchuster \$26.99). Richard the Lionhearted has died and his duplicitous brother John has taken the throne. The Earl of Locksley has been outlawed by his old enemy, now the king, and Sir Alan Dale has had the estates granted to him by Richard I taken away again. But still Alan Dale lives comfortably with his beloved wife pregnant with their first child. But an old crime resurfaces and powerful forces being circling, including a renegade band of Knights Templar. Next, Alan’s wife falls gravely ill. Might the Holy Grail save her? Chasing all over England and France, Alan, Robin Hood, and their companions in their quest, must find and procure the Cup of Christ while dodging Templars before time runs out.

Downey, Kirstin. [Isabella the Warrior Queen](#) (Knopf \$35). Born at a time when Christianity was dying out and the Ottoman Empire was aggressively expanding, Isabella of Castille was inspired in her youth by tales of Joan of Arc. She accomplished much,

driving out the Moors, sponsoring Columbus. But she introduced the Inquisition and her eldest daughter Catherine married Arthur of England, then his brother Henry VIII. A mixed legacy for a controversial but courageous woman.

✎Gortner, C W. [Tudor Vendetta](#) (SimonSchuster \$16.99). One secret can destroy a kingdom. It is 1558. Elizabeth I sits on the throne. Summoned from exile abroad, Elizabeth’s intimate spy, Brendan Prescott, is plunged into danger when he’s sent to investigate the mysterious disappearance of a favored lady in waiting. But the closer he gets to the truth, the more he must risk to save England from destruction—including the betrayal of the queen herself.

✎Griffith, Nicola. [Hild: Book One](#) (\$18). Lesbian Griffith wrote some truly kick-ass mysteries. Now she’s penned an historical fiction amid merging kingdoms of 7th Century Britain and new religions are coming ashore. Readers of Peter Tremayne’s mysteries set in 6th Century Ireland are familiar with this landscape. Hild is a king’s youngest daughter and in time becomes a pivotal figure of the times as St. Hilda of Whitby. Here in Volume One she has an uncle, Edward of Northumbria, who will stop at nothing to become overking of the Angles. Hild becomes established as his seer, a position of unusual authority for a woman—as long as she doesn’t lead Edwin astray....

Harrison, Kathryn. [Joan of Arc: A Life Transfigured](#) (Knopf \$27.95).

Horan, Nancy. [Under the Wide and Starry Sky](#) (\$16). A best-seller portraying the marriage of Robert Louis Stevenson to an American woman and their life until he died in Samoa. She was both controversial and courageous, and a force that kept his literary output going. Stevenson had always been sickly and feared becoming a helpless invalid once again. This from *Wikipedia*: On 3 December 1894, Stevenson was talking to his wife and straining to open a bottle of wine when he suddenly exclaimed, “What’s that!” asking his wife “Does my face look strange?” and collapsed. He died within a few hours, probably of a cerebral hemorrhage. He was forty-four years old. The Samoans insisted on surrounding his body with a watch-guard during the night and on bearing their Tusitala upon their shoulders to nearby Mount Vaea, where they buried him on a spot overlooking the sea.

✎Holsinger, Bruce. [A Burnable Book](#) (\$16.99). Medieval noir, an excellent debut, very dark, from a noted historian turned novelist. London, 1385. Surrounded by ruthless courtiers—including his powerful uncle, John of Gaunt, and Gaunt’s artful mistress, Katherine Swynford—England’s young king, Richard II, is in mortal peril. Songs are heard across London, said to originate from an ancient book that prophesies the ends of England’s kings—including Richard’s assassination. Only a few powerful men know that the cryptic lines derive from a “burnable book,” a seditious work that threatens the stability of the realm. To find the manuscript, wily bureaucrat Geoffrey Chaucer turns to fellow poet John Gower, a professional trader in information with connections high and low. Gower discovers a conspiracy that reaches from the king’s court to London’s slums—and potentially implicates Gower’s own son. So, terrorists were active then, as now.

✎Iggulden, Conn. [Wars of the Roses Trinity Signed](#) (Joseph \$43) Vol. II continues a view of the ill-starred reign of Henry VI moving into collision with the House of York, the white rose branch of the Plantagenets. Of special interest is the role of Henry’s

wife, a fierce French princess who I think got a bad deal (as did Catherine of Aragon, a Spanish princess). Marrying royalty was always risky, even more so if foreign. Start with [Wars of the Roses Stormbird Signed](#) (Putnam \$27.95)

Klein, Daniel. [Travels with Epicurus](#) (\$14). After being advised by his dentist to get tooth implants, Daniel Klein decides to stick with his dentures and instead use the money to make a trip to the Greek island Hydra and discover the secrets of aging happily. Drawing on the inspiring lives of his Greek friends and philosophers ranging from Epicurus to Sartre, Klein uncovers their lifestyle choices. It's not clear to me after reading this that living past the century mark is a desirable goal, but one could certainly benefit from choices like throwing away the alarm and waking up naturally.

Law, Janice. [Moon over Tangier](#) (Mysterious \$14.95). In colonial Morocco, a painter navigates a conspiracy of forgery, corruption, and murder... "Exotic locales, adept characterization, an intriguing historical backdrop, and brisk pacing make this novel highly entertaining—but it's Law's witty, promiscuous, and refreshingly candid sleuth that makes it so memorable." —*PW* on our **November History/Mystery Paperback Pick**.

Lichtblau, Eric. [The Nazis Next Door: How America Became a Safe Haven for Hitler's Men](#) (Houghton \$28). Not all of them, obviously, but a disturbing number just slipped into the US. And some came with the help and protection from the U.S. government. The CIA, the FBI, and the military all put Hitler's minions to work as spies, intelligence assets, and leading scientists and engineers, whitewashing their histories. Read [Operation Paperclip](#) (\$30) about importing German scientists to work in Cold War programs; and Sara Paretsky's terrific VI Warshawski investigation in [Critical Mass](#) (\$9.99 or \$26.95 Signed) for fiction.

Maier, Thomas. [When Lions Roar: The Churchills and the Kennedys](#) (Crown \$30). This history begins in the mid-1930s at Churchill's country estate Chartwell where soon-to-be US Ambassador to Britain Joseph Kennedy brokered a secret deal. Their circle more or less shattered by the war, infidelities, and death, eventually it reformed as the families helped define each other's histories.

Michener, James. [Texas](#); [Centennial](#); [Chesapeake](#) (\$17 each). Three reissues of novels by Michener.

Nicolson, Adam. [Why Homer Matters](#) (Holt \$30). *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* are among the oldest stories we have, emerging from an oral tradition into a foundation myth from a time—around 200 B.C.—before the Greeks became Greek, when warlike invaders from the Northern steppe—beyond the Black Sea—clashed with the more sophisticated inhabitants of the Eastern Mediterranean. The poems tell us how we became who we are.

Oak, BB. [Thoreau on Wolf Hill](#) (Kensington \$15). During the winter of 1847, consumption rages through the small community of Plumford, Mass., in Beth and Ben Oak's enjoyable second Henry David Thoreau mystery (after 2013's *Thoreau at Devil's Perch*). Thoreau's friend Dr. Adam Walker, who has returned to Plumford from Boston to take over his late physician grandfather's practice, must contend with the superstitious Solomon Whitty, who insists that vampirism is responsible for the deaths attributed to the illness. Whitty goes so far as to dig up the corpse

of his dead niece, Hetty, to prevent her from rising from the grave and sucking the life out of her sister, Joanna. The subsequent murder of a former student of Thoreau's, with wounds suggesting that his throat was torn out by some mysterious creature, raises the ante. "Walker is an able Watsonian sidekick to the Holmes-like Thoreau..." —*PW*

Oliver, Neil. [Vikings: A New History](#) (\$15.95).

Penzler, Otto, ed. [Best American Mystery Stories of the 19th Century](#) (Houghton \$30). Editor Penzler collects 32 of them.

Perez-Reverte, Arturo. [The Siege](#) (Random \$28). Winner of the CWA International Dagger. It's 1811, and as Napoleon's army relentlessly shells the port of Cádiz, Spain, the city finds itself the target of a much more sinister presence. A shadowy figure is brutally murdering young women, and as amoral policeman Rogelio Tizón stalks this prey, he begins to realize that the murders and the French bombs are somehow intertwined. At the same time, the handsome Lolita Palma, upstanding owner of a shipping company, agrees to do business with corsair Pépé Lobo and soon finds herself drawn to his rough charms. And a mysterious taxidermist sends a secret carrier pigeon to a French captain, adding one more pin to his map of bombs. As Napoleon's war rages on, the world finds itself in a vortex of change, with science competing against faith and tradition to help create a new world order.

☞Perry, Anne. [Anne Perry's Christmas Crimes: Two](#) (Random \$15). "A Christmas Homecoming" gives the lead to Charlotte Pitt's mother Caroline, on holiday with her young husband Joshua Fielding in Whitby. "A Christmas Garland" finds young Lieutenant Victor Narraway in 1857 India, soon after the violent siege of Cawnpore, where a luckless medical orderly has been arrested in the death of a prison guard. New for 2014, [A New York Christmas](#) (Random \$18). The year is 1904. Twenty-three-year-old Jemima Pitt, the daughter of Thomas Pitt, head of Britain's Special Branch, is crossing the Atlantic. She is traveling with an acquaintance, Delphinia Cardew, who is to marry the aristocratic Brent Albright in a high-society New York wedding—a grand affair that will join together two fabulously wealthy families, titans of the international financial world. But Jemima senses a mysterious shadow darkening the occasion. Missing from the festivities is Delphinia's mother, Maria.... If Perry gets her visa, she will sign these for you.

Riffenburgh, Beau. [Pinkerton's Great Detective](#) (Penguin \$18). So thrilling were James McParland's cases that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle included the cunning detective in a story along with Sherlock Holmes. Riffenburgh digs deep into the recently released Pinkerton archives to present the first biography of McParland and the agency's cloak-and-dagger methods. Both action packed and meticulously researched, Pinkerton's Great Detective brings readers along on McParland's most challenging cases: from young McParland's infiltration of the murderous Molly Maguires gang in the case that launched his career to his hunt for the notorious Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch to his controversial investigation of the Western Federation of Mines in the assassination of Idaho's former governor. Filled with outlaws and criminals, detectives and lawmen, *Pinkerton's Great Detective* shines a light upon the celebrated secretive agency and its premier sleuth.

✚Rizzolo, Suzanne. [Die I Will Not Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). Today's "Austenland" features light-hearted dramas. And women dream of a Mr. Darcy. They don't dream of what it was like to choose the wrong partner—or have no partner. They don't dream of no control of their property, or their children. Jane Austen's world was still a man's world. Readers of CS Harris and Stephanie Barron know there was a dark side to the Regency where poverty, politics, passions, and privileges roiled England. The French had had their revolution. Would the British avoid one? Penelope Wolfe, a young wife and mother who married unwisely—an artist, no family man—and must live with the consequences, fears scandal will engulf her family when revelations about her father circulate in 1813 London. They include seditious writings and an unsolved murder. Penelope can't turn to an established police force. So she enlists firebrand lawyer Edward Buckler and Bow Street Runner John Chase, her allies in two earlier investigations into murder. The men put their careers at risk supporting Penelope while trying to identify a new killer and the one who's escaped justice so long... "Rizzolo vividly depicts Regency London through her trio of contrasting but equally likable protagonists—Penelope, Buckler, and Chase."—*PW* on our **December History/Mystery Pick**. Also in trade paperback: [Die I Will Not](#) (\$14.95).

Roberts, Andrew. [Napoleon: A Life](#) (Viking \$40). Roberts moves from Napoleon's obscure Corsican origins to his meteoric rise to power, through his fraught personal relationships and his numerous military campaigns, to his sad and ignominious exile on St. Helena, where he died of stomach cancer. Basing his conclusions on a vast trove of Napoleon's published letters and other contemporary sources, along with personal visits to 53 of 60 battlefields that figured in Napoleon's career, Roberts argues that Napoleon was not only a brilliant military strategist but also a great statesman and a true intellectual—and a micromanager.

Robertson, Imogen. [The Paris Winter](#) (St Martins \$25.99). I am mad for her Georgian mysteries with Mrs. Westerman. Moving up a century to Paris, a capital of art, she envisions a beleaguered heroine. Maud Heighton came to Lafond's famous Académie to paint, and to flee the constraints of her small English town. It took all her courage to escape, but Paris, she quickly realizes, is no place for a light purse. While her fellow students enjoy the dazzling decadence of the Belle Époque, Maud slips into poverty. Quietly starving, and dreading another cold Paris winter, she stumbles upon an opportunity when Christian Morel engages her as a live-in companion to his beautiful young sister, Sylvie. Maud is overjoyed by her good fortune. But as we mystery fans know, there is no free lunch, not even for a starving young woman...

Rowland, Laura Joh. [The Iris Fan Signed](#) (St Martins \$28). It's 1709. The shogun, master and enemy of Sano Ichiro, is dying. Events in previous books see Sano, once the Shogun's investigator, then chamberlain, reduced to lowly patrol guard. His marriage to Reiko is in tatters. His enemies Yanagisawa and Lord Ienobu appear to have formed an alliance that leaves Sano puzzled—and wary. Sano's longtime lieutenant Hirata is plotting against the regime. Yet bushido, the Way of the Warrior, keeps Sano loyal to his Samurai code of honor. Then the shogun is stabbed, in his palace with a fan of painted silk having sharpened iron ribs, and Sano is restored to his chief investigator's role to catch the culprit. But he also has to match wits with his enemies and fear the displeasure of the shogun's heir.... This is the final

chapter in a splendid series brilliantly bringing feudal Japan alive. I have sucked up every single one of the previous 17 novels, plus this one.

✚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. The Catholic party focuses its attack on Henry's sixth wife, Matthew Shardlake's old mentor, Queen Catherine Parr.

Scarrow, Simon. [Brothers in Blood Signed](#) (Headline \$42). A messenger on the streets of Rome has been intercepted and tortured, revealing a plot to sabotage the Roman army's campaign against Caratacus, commander of Britannia's native tribes. A treacherous agent's mission is to open a second front of attack against them and eliminate the two Roman soldiers who could stand in the way. Unwarned, Cato and Macro are with the Roman army pursuing Caratacus and his men through the mountains of Britannia. Defeating Caratacus finally seems within their grasp. But the plot against the two heroes threatens not only their military goals but also their lives. #13 in series.

Schneider, Paul. [Old Man River: The Mississippi](#) (\$18). Schneider explores the great waterway, tracing its prehistory, geology, and cultural and literary histories—all as vast as its subject.

✚Seward, Desmond. [The Warrior King](#) (Pantheon \$27.95). Historian Seward takes a new look at Henry V, Agincourt, and the campaign that shaped Medieval England (and alas the War of the Roses since Henry V died soon after, leaving the infant Henry VI, unfit to rule, as his heir).

Smith, Wilbur. [Desert God](#) (Harper \$28.99). The brilliant Taita, slave and advisor to the Pharaoh, finds himself at the center of a vortex of passion, intrigue, and danger in a world where the line between loyalty and betrayal shifts like the desert sands, evil enemies await in the shadows, and death lingers on the edges of darkness. New in a terrific Ancient Egypt series from global best-seller Smith. Born in Northern Rhodesia, now Zambia, in Central Africa, Smith spent his early years on his father's 25,000 acre ranch of forest, hills and savannah. There he learned how to hunt and raise cattle from his father and acquired his love of reading from his mother. He has written much about his homeland.

Stabenow, Dana. [By the Shores of the Middle Sea Signed](#) (Gere \$14.95). See Event Books.

Stockwin, Julian. [The Silk Tree Signed](#) (Allison \$44). Forced to flee Rome from the barbaric rampages of the Ostrogoths, merchant Nicander meets an unlikely ally in the form of Marius, a fierce Roman legionary. Escaping to a new life in Constantinople, the two land upon its shores lonely and penniless. Needing to make money fast, they plot and plan a number of outrageous money-making schemes, until they chance upon their greatest idea yet. Armed with a wicked plan to steal precious silk seeds from the faraway land of Seres, Nicander and Marius must embark upon a terrifyingly treacherous journey across unknown lands, never before completed. But first they must deceive the powerful emperor Justinian and the rest of his formidable Byzantine Empire in order to begin their journey into the unknown...An adventurous tale of mischief, humor and deception, Nicander and Marius face danger of the highest order.

☞Strohm, Paul. [Chaucer's Tale](#) (Viking \$28.95). 1386 and the road to Canterbury. It was the poet's worst year but he began his best poem.

☞Taylor, Andrew. [The Silent Boy Signed](#) (Collins \$40 in stock). Here is the second chapter in the life of Charles Savill. Now scarred, older, and having lost his wife Augusta during his time in America, he is back in London lodging in Nightingale Lane and looking after his daughter Lizzie. Word comes from 1792 Paris that Augusta has been killed in the riots at the Tuileries, and that she is survived by a ten-year-old son. The boy is now deep in rural England in custody of émigrés including the powerful Conte de Quillon, once Augusta's lover. Augusta's uncle, the wealthy Mr. Rampton, a figure in government—he says the Post Office but it's the Black Letters Department—wishes Savill to travel to Charnwood Court and bring the boy to London where he will be made Rampton's heir, even though Savill may claim him; Lizzie is the boy's closest relative. That's the set-up for a complex story where you should take nothing for granted other than Charles truly has been made mute by the shock of Augusta's murder. If you like Imogen Robertson's Mrs. Westerman's novels, waste no time grabbing this.

Meet Savill in [Scent of Death](#) (Harper \$26.99), winner of the 2013 Ellis Peters Historical Dagger. Here is the *PW* Starred Review: "Set in 1778, this excellent series opener from Diamond Dagger Award-winner Taylor introduces Edward Savill, an employee of the British government's American Department. The day Savill's ship docks in New York harbor, he observes a man's corpse dragging from a dinghy in the water. Later the same day, Savill gets involved in investigating the stabbing death of Roger Pickett, a gentleman newly arrived in the city. Under the terms of his commission, Savill is supposed to report to his masters in London on the "administration of justice in the city in all its aspects," which puts him at odds with British military officers, who regard a murder inquiry as a low priority in wartime. Taylor plants clues to the murderer's identity early on in a fair-play plot whose fiendish cleverness becomes apparent only at the end. His depiction of the plight of American Loyalists adds another facet to this superior whodunit."

☞Tyler, LC. [Cruel Necessity Signed](#) (Constable \$45) starts a tongue-in-cheek UK series set in Restoration England. The narrator John Grey, a young Cambridgeshire student of law, is a mixture of the naïve and the shrewd, and misses much of what's going on in his village and in the story. The theatres are padlocked. Christmas has been cancelled. It is 1657 and the unloved English Republic is eight years old. Though Cromwell's joyless grip on power appears immovable, many still look to Charles Stuart's dissolute and threadbare court-in-exile, and some are prepared to risk their lives plotting a restoration. For the officers of the Republic, constant vigilance is needed. So, when the bloody corpse of a Royalist spy is discovered on the dung heap of a small Essex village, why is the local magistrate so reluctant to investigate? Grey, believing the dead man deserves justice while villagers are ignoring the murder, is drawn into a vortex of plot and counter-plot and into the all-encompassing web of intrigue spun by Cromwell's own spy-master, John Thurloe. I really enjoyed how the story plays out.

☞Weir, Alison. [Elizabeth of York: A Tudor Queen](#) (\$18). More or less a pawn in the conclusion to the War of the Roses, the eldest daughter of Edward IV was married to the incoming first Tudor monarch, Henry VII. Mother of Arthur, who died, and Henry VIII (who unfortunately didn't—he's my least favorite English monarch), she weathered "claims" of the return of her (dead, maybe murdered) younger brother(s) and died too young in childbirth. Authors continue to mine the entire Tudor dynasty which is truly a royal soap opera.

Welch, Frances. [Rasputin: A Short Life](#) (\$16), meaning a short biography.

☞Wilde, James. [The Winter Warrior](#) (\$15.95). A novel of Hereward the Wake. 1067: Following the devastating destruction of the Battle of Hastings, William the Bastard and his men have descended on England. But there one man stands in the way of the invader's savagery. He is called Hereward, a warrior and master tactician—and as adept at battle as the imposter who sits upon the throne. And he is Saxon England's last hope. In a Fenlands fortress of water and wild wood, Hereward's resistance simmers. His army of outcasts grows by the day—an army that emerges out of the mists and the night, leaving death in its wake. But William is not so easily cowed. William's ascent to the throne, and keeping it, is one of those unlikely event like that of Victoria's ascent (see below).

☞Wilson, AN. [Victoria](#) (Penguin \$36). A life that brought to the throne an unlikely candidate. More than a Victoria biography, Wilson skillfully weaves the vast narrative of the Victorian landscape. A truly fabulous premise underlies [Flaw in the Blood](#) (\$15), a standalone by Stephanie Barron (see her new Jane Austen in Event Books) that speaks to Victoria's claim to the throne. The mystery is not as powerful as Barron's idea which will never be explored but haunts me for its possibility.

Wishart, David. [Finished Business](#) (Severn \$28.95). *PW* notes, "For readers who can look past the jarring contemporary idiom, Wishart presents one of his better plots. When masonry falls on Naevis Surdinus, a former consul, crushing his head, his subsequent death appears to be accidental. But the ghost of Alexander the Great tells Surdinus's niece, Naevia Postuma, that foul play was involved. Despite the bizarre source of Naevia's suspicions, Marcus investigates and finds them justified. He must also figure out why the dead man sent his wife a letter, accompanied by a scroll, which contained erroneous information about Surdinus' relationship with Marcus's father." 16th in series. Ordered upon Request.