

BOOKNEWS from

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As usual, April showers us with books and authors...

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

THURSDAY APRIL 2 7:00 PM

James Carlos Blake signs [The House of Wolfe](#) (Grove \$24) 3rd Border Noir

FRIDAY APRIL 3 7:00 PM

Shona Patel interviews debut author **MJ Carter**
MJ Carter signs [The Strangler Vine](#) (Putnam \$26.95) First Mystery Club Pick set in India under the Raj
Patel is the author of one of our top two bestselling paperbacks, [Teatime for the Firefly](#) (\$15.95) — the other is Martin Walker's [Bruno, Chief of Police](#) (\$15.95)

MONDAY APRIL 6 7:00 PM Tartan Day Party
Book Launch for Kearsley who will chat with Diana Gabaldon
Susanna Kearsley signs [A Desperate Fortune](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99) The Jacobite Court in exile in 18th Century France
Gabaldon will appear only for the conversation and will not be signing any books at this event but we will have on hand, and you will be the first to get, [The Outlandish Companion Volume 1 \(Revised\) Signed and with a Gaelic Greeting](#) (Random \$40)

TUESDAY APRIL 7 7:00 PM

Steve Berry signs [The Patriot Threat](#) (St Martins \$26.95) Cotton Malone
Note: all our books will be sold with an insert especially designed for this event: a giant \$1 bill (fake) with a key factoid.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 8 11:00AM Morning Coffee

Robyn Carr signs [Never Too Late](#) (Mira \$14.95)
Carr also appears April 7 7:00 PM at the Scottsdale Library, 3839 N Drinkwater

THURSDAY APRIL 9 7:00 PM

Shannon Baker signs [Tattered Legacy](#) (Midnight Ink \$14.99)
Cindy Brown signs [Macdeath](#) (Henry \$17)
Deborah Ledford signs [Causing Chaos](#) (IOF \$15.95)

SATURDAY APRIL 11 10.30 AM

Coffee and Crime discusses Eva Gates, [By Book or by Crook](#) (\$7.99)

TUESDAY APRIL 14 7:00 PM 4:00-6:00 PM

Writers Workshop with Hallie Ephron: Plotting a Page Turner
Registration: 480-947-2974 Fee: \$30

TUESDAY APRIL 14 7:00 PM

Hallie Ephron signs [Night, Night, Sleep Tight](#) (Morrow \$26.99)

THURSDAY APRIL 16 7:00 PM

Philip Kerr signs [Lady from Zagreb](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Bernie Guenther #10!
Kerr also appears April 15 6:30 PM at the Glendale Library

FRIDAY APRIL 17 7:00 PM

Stuart Woods signs [Hot Pursuit](#) (Putnam \$27.95) Stone Barrington #33

SATURDAY APRIL 18 10:30 AM

Croak and Dagger discusses Deb Crombie's [Necessary as Blood](#) (\$13.99)

SATURDAY APRIL 18 2:00 PM

Mary Doria Russell signs [Epitaph](#) (Harper \$27.99) Wyatt Earp/OK Corral #2

TUESDAY APRIL 21 7:00 PM A Terrific Trio

Bruce DeSilva signs [A Scourge of Vipers](#) (Forge \$25.99) Liam Mulligan #3
Susan Cummins Miller signs [Chasm](#) (Texas Tech \$29.95)
And joining us by Skype, Michael Robotham who has signed [Life or Death](#) (Mulholland \$26) for us

WEDNESDAY APRIL 22 7:00 PM Southwest Crime

James Anderson signs [The Never-Open Desert Diner](#) (Caravel \$25) Debut & Hardboiled Crime Club Pick
Terry Shames signs [A Deadly Affair at Bobtail Ridge](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95) Samuel Craddock #3

THURSDAY APRIL 23 7:00 PM "Mystery of Romance"

Pamela Tracy signs [Finally a Hero](#) (Harlequin \$5.99) Rancher's Daughter Series
Stacey Connelly signs [His Secret Son](#) (\$5.50) The Pirelli Brothers
Cathy McDavid signs [Her Rodeo Man](#) (\$5.99) Reckless Arizona #1357

SUNDAY APRIL 26 2:00 PM Heart Health

Dr. Jack Wolfson signs [The Paleo Cardiologist](#) (Morgan James \$21.95) Treating your heart and health naturally—discussion as well as signing

TUESDAY APRIL 28 7:00 PM Book Launch #25th Prey

John Sandford signs [Gathering Prey](#) (Putnam \$28.95) Our copies come with a postcard picturing Lucas' license plate for his Porsche

WEDNESDAY APRIL 29 7:00 PM British Crime Classics Night Laurie R. King and Barbara Peters

Introducing British Crime and Spy Classics from Poisoned Pen Press plus Martin Edward's history of Britain's famed Detection Club: [The Golden Age of Murder](#) (Harper \$27.99). Expect stories, recommendations, prizes! Food!

Laurie R. King signs [Dreaming Spies](#) (Random \$26) plus the book she co-authored with Barbara Peters: [Not in Kansas Anymore, TOTO](#) (\$16)

THURSDAY APRIL 30 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime Club discusses Thomas Pynchon's [Inherent Vice](#) (\$17)

MONDAY MAY 4 7:00 PM

Greg Iles signs [The Bone Tree](#) (Morrow \$27.99) Penn Cage Trilogy #2

TUESDAY MAY 5 7:00 PM

Ellen Crosby signs [Ghost Image](#) (Scribner \$25) Sophie Medina #2

THURSDAY MAY 7 7:00 PM

John Lescroart signs [The Fall](#) (Atria \$26.99) Dismas Hardy & the gang

SATURDAY MAY 9 1:00-3:00 PM

Death on Demand: A Gala Celebrating the 25th Death on Demand Mystery

Food, many prizes. We're creating the Death on Demand Mystery Bookstore inside The Pen. Christie Quiz. Christie Paintings Challenge (as in Death on Demand).

Carolyn G. Hart signs [Don't Go Home](#) (Berkley \$25.95) Death on Demand #25

Kate Carlisle signs [The Book Stops Here](#) (\$7.99) Bibliophile Mystery #8

Hannah Dennison signs [Deadly Desire at Honeychurch Hall](#) (St Martins \$24.99) Honeychurch Hall #2

Laura DiSilverio signs [The Readaholics and the Falcon Fiasco](#) (NAL \$7.99) Book Club #1

Judith Janeway signs [The Magician's Daughter](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) Valentine Hill #1

Jenn McKinlay signs [Dark Chocolate Demise](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Cupcake Bakery Mystery #7

AWARDS UPDATES

[Left Coast Crime 2015](#), "Crimelandia," announced the winners for the 2015 LCC awards on March 14 in Portland, Oregon as follows:

The Lefty (most humorous mystery)

Tim Hallinan, [Herbie's Game](#)

Bruce Alexander Historical Award

Catriona McPherson, [A Deadly Measure of Brimstone](#)

The Rosebud

Allen Eskens, [The Life We Bury](#)

The Rose

Gigi Pandiau, [Pirate Vishu](#)

OUTLANDER UPDATES

To go with the April 4 STARZ resumption of *Outlander*:

Gabaldon, Diana. [The Outlandish Companion Volume 1 \(Revised\) Signed and with a Gaelic Greeting](#) (Random \$40).

Updates the first four novels. Signed with a Gaelic greeting only available in our copies.

Gabaldon, Diana. [Outlander 4-Copy Boxed Set](#) (Random \$39.96).

The first four, *Outlander*, *Dragonfly in Amber*, *Voyager*, *Drums of Autumn*, in a boxed set of mass market paperbacks.

Gabaldon, Diana. [Outlander Series One Blu-Ray Set](#) (\$45.99)

Gabaldon, Diana. [Outlander Series One DVD](#) (\$38.99)

To order for October 24: [The Outlandish Companion Volume II](#) (\$40), covering books 5-8.

EVENT BOOKS

Anderson, James. [The Never-Open Desert Diner](#) (Caravel \$25). CJ Box calls this debut novel and new **Hardboiled Crime Club Pick** "lyrical, whimsical, atmospheric, and skillfully rendered. *Library Journal* finds that, "Like a flash flood cascading down an arroyo, once the action begins, it's nonstop." *PW* chimes in with, "Anderson distills the heat and shimmering haze of the Utah desert into his fine first novel. . . . Just as important as the mysteries of human entanglement are the desert's brilliant light, torrential downpours, and vast night sky." Ben Jones is a truck driver, so nice a guy and soft touch that he's descending into bankruptcy. His route in a lonely highway He delivers for UPS and FedEx but not DHL across a stretch of Utah heading north to Salt Lake and south to Moab. On his route is an old diner built in 1929 and for a time, 1955-87, it figured in a number of B-movies and had some fame as the Well-Known Desert Diner. Then tragedy struck the owners and the widower became a recluse repelling customers, hence its "Never-Open" renaming. One day Ben, needing to pee, ventures into the hidden entrance to an abandoned off-highway development and finds a beautiful woman playing a cello in the model home. He beats an embarrassed retreat. But something later calls him back. . . and the story flows, filled with surprises, from there. . . .

Baker, Shannon. [Tattered Legacy](#) (Midnight Ink \$14.99). Nora Abbott risks her career at Loving Earth Trust on a film project to convince Congress to expand the Canyonlands National Park. But someone is desperate to keep the secrets of the land hidden. When her best friend and director of the film is found dead, Nora is convinced it wasn't an accident. Nora's Hopi

kachina messenger has vanished and now it looks as though Cole Huntsman, the man she's finally allowed herself to love, has left her, too. As Nora uncovers an unlikely intersection of ancient Hopi legends, a secret polygamist sect, and one of the world's richest men, she is drawn deeper into danger. Her mother's surprising past holds the key to the clash of cultures, but will Nora put all the pieces together in time to prevent disaster? Set in the iconic red rocks of Moab, Utah. Order Baker's first two mysteries [here](#).

Berry, Steve. [The Patriot Threat](#) (St Martins \$26.95). Cotton Malone, once a member of an elite intelligence division within the Justice Department known as the Magellan Billet, is now retired and owns an old bookshop in Denmark. But when his former-boss, Stephanie Nelle, asks him to track a rogue North Korean who may have acquired some top secret Treasury Department files—the kind that could bring the United States to its knees—Malone is vaulted into a harrowing 24-hour chase that begins on the canals in Venice and ends in the remote highlands of Croatia. With appearances by Franklin Roosevelt, Andrew Mellon, a curious painting that still hangs in the National Gallery of Art, and some eye-opening revelations from the US \$1 bill, this riveting, non-stop adventure is trademark Steve Berry. [Click here](#) to order Berry's earlier thrillers.

Blake, James Carlos. [The House of Wolfe](#) (Grove \$24). Ace Atkins says, "...a complex kidnapping tale, brings to mind Faulkner's storytelling in *As I Lay Dying* with the grittiness and realism of Cormac McCarthy's border tales. Brilliant and uncompromising, Blake again proves why he's one of the best writers working today." Patrick adds, "In Blake's masterly third Border Noir a female member of the American branch of the Wolfe family (a large clan of outlaws who operate numerous legitimate businesses and deal in illegal arms on both sides of the U.S./Mexican border) finds herself in big trouble. In Mexico City, kidnapers led by El Galán, an up-and-coming gangster intent on making a name for himself, abduct college-age Jessie Juliet Wolfe, along with an entire 10-person wedding party, and demand payment of a \$5 million ransom within 24 hours. With aid from Los Jaguaros, as the Mexican Blake family's criminal network is known, Rudy Max Wolfe, a cousin of Jessie's, and Charlie Fortune, another cousin, hope to slip into Mexico undetected and rescue Jessie, but of course everything goes to hell quickly..." [Click here](#) to order the first two earlier Border Noirs.

Brown, Cindy. [Macdeath](#) (Henerly \$17). "This gut-splitting mystery is a hilarious riff on an avant-garde production of 'the Scottish play,' where *Macbeth* is staged in a circus setting. Macbeth is a lion tamer, Lady Macbeth an aerialist, Duncan the ringmaster, and aspiring actress Ivy Meadows – the book's spunky heroine – an acrobatic witch in a super-sized flying cauldron...the hapless actors try their best to contort Shakespearean soliloquies into Big Top shout-outs. When formerly-famous actor Simon Black, fresh out of another stint in rehab, dies mysteriously, and talentless newscaster Bill Boxer is tapped to take his place, Ivy realizes something is rotten in Scotland. To save this cockeyed production from itself—not to mention her own struggling career—Ivy plays sleuth. Not a good idea, since whoever murdered Simon begins to target her. On its own, *Macdeath* never fails at being a clever read, but readers who love their Shakespeare will snicker at Bill Boxer's

cluelessness re the play's plot, and enjoy Ivy's summation of the famous curse (the name Macbeth can never be uttered in the theater or horrible things will happen). Want Shakespearian double entendres? This book's got 'em. Want sly, knowing references to other Elizabethan poets? The book's got 'em, too. Yet *Macdeath* isn't just one long Shakespearian joke-athon. It also has a heart. That heart is found in Ivy's relationship to her brother Cody, who suffered irreversible brain damage in a long-ago accident for which Ivy blames herself. Combining humor and pathos can be risky in a whodunit, but gifted author Brown makes it work."—Betty Webb for *Mystery Scene Magazine*. Sue Grafton agrees: "The pitch is underplayed comedy with the suggestion of madcap adventure on the horizon."

Carr, Robyn. [Never Too Late](#) (Mira \$14.95). Clare Wilson is starting over. She's had it with her marriage to a charming serial cheater. Even her own son thinks she's given his father too many chances. With the support of her sisters, Maggie and Sarah, she's ready to move on. Facing her fortieth birthday, Clare is finally feeling the rush of unadulterated freedom. But when a near-fatal car accident lands Clare in the hospital, her life takes another detour. While recovering, Clare realizes she has the power to choose her life's path. The wonderful younger police officer who witnessed her crash is over the moon for her. A man from her past stirs up long-buried feelings. Even her ex is pining for her. With enthusiasm and a little envy, her sisters watch her bloom. Together, the sisters encourage each other to seek what they need to be happy. Along the way they all learn that it's never too late to begin again. New in paperback: [One Wish](#) (\$8.99). Grace Dillon was a champion figure skater until she moved to Thunder Point to escape the ruthless world of fame and competition. And though she's proud of the quiet, self-sufficient life she's created running a successful flower shop, she knows something is missing. Her life could use a little excitement. In a community where there are few eligible singles, high school teacher Troy Headly appoints himself Grace's fun coach. When he suggests a little companionship with no strings attached, Grace is eager to take him up on his offer, but things swiftly get more complicated than your ordinary friends-with-benefits situation...

Carter, MJ. [The Strangler Vine](#) (Putnam \$26.95). Every now and then I make a **First Mystery Club Pick** out of historical crime, generally when it has some relevance to the present day. And with the echoes of colonialism all around us, this account of deeds in 1837 India before the Raj, plus the myth busting element, makes *The Strangler Vine* an **FMC Pick**. Here's the *LJ* Starred Review, one of several: "From the thrilling prologue to the satisfying conclusion, former journalist and nonfiction author Carter's (*Anthony Blunt: His Lives*) first foray into fiction hooks the reader into a ripping adventure ride, full of danger, conspiracy, and trickery. Young William Avery, a soldier in the service of the British East India Company in 1837 India, receives an unexpected assignment. He is to accompany Jeremiah Blake, a secret political agent with an astonishing talent for languages and Sherlock Holmesian disguises, on a mission to find the scandalous British writer Xavier Mountstuart, who is missing. Each twist and turn of the duo's journey draws them deeper into the mystery of the sinister Thuggee cult and closer to uncovering the shocking truth at the heart of the puzzle of Mountstuart's disappearance." If you have embraced the romance of the Raj,

this account will reshape your image. Avery is young, callow, and something of a sucker, so in part the narrative is his coming-of-age story. Blake is an Englishman gone native, widower of a Hindu wife, a wreck of a man, not a nabob, and over-confident. But what grabbed me the most are the men up the command chain, their shameless self-interest. It's important to remember that the actual name of the Company—chartered as a private venture by Queen Elizabeth I—was *Governor and Company of Merchants of London trading with the East Indies*. It was always all about trade and profits—and greed—but then it grew into political power until the 1857 Mutiny brought in the Crown. The Company was dissolved in 1874. If you haven't run into an account of the Thuggee cult—Carter embraces a revisionist view—you will be further surprised by this debut given high praise by Bernard Cornwell who knows a thing or two about the dynamics it portrays.

Crosby, Ellen. [Ghost Image](#) (Scribner \$25). This second investigation for photographer Sophie Medina, now freelancing and loving it although she misses her secret-agent husband who's off on an assignment while she works in DC, has a terrific premise tied in to Virginia history and Thomas Jefferson. Most of the action takes place in our capital but some moves across to London with some delicious scenes inside the regal Connaught hotel. It opens upon a DC society and power do where Sophie's task is to photograph a glamour couple, a Senator's daughter who has recently become engaged to the heir—his family renounced the title, but he's still royalty—of the Austrian Hapsburgs. Sophie is doing wedding photos at the request of Archduke Victor, whom she likes, and trying to damp down her irritation with the bride's mother, the US Senator. Sophie's dear friend, the Franciscan Kevin Boyle, arrives late to say a blessing over the couple. And the next afternoon he is found dead in the gardens of the order's nearby, gorgeous monastery by Sophie, who is heartbroken. Brother Kevin was a world-class botanist. Is the rumor he made a world-class discovery recently true? If so there are librarians and auctioneers and various others like a billionaire on the slide who may all be engaged in some kind of international treasure hunt. Sophie finds it impossible to stand aside—and so will you. Meet Sophie in [Multiple Exposure](#) (\$16).

DeSilva, Bruce. [A Scourge of Vipers](#) (Forge \$25.99). This is a terrific new tale from the Edgar winning novelist/journalist; in its way it's an elegy to journalism, responsible journalism, something that should make all of us nervous to lose. The plot? To solve Rhode Island's budget crisis, the state's colorful governor, Attila the Nun, wants to legalize sports gambling; but her plan has unexpected consequences. Organized crime, professional sports leagues, and others who have a lot to lose—or gain—if gambling is made legal flood the state with money to buy the votes of state legislators. Liam Mulligan, investigative reporter for The Providence Dispatch, wants to investigate, but his bottom-feeding corporate bosses at the dying newspaper have no interest in serious reporting. So Mulligan goes rogue, digging into the story on his own time. When a powerful state legislator turns up dead, an out-of-state bag man gets shot, and his cash-stuffed briefcase goes missing, Mulligan finds himself the target of shadowy forces who seek to derail his investigation by destroying his career, his reputation, and perhaps even his life. In its Starred Review *PW* notes of the Edgar winner's new novel,

“The lean prose and clever plotting will remind hard-boiled fans of Loren Estleman's Amos Walker novels.” I add Archer Mayor and Jon Talton to Estleman. I love the way this plays out and so it becomes our **April Surprise Me! Club Pick**. [Click here](#) to order DeSilva's earlier books.

Ephron, Hallie. [Night, Night, Sleep Tight](#) (Morrow \$26.99). Los Angeles, 1985. When Deirdre Unger makes the drive from San Diego to Beverly Hills to help her father put his dilapidated house on the market, she's expecting to deal with his usual kvetching and dark moods. But she gets a lot more than she expected. . . . In a cruel Sunset Boulevard—in a twist, Deirdre arrives home to find her father facedown in his too-small swimming pool—dead. At first, Deirdre assumes her father's death was a tragic accident. But the longer she stays in town, the more Deirdre begins to suspect that everything isn't as open-and-closed as she first presumed. The sudden resurfacing of Deirdre's childhood BFF Joelen Nichol—daughter of the famous and infamous Elenor “Bunny” Nichol—seems like more than a coincidence. Back in 1963, Joelen confessed to killing her movie-star mother's boyfriend. Deirdre was at the Nichols' house the night of the murder, which was also the night she suffered her own personal tragedy. Could all these events be connected? Craig Johnson writes, “Like that exquisitely mixed highball, that perfect little black dress, or that luminescent string of pearls, Hallie Ephron's novel undulates with suspense and expertly puts the tinsel in Tinseltown.” Ephron, also a reviewer for the *Boston Globe*, is the author of earlier novels plus *Writing and Selling Your Mystery Novel* (Writers Digest Book \$16.99) you can [click here](#) to order.

Iles, Greg. [The Bone Tree](#) (Morrow \$27.99). Book two in an epic trilogy featuring Natchez's Penn Cage, a former prosecutor and now the city's mayor. The publisher says, “This is the most explosive, action-packed of the trilogy, and will take us to the serious conflicts and casualties that result when the darkest truths come to light—and readers will be shocked to see just how far the hero we thought we knew is willing to go for those he loves.” Start this trilogy with 2014's [Natchez Burning](#) (\$9.99); see Our April Mass Market Paperback Picks for more.

Kearsley, Susanna. [A Desperate Fortune](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99). When Diana Gabaldon first published *Outlander* in 1991, neither she nor I had a way to describe its structure for the reader. It isn't time travel. We've since learned to call *Outlander* and similar stories “time slip.” And for the wonderful narratives created by Susanna Kearsley, an author whose work I've admired (and imported) for many years before Sourcebooks became her publisher—*The Shadowy Horses* was a Poisoned Pen bestseller for most of 1997—we can call them “time jump.” Someone in the present day is presented with a puzzle, a path, which links to the past. We readers experience the way events unfold both now and back then, admiring the artistry with which the author tantalizes us, drives the suspense forward in both tales, and dovetails her narratives into a satisfying whole. In *A Desperate Fortune*, the present tale demands someone who can crack the cipher in a document generated at the Stuart court-in-exile in France. Sara Thomas is a modern computer programmer who sees the world through the scrim of mild Asperger's. Mary Dundas is a young woman challenged to keep her footing amidst the shifting politics of the 18th Century Jacobite and French

courts. The interplay of courage, curiosity, coincidence—and love—generates Kearsley’s trademark suspense, so satisfyingly on display in this her 11th delicious novel. [Click here](#) to order the earlier novels, all terrific.

Kerr, Philip. [Lady from Zagreb](#) (Putnam \$26.95). How special, the 10th in the Bernie Gunther series. In 1942, there are many worse places to be than Zurich, and the detective, once a Berlin cop, has seen his fair share of them. So when a superior asks him to track down a glamorous German actress, a rising star in UFA believed to be hiding in Zurich, he takes the job. Not that he has much choice: the superior is Goebbels himself. Soon Bernie finds himself involved in something much more sinister, dropped into the killing fields of Ustasha-controlled Croatia. The actress, it emerges, is the daughter of a fanatical Croatian fascist, the sadistic commandant of a notorious concentration camp. And the Swiss police have a cold case that they want Bernie to take a look at: one that seems to have connections to some powerful people back in the Reich. I like the way the story starts with Bernie on the French Riviera after the war about to see the actress, briefly his lover, in a new movie.... Kerr is the writer of diverse fiction including some for children. [Click here](#) to order earlier books. We are lucky that Kerr, a Scot, comes to see us from the UK.

Ledford, Deborah J. [Causing Chaos](#) (IFO Press \$15.95). Iola Walela’s final days as a Bryson City police officer take a perilous turn when her Cherokee childhood friend becomes lead suspect in the disappearance of four women. The investigation entangles Inola and her fiancé, Sheriff Steven Hawk, in a web of deceit as they vie for vengeance, meeting danger head-on in the Great Smoky Mountains of western North Carolina. 4th in series. [Click here](#) for the earlier three.

Lescroart, John. [The Fall](#) (Atria \$26.99). Daughter Rebecca is now grown up and an associate in Dismas Hardy’s San Francisco law firm. Late one night, a teenage African American foster child named Tanya Morgan plummets to her death from the overpass above San Francisco’s Stockton tunnel, causing a monumental traffic backup as well as a terrible tragedy. But did she fall...or was she pushed? Rushing to produce a convictable suspect in the glare of the media spotlight, SFPD Homicide focuses attention on a naïve young man named Greg Treadway, a middle school teacher who volunteers as a Special Advocate for foster children. At first, the only thing connecting him to Tanya’s death is the fact that they shared a meal earlier that night. But soon enough, elements of that story seem to fall apart...and Rebecca finds herself drawn into the young man’s defense. By the time Greg’s murder trial gets underway, the Hardys have unearthed several other theories about the crime—but how to get them before a jury? [Click here](#) to order Lescroart’s earlier books.

Miller, Susan Cummins. [Chasm](#) (Texas Tech \$29.95 tpbk). Attempted murder and a masquerading student turn geologist Frankie MacFarlane’s whitewater rafting trip down the Colorado River from sublime teaching experience to ordeal, as strangers with competing agendas converge on Phantom Ranch in the depths of the Grand Canyon. This always rewarding series digs beneath both the landscape and characters who populate it. 6th in series. Order the first five [here](#).

Robotham, Michael. [Life or Death](#) (Mulholland \$26). Stephen King says it’s “a nerve-shredding thriller with the heart and soul so often missing from lesser crime and suspense novels.” Robotham says, “I first stumbled upon the idea in March 1995 when I read a small newspaper story about a man who escaped from prison the day before his release. The obviously question was why?” Perhaps the answer lies in his past. In 2004, robbers hijacked an armored truck. Sheriff’s deputies chased and killed two perpetrators when the truck crashed. Audie survived a shot to the head at the scene, pled guilty to being the driver and received a 10-year sentence. The \$7-million haul, however, was never recovered. After he breaks out of prison, Audie is spotted outside the house of the former deputy—now sheriff—who shot him. This sets off a manhunt by local and federal law enforcement officers, including Sheriff Valdez and FBI Special Agent Desiree Furness. When more deaths occur, all blamed on Audie, Furness begins to question “official” versions of events, going back to the armored truck hijacking. “Audie is a captivating character, enigmatically enduring hell in prison with a Zen-like attitude. What keeps him going is an old promise he made, and readers will be eager to discover what that promise is. Well-developed supporting characters are painted in shades of gray, their motivations not all bad or good but plausible. Robotham, an Australian, convincingly evokes the feel and rhythms of Texas and its people, while telling a story that’s as beautiful as a wide-open sky and as full of heartache as a country love song.” Here Michael Robotham takes a break from his British series character Joseph O’Loughlin. [Read a terrific review for this in the NY Times Book Review](#).

Russell. [Epitaph](#) (Harper \$27.99). Robert B Parker readers will have met Josie, eventual wife of Wyatt and curator of his story, in his novel [Gunman’s Rhapsody](#) (\$7.99). While filled with romance and danger, this account also embraces the bittersweet nature of real life and celebrates the humanity of some of our most lauded heroes, their heads made only heavier by the laurels. Readers’ natural reactions may be to assume that Russell cannot give them a better or different story than the films Tombstone and Wyatt Earp, in which the honorable Earp brothers and Doc Holliday defeat the cattle-rustling Cowboys gang in a showdown that symbolizes the civilized farmer-landowner conquering the lawlessness of the Wild West. However, Russell’s unique treatment of the material provides a more detailed and human look at some of the most lionized and reviled personalities in U.S. history without regard for their legendary status. The Indie Next Pick: “From a shroud of American West mythic bombast and misrepresentation, Russell creates compelling, realistic characters with Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday shown to be both heroic and heartbreakingly human. *Epitaph* focuses on Josie Marcus, the love of Wyatt’s life. Theirs is a grand romantic tale told in hardscrabble detail, and Russell even makes what could have been cardboard villains into fully realized characters, both flawed and sympathetic. A rip-roaring good yarn!” Russell adds, “The Greeks call it catharsis. What happened in Tombstone fits the model of a classic revenge drama. Brothers killed; justice denied; revenge exacted. Revenge dramas have been popular since Shakespeare’s time. A century of mythologizing has turned Wyatt Earp into a good man who did bad things for good reasons.

That makes it okay to identify with Wyatt and think, ‘Yes. If my brother were gunned down, I’d want a reckoning, too.’ But even in 1881, the gunfight was international news and immediately moved to the center of what people believed about frontier justice in the Old West, just as the era was ending....” Begin with [Doc](#) (\$15).

Sandford, John. [Gathering Prey](#) (Putnam \$28.95). This is the Silver Anniversary Prey Novel. The 25th Lucas Davenport. Here’s a preview: They call them Travelers. They move from city to city, panhandling, committing no crimes—they just like to stay on the move. And now somebody is killing them. Lucas Davenport’s adopted daughter, Letty, is home from college when she gets a phone call from a woman Traveler she’d befriended in San Francisco. The woman thinks somebody’s killing her friends, she’s afraid she knows who it is, and now her male companion has gone missing. She’s hiding out in North Dakota, and she doesn’t know what to do. Letty tells Lucas she’s going to get her, and, though he suspects Letty’s getting played, he volunteers to go with her. When he hears the woman’s story, though, he begins to think there’s something in it. Little does he know.... This means a lot of time is spent ripping along in Lucas’ Porsche so **Sandford designed a license plate for it which you will get, on a postcard, in our copies.** [Click here](#) to order the first 24 Prey thrillers—and the Virgil Flowers.

Shames, Terry. [A Deadly Affair at Bobtail Ridge](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). Jarrett Creek, Texas, called Samuel Craddock out of retirement to become police chief. He has come to accept that his neighbor Jenny Sandstone’s personal life is strictly secret. But when her dying mother tells Craddock that Jenny is in danger, he is confronted with a dilemma. He wants to respect Jenny’s privacy, but he is haunted by the urgency in the dying woman’s voice. When Jenny is the victim of a suspicious car accident, Craddock has no choice but to get involved. He demands that she tell him what he needs to know to protect her and to solve the mysteries surrounding the strange events that began taking place as soon as Jenny’s mother passed away. Forced to confront the past, Jenny plunges into a downward spiral of rage and despair. Craddock must tread lightly as he tries to find out who is behind the threats to her. But only by getting to the bottom of the secrets buried in Jenny’s past can he hope to save her both from herself and from whoever is out to harm her. [Click here](#) to order Craddock’s earlier cases.

Woods, Stuart. [Hot Pursuit](#) (Putnam \$27.99). It’s not often that Stone Barrington finds a woman as accustomed to the jet-set lifestyle as he, so he’s pleasantly surprised when he meets a gorgeous pilot who’s soon moving to New York, and available for closer acquaintance. Their travels together lead them from Wichita to Europe, but trailing them is some unwanted baggage: his new lady love’s unstable, criminal ex-boyfriend. And while Stone is fending off his newest adversary, trouble is brewing on the international stage. Several enemy operatives are at large, and only a coordinated intelligence effort will have any chance of stopping their deadly plot. But.... Avid pilot Woods brings a private jet to the narrative, just as he does to the Scottsdale airport to join us. [Click here](#) to order the 32 earlier Stone Barringtons.

FIRST NOVELS

Ben-David, Mishka. [Duet in Beirut](#) (Overlook \$26.95). For over a decade, Mishka Ben-David was a professional spy, taking part in secret operations on behalf of the Mossad, Israel’s legendary intelligence agency. Then he quit and became a novelist, writing what he knows: the life of a spy. A major bestseller in Israel, *Duet in Beirut* is Ben-David’s first book to appear in English. Ronen, an expelled Mossad agent, has disappeared following a failed assassination attempt against the Hezbollah operative responsible for suicide bombings in Israel. Feared to be on an unauthorized mission, it is up to his former commander, Gadi, to track Ronen down and stop him from causing harm both to himself and to his country. The physical and intellectual scuffle between the two men becomes one of deeper, moral inquiry.

Brady, Conor. [A June of Ordinary Murders](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Victorian Dublin, 1887 to be specific, harbors growing nationalist sentiment and violence even as Queen Victoria’s Golden Jubilee is to be celebrated. This novel pairs well with Lyndsay Faye’s work about the Irish in America. She signs [The Fatal Flame](#) (Putnam \$26.95) in May. Meanwhile here is the *PW* Starred Review for Brady: “At the start of Brady’s first novel, a vivid and crafty whodunit set in 1887 Dublin, the city is gearing up for its celebration of Victoria’s Golden Jubilee, a landmark not universally popular in a country where many citizens object to giving “loyalty to a foreign queen.” Just days before Victoria’s eldest grandson, Prince Albert Victor, and his younger brother, Prince George, are due to arrive in Dublin to represent the monarch, a man and a young boy are shot to death and their faces badly mutilated. Det. Sgt. Joe Swallow investigates. Despite the difficulties in identifying the victims, the press takes him to task for a lack of progress. Meanwhile, the death of the local crime matriarch, “Pisspot” Ces Downes, sets the stage for a bloody battle among rivals to assume control of the criminal underworld. Fans of mysteries that capture the flavor of the past will hope that Swallow has a long literary life. Brady is the former editor of the *Irish Times*.”

Brown, Holly. [Don’t Try to Find Me](#) (Morrow \$14.99). When 14-year-old Marley Willits runs away, her parents embark on a public social media campaign to find her, exposing all their darkest secrets and changing their family forever in this suspenseful and gripping debut novel.

☞Cameron, Graeme. [Normal](#) (Mira \$24.95). If you enjoy Dexter, a serial killer narrator, then this blackly comic debut will work for you. Normal for the unnamed SK is kidnapping and killing young women. But then Erica winds up in a cage in his garage. Soon his new infatuation, his prisoner and the police collide, causing all hell to break loose in ways that even a creative serial killer couldn’t have envisioned. A black comedy featuring a bizarre murderer who believes he suffers for his “art.” Cameron has written a painfully funny story that’s littered with corpses, both intentional and unintentional, and proves that sometimes spotting the craziest person on the block isn’t quite as easy as it seems... Dexter returns to The Pen July 8.

Donoghue, John. [Death’s Head Chess Club Signed](#) (Atlantic UK \$34). Karen Shaver reviews: The game of chess becomes an

unexpected link between an SS officer, Peter Meissner and an Auschwitz inmate, Emil Clement, known as “the Watchmaker”. Meissner was wounded and deemed only fit for administrative duties at the concentration camp. His first task was to improve morale among his men. He introduces the idea of a chess club where the men could compete and gamble on the games. He learns that the inmates play chess as well, the Watchmaker having a reputation of “unbeatable”. The idea is suggested that German staff play against the inmate to show the superiority of their race. The games begin and the Watchmaker consistently wins, refusing to purposely lose a game, despite possible consequences. His victories allow the inmates, one of the things that cannot be tolerated, and that is hope. Twenty years later, Peter, who is now in the clergy, and Emil meet up at an international chess tournament. Peter is anxious to talk, but Emil is resistant to any interaction. Peter persists, and tells the backstory of their time in the camp. Reviewers have called this book “very intelligent” and “brilliantly written”. For those who know the game of chess, moves are described and supplemented by a glossary of terms. The read is riveting, thoughtful and demonstrates the unexpected events that might cause some to fight for survival and trust and others who choose to give up.

Duffy, Brendan. [House of Echoes](#) (Random \$26). Ben and Caroline Tierney and their two young boys are hoping to start over. Ben has hit a dead end with his new novel, Caroline has lost her banking job, and eight-year-old Charlie is being bullied at his Manhattan school. When Ben inherits land in the village of Swannhaven, in a remote corner of upstate New York, the Tierneys believe it’s just the break they need, and they leave behind all they know to restore a sprawling estate. But as Ben uncovers Swannhaven’s chilling secrets and Charlie ventures deeper into the surrounding forest, strange things begin to happen. The Tierneys realize that their new home isn’t the fresh start they needed . . . and that the village’s haunting saga is far from over. “Duffy walks a fine line between crime and horror, skillfully manipulating the threats of a punishing winter, creepy historic setting, and strange villagers.... This unsettling, atmospheric tale is right up the alley of those who enjoyed Jennifer McMahon’s *Winter People*; and the shared appeal with Stephen King’s *The Shining* is undeniable.”—*Booklist* Starred Review, echoed by praise from CJ Box.

✂Knight, Renee. [Disclaimer Signed](#) (Doubleday \$36). A **First Mystery Club Pick** gets this Starred *PW* Review: “A mysterious book within a book, which contains potentially damning information about the protagonist, jump starts this remarkable debut by British scriptwriter Knight. On the bedroom nightstand in the new apartment documentary filmmaker Catherine Ravenscroft shares with her husband, Robert, Catherine finds a self-published novel, *The Perfect Stranger*, which describes an incident that Catherine never told Robert about. Over 20 years earlier in Spain, 19-year-old Jonathan Brigstocke drowned while saving the couple’s five-year-old son, Nicholas. The book suggests that Catherine was to blame... This unsettling psychological thriller about guilt and grief briskly moves to a shocking finale enhanced by its strong characters.” We’ll see if two *Gone Girl* sorts of debut can be lightning strikes this spring. One is *The Girl on the Train*. And here comes Knight (US edition is mid May).

Ohanesian, Aline. [Orhan’s Inheritance Signed](#) (Algonquin \$25.95). The Indie Next Pick for our April **History/Mystery Pick**: “Debut author Ohanesian’s historical novel relives the nearly forgotten tragedy of the Armenian Genocide during and after WWI. Through deportations, massacres, and executions of Christian and Jewish Armenians, the Ottoman Empire and its successors eliminated 1.5 million citizens. Ohanesian’s beautifully written book shares a tale of passionate love, unspeakable horror, incredible strength, and the hidden stories that haunt a family. Highly recommended.” Karen Shaver adds, “Beautifully written, moves back and forth in alternate sections to Turkey 1915 and 1990. A successful businessman dies, his successful business goes to his grandson, and the will bequeaths his generations-old home to a woman no one has heard of, meaning eviction of his son and daughter. His grandson travels to the US to discover her identity and her place in his grandfather’s life. Back drop is the decay of the Ottoman Empire, brutal in its genocide of Armenians and Christians, the clear cut cultural lines between the rich and the poor, and the confusion of the grandson in understanding his heritage.”

Palaia, Marian. [The Given World](#) (SimonSchuster \$25). It is 1968. Riley is thirteen, and her brother Mick has gone missing in Vietnam. She struggles to understand and accept, but the world she has always known has fallen apart. At sixteen, she meets a boy from the reservation. He becomes her first love and perhaps her deliverance, except that he, too, is sent to fight, unaware that Riley is carrying his child. Riley sets off then, in search of answers, of clues, of a way to be in the world. She travels from her family’s Montana farm to San Francisco, and from there to Saigon. Along the way she becomes rescued and rescuer, by and for a band of scarred angels. All are casualties, of the times and of the war, but they carry on, none more tenaciously than Riley herself, a masterpiece of courage and vulnerability, wondering if she’ll ever be brave enough to return to the place she once called home. This is an interesting debut to read with another debut, Andrew Lanh’s [Caught Dead](#) (\$14.95), a mystery but really a story about the development of a Vietnamese community in Hartford, Connecticut and people who can’t go home, but don’t fit in.

Taylor, Sara. [The Shore Signed](#) (Heinemann \$36). A remarkable novel constructed with interconnected series of stories about two families in a group of islands off the coast of Virginia. Spanning 1876-2143, the narrative shows us how our actions can have unseen effects on the fates of others and how the bonds of blood affect each and every one of us. Taylor highlights outsider identities, the connection people have to place, and that place in constant peril in devastating prose and a structure not unlike the work of David Mitchell. Our **April Modern Firsts Pick** offers time-jump vignettes braiding into a brave picture of life along three islands off Accomack County, Virginia, one being smaller than Chincoteague... This is almost a Coastal Noir.

Womack, Gwendolyn. [The Memory Painter](#) (Picador \$26). Most of us can’t even access memories of early childhood. What if, thanks to a powerful experimental pharmaceutical, you could access ancient memories—not your own, but other people’s, and acquire their skill sets and languages too? Neurogenetics may be a new frontier. But for artist Bryan Pierce, it’s not about a drug, it’s all about dreams, dreams where he might be re-experiencing

lives stretching back millennia. And gaining dangerous knowledge. Gwendolyn Womack couples modern science with imaginative concepts of time, history, and myth in her debut. I wrote that review for Indie Next.

Wong, Cecily. [Diamond Head](#) (Harper \$25.99). The family of Frank Leong had been living in splendor, but the murder of the Chinese shipping magnate had splintered everything. Reduced to their own devices, they respond to chaotic events in imperial China including the Boxer Rebellion; after which, they move to Hawaii. But even that safe distance does not bring peace: Two decades later, a confession arrives in a letter, opening old wounds and shattering the family even further. A panoramic debut novel for those who enjoy Amy Tan and Lisa See, etc.

BRITISH BOOKS

Atherton, Nancy. [Aunt Dimity and the Summer King Signed](#) (Viking \$27). Finch has always been a magical sort of village, not unlike Louise Penny's Three Pines. Lori Shepherd, her lawyer husband Bill, and their twins have long lived in Finch, lately joined by Bill's retired father, a Boston widower, lawyer too. But Willis, Sr., is now affianced to the dismay of the single village women, and his two sisters, aka the harpies, are coming from Boston to the wedding. Lori and Bill, happy with the birth of baby Bess, know this means it's time for Lori to reengage with village life. She's soon shocked to see four cottages standing empty, and questions what's the deal with the leasing agent? But a chance walk down an unfrequented path and an encounter with the owner of an estate at its end changes up life in Finch. He's an eccentric, elderly inventor called Arthur Hargreaves, aka the Summer King. Why does he have detailed maps of Finch in his library?

[Aunt Dimity and the Wishing Well](#) (\$14). When a strapping young Australian named Jack MacBride arrives in Finch to wrap up his late uncle's affairs, heads turn in the sleepy Cotswold village. Lori Shepherd, American mother of twins and wife to a Boston lawyer practicing in England, volunteers to help Jack clear out his uncle's overgrown garden. After Lori laughingly tosses a coin into the garden's old well and makes a wish, she is baffled to find that the wish seems to have come true. Word spreads, and the villagers turn out in droves to make wishes of their own. But as they soon learn, one person's wish is another person's worst nightmare and the village is thrown into chaos. As more and more wishes come true, Lori resolves to find out what's really going on. Is handsome Jack somehow tricking his neighbors? Or are they fooling themselves?

Brackston, Paula. [The Silver Witch](#) (SimonSchuster \$25.99). *Kirkus* reviews: "Grief, magic and the ancient world collide in Brackston's fourth novel. Still grieving the unexpected death of her husband, ceramics artist Tilda Fordwells moves into the remote cottage on a Welsh lake they had intended to share. But as Tilda becomes the center of a series of paranormal events, she soon realizes her pull to the area is anything but accidental. Equally unsettling are the curious new effect Tilda seems to have on electricity and the terrifying visions she's been having since settling into the cottage. Even as Tilda seeks to understand the bizarre new powers she possesses, she's blindsided by her attraction to Dylan, an archaeological diver hired to explore the ancient crannog that once dominated the lake. Alternating smoothly with the modern storyline is the tale of Seren Arianaid, a 10th-century shaman charged with

protecting Prince Brynach, the handsome royal who rules from the crannog on the lake. As the two stories unfold, the reader learns what ancient act of love and revenge ties the two women together—and what deadly, dark power has awoken from the dark waters of the lake. The story has moments of glory, but Brackston's writing, so solid in earlier books, vacillates unpredictably...."

Bradley, Alan. [As Chimney Sweepers Come to Dust Signed](#) (Orion \$40). Following the dramatic events at the conclusion of *The Dead in Their Vaulted Arches* and the shocking revelations about her mother, Flavia de Luce finds herself expelled from the familiar confines of Bishop's Lacey and her beloved family home, Buckshaw, and 'packed off', as she puts it, to Miss Bodycote's Female Academy in Canada. With its forbidding headmistress and bizarre rules, adapting to Miss Bodycote's is quite a challenge. But Flavia is soon on familiar ground, when, on her first night, a mummified body is dislodged from a chimney, and she is presented with a gruesome puzzle to solve. [Click here](#) to order Flavia's earlier cunning investigations.

Cadbury, Deborah. [Princes at War: The Bitter Battle](#) (Penguin \$28.99). "Former BBC television producer Cadbury (*Chocolate Wars*) provides a thrilling account of the fallout after Prince Edward, heir to the throne, abdicated to marry his American lover—his brother, Prince Albert, became King George VI and attempted to save Europe from Nazi Germany. The outbreak of WWII forced George to set aside qualms with the prickly Winston Churchill and shelter royalty fleeing from invaded countries. Meanwhile, Edward and his wife, now the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, were suspected of collaborating with the enemy, given their former ties to Nazi leadership. Two more brothers also had to find their way in chaotic times: the Duke of Kent, a philandering playboy turned devoted RAF captain, and the Duke of Gloucester, who battled the perception that he had a "lack of spark or intelligence." Cadbury artfully captures the exhilaration of Operation Dynamo at Dunkirk, where citizen volunteers escalated a massive evacuation of British troops, the devastation of the London blitz, and the suspenseful planning and execution of the Normandy invasion. Her nuanced exploration of the king's reticent temperament and the psychic toll taken by his many troubles creates a fuller picture of the man, who was destined to lead during a "spectacular downfall" in British power."—*PW* Starred Review

Cameron, Graeme. [Normal](#) (Mira \$24.95). If you enjoy Dexter, a serial killer narrator, then this blackly comic debut will work for you. See First Novels.

Casey, Jane. [The Stranger You Know](#) (\$16.99). He meets women. He gains their trust. He kills them. That's all London police detective Maeve Kerrigan knows about the man she is hunting. Three women have been strangled in their homes, and it appears to be the work of the same sadistic killer. With no sign of break-ins, every indication shows that the women let their attacker in willingly. The victims' neighbors and friends don't seem to remember anything unusual or suspicious, and Maeve is almost at a loss about how to move forward with the investigation. Then the evidence starts to point to a shocking suspect: DCI Josh Derwent, Maeve's partner on the police force. Maeve refuses to believe he could be involved, but how well does she really know him? #4 in a terrific series!

Charles, Kate. [False Tongues](#) with signed bookplates (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). Move Agatha Christie's *Murder at the Vicarage* to the 21st Century, and to London, add a touch of PD James, and you have the mysteries of Kate Charles, Queen of the Clerical Crime. Chesterton's Father Brown's career begins before WWI. He's Catholic and a priest, not Anglican and an ordained woman. But you can find Father Brown in Callie Anson, too. But neither Miss Marple nor Father Brown faced the go-don't-go pull of a class reunion. In *False Tongues*, Callie has succumbed to peer pressure and revisits her theological college and fellow students in Cambridge, while in back in London police officer Mark Lombardi is investigating the stabbing of a popular teen. "...Mark confronts his Italian family's coolness toward his relationship with Callie and their determination to find him a nice Italian girl instead. At work, he's involved in a heart-rending case: the stabbing death of Sebastian Frost, young, athletic and promising, the only child of Richard and Miranda Frost, a doctor and a surgeon. As Mark tries to guide the Frosts through the challenges of a police investigation they'd prefer was unnecessary, Callie confronts mysteries of her own: the mysteries of the human heart. Callie has never been more appealing than in this sensitive exploration of love and loss." ~*Kirkus Reviews*. [False Tongues](#) (\$14.95) is our **April British Crime Club Pick**. [Click here](#) to order Callie's earlier investigations.

Cleeland, Anne. [Murder in Hindsight](#) (Kensington \$25). "A homicidal vigilante is on the loose in Cleeland's diverting but flawed third romantic mystery featuring Scotland Yard's Kathleen Doyle, newly promoted to detective sergeant, and her husband, Det. Chief Insp. Michael Sinclair, Lord Acton. Meanwhile, an old nemesis of Acton's seems to be plotting against him from prison, and this kicks Doyle's protective instincts into high gear.... Cleeland writes with a light and witty touch, and there's never a shortage of clever banter and interesting characters, but some readers may tire of Doyle's constant self-deprecation in the face of her husband's well-bred upbringing, in spite of instincts that rarely fail her and a sixth sense that makes her a virtual human lie detector."—*PW*.

Doyle, Arthur Conan. [Tales of Terror and Mystery](#) (Berkley \$11.95). An annotated collection of twelve stories (none Sherlock Holmes) featuring: The Horror of the Heights, The Leather Funnel, The New Catacomb, The Case of Lady Sannox, The Terror of Blue John Gap, The Brazilian Cat, The Lost Special, The Beetle-Hunter, The Man with the Watches, The Japped Box, The Black Doctor, The Jew's Breastplate.

Duncan, Elizabeth J. [Slated for Death](#) (St Martins \$25.99). The 6th in a traditional mystery series set in Llanelen, a charming riverside town in Wales where Canadian Penny Brannigan has long been settled. The legacy of a cottage from a cherished friend and the creation of a successful spa with another, Victoria, and life is good even with the occasional body to stumble over. This one, Glenda Roberts, who's been busy planning a concert deep in the defunct slate mine that has become a big tourist attraction, causes much ruckus. Jars of the spa's proprietary hand cream are found: Glenda and her sister were selling counterfeit products. Penny is drawn into the investigation, headed by her friend Inspector Gareth Davies, and suspects the motive rises from a long-hidden secret, not current bad behavior.

Fowler, Christopher. [Bryant and May and the Burning Man Signed](#) (Doubleday \$42). London is under siege. A banking scandal has filled the city with violent protests, and as the anger in the streets detonates, a young homeless man burns to death after being caught in the crossfire between rioters and the police. But all is not as it seems; an opportunistic killer is using the chaos to exact revenge, but his intended victims are so mysteriously chosen that the Peculiar Crimes Unit is called in to find a way of stopping him. Using their network of eccentric contacts, elderly detectives Arthur Bryant and John May hunt down a murderer who adopts incendiary methods of execution. But they soon find their investigation taking an apocalyptic turn as the case comes to involve the history of mob rule, corruption, rebellion, punishment and the legend of Guy Fawkes. At the same time, several members of the PCU team reach dramatic turning points in their lives—but the most personal tragedy is yet to come, for as the race to bring down a cunning killer reaches its climax, Arthur Bryant faces his own devastating day of reckoning. "I always said we'd go out with a hell of a bang," warns Bryant.... London history, a terrific concept and lively writing make this series a staff favorite! [Click here](#) to order earlier PC cases.

Grecian, Alex. [The Devil's Workshop](#) (\$16). How I love the Victorian noir by Grecian. It's clever, dark, but not grungy (a trend in historical fiction for some time). London, 1890. Four vicious murderers have escaped from prison, part of a plan gone terribly wrong, and now it is up to Walter Day, Nevil Hammersmith, and the rest of Scotland Yard's Murder Squad to hunt down the convicts before the men can resume their bloody spree. But they might already be too late. During the escape, the killers have stumbled upon the location of another notorious murderer, one thought gone for good but now prepared to join forces with them. Jack the Ripper is loose in London once more.... Grecian signs his next, [The Harvest Man](#) (Putnam \$26.95), here May 21, back to back with Stephen Hunter's take on Jack: [I, Ripper](#) (\$27.99).

Griffiths, Elly. [Ghost Fields Signed](#) (Quercus \$35). Norfolk is experiencing a July heat wave when a construction crew unearths a macabre discovery – a buried WWII plane with the pilot still inside. Forensic archaeologist Ruth Galloway quickly realizes that the skeleton couldn't possibly be the pilot, and DNA tests identify the man as Fred Blackstock, a local aristocrat who had been reported dead at sea. When the remaining members of the Blackstock family learn about the discovery, they seem strangely frightened by the news. Events are further complicated by a TV company that wants to make a film about Norfolk's deserted air force bases, the so-called Ghost Fields, which have been partially converted into a pig farm run by one of the younger Blackstocks. As production begins, Ruth notices a mysterious man lurking close to the Blackstocks' family home. Then human bones are found on the family's pig farm. [Click here](#) to order Ruth's earlier investigations, best read in order.

Grimes, Martha. [Vertigo 42](#) (\$7.99). See Our April Mass Market Picks for this new Richard Jury case.

Gruen, Sara. [At the Water's Edge Signed](#) (Random \$28). "Full of great period detail and richly drawn settings" says the Indie Next Pick of a book set in WWII Scotland and so reviewed in *Where in the World below*.

Harrod-Eagles, Cynthia. [Star Fall](#) (Severn \$29.95). “Who could have fatally stabbed Rowland Egerton, the popular star of the TV show *Antiques Galore!*, in his beautiful early Victorian home? Suspicion falls on his longtime friend and business partner, John Lavender, but the more Inspector Bill Slider and his team learn about Egerton, the slimier he becomes. Personal details balance the police proceedings: Slider’s wife, Joanne, is recovering from a miscarriage. The couple’s tentative steps toward easing their grief and putting their relationship back on an even keel ring true. Clear, direct prose offers the occasional unexpected phrase: “The traffic lights, all green, were round alien eyes watching him.” This well-done tale should earn the author new fans.”—*PW* Starred Review for the 17th in one of my late Mother’s favorite authors, one I highly recommend also. Ordered Upon Request.

Hayder, Mo. [Wolf](#) (\$14). 7th in the DI Jack Caffery series, a home invasion story both dark and grisly. The recurring, enigmatic Walking Man finds a stray dog bearing a message and contacts Jack. Jack isn’t interested until the Walking Man offers to exchange new information about the long-ago disappearance of Jack’s brother, Ewan. From there he learns a wealthy family is being held hostage in its country home....

Herron, Mick. [The Last Voice You Hear](#) (\$14.95). Oxford private investigator Zoë Boehm struggles with the aftereffects of shooting the man intent on killing her. So when Caroline Daniels takes a deadly fall in front of a train and her lover fails to turn up at the funeral, Zoë wants nothing to do with the case. But Caroline’s boss is persistent, and as Zoë attempts to unlock the secrets of a woman she’s never met while in search of a man who could be anywhere, she starts to wonder if he’s found her first. And if he has, will that make her the next victim, or free her from a paralyzing fear? Excellent story—and there’s Oxford as a bonus.

Larbalestier, Justine. [Razorhurst](#) (Soho \$18.99). While written for Soho Teen and its hardcover line, this tale makes adult reading. “Larbalestier weaves the history of Surry Hills into a story that is full of violence, sex, crime, corruption, nobility, love and lust, bringing a lost place to life even as she grabs us by the lapels and drags us through a fantastic supernatural caper story.” —Cory Doctorow

Lewis, Ted. [GBH](#) (Soho \$26.95). In London, George Fowler heads a lucrative criminal syndicate that specializes in the production of “blue films”—illegal pornography. Fowler is king, but his entire world is in jeopardy. Someone is undermining his empire from within, and Fowler becomes increasingly paranoid and ruthless in his pursuit of the traitor. Juxtaposed with the terror of Fowler’s last days in London is the flash-forward narrative of his hideout bunker in a tiny English beach town, where Fowler skulks during the off-season amongst the locals. The final novel from Lewis, and its first US publication.

McDermid, Val. [Northanger Abbey](#) (\$15). Jane Austen’s classic updated to today, and with real verve. See Our April Trade Paperback Picks.

Moyes, Jojo. [One Plus One](#) (\$16). Moyes has the most engaging voice, no matter which batch of characters she throws together. And she can plot. Suppose your life sucks. A lot. Your husband

has done a vanishing act, your teenage stepson is being bullied, and your math whiz daughter has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that you can’t afford to pay for. That’s Jess’s life in a nutshell—until an unexpected knight in shining armor offers to rescue them. Only Jess’s knight turns out to be Geeky Ed, the obnoxious tech millionaire whose vacation home she happens to clean. But Ed has big problems of his own, and driving the dysfunctional family to the Math Olympiad feels like his first unselfish act in ages...maybe ever. Another Moyes charmer.

Perry, Anne. [The Angel Court Affair](#) (Random \$27). Anne and I stay in communication—when she has an update on her return to the US, I will update you. Meanwhile here is a new challenge for Charlotte and Thomas Pitt. See History/Mystery for more.

Smith, Alexander McCall. [Emma: A Modern Retelling](#) (Knopf \$25.95). The third volume in HarperCollins’s series of Jane Austen reboots, this title follows Joanna Trollope’s *Sense and Sensibility* and Val McDermid’s *Northanger Abbey*. Smith asks, how would the characters in Jane Austen’s *Emma* fare in a world of texts, emails, sperm donors, and casual hook-ups? He presents Emma warts and all, as did Austen, an Emma newly minted as an interior designer. In July comes Curtis Sittenfeld’s *Pride and Prejudice*.

Tidlar, Lavie. [The Violent Century](#) (St Martins \$25.99). As a Christopher Fowler fan, I chuckled when reading this blend of the Peculiar Crimes Unit, the superhero style, and WWII espionage by a World Fantasy Award winner. For seventy years, Fogg and Oblivion, inseparable friends who never meant to be heroes, were bound together by a shared fate. Then one night in Berlin in the aftermath of WWII, a secret tore them apart. Now the Retirement Bureau has called them back—no one can actually retire from it—and Fogg and Oblivion must face up to their past, a life of dusty corridors and secret rooms, furtive meetings, some blood-stained.... Some reviewers compare Tidlar to Philip K. Dick.

Willett, Marcia. [Postcards from the Past](#) (St Martins \$25.99). If you’re nostalgic for Rosamund Pilcher, pick up a Willett. In this one, siblings Billa and Ed share their beautiful, grand old childhood home in rural Cornwall. With family and friends nearby, and their living arrangements free and easy, they seem as contented as they can be. But when postcards start arriving from a sinister figure they thought belonged well and truly in their pasts, old memories are stirred. Why is he contacting them now? And what has he been hiding all these years?

BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME AND SPY CLASSICS AND A SPECIAL APRIL 29 EVENING WITH KING AND PETERS

On April 29 at 7:00 PM, Laurie King and Barbara Peters present a program on King’s work, their joint work, and the new British Crime and Spy Classics Series published by Poisoned Pen Press. This is great news for you fans of British fiction and cozies too. Edwards, a consultant to the British Library for the series, a PPP author of the Lake District Mysteries (new one in September), is also the archivist for the Detection Club, that fabled organization chaired in the past by Dorothy L. Sayers, Agatha Christie, HRF Keating, and, currently, Simon Brett. Membership is by invitation and embraces a fabulous roster of authors. Edwards has produced a history dated 1930-49 of this “mysterious literary club” that

transformed crime fiction: [The Golden Age of Murder](#) (Harper \$27.99). It's scholarly but it also dishes the dirt and thus may surprise you. What a treat! Edwards has signed bookplates for you.

Here are the May British Library Crime Classics: I love the old travel posters used for the cover art and Martin Edwards' insightful Introductions.

Bude, John. [The Sussex Downs Murders](#) (\$12.95). #1 in series. From the 1930s, a cleverly plotted novel in the tradition of Agatha Christie. Two brothers, John and William Rother, live and work together at Chalklands Farm in the beautiful Sussex Downs, along with William's wife. John is the senior and the money man, part of which comes from the Rother's trade in lime from their busy kiln. Their peaceful rural life is shattered when John Rother drives away to Wales—and disappears. His car and his bloodied cap are found that night a mere 11 miles away. Has he been kidnapped? Or is his disappearance more sinister? Superintendent Meredith is called to investigate – and begins to suspect the worst when human bones are discovered in the kiln. Unhurried, his patient piecing together of various investigative threads leads you the reader from one suspect to the next, until....

Kingston, Charles. [Murder in Piccadilly](#) (\$12.95). #2. Kingston (1884-1944) wrote over 20 mysteries in the period between the two world wars. Many are set in London, like this one that begins when Robert Cheldon falls for a pretty young dancer at the Frozen Fang in Soho. He envisions an idyllic marriage, but Nancy is set not so much on Cheldon as on the fortune he expects to inherit. Miserly Uncle Massy is not willing to relinquish the ten thousand a year the couple requires. Any crime fiction fancier realizes that the stage is now set for murder—but whose? Of the two, I think Bude reads better for modern mystery fans.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Alaux, Jean-Pierre. [Cognac Conspiracies](#) (Le French Press \$12.95). The heirs to one of the oldest Cognac estates in France face a hostile takeover by foreign investors. Renowned wine expert Benjamin Cooker is called in to audit the books. In what he thought was a sleepy provincial town, he is stonewalled, crosses paths with his first love, and stands up to high-level state officials keen on controlling the buyout. Meanwhile, irresistible Virgile mingles with the local population until a drowning changes the stakes. The Winemaker Detective Series #5

Also out from Le French Press: Frederique Molay, [The City of Blood, A Paris Homicide Mystery](#) (\$16.95). When a major art event gets surprising attention on live TV, Paris' Chief of Police Nico Sirsky and his elite crime-fighting team rush to La Villette park and museum complex. It's the site of the former slaughterhouses...and blood is just starting to flow. Are *les flics* chasing a modern butcher?

Baxter, John. [Five Nights in Paris](#) (\$14.99). Here's a lovely gift idea for Mother's Day or anytime. Every guidebook to Paris is crammed with sites to see during the day, but visitors are often cast adrift once the sun sets and the Louvre, Notre Dame, and other tourist attractions shut their doors. Sadly for those who have retreated into their hotel rooms, it's only when darkness falls that the City of Light shines brightest. Baxter leads readers on five evening tours across Paris's great neighborhoods. Each night's itinerary is selected for its connection to one of the five

senses: the first, "Sound," explores the great jazz clubs of Saint-Germain-des-Prés; "Taste" samples the eclectic restaurants and bakeries of the Marais; "Touch" brings alive the city's legendary cabaret scene, including Montmartre's nearby Moulin Rouge; "Smell" describes Parisians' love of perfume and takes us to the infamous former opium fumeries along the Bois de Boulogne; and "Sight" traces the favorite haunts of the Surrealist artists, beginning in Montparnasse.

Brady, Conor. [A June of Ordinary Murders](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Victorian Dublin, 1887 to be specific, harbors growing nationalist sentiment and violence even as Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee is to be celebrated. See First Novels.

Camilleri, Andrea. [Game of Mirrors](#) (Penguin \$16). Inspector Montalbano and his colleagues are stumped when two bombs explode outside empty warehouses—one of which is connected to a big-time drug dealer. Meanwhile, the alluring Liliana Lombardo is trying to seduce the Inspector over red wine and arancini. Between pesky reporters, amorous trysts, and cocaine kingpins, Montalbano feels as if he's being manipulated on all fronts. That is, until the inspector himself becomes the prime suspect in an unspeakably brutal crime. [Click here](#) for the large Camilleri backlist.

Corris, Peter. [Aftershock](#); [Make Me Rich](#); [O'Fear](#); [Silent Kill](#); [Wet Graves](#) (\$16.95 each). Reissues from the Australian master of mystery.

Downing, David. [The Red Eagles](#) (\$15.95). This reissue of a 1980s book drew this review from *PW*: "It's 1944, World War II is in its final stages and Josef Stalin should be content; the incipient conquest of almost half of Europe will erect a virtually impregnable barrier around Russia. But the American development of the atomic bomb threatens to make this military achievement irrelevant. Since the U.S.S.R. lacks the uranium necessary to match American nuclear progress on its own, Stalin decides his country must hijack some from the loosely guarded shipments from Oak Ridge, Tenn. A top Soviet planner invents a scheme for stealing the uranium and throwing the blame on the Germans. The Russians can then pretend that they have the capacity to make atomic weapons. They will explode one of their two bombs, the Americans won't realize they have only one left, and strategic parity will be restored by the threat. The German and Russian fifth columnists are the most sympathetic characters in this unusual fiction about espionage derring-do; their American opponents mostly come off as boobs."

Edelman, Gwen. [The Train to Warsaw](#) (\$14). Jascha and Lilka separately fled from the Warsaw Ghetto in 1942. Reunited years later, they live in London where Jascha has become a celebrated writer, feted for his dark tales about his war adventures. One day, forty years after the war, Jascha receives a letter inviting him to give a reading in Warsaw. He tells Lilka that nothing remains of the city they knew and that wild horses couldn't drag him back. Nostalgic for the city of her childhood, Lilka prevails; together, traveling by train through a frozen December landscape, they return to the city of their past. When they unwittingly find themselves back in what was once the ghetto, they will discover that they still have secrets between them.

Giacometti, E./J Ravenne. [Shadow Ritual](#) (Le French Press \$16.95). Written with a very European sensibility (obvious, but still...) at a time of rising extremism on the right and anti-Semitism, too, this religious thriller draws upon Aryan theories and Masonic rituals as rivalry between secret brotherhoods heats up over knowledge lost in 1945 at the fall of the Third Reich. Ritual murders and the discovery of a stone that might be linked to the second Temple of Solomon fuel the plot. French Detective Antoine Marcas unwillingly teams up with the strong-willed Jade Zewinski to chase Neo-Nazi assassins across Europe. They must unravel an arcane mystery, sparked by information from newly revealed KGB files. In fact, this novel was inspired from the true story of mysterious Freemason files thought to hold a terrible secret, stolen by the SS in 1940, recovered by the Red Army in 1945 and returned half a century later. First in a hugely successful series that has sold over 1.5 million copies in France and is translated into seventeen languages. I must say that the portrait of the Frenchman turned SS stalwart is startling!

Fascinatingly, and making our **April Fresh Fiction Pick**, British author Justin Richards (of Doctor Who books and the Invisible Detective crime novels for children), has written a thoroughly engrossing alternate reality thriller, [The Suicide Exhibition](#) (St Martins \$25.99) putting alien technology—the Vrill—into the hands of the German war machine. Here again is the Thule society plus Aryan tropes, a determination to discover ancient artifacts like the Ark of the Covenant, and intrepid agents of the Allies pitted against the SS. Major Guy Pentecost, a Brit, stumbles across an unbelievable conspiracy and teams up with American spy Sarah Diamond and actor/op Leo Davenport to enter the shadow world of Section Z and blast the Nazi plot to use the Vrill to win the war no matter what the cost. Huge fun as well as carefully grounded in actual wartime intelligence history. For a different sort of X-Man meets John LeCarré spin on WWII history, see Lavie Tidhar, [The Violent Century](#) (St Martins \$25.99), in British Books, which in fact is a fantasy akin to Christopher Fowler’s wonderful Peculiar Crimes Unit series: Fogg and Oblivion from the Retirement Bureau in elegiac espionage.

Gruen, Sara. [At the Water’s Edge Signed](#) (Random \$29). A trio of privileged Philadelphia socialites — Maddie, her husband, Ellis, and their friend, Hank — travel to the Scottish Highlands during WWII to prove the existence of the Loch Ness Monster. There, they find themselves among villagers dealing with the atrocities of a war that they have blithely ignored. And Maddie discovers that she, too, has paid too little attention to the world and to her own life. In its way this is a coming of age story, but for a grown up. The period detail and the author’s love of the landscape are warming, not a surprise from the author of the longtime bestseller *Water for Elephants*.

Henshaw, Mark. [The Snow Kimono Signed](#) (Tinder \$39). On the same day that retired police inspector Auguste Jovert receives a letter from a woman claiming to be his daughter, he returns to his Paris apartment to find a stranger waiting for him. That stranger is a Japanese professor called Tadashi Omura. What’s brought him to Jovert’s doorstep is not clear, but then he begins to tell his story — a story of a fractured friendship, lost lovers, orphaned children, and a body left bleeding in the snow. As Jovert pieces

together the puzzle of Omura’s life, he can’t help but draw parallels with his own; for he too has lead a life that’s been extraordinary and dangerous — and based upon a lie.

Hewson, David. [The Killing II](#) (\$13.95). It’s been two years since the notorious Nanna Birk Larsen case. Two years since Detective Sarah Lund left Copenhagen in disgrace for a remote outpost in northern Denmark. When the body of a female lawyer is found in macabre circumstances in a military graveyard, there are elements of the crime scene that take Head of Homicide, Lennart Brix, back to an occupied wartime Denmark—a time its countrymen would wish to forget. Brix knows that Lund is the one person he can rely on to discover the truth. Reluctantly she returns to Copenhagen and becomes intrigued with the facts surrounding the case. As more bodies are found, Lund comes to see a pattern and she realizes that the identity of the killer will be known once the truth behind a more recent wartime mission is finally revealed.

Hsu, Huan. [The Porcelain Thief](#) (Crown \$27). “American-born journalist Hsu hears that his great-great grandfather, a landowner in Xingang, buried a large collection of porcelain when Japan invaded China in 1938. Hsu sets out to find this treasure trove more than 70 years later. The book recounts Hsu’s travel to China and ensuing three-year search, ‘equipped with only a few threads of a family legend and an irresistible compulsion to know more about it.’ This compulsion drives the story as he meets and interviews family members and acquaintances, and gradually ‘unearth[s] pieces of [his] family’s history.’ He conducts his search, in his own words, ‘naïvely, indirectly, [and] protractedly.’ While it is hard to argue with this characterization of the search and the book as a whole, the book’s naïveté and indirectness enable the narrative to wander across genres. In addition to documentary and family history, Hsu explores China’s social and political history, as well as his personal feelings about China, and the value of documenting and sharing Chinese family stories.”—*PW* Starred Review. Porcelain is one of my favorite things: For a brilliant novel about imperial Chinese porcelain, read Nicole Mones’ [A Cup of Light](#) (\$15).

Indridason, Arnaldur. [Reykjavik Nights](#) (St Martins \$25.99). The *PW* Starred Review echoes Karen Shaver’s enthusiasm: “In this riveting prequel set in late-1960s Reykjavik, Indridason plumbs the backstory of his series lead, somber Inspector Erlendur Sveinsson. As a young cop, Erlendur patrols at night, writes speeding tickets, and escorts drunks to the station house. When Hannibal, a tramp he’s acquainted with, dies of apparently natural causes, Erlendur starts to investigate on his own time. In the process, he learns about Reykjavik’s down-and-out population—which Indridason presents humanely and without sentimentality—and about becoming a detective. His obsession with Hannibal and what happened to him foreshadows the concerns of the more mature Erlendur in books set years later, such as 2014’s *Strange Shores*. Erlendur connects Hannibal’s case to that of a missing woman and a criminal enterprise that may strike readers as amateurish (one tactic is stolen from the then-new TV detective show *Ironside*). The investigation slowly but surely gathers powerful, page-turning momentum. This installment stands on its own, but it’s all the more impressive for giving new insight into Erlendur.” Love Indridason’s Icelandic noir. [Click here](#) to order more. *Jar City* begins the Erlendurs.

Kaminsky, Stuart M. [Black Knight in Red Square](#) (\$13.95). A reissue of the late MWA Grand Master's 2nd for Inspector Porfirio Rostnikov. Built in the twilight of the Tsarist state, Moscow's Metropole Hotel is a poignant reminder of the decadence of the last regime. But today its corridors are musty, its rooms are dank, and now its restaurant is the scene of a quadruple murder. Four men—one American, one Japanese, and two citizens of Mother Russia—share a meal of smoked salmon, caviar, and two bottles of vodka. In the morning, all are found dead, blood on their lips and faces contorted in pain. To keep the killings under wraps, the Kremlin hands the investigation over to famously discreet police investigator Rostnikov. A terrorist is targeting foreigners to embarrass the Soviet state, and the killer will happily sacrifice any Russian who gets in the way....

Kerr, Philip. [Lady from Zagreb Signed](#) (Quercus \$45); [Lady from Zagreb Signed](#) (Putnam \$26.95). See Event Books for Bernie Gunther in WWII Croatia and Berlin.

Leon, Donna. [Falling in Love Signed](#) (Heinemann \$40). In [Death at La Fenice](#) (\$7.99), Donna Leon's first novel in the Commissario Brunetti series, readers were introduced to the glamorous and cut-throat world of opera and to one of Italy's finest living sopranos, Flavia Petrelli – then a suspect in the poisoning of a renowned German conductor. Now, many years after Brunetti cleared her name, Flavia has returned to the illustrious La Fenice to sing the lead in Tosca. As an opera superstar, Flavia is well acquainted with attention from adoring fans and aspiring singers. But when one anonymous admirer inundates her with bouquets of yellow roses – on stage, in her dressing room and even inside her locked apartment – it becomes clear that this fan has become a potentially dangerous stalker. Distraught, Flavia turns to an old friend for help. Familiar with Flavia's melodramatic temperament, Commissario Brunetti is at first unperturbed by her story, but when another young opera singer is attacked he begins to think Flavia's fears may be justified. US tip-ins: [Falling in Love Signed](#) (Grove \$26)

Magson, Adrian. [Close Quarters Signed](#) (Severn \$44). The return of The Watchman – deep cover specialist Marc Portman Close protection specialist Marc Portman is used to finding himself in hostile situations. But none can be more unpredictable than the troubled Ukraine, teetering on the brink of civil war. When a US State Department official on a fact-finding mission to the Ukraine is placed under house arrest, the CIA hire Portman (codename: Watchman) to get him safely out of the country. In that dangerous and volatile region, Portman will find himself up against local gangsters, Ukrainian Special Forces, professional snipers, pro-Russian separatists and power-crazed cops. What he cannot know however is that his most lethal enemy comes from his own side...

Manzini, Antonio. [Black Piste](#) (Harper \$25.99). I wanted to like this thriller set in the Italian Alps and translated into English, but I didn't. The place is Champoluc. The sleuth is Deputy Prefect Rocco Schiavone of Police, a Roman who has been exiled to Aosta, a touristy Alpine town, and disdaining it. He disdains his superiors, too. But Schiavone loves solving crimes and the discovery of a mangled body on a piste presents the first challenge—how to identify a victim who's been comprehensively crushed by the heavy snowcat working to smooth out the trail.

Marklund, Liza. [Borderline](#) (Atria \$16). Annika Bengtzon is back at Kvällspressen's Stockholm offices after three years as the newspaper's Washington, DC correspondent. One afternoon, a young woman is found dead behind a nursery school in a Stockholm suburb. She is the fourth victim with the same characteristics: a young mother, stabbed from behind. In the editorial offices of Kvällspressen they sense a serial killer, but Annika dismisses it as a wild fantasy. Meanwhile, her husband Thomas is attending an international conference in Nairobi, Kenya. During a reconnaissance trip to the Somali border the entire delegation of seven European envoys is kidnapped. 9th in series.

McIlvanney, William. [Strange Loyalties: A Laidlaw Investigation](#) (\$17). Reissue. This third book in the series begins with Jack Laidlaw's despair and anger at his brother's death in a banal road accident. His questions as to the dynamics of his brother's death lead to larger questions about the nature of pain and injustice about meaning of his own life. Laidlaw is determined to learn more about the circumstances surrounding Scott Laidlaw's death. His investigations will lead to a confrontation with his own past and a harrowing journey into the dark Glasgow underworld.

Michener, James A. [Mexico](#) and [Poland](#) (\$18 each). Reissues of two of Michener's panoramic historical novels.

Nesbø, Jo. [Blood on Snow Signed](#) (Knopf \$23.95). Norwegian Noir comes in this slim standalone set in 1970s Oslo where a contract killer, Olav, known as "the fixer," works for a crime kingpin. Olav is so embedded in his boss's business that maybe his boss wants to fix him.

Riva, Peter. [Murder on Safari](#) (Yucca \$14.99). For expert safari guide Mbuno and wildlife television producer Pero Baltazar, filming in the wild of East Africa should have been a return to the adventure they always loved. This time they'd be filming soaring vultures in northern Kenya and giant sea crocodiles in Tanzania with Mary, the daughter of the world's top television evangelist, the very reverend Jimmy Threte. But when a terrorist cell places them in the crosshairs, there is suddenly no escape and they must put their filming aside and combine all their talents to thwart an all-out al-Shabaab terrorist attack on Jimmy Threte's Christian gathering of hundreds of thousands in Nairobi, Kenya.

Roe, Sue. [In Montmartre](#) (Penguin \$29.95). A colorful history of the birth of Modernist art as it arose from one of the most astonishing collections of artistic talent ever assembled. It begins in October 1900, as a teenage Pablo Picasso, eager for fame and fortune, first makes his way up the hillside of Paris's famous windmill-topped district. Over the next decade, among the studios, salons, cafés, dance halls, and galleries of Montmartre, the young Spaniard joins the likes of Henri Matisse, André Derain, Maurice de Vlaminck, Georges Braque, Amedeo Modigliani, Constantin Brancusi, Gertrude Stein, and many more, in revolutionizing artistic expression.

Sendker, Jan-Philipp. [Whispering Shadows Signed](#) (Atria \$25.99). We begin a trilogy with Paul Leibovitz who, his life imploded after some thirty years of success in Hong Kong as a journalist when his son dies of leukemia, lives a truly isolated life on an outlying island. Though German, when divorced he chose

this rather than repatriation. His ferocious isolation is to allow him to keep memories of his son alive.”But his aimless existence is given meaning—and put into grave danger—when he helps an old friend, a Chinese homicide detective, find the truth behind the murder of an American businessman. A burgeoning—albeit fragile—relationship with a woman he meets while walking complicates his life further. Equal parts crime thriller, romance, and examination of the impact of China’s Cultural Revolution on those who endured its atrocities, this novel is, at its heart, a story about the burden of survival. Despite a predictable ending, it still packs a wallop,” says *PW*. Sendker has written two “love stories” but this is his first mystery and begins a trilogy—and is a **First Mystery Club Pick**.

Simenon, Georges. [The Two-Penny Bar](#) (\$16). Reissue. Previously published as *The Bar on the Seine*. A forgotten crime comes to light in the Parisian summer in Georges Simenon’s twisted tale. Book eleven in the new Penguin Maigret series. A radiant late afternoon. The sunshine almost as thick as syrup in the quiet streets of the Left Bank. . . there are days like this, when ordinary life seems heightened, when the people walking down the street, the trams and cars all seem to exist in a fairy tale.’ A story told by a condemned man leads Maigret to a bar by the Seine and into the sleazy underside of respectable Parisian life. In the oppressive heat of summer, a forgotten crime comes to light.

Thomas, Gordon. [Gideon’s Spies: The Secret History of the Mossad](#) (St Martins \$21.99). The 7th edition, revised, of a look at this spy agency. Of interest to Daniel Silva readers, no? Silva publishes [The English Spy Signed](#) (Harper \$27.99) June 30.

Vargas Llosa, Mario. [The Discreet Hero](#) (Farrar \$26). “Nobel laureate Llosa returns to small-town Peru in this lyrical and witty new novel. The story revolves around two men: Felicito Yanaque in Piura and Ismael Carrera in Lima. Don Felicito, owner of a small transport company, is extorted for protection money, but steadfastly refuses to pay. Ismael is a wealthy septuagenarian who marries his housekeeper partly to spite his avaricious sons. After Ismael and his new wife disappear on a long honeymoon, his longtime employee Don Rigoberto is left to deal with the aftermath—and Ismael’s sons, appropriately dubbed “the hyenas.” Don Felicito finds some consolation with his mistress, Mabel, until she, too, disappears. The alternating story lines eventually converge amid scandal, kidnapping, and death. Llosa populates the novel with many down-home characters from his previous novels—Lituma, Don Rigoberto, Lucrecia, Fonchito—and modern-day Peru itself plays an important role. Throughout, Llosa is a master of the slow build: he layers disparate, suspenseful, and competing stories into a larger, fuller narrative that seamlessly arrives at its satisfying conclusion. A vivid tale of fathers and sons, rich and poor, this novel gives the world another reason to celebrate Llosa.”—*PW* Starred Review

Wilson, Robert. [You Will Never Find Me](#) (\$18). Amy Boxer, the precocious daughter of London kidnap consultant Charles Boxer and Detective Inspector Mercy Danquah, has drifted from melancholy and frustration to drastic action: she’s leaving home. But Amy can’t just walk out, and goads the talents of her parents, with a challenge: YOU WILL NEVER FIND ME. Amy’s destination: Madrid. Here, in the strobe-lights of bars and crowded dance clubs, she’s anonymous and untraceable. Except

to a volatile, unpredictable leader in the Madrid drug trade, the man known only as El Osito. Charles Boxer will use his very specific set of skills to retrace Amy’s quickly vanishing steps, while DI Danquah takes on her own case in London. As Danquah begins her search for Sasha, a body is found in Madrid. Amy’s father may be the next target.

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Anderson, Douglas a. [HP Lovecraft’s Favorite Weird Tales](#) (\$14.95). Enjoy.

Domingue, Ronlyn. [The Chronicle of Secret Riven](#) (\$15). Born to brilliant parents one thousand years after a great conflict known as The Mapmaker’s War, Secret Riven is an uncanny child who can mysteriously communicate with plants and animals. When her knowledge of an esoteric symbol brings unwelcome attention, gentle, watchful Secret finds acceptance from Prince Nikolas, her best friend, and Old Woman, who lives in the distant woods. When Secret is twelve, her mother, Zavet, receives an arcane manuscript to translate. Zavet begins to suffer nightmares and withdraws into herself. Secret sickens with a fever and awakens able to speak an ancient language, in which her mother is also fluent. Suddenly, Zavet dies—and the manuscript is missing. The only clue left is a cipher for Secret to find. The Keeper of Tales Trilogy after *The Mapmaker’s War*.

Johansen, Erika. [Queen of the Tearling](#) (\$15.99). A young princess, Kelsea Raleigh Glynn, raised in exile, must reclaim her dead mother’s throne, learn to be a ruler—and defeat the Red Queen, a powerful and malevolent sorceress determined to destroy her. A #1 Indie Next Pick in hardcover.

Liu, Ken. [The Grace of Kings](#) (Saga/SimonSchuster \$27.99). Two men rebel together against tyranny—and then become rivals—in this first sweeping book of an epic fantasy series from Ken Liu, recipient of Hugo, Nebula, and World Fantasy awards. Wily, charming Kuni Garu, a bandit, and stern, fearless Mata Zyndu, the son of a deposed duke, seem like polar opposites. Yet, in the uprising against the emperor, the two quickly become the best of friends after a series of adventures fighting against vast conscripted armies, silk-draped airships, and shapeshifting gods. Once the emperor has been overthrown, however, they each find themselves the leader of separate factions—two sides with very different ideas about how the world should be run and the meaning of justice. Fans of intrigue, intimate plots, and action will find a new series to embrace in the Dandelion Dynasty. It’s a big book, one to get lost in.

Martin, George RR. [Dance with Dragons \(HBO Tie-In Edi](#) (\$18)

Nicholas, Douglas. [Throne of Darkness](#) (Atria \$16). It’s 1215 in northwest England—the eve of the signing of the Magna Carta—and mystical Irish queen Maeve and her unlikely band of warriors must protect the region from a chilling fate. Word of a threat reaches the Northern barons: King John has plotted to import an African sorcerer and his sinister clan of blacksmiths, whose unearthly powers may spell destruction for the entire kingdom. Along with her lover, Jack, her gifted niece, Nemain, and Nemain’s newlywed husband, Hob (whose hidden talents will soon be revealed), Maeve must overcome a supernatural threat unlike any she’s seen before. *Kirkus* calls this “a more

profound Harry Potter for adults.” Series newcomers will quickly feel right at home, and returning readers will enjoy learning more about their favorite characters. Short, helpful glossaries of Irish and archaic English are included.

Percy, Benjamin. [Dead Lands](#) (Grand Central \$26). Percy’s new thriller is a post-apocalyptic reimagining of the Lewis and Clark saga, a super flu and nuclear fallout have made a husk of the world we know. A few humans carry on, living in outposts such as the Sanctuary—the remains of St. Louis—a shielded community that owes its survival to its militant defense and fear-mongering leaders. Then a rider comes from the wasteland beyond its walls. She reports on the outside world: west of the Cascades, rain falls, crops grow, and civilization thrives. But there is danger too: the rising power of an army that pillages and enslaves every community they happen upon. Against the wishes of the Sanctuary, a small group sets out in secrecy. Led by Lewis Meriwether and Mina Clark, they hope to expand their infant nation, and to reunite the States. But the Sanctuary will not allow them to escape without a fight.... Percy burst upon the scene with the hit [Red Moon](#) (\$16).

Pratchett, Terry. [Turtle Recall: The Discworld Companion](#) (Harper \$16.99). Sir Terry died in March but his work lives on.

Snyder, Maria V. [Shadow Study](#) (Mira \$14.95). Soulfinders Book #5. Oddly enough, when Yelena was a poison taster, her life was simpler. But she’d survived to become a vital part of the balance of power between rival countries Ixia and Sitia. Now she uses her magic to keep the peace in both lands—and protect her relationship with Valek. Suddenly, though, they are beset on all sides by those vying for power through politics and intrigue. Valek’s job and his life are in danger. As Yelena tries to uncover the scope of these plots, she faces a new challenge: her magic is blocked. She must keep that a secret—or her enemies will discover just how vulnerable she really is—while searching for who or what is responsible for neutralizing her powers. Yes, the days of tasting poisons were much simpler. And certainly not as dangerous....

Valentine, Genevieve. [Persona](#) (Saga/SimonSchuster \$24.95). In a world where diplomacy has become celebrity, a young ambassador survives an assassination attempt and must join with an undercover paparazzo in a race to save her life, spin the story, and secure the future of her young country in this near-future political thriller from the acclaimed author of *Mechanique* and *The Girls at Kingfisher Club*.

COOKING UP CRIMES

Hyzy, Julie/Laura Childs, eds. [The Cozy Cookbook](#) (Penguin \$16). More than 100 recipes from such as Avery Aames, Ellery Adams, Laura Childs, Cleo Coyle, Victoria Hamilton, Julie Hyzy, Jenn McKinlay, Paige Shelton. Mouth-watering appetizers, entrées, and desserts that will leave your family or book club group asking, “Whodunit?” In addition to recipes, choose a sleuth du jour from our menu of mystery series and get a taste of each of our authors’ bread and butter—page-turning puzzles and stay-up-all-night suspense in excerpts from their bestselling works. Whether you like your meals sautéed, roasted, baked, or served cold like revenge, *The Cozy Cookbook* has something to satisfy every mystery fan.

White, Kate, ed. [The Mystery Writers of America Cookbook](#) (Quirk \$24.95). Wickedly good recipes from Lee Child, Harlan Coben, Mary Higgins Clark, Diane Mott Davidson, Nelson DeMille, Gillian Flynn, Sue Grafton (it must involve peanut butter!), Charlaine Harris, JA Jance, Brad Meltzer, James Patterson, Louise Penny, Kathy Reichs, Lisa Scottoline, Karin Slaughter, Scott Turow, and other pot stirrers. Hard-boiled Breakfasts, Cozy Desserts.... Plenty to savor. Color photos too. *And more on food:*

Gibney, Michael. [Sous Chef: 24 Hours on the Line](#) (\$16)

Minchilli, Elizabeth Helm. [Eating Rome: Living the Good Life](#) (St Martins\$24.99)

Rollins, Kent. [A Taste of Cowboy Ranch Recipes and Tails from the Trail](#) (Houghton \$30)

THE COZY CORNER

There are some British cozies in British Books

Albert, Susan Wittig. [Bittersweet](#) (Berkley \$25.95). It’s Thanksgiving in Pecan Springs, and China is planning to visit her mother, Leatha, and her mother’s husband, Sam, who are enthusiastically embarking on a new enterprise—turning their former game ranch into a vacation retreat for birders. She’s also looking forward to catching up with her friend, game warden Mackenzie “Mack” Chambers, who was recently transferred to the area. But Leatha calls with bad news: Sam has had a heart attack. Leatha does have a helper, Sue Ellen Krause. But China discovers that Sue Ellen, who is in the process of leaving her marriage to the assistant foreman at a large trophy game ranch, is in some serious trouble. And just like that, Sue Ellen is killed when her car veers off the road. Meanwhile, when a local veterinarian is shot in what appears to be a burglary at his clinic, Mack Chambers believes his murder could be related to fawns stolen from a nearby ranch. As Mack follows the trail, China begins to wonder if Sue Ellen’s death may not have been an accident.... [Click here](#) for earlier China cases.

Bain, Donald. [Murder, She Wrote: Killer in the Kitchen](#) (Penguin \$23.95). Jessica Fletcher #43. Jessica loves the Fin & Claw restaurant, owned by young couple Brad and Marcie. And the restaurant is the couple’s dream come true. But when famed chef Gerard Leboeuf decides to open an eatery right next to theirs, tensions rise fast and hot—and lead to a nasty confrontation between Leboeuf and Brad. So when Leboeuf is found dead with a knife planted in his chest, Brad becomes suspect number one. But plenty of others had a motive to kill Leboeuf, and it’s up to Jessica to uncover who really added murder to the menu.

Clement, Blaize/John. [The Cat Sitter’s Whiskers](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Florida cat sitter Dixie Heminway’s first client of the morning is Berney Feldman, a Maine coon with a bent for mischief. Barney is guarding his vacationing owner’s creep collection of valuable antique masks. Someone’s hiding in the house when Dixie arrives—and knocks her cold. When the cops arrive, nothing is missing, and no one has broken in. Can Siesta Key be part of a world of black market antiques...and worse? 10th in series.

Daheim, Mary. [The Alpine Zen](#) (Random \$26). As an early summer heat wave beats down on Alpine, Emma and her staff are treading very lightly. For unfathomable reasons, the paper’s House & Home editor, Vida Runkel, is in a major snit, refusing to speak to her colleagues, or even her boss. So when a peculiar young woman walks in claiming her parents have been murdered,

and that she's in mortal danger, too, it fits right in with the rest of the craziness. Then, to the utter bafflement of her colleagues, Vida vanishes without a word to anyone. And just when Emma and her husband, Sheriff Milo Dodge, start to unsnarl these tangles, a male body, dead too long to identify, surfaces at the town dump—making what seemed merely weird feel downright sinister. Has the hot weather driven everyone nuts, or...? For Alpine A-Y, [click here](#).

Grace, Margaret. [Manhattan in Miniature](#) (Perseverance \$15.99). Crafter Gerrie Porter drops into SuperKrafts with her granddaughter after cleaning up Thanksgiving to buy supplies for Christmas miniature scenes. The new manager is tasked with displays at a huge Manhattan crafts fair and sweeps up both Gerry and Maddie as assistants. And there, as usual, the duo set to work making miniatures and unmasking criminals, plus hitting some tourist icons.

Hess, Joan. [Pride V Prejudice Signed](#) (St Martins \$27). It's always a treat to spend time with the acerbic Claire Malloy, now a semi-retired bookseller, nearly done mom, and newly married to her longtime beau Peter Rosen, the police chief. With efficient staff running the Book Depot and Caron closing in on college (Inez too), Claire is intrigued to be summoned for jury duty. Alas, the prosecutor of the murder case harbors a grudge against Peter and humiliates Claire on the voir dire. So, she vows revenge. And hunts down the accused, a woman charged with murdering her husband, and offers to help prove her innocence. Hmmmm.... Some of Claire's earlier cases are still in print. [Click here](#).

Larsen, KJ. [Bye, Bye Love Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). Can Cat Deluca, terror of liars and cheats, catch a killer? After all, Stephanie Plum is a bond enforcement agent who collars them. Still, Cat's more like a girl from a Meg Cabot or a Jennifer Crusie than an Evanovich, as we see in *Bye, Bye, Love*, her 4th laugh-out-loud investigation. Cat comes from an outrageous, interfering Chicago Italian family. The men, even her shady, Ferrari-driving Uncle Joe, are all cops. There's an ex-spy (or two) in the mix, plus Cat's hot FBI boyfriend. No wonder crime scenes are as irresistible as mama's cannoli to the head of the Pants on Fire Detective Agency. But PI Cat is just out for a run in a neighborhood park when she crashes over a faceless body. She's assaulted by a guy sporting a Rolex but disguised as a member of Bridgeport's Parks Department. When the cops (mostly her relatives) show up, he's gone. So is the body. And Captain Bob, a stickler for habeas corpus, blows Cat off... from there, it's non-stop action, filled with trademark twists and zany characters. [Click here](#) for Cat's earlier cases.

McKevett, GA. [Killer Gourmet](#) (Kensington \$25). When the Moonlight Magnolia gang learns their friends Ryan Stone and John Gibson are planning to open a chic new restaurant, they eagerly offer their input on everything from what dishes to serve to how many calories they should contain. But all Ryan and John can think about is how excited they are to have hired the temperamental but talented chef Baldwin Norwood. Too bad the only thing being sliced and diced in the kitchen is the chef himself. As PI Savannah Reid turns her attention from munchies to murder, she quickly realizes the cantankerous chef left a bad taste in everyone's mouth, and any number of people could have whipped up a recipe for revenge. #20 in this tasty series.

Riggs, Cynthia. [Poison Ivy](#) (St Martins \$25.99). 92-year-old poet/sleuth Victoria Trumbull is on her first day as adjunct professor at Ivy Green College when she recognizes the smell in her classroom is that of a body, one hiding beneath a cluster of poison ivy. Ivy Green is already on the brink of losing support from its lukewarm accredited partner, Cape Cod U, so the murder spells Trouble. More bodies pile up as Martha's Vineyard faces the fact a serial killer is at work on the island.... 11th in a cozy series.

Ross, Ann B. [Miss Julia Lays Down the Law](#) (Viking \$26.95). It's November and Miss Julia is looking forward to some quiet time before the holidays. That is until snobby Connie Clayborn and her rich husband move to town. At first, Miss Julia and the other ladies are pleased to be invited over for coffee, but the afternoon turns into a slap in the face when their hostess spouts nonstop criticism about Abbotsville. Why, how dare she? Days later, Miss Julia decides to confront Connie woman to woman, but when she arrives, Connie is lying on the kitchen floor—lifeless in a pool of blood. Who could have done this? Miss Julia will need to find out fast—particularly because her fingerprints are now all over the crime scene.... 16th in series.

CANINES AND FELINES

Cameron, W Bruce. [Ellie's Story: A Dog's Purpose Novel](#) (\$16.99). "Rendered in the words of its canine character, this illustrated novel tracks the life of a search-and-rescue dog from puppyhood to retirement. Ellie's Story covers her heroic work, but it also gives young readers a heartening sense of her encounters with the people, large and small, she encounters along the way. (This fiction is supplemented by a discussion and activity guide about dogs at work and play.)"—B&N.com

Cox, Tom. [The Good, The Bad, and the Furry](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Meet The Bear—a cat who carries the weight of the world on his furry shoulders, and whose wise, owl-like eyes seem to ask, Can you tell me why I am a cat please? There is Janet, a large man cat who often accidentally sets fire to his tail by walking too close to lighted candles; Ralph, a preening tabby who enjoys meowing his own name at 5AM; and Shipley, Ralph's brother, who steals soup but is generally relaxed once you pick him up and turn him upside down. And then there's Tom Cox, writing with wit and charm about the unexpected adventures that go hand-in-hand with a life at the beck and call of four cats

Donohue, Meg. [Dog Crazy: A Novel of Love Lost and Found](#) (Morrow \$14.99). Maggie Brennan, pet bereavement counselor, uses empathy, insight, and humor to help patient cope with the anguish of losing a pet. She's less successful at guiding her own work with a dog rescue operation, or her practice. Then a distraught woman show up claiming her dog has been stolen. Searching San Francisco's streets for the pooch, Maggie finds herself entangled in a mystery that finally forces her to face herself....

Flora, Kate Clark. [Death Dealer: How Cops and Cadaver Dogs Brought a Killer to Justice](#) (New Horizon \$24.95). Flora is a former assistant attorney general for the State of Maine and the author of 12 books. An Edgar Award nominee for her true crime work, here she shows how cooperation tracked a suspected serial

killer. In Miramichi, New Brunswick, Canada, David Tanasichuk reports his wife, Maria, missing. Explaining the ten-day delay in notifying authorities, David claims that he and Maria were having marital troubles and she had decided to take a break by leaving town. Suspense builds as lie after lie unravels. David's reputation for violence and drug abuse makes investigators take his veiled threats against them seriously. Local police, frustrated by a fruitless wintertime search through miles of frozen wilderness, finally enlist the aid of Maine game wardens along with cadaver dogs and their dedicated volunteer handlers. This *Law and Order* meets *CSI* drama culminates in a riveting courtroom drama.

Herriot, James. [James Herriot's Cat Stories](#) (\$21.99) and [James Herriot's Dog Stories](#) (\$15.99). How I love the Yorkshire vet's wonderful books. I visited his home town in 1986 and could scarcely drive for the traffic jam generated by literary tourists. The TV was terrific, heartwarming but not saccharine. This reminds me it's time to watch it again.

Katz, Jon. [The Second Chance Dog: A Love Story](#) (\$14). In 2007, a few years after purchasing Bedlam Farm in upstate New York, bestseller Jon Katz met Maria Wulf, a quiet, sensitive artist hoping to rekindle her creative spark. Jon, like her, was introspective yet restless, a writer struggling to find his purpose. He felt a connection with her immediately, but a formidable obstacle stood in the way: Maria's dog, Frieda. A rottweiler-shepherd mix that had been abandoned by her previous owner in the Adirondacks, where she lived in the wild for several years, Frieda was ferociously protective and barely tamed. She roared and charged at almost anyone who came near. But to Maria, Frieda was sweet and loyal, her beloved guard dog and devoted friend. And so Jon quickly realized that to win over Maria, he'd have to gain Frieda's affection as well. Armed with a singular determination, unlimited patience, and five hundred dollars' worth of beef jerky, Jon refused to give up on Frieda—or on his chance with Maria.

Navarro, Mireya. [Stepdog](#) (Putnam \$26.95). The tale of a woman who has finally met the man of her dreams—and the dog of her nightmares. Lots of dogs eat shoes, bite people, destroy furniture. Eddie tried to destroy a marriage. After more than three decades of happy single womanhood, Mia Navarro wasn't really looking to change her relationship status. The idea of being a step-anything to anyone was foreign to her, something she never thought about until she fell in love with Jim and agreed to marry him. As it turns out, the marriage is pretty wonderful, the stepkids were, well, typical pre-teens, the weather in Los Angeles perfect. But life is not spotless. The spots belong to Jim's mutt, Eddie. Possessive and jealous, Eddie behaves like Jim's mistress—if a mistress could bark and compete for space on his beloved's lap. As time goes on, a full-on war ensues. Mia slams the door in Eddie's face, cordons off the house into dog- and wife-territories, and leaves the back door open . . . by, er, accident, of course. She even tries to leave Eddie behind in California when she and Jim abruptly relocate to New York. But in the end, it's clear that not even a wife can come between man and dog. As Eddie ages, Mia softens. And then....

Wilson, Susan. [Dog Who Saved Me](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Boston police officer Cooper Harrison never thought he'd go back to his

hometown, Harmony Farms. But when his faithful K-9 partner Argos is killed in the line of duty, Cooper, caught in a spiral of trauma and grief, has nowhere else to turn. Jobless and on the verge of divorce, he accepts an offer for the position of dog officer in Harmony Farms, leaving the life he spent twenty years building behind. And so he finds himself back where he started. Where his father was once known as the town drunk and his brother outgrew juvenile delinquency to become a drug dealer. Cooper does his job with deliberate detachment, refusing to get emotionally invested in another dog the way he had with Argos—until he finds himself rescuing a wounded and gun-shy yellow lab gone feral.... “Wilson again goes to the dogs to explore fractured lives, this time adding crime to the mix.”—*Kirkus*

APRIL TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

Bowen, Peter. [Bitter Creek Signed](#) (Open Road \$16.99). We've all missed Montana Métis Gabriel Du Pré and the “Toussaint” community which includes his main squeeze Madelaine, his two daughters, billionaire Bart, the sheriff and his wife.... It's been some years since this, one of our bestselling series, has had a new entry. Bitter Creek blends the present with a real cold case: what happened to a band of Métis who were last seen fleeing from (US) General Black Jack Pershing's troops in 1915? Are the rumors of a massacre at Bitter Creek true? And why would anyone today want to keep the truth of it buried? A Lt. John Pachen kicks this off when he arrives to persuade Madelaine's son, a wounded Marine, to accept the Navy Cross.... Great reading for fans of Margaret Coel, William Kent Krueger, and Craig Johnson.

✂Charles, Kate. [False Tongues](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.95). A new mystery from the Queen of Clerical Crime. See British Books for the hardcover review. All PP books come in simultaneous hardcover/trade paperback editions. Also ebooks.

Deaver, Jeffery. [The Skin Collector](#) (\$16). A new killer is on the loose. When a connection is made to the serial killer who terrorized New York more than a decade ago—paraplegic forensics ace Lincoln Rhyme's first investigation—he and Amelia Sachs are immediately drawn into the case. But unlike [The Bone Collector](#) (\$9.99), this psycho has a yen for human skin, canvas for tattoo art. The killer's methods are terrifying. He stalks the basements and underground passageways of New York City. He tattoos his victims' flesh with cryptic messages, using a tattoo gun loaded with poison, resulting in agonizing, painful deaths for his victims. What is the message behind the victims' tattoos? Does the killer's own inking—a fanged centipede sporting a woman's face—hold any significance? And what is his ultimate mission? “Outstanding...the endgame remains in doubt to the end. Deaver proves himself a grandmaster of the genre as each surprise leads to an even bigger surprise, like a series of reverse Russian nesting dolls.”—*PW* Starred Review

Gaus, PL. [Whiskers of the Lion](#) (Penguin \$15). Sheriff Bruce Robertson is charged with finding a young Amish woman on the run from a murderous drug ring so she can testify in federal court. Wrestling with a recurring childhood nightmare of a deadly lion, the Holmes County sheriff finds himself torn between allegiance to the legal system he upholds and the beliefs of the people he is sworn to protect. I love this series set in Ohio's Holmes County; it's a different perspective from that of Linda

Castillo in her Amish Country Mysteries. “Gaus is a sensitive storyteller who matches his cadences to the measured pace of Amish life, catching the tensions among the village’s religious factions.” – *The New York Times Book Review*

Go, Justin. [The Steady Running of the Hour](#) (\$15.99). Just after graduating from college, Tristan Campbell receives a letter delivered by special courier to his apartment in San Francisco. It contains the phone number of a Mr. J.F. Prichard of Twynning & Hooper, Solicitors, in London—and news that could change Tristan’s life forever. In 1924, Prichard explains, an English alpinist named Ashley Walsingham died attempting to summit Mt. Everest, leaving his fortune to his former lover, Imogen Soames-Andersson. Information has recently surfaced suggesting Tristan may be the rightful heir, but unless he can find documented evidence, the fortune will be divided among charitable beneficiaries in less than two months. Tristan pieces together the story of a forbidden affair set against the tumult of the First World War and the pioneer British expeditions to Mt. Everest. Following his instincts through a maze of frenzied research, Tristan crosses paths with a mysterious French girl named Mireille who suggests there is more to his quest than he realizes. A First Mystery Pick in hardcover.

Goldsborough, Robert. [Archie in the Crosshairs](#) (Mysterious \$14.99). Archie Goodwin is chipper as he strolls home from his weekly poker game, money in his pocket and a smile on his lips. He has just reached Nero Wolfe’s stately brownstone on West Thirty-Fifth Street when a sedan whips around the corner and two gunshots ring out, nearly hitting Goodwin. It is a warning, and the message is clear: The next bullet will not miss. Rotund investigator Nero Wolfe has made more than his fair share of enemies over the years, and it seems one of them has decided to strike, targeting Wolfe’s indefatigable assistant. Some might run for cover...but not Archie Goodwin. This is a sentimental pick in terms of both Rex Stout and Robert Goldsborough who has long continued to present Wolfe and Goodwin to us.

Goodman, Lee. [Indefensible](#) (\$16). In this 2014 First Mystery Club Pick, it’s almost like Deaver hung over Goodman’s shoulder writing the end game(s). It begins when birdwatcher Cassandra Randall, accidentally observing two men digging a grave-like something in a state park that is probably in New England given references to shuttered mills. She reports it to the authorities and Federal Prosecutor Nick Davis in the US Attorney’s office, not taking it seriously, investigates the site. Voila—there is a body. Which turns out to be ‘a shy and likable kid who was selling pot to pay his college tuition.’ More deaths follow. “A ‘rotten summer’ of killings turns into a bitter autumn of self-doubt for Nick, who wrestles with both the prosecutor’s sin, failure of objectivity, and the defender’s, failure of loyalty.”—*PW* Starred Review

✳McDermid, Val. [Northanger Abbey](#) (\$15). Cat Morland is ready to grow up. A homeschooled minister’s daughter in the quaint, sheltered Piddle Valley in Dorset, she loses herself in novels and is sure there is a glamorous adventure awaiting her beyond the valley’s narrow horizon. So imagine her delight when the Allens, neighbors and friends of her parents, invite her to attend the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh as their guest. With a sunny personality, tickets every night and a few key wardrobe additions courtesy of Susie Allen, Cat quickly begins to take

Edinburgh by storm and is taken into the bosom of the Thorpe family, particularly by eldest daughter Bella. And then there’s the handsome Henry Tilney, an up-and-coming lawyer whose family home is the beautiful and forbidding Northanger Abbey. Cat is entranced by Henry and his charming sister Eleanor, but she can’t help wondering if everything about them is as perfect as it seems. Or has she just been reading too many novels? This reimagining of Austen’s novel is a real charmer.

McManus, Patrick F. [The Tamarack Murders](#) (Skyhorse \$14.99). April is showering us with Western crime. McManus is an ace at it. Bo Tully, sheriff of Blight County, Idaho, has seen his share of small-town crime. Fact is, everyone in the area knows Tully, and knows his Blight Way of doing things. But when he and his deputy hike into the deep woods, tracking a suspected bank robber, little do they realize that they are about to witness a murder—and that, in turn, will lead the sheriff on an intricate trail, a series of twists and turns demanding his utmost attention and keenest crime-solving abilities. Along the way, Tully has to deal with the likes of a shadowy local named Gridley Shanks, who seems to have a spider web of connections throughout town; two out-of-town elk hunters who don’t know much about elk hunting, but are tied to the murder; an elderly couple who end up dead while caring for a rundown mansion and property out of town; a sassy assistant named Daisy; an attractive, tough FBI agent named Angie, who suddenly finds herself involved in her first murder investigation; and a host of other characters. There’s also the case of missing loot, which no one can find—at least, until Tully puts his mind to it. Will Tully get his man (or men) this time? My late Mother adored this series. [Click here](#) to order earlier entries.

Tartt, Donna. [The Goldfinch](#) (\$18). Theo Decker, a 13-year-old New Yorker, miraculously survives an accident that kills his mother. Abandoned by his father, Theo is taken in by the family of a wealthy friend. Bewildered by his strange new home on Park Avenue, disturbed by schoolmates who don’t know how to talk to him, and tormented above all by his longing for his mother, he clings to the one thing that reminds him of her: a small, mysteriously captivating painting that ultimately draws Theo into the underworld of art. As an adult, Theo moves silkily between the drawing rooms of the rich and the dusty labyrinth of an antiques store where he works. He is alienated and in love—and at the center of a narrowing, ever more dangerous circle. Opinion here is divided. Some of our staff devoured this. I couldn’t get through it. It won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction!

NEW BOOKS

Baldacci, David. [The Memory Man Signed](#) (Grand Central \$30). Mega-best-selling author Baldacci hits a milestone with his 30th adult novel, at the same time launching a new series. His hero, Amos Decker, has hyperthymesia—no, not a disease but the ability to remember everything thanks to a violent collision that ended his first ever play in the NFL—and left him with a game-changing after effect. So he became a cop, a detective. Tragically, 20 years in, he returned from a stakeout one evening and entered a nightmare—his wife, young daughter, and brother-in-law had been murdered. His family destroyed, their killer’s identity as mysterious as the motive behind the crime, and unable to forget a single detail from that horrible night, Decker finds his world collapsing around him. He leaves the police force, loses his home,

and winds up on the street, taking piecemeal jobs as a private investigator when he can. But over a year later, a man turns himself in to the police and confesses to the murders. At the same time a horrific event nearly brings Burlington to its knees, and Decker is called back in to help with this investigation. Decker also seizes his chance to learn what really happened to his family that night. To uncover the stunning truth, he must use his remarkable gift..." This thriller cries out to be our **April Thriller Club Pick**.

Begley, Louis. [Killer, Come Hither](#) (Knopf \$25.95). Jack Dana, a star history student at Yale with a bright future in academia, feels called to military service after 9/11. His career as a Marine infantry platoon leader is cut short by sniper fire that sends him to Walter Reed Hospital, where he begins writing a novel about his wartime experiences. Helping Jack through recovery is his uncle Harry, Jack's surrogate father and a partner in a leading New York law firm. Harry's connections secure Jack a publisher. His work is critically and commercially successful. Life after Afghanistan is falling into place, and a three-month trip to South America seems a fitting reward. But his return home is marred by shocking news: Uncle Harry is dead, hanged in his Sag Harbor summer home, clearly a suicide. Horrified and incredulous, Jack digs into the facts surrounding his uncle's death. And in time, Jack takes matters into his own hands to avenge his uncle in a thriller ranging from the suites of an elite Manhattan law firm to the tidy elegance of Sag Harbor and the rough and tumble western plains of Brazil. An uneven but gripping step away from Begley's more literary fiction.

Bogosian, Eric. [Operation Nemesis](#) (LittleBrown \$28). Barbara Nadel has touched on this topic in her Inspector Ikmen mysteries. In 1921, a small group of self-appointed patriots set out to avenge the deaths of almost one million victims of the Armenian Genocide. They named their operation Nemesis after the Greek goddess of retribution. Over several years, the men tracked down and assassinated former Turkish leaders. The story of this secret operation has never been fully told until now. Eric Bogosian goes beyond simply telling the story of this cadre of Armenian assassins to set the killings in context by providing a summation of the Ottoman and Armenian history as well as the history of the genocide itself.

Born, James O. [Scent of Murder](#) (Forge \$25.99). Two years after being tossed from the detective bureau for using questionable tactics while catching a child molester, Deputy Tim Hallett's life is finally on track. Assigned to a special K-9 unit with the best partner in the world, a Belgian Malinois named Rocky, Hallett has finally learned to balance police work with his family life. But that all changes in the heat of a Florida sugarcane field. While searching for a kidnapper, Rocky locks onto the scent of a predator unlike anyone has ever seen. Or have they? This thriller ties into our Cats & Dogs section in this Booknews. I find this a pedestrian effort from Born but the dog(s) and Florida are fun.

Brennan, Allison. [Compulsion](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Investigative reporter Maxine Revere has a theory that the five New York City murders for which Adam Bachman is on trial were done with a partner rather than Bachman working alone. And that the disappearance of a middle-aged couple at the time of his killing

spree is tied in. She secures a pretrial interview with him where his disarming composure and his knowledge of her past unnerve her. But she leaves the room convinced, but unable to prove, that her two theories are right. How to prove them true? The D.A. wants nothing to jeopardize his case. With no physical evidence, Max must make something happen. There are some real surprises here although I find the motivation for what she ultimately uncovers unconvincing... Meet Max in [Notorious](#) (\$7.99) which I liked a lot.

Cane, William. [Fiction Writing Master Class](#) (Writers Digest Books \$16.99). How to find your voice. Learn from the best as Cane analyzes the writing styles of twenty-one superior novelists including Charles Dickens, Edith Wharton, Franz Kafka, Flannery O'Connor, Ray Bradbury, and many others.

Connolly, John. [Song of Shadows Signed](#) (Hodder \$36). Grievously wounded private detective Charlie Parker investigates a case that has its origins in a Nazi concentration camp during the Second World War.

Cooley, M P. [Ice Shear](#) (\$14.99). Widowed FBI agent June Lyons returns to her hometown in the rust belt of upstate New York to take a job with the local police department; when she discovers a body in the frozen river, the investigation unmasks a sordid maze of politics, drugs, and an outlaw motorcycle gang.

Corbett, David. [The Mercy of the Night](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$14.95). This is a lot of book, 428 pages, for the price. Corbett has a big story to tell and at its heart it's about two people: Jacqueline Garza, one of nearly two identical girls abducted by a predator in Rio Mirada, a community at the gateway to Napa Valley; and Phelan Tierney, a lawyer on leave after busting a client's jaw in traumatic personal circumstances, and working as a part-time investigator. Jacqi escaped confinement, came back, lived through a public trial, then vanished again. And Phelan is charged with locating her. He does, but then they are both drawn into a politically charged case threatening to break the working-class Rio Mirada apart. And airing more truth about what happened to Jacqi than did the trial....

Deverell, William. [Sing a Worried Song](#) (ECW Press \$24.95). Canadians have recommended this author to us, and now we can get books from ECW. *PW* likes his work too: "This is the sixth novel in the Arthur Beauchamp series authored by Canadian Deverell, a trial lawyer, journalist, and the creator of the CBC television series *Street Legal*; his crime novels have won the Dashiell Hammett Award and two Arthur Ellis awards. Based on the case of a "thrill killer" whom Deverell successfully prosecuted in the 1980s, the novel begins with a 1987 trial in Vancouver of a young man accused of killing a down-and-out street performer. Arthur takes on the prosecution amid personal struggles with alcoholism and his difficult marriage to the unfaithful Annabelle. The second half of book leaps forward in time to his retired life in 2012 on rural Garibaldi Island. Now happily remarried to politician Margaret, he briefly comes out of retirement to defend Dogmar Zbrinjowitz, a beloved figure on the island charged with trafficking marijuana. Arthur's peaceful, though still neurotic, existence is shattered when the defense

attorney from the 1987 trial warns him that the convicted ‘thrill killer,’ who swore to take revenge against his prosecutor, is out on parole. Generously mixing personality and plot, Deverell authentically takes readers into the drama of the original court case and builds on its tension and malice that once again haunt Arthur.”

Dilloway, Margaret. [Sisters of Heart and Snow](#) (Putnam \$26.95). Two estranged sisters are brought together when their Japanese mother is diagnosed with dementia and gives one, Rachel, a power of attorney, enraging their father. In a rare moment of lucidity, Hikari asks Rachel for a book in her sewing room, and Rachel enlists her sister’s help in the search. The book—which tells the tale of real-life female samurai Tomoe Gozen, an epic saga of love, loss, and conflict during twelfth-century Japan—reveals truths about Drew’s and Rachel’s relationship and—the reason I include this novel this month—an unusual form of abuse directed towards wife and children by a powerful man (now aged 89) that ties into other issues currently being much discussed. A thought-provoking book indeed.

Egan, Kevin. [The Missing Piece](#) (Forge \$27.99). At stake is an archaeological trove of Roman silver known as the Salvus Treasure, assembled by a shady zillionaire. Two countries lay claim to it (this is like art repatriation post WWII). A Manhattan court is conducting the trial where pricey lawyers prepare for battle, and one piece, a silver urn worth say \$5 million, is allowed into court by the judge. Gunmen barrel in, disrupt the proceedings...and the urn goes missing. For years. Did it ever leave the courthouse is just one question to be explored. Egan really knows the actual building, 60 Centre Street, and procedure, but it’s obvious from the get-go that the judge was bribed. What isn’t so clear is who were the other players and there’s a surprise or two there, plus an intriguing resolution.

Fielding, Joy. [Someone Is Watching](#) (Random \$27). “This engrossing standalone from bestseller makes you care about Bailey Carpenter, a Miami-based investigator who’s raped while on surveillance. Previously, the biggest problems in Bailey’s life had been her mother’s death, her affair with a married colleague, and her five half-siblings’ attempt to overturn their father’s will, which left millions to Bailey and her often-stoned brother, Heath. Now Claire, a nurse as well as the half-sister Bailey barely knows, becomes her guardian angel as she starts on her slow path to recovery. Not sleeping and afraid to leave her high-rise apartment, Bailey suspects every man of evil intent, and she has a number of encounters, both frightening and embarrassing, in her quest to re-establish some control over her life. The characters pulsate with life, and there are a few shocks in store—for Bailey and the reader—before the denouement. And the presence of Jade, Claire’s outspoken teen daughter, blows everyone else off the page.”—*PW* Starred Review

Ford, GM. [Threshold](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$14.95). Ford burst upon the crime scene with *Who In Hell Is Wanda Fuca?*, one of my favorite book titles ever (our edition came in a plain brown wrapper, as put together by a Seattle bookstore). Leo Waterman worked some terrific cases. While this new novel has some interesting features such as a woman, Grace, who is strangely empowered to recall people in comas back to life, and a cop in Mickey Dolan who doesn’t play well within the system (police

and political), I was disappointed with the way the two main threads of the story play out. I do like Grace and Mickey so am hoping that maybe Ford is just rusty ‘cause he was one terrific plotter with the Watermans and the Frank Corsos.

Friedman, Daniel. [Don’t Ever Look Back](#) (\$15.99). Here’s the second investigation for 88-year-old retired Memphis cop Buck Schatz (by a 20-something author). Buck, recovering from serious injuries is living with wife Rose at a retirement center trying to regain greater strength. A figure from his past, dangerous criminal Elijah, pays a visit and offers major money for a favor: Buck is to broken his surrender. Buck agrees but soon regrets it... While he has some dementia as well as crankiness, Buck is still sharp and relentless (plus he’s bored). Senior noir with a Jewish spin.

Galloway, Gregory. [As Simple as Snow](#) (\$10.99). Anna—who prefers to be called Anastasia—is a spooky and complicated high school girl with a penchant for riddles, Houdini tricks, and ghost stories. She is unlike anyone the narrator has ever known, and they make an unlikely, though happy, pair. Then Anna disappears, leaving behind only a dress near a hole in the frozen river, and a string of unanswered questions. Desperate to find out what happened the narrator begins to reconstruct the past five months. And soon the fragments of curious events, intimate conversations, secrets, letters—and the anonymous messages that continue to arrive—coalesce into haunting and surprising revelations that may implicate friends, relatives, and even Anna herself. For YA on up.

Gattis, Ryan. [All Involved](#) (Ecco \$28.99). At 3:15 p.m. on April 29, 1992, a jury acquitted three white Los Angeles Police Department officers charged with using excessive force to subdue a black man named Rodney King, and failed to reach a verdict on the same charges involving a fourth officer. Less than two hours later, the city exploded in violence that lasted six days. In nearly 121 hours, fifty-three lives were lost. But there were even more deaths unaccounted for: violence that occurred outside of active rioting sites by those who used the chaos to viciously settle old scores. Very much in the Richard Price tradition.

Gaylord, Joshua. [When We Were Animals](#) (Mulholland \$26). Lumen is a well-behaved and over-achieving teenager, she fell beneath the sway of her community’s darkest, strangest secret. For one year, beginning at puberty, every resident “breaches” during the full moon. On these nights, adolescents run wild, destroying everything in their path. Lumen resists. Promising her father she will never breach, she investigates the mystery of her community’s traditions and the stories erased from the town record. But the more we learn about the town’s past, the more we realize that Lumen’s memories are harboring secrets of their own. A gothic coming-of-age tale for modern times.

Genova, Lisa. [Inside the O’Briens](#) (Gallery \$26). The Indie Next Pick: “Haunted by Huntington’s disease, the O’Brien family members watch as their patriarch slowly loses his physical abilities. Stripped of his policeman’s badge, Joe struggles to find meaning in his life while his children wonder if they, too, will eventually succumb to the degenerative disease that has no cure. Should they get the blood test that will either give them relief or lead to fear and despair? What would you do? This is Genova at her best and a story that will provoke many discussions.”

Gross, Andrew. [One Mile Under](#) (Harper \$26.99). During a routine trip down the rapids outside Aspen, Colorado, whitewater guide Dani Whalen finds a body washed up on the river's edge, and it turns out to be a close friend. Trey Watkins's death is quickly ruled an accident by local law enforcement, but, reading the signs, Dani is convinced that something far more sinister has occurred. She takes her case to Wade Dunn, the local police chief and her ex-stepfather, with whom she shares some unfinished business, and he repeats the company line: Trey's death is not worth an investigation. Undeterred, Dani secretly builds her case, and when Ron, a hot-air-balloon operator who says he saw something up in the air that day to back up her claims, is killed himself in a fiery crash, Dani threatens to take her suspicions public, goading Wade into tossing her in jail. Ty Hauck has been sailing the Caribbean for three months, recuperating physically and spiritually from his last deadly case. When Dani's father, an old friend, reaches him and says his daughter is in trouble out west, Ty doesn't hesitate to moor his boat and get involved. At first reluctantly, but then full-on, Ty and Dani become ensnared in a sinister scheme involving fracking.

Hallinan, Timothy. [Herbie's Game](#) (\$15.95). It's everyday business when Wattles, the San Fernando Valley's top "executive crook," sets up a hit. He establishes a chain of criminals to pass along the instructions and the money, ensuring that the hitter doesn't know who hired him. But one day Wattles finds his office safe open and a single item missing: the piece of paper on which he has written the names of the crooks in the chain. When people associated with the chain begin to pop up dead, the only person Wattles can approach to solve his problem is Junior. Junior already knows exactly who took Wattles's list: the signature is too obvious. It was Herbie Mott, Junior's burglar mentor—and when Junior seeks him out to discuss the missing list, he finds Herbie very unpleasantly murdered.... Winner of the 2015 Left Coast Crime Most Humorous Mystery Award, burglar Junior Bender, the clown prince of crime fiction.

Harris, Charlaine/Toni Kelner, eds. [Games Creatures Play](#) (Penguin \$16). Sports fans live and die by their teams' successes and failures—though not literally. But 15 authors have written spirited—in more ways than one—tales of killer competitions that would make even the most die-hard players ask to be benched. Includes a Sookie Stackhouse by Harris. Jan Burke, Dana Cameron, Brendan DuBois, William Kent Krueger, Mercedes Lackey, Joe R. Lansdale, Laura Lippman, Brandon Sanderson, and more.

Havill, Steven F. [Blood Sweep Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). As Dana Stabenow is to Alaska and Archer Mayor to Vermont, so is Steven Havill to New Mexico—mostly down in its boot heel in a fictional Posadas Country. There's some of Michael McGarrity and Margaret Coel, too, in the Posadas County Mysteries which first appeared in 1991."In Havill's engrossing 20th mystery set in New Mexico's Posadas County (after 2013's *NightZone*), cop Estelle Reyes-Guzman is so busy that she can't take the persistent phone calls from her local bank. When she finally does, she gets her first hint that something's wrong. Estelle's 99-year-old mother, Teresa Reyes, has requested a cashier's check for \$8,000 drawn from her savings account. Teresa says that a colleague

of Estelle's, a colonel in the Mexican *judiciales*, requested the money. To add to her worries, Estelle's younger son tells her that a man claiming to be her uncle called looking for his niece. The story line is satisfyingly complex, but the novel's great strength is its well-rendered setting, from the opening description of a silent, motionless antelope to the evocation of a dry riverbed. The concluding note of empathy for the many people trying to cross the border is moving without being heavy-handed." ~*Publisher's Weekly* Starred Review. *Booklist* adds, "The Posadas County mysteries are carefully plotted, subtly written, and populated by an endearing, evolving cast of characters. A worthy entry in a fine series that appeals equally to procedural fans and to those who favor mysteries with a small-town setting." Also in trade paperback: [Blood Sweep](#) (\$14.95). Click here to order them all, starting with [Heartshot](#) (\$14.95).

Hoffman, Cara. [Be Safe I Love You](#) (\$16).). Lauren Clay has returned from a tour of duty in Iraq just in time to spend the holidays with her family. Before she enlisted, Lauren, a classically trained singer, and her brother Danny, a bright young boy obsessed with Arctic exploration, made the most of their modest circumstances, escaping into their imaginations and forming an indestructible bond. Joining the army allowed Lauren to continue to provide for her family, but it came at a great cost. When she arrives home unexpectedly, it's clear to everyone in their rural New York town that something is wrong. But her father is so happy to have her home that he ignores her odd behavior and the repeated phone calls from an army psychologist. He wants to give Lauren time and space to acclimate to civilian life. Things seem better when Lauren offers to take Danny on a trip to visit their mother upstate. Instead, she guides them into the glacial woods of Canada on a quest to visit the Jeanne d'Arc basin, the site of an oil field that has become her strange obsession. How this plays out is page-turning in a quiet way as we wonder if Lauren can be pulled back from.... what?

Hogan, Shanna. [The Stranger She Loved: A Mormon Doctor, His Beautiful Wife, and An Almost Perfect Murder](#) (St Martins \$27.99). I don't review much true crime but this account of the 2007 murder of the wife of Dr. Martin MacNeill, doctor, lawyer, and Mormon bishop, in Pleasant Grove, Utah, is well worth reading not only for its portrait of a genuine psychopath but for how the legal system fluffed it, taking six years to build a case against MacNeill. In a season of novels of "domestic suspense" and spousal abuse, the portrait of the wife is an eye-opener too. The title is a kind of riff on Ann Rules' huge bestseller *The Stranger Beside Me*.

Jackman, Clifford. [Winter Family](#) (Knopf \$25.95). Talk about Cormac McCarthy. It's hard to beat the brutality of this historical western ranging from the Civil War to 1900 LA for outlawry. "Clifford Jackman uses the adventures of a gleefully nihilistic group of outlaws to tell the story of 'civilization's' implacable march westward. The members of The Winter Family are the advanced guard—the thugs that more refined and powerful men send out to batter the world into submission. They burn Georgia for Sherman; they fix an election in Chicago for the young Republican Party; they clear Oklahoma of inconvenient natives for rapacious land barons. If Sam Peckinpah had been a novelist

rather than a filmmaker, this is the book he would've written: brutal, at times darkly funny, and utterly gripping from the first page to the last." —Scott Smith. Craig Johnson find it "both calculating and poetic and holds you with a compelling brutality from which it is impossible to turn away."

Kovacs, Ed. [The Russian Bride](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Major Kit Bennings is an elite military intelligence agent working undercover in Moscow. When he is blackmailed and compromised by a brutal mafia don and former KGB general, he knows that his military career, if not his life, will soon be over. With little to lose, he goes rogue in the hope of saving his kidnapped sister and stopping a deadly scheme directed against America. Yulana Petkova is a gorgeous woman, devoted mother, and Russian weapons engineer. And maybe more. Spy? Mob assassin? The shotgun marriage to stranger Kit Bennings takes her on a life-or-death hopscotch from Moscow to Los Angeles, from secret US military bases to Las Vegas, where she uses her wiles at every turn to carry out her own hidden agenda. Hunted by killers from both Russia and the United States, Bennings struggles to stop the mobster's brilliant deception—a theft designed to go unnoticed. . . . Kovacs is off on a mysterious assignment so he can't schedule an event, as he has in the past. I'm a fan of his work.

Levien, David. [Signature Kill](#) (Knopf \$24.95). This is the 4th for Frank Behr, Indianapolis PI. And he's down-on-his luck, nearly broke. Even if it's a no-win case, he PI can't afford to ignore the \$100,000 reward offered by widow Kerry Gibbons whose wayward daughter Kendra has been missing for months—and advertised on bill boards. Meanwhile there is the dead body of a young woman found dismembered on the street. Behr senses the sadist and the missing Kendra cases may be linked. Be prepared for gruesome in this serial killer thriller.

Locke, Attica. [Pleasantville](#) (Harper \$26.99). [Black Water Rising](#) (\$14.99), published under Dennis Lehane's imprint, introduced lawyer Jay Porter. It's been 15 years since that career-defining case for the environmentalist against Cole Oil, and now Porter's broke—and tired, thanks to an endless string of appeals. His latest case—representing Pleasantville in the wake of a chemical fire—is dragging on, shaking his confidence and raising doubts about him within this upwardly mobile black community on Houston's north side. Though Jay still believes in doing what's right, he is done fighting other people's battles. Once he has his piece of the settlement, the single father is going to devote himself to what matters most—his children. His plans are abruptly derailed when a female campaign volunteer vanishes on the night of Houston's 1996 mayoral election, throwing an already contentious campaign into chaos. The accused is none other than the nephew and campaign manager of one of the leading candidates—a scion of a prominent local clan.

McCreight, Kimberly. [Where They Found Her](#) (Harper \$26.99). I've already said I'm so done with domestic suspense, so this new novel from the author of bestseller *Reconstructing Amelia* doesn't move me much. At the end of a long winter in sophisticated if small Ridgedale, NJ, the body of a newborn is discovered in the woods near the A-list university campus. No one can identify the baby or how she got there. Freelance journalist and recent Ridgedale transplant Molly Anderson is surprised with an

assignment to the story, a high risk one for her since she recently lost her own baby. But worse is to come. . . . In this genre, "the very worst crimes are committed against those we love." Plus I am bored with hanging bad stuff on the husband, whether true or not in the tale. Switch over to the UK and read a novel of similar ilk by Sophie McKenzie: [You Can Trust Me](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Livy doesn't believe that her best friend committed suicide, not Julia. So she checks into the death and has to ask whether Julia was murdered by the same man who killed her own sister 18 years ago, a loss that still scars Livy. Inevitably the past and present collide, and the murderer may be someone close to, or in, her own family. I do like the final pages of this, but they display a more British sensibility than American.

McMahon, Jennifer. [The Winter People](#) (\$14.95). West Hall, Vermont, has always been a town of strange disappearances and old legends. The most mysterious is that of Sara Harrison Shea, who, in 1908, was found dead in the field behind her house just months after the tragic death of her daughter. Now, in present day, nineteen-year-old Ruthie lives in Sara's farmhouse with her mother, Alice, and her younger sister. Alice has always insisted that they live off the grid, a decision that has weighty consequences when Ruthie wakes up one morning to find that Alice has vanished. In her search for clues, she is startled to find a copy of Sara Harrison Shea's diary hidden beneath the floorboards of her mother's bedroom. As Ruthie gets sucked into the historical mystery, she discovers that she's not the only person looking for someone that they've lost. But she may be the only one who can stop history from repeating itself.

Milchman, Jenny. [Ruin Falls](#) (\$15). Karen Shaver writes, "Liz and Paul are taking their two children on a well-deserved vacation. Part of the time will involve a visit with his parents, who have remained distant in both geography and communication. The first morning they wake up, the children are gone and a frantic search begins. Then, Paul also disappears. The police discover that the children, at last citing, were in the company of their father and it can no longer be considered a case for them. Liz is scared, confused and angry. She begins a life completely out of the context she has known. She visits her in-laws who remain distant and uncooperative, even under the circumstances. Liz's discovery of motivations and, finally, resolution, are stunning as she learns of secrets that have been well-kept for many years. Milchman, as in her previous book, [A Cover of Snow](#) (\$15), is skilled at engaging the reader at the very beginning and continues to build the suspense throughout the story, surprising the reader."

Mitchell, Judith Claire. [A Reunion of Ghosts](#) (Harper \$26.99). The Indie Next Pick: "The sins of the fathers are visited upon the children to the third and fourth generations.' These are the words that the Alter sisters live by and the reason they have chosen to die at their own hands. Lady, Vee, and Delph Alter have written a suicide note that turns out to be a family history. The sisters are descendants of Lenz, a chemist and the creator of the poison gas that was first used in WWI, and his wife, Iris, the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry and the first in the family to commit suicide. *A Reunion of Ghosts* is a captivating chronicle of a family and the weight of consequences that grow heavier with time."

Morris, Mary. [The Jazz Palace](#) (Knopf \$25.95). In the midst of boomtown Chicago, two Jewish families have suffered terrible blows. The Lehrmans, who run a small hat factory, lost their beloved son Harold in a blizzard. The Chimbrovass, who run a saloon, lost three of their boys on the SS Eastland when it sank in 1915. Each family holds out hope that one of their remaining children will rise to carry on the family business. But Benny Lehrman has no interest in making hats. His true passion is piano—especially jazz. “Through the eyes of immigrants and gangsters, blacks and whites, the dreamers and those who have lost themselves, Morris sings us the story of Chicago at the start of the 20th century, underscored by the rise of jazz...”—Jodi Picoult. I grew up in the Chicago suburb Winnetka. Girls could drink at 18 then, and jazz clubs had “coke sections,” so I relate to this having spent many hours with jazz greats like Errol Garner, Duke Ellington, Peggy Lee, Jerry Mulligan... so many more at venues like the Blue Room, the London House, Ravinia....

Morrison, Toni. [God Help the Child](#) (Knopf \$24.95). There’s a raft of Starred Reviews for this new novel from the Nobel Laureate. *LJ*’s reads in part, “Morrison shows us how we hold onto our pain and let it define us, pulling back on her often liquidly lyric style to offer powerful portraits in lean prose. Sweetness, who is from a family whose members can pass for white, gives birth to the midnight-black Lula Ann and raises her at an ashamed and bitter distance, which she rationalizes will toughen her up. As a child, Lula Ann gains some favor from her mother by helping to put away a teacher named Sofia, who is accused of sexually abusing her charges. As an adult who renames herself Bride, Lula Ann becomes a successful, traffic-stoppingly beautiful career woman. But her life starts falling apart when she meets with a just-paroled Sofia.”

Nisbet, Jim. [The Price of the Ticket](#) (\$16.95). Patrick is a big fan of Nisbet’s work. Here we meet Pauley who’s done a few bad things in his life. He’s been around the block quite a few times, spending most of his life inside the block. But now, age 52, he’s got an honest job making high-class torture racks and other exquisite playthings for an S&M outfit in downtown San Francisco. His only real problem is he needs a new set of wheels and he’s going to pick one up today, a beat up Ford from one Martin Seam. Sometimes a ticket to Hell only costs \$600... nonrefundable.

Norris, Mary. [Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen](#) (Norton \$24.94). Mary Norris, long-time copy editor for the *New Yorker*, may have gotten a six-figure advance for her memoir (even the rumor gives comfort to those in a profession under siege in these autocorrect times). Sarah Bagby said, “I love this book. It’s the combination of her great voice—she’s so down to earth—but with enough gossip and literary anecdotes, and then this incredibly great grammar advice.” The Indie Next Pick: “I was feeling pretty smug about my word skills until I learned something right there on page 26. I have been mispronouncing ‘elegiac.’ Even so, I didn’t begrudge Norris for taking me on a delightful tour of the offices of *The New Yorker*, the history of Noah Webster and his dictionary descendents, the city of Cleveland, and the hyphen in *Moby-Dick*. *Between You and Me* is a sprightly — not ‘spritely,’ thank you — gambol in the fields of grammar, and I enjoyed every step.”

Nguyen, Viet Thanh. [The Sympathizer](#) (Grove \$26). The Indie Next calls this “a fascinating and highly original novel about the Vietnam War and its aftermath. The unnamed narrator, a South Vietnamese captain, works for the Americans while spying for the Viet Cong. After the evacuation of Saigon, he follows an American general to the U.S. and finds himself torn between two worlds: his new life in the West among his fellow political refugees and his sympathies for the Communists back home. Nguyen injects much dark humor into this tragic story, and the narrator’s voice is both subversive and unforgettable. *The Sympathizer* will be one of the most talked-about novels of the year.”

O’Dell, Tawni. [One of Us](#) (\$16). A fast-paced literary thriller about a forensic psychologist forced to face his own demons after discovering his small hometown terrorized by a serial killer. Dr. Sheridan Doyle—a fastidiously groomed and TV-friendly forensic psychologist—is the go-to shrink for the Philadelphia District Attorney’s office whenever a twisted killer’s mind eludes other experts. But beneath his Armani pinstripes, he’s still Danny Doyle, the awkward, terrified, bullied boy from a blue-collar mining family, plagued by panic attacks and haunted by the tragic death of his little sister and mental unraveling of his mother years ago. Returning to a hometown grappling with its own ghosts, Danny finds a dead body at the infamous Lost Creek gallows where a band of rebellious Irish miners was once executed. Strangely, the body is connected to the wealthy family responsible for the miners’ deaths. Danny teams up with veteran detective Rafe in his pursuit of startling, and dangerous, truths....

Packer, Ann. [The Children’s Crusade](#) (Scribner \$26.99). The Indie Next Pick: “Doctor Bill Blair and his wife, Penny, built a home in a wooded area of California that would later be known as Silicon Valley. It was a time full of hope for the future, but 10 years and four children later Penny has grown resentful of her role as a wife and mother. She finds solace in art, but at a great cost to her family. Thirty years later, the lives of the three oldest Blair children are in upheaval yet again when their youngest brother, the black sheep of the family, returns to the family home and forces them all to confront their past and face their future. Packer’s emotionally gripping story asks just how much our adult lives are determined by the events of our childhood.”

Patterson, James/Peter de Jonge. [Miracle at Augusta](#) (LittleBrown \$26). It’s April—and the Masters! I can never resist watching the weekend’s play (nor that at the British Open). It’s as much about the beauty of the golf course, the azaleas and dogwoods, the pines, as the play. There have been a couple of mysteries set at Augusta. And now this novel. Just a year ago, middle-aged golfing amateur Travis McKinley became the media darling of the month by winning the PGA Senior Open at Pebble Beach. Since then, he’s felt like a duffer trying to catch up with his reputation. Everything gets even worse when an embarrassing barroom brawl becomes a viral internet sensation. Banned from the remainder of the year’s tour, he searches for a way to redeem himself and finds it in the person of a troubled teenage outcast with a golf swing that Tiger Woods would envy. New in paperback from Patterson: [Burn](#) (\$16); [First Love](#) (\$10)

Pearl, Matthew. [The Last Bookaneer Signed](#) (Penguin \$29). I've always admired Pearl's historical thrillers and thus follow him gladly into a dark side of publishing in this ingenious literary caper—our **Modern Firsts Club Pick for May** (although it may appear in late April). In the 19th Century before comprehensive copyright, the unscrupulous could pirate books for profit, thus doing down the legitimate author. These thieves were called bookaneers, a delicious name. In the 1890s, trying to get ahead of an international copyright agreement, two bookaneers decide on a final act of piracy: they will sail for Samoa where Robert Louis Stevenson is dying, wrest away his manuscript, and get it to NY for publication ahead of the new law. Pen Davenport, with his assistant, disguises himself as a travel writer. Horrors!—they find another bookaneer in the field passing as a missionary. Pearl calls the Stevenson manuscript *The Shovels of Newton French*—and the bookaneers will need shovels and much more if they are to overcome “cannibals, incarceration, German colonists, and a betrayal from beyond the grave.” Pearl refers to the earlier theft of Shelley's MS for *Frankenstein* in the history he imagines for the rogues roaming the book world as he creates “a loving testament to the enduring power” of print books.

Scottoline, Lisa. [Every Fifteen Minutes Signed](#) (St Martins \$29). “When Dr. Eric Parrish, longstanding chief of a successful psychiatric unit at a hospital outside of Philadelphia, responds to a routine emergency room consult and agrees to add a troubled teen to his private practice, he unwittingly makes a life-altering decision that could unravel everything that he values. As Eric struggles to balance his workload with his recent separation and custody issues regarding his small daughter, he becomes the target of a ruthless sociopath hell-bent on destroying his reputation and his life. When a murder is committed and Eric's troubled patient disappears, Eric takes matters into his own hands to protect a vulnerable client and himself. Soon he is hopelessly ensnared in a sociopath's cat-and-mouse game and may not escape unscathed. In a nail-biting stand-alone with two heart-pounding climaxes and several pulse-racing twists, Scottoline grabs her readers by the jugular and won't let go.”—*LJ's* Starred Review, one of several for this action-packed page-turner.

Smith, Lachlan. [Fox is Framed](#) (Grove \$24). The complex family dynamics that Smith explored in his earlier books only become more intriguing in his superlative third Leo Maxwell mystery. In 1983, when he was 10 years old, Leo found his mother's battered corpse in their San Francisco home. His father, Lawrence, was convicted of her murder and has been behind bars for two decades. Leo's older brother, Teddy, despite being impaired by a bullet to the brain, has succeeded in getting the conviction reversed for prosecutorial misconduct. The prosecutor intends to retry Lawrence, bolstering the old case with a newly discovered motive for the murder—jealousy—and a supposed confession Lawrence made to an ex-con he befriended in jail. As Leo tries to connect with the father he never really knew and assist in Lawrence's defense against a new murder charge, he struggles with doubts about his father's innocence. Smith is masterly in creating realistic courtroom scenes, including the subtleties of witness examination, and, even more impressively, enhances the trial with the human drama of the Smith family.”—*PW* Starred Review. [Click here](#) for the first two Maxwells.

Torre, AR. [Do Not Disturb](#) (\$15). 1. Don't leave the apartment. 2. Never let anyone in. 3. Don't kill anyone. The rules were simple and I broke them. Now I must face the consequences. Everyone else must face me. Think *Dexter* but more erotic. [The Girl in 6E](#) (\$15) published first.

Urrea, Luis Alberto. [The Water Museum: Stories](#) (LittleBrown \$25). This collection includes the Edgar-award winning “Amapola” and his now-classic “Bid Farewell to Her Many Horses,” which had the honor of being chosen for NPR's “Selected Shorts” not once but twice. Suffused with wanderlust, compassion, and no small amount of rock and roll... Note: “Amapola” was written for [Phoenix Noir](#) (\$15.95), the volume in the Akashic urban noir series edited by Patrick Millikin of our staff (still in print, still with Urrea's story therein).

Vidal, Gore. [Thieves Fall Out](#) (Titan \$22.99). I can understand the pull of publishing a Vidal from 1953 written as “Cameron Kay” but never reissued under Vidal's name. And there was a reason. It doesn't make it as historical fiction, or even pulp. I like the idea of a down-on-his-luck American hitting Cairo and willing to smuggle out an ancient relic while revolution is brewing, but despite its portrait of Egypt in turmoil this is dated...and boring.

Watson, Sterling. [Suitcase City](#) (Akashic \$15.95). A reformed drug dealer is pulled back into the game in this tense, bloody thriller set in Florida. Back then, Teach had just finished a brief career in professional football and was back in the game of smuggling drugs, or in his words, operating as a “maritime consultant.” When a business deal with Guatemalans went sour, Teach competently cleaned up the mess, and moved on. The bulk of Teach's story then takes place nearly 20 years later, in late 1990s Tampa, Fla., where a rundown neighborhood called Suitcase City gives the novel its name. Teach is reformed, more or less: he's vice-president of sales at a pharmaceutical company and has rebuilt a relationship with his teenaged daughter after his wife's (her mother's) death. But a little incident inside a bar one Friday afternoon—a tiny mistake, a single piece of rotten luck—and suddenly Teach finds himself worried about losing his house, his job, the relationship he's built with his daughter and maybe his own life. Watson's magic is in pacing and taut prose, in the details that make his Florida setting so compelling—boats and bilge, lobsters and golf—and in a father's love for his daughter.

Wellington, David. [Positive](#) (Harper \$26.99). The tattooed plus sign on Finnegan's hand marks him as a Positive. At any time, the zombie virus could explode in his body, turning him from a rational human into a ravenous monster. His only chance of a normal life is to survive the last two years of the potential incubation period. If he reaches his twenty-first birthday without an incident, he'll be cleared. Until then, Finn must go to a special facility for positives, segregated from society to keep the healthy population safe. But when the military caravan transporting him is attacked, Finn becomes separated. To make it to safety, he must embark on a perilous cross-country journey across an America transformed—a dark and dangerous land populated with heroes, villains, madmen, and hordes of zombies. “A tantalizing and terrifying new take on the zombie mythos...buzzes with dark, malignant energy. But just beneath the surface of the young protagonist's journey hums a powerful subtext essaying ... the brutal rites of coming-of-age. Wow! Highly recommended.”—Jay Bonansinga,

ROMANCE

The Magic of Susanna Kearsley by John Charles

I have just finished Susanna Kearsley's April book, [A Desperate Fortune](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99), and once again I am in awe of this author's flair for weaving a seemingly disparate mix of mystery, history, and a generous dash of romance into one completely compelling tale. One of the heroines of *A Desperate Fortune* is Sara Thomas, a brilliant computer programmer who happens to have Asperger's. When Sara loses her latest job, her cousin convinces her to use her gift for cracking ciphers and take a job working for a historian/author, who needs someone to decode a diary written by Mary Dundas, a young woman living in France in the 1730s. As Sara slowly decodes Mary's diary, she and the reader are pulled back in time as we watch Mary's fate gradually unfold. It's a spellbinding tale about spies, lies, honor, and duty as well as the fate of the Jacobite supporters in France with the added bonus of two romances. If you haven't yet discovered the magic of Kearsley's books, I envy you the wealth of her titles that await including *Season of Storms*, in which a young British actress comes to an Italian villa to star in first performance of a play written nearly 100 years earlier only to become caught up in the mysteries surrounding the play – and her enigmatic employer, and *Mariana*, in which the heroine takes possession of a sixteenth-century Wiltshire farmhouse only to find herself transported back to the 17th century. If you loved Barbara Michaels' wonderful genre blurring books like *Ammie Come Home*, *Wait for What Will Come*, or *Patriot Dreams*, if you miss Mary Stewart's beguiling romantic suspense novels such as *Touch Not the Cat*, *My Brother Michael*, or *This Rough Magic*, or if you remember losing yourself in Daphne Du Maurier's *My Cousin Rachel*, *The Flight of the Falcon*, or *The House on the Strand*, Kearsley's unforgettable novels will also work their literary magic on you.

Beverly, Jo. [Too Dangerous for a Lady](#) (NAL \$7.99) Lady Hermione Merryhew is more than a bit surprised when a stranger lets himself into her room late one night, but once she realizes the stranger is Lt. Mark Thayne, the man who almost gave Hermione her first kiss, she decides now is the time to collect on that kiss! Beverly's latest impeccably crafted and researched Regency romance is just the ticket for readers, who value love stories that take history seriously while still delivering a fast moving and entertaining plot.

Bostwick, Marie. [The Second Sister](#) (Kensington \$15) Lucy Toomey hasn't been back to Nilson's Bay in more than eight years, but now with her older sister Alice's unexpected death, Lucy is forced to return home. However, because of the way Alice's will is written, Lucy must stay in town for at least a few months. While she is there, Lucy discovers how little she really knew about Alice's life, and how much her hometown really has to offer. You may need a Kleenex or two (or in my case half a box) as you read your way through this quietly powerful tale about family, friendship, and the importance of forgiveness. The *Second Sister* is heartwarming in the very best sense of the word.

Carr, Robyn. [Never Too Late](#) (Mira \$14.95) Being involved in a serious car accident forces Clare Wilson to finally make some difficult choices in life, and one of those choices involves ditching her philandering husband once and for all. What Clare doesn't expect is that two different men are now eagerly awaiting

the chance to take her ex's place. The bonds between sisters, the importance of family, and the willingness to take second chances with your life all play significant roles in engaging novel. Carr will be at the Poisoned Pen on Wednesday April 8th for a good, old-fashioned coffee klatch (hot beverages, cookies, and plenty of lively discussion) at 11:00 am.

Eden, Cynthia. [Broken](#) (Avon \$7.99) Ex-Seal Gabe Spencer and his team of experts at Lost are used to finding missing people. Eve Gray wants Gabe to find her missing past. When Eve wakes up in an Atlanta hospital, she can't remember anything about her life except for the fact that she believes she may be the first woman to have escaped from the notorious serial murderer known as "the Lady Killer." If this is really true, Gabe believes that not only could Eve be missing heiress Jessica Montgomery, but also that the Lady Killer may have some unfinished business with her. The first in Eden's new "Lost" series delivers plenty of nerve-jangling chills and sexy thrills.

Quick, Amanda. [Garden of Lies](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Ursula Kern, owner of Kern Secretarial Agency, must team up with adventurer and client Slater Roxton, when she decides to investigate the mysterious death of one of her employees. Whether she is writing a Jayne Ann Krentz (contemporary romantic suspense), Jayne Castle (futuristic romance suspense) or Amanda Quick (historical romantic suspense), I love the way this author is able to expertly balance the danger and romance in her plots. Factor this in with her deliciously dry sense of wit, and you have the perfect kind of escape reading.

Roberts, Nora. [Liar](#) (Putnam \$27.95) After her husband dies in a boating accident, Shelby Foxworth discovers that everything he told her during their marriage was a lie. Not only did he cheat on her with other women, he left behind millions of dollars of debt that now must be paid. While she does her best to clear matters up before returning home to Tennessee with her young daughter, Shelby has no idea a very dangerous part of her late husband's past is still waiting to catch up with her. If you are new to reading romantic suspense, you really can't go wrong with Nora Roberts. Her latest addictively readable novel is another polished mix of deadly secrets and hot romance set in a wonderfully realized small Southern town.

St James, Simone. [Other Side of Midnight](#) (Penguin \$14) When her professional rival Gloria Sutter is murdered at a séance, Gloria's brother George asks Ellie Winter to investigate. But psychic researcher James Hawley, who discredited Ellie, warns her not to get involved. St. James has been writing a wonderful series of historical novels set after World War I that beautifully combine gothic atmosphere, hints of the paranormal, spooky danger, and a generous dollop of romance.

FOR YOUNG READERS

Angleberger, Tom. [The Strange Case of Origami Yoda](#) (\$7.95). Not so long ago, in a middle school not so far away, a sixth grader named Dwight folded an origami finger puppet of Yoda. For class oddball Dwight, this wasn't weird. It was typical Dwight behavior. But what is weird is that Origami Yoda is uncannily wise and prescient. He can predict the date of a pop quiz, guess who stole the classroom Shakespeare bust, and save

a classmate from popularity-crushing embarrassment with some well-timed advice. Dwight's classmate Tommy wonders how Yoda can be so smart when Dwight himself is so clueless. With contributions from his puzzled classmates, Tommy assembles this first case file in the blockbuster bestselling Origami Yoda series, hailed by *School Library Journal* as "honest, funny, and immensely entertaining." Grades 3-6.

Barton, Chris. [Shark VS Train](#) (LittleBrown \$6.99)
Brown, Jeffrey. [Darth Vader and Friends](#) (Chronicle \$14.95).
Gaiman, Neil. [Chu's Day at the Beach](#) (Harper \$17.99)
Garcia, Kami. [Dangerous Creatures](#) (LittleBrown \$10)
Pearson, Ridley. [Disney Lands](#) (Disney \$17.99)
Pearson, Ridley. [Kingdom Keepers VII: The Insider](#) (Diamond \$9.99)
Riordan, Rick. [House of Hades](#) (Diamond \$9.99)

BOOKS FOR EASTER

Bridwell, Norman. [Clifford's Happy Easter](#) (Scholastic \$3.99)
Carbone, Courtney. [Happy Easter, Princess](#) (Random \$4.99)
Coven, Wanda. [Heidi Heckelbeck and the Tie Dyed Bunny](#) (LittleBrown \$4.99)
Grambling, Lois G. [Here Comes T Rex Cottontail](#) (Harper \$6.99)
Grosset & Dunlap. [Angelina and the Easter Bonnet](#) (Grand Central \$4.99)
Hall, Katy. [Easter Crack Ups](#) (Harper \$6.99)
Hills, Tad. [Duck and Goose Here Comes the Easter Bunny](#) (Random \$6.99)
Magsamen, Sandra. [I Love You Honey Bunny](#) (LittleBrown \$7.99)
Numeroff, Laura. [Happy Easter Mouse](#) (Harper \$6.99)
O'Connor, Jane. [Fancy Nancy's Elegant Easter](#) (Harper \$6.99)
Park, Barbara. [Junie B First Grader Dumb Bunny](#) (Random \$4.99)
Pilkey, Dav. [The Dumb Bunnies' Easter](#) (Scholastic \$6.99)
Pomaska, Anna. [Invisible Easter Magic Picture Book](#) (Doubleday \$1.5)
Price, Roger. [Easter Eggstravaganza Mad Libs](#) (\$3.99)
Random House. [Spongebob's Easter Parade](#) (Random \$3.99)
Underwood, Deborah. [Here Comes the Easter Cat](#) (Delacorte \$16.99)
Wing, Natasha. [The Night before Easter](#) (Grand Central \$3.99)

APRIL MASS MARKET PAPERBACK PICKS

Castillo, Linda. [The Dead Will Tell](#) (\$7.99) Kate Burkholder #6. Chief of Police Kate Burkholder's investigation into a series of murders that have been staged as suicides leads to a decades old robbery-gone-wrong case that resulted in the death of an entire Amish family except their teenage son. *Booklist* loved Castillo's latest stating "Castillo effectively combines an airtight plot with a revealingly complex look at what can happen when a fissure develops along the fault line separating an insular community from the secular world. Castillo shows again why the phrase "gritty Amish mystery" is no oxymoron."

DiSilverio, Laura. [The Readaholics and the Falcon Fiasco](#) (NAL \$7.99) Book Club #1. Event planner Amy-Faye Johnson decides to borrow a page from *The Maltese Falcon* and investigate the suspicious suicide of one of her fellow book club members. DiSilverio is also the author of the "Mall Cop" series and the "Charlie Swift" books.

Finder, Joseph. [Suspicion](#) (\$9.99) In desperate need of the money to pay the tuition at his daughter Abbey's pricey private school, Danny Goodman borrows 50k from the extremely wealthy father of Abbey's best friend only to discover the loan has a few nasty strings attached. Critics loved the latest thriller from Finder with *LJ* saying "The taut pacing, staccato chapters, and ingenious plot, especially Finder's characteristically creative use of digital surveillance techniques, guarantee a literary thrill ride."

Galbraith, Robert. [Silkworm](#) (\$10) Cormoran Strike #2 When Owen Quine disappears, his wife assumes he is on one of his little "escapades" and asks private investigator Cormoran Strike to track him down and bring him back home. Galbraith as you probably know by now is the pseudonym J.K. Rowling adopted when she decided to try her hand at mysteries. *Kirkus* was especially impressed stating "Rowling proves once again that she's a master of plotting over the course of a series; you can see her planting seeds, especially when it comes to Robin, which can be expected to bear narrative fruit down the line. It will be a pleasure to watch what happens."

@Grimes, Martha. [Vertigo 42: A Richard Jury Mystery](#) (\$7.99) Richard Jury #23. Scotland Yard Superintendent Richard Jury investigates a cold-case involving a vertigo sufferer's fatal accident right after a young girl's death in the same house. Grimes, who won the Mystery Writers of America's Grandmaster Award in 2012, tips her literary hat to Alfred Hitchcock in a starred *Booklist* review that said the author "shows what mastery is all about."

Iles, Greg. [Natchez Burning](#) (\$9.99) Penn Cage, a former prosecutor and now mayor of Natchez, investigates when his father Dr. Tom Cage is arrested for giving nurse Viola Turner a lethal injection that ends her suffering from cancer. As Penn looks deeper into the matter, he discovers some old secrets and a connection between the present day death and the racial violence that tore Natchez apart in the 1960s. The second in this stunning trilogy is just coming out in hardcover, so if you missed the first book last year, now is your chance to get on board. As *Kirkus* puts it "Iles' story is long in the telling (and with at least two more volumes coming along to complete it), but a patient reader will find that the pages scoot right along without missing a beat. Iles is a master of regional literature, though he's dealing with universals here, one being our endless thirst to right wrongs. A memorable, harrowing tale." See Event Books for Volume II in the Penn Cage trilogy.

Kellerman, Faye. [Murder 101](#) (\$9.99) Pete Decker/Rina Lazarus #22. In the latest from the distaff side of the Kellermans, a break-in at a local cemetery in the sleepy college town of Greenbury leads Pete Decker into a tangled case involving art forgery, international espionage, and ruthless people, who kill for sport. Kellerman moves her longtime cast of Rina Lazarus and the LAPD's Decker (retired) to upstate New York and injects a new community (in part, a college) and new characters into their lives. Plus they make trips to NYC.

Lescroart, John. [Keeper](#) (\$9.99) Dismas Hardy #18. Sheriff's deputy Hal Chase hires San Francisco DA Dismas Hardy to represent him when Chase's wife Katie disappears only to turn

up dead a few days later. What starts out as a simple murder case becomes something much more complicated (as do pretty much any case with which Dismas becomes involved) when a link between the case and inmate deaths at a local jail is uncovered. *PW* weighed in with “The action builds to a surprising and surprisingly cynical conclusion.” See Event Books for Hardy’s next.

McKinlay, Jenn. [Dark Chocolate Demise Signed](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Cupcake Bakery #7. Mel and Angie have been developing a whole host of ghoulish new treats for Scottsdale’s first annual Old Town Zombie Walk, but when a real dead body turns up right outside their bakery truck, the two friends and owners of Fairytale Cupcake Bakery, think this might be taking the undead theme just a step too far. If you were at the store when the author last visited, you will know she had a slightly different title in mind for this book, but no matter what it is called, the latest Cupcake Bakery mystery is a sweet treat for cozy readers. You can order any of the earlier books Signed by Jenn, who lives here.

Palmer, Matthew. [The American Mission](#) (\$9.99) With his foreign service career on a decided downward trajectory, State Department employee Alex Baines is about to resign when his old mentor offers him the opportunity to start over in the U.S. diplomatic office in the Congo. However, when Alex discovers the American ambassador may be in financial cahoots with a multi-national mining company out to take the country for everything it’s got, Alex must decide if he is willing to risk his professional reputation once again in order to do what is right. Palmer gets his writing chops from his late father Michael Palmer, and his twenty-plus years of experience in the U.S. Foreign Service means he knows what he is talking about when it comes to embassies and foreign policy. This was a terrific debut thriller with an excellent sense of place. Palmer signs the sequel here May 28.

Percy, Benjamin. [Red Moon](#) (\$8) In award-winning Percy’s second supernatural thriller, the world is divided into those infected with a disease that turns them into lycans (werewolves) and those who are disease free. While this might sound like your basic horror novel, *BookPage* begs to differ stating “Yes, it’s about werewolves, but it is also about coming of age, young love, racism, xenophobia, warfare’s moral complexities and the zeitgeist of 21st-century America. In other words, Percy went big.” See Out of This World for Percy’s new novel.

Preston, Douglas. [The Kraken Project](#) (\$9.99) Computer programmer Melissa Shepherd has designed “Dorothy, a powerful, self-modifying form of Artificial Intelligence, for NASA’s next space mission to Saturn. However, during its testing phase, Dorothy “escapes” into the internet. Now Melissa and former CIA agent Wyman Ford must find a way to put the deadly computer genie back in her bottle. Preston, long a science writer as well as thriller master, envisions interesting biotechnology.

Sandford, John. [Field of Prey](#) (\$9.99) Lucas Davenport #24 When seventeen bodies of young women are discovered in an abandoned cistern near Red Wing, MN, Lucas Davenport begins searching for a serial killer, who has been working the area for at least ten years or more. *PW* said of the hardcover release, “As

always, Sandford has tricks to play to confound readers before the tension rises and leads to a violent and surprising conclusion.” For the 25th Prey novel (and nifty Sanford designed license plate for Lucas’ Porsche), see Event Books.

Wellington, David. [The Hydra Protocol](#) (\$9.99) In this fast-paced sequel to *Chimera* (2013), Captain Jim Chapel of U.S. Military Intelligence must team up with Russian spy Nadia Asimova in order to infiltrate a top-secret Soviet military base and disable an unstable supercomputer that controls hundreds of nuclear missiles aimed at the United States. Cyber security seems to be the next big thing in thrillers (and television if the latest incarnation of *CIS* is to be believed). Wellington’s latest garnered these words from *Kirkus* “The threats keep shifting, but the well-choreographed action, which requires a remarkably small cast, is nonstop.” This was a 2014 Thriller Club Pick in hardcover.

NEW IN MASS MARKET

Adams, Ellery. [Lemon Pies and Little White Lies](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Charmed Pie Shoppe #4

Pie maker extraordinaire Ella Mae LeFaye searches for a clever killer, who seems to be implicating Ellie in a series of local murders by leaving magical symbols behind at each crime scene.

Allan, Barbara. [Antiques Con](#) (\$7.99) Trash ‘n’ Treasure #8 Brandy Borne and her mother Vivian are on their way to the Big Apple to sell an original Superman drawing at a comic book convention, but soon find themselves forced to play amateur sleuths when the director of the convention is murdered.

Brown, Rita Mae. [Nine Lives to Die](#) (\$7.99) Mrs. Murphy #22 Harry Haristeen and her posse of pet detectives sniff for clues when murder victims with missing fingers start turning up in the small town of Crozet.

Casey, Elizabeth Lynn. [Wedding Duress](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Southern Sewing Circle #10

Tori Sinclair is about to get married to her sweetie Milo, but before she marches down the aisle, she must help a fellow member of the Sweet Briar Ladies’ Society Sewing Circle investigate a mysterious death.

Clark, Marcia. [The Competition](#) (\$8) Rachel Knight #4

L.A. Special Trials prosecutor Rachel Knight and Detective Bailey Keller investigate a high school shooting in San Fernando Valley.

Cooper, Amanda. [Shadow of a Spout](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Teapot Collectors Mystery #4

Sophie Freemont’s grandmother Rose is in really hot water after being accused of murdering an appraiser, who claims her antique teapot was a fake.

Coughlin, Jack. [On Scope: A Sniper Novel](#) (\$9.99)

Gunnery Sergeant Kyle Swanson and his professional sidekick Beth Ledford head to Spain, when terrorists storm the American consulate in Barcelona.

Crockett, Jessie. [A Sticky Situation](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Sugar Grove #3 Syrup maker Dani Green and her irksome Aunt Hazel stick their fingers into the murder of a local drifter.

Daheim, Mary. [Clam Wake](#) (\$7.99) Bed-and-Breakfast #29

Judith McMonigle Flynn and her cousin Renie dig for answers when a dead body turns up in a retirement community on Whoopee Island.

Desmet, Christine. [Five Alarm Fudge](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Fudge Shop #3
Ava Oosterling must find out who in town would be willing to kill for a recipe for divinity fudge.

Dyer-Seeley, Kate. [Slayed on the Slopes](#) (Kensington \$7.99)
Sports journalist Meg Reed would kill for a good pair of skies when she finds herself stranded on Mount Hood with a cold-blooded killer.

Eastman, Dawn. [A Fright to the Death](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Family Fortune #3
Clyde Fortune and her detective boyfriend are snowed in at a haunted hotel with a killer.

Fox, Mae. [Threads of Deceit](#) (\$7.99)
Julie Ellis thinks managing the Quilt Haus Inn is the perfect place to keep a low profile until a dead body turns up at a nearby archaeological site.

Gibbins, David. [Pyramid](#) (Random \$9.99)
Jake Howard and his team of marine archaeologists investigate a fossilized discovery in the Red Sea and a 110 year old report that could redefine Moses' exodus from Egypt. This series is great escapist fun especially if you like Clive Cussler's Dirk Pitt books.

Harris, Charla. [Midnight Crossroad](#) (\$9.99)
The first in a new trilogy about a small town in Texas with an unusual number of odd residents.

Hirahara, Naomi. [Grave on Grand Avenue](#) (Penguin \$7.99)
Ellie Rush #2 LAPD bicycle cop (and aspiring homicide detective) Ellie Rush investigates the link between the murder of a gardener and a Chinese classical musician.

Kriss, Gary. [Zodiac Deception](#) (Tor \$9.99)
Con man David Walker is offered a pardon by the OSS (precursor to the CIA) if he agrees to impersonate a German astrologer and convince Himmler to assassinate Hitler.

Lee, Amanda. [Wicked Stitch](#) (Jove \$7.99) Embroidery Mystery #8
Embroidery shop owner Marcy Singer must unravel the clues and find the real killer when Marcy's nemesis is found strangled to death.

Ludlum, Robert. [The Matarese Circle](#) (\$9.99) Reissue
Two rival spies (one U.S. and the other Russian) must team up to stop an international circle of killers out to take over the world.

Lyle, Dixie. [Marked Fur Murder](#) (St Martins \$7.99) Whiskey, Tango, and Foxtrot #3
Deirdre "FoxTrot" Lancaster's boss's latest soiree is a real killer event as evidenced by the corpse in the pool.

Mugavero, Liz. [Icing on the Corpse](#) (Kensington \$7.99)
Gourmet pet chef Kristan Connor's home-baked treats are the talk of the Groundhog Day festival until a body is discovered crumpled up in the basement of Historical Museum.

O'Brien, Kevin. [Final Breath](#) (Kensington \$9.99)
In this reprint of a 2008 suspense novel, television reporter Sydney Jordan not only discovers a connection between a series of random murders, she realizes she is the killer's next victim.

Patterson, James. [Private Down Under](#) (\$10) Jack Morgan #5
The world's most exclusive detective agency opens a branch in Australia. Can you say death down under?

Perry, Carol J. [Tails, You Lose](#) (Kensington \$7.99)
Failed TV psychic Lee Barrett stumbles across a murder while working on a documentary about the town's old department store.

Ryan, Sofie. [Buy a Whisker](#) (NAL \$7.99). Second Chance Cat #2
Thrift shop owner Sarah Grayson and her cat Elvis are dragged into another murder when the only holdout in town to a new development plan winds up dead.

SciFi/Fantasy/Horror/Paranormal/TrueCrime/Western
Ballantine, Philippa. [The Diamond Conspiracy](#) (Penguin \$7.99)
The Ministry of Seven is in grave peril and agents Books and Braun must return to London to save both their jobs as well as her majesty the Queen.

Blaylock, James P. [Aylesford Skull](#) (Forge \$7.99)
Professor Langdon St. Ives tangles with his old nemesis Dr. Ignacio Narbono in this Steampunk adventure from one the genre's founding fathers.

Gear, W Michael. [People of the Morning Star](#) (\$8.99)
Multiple tribes have come together to build a society in the American heartland, but that civilization is threatened by the assassination attempt on the group's spiritual figurehead.

Hearne, Kevin. [Shattered](#) (\$7.99)
When Atticus O'Sullivan and his apprentice Ganuaile travel to India to battle an ancient plague-summoning demon, they also encounter a person from Atticus' past. [Click here](#) to order all of Hearne's backlist Signed.

Hooper, Kay. [The Deadly Web](#) (Berkley \$9.99) Bishop Files #2
Psychic Tasha Solomon must trust Guardian John Brodie to help her escape from a ruthless enemy.

Hunter, Faith. [Dark Heir: A Jane Yellowrock Novel](#) (NAL \$7.99)
Shapeshifting skinwalker Jane Yellowrock goes head to head with one of the most powerful vampire witches of the European Council.

Lebbon, Tim. [Coldbrook](#) (Forge \$7.99)
Deep in the Appalachian Mountains is a secret laboratory called Coldbrook, where scientists believe they have discovered a gateway to an entirely new world.

HISTORY/MYSTERY

Bradley, James. [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, Bradley explores a difficult century that defines U.S.-Chinese relations

Brady, Conor. [A June of Ordinary Murders](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Victorian Dublin, 1887 to be specific, harbors growing nationalist sentiment and violence even as Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee is to be celebrated. See First Novels.

☞Calkins, Susanna. [The Masque of a Murderer](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Lucy Campion, former lady's maid in the household of a London magistrate and now apprenticed to a printer in the wake of the Great Fire, is visited by the magistrate's daughter Sarah who had traveled and become a Quaker. She wants Lucy to visit a severely injured Quaker man and record his dying words, as was commonly done in 1667. The man reveals someone deliberately pushed him into the path of the cart that crushed him because of a secret he had recently uncovered.... 3rd in a series I like more for the concept than the execution.

Davis, Lindsey. [Deadly Election Signed](#) (Hodder \$39). When a body is discovered inside a large chest that's about to go under

the hammer at the Falco family auction house, Flavia Albia throws herself into the investigation. For one thing, it'd be nice to beat her adoptive father at his own game. For another, it'll give her yet another chance to work with Manlius Faustus, the man she just can't quite get enough of. But when Faustus then invites her to get involved in the Roman elections, Albia discovers links between the politician they're working for and the murder she's investigating. And those links implicate none other than Faustus. Davis excels at blending real Roman history with a delightfully imagined, sometimes dysfunctional but always triumphant, family of "private eyes." You lovers of Roman novels, [click here](#) to order Davis' books.

☞Eyre, Hermione. [Viper Wine](#) (Hogarth/Random \$25). What happens when a great beauty begins to age and her husband seems less adoring than scrutinizing. Venetia Stanley, wife to Sir Kenelm Digby, both ornaments of the court of Charles I, goes in search of a beauty potion despite his objections. She finds an apothecary who sells her "viper wine" which is, alas and of course, powerfully addictive. Soon Venetia and some ladies of the court are looking unnaturally youthful—at, it turns out, a terrible price. Science meets with magic, love clashes with vanity, Puritans clash with courtiers in this novel of London worthy of being painted by Hogarth (nice double entendre with the publisher's name, no?). It was certainly true that aids to beauty—like lead in face paint—could kill you.

Flanagan, Richard. [The Narrow Road to the Deep North](#) (\$15.95). The 2014 Man Booker Prize Winner springs from the harrowing history of building the Burma Road in WWII and traces the life of Australian surgeon Dorrigo Evans from a 1943 POW labor camp to the present. No novel "since Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* has shaken me like this." —*The Washington Post*

☞Freeman, Anna. [The Fair Fight](#) (Penguin \$27.95). You fellow Georgette Heyer readers know about the Regency pugilists, Gentleman Jackson's boxing saloon, the champion Mendoza, etc. Here we have a novel about women in the game, female pugilists, and their patrons. Ruth, born in a brothel, harsh in looks, doesn't expect much from life but abuse. Until she meets George Dryer and discovers she can fight bare-knuckles in the prize rings in Bristol. Charlotte is from a manor but scarred by smallpox, trapped in empty social conventions and by her wastrel brother, and dying to escape. She and Ruth meet and change their lives by transcending circumstance.

☞Gaynor, Hazel. [A Memory of Violets](#) (Morrow \$14.99). The London of My Fair Lady or nearabouts, 1912, was the London of John Groom and his support of flower girls, orphaned and crippled girls who lived on the streets and sold posies, mostly violets, and watercress to survive. 20-year-old Tilly Harper leaves her native Lake District to take a post as assistant housemother at one of the Training Homes for Watercress and Flower Girls. She discovers a diary written by orphan Florrie, an Irish flower girl who died of a broken heart when she and her sister Rosie were separated. Moved by Florrie's pain, Tilly sets out to discover what happened to Rosie. This isn't a crime novel despite the mystery of Rosie, it's women's fiction laced with social history and both moving and enjoyable.

Goldstone, Lawrence. [Birdmen: The Wright Brothers, Glenn Curtiss, and the Battle to Control the Skies](#) (\$18). Intense rivalry fueled the rise of American aviation. Let historian Goldstone guide you through it.

Goodwin, Daisy. [The Fortune Hunter](#) (\$15.99). Empress Elizabeth of Austria, known as Sisi, is the Princess Diana of nineteenth-century Europe. Famously beautiful (and surely anorexic), as captured in a portrait with diamond stars in her hair, she's mismatched with Hapsburg Emperor Franz Joseph. Sisi has spent years evading the stifling formality of royal life on her private train or yacht or, whenever she can, on the back of a horse. Captain Bay Middleton is dashing, young, and the finest horseman in England. He is also impoverished, with no hope of buying the horse needed to win the Grand National—until he meets Charlotte Baird. A clever, plainspoken heiress whose money gives her a choice among suitors, Charlotte falls in love with Bay, the first man to really notice her, for his vulnerability as well as his glamour. When Sisi joins the legendary hunt organized by Earl Spencer in England, Bay is asked to guide her on the treacherous course. Their shared passion for riding leads to an infatuation that jeopardizes the growing bond between Bay and Charlotte, and threatens all their futures. (Sisi was eventually assassinated, her only son a suicide some years before, and Franz Joseph presided over the Austro-Hungarian Empire right into WWI.

☞Grecian, Alex. [The Devil's Workshop](#) (\$16). How I love the Victorian noir by Grecian. It's clever, dark, but not grungy (a trend in historical fiction for some time). London, 1890. Four vicious murderers have escaped from prison, part of a plan gone terribly wrong, and now it is up to Walter Day, Nevil Hammersmith, and the rest of Scotland Yard's Murder Squad to hunt down the convicts before the men can resume their bloody spree. But they might already be too late. During the escape, the killers have stumbled upon the location of another notorious murderer, one thought gone for good but now prepared to join forces with them. Jack the Ripper is loose in London once more....[Click here](#) for other Grecian's including the May chapter he will be signing here the 21st.

☞Gregory, Philippa. [The King's Curse](#) (\$16.99). The final volume in the Cousins' War Series limns the dramatic ups and down of the life of Margaret de la Pole, Countess of Salisbury (1473-1541). It was no picnic to be an heir among the Plantagenets.

☞Holsinger, Bruce. [The Invention of Fire](#) (Morrow \$26.99). This sequel to Holsinger's sterling debut medieval thriller [A Burnable Book](#) (\$16.99) continues in a 14th-century London that reimagines the real-world historical figures John Gower and Geoffrey Chaucer as they investigate a mass murder that may have been committed by a dangerous new weapon known as the "handgonne." It's 1386. A mass murder leaves sixteen corpses dumped in a sewage canal inside London's walls. Gower, a renowned poet and trader in secrets, is sure the men fell victim to weapons that threaten to change the future of war. His quest for answers involves his friend Chaucer who's in Kent serving as a JP within the shire's justice system. While the building drama

of Richard II's reign drives the plot, this novel is rich in the community of artisans, gunsmiths, and strategists and so a terrific read for fans of Bernard Cornwell! Plus bear in mind that the narrator of the novels is a poet.

Hsu, Huan. [The Porcelain Thief](#) (Crown \$27). "American-born journalist Hsu hears that his great-great grandfather, a landowner in Xingang, buried a large collection of porcelain when Japan invaded China in 1938. Hsu sets out to find this treasure trove more than 70 years later. The book recounts Hsu's travel to China and ensuing three-year search, 'equipped with only a few threads of a family legend and an irresistible compulsion to know more about it.'

To go with, Karl Meyer and Sharleen Brysaci, [The China Collectors: America's Century-Long Hunt for Asian Art Treasures](#) (Palgrave Macmillan \$30). North American museums now possess the greatest collection of Chinese art outside China. Here is a look at the treasure hunt from the Opium Wars to 1949 and Mao's triumph. Were treasures looted or salvaged? Who was involved? What should now happen?

Kerr, Philip. [Lady from Zagreb Signed](#) (Putnam \$45). We will have some Signed UK editions of the 10th Bernie Gunther investigation. For a review of this and the US edition, [Lady from Zagreb Signed](#) (Putnam \$26.95), see Event Books. The story begins after WWII but takes you into Croatia as well as Berlin.

Lebow, Laura. [The Figaro Murders](#) (St Martins \$24.99). It's 1786 Vienna where Lorenzo da Ponte is the court librettist for the Italian Theatre. Joseph II is on the throne and arts flourish. One morning Da Ponte visits his barber just as the man is hauled off to debtors' prison. He agrees to carry the man's fiancée a message and try to help free him, despite his own financial problems. And he's got just one week to finish up the libretto for a new Mozart opera which is to premier before Joseph II. The fiancée works in a diplomat's household where a young protégé has been killed at the very time Da Ponte visits her. So our librettist is given a choice: go undercover in the household and identify the killer—or be hanged for the murder. This is more fun if you know the opera, but you can enjoy the portrait of Vienna...or rent the movie *Amadeus*.

✎Levine, Daniel. [Hyde](#) (\$14.95). A *New York Times* Editors' Choice and one of the *Washington Post's* 5 Best Thrillers of the Year "[A] knockout debut novel... As dark and twisted and alluring as the night-cloaked streets of nineteenth-century London... Levine has written an "ingenious revision" of Stevenson's novel focused on Hyde, not Dr. Jekyll. When Hyde watches Jekyll from a remove as the experiment continues, their mutual existence is threatened, not only by the uncertainties of untested science, but also by a mysterious stalker. Hyde is being taunted—possibly framed. Girls have gone missing; someone has been killed. Who stands watching in the shadows? In the blur of this shared consciousness, can Hyde ever be confident these crimes were not committed by his hand?

Ohanesian, Aline. [Orhan's Inheritance Signed](#) (Algonquin \$25.95). Our **April History/Mystery Pick** is a debut set in Turkey. See First Novels.

O'Reilly, Bill. [Killing Lincoln](#) (\$15.99). O'Reilly's look at how one shot changed the course of history.

Pearl, Matthew. [The Last Bookaneer Signed](#) (Penguin \$29). "An entertaining adventure tale steeped in literary history... [Pearl] offers many of the charms and unrushed distractions of a favorite old bookstore."—*Kirkus* Starred Review for our **May Modern Firsts Club Pick** (which may arrive in April). I'm a longtime fan of Pearl's carefully researched and stylish crime fiction and delighted to follow him into the dark side of publishing. For a hundred years, loose copyright laws and a hungry reading public created a unique opportunity: Books could be published without an author's permission with extraordinary ease. Authors gained fame but suffered financially—Charles Dickens, Mark Twain, Robert Louis Stevenson, to name a few—but publishers reaped enormous profits while readers got their books on the cheap. The literary pirates who stalked the harbors, coffeehouses, and printer shops for the latest manuscript to steal were known as bookaneers. Yet on the eve of the twentieth century, a new international treaty is signed to protect authors and grind this literary underground to a sharp halt. What was the incredible heist that brought the end of their era? See New Books for more on this **Modern Firsts Club Pick**.

✎Perry, Anne. [The Angel Court Affair](#) (Random \$27). "Threats to a religious radical become Thomas Pitt's problem in bestseller Perry's 30th historical featuring the Pitt husband-and-wife sleuthing team, one of the series' better entries. Sofia Delacruz, an Englishwoman who has been living in Spain, has achieved notoriety for her views on the relationship between man and God. Right before she embarks on a speaking tour of England in April 1898, Sofia receives letters threatening her life, and Thomas, who's in charge of Special Branch, is ordered by his superior to insure that Sofia remains unharmed while on British soil. Since the U.S. has just declared war on Spain after the destruction of the *USS Maine*, international tensions, already exacerbated by a series of anarchist bombings, are at a high level. The Home Office fears that Sofia's death as a result of her beliefs could lead to war with Spain. Despite Thomas's best efforts, he's unable to shield her from violence."—*PW*. The intellectual and political debates of the day augur our own.

Perry, Douglas. [Eliot Ness](#) (\$17). As leader of an unprecedented crime-busting squad, twenty-eight-year-old Eliot Ness won fame for taking on notorious mobster Al Capone. But the Untouchables' daring raids were only the beginning of Ness's unlikely story. This new biography grapples with the charismatic lawman's complicated, largely forgotten legacy.

Shafak, Elif. [The Architect's Apprentice](#) (Viking \$27.95). Impossible to visit Istanbul without visiting the wondrous work of Sinan. Shafak spins an epic around and about him. In 1540, twelve-year-old Jahan arrives in Istanbul. As an animal tamer in the sultan's menagerie, he looks after the exceptionally smart elephant Chota and befriends (and falls for) the sultan's beautiful daughter, Princess Mihrimah. A palace education leads Jahan to Mimar Sinan, the empire's chief architect, who takes Jahan under his wing as they construct (with Chota's help) some of the most magnificent buildings in history. Yet even as they build Sinan's triumphant masterpieces—the incredible Suleymaniye and Selimiye mosques—dangerous undercurrents begin to emerge, with jealousy erupting among Sinan's four apprentices. A memorable story of artistic freedom, creativity, and the clash between science and fundamentalism.

Vanderbes, Jennifer. [The Secret of Raven Point](#) (\$17). 1943:
When seventeen-year-old Juliet Dufresne receives a cryptic letter from her enlisted brother and then discovers that he's been reported missing in action, she lies about her age and travels to the front lines as an army nurse, determined to find him. Shy and awkward, Juliet is thrust into the bloody chaos of a field hospital, a sprawling encampment north of Rome where she forges new friendships and is increasingly consumed by the plight of her patients. One in particular, Christopher Barnaby, a deserter awaiting court martial, may hold the answer to her brother's whereabouts—but the trauma of war has left him catatonic. Racing against the clock, Juliet works with an enigmatic young psychiatrist, Dr. Henry Willard, to break Barnaby's silence before the authorities take him away.