

# BOOKNEWS from

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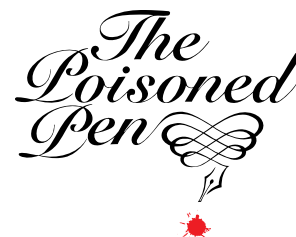
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## Magical, Mysterious, May...

### AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

#### 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 10:30 AM

**Coffee and Crime** discusses Ellery Adams' [A Killer Plot](#) (\$7.99)

#### 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. Hart and Christie Quizzes with Prizes. Cozy Covers Challenge (as at Death on Demand). Coffee Bar. Commemorative mugs for Hart purchasers.

**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

**And by Skype: Katherine Hall Page** with signed copies of [The Body in the Birches](#) (Harper \$26).

#### TUESDAY MAY 12 7:00 PM

**Anne Hillerman** signs [Rock with Wings](#) (Harper \$27.99)

#### WEDNESDAY MAY 13 7:00 PM Skype Event

**Lincoln Child** signs [The Forgotten Room](#) (Knopf \$28)

#### THURSDAY MAY 14 7:00 PM

**Jeffery Deaver** signs [Solitude Creek](#) (Grand Central \$28) Kathryn Dance #4

**Steve Martini** signs [The Enemy Inside](#) (Harper \$27.99) Paul Madriani

#### FRIDAY MAY 15 7:00 PM

**Neal Griffin** signs [Benefit of the Doubt](#) (Forge \$25.99) Debut/Hardboiled Crime Club Pick

#### SATURDAY MAY 16 10:30 AM

**Croak & Dagger Book Club** discusses Andrea Camilleri [The Shape of Water](#) (\$15) Inspector Montalbano

#### SATURDAY MAY 16 2:00 PM A Fantastic Affair

**Marie Brennan** signs [Voyage of the Basilisk](#) (Tor \$25.99) Lady Trent #3

**Mary Robinette Kowal** signs [Of Noble Family](#) (Tor \$27.99) Glamourist Histories #5

#### MONDAY MAY 18 7:00 PM

**Craig Johnson** signs [Dry Bones](#) (Viking \$27.95) Walt Longmire. Autographed copies also include a "Save Jen" lapel pin designed by Johnson: hashtag #SaveJen (Jen is a Tyrannosaurus Rex) Johnson appears May 17 at 2:00 PM at Sunrise Mountain Library 21109 N 98th Ave. Peoria, AZ 85382

#### TUESDAY MAY 19 7:00 PM

**Lyndsay Faye** signs [The Fatal Flame](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Timothy Wilde #3

#### WEDNESDAY MAY 20 2:00 PM

**Allison Leotta** signs [A Good Killing](#) (Touchstone \$25)

#### WEDNESDAY MAY 20 7:00 PM

**Stephen Hunter** signs [L. Ripper](#) (SimonSchuster \$27.99) May History/Mystery Club Pick

**THURSDAY MAY 21 7:00 PM**

**Alex Grecian** signs [Harvest Man](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Scotland Yard Murder Squad #4

**TUESDAY MAY 26 7:00 PM**

**Matthew Palmer** signs [Secrets of State](#) (Putnam \$27.95)

**NOTE: Signed copies of Clive Cussler's [Piranha](#) (Putnam \$28.99) will be available also on May 26 (from 10 AM)**

**WEDNESDAY MAY 27 7:00 PM Elevedgeddon**

Interested in meeting some of your favorite science fiction/fantasy authors before the craziness of Comicon? The Poisoned Pen will be hosting not one, or two, but 17 awesome authors in a night full of fun quirkyness.

**Stephen Blackmoore, Beth Cato, Wes Chu, Myke Cole, Delilah S. Dawson, Kevin Hearne, Jason Hough, Richard Kadrey, Michael Martinez, Brian McClellan, Naomi Novik, Andrea Phillips, Cherie Priest, Brian Staveley, Sam Sykes, Chuck Wendig, & Django Wexler.** Please [click here](#) for a list of authors and books

**THURSDAY MAY 28 5:30 PM**

**Hardboiled Crime Club** discusses Charles Bukowski's [Pulp](#) (\$15.99)

**THURSDAY MAY 28**

**Ace Atkins** signs [Robert B Parker's Kickback](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Spenser

Atkins also appears at Sunrise Mountain Library 21109 N 98th Ave. Peoria, AZ 85382 May 28 2:00 PM

**FRIDAY MAY 29 7:00 PM**

**James Sallis & Three Legged Dog Band play.** Free.

**SATURDAY MAY 30 2:00 PM**

**Rachel Howzell Hall** signs [Skies of Ash](#) (Tor \$25.99) LAPD's Lou Norton #2

**TUESDAY JUNE 3 7:00 PM**

**Ben Coes** signs [Independence Day](#) (St Martins \$26.99) Dewey Andreas #5 June Thriller Club Pick

**TUESDAY JUNE 9 7:00 PM**

**Nelson DeMille** signs [Radiant Angel](#) (Grand Central \$28) John Corey

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**EVENT BOOKS**

Atkins, Ace. [Robert B Parker's Kickback](#) (Putnam \$26.95). Atkins has shown himself up to the task of carrying Spenser, that "knight errant of the Back Bay," and his compadres Susan, Hawk, Henry Cimoli, cops and crooks, his lawyer sparring partner, forward...although the Spenser dog has no role here. You can tell from the title what the story of teenagers caught in the Blackburn, Massachusetts, juvenile "justice" system is all about, and why Spenser, seconded by Susan, would take on the judges and the private prison enterprise that lands kids mostly guilty of stupid pranks in lock-down on a miserable facility in Boston Harbor is about. So this is not an investigation into the why of the wrongdoing dragon our knight will joust, but the how of quashing it. As ever the story is part classic private eye, part western, part love story... and with a very 21st Century ending. This is the 4th Spenser written by Edgar-nominated Atkins since Parker died in 2010—[click here](#) to order them. Ace will appear again July 22 with a new Quinn Colson: [The Redeemers](#) (\$26.95).

Brennan, Marie. [Voyage of the Basilisk](#) (Tor \$25.99). Devoted readers of Lady Trent's earlier "memoirs," [A Natural History of Dragons and The Tropic of Serpents](#) (\$15.99 each), may believe themselves already acquainted with the particulars of her historic voyage aboard the Royal Survey Ship *Basilisk*, but the true story of that illuminating, harrowing, and scandalous journey has never been revealed—until now. Six years after her perilous exploits in Eriga, Isabella embarks on her most ambitious expedition yet: a two-year trip around the world to study all manner of dragons in every place they might be found. From feathered serpents sunning themselves in the ruins of a fallen civilization to the mighty sea serpents of the tropics, these creatures are a source of both endless fascination and frequent peril. Accompanying her is not only her young son, Jake, but a chivalrous foreign archaeologist whose interests converge with Isabella's in ways both professional and personal. Science is, of course, the primary objective

of the voyage, but Isabella's life is rarely so simple. She must cope with storms, shipwrecks, intrigue, and warfare, even as she makes a discovery that offers a revolutionary new insight into the ancient history of dragons. I can't help but think of Amelia Peabody in connection with Lady Trent. What fun—and with dragons!

Carlisle, Kate. [The Book Stops Here](#) (\$7.99). San Francisco bookbinder Brooklyn Wainwright is thrilled to be appearing on the hit TV show *This Old Attic* as a rare-book expert and appraiser. Her first subject is a valuable first-edition copy of the children's classic *The Secret Garden*. After the episode airs, a man storms onto the set claiming that the owner of the book, a flower seller named Vera, found the book at his garage sale, and he wants it back—or else. Afterward, Randolph Rayburn, the show's host, confides in Brooklyn that he's terrified by the man's threats and fears that he is being stalked. When several violent incidents occur on the set, Brooklyn and her security expert boyfriend, Derek, are shaken. Then Brooklyn discovers Vera's corpse... *Bibliophile Mystery* #8. To order the first 7, [click here](#).

Child, Lincoln. [The Forgotten Room](#) (Knopf \$28). Leave it to Lincoln Child to create another unusual investigator: Jeremy Logan, enigmologist, a person, perhaps an empath, who specializes in solving strange or even supernatural problems. Even crimes. Or a most unlikely suicide. Why did a respected scientist on his way to a welcome retirement from a Newport, Rhode Island, think tank situated in a huge old mansion, suddenly run amok, fight some kind of voices in his head, and hastily engineer his own bizarre death? The director of Lux, for so the think tank is called, wastes no time in calling in Logan who was once part of the organization until forced to resign over his "sensationalist" specialty—which in time got him on the faculty at Yale. At the director's behest, Logan investigates both the mansion and Lux, where all the suspects in whatever is going on which might include a long-secret project

must work, in a race to prevent more casualties. Alas.... I am mad for Logan's archaeological adventure set in an ancient Nile River swamp in [The Third Gate](#) (\$7.99).

Coes, Ben. [Independence Day](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Here's the *PW* Starred review for this 5th Dewey Andreas thriller. "Compelling characters, a wealth of technical detail, and ticking-clock suspense make bestseller Coes' *Independence Day* one of the year's best thrillers. CIA director Hector Calibrisi draws the ex-Delta operative turned CIA agent back into action from Dewey's hometown of Castine, Maine, where he retreated after the death of his fiancée six months earlier. Dewey winds up searching for a genius Russian computer hacker, Pyotr Vargarin (aka Cloud), who's acquired a nuclear weapon and is bent on wreaking revenge for earlier ill treatment at American hands. Cloud has hacked his way into the CIA computer system and is always one step ahead as bodies pile up and Dewey goes off the grid to save the U.S. The attack is scheduled for the Fourth of July, which gives Dewey and his comrades only a few days to stop Cloud. Last-minute twists ratchet up the tension as the book races to the final confrontation." The first 50 to order will each receive a specially designed American flag koozies (drink sleeves). [Click here](#) to order the first four Andreas thrillers.

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).

Deaver, Jeffery. [Solitude Creek](#) (Grand Central \$28). This *PW* Starred Review says it all for me, a dedicated Deaver fan—note that again Deaver's love of music permeates the story: "Numerous surprises are in store for Kathryn Dance (and the reader) in bestseller Deaver's stellar fourth novel featuring the California Bureau of Investigation kinesics expert. As part of Operation Pipeline, which is aimed at stopping the drug and gun transportation network headed by gangbanger Rodrigo Guzman, Dance lets a suspect escape during an interview and winds up assigned to the CBI's Civil Division. Working with Civ-Div, she discovers that a false fire alarm at a Monterey Bay area club, Solitude Creek, where three patrons died in the rush toward blocked exits, was the work of elusive killer Antioch March. March has other panic-inducing attacks planned, and Dance leads an investigative

effort while continuing to pursue the Guzman connection without the knowledge of her boss, Charles Overby. In addition, Dance and her colleagues continue to fight a frustrating battle against contraband crossing the porous Mexico-U.S. border. Deaver's meaty thrillers are as good as they come." I add that Dance's personal life—her connection to both O'Neil and boyfriend Jon Boling—adds to the pressure, as do issues with her children, Wes and Maggie. And the consequences of her botched interrogation, resulting in her suspension, return to haunt her and may permanently end her career. [Click here](#) to order earlier Dance thrillers.

DeMille, Nelson. [Radiant Angel](#) (Grand Central \$28). After a showdown with the notorious Yemeni terrorist known as The Panther, John Corey has left the Anti-Terrorist Task Force and returned home to New York City, taking a job with the Diplomatic Surveillance Group. Although Corey's new assignment with the DSG-surveilling Russian diplomats working at the U.N. Mission is thought to be "a quiet end," he is more than happy to be out from under the thumb of the FBI and free from the bureaucracy of office life. But Corey realizes something the U.S. government doesn't: The all-too-real threat of a newly resurgent Russia. When Vasily Petrov, a colonel in the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service posing as a diplomat with the Russian U.N. Mission, mysteriously disappears from a Russian oligarch's party in Southampton, it's up to Corey to track him down. What are the Russians up to and why? DeMille's new novel takes us into the heart of a new Cold War with a clock-ticking plot that has Manhattan in its crosshairs.

Dennison, Hannah. [Deadly Desires at Honeychurch Hall](#) (St Martins \$24.99). At first glance you could take this as a village cozy with a sly Gothic element (a tall, handsome man introduced as Valentine Prince-Avery) and romance tropes. But Dennison delivers a real surprise in the clever plot for her sequel to [Murder at Honeychurch Hall](#) (\$15.99) which I applaud. The Devonshire village is Little Dipperton. Our heroine Kat Stanton is the (disgraced) former TV presenter (host) of *Fakes & Treasures* who's come to see if her newly widowed mother Irish can manage her charming new home on the Honeychurch Hall estate. What Kat learned is that Iris, long a conventional wife, had a hidden side: she writes lucrative bodice-rippers as Krystalle Storm (which explains those mysterious headache/absences from family life). Hoping to return to London after the first set of adventures, Kat now learns that the idyllic village and valley are facing disruption by the new train line and that potential beau Valentine is the line's compensation consultant. Then at a lively protest meeting, he runs off, leaving his SUV—and the body of an elderly villager—behind. Plus there's the missing £5,000 and Kat's ex who keeps sending huge floral offerings....

DiSilverio, Laura. [The Readaholics and the Falcon Fiasco](#) (NAL \$7.99). Amy-Faye Johnson has always loved her idyllic Rocky Mountain town of Heaven, Colorado. Her event-planning business is thriving, her fellow book-obsessed Readaholics are great, and her parents live only a few blocks away. But lately her hometown has felt a little less heavenly. First, she agrees to plan a wedding without realizing the groom is her ex-boyfriend. Then, Ivy, one of her fellow Readaholics, dies suddenly under mysterious circumstances. The police rule Ivy's death a suicide by poisoning, but Amy-Faye and the remaining Readaholics suspect foul play. Amy-Faye soon discovers that Ivy was hiding dangerous secrets—and making deadly enemies. Book Club #1, starts a series.

Faye, Lyndsay. [The Fatal Flame](#) (Putnam \$26.95). Immigration issues surround us but it's no 21st Century phenomenon as the conclusion of Faye's intense, brilliantly researched Timothy Wilde series underlines. Wilde is Irish, part of the incoming wave pushed by the Irish potato famine. But the Irish are just part of the rich melting pot that is 1840s New York. Where everyone dreads fires. When an arsonist with an agenda begins threatening Alderman Robert Symmes, a corrupt and powerful leader high in the Tammany Hall ranks, Copper Star copper Wilde isn't thrilled to be involved. It gets worse when his high-profile (and risk-taking) older brother Valentine announces that he'll be running against Symmes in the upcoming election, making both himself and Timothy a host of powerful enemies. Meanwhile, the love of Wilde's life, Mercy Underhill, unexpectedly shows up on his doorstep after a long absence and takes under her wing a starving orphan with a tenuous grasp on reality. It soon becomes clear that this wisp of a girl may be the key to stopping those who have been setting fire to buildings across the city—if only they can understand her cryptic descriptions and find out what she knows. Faye's thriller plot brushes on homosexuality and insanity in the context of the day. I can't wait to see what she does next. [Click here](#) to order the first two Wildes.

Grecian, Alex. [The Harvest Man](#) (Putnam \$26.95). In [The Devil's Workshop](#) (\$16), London discovered that Jack the Ripper was back, sending the city—and Scotland Yard's Murder Squad—into chaos. But now it is even worse. Not only is the Ripper still at large, but so is another killer just as bad. For Inspector Walter Day, it has been a difficult time. His wife has given birth to twins, his hostile in-laws have come to stay, and a leg injury has kept him at his desk. But when a different fiend, the Harvest Man, begins killing, carving people's faces off their skulls in some mad reenactment, the Yard knows Day must return to the field. Not so Sergeant Nevil Hammersmith. Rash actions have cost him his job, but that doesn't stop his obsessive hunt for the Ripper. When the mutilated bodies of prostitutes start turning up again, Hammersmith enlists the help of a criminal network to stop Saucy Jack, his methods carrying him further and further from the ideals of the Yard, so far in fact that he may never be able to find his way back. Nor may Day in this unsettling chapter: [click here](#) to order Grecian's earlier Victorian noir. So ironic that we are hosting Hunter and Grecian—and Jack!—back to back in May. Plus see the new Will Thomas take on Jack:

Griffin, Neal. [Benefit of the Doubt](#) (Forge \$25.99). A debut by a long-time cop produces a superior cop novel and our **May Hard-boiled Crime Club Pick**. Patrick writes, "Ben Sawyer works as a detective in the small Wisconsin town where he grew up. His career as a rising star in law enforcement was cut short out in California when his temper got the better of him and he nearly killed a perp who'd already been subdued. Now his marriage is on the rocks and Sawyer is working too much and trying to combat the corruption that infests the local PD. His wife tends for her ailing father, who lives in a nursing facility after a massive stroke has left him debilitated. When a criminal whom the old man put away years earlier is released from prison, he has vengeance on his mind and Ben's family in the crosshairs. Griffin, himself a veteran law enforcement officer, writes with authority about the inner world of police as well as the casual, graphic violence of the sociopathic criminal. A very impressive and accomplished debut."

Hall, Rachel Howzell. [Skies of Ash](#) (Tor \$25.99). *Library Journal* reports, "Still reeling from the emotional discovery of her sister Victoria's long-buried remains and unmasking her killer in 2014's [Land of Shadows](#) (\$15.99), LAPD Det. Elouise Norton welcomes the distraction of a big case. She gets that and more when a house fire kills Juliet Chatman and her two children, 12-year-old Cody and eight-year-old Chloe. Husband Christopher, allegedly at work during the early morning blaze, arrives home as firefighters try to extinguish the flames and must be physically restrained. Lou immediately suspects Christopher, though her new partner, Colin Taggart, argues that there's little evidence to support her theory. As Lou peels back the layers of the Chatmans' seemingly perfect life, the veneer of happiness quickly falls away: financial woes loomed large; Juliet was miserable, possibly even suicidal; and Cody had a penchant for bullying and setting fires. Most of the Chatmans' friends staunchly believe the fire was an accident, but Lou knows in her bones it was murder. The genre needs more strong, black female heroines like Lou."

Hart, Carolyn G. [Don't Go Home](#) (Berkley \$25.95). Here is the 25th Death on Demand mystery by Agatha winner and MWA Grand Master Hart. We're going to turn The Pen into the imagined bookstore complete with Hart Quiz, Christie Quiz, the Cozy Covers Paintings challenge (identify the title and author, one point each), a coffee bar. Perfect for Mother's day shopping as our author list is sparkling. This replaces Cozy Con.

Hart's series about Death on Demand, the mystery bookstore on Broward's Rock Island with owner Annie Darling and her investigator husband Max, often takes its structure from classic Agatha Christie. The island is like a country house, the (first) murder victim is identified, the circle of suspects is introduced one by one, and there is always a reason why Annie (think Miss Marple) is involved in the investigation. In *Don't Go Home*, Annie is hosting a party to celebrate successful Southern literary icon—and former Broward's Rock resident—Alex Griffith, who has returned to write a tell-all book identifying the people in his bestselling novel, *Don't Go Home*. Alex is suffering writer's block; his book agent wife is brutally frank about his career as a writer being so over. Alex should take his own advice because, after private heart-burnings and a public spat, he is murdered....

Hillerman, Anne. [Rock with Wings](#) (Harper \$27.99). "In her worthy sequel to 2013's [Spider Woman's Daughter](#) (\$9.99), Hillerman continues the exploits of the beloved Navajo cops of MWA Grand Master Tony Hillerman (1925–2008). Navajo Police Officer Bernadette Manuelito, Sgt. Jim Chee's wife, makes a routine traffic stop of a speeding car on a New Mexico road that morphs into a mystery when the nervous driver tries to bribe her—but the only suspicious cargo he has are two boxes of dirt. Meanwhile, Chee takes a security assignment in Monument Valley, where a movie is being filmed, and finds not only a missing person but a newly dug grave. Although Lt. Joe Leaphorn is still greatly handicapped by the injury he suffered in the previous book, his mind is sharp and his insights help both Chee and Manuelito solve some problems. Hillerman uses the southwestern setting as effectively as her late father did while skillfully combining Native American lore with present-day social issues."—*PW*. I add that the title refers to Ship Rock, a landmark in northern New Mexico thought to be part of an ancient volcano cone, and that Hillerman's descriptions of Monument Valley are superb. Plus she goes into the history of Gouldings and the Valley as home to

Westerns, notably those of John Ford. However the movie in the book is in the horror genre, with Zombies!

Hunter, Stephen. [I, Ripper](#) (SimonSchuster \$27.99). When he appeared at The Pen last year with [I, Sniper](#) (\$9.99), a truly brilliant thriller, Hunter revealed that he cherished an approach to the enduring mystery of Jack the Ripper that he had long wanted to write. And now he has. *I, Ripper* transports you to London's Whitechapel district in "the autumn of the knife, September-November, 1888 in what Hunter describes as "a blazing fast hansom ride through the gritty, sensual, blood-spattered streets." a horror, that nothing about him or his savagery was droll but instead he was "more like a Wazir slaughterer." Hunter also illuminates a late Victorian culture when bold ideas struck like lightning all around but where noblesse oblige was the public ideal and decadence the private reality. In short, this thriller is vivid, hair-raising, and provocative, all those things you expect from Hunter. But what's most startling is the inspiration for *I, Ripper*, which, no surprise from this Pulitzer-Prize winning movie critic, arose from a classic film. Two versions, actually, made some years apart. Here is our **May History/Mystery Club Pick** from a field of real winners. I went with it for its originality and for the prodigious research underlying the thrills which Hunter credits to his good friend Lenne Miller. Read Will Thomas' take on Jack too.

Iles, Greg. [The Bone Tree](#) (Morrow \$27.99). Former prosecutor Cage and his fiancée, Caitlin Masters, have barely escaped with their lives after being attacked by wealthy businessman Brody Royal and his Double Eagles, a KKK sect with ties to some of Mississippi's most powerful men. But the real danger has only begun as FBI Special Agent John Kaiser warns Penn that Brody wasn't the true leader of the Double Eagles. The puppeteer who actually controls the terrorist group is a man far more fearsome: the chief of the state police's Criminal Investigations Bureau, Forrest Knox. The only way Penn can save his father, Dr. Tom Cage—who is fleeing a murder charge as well as corrupt cops bent on killing him—is either to make a devil's bargain with Knox or destroy him. The May Indie Next Pick: "After leaving readers on the edge of their seats at the end of *Natchez Burning*, Iles hits the ground running and picks up the pace in *The Bone Tree*. Penn Cage is alive for now but not unscathed as the dark secrets of the past continue to threaten his family, his town, and the very fabric of all that he thought he knew. Iles has written an intense, tightly plotted narrative with more than one shocking turn of events that will have readers racing to finish, but then pinning away for the third installment of this massive and electrifying trilogy."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).

Janeway, Judith. [The Magician's Daughter](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 or \$14.95). It's always a joy to discover a new voice. That of Judith Janeway was honed to a sharp, lively edge in romance, and translates superbly to the start of a mystery series featuring magician Valentine Hill, daughter of an amoral, compulsive con woman. Valentine has no idea who her father is. Or even when she was born, or where. All she knows is her mother said her father was a magician. Desperate to learn her own story, Valentine has been searching (vainly) for her mother for years, supporting

herself by busking, doing street performances of a skilled, solo magic act. No grifter like her mother, the scrupulous Valentine takes pride in always paying her way and never telling a lie. Which is a real handicap when she's robbed of her stake while busking in Vegas. She chases it to San Francisco where a series of odd events reunites her with her mother who, Valentine is sure, despite her respectable façade, is playing one of the city's super rich. And Valentine quickly enters a world where truly nothing is what it seems. A socialite is a ruthless criminal, a car mechanic a psycho killer, and a cab driver a seductive gangster. After a friendly FBI agent is killed, Valentine forces herself into adopting a grifter's role to put the criminals—and her mother—away. Or at the very least, get what she wants from mom. Starts a new series;

Johnson, Craig. [Dry Bones](#) (Viking \$27.95). When Jen, the largest, most complete Tyrannosaurus Rex skeleton ever found surfaces in Sherriff Walt Longmire's jurisdiction, it appears to be a windfall for the High Plains Dinosaur Museum—until Danny Lone Elk, the Cheyenne rancher on whose property the remains were discovered, turns up dead, floating face down in a turtle pond. With millions of dollars at stake, a number of groups step forward to claim her, including Danny's family, the tribe, and the federal government. As Wyoming's Acting Deputy Attorney and a cadre of FBI officers descend on the town, Walt is determined to find out who would benefit from Danny's death, enlisting old friends Lucian Connolly and Omar Rhoades, along with Dog and best friend Henry Standing Bear, to trawl the vast Lone Elk ranch looking for answers to a sixty-five million- year-old cold case that's heating up fast while tragedy strikes elsewhere. Our copies come with a "SaveJen" lapel pin designed for us by Johnson. [Click here](#) to order earlier Longmires.

Kowal, Mary Robinette. [Of Noble Family](#) (Tor \$27.99). Here's the conclusion to a magical Regency series. "Jane and David Vincent, Glamourists to the Prince Regent of England, look forward to returning home after their adventures in Venice, but instead they're asked to go to Antigua to deal with the estate of David's recently deceased father. Owing to the abusive nature of the father-son relationship, any duty involving David's paterfamilias would be painful, but it is made doubly so when the couple arrive in the Caribbean only to realize that the man is still very much alive and just as determined to bend David to his will. A tropical setting on a slave plantation adds interest to the world Kowal has made in which magic called Glamour is real and manipulated by those with special skills. Jane and David should be enjoying the happiest time in their marriage when they discover she is pregnant, but they must endure the fraught situation with Vincent's father and the many troubles they find on his estate. Through it all, Kowal paints a lovely picture of a couple who truly complements and supports each other, capping off a terrific series."—*Library Journal*. This is #5. Start with *Shades of Milk and Honey* and 3 more. [Click here to order](#).

Leotta, Allison. [A Good Killing](#) (Touchstone \$25). Newly single after calling off her wedding to Jack, Assistant US Attorney Anna Curtis is summoned home from DC to rust-belt Michigan when her old high school coach—a hometown hero—has been killed in a fiery car crash. But Anna isn't there to prosecute a crime, she's home to support her sister, Jody, who stands accused of what turns out to be the coach's murder: his head bashed in before the crash. The police headed by Anna's high-school flame Rob are convinced that Jody was having an affair with the married

coach and killed him out of jealousy. As Anna investigates with the help of her childhood friend Cooper Bolden—an Afghan War veteran with a prosthesis who’s pioneering an urban farm as part of Detroit’s rebirth—she slowly peels back the facade of her all-American hometown and discovers that no one is telling the truth about the coach, not even Jody. When the town rallies against them, threatening not just Jody’s liberty but both sisters’ lives, it tests family bonds and the justice system. While the underlying plot premise is practically a cliché in today’s crime fiction, it is no less a dreadful one worthy of this kind of exploration, and the unusual narrative structure of the book with Jody revealing her story in flashbacks, adds punch. 4th in series. [Click here](#) to order the first three Annas.

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.

Martini, Steve. [The Enemy Inside](#) (Harper \$27.99). I’ve missed Martini and Madriani, two longtime favorites. And hooray, they’re back. Since moving to California some years back, Madriani has taken on some politically freighted cases rather than sticking to the local criminal bar. And here he is at it again, taking on the “seemingly hopeless case of reporter Alex Ives, who’s accused of DUI and causing the car crash that killed high-powered Washington, D.C., attorney Olinda Serna. Madriani and his team—partner Harry Hinds and investigator Herman Diggs—follow clues that suggest the accident was staged and Ives was the victim of a honey trap.” Then the people who might know more start dying, and Ives, Madriani, and his colleagues become targets. Serna’s powerful boss, Cletus Proffit, tries to contain fallout from her death; a mysterious man with an eagle-head cane pulls congressional strings; and the machinations of Lang-Jian Cheng, the head of China’s foreign intelligence unit, add further complications.” Martini expertly pulls all the threads together as Madriani navigates an assortment of physical and professional challenges.”—*PW*. [Click here](#) to order earlier Madrianis.

McKinlay, Jenn. [Dark Chocolate Demise](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Hundreds of fans have gathered together for Scottsdale’s first annual Old Town Zombie Walk, and Mel, Angie, and the Fairy Tale Cupcake crew are donning their best undead attire to sell some horror-themed desserts to the hungry hordes. But the fun turns to fright when Mel finds a real dead body in a prop casket outside of the bakery’s truck—and the corpse looks alarmingly like a zombie of their own. Knowing that Joe, Angie’s brother and Mel’s former flame, has been working on a dangerous mob case, Mel worries that the murder is a hit gone wrong and that someone

near and dear was the real target. To keep any of her friends from winding up six feet under, Mel will do whatever it takes to find a killer—no matter how scary things get... Cupcake Bakery Mystery #7. [Click here](#) to order them plus other McKinlays (3 series).

Palmer, Matthew. [Secrets of State](#) (Putnam \$27.95). Palmer, one of the late Michael Palmer’s two author sons, draws on his 20+ years in the US Foreign Service to craft his second (also his first) thriller. “Recently retired State Department officer Sam Trainor, the hero of Palmer’s exciting second thriller, has bounced around the subcontinent of South Asia during his 25-year career until retiring and taking a job with Argus Systems, a contractor supplying intelligence and analysis of South Asia to the CIA. While reading top-secret intel on his computer, Sam stumbles on an NSA report of a phone call involving Vanalika Chandra, the political counselor at the Indian embassy in Washington, D.C., with whom he’s having an affair. The substance of the call concerns a clandestine project whose purpose is to drive India and Pakistan into a nuclear war. As Sam follows this lead, the bodies begin to fall. After a group of terrorists steal a Pakistani nuclear warhead, Sam finds himself in a race to find and defuse the bomb before it destroys an entire city. Readers will be pleased that the ending suggests Sam will be back.” I am, for sure. Palmer’s debut [The American Mission](#) (\$9.99) was a 2014 First Mystery Club Pick.

Page, Katherine Hall. [The Body in the Birches](#) (Harper \$26). Faith Fairchild #22 finds the caterer/sleuth at home on Sanpere Island, Maine, once again. The Fourth of July is one of the hottest on record and even the breeze off Penobscot Bay can’t seem to cool things down for Faith Fairchild and the rest of the folks on Sanpere Island. But the fireworks are just beginning. After the celebrations are over, Faith discovers a body in the woods near The Birches, an early twentieth-century “cottage.” The body is identified as The Birches’ housekeeper, who seems to have succumbed to a heart attack. The death is only one of the dramatic events upending the historic house. A family gathering has been called to decide who will inherit the much loved, and very valuable, estate that has been in the Proctor family for generations. With this much money involved, it’s just a matter of time before trouble arises.

#### SOME TITLES FOR ELVENGEDDON

**More to come as we get closer to the May 27 event at The Pen Cato, Beth.** [The Clockwork Crown Signed](#) (Harper \$14.99). Steampunk, murder-mystery, girl-power, super-spy, fantasy-adventure excellence, as characterized Cato’s debut in *The Clockwork Dagger* which *The New York Times* called “a delightful espionage-inflected adventure” and NPR described it as “an action tale that’s as thought-provoking as it is rollicking.” Her publisher thinks that Beth could be the next goddess of steampunk—with humor and quirky characters, plus elements of high fantasy, and some James Bond-like action thrown in for good measure. Extra good news: Cato is a Phoenix author. Start with [The Clockwork Dagger](#) (\$14.99).

Novik, Naomi. [Uprooted Signed](#) (Random \$25). Novik has a deep understanding of both classic European fairy tales and present-day fantasy fandom, and she’s melded the two into the story of Agnieszka, a 17-year-old young woman trying to figure out what she wants from life while getting a handle on her magical talents. Every seemingly obvious metaphor—the evil forest encroaching on innocent towns, Dragon’s orderly masculine magic and Agnieszka’s intuitive feminine magic—unfolds into layer after layer

of deep meaning. It left me breathless. I don't just want sequels; I want an entire genre of books like this. —Rose Fo

xPriest, Cherie. [I Am Princess X Signed](#) (Scholastic \$18.99). The *PW* Starred Review (they only give out a few, honest, although since I quote them often it seems to you like more): “Back in fifth grade, best friends May and Libby created Princess X, a katana-wielding heroine who wears Converse sneakers with her ball gown. Ever since Libby and her mother died in a freak accident, May’s life has been as gray as her Seattle home—until the 16-year-old spots a Princess X sticker in a store window, leading her to a Princess X webcomic that suggests that Libby might still be alive. With the help of Trick, a hacker-for-hire, May follows the trail that Princess X’s near-mythic narrative leaves for her, which incorporates Seattle landmarks like the Fremont Troll and characters like the dangerous Needle Man and the mysterious, helpful Jackdaw. Illustrations from the Princess X comic—skillfully rendered by Ciesemier and printed in purple—add greatly to this techno-thriller’s tension. Fresh and contemporary, this hybrid novel/comic packs a lot of plot in a relatively short book, but its strongest suit may be Priest’s keen understanding of the chiasmic gap between the way teens and adults engage in the landscape of the Internet. Ages 12–up.”

#### FOR MOTHER’S DAY

*First, any of the books in our Death on Demand roster, signed for Mom on May 9.*

Next, a [Poisoned Pen Gift Card](#) in any amount.

*To read:*

Anderson, Pam. [Three Many Cooks: One Mom, Two Daughters, Their Shared Stories](#) (Ballantine \$26). John Charles adds, “One mom (best-selling cookbook writer Pam Anderson) and her two daughters (Maggy Keet and Sharon Damelio) collaborated to cook up this collection of autobiographical essays about the three “F”s – food, family, and faith – that have shaped their lives. The women’s stories about their sometimes funny, occasionally mixed-up, and always powerful relationship with cooking and food and how it has shaped their lives will definitely resonate with readers, who have already gobbled up Ruth Riechl’s or the late, much lamented Laurie Colwin’s culinary reminisces. As an added bonus, the 22 recipes included in the book are absolutely delicious.”

⌘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? The challenges of motherhood rival those of sleuthing in this gentle story.

Crawford, Isis. [A Catered Mother’s Day](#) (Kensington \$25). It’s Mother’s Day in sleepy Longely, New York. Bernie Simmons’ college roommate Ellen Hadley is burning the candle at both

ends. She’s grown a successful business baking treats for dogs and cats, and she’s a dutiful wife and mother who somehow manages to fit all the cooking and cleaning into her busy schedule. But after her children forget her birthday and her husband forgets their anniversary, her expectations for a memorable Mother’s Day are understandably modest. When Bernie jokingly suggests Ellen fake her own kidnapping to set her family straight, she never imagined her friend would actually go through with it. But when Ellen’s husband follows her phony ransom note to an out-of-the-way hotel, he finds the police taking her into custody after she discovers a dead body in her room. Ellen swears she doesn’t know the victim, but as police investigate her half-baked plans, they turn up more questions than answers. Bernie can’t help but feel guilty for helping her friend concoct a recipe for disaster, so she and her sister Libby enlist the help of Ellen’s kids to crack the case.

Lancaster, Jen. [I Regret Nothing: A Memoir](#) (NAL \$26.95). John Charles writes, “Lancaster burst onto the literary scene with her debut memoir *Bitter Is the New Black* and hasn’t looked back since. Her sense of humor can be raucous and ribald, but the best thing about Lancaster is that she never takes herself too seriously. In her latest laugh-out-loud book, the author decides to make a bucket list of things to do after she spends a girl’s weekend in Savannah with her best friends and realizes, much to her horror, she is now definitely middle-aged. From trying a juice cleanse to learning to ride a bike, Lancaster is bound and determined to turn her midlife crisis into a midlife opportunity for change instead.” Rambaud, Elodie. [The Paris Style Guide: Shop, Eat, Sleep](#) (Harper \$25). In this sophisticated insider’s guide to the best of Paris shopping, stylist and interior decorator Elodie Rambaud provides a personal tour of the city, pointing out choice boutiques of every kind, mapping out the best shopping routes, and listing not-to-be-missed destinations in every quarter. With this book in hand, every dimension of Parisian shopping and the best of daily life is at your fingertips, from flea markets to artisan workshops, from bustling cafés to little-known gardens. Even if she never gets to Paris, let Mom live it vicariously, aided by color photos and illustrated maps, plus lists of more than 200 shopping destinations of every kind to explore. *C’est bon.*

Reichl, Ruth. [Delicious!](#) (\$16). Food critic and former editor of *Gourmet* Reichl turns to fiction, but her story is powered by her love of food, the whole panoply of it. Billie Breslin has traveled far from her home in California to take a job at *Delicious!*, New York’s most iconic food magazine. Away from her family, particularly her older sister, Genie, Billie feels like a fish out of water—until she is welcomed by the magazine’s colorful staff. She is also seduced by the vibrant downtown food scene, especially by Fontanari’s, the famous Italian food shop where she works on weekends. Then *Delicious!* is abruptly shut down, but Billie agrees to stay on in the empty office, maintaining the hotline for reader complaints in order to pay her bills. To Billie’s surprise, the lonely job becomes the portal to a miraculous discovery. In a hidden room in the magazine’s library, Billie finds a cache of letters written during World War II by Lulu Swan, a plucky twelve-year-old, to the legendary chef James Beard. Lulu’s letters provide Billie with a richer understanding of history and a feeling of deep connection to the young writer whose courage in the face of hardship inspires Billie to come to terms with... life.

Roberts, Cokie. [Capital Dames](#) (Harper \$27.99). John Charles reviews Roberts: “Television journalist Roberts gained literary fame with her best-selling *Founding Mothers* and *Ladies of Liberty* books, which explored the lives of famous women in the Revolutionary War era. Now she turns her attention to the public and private lives of the ladies who lived during the tumultuous two decades surrounding the Civil War. From the women who risked their lives making munitions for the Union troops to those who put their needles and thread to use at the Navy Yard to those who nursed the wounded, Roberts highlights the tremendous sacrifices these ladies made that not only helped the Union win the war but also helped knit our country back together after the troops came marching home. This also makes the perfect complementary title to any of Jennifer Chiaverini’s historical novels like her recent *Mrs. Grant and Madame Jule*.”

Taylor, Sara. [The Shore Signed Limited Edition](#) (Heinemann UK \$36). The gorgeous cover with its splendid sea shells alone makes this a fabulous package. Signed and numbered with sprayed edges, complementing its beautiful yet devastating prose, and its highly ambitious concept which has immediately brought comparisons with David Mitchell. The pull of family is like the tide. “[A] remarkable first novel, an intricately plotted series of episodes in the life of two families ... A challenging family history of violence, murder, rape, castration and magic ... Taylor is a terrific storyteller with a flawless narrative voice and, as a portrait of the impoverished rural south, this novel is a real achievement ... There are ambitious experiments ... The Shore is a mesmerizing, powerful read.” —*The Times*. “Taylor is a beautiful writer, exceptionally talented in fact, and brings us lyrically into the hearts of each of her many characters ...”—*Irish Independent*

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.

### ROMANCE AND MORE (IDEAS FOR MOM)

John Charles writes: Rosamunde Pilcher had been writing romances in Great Britain for a number of years, but it wasn’t until 1987 with the publication of her novel *The Shell Seekers* that she finally hit the literary jackpot in the United States. The book is the story of elderly Penelope Keeling, who after returning home from the hospital, faces some difficult decisions about her life. Each of Penelope’s three children want her to do something different with the titular painting left to Penelope by her father, the artist Lawrence Stern. As Penelope struggles to make the right choice about the painting, she reflects back on her life growing up in Cornwall as well as the years during World War II when she meets her one true love. *The Shell Seekers* spent 30 weeks on the number 1# slot of the *New York Times* best-seller list, was one of the 100 top Big Reads list created by the BBC, and was turned into an award-winning television miniseries. There is a lot of talk about the world building skills of fantasy and science fiction writers when they create the elaborate literary landscapes in which they set their novels, but Pilcher does the same thing with women’s fiction. *The Shell Seekers* is filled with evocative descriptions of Cornwall, the luminous beauty of the paintings

created by Penelope’s father, and an abundance of cozy domestic details that will make you feel as if you are right there in Penelope’s kitchen with the Aga quietly purring away in the corner. If you have never read [The Shell Seekers](#) (\$15.99), now is the perfect time to give it a try since St. Martin’s is re-issuing it in a lovely trade paperback edition.

Andrews, Mary Kay. [Beach Town](#) (Simon Schuster \$26.99). Movie location scout Greer Hennessy is looking for the perfect sleepy, little beach town to blow up, and she thinks Cypress Key would be perfect. The only problem is the mayor, born again environmentalist Eb Thibadeaux, isn’t about to let anyone mess with his town, even someone as irresistibly sexy as Greer. Another fun, breezy summertime read from the always reliable Andrews (who also wrote some wonderfully funny mysteries as Kathy Hogan Trocheck, which are now being reprinted under her Andrews’s name)

Ashley, Kristen. [Fire Inside: A Chaos Novel](#) (Grand Central \$5). Lanie Heron just wants one night with Chaos Motorcycle Club member Hop Kincaid, but Hop won’t settle for anything more than a lifetime with her in this scorchingly sexy addition to the author’s “Chaos” series.

Friedland, Elyssa. [Love and Miss Communication](#) (Harper \$14.99). Enough is enough! Manhattan lawyer Evie Rosen’s addiction to email and the Internet has not only taken over every spare moment of her social life, it has just caused her to lose her job as well. As a result, Evie decides she is going to spend the next year completely offline connecting with people the old-fashioned way. As Evie struggles with email withdrawal symptoms and deals with having to find things out without the help of Google, she discovers cutting the technology cord does have some very real benefits of its own. In addition to providing a quick reality check on how addictive all of our electronic devices can become, this clever debut is tailor-made for readers, who enjoy the tart wit and sweet romance of chick lit.

Heath, Lorraine. [The Duke and the Lady in Red](#) (Harper \$7.99). Rosalind Sharpe’s plan to con the Duke of Avondale goes awry when she finds herself falling for her mark in Heath’s latest impeccably written Victorian-set historical, which not only delivers a beautifully matched pair of protagonists but also plenty of sizzling passion.

James, Eloisa. [Four Nights with the Duke](#) (Harper \$7.99.) Fifteen years ago Mia Carrington swore she wouldn’t marry Evander Brody, Duke of Pindar if he was the last man on earth, but now she must find a way to get him to accept her offer of marriage. Fortunately Evander agrees to Mia’s proposal but with one caveat: he will only spend four nights a year with his new wife. The heroine in James’ latest cleverly written historical is also a romance writer, which gives James the chance to have quite a bit of fun incorporating the life of a writer into her storyline.

McNear, Mary. [Moonlight on Butternut Lake](#) (Harper \$14.99). The temporary job is the answer to all of Mila Jones’ prayers. Mila needs to get out of Minneapolis and away from an abusive husband. Working as a home health care aide for Reid Ford would be the perfect summer job since Mila’s husband would never think to look for her in the small town of Butternut Lake. Even though Reid seems determined to drive her away with his cranky temper, Mila is positive she can live with him for at least three months. If you miss LaVyrle Spencer’s wonderful contem-



porary romances with their addictive blend of deep emotional warmth and subtle sensuality, McNear may be the author for you.

Pimentel, Melissa. [Love by the Book](#) (Penguin \$16). If Bridget Jones had an older, snarkier sister, she might be something like Lauren Cunningham, the heroine of Pimentel's wickedly funny debut novel. After a spectacularly disastrous breakup, Lauren moves from Portland, Minnesota, to London, but even there her bad luck continues. All Lauren wants to do is have some fun, but every man she dates seems to think she is out to trap him into marriage. Determined to turn things around romantically, Lauren decides to adopt a scientific approach to dating by selecting a different guide each month and then following the book's advice to the letter. From the 1990's hit *The Rules* to the hot book of the 1890s *Manners for Women*, Lauren tries everything from complete abstinence to all-out sluttness, never expecting that true love might be just one book away. Pimentel's debut is witty, sexy, and surprisingly sweet.

Robuck, Erika. [The House of Hawthorne](#) (NAL \$25.95). Invalid artist Sophia Peabody falls in love with author Nathaniel Hawthorne in Robuck's latest historical novel only to find herself struggling to balance the demands of being a wife and mother with finding time for her own art. If you enjoyed the recent cavalcade of historical novels about the woman behind the famous man (*Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan, *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain, *Rodin's Lover* by Heather Webb, etc.), Robuck's latest should be just your literary cup of tea.

Vaughan, Sarah. [The Art of Baking Blind](#) (SimonSchuster \$25.99). Five different amateur bakers vie for the chance to become the next Mrs. Eaden, whose 1966 cookbook *The Art of Baking* became the culinary bible for British bakers, in this wonderfully engaging debut. Each of the contestants have their reasons for wanting to win the considerable cash prize as well as the opportunity for launching their own culinary career, but each contestant also has their own secrets, which can derail their chance of winning. Vaughan not only perfectly captures the combination of art and science needed to be a great baker; she also explores the many reasons why people bake as well.

Williams, Beatriz. [The Secret Life of Violet Grant](#) (\$16). If you missed William's latest beguiling novel when it came out last year in hardcover, now is your chance to snap up a copy. The story shifts back and forth between 1964 New York, where Vivian Schuyler is trying to break into the male-dominated magazine writing business, and 1914 Europe, where Vivian's great-aunt Violet is trying to break into the male-dominated world of science. When Vivian unexpectedly takes possession of an old suitcase of Violet's, she begins digging into her past to see if the story that Violet murdered her husband and ran off with a younger man might really be true. Brimming with wonderfully realized characters; a plot rich in romance, secrets, and danger; and a strong sense of place and time (both 1960s New York and Europe on the eve of World War I), *The Secret Life of Violet Grant* is women's fiction at its very best. Note: I am a fan too which is why you will find a review form me in our May Trade Paperback Picks.

#### **FOR YOUNG READERS (TO SHARE WITH MOMS)**

Lieb, Josh. [Ratscalibur](#) (Razorbill \$16.99). It's *The Sword in the Stone*—with rats. When Joey is bitten by an elderly rat, he goes from aspiring seventh-grader to three-inch tall rodent. At first, Joey is amazed by his new rat self. And wow, the freedom!

But when a bout of hunger leads Joey to pull the spork from the scone, he finds himself at the center of a longtime rat prophecy. Joey has unwittingly unlocked the sword Ratscalibur; and now, it is up to him to protect his new rat friends from the evil crows who seek to destroy their peaceful kingdom. But what does an eleven-year-old know about actual swordplay? And what happens when Joey no longer wants to be a rat?

Quinn, Spencer. [Woof](#) (Scholastic \$16.99). When a prize stuffed marlin is stolen from Grammy's bait and tackle shop, Birdie and Bowser decide to take on the case. But what looks like a straightforward break-in soon becomes as tangled as a tourist's fishing line. Was Grammy hiding a treasure map in the marlin? What's up with Old Man Straker, owner of a rival tackle shop, and his juvenile delinquent son? And most sinister of all, why does it suddenly look as if someone wants to harm Birdie? Told entirely from Bowser's hilarious dog point of view, *Woof* launches a brand-new, slightly slobbery, but utterly winning detective duo. Ages 8-12. Can be signed when Quinn appears at The Pen July 23 with a new Chet & Bernie PI novel: [Scents and Sensibility](#) (\$25).

Stevens, Robin. [Murder Is Bad Manners](#) (S&S \$16.99). The *PW* Starred Review: "Eighth-grader Hazel Wong lives in the shadow of her best friend Daisy Wells, a girl so flawless that even retching seems to agree with her. Inspired by pulp fiction paperbacks, the girls form a secret detective agency at their boarding school, opening their first big case when their teacher, Miss Bell, turns up dead. Set in 1934 England, this first book in the Wells & Wong Mystery series is part murder mystery, part diary, and a pitch-perfect snapshot of adolescent friendship. Daisy is the classic mean girl: privileged, selfish, and as beautiful as she is heartless—all qualities that Hazel lacks. (Narrator Hazel isn't even the heroine of her own story!) The girls are in over their heads, but Daisy, used to bending everyone to her whims, refuses to admit it, so it's up to pragmatic Hazel to save the case, and their lives. Their yin-yang friendship, like the camaraderie of Sherlock and Watson, is as integral to the story as the revelation of the murderer." Ages 10+

Novik, Naomi. [Uprooted Signed](#) (Random \$25). "A young girl is unexpectedly uprooted from her family and becomes involved in a centuries-old battle with The Wood, a malevolent entity which destroys anyone it touches. Fast-paced, with magic, mystery and romance, Novik's stand-alone novel is a fairy tale for adults."

Tahir, Sabaa. [Ember in the Ashes](#) (Razorbill \$19.95). As one of the conquered Scholar people, Laia has grown wary of the ruthless Masks that enforce the Martial empire's laws. But the lesson doesn't hit home until Masks imprison her brother for aiding the Scholar Resistance. Desperate to save him, Laia agrees to spy for the rebels as a slave in Blackcliff, the hellish school where Masks are trained. Her mission becomes all the more dangerous when the empire's prophetic Augurs announce that, for the first time in centuries, four newly graduated Masks will compete for the emperor's throne. One of these "Aspirants," Elias, had been on the verge of desertion before he was chosen, and he only stays to compete because of the Augurs' warning that he will never know freedom unless he undergoes the Trials. Tahir's deft, polished debut alternates between two very different perspectives on the same brutal world, deepening both in the contrast. A debut getting great press, ages 14 and up.

## BRITISH BOOKS

Atkinson, Kate. [God in Ruins Signed](#) (Doubleday \$45). In this follow-up to 2013's [Life After Life](#) (\$18), Kate Atkinson charts the adventures of Ursula Todd's younger brother, Teddy, through childhood, fatherhood and growing old, his life interrupted and forever colored by his service as a fighter pilot in World War II. Teddy's early years are the essence of childhood innocence: a home in the English countryside surrounded by nature, the adoration of his beautiful mother, the Great War now a memory shared by the adults—a horror that could surely not come again. The only blight upon his childhood comes from *The Adventures of Augustus*, a series of humorously naive children's stories written by his aunt, Izzie, and loosely based upon his own life. From Teddy's viewpoint, "She had taken his life and twisted it and turned him into quite a different boy, a stupid boy, having stupid adventures." After stumbling through an unfocused young adulthood, Teddy finds the outbreak of World War II a relief, because it gives him a purpose, but it upends his life forever.... "At times funny and at others heartbreaking, Atkinson revels in the beauty and horror of life in all its messiness." Unsigned US edition: Atkinson, Kate. [God in Ruins](#) (LittleBrown \$28)

Billingham, Mark. [Time of Death Signed](#) (LittleBrown \$41). Two schoolgirls are abducted in the small, dying Warwickshire town of Polesford, driving a knife into the heart of the community where police officer Helen Weeks grew up and from which she long ago escaped. But this is a place full of secrets, where dangerous truths lie buried. When it's splashed all over the press that family man Stephen Bates has been arrested, Helen and her partner Tom Thorne head to the flooded town to support Bates' wife – an old school friend of Helen's – living under siege with two teenage children and convinced of her husband's innocence. As residents and media bay for Bates' blood, a decomposing body is found. The police believe they have their murderer in custody, but one man believes otherwise. With a girl still missing, Thorne sets himself on a collision course with local police, townsfolk – and a merciless killer. Bingham adds, "Ooh! All that and a LOT of creepy-crawlies. Even I want to read it, and I wrote the flipping thing."

Brookmyre, Christopher. [Dead Girl Walking](#) (Atlantic \$25). Famous, beautiful and talented, Heike Gunn has the world at her feet. Then, one day, she simply vanishes. Meanwhile, Edinburgh newshound Jack Parlabane has lost everything: his career, his marriage, his self-respect. A call for help from an old friend offers a chance for redemption—but only if he can find out what happened to Heike. Pursued by those who would punish him for past crimes, Parlabane enters the secret-filled world of Heike's band, *Savage Earth Heart*, a group at breaking point. Each of its members seems to be hiding something, not least its newest recruit Monica Halcrow, whose alleged relationship with Heike has become a public obsession. Monica's own story, however, reveals a far darker truth. "Brookmyre's intricate plot is tightly woven and transitions from multiple characters' perspectives seamlessly. Fans of Ian Rankin's John Rebus crime novels and Henning Mankell's Wallander books will enjoy the strong male protagonist. Readers already invested in Jack and his exploits will enjoy this chilly thriller, which also can serve as a stand-alone for newcomers."—*Library Journal* Starred Review

[Bred in the Bone](#) (\$15). Private investigator Jasmine Sharp's father was murdered before she was born, and her mother

went to self-sacrificing lengths in order to shield her from the world in which he moved. Since her mother's death, all she has been able to learn is his first name—and that only through a strange bond she has forged with the man who killed him: Glen Fallan. Detective Superintendent Catherine McLeod has one major Glaswegian gangster in the mortuary and another in the cells for killing him—which ought to be cause for celebration. Catherine is not smiling, however. From the moment she discovered a symbol daubed on the victim's head, she has understood that this case is far more dangerous than it appears on the surface, something that could threaten her family and end her career. Together these sleuths confront secrets and crooks.

Bude, John. [The Sussex Downs Murder](#) (British Library Crime Classics \$12.95). #1. Very much a Christie sort of story. Two brothers, John and William Rother, live together at Chalklands Farm in the beautiful Sussex Downs. Their peaceful rural life is shattered when John Rother disappears and his abandoned car is found. Has he been kidnapped? Or is his disappearance more sinister – connected, perhaps, to his growing rather too friendly with his brother's wife? Superintendent Meredith is called to investigate – and begins to suspect the worst when human bones are discovered on Chalklands farmland. His patient, careful detective method begins slowly to untangle the clues as suspicion shifts from one character to the next. This classic detective novel from the 1930s is now republished for the first time, with an introduction by the award-winning crime writer Martin Edwards, and brought to you by Poisoned Pen Press (Yay!).

Cleeves, Ann. [Thin Air](#) (St Martins \$25.99 US edition). A superior 6th entry in the Gold-Dagger winning *Shetland Island Mysteries*. A group of old university friends leave the bright lights of London and travel to Shetland to celebrate the marriage of one of their friends. But, one of them, Eleanor, disappears—apparently into thin air. It's mid-summer, a time of light nights and unexpected mists. And then Eleanor's body is discovered lying in a small loch close to the cliff edge. Detectives Jimmy Perez and Willow Reeves are dispatched to investigate. Before she went missing, Eleanor claimed to have seen the ghost of a local child who drowned in the 1920s. Her interest in the ghost had seemed unhealthy—obsessive, even—to her friends: an indication of a troubled mind. But Jimmy and Willow are convinced that there is more to Eleanor's death than they first thought. Is there a secret that lies behind the myth? And a crime, or two? [Click here](#) to order earlier books in the series.

Dams, Jeanne M. [The Gentle Art of Murder](#) (Severn \$28.95). Here's a 16th entry in a long-running cozy series featuring transplanted American Dorothy Martin. Murder strikes the art department of England's Sherebury University. Soon after Dorothy and her retired policeman husband, Alan, arrive at a party to honor the talented new sculpture instructor, someone kills John Chandler, the department head. Chandler was wildly unpopular with his staff, in part because of draconian budget cuts. But that doesn't explain why he was both stabbed and poisoned before being dropped in an elevator shaft. Nor is it clear how a plane ticket from Greece or the horrendous vandalism in the art studios is connected. The obnoxious painter Will Braithwaite is everyone's favorite suspect, but there's no evidence. While the police investigate, so do Dorothy and Alan. **Ordered Upon Request.**

Dennison, Hannah. [Deadly Desires at Honeychurch Hall Signed](#) (St Martins \$24.99). A village in Devon appalled at being split by a high-speed train, a vanished (potential) romantic hero, a missing sum, a closeted bodice-ripper writer and her still-stunned daughter, a lord of the manor, and lady, acting oddly... it all adds up to our **May British Crime Club Pick**.

Eatwell, Piu Marie. [The Dead Duke, His Secret Wife, and the Missing Corpse](#) (\$18). This true story could be an Anne Perry novel, no? The extraordinary story of the Druce-Portland affair, one of the most notorious, tangled and bizarre legal cases of the late Victorian and Edwardian eras. In 1897 an elderly widow, Anna Maria Druce, made a strange request of the London Ecclesiastical Court: it was for the exhumation of the grave of her late father-in-law, T.C. Druce. Behind her application lay a sensational claim: that Druce had been none other than the eccentric and massively wealthy 5th Duke of Portland, and that the—now dead—Duke had faked the death of his alter ego. When opened, Anna Maria contended, Druce's coffin would be found to be empty. And her children, therefore, were heirs to the Portland millions. The legal case that followed would last for ten years. Its eventual outcome revealed a dark underbelly of lies lurking beneath the genteel facade of late Victorian England.

Edwards, Martin. [The Golden Age of Murder](#) (Harper \$27.99 with Signed Bookplates). I've reviewed this for April and in the Enews, but here now is a Starred Review: "Crime novelist Edwards (Lake District Mysteries for Poisoned Pen Press), the archivist for the legendary Detection Club of crime authors, reveals the hidden lives of its members in a comprehensive and well-written narrative that combines biography with literary criticism. He focuses on the Club's three leading lights—Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, and the lesser-known Anthony Berkeley—and how their output between the world wars helped define the detective novel as we know it. Along the way, he dispels numerous myths about Golden Age detective fiction: for example, that it was "an essentially British form of escapism... an effete counterpart to the tough and realistic crime fiction produced in the United States." He documents his thesis that the Detection Club facilitated its members' creativity through mutual support and "challenging [them] to take the genre to a higher level." The trenchant analysis is coupled with revelations about the private lives of these very public authors, offering new information for casual fans and students of the genre alike, including details of Christie's mysterious disappearance and Sayers's secret child." [Click here](#) to order Edwards' atmospheric mysteries, perfect for readers of Peter Robinson and the late Reg Hill. The new one, [The Dungeon House](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 or \$14.95) publishes in September. The lovely cover reflects the actual Lake District location.

Fowler, Christopher. [Bryant and May and the Burning Man Signed](#) (Doubleday \$42). Bryant & May are back! And a good thing too, as London has fallen on some incredibly tough times. 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. 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. 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.

Frazer, Andrea. [Death in High Circles](#) (Accent UK \$17). Here is mischief afoot in the village of Fallow Fold. Persons unknown have been on a spree of vandalism, scratching cars, smashing colorful pots of flowers in full bloom, breaking greenhouse windows—and defiling a front door with a racist word, written in spray paint. The police are called, and given the unavailability of more junior personnel DI Harry Falconer and DS 'Davey' Carmichael arrive to investigate, but there are no obvious suspects. Then a resident is attacked as he keeps a nocturnal vigil, hoping to catch whoever is responsible for the vandalism. Soon, there is a surfeit of uncharacteristic behavior from those who live there, and Falconer begins to suspect that there is more to come. When the man who runs the local bridge circle disappears, there is a palpable whiff of evil in the air—which leads to a murderous attack on one of the police officers. This is a time when DI Falconer is forced to search his soul to discover what, and who, is really important in his life, and what really matters in it. *Death in High Circles* is the tenth full-length installment in the Falconer Files, detective novels featuring dastardly deeds done in picture-postcard villages...

Griffiths, Elly. [The Ghost Fields](#) (Houghton \$25). This is a real gem with a country-house murder sort of plot, further complications in the unconventional life of archaeologist Ruth Galloway, and magnificent portraits of the fens landscape with its ever-dangerous, encroaching North Sea. Wow! It begins when a digger uncovers a long-buried, downed WWII airplane in chalky soil. The body of the presumed pilot is unnervingly still in his seat. But Ruth soon determines that semi-mummified corpse is not the official pilot but the middle son of the nearby aristocratic Blackstock family who was reported lost with his own aircraft crew in the sea. How did Fred get into the plane, who put him there, and why? It's not that hard to work out who is the culprit, but there are still surprises in this terrific entry, impossible to put down, into one of my favorite series. Our Signed UK editions sold out. [Click here](#) to order the Ruth Galloway series which we recommend you read in order so you can follow the relationships. It's like one on-going saga.

Hay, Mavis Dorothy. [Death on the Cherwell](#) (British Library Crime Classic \$15). This is an older release from the University of Chicago. We will upload all the titles into our inventory soon; meanwhile [click here](#) to browse and order more. Originally published in 1935, this Golden Age mystery from Hay (1894–1979) offers a mesmerizing plot and credible characters. When four first-year students at Oxford's Persephone College gather on the gently sloping roof of a boathouse overlooking the river Cherwell to form a secret society, they notice Myra Denning, the college bursar, lying in a canoe drifting down the river. Upon pulling the canoe to shore, the four undergraduates—Sally Watson, Daphne Loveridge, Gwyneth Pane, and Nina Harson—find that Miss Denning is dead, perhaps drowned. While none of the four was particularly fond of the bursar, they all do what they can to help the police in what becomes a homicide case. Investigating on their own, Sally, Daphne, Gwyneth and Nina manage to unearth secrets that lead to a dramatic conclusion.

Hunter, Phillip. [To Kill For](#) (Zeus \$17). A poignant thriller from a new voice about love, revenge, and redemption set in the savage ganglands of East London. An ex-boxer and ex-paratrooper, Joe once had meaning in his life. People who cared for him, people who needed him. Then he lost everything, and now he is a hitman for London's most vicious criminals. Brenda was the only woman who ever loved him, and the only woman who believed he could escape the underworld. She died protecting others: now Joe wants revenge on her killers. With nothing left to lose, Joe prepares for the fight of his life.

Kingston, Charles. [Murder in Piccadilly](#) (British Library Crime Classic \$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? I think Bude reads better for modern mystery fans than Kingston.

Lagercrantz, David. [Fall of Man in Wilmslow Signed](#) (Quercus \$41). Leonard Corell, a detective sergeant in the sleepy town of Wilmslow, is disillusioned with his lot. Trapped between professional stagnation and personal repression, he can't even work up the courage to ask out Julie, the pretty assistant at the tailor's. Tasked with investigating the suicide of a local recluse, Alan Turing, Corell is torn between admiration for the dead man's genius and disgust for his sexuality. In the face of opposition from his superiors, Corell continues to investigate the open-and-shut case, stumbling across forbidden knowledge about the marvels of Bletchley Park, and the horrors of its hero's downfall. As this succession of remarkable discoveries drives Corell to examine his own prejudice, he is rocked by two startling developments. His much-loved Aunt Vicky is exposed as a lesbian, and his increasingly hostile bosses are demanding he investigate rumors of homosexual activity in Wilmslow. To make matters worse, it seems Corell's questions might be answered sooner than he imagined... Due in May, this mystery by the man selected to continue the Stieg Larsson thrillers (September) is our **June History/Mystery Pick**. You can envision Benedict Cumberbatch as you read about Turing.

Maitland, Karen. [The Raven's Head Signed](#) (Headline \$46). Her publisher calls her the Queen of the Dark Ages. I've always found her novels a rich if gritty, sometimes overcomplex, tapestry of medieval mystery. This new one "will delight fans of Kate Mosse or Deborah Harkness seeking a new, dark fix." Vincent is an apprentice librarian who comes into possession of an intricately carved silver raven's head. Any attempt to sell the head fails... until Vincent tries to palm it off on the intimidating Lord Sylvain, a member of the menacing White Canons. Soon, Vincent realizes that this shadowy group considers him a predestined sacrifice in a shocking experiment and the silver statue a catalyst for his own demise. Chilling and with compelling hints of the supernatural.

McDonald, Helen. [H is for Hawk](#) (Grove \$26). This incredible debut, a nonfiction bestseller, limns the story of how Cambridge academic Macdonald trained a goshawk in the wake of her father's death in a blend of grief memoir, T H White biography, and nature writing. Not only does it describe her hawk thus, having "a mad

marigold eye," but its descriptions of the landscape are extraordinary (see Ellie Griffiths' new novel above which also succeeds madly on this level). The whole is so submersive and intense I find it's best read in chapters rather than attempting the whole in one gulp. Its several accolades include the Costa Book of the Year Award earlier this year and the 2014 Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction. Film rights have just been sold to actress Lena Headey, who stars in the hugely successful television series "Game of Thrones".

Parsons, Tony. [The Slaughter Man Signed](#) (Century \$34). On New Year's Day, a wealthy family is found slaughtered inside their exclusive gated community in north London, their youngest child stolen away. The murder weapon – a gun for stunning cattle before they are butchered – leads Detective Max Wolfe to a dusty corner of Scotland Yard's Black Museum devoted to a killer who thirty years ago was known as the Slaughter Man. But the Slaughter Man has done his time, and is now old and dying. Can he really be back in the game? And was the murder of a happy family a mindless killing spree, a grotesque homage by a copycat killer – or a contract hit designed to frame a dying man? All Max knows is that he needs to find the missing child and stop the killer before he destroys another innocent family – or finds his way to his own front. And a detective who must learn that even the happiest of families have black, twisted secrets. I think Parsons, author of bestseller *Man and Boy*, ranks with Rankin, Robinson, James, and is livelier.

From the author of [The Murder Bag](#) (\$16.99), one of my favorite 2014 Surprise Me Club Picks! It begins that begins in one of England's oldest public schools, one founded by Henry VIII in 1509 (and where he had his prized dogs interred in a special grave). Max Wolfe follows his conviction in the face of orders to stand down and kills a suicide bomber. He gets The Queen's Medal, but what he wants is to join the Homicide Division, and so he does, at 27 Savile Row, London's West End Central. Working with a mentor he respects, he's thrown into one, then two brutal killings, men with their throats so cut they smothered before they bled out. Max connects the two victims through a photo of a group of boys who were pupils....

Ripley, Mike. [Margery Allingham's Mr. Champion's Fox](#) (Severn \$28.95). *PW* writes, "Having successfully completed an unfinished manuscript by Margery Allingham's husband (2014's Mr. Champion's Farewell), Ripley presents a fully original story, set in the 1960s, which paves the way for further focus on Rupert, the engaging grown son of Allingham's series sleuth, Albert Champion. At a diplomatic reception in London, Albert is approached by Aage Westergaard, the Danish ambassador, who's concerned about the well-being of his 18-year-old daughter, Vibeke, who's been working as an au pair in the Suffolk town of Gapton. Westergaard is uneasy about her boyfriend, Frank Tate, and asks Albert to keep an eye on him, surveillance that Albert delegates to Rupert. Rupert observes little that's unusual, apart from Tate's habit of dashing into pubs for just a minute or two. The favor becomes more complicated when Vibeke disappears and a corpse turns up in Gapton with the back of its head smashed in. Ripley maintains a light touch in the service of an intricate mystery that will please Allingham devotees and newcomers alike." **Ordered Upon Request**

Note: Allingham is less well known than Sayers and Christie, always more Gothic, but I am a true fan of her work and of Mr. Champion and his family, not to mention his man Lugg and

his police colleague Inspector Charles Luke, who gets his chance to shine in the classic [The Tiger in the Smoke](#) (14.95), one of the best British crime novels.

Runcie, James. [Sidney Chambers and the Forgiveness of Sins](#) (\$18). Canon Sidney Chambers continues his sleuthing adventures in 1960s Cambridge. On a snowy Thursday morning in Lent 1964, a stranger seeks sanctuary in Grantchester's church, convinced he has murdered his wife. Sidney and his wife Hildegard go for a shooting weekend in the country and find their hostess has a sinister burn on her neck. Sidney's friend Amanda receives poison pen letters when at last she appears to be approaching matrimony. A firm of removal men 'accidentally' drop a Steinway piano on a musician's head outside a Cambridge college. During a cricket match, a group of schoolboys blow up their school Science Block. On a family holiday in Florence, Sidney is accused of the theft of a priceless painting. Meanwhile, on the home front, Sidney's new curate Malcolm seems set to become rather irritatingly popular with the parish; his baby girl Anna learns to walk and talk; Hildegard longs to get an au pair and Sidney is offered a promotion. Check out the TV series: Sydney's passive nature can be annoying in a sleuth but the period is well evoked and Cambridge comes blazingly to life. Click [here](#) to order earlier investigations.

Seyler, Dorothy U. [The Obelisk and the Englishman](#) (Prometheus \$26). William John Banks (1786–1855) was a pioneer in the nascent study of the language, history, and civilization of ancient Egypt. At the Abydos Temple he discovered the King List — a wall of cartouches listing Egyptian kings in chronological order — which was vital to the decoding of Egyptian hieroglyphs. At Philae he uncovered a fallen obelisk, which he arranged to be transported back to England. And in modern-day Jordan he was the first European to make sketches and site plans of the “lost” city of Petra. Banks' life was rich and full, and his discoveries have proven to be quite valuable and influential. But, living in an era when homosexuality was a capital offense, he was persecuted for being gay and threatened with imprisonment and execution. His decision to travel and pursue his love of art and architecture went against his father's wishes that he follow in his footsteps and become a politician. Despite such obstacles, Banks' pioneering work on ancient temples and artifacts now enriches the knowledge of modern Egyptologists, and his art collection and decorative talents can be enjoyed by those who visit his home, a National Trust estate — with the obelisk from Philae still raised on the south lawn. Enhanced by many of Banks' drawings and paintings, this engaging story is full of vivid detail about the beginnings of Egyptology, Regency England, and a fascinating individual. A must for fans of Elizabeth Peters' Amelia Peabody mysteries; and don't forget Lord Carnarvon of Highclere, home to *Downton Abbey*, carried on in this tradition.

Tremayne, S K. [The Ice Twins](#) (Grand Central \$26). If you've ever fantasized about living on a remote, beautiful island, say off Scotland, you will love the descriptions in this psychological suspense story. Plus the idea of “flipping” an old lighthouse as an investment, a property with incredibly valuable views, is up to the minute, no? A year after one of their identical twin daughters, Lydia, dies in an accident, Angus and Sarah Moorcroft move to the tiny Scottish island Angus inherited from his grandmother, hoping to put together the pieces of their shattered lives. But when their surviving daughter, Kirstie, claims they have mistaken

her identity—that she, in fact, is Lydia—their world comes crashing down once again. As winter encroaches, Angus is forced to travel away from the island for work, Sarah is feeling isolated, and Kirstie (or is it Lydia?) is growing more disturbed. When a violent storm leaves Sarah and her daughter stranded, the shock opens up what happened the day one twin died. Once again, despite the on-going overturning of conventional attitudes about sex, we see that there is no more devastating trigger to disaster than adultery. And unsurprisingly, the “domestic suspense” train propelled by *Gone Girl* and *The Girl on the Train* inspires an author. Londoner “Tremayne” is a bestselling novelist and award-winning travel writer, and a regular contributor to newspapers and magazines

Vincenzi, Penny. [A Perfect Heritage](#) (Overlook \$28.95). The House of Farrell is home of The Cream, an iconic face product that has seen women flocking to its bijoux flagship store in the Berkeley Arcade since 1953. At Farrell, you can rely on the personal touch. The legendary Athina Farrell remains the company's figurehead and in her kingdom at the Berkeley Arcade, Florence Hamilton plies their cosmetics with the utmost discretion. She is sales advisor—and holder of secrets—extraordinaire. But of course the world of cosmetics is changing and the once glorious House of Farrell is now in decline, its customers tempted away by more fashionable brands. Enter Bianca Bailey, formidable business woman, mother of three, and someone who always gets her way. Athina and Bianca lock horns over the future of the House of Farrell but it is the past that tells its devastating tale of ambition and ego, passion and wonder. So Barbara Taylor Bradford, always fun.

Walters, Minette. [The Cellar Signed](#) (Hammer \$34). Muna's fortunes changed for the better on the day that Mr. and Mrs. Songoli's younger son failed to come home from school. Before then her bedroom was a dark windowless cellar, her activities confined to cooking and cleaning. She'd grown used to being maltreated by the Songoli family; to being a slave. She's never been outside, doesn't know how to read or write, and cannot speak English. At least that's what the Songolis believe. But Muna is far cleverer—and her plans more terrifying—than the Songolis, or anyone else, can ever imagine.... A novella from the long absent Walters.

#### WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Barry, Sebastian. [The Temporary Gentleman](#) (\$16). Irishman Jack McNulty is a “temporary gentleman”—an Irishman whose commission in the British army in World War II was never permanent. Sitting in his lodgings in Accra, Ghana, in 1957, he's writing the story of his life with desperate urgency. He cannot take one step further without examining all the extraordinary events that he has seen. A lifetime of war and world travel—as a soldier in World War II, an engineer, a UN observer—has brought him to this point. But the memory that weighs heaviest on his heart is that of the beautiful Mai Kirwan, and their tempestuous, heartbreaking marriage. Mai was once the great beauty of Sligo, a magnetic yet unstable woman who, after sharing a life with Jack, gradually slipped from his grasp.

Bolton, Sharon. [Little Black Lies](#) (St Martins \$25.99). The Falklands have fallen out the news since Britain waged war with Argentina over them. I've visited these lonely islands in the South Atlantic twice; the Falklands are British in culture with a

rugged Scottish landscape, heavy on birds (penguins... rockhoppers), sheep, and a marine economy supporting its communities. So when three children go missing one by one from a small village, we're in a version of a British village mystery by one of the most imaginative (and chilling) rising stars of crime fiction. Bolton gives us three points of view: Caitlin, Rachel, and Collum. Caitlin has suffered devastating losses: her two young sons in an accident of which we learn more over time, and her husband who divorced and married a new wife and has a new baby. Rachel, Caitlin's best friend from childhood, cause of the fatal accident, is married with children, but can't move on. Collum, a Scot who came to the islands as a soldier in the war, suffers from PTSD. He was Caitlin's lover at the time her sons died and he too, is more or less frozen. All three narrators are lost and grieving, none of them trusts anyone, least of all themselves. Accustomed to living in an idyllic community, fear and anger escalate among the locals. And so, as the investigation into the missing boys (who curiously resemble each other) unfolds, as secrets are gradually revealed and confessions made, is resolution reached? This skillful author saves one last stunning surprise for the end. Thus, our **May Fresh Fiction Club Pick. You can instead order a Signed UK copy due in mid-July: [Little Black Lies](#) (\$34)**

Jones, J. Sydney. [Basic Law](#) (Mysterious \$14.95). Moving from turn of the 20th century Vienna to post-Cold War, Jones presents expat American journalist Sam Kramer. He's burned out: too many dead bodies, too many wars covered, too little meaning in it all. He's got a dead-end job at the Daily European as the correspondent for Vienna, where nothing happens now that the Cold War is over. And that is exactly how Kramer likes it. But his private neutral zone is shattered with news of the suicide of Reni Müller, a German left-wing firebrand and Kramer's longestranged ex-girlfriend. To his surprise, Kramer suddenly finds himself the executor of Reni's literary estate—but the damning memoir named in her will is nowhere to be found. Tracking down the manuscript will lead Kramer to the unsettling truth of Reni's death, drawing him back into the days of the Cold War and showing him the dark side of the woman he loved.

Hewson, David. [The Wrong Girl Signed](#) (Macmillan \$41). Sinterklaas, a beaming, friendly saint with a white beard, was set to mark his arrival in Amsterdam with a parade so celebrated it would be watched live on television throughout the Netherlands. Today the crowds would run into 300,000 or more, and the police presence would top four figures. The city centre was closed to all traffic as a golden barge bore Sinterklaas down the Amstel River, surrounded by a throng of private boats full of families trying to get close. Brigadier Pieter Vos is on duty with his young assistant, Laura Bakker, when the first grenade hits. As Sinterklaas prepares to address the crowds, a terrorist incident grips the heart of the city. In the chaos a young girl wearing a pink jacket is kidnapped. But the abducted child isn't the daughter of an Amsterdam aristocrat as the terrorists first thought. She's the daughter of an impoverished Georgian prostitute, friendless and trapped in the web of vice that is Amsterdam's Red Light District. As the security forces and the police clash over the ensuing investigation, the perpetrator's horrifying demands become clear. Vos, trapped in a turf war with state intelligence, tries to unravel a conspiracy that reaches from the brothels of the city to the hierarchy of the security services. And at its heart lies an eight-year-old girl...

Holt, Jonathan. [The Traitor Signed](#) (Zeus \$41). He died in the darkness, surrounded by friends. They found him at sunrise, on Venice's most popular beach. His throat had been cut, his tongue removed. Captain Kat Tapo suspects a ritual murder with Masonic roots. The brotherhood won't give up its secrets to a policewoman – but Kat won't give up the hunt. She'll use all the allies she has: friends, lovers, hackers, spies. But shocking truths about the case are about to come to light. And when they do, it will be a race against time to unlock the secrets of Italy's past – before Venice itself starts to burn... Book #3 in the Carnivia Trilogy which I find intense and intriguing. Want to know Italy's secret history? Try [Carnivia.com](#). And [read/order](#) Holt's trilogy *Abomination* (\$14.95), *Abduction* (\$15.99), and this.

Koch, Herman. [A Summer House with Swimming Pool](#) (\$15). Karen Shaver writes: "If you enjoyed [The Dinner](#) (\$14), you will relish the strong, smart, sometimes chilling voice of the narrator in Koch's new novel. Marc Schlosser, a successful but reluctant doctor for many theater people and artists in Amsterdam, is faced with the monotony of his practice and countless unwanted invitations. When Marc, his wife, and their beautiful teenage daughters agree to join a famous actor and his family for an innocent summer vacation at a rented house with a swimming pool on the Mediterranean, the scene is set for tragedy. Koch is at his very disturbing best in this story where little is what it seems. You will be left unable to put this book down." In its Starred Review, *PW* adds, "In Koch's equally devious follow-up to *The Dinner*, civilization is once again only a thin cover-up for man's baser instincts... The air is rife with sexual tension as Ralph showers too much attention on Marc's underage daughter, Julia, and Marc toys with having an affair with Ralph's wife, Judith. Then tragedy strikes. Very few real-world events will distract readers from finishing this addictive book in one or two sittings."

Laurain, Antoine. [The Red Notebook](#) (Gallic Books \$14.95). The May Indie Next Pick: "Parisian journalist Laurain delightfully proved his fiction-writing prowess with *The President's Hat*. Mistaken identities and twists of fate figure once again in this charming love story of a woman who is mugged and badly hurt and the heroic bookseller, Laurent Letellier, who finds her purse and, for reasons he can't explain, embarks on a journey to find her and return the handbag and its contents. Set against the backdrop of the small bookstores and arrondissements of Paris, and featuring recent Nobel Prize winner Patrick Modiano, this is a story that is sure to please." A must for fans of Cara Black and Mark Pryor. "Laurain's gentle, satirical humor reminds this reviewer of Jacques Tati's classic films, and, no, you don't have to know French politics to enjoy this charming novel. Fans of Muriel Barbery's *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* will want this."—*Library Journal*

Lemaitre, Pierre. [Camille](#) (Quercus \$24.99) is the heart-stopping final chapter of Lemaitre's multi-award-winning trilogy. Anne Forestier finds herself in the wrong place at the wrong time when she is trapped in the middle of a raid on a jeweler on the Champs-Élysées. Shot three times, she is lucky to survive—and morbidly unlucky to remember the face of her assailant. Followed home from her hospital bed, Anne is in grave danger. But one thing stands in her favor: a dangerously vengeful partner, carrying the scars of devastating loss, who will break all the rules to protect the woman he loves: Commandant Camille Verhoeven. [Click here](#) to order *Alex and Irene*, which come first.

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*. (If you know the opera, you will anticipate much of the plot here, such fun). As an opera superstar, Flavia has dealt with fans adulatory, smothering, even stalking. But for some weeks one has been inundating her with bouquets of yellow roses – on stage, in her dressing room, left inside her locked apartment. It smacks of the deranged, and the dangerous. Meeting Brunetti and Paola at a performance, invited to dinner at his in-laws mansion, Flavia tells Brunetti her tale. Familiar with Flavia's melodramatic temperament and wide-ranging love life, Brunetti is at first unperturbed by her story, but when another young opera singer is attacked he begins to think Flavia's fears may have merit. Suspense builds to a surprise and, for fans of *Tosca*, a not unanticipated resolution albeit with a nifty final touch. US tip-ins: [Falling in Love Signed](#) (Grove \$26)

MacBride, Stuart. [22 Dead Little Bodies Signed](#) (Collins \$19.99). As the title implies, this is a short novel set in Granite City. Aberdeen's Acting DI Logan McRae and DCI Robert Steel have had a bad week pissing on each other's turf. Every time McRae's unit turns up anything interesting, Steel's Major Investigation Team waltzes in and takes over, leaving CID with all the dull and horrible jobs. Like dealing with Mrs. Black, who hates her neighbor, the police, and everyone else. Or identifying the homeless man who drank himself to death behind some bins. Or tracking down the wife and kids of someone who's just committed suicide. But then... dead bodies start turning up. Maybe it was better to be working the less challenging cases....

Magson, Adrian. [Close Quarters Signed](#) (Severn \$44). 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 a host of dangerous adversaries. But what he cannot know, is that his most lethal enemy comes from his own side..."The term thriller hardly does justice to this taut page-turner that's packed with action, adventure, danger, ingenuity, bravery, horror, and shocking violence."—*Booklist* starred review of *The Watchman*

McPherson, Catriona. [Come to Harm](#) (Midnight Ink \$14.99). If you are looking for something quite out of the ordinary, bizarre would cover it, this standalone bringing a Japanese scholarship student to a university at Edinburgh on a scholarship supported by "the Painchton Traders," would be the ticket. Keiko is an endearing point of view character and much of what she finds in Scotland reads as a sly send-up of a culture dramatically foreign to her in most respects. But the truly creepy factor accelerates as events unfold in this very closed mercantile community outside the city (very Agatha Christie) and the role of the butcher shop moves to the fore. The tale again raises the question of what does a family do when one of them is clearly deranged? See my comments on Will Thomas' Victorian thriller in British Books.

Murakami, Haruki. [Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage](#) (\$15.95). "Bold and colorful threads of fiction blur smoothly together to form the muted white of an almost ordinary realism. Like J.M. Coetzee, Murakami smoothly interlaces allegorical meanings with everyday particulars of contemporary social reality. . . . Tsukuru's situation will resonate with anyone who feels adrift in this age of Google and Facebook." —*San Francisco Chronicle*

Sendker, Jan-Philipp. [Whispering Shadows Signed](#) (Atria \$25.99). The May Indie Next Pick: "The author of *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* focuses again on what he knows best: the human condition. Love, trust, and friendship are exquisitely woven into a beautiful narrative that draws the reader into another world. Paul Leibovitz has made his home in Hong Kong and has had a very successful life, but a personal tragedy involving his son leaves him bereft and isolated. As he struggles to navigate the losses in his life, Paul is drawn into a mystery involving a missing American businessman. Paul and his Chinese friend, Zhang, attempt to discover the truth and are caught in a web of distrust and lies, and Chinese culture and political history play significant roles in resolving the crime. I loved it!" So did I and as it starts a crime series, it's a **First Mystery Club Pick**. Hurry—we don't have many Signed firsts left! "An absorbing mystery set in a Hong Kong tourists only glimpse—the dark underside of a money-making beehive trying to find its place in a cynically corrupt new China. Vivid and knowing."—Joseph Kanon.

Simenon, Georges. [Shadow Puppet](#) (Penguin \$11). Book twelve in the new Penguin Maigret series. One by one the lighted windows went dark. The silhouette of the dead man could still be seen through the frosted glass like a Chinese shadow puppet. A taxi pulled up. It wasn't the public prosecutor yet. A young woman crossed the courtyard with hurried steps, leaving a whiff of perfume in her wake. Summoned to the dimly-lit Place des Vosges one night, where he sees shadowy figures at apartment windows, Inspector Maigret uncovers a tragic story of desperate lives, unhappy families, addiction and a terrible, fatal greed. Penguin is publishing the Maigret novels in new translations.

Stavans, Ilan, ed. [Reclaiming Travel](#) (Duke University \$23.95). Essays that look at how and why people travel, while questioning the broader implications of travel's environmental, political, humanitarian effects. Rather than draw on personal adventures to share their ideas, Stavans and Ellison offer stories from literature, including Homer's *Odyssey* and Jamaica Kincaid's *Small Island*. This helps make their book accessible to any audience because, while it's difficult to experience another person's vacation, these clear, well-written narratives resonate.

Thomas, Paul. [Fallout](#) (Bitter Lemon \$14.95). An excellent New Zealand "big, bruising police procedural" (Ian Rankin) that combines a complicated three-strand plot with vivid locations and a lot of backstory history (Australian and New Zealand politics plus American nuclear initiatives). Terrific! The long unsolved murder of a young girl during a lavish pre-election party haunts Auckland District Commander Finbar McGrail, a maverick cop but a good one. McGrail, aware of the unorthodox, occasionally illegal, and undeniably effective methods of Detective Tito Ihaka, the profane, overweight, Maori star of Thomas' *Death on Demand*, pulls Ihaka off active duty to close the case. Ihaka, more obstinate than McGrail could ever be, quickly discovers that

some very important people—politicians, businessmen, models—attended the 1987 party, and Barton had left their names off the list he gave to McGrail. Now, nearly 30 years later, those guests will not be happy to be involved in a murder investigation. That just means Ihaka will have to be wiler than usual. Read this on its own or start with [Death on Demand](#) (\$14.95)—I have ordered myself a copy so impressed am I with *Fallout*.

Walker, Martin. [The Children Return](#) (Knopf \$24.95—UK title *Children of War*). The latest entry in our bestselling trade paperback series of Bruno, Chief of Police and its sequels. Bruno, the St Denis charmer, is already busy with a case when the body of an undercover French Muslim cop is found in the woods, a man who called Bruno for help only hours before. But Bruno's sometime boss and rival, the Brigadier, doesn't see this investigation as a priority—there are bigger issues at stake. Bruno has other ideas. Meanwhile, a Muslim youth named Sami turns up at a French army base in Afghanistan hoping to get home to St Denis. One of Bruno's old army comrades helps to smuggle Sami back to France, but the FBI aren't far behind. Then an American woman appears in St Denis with a warrant for Sami's extradition. Bruno must unravel these multiple mysteries, amidst pressure from his bosses. My favorite is The Mayor. This astonishing book with its multi-faceted view of the crisis facing France and Europe is more than an absorbing (and delightful) read; it's compelling and insightful. [Click here](#) to order all the Brunos.

#### FIRST NOVELS

Donoghue, John. [The Death's Head Chess Club](#) (Farrar \$26). Moving back and forth from wartime Auschwitz to 1962 Amsterdam (with a finish at the 1963 camp grounds), this moving novel mercilessly portrays of the horrors of the Nazi death camps—Auschwitz was a death/work camp tied to IG Farben—and asks if there was such a thing as a wartime good German? And the story's structure is tied to chess which plays a major role in how the narrative unfolds. When SS Obersturmführer Paul Meissner sets up a chess club at Auschwitz, he's pressured to match the best German players against a Jewish prisoner called the Watchmaker, undefeated among the inmates. They form an uneasy relationship. They meet years after the war and Meissner, now a bishop, attempts to get to grips with their shared pasts. Unlike the game, nothing is clearly black and white. Karen Shaver highly recommends this first novel, and now I do too, so we have Signed UK copies for you: [The Death's Head Chess Club Signed](#) (Atlantic UK \$34).

Griffin, Neal. [Benefit of the Doubt Signed](#) (Forge \$25.99). A debut by a long-time cop produces a superior cop novel and our **May Hardboiled Crime Club Pick**. See Event Books.

Jonasson, Ragnar. [Snowblind Signed](#) (Orenda \$36). Siglufjorour: an idyllically quiet fishing village in Northern Iceland, where no one locks their doors – accessible only via a small mountain tunnel. Ari Thor Arason: a rookie policeman on his first posting, far from his girlfriend in Reykjavik – with a past that he's unable to leave behind. When a young woman is found lying half-naked in the snow, bleeding and unconscious, and a highly esteemed, elderly writer falls to his death in the local theatre, Ari is dragged straight into the heart of a community where he can trust no one, and secrets and lies are a way of life. An avalanche and unremitting snowstorms close the mountain pass, and the 24-hour darkness threatens to push Ari over the edge, as curtains begin

to twitch, and his investigation becomes increasingly complex, chilling and personal. Past plays tag with the present and the claustrophobic tension mounts, while Ari is thrust ever deeper into his own darkness – blinded by snow, and with a killer on the loose. “Taut and terrifying, *Snowblind* is a startling debut from an extraordinary new talent, taking Nordic Noir to soaring new heights.” I may say more when I get to read this UK import.

Marshall, Alex. [A Crown for Cold Silver](#) (Orbit \$26). Alex Marshall's debut epic fantasy novel begins with a massacre. A regiment serving the Crimson Empire surrounds and slaughters a village full of men, women and children in a failed attempt to murder a retired, and legendary, general known as Cobalt “Cold” Zosia. This incident spurs a dozen plots and subplots, with Marshall ably jumping among characters scattered across a huge and well-imagined world. Cold Zosia's blood-soaked quest for revenge as she takes up arms again forms the backbone of a narrative that encompasses fanatical religions, ethnic conflict and enough fiendish political maneuvering to make George R.R. Martin jealous. “*A Crown for Cold Silver* is distinguished by the sheer thrill of its action scenes, which benefit enormously from Marshall's pulp-infused prose.”—Hank Stephenson

McDonald, Helen. [H is for Hawk](#) (Grove \$26). This incredible debut, a nonfiction bestseller, limns the story of how Cambridge academic Macdonald trained a goshawk in the wake of her father's death in a blend of grief memoir, TH White biography, and nature writing. See British Books for more.

Moriarty, Cal. [The Killing of Bobby Lomax Signed](#) (Faber \$35). A Karin-Slaughter sort of debut set in Canyon County, Halloween, 1983. Bobbi Lomax was the first to die; the bomb killed the prom queen on her own front lawn. Just moments later one of the nails from the city's second bomb forced its way into the brain of property investor Peter Gudsen, killing him almost instantly. The third bomb didn't quite kill Clark Houseman. Hovering on the brink, the rare books dealer turns out to be Detectives Sinclair and Alvarez's best hope of finding out what linked these unlikely victims, and who wanted them dead and why. But can they find the bomber before he kills again? Set deep in the religious heartlands of America, *The Killing of Bobbi Lomax* follows this troubled investigation as a narrative of deceit, corruption and forgery emerges, with an unlikely hero at its heart – a rare coins, books and manuscript dealer – who could either be a genius or the devil. **Our May Surprise Me! Club Pick**.

Novic, Sara. [Girl at War](#) (Random \$26). The May Indie Next Pick: “Set in Zagreb in 1991, just prior to the outbreak of the Croatian war for independence, *Girl at War* is the story of Ana, a 10-year-old tomboy who enjoys spending time with her baby sister, biking around the city with her best friend, and summering with her family and friends on the Adriatic Sea. When the civil conflict escalates, Ana is forced to grow up too quickly. Debut author Novic expertly shares an astounding story of the brutality of war, the things one does to survive, and the confusion, anger, and guilt that is left in its wake. This is page-turning storytelling!” As civil war breaks out across Yugoslavia, soccer games and school lessons are supplanted by sniper fire and air raid drills. When tragedy suddenly strikes, Ana is lost to a world of guerrilla warfare and child soldiers; a daring escape plan to America becomes her only chance for survival. Ten years later Ana is a college student in New York. She's been hiding her past from her



boyfriend, her friends, and most especially herself. Haunted by the events that forever changed her family, she returns alone to Croatia, where she must rediscover the place that was once her home and search for the ghosts of those she's lost. With generosity, intelligence, and sheer storytelling talent, Sara Novic's first novel confronts the enduring impact of war, and the enduring bonds of country and friendship.

Tahir, Sabaa. [Ember in the Ashes](#) (Razorbill \$19.95). See For Young Readers (14 and up) above.

#### MAY TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

Abbott, Megan. [Fever](#) (\$15). A teen girl suffers a seizure at school. Then another one does. Then another. The Nashes are a close-knit family. Tom is a popular teacher, father to two teens: Eli, a hockey star and girl magnet, and his sister Deenie, a diligent student. Their seeming stability, however, is thrown into chaos when Deenie's best friend Lise is struck by a terrifying, unexplained seizure during class. Rumors of a hazardous outbreak spread through the family, school and community. As hysteria swells and more girls succumb, a series of tightly held secrets emerge, threatening to unravel friendships, families and the town's fragile idea of security... [Click here](#) to order other novels by Abbott.

∞Dunn, Carola. [Heirs of the Body](#) (\$15.99). As long as we are doing so much classic English crime this month, let's add a new chapter to the 1920s scene. The Honourable Daisy Dalrymple Fletcher is recruited to help her cousin Edgar, Lord Dalrymple, who is about to turn fifty, Lord Dalrymple decides it is time to find out who would be the heir to the viscounty. With the help of the family lawyer, who advertises Empire-wide, they have come up with four potential claimants. In classic Christie style, Edgar invites the four candidates, along with Daisy and other Dalrymples, to the family estate, Fairacres. Plus he appoints Daisy to represent the family as the lawyers interview the claimants. They are a mixed bag representative of the Empire: a hotelier from Scarborough, a diamond merchant from South Africa, a young mixed-raced boy from Trinidad, and a sailor from Jamaica. However, according to his very pregnant wife, the sailor has gone missing.... [Click here](#) to order some of the many Daisy Dalrymples.

Guinn, Jeff. [Glorious](#) (\$16). . "If, like me, you've been waiting for the next Louis L'Amour or Zane Grey, the good news is his name is Jeff Guinn. His newest novel, *Glorious*, has all the elements of a fabulous western: compelling characters, breath-taking scenery, and something more—an unblinking take on the western frontier."—Craig Johnson on the start of a series set in the Arizona Territory in 1872. Guinn's [The Last Gunfight](#) (\$16.99) took on the legend of the OK Corral.

Harkness, Deborah. [The Book of Life](#) (\$17). Matthew and Diana have returned to the future and things have changed, as have they. In ancestral homes (mostly in France) and university laboratories, using ancient knowledge and modern science, from the hills of the Auvergne to the palaces of Venice, the couple at last learns what the witches discovered so many centuries ago. Surprising twists and turns make this a delightful conclusion to the All Souls trilogy. [Click here](#) to order the first two volumes in the trilogy, *The Discovery of Witches* and *Shadow of Night*. And note we have 4 Signed Firsts of *The Book of Life*.

Johnson, Craig. [Any Other Name](#) (\$16). Walt Longmire is sinking into high-plains winter discontent when his former boss, Lucian Conally, asks him to take on a mercy case in an adjacent county. Detective Gerald Holman is dead and Lucian wants to know what drove his old friend to take his own life. With the clock ticking on the birth of his first grandchild, Sheriff Walt learns that the by-the-book detective might have suppressed evidence concerning three missing women. Digging deeper as the clock ticks on the birth back in Philly, Walt uncovers an incriminating secret so dark that it threatens to claim other lives even before the sheriff can serve justice—Wyoming style. This is a dark story told with Johnson's trademark erudition and humor, a terrific blend. [Click here](#) to order earlier Walt Longmires and see Event Books for the new one.

Krueger, William Kent. [Windigo Island](#) (\$16). Readers of this long-running series know that Tamarack County's Cork O'Connor has Anishinaabe blood, as do his children, plus a special relationship with *mide* Henry Meloux who lives at the end of Crow Point, no longer alone but with his great-niece Rainy Bisonette who has become Cork's lover. No longer sheriff, Cork does private work. And he can't refuse Henry when the old man asks Cork to investigate the death of Carrie Verga, a Bad Bluff Chippewa from Bayfield, Wisconsin who's been found in Lake Superior near the rez. As shown in one of Cork's earlier cases [Red Knife](#) (\$15), the Minnesota reservations can be bleak offering little to Indian youth. But what forces are at work here? His daughter Jenny joins him in working the case. Krueger increasingly portrays the ways that crimes and their investigation affects those who do so as well as those who commit them, or are victims. No 2015 book for Krueger. [Click here](#) to order his earlier work.

Lackberg, Camilla. [The Hidden Child](#) (\$15.95). Detective Patrik Hedström of the Swedish coastal village of Fjällbacka is on paternity leave, looking after his toddler daughter, Maja, though that doesn't stop him from taking her to a crime scene, much to the chagrin of Patrik's wife, Erica Falck. Someone struck elderly Erik Frankel, an expert on Nazis, a fatal blow to the head in the house he shared with his brother, Axel, who tracks Nazi war criminals. Is the historian's murder related to the uptick in neo-Nazi activity? Meanwhile, Erica has a connection to the victim. She recently asked Erik to examine a Nazi medal that she discovered among the possessions of her late mother, Elsy. Flashbacks to WWII describe how Elsy, the Frankels, and others befriended a young French Resistance fighter. Horrific secrets come to light as the author skillfully shows how the past has influenced recent events. [Click here](#) to order earlier Lackbergs, all excellent.

McGarrity, Michael. [Backlands](#) (\$17) advances the story of Patrick Kerney, his ex-wife, Emma; and their young son, Matthew, shortly after the tragic battlefield death of their eldest son, CJ, at the end of World War I. Scarred by the loss of an older brother he idolized, estranged from a father he barely knows, and deeply troubled by the failing health of a mother he adores, eight-year-old Matthew is suddenly and irrevocably forced to set aside his childhood and take on responsibilities far beyond his years. When the world spirals into the Great Depression and drought settles like a plague over the nation, Matt must abandon his own dreams to salvage the Kerney ranch in New Mexico's Tularosa. Plunged into a deep trough of dark family secrets, hidden crimes, broken promises, and lies, Matt must struggle to survive on the

unforgiving, sun-blasted, drought-stricken Tularosa Basin. Book Two in McGarrity's American West trilogy giving us the backstory of New Mexico cop Kevin Kerney. Start with [Hard Country](#) (\$16).

Quinn, Spencer. [Paw and Order](#) (\$16). Chet the Dog and Bernie Little, PI, mop up their New Orleans case and head to DC where Suzie Sanchez, Bernie's main squeeze, has taken a new job as a reporter. It's a long way from the Valley of the Sun here in Arizona, but politicians and the power hungry are just the same on a national level as on the state, and Suzie is thus working on a big story she won't discuss. Then her source, a mysterious Brit, runs into dire trouble and Bernie suddenly finds himself under arrest. Chet has meanwhile gotten to know a DC powerhouse. Soon he and Bernie are sucked into an international conspiracy.... The joy of Chet, the voice of this series, is that he's a dog, thinks like one, has attention deficits like one, often losing the thread, but is unwaveringly loyal. Quinn does a masterful job but then I always loved his Peter Abrahams books and their astonishing plots. [Click here](#) to order all the Quinns.

✚Thomas, Will. [Fatal Enquiry](#) (\$15.99). Some years ago, Cyrus Barker matched wits with Sebastian Nightwine, an aristocrat and sociopath—it's a Holmes vs. Moriarty scenario. Exposure of his evil sent Nightwine fleeing British justice somewhere in the far corners of the earth. The last thing Barker ever expected was to encounter Nightwine again—but the government, now believing it needs Nightwine's help, has granted him immunity for his past crimes and brought him back to London (is this a modern scenario, or what?). Nightwine, however, has more on his mind than redemption—and as Barker and Llewellyn set out to uncover and thwart Nightwine's real scheme, they find themselves in a second, possibly fatal, duel with the criminal genius/psychopath. "This is what Conan Doyle would write after taking tea with Lee Child..."—Julia Spencer-Fleming, capturing the darker atmosphere that makes a Nero Wolfe/Archie Goodwin comparison less apt. For the sequel, see British Books above.

✚Todd, Charles. [Unwilling Accomplice](#) (\$14.99). WWI Nurse Bess Crawford #6 in a series I truly enjoy—it lacks the melancholy of the Ian Rutledge mysteries. Bess, home on leave, is asked to accompany a wounded soldier to Buckingham Palace, where he's to be decorated by the king. The next morning, when Bess goes to collect him, Wilkins' room is empty and he's nowhere to be found. Both the army and the nursing service blame Bess for losing a patient, a hero at that, but label him a deserter. Feeling her reputation besmirched and that of her father as well, Bess sets off with the aid of family friend Simon to track down the missing soldier across England... As ever with the Todds, the meticulous record-keeping of the British Army commands respect as the case develops into a countryside chase. [Click here](#) to order Bess' earlier investigations.

Tucker, Neely. [Ways of the Dead](#) (\$16). Although Neely is writing in Pelecanos territory, the backstreets of DC, basing his story on the 1990s Princeton Place murders, it's easy to see why Michael Connelly and John Sandford champion it—the protagonist is a reporter, one Sully Carter; the newsroom clearly that of the *Washington Post* if named differently; and the investigation shows how an investigative journalist sinks his teeth into a developing story and won't let go. Irresistible. A 2014 First Mystery Club Pick in hardcover.

Williams, Beatriz. [The Secret Life of Violet Grant](#) (\$16). Start in Manhattan, 1964. Vivian Schuyler, newly graduated from Bryn Mawr College, has recently defied the privilege of her storied old Fifth Avenue family to do the unthinkable for a budding Kennedy-era socialite: break into the Madison Avenue world of razor-stylish *Metropolitan* magazine, living on peanuts instead of family money. But when she receives a bulky overseas parcel in the mail, forwarded from Switzerland, the unexpected contents draw her inexorably back into her family's past, and the hushed-over story of an aunt, a scientist married to an Oxford don, her mentor, just before WWI when women had little chance of an actual degree or career. She and the don moved to Berlin soon after their marriage where Williams unfolds, bit by bit, the crimes that ended up getting the aunt wiped out of the family record. You will be outraged for her! "Readers will love wallowing in the twists and turns of this irresistibly luxurious tale." —*Booklist*.

#### SOME NEW BOOKS... MORE TO COME LATER IN MAY

Bacigalupi, Paolo. [The Water Knife Signed](#) (Knopf \$25.95). Out the end of May, our June Modern Firsts Club Pick is compelling, topical, and gorgeously written. Patrick reviews: "One of the most interesting and diverse writers at work today, Bacigalupi returns with a brilliantly imagined thriller that will be of particular relevance to those of us in the Southwest. It is the near-future, and water supplies have been depleted due to drought and overdevelopment. The wealthy elite live in climate controlled arcologies while the majority of the population fights desperately for every drop of water. Angel Velasquez is a "water knife," a kind of mercenary for hire for the Southern Nevada Water Authority. He is sent to Phoenix to investigate a possible water source here in the desert, where the city teeters on collapse. He encounters a beautiful rogue journalist devoted to telling the truth about the battling water cartels at any cost, as well as a rag-tag community of survivors and desperadoes eking out a very tenuous existence. As competing factions enter the fray, things get violent fast, and life becomes much simpler and elemental as a drink of water becomes more valuable than any other asset. Bacigalupi's visionary tale is visceral and thought provoking, but also entertaining as hell. Miss this one at your peril, folks."

Baldacci, David, ed. [Faceoff](#) (\$7.99). This terrific concept unites pairs of crime writers in clever stories. Imagine Patrick Kenzie (Dennis Lehane) and Harry Bosch (Michael Connelly) working together on a case. Other pairings include Paul Madriani (Steve Martini) and Alexander Cooper (Linda Fairstein) as well as Jack Reacher (Lee Child) working with Nick Heller (Joseph Finder). There are eleven pairings altogether, some a surprise, but always interesting." "Rhymes with Prey" by Deaver and Sandford is, for me, the plum in this International Thriller Writers Association project/fundraiser.

Bell, Hillary Locke. [Collar Robber](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.95). One of the mysteries here, for most of us, is what does the title mean? It's perfect for this thriller centered on Pittsburgh but ranging to Europe, particularly Austria, and taking inspiration in part from the life of Alma Mahler. I love art mysteries with their always tricky questions of provenance and authenticity, and museum politics. Think Daniel Silva's 2014 [The Heist](#) (\$9.99) and his earlier Gabriel Allon thrillers, and art mystery series by Iain Pears, Aaron Elkins, and Nicholas Kilmer. Maybe it's the juxtaposition of cultural heritage vs. criminal activity. The story unites Pittsburgh lawyer Cynthia Jakubek from *But Remember Their*

*Names* and insurance Loss Prevention Specialist Jay Davidovich from *Jail Coach*. The question before them is: how can you make money from a painting that you don't own, can't steal, and couldn't fence even if you succeeded? An assortment of shady and brutal players in *Collar Robber* think that—leaving a corpse or two along the way—they can convince people they've already stolen it to gouge fifty-million dollars from Transoxana Insurance Company. One of Jakubek's clients wants to help Davidovich—for a hefty price—and stay alive in the process. Another wants to get married in the Catholic Church to a fiancée who was briefly wed years before to someone who now has an interest in the painting. An annulment is needed. As Davidovich and Jakubek face brawls on street corners and in court rooms, confrontations in brothels, confessionals, and Yankee Stadium luxury suites, and Tasers, machine guns, and religious vestments used as weapons, they have to remember that “take no prisoners” isn't always a metaphor....

Block, Lawrence, ed. [Dark City Lights: New York Stories](#) (Forge \$15.95). Guest editor Block amasses a collection of 23 thrilling, hilarious and poignant short stories—all based in New York City, locus of US publishing. Contributors include Lawrence Block, Tom Callahan, Jane Dentinger, Jim Fusilli, Parnell Hall, Peter Hochstein, Brian Koppelman, David Levien, Annette Meyers, Jerrold Mundis, Ed Park, Thomas Pluck, S.J. Rozan, Jonathan Santlofer, Kat Georges, and Peter Carlaftes.

Boyle, Gerry. [Once Burned](#) (Islandport \$24.95). Boyle knows Maine and news reporting, both essential to the development of crime reporter Jack McMorrow, here working his 10th case in the New England state. I'm a big fan of the series for the realism, the logic, and the characters Boyle so vividly brings to life. Drawing on his own background in newspapers, Boyle presents Jack as a freelancer today, scrambling to stay in the news game and earn a living. He now has a wife, Roxanne, presently a social worker anxious to go back to work as their young daughter grows. And then a confluence of a serial arsonist in the nearby rural town of Sanctuary and the death of a young boy once in Roxanne's care, threatens all she and Jack have built together. I like the way Boyle writes of the Sanctuary Fire Department... and I keep confusing Sanctuary with John Connolly's “Prosperity” Maine, even though they are dissimilar.

Childs, Laura. [Ming Tea Murder Signed](#) (Berkley \$28). Normally Theodosia Browning, tea shop owner, wouldn't attend a black tie affair for all the tea in China. But she can hardly say no to her hunky, handsome boyfriend, Max, who directs public relations for the Gibbes Museum in Charleston. Max has organized an amazing gala opening for an exhibit of a genuine eighteenth century Chinese teahouse, and the crème de la crème of Charleston society is invited. In the exotic garden staged in the museum's rotunda, a Chinese dragon dances to the beat of drums as it weaves through the crowd. The guests are serenaded by a Chinese violin as they sample an assortment of tempting bites. And to give them a memento of the occasion, there's even a photo booth. But Theodosia makes a grim discovery behind the booth's curtains: the body of museum donor Edgar Webster. And...Max is named a suspect.

To go with, and tying closely to Child's 2001 [Death by Darjeeling](#) (\$7.99): Jeff Koehler, [Darjeeling: The Colorful History and Precarious Fate of the World's Greatest Tea](#) (Berkley \$26).

From seed to auction, a detailed look at the growing, selling and drinking of India's “champagne of tea.” There is no leaf unturned in Barcelona-based food journalist Koehler's look at Darjeeling which, grows in the eponymous region of India on private estates. Owing to the composition of the soil, Darjeeling's characteristic flavors cannot be replicated elsewhere, which has led to high demand on the international market. My favorite novel with tea is Shona Patel's [Teatime for the Firefly Signed](#) (\$14.95), India's Assam region.

Corby, Gary. [Death Ex Machina](#) (Soho \$26.95). The 5th chapter in this terrific Classical Greece series earns a *PW* Starred Review: “In Australian author Corby's superior fifth whodunit set in ancient Greece, the city of Athens is preparing to host the Great Dionysia, “the largest and most important arts festival in the world.” But the success of the event is in doubt after a series of accidents on the set of Sophocles' play *Sisyphus*. The cast members believe this is the work of a ghost. Pericles, the city's most powerful man, asks Nicolaos, his inquiry agent, to get rid of the ghost. Unfortunately, not long after Nico arranges for an exorcism ritual, one of the actors is murdered, suspended from the machine designed to hold the character of Thanatos, the god of death, in midair during the performance. Under pressure to find the killer quickly as the festival start date looms, Nico resorts to a clever and amusing ploy to buy more time. Corby again manages to effortlessly integrate laugh-out-loud humor into a fairly clued puzzle.”

Cornwell, Bernard. [Waterloo: The History of Four Days](#) (Harper \$35). Here we are coming up on June 18, 1815, and the battle that ended the 20-some year struggle between England and France and shaped the world to come. Armies from France, Britain, and Prussia descended on a quiet valley south of Brussels, changing it into a landmark. Cornwell is just the man to tell the tale, aided with many illustrations and maps. For a more romantic version, try Georgette Heyer's [An Infamous Army](#) (\$14.95), which I've been meaning to reread. Now's the time.

And finally, if you're a Regency reader at all, David Crane's [Went the Day Well?](#) (Knopf \$30) gets this Starred Review from *PW* that should hook you: “While taking an hour-by-hour look at the Battle of Waterloo, which was fought June 17, 1815, British historian Crane focuses less on the conflict itself than on what came to be called ‘the age of Waterloo’ in Britain. Crane's account of Napoleon's defeat is somewhat disjointed, but he more than compensates with his superb, kaleidoscopic look at domestic life of the period. He introduces readers to the lives of such noteworthy figures as the poet Lord Byron, who, at the time, was in an unhappy marriage and heavily in debt after an affair with his half-sister. Readers also meet lesser-known but culturally significant individuals, including Benjamin Haydon, a painter of monumental historical scenes; prize-fighter Jack Shaw, who was killed in a cavalry charge at Waterloo; and writer Caroline Lamb, who that day was ‘putting the final touches on the longest suicide note in history.’ Particularly interesting is the case of suspected, and possibly framed, murderess Eliza Fenning and the way it was used politically by Whigs and Tories alike. Crane accents his well-paced, fluid style with nice poetic touches.”

Cussler, Clive. [Piranha Signed](#) (Putnam \$28.99 on sale May 26). In 1902, the volcano Mt. Pelée erupts on the island of Martinique, wiping out an entire city of thirty thousand—and sinking a ship carrying a German scientist on the verge of an astonishing break-

through. More than a century later, Juan Cabrillo will have to deal with that scientist's legacy. During a covert operation, Cabrillo and the crew meticulously fake the sinking of the Oregon—but when an unknown adversary tracks them down despite their planning and attempts to assassinate them, Cabrillo and his team struggle to fight back against an enemy who seems to be able to anticipate their every move. They discover that a traitorous American weapons designer has completed the German scientist's work, and now wields extraordinary power, sending the Oregon on a race against time to stop an attack that could lead to one man ruling over the largest empire the world has ever known.

Flynn, Rory. [Third Rail: An Eddy Harkness Novel](#) (\$14.95). Patrick chose this for a 2014 Hardboiled Club Pick in hardcover: "When it comes to police work, Eddy Harkness is a natural; The young Boston detective already has a rep for his savant-like investigating abilities. But bad luck and drama seem to follow Harkness and his family. Following a World Series game, a prank turns deadly and a Red Sox fan is dropped to his death over a freeway. Some folks think Harkness could have prevented it, and he is bumped down to parking meter duty in his home town of Nagog, Massachusetts. Plagued with guilt, Harkness goes on a self-destructive run, during which his police issue Glock is stolen and apparently used in fresh homicides. There's also a new smart drug on the street, 'Third Rail,' which may be the ticket back to Harkness' spot on an elite Narco-Intel squad, that is if it doesn't kill him first. A stylish and fresh crime. A fiction debut by the pseudonymous Flynn. Perfect for Pelecanos fans."

Haines, Carolyn. [Bone to Be Wild](#) (St Martins \$25.99). The author emails, "I love the blues, and I really enjoyed telling this story. I hope the twists and turns keep you entertained. And that hot Scott Hampton is back on the scene with his blues guitar. But never fear, Sheriff Coleman isn't about to give up on Sarah Booth Delany so easily! She's grieving the departure of her fiancé to Los Angeles with a young daughter he didn't know he had. You know, I'd like to lasso Sarah Booth and make her do what I think is smart, but she is just like some of my relatives—won't listen to a word of reason. (Sadly, I've been told those same relatives act just like me!) The one thing you can rely on is that Sarah Booth and her BFF and detective agency partner Tinkie are going to get into trouble and then have the dickens getting out." I add that by this stage I'd rather explore Sarah Booth in a permanent relationship and all that entails than go book to book constantly upending her life on what feels increasingly like false pretexts for scotching them. Enough, already.

Harris, Charlaine. [Day Shift Signed](#) (Berkley \$27.95). Outsiders swarm the sleepy streets of Midnight, Tex., as supernatural superstar Harris returns with another practiced out-of-the-ordinary mystery following [Midnight Crossroad](#) (\$9.99). Local phone psychic Manfred Bernardo returns from Dallas, where a client died during her reading; her unstable son accuses Manfred of absconding with the family jewels. Rev. Emilio Sheehan, eccentric operator of a pet cemetery, takes care of a young boy who grows supernaturally quickly. And a multinational corporation suddenly reopens the abandoned Midnight Hotel, bringing in indigent seniors from Vegas as its residents. Channeled spirits, earthbound angels, and the town's most dangerous inhabitant (who is not the local vampire) all try to help Manfred clear his name in a resolution that occurs, unsurprisingly, under a full moon. Harris continues to open up her setting, layering in more secrets as well

as revealing some answers, and, in a nod to her fans, dropping the S-bomb ("Sookie Stackhouse") to link this series with her famous Southern Vampire Mysteries series. We have a few Signed [Midnight Crossroad](#) (\$27.95) available, same click to order.

Haruf, Kent. [Our Souls at Night](#) (Knopf \$24). Karen Shaver writes, "Addie Moore and Louis Waters have lived and known of each other in the small community of Holt, Colorado. Each has raised a family, ultimately losing their mates and watching their children move to other parts of the country. One evening, Addie knocks on Louis's door and asks, "I wonder if you would consider coming to my house sometimes to sleep with me." Needing some explanation, Addie tells him that she is trying to find a way to get through the nights and needs someone to lie next to her and share stories. The simplicity of her request becomes more complicated as the community and their children become aware of their relationship. Haruf has described the lives of two decent people trying to get through the maze and loneliness of a new phase of life. His spare, elegant prose is a pleasure to read. Haruf has received numerous awards and accolades for his writing. Sadly, the author passed away last November, but by all accounts, this final story is an appropriate legacy." We're told this will be the #1 Indie Next Pick for June.

Ifkovic, Ed. [Café Europa Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). *Booklist reviews*: "The year is 1914. Edna Ferber, a newspaper reporter and short-story writer who has published a few books of relatively little note, is touring Europe. In Budapest, Edna becomes fascinated by the story of a young woman who was, or so the story goes, murdered by a former lover. Edna believes the man is innocent and is determined to help him, but she can't begin to imagine what secrets she might uncover. The sixth in the Ferber series is, chronologically, the second Ferber mystery; it falls between the second book, *Escape Artist* (2011), set in 1904 when Ferber was a young reporter, and the fourth, *Downtown Strut* (2013), set in 1927 just after she won the Pulitzer Prize (the author, as series fans know, likes to jump around in time). It's as smartly written as its predecessors, but, as each book does, it shows us a slightly different Ferber—here, she's not quite a girl anymore, but neither is she the experienced woman we see in other series installments. Another totally successful entry in a consistently interesting series." [Café Europa](#) (\$14.95). Compare this young Edna Ferber to the one in [Final Curtain](#) (\$14.95), 1940.

Ælgguld, Conn. [Wars of the Roses: Stormbird](#) (\$16). In 1437, the Lancaster king Henry VI ascends the throne of England after years of semi-peaceful regency. Named "The Lamb," Henry is famed more for his gentle and pious nature than his father's famous battlefield exploits; already, his dependence on his closest men has stirred whispers of weakness at court. A secret truce negotiated with France to trade British territories for a royal bride—Margaret of Anjou—sparks revolts across English territory. The rival royal line, the House of York, sees the chaos brought on by Henry's weakness and with it the opportunity to oust an ineffectual king. As storm clouds gather over England, King Henry and his supporters find themselves besieged abroad and at home. Who or what can save the kingdom before it is too late? "It's been said that *Game of Thrones* is the Wars of the Roses written as fantasy: this is the real thing, more glorious [and] more passionate."—M. C. Scott, author of *Rome: The Emperor's Spy*. Igguld returns June 19 to sign the second in this thrilling historical trilogy: [Wars of the Roses: Margaret of Anjou](#) (Putnam \$27.95).

Kerr, Philip. [Prayer](#) (\$16). My friend Peter Cannon, Senior Editor at *PW*, takes this view: “As a big fan of Kerr’s Bernie Gunther PI series, I confess I was wary of this standalone, a contemporary thriller whose theme is the power of prayer. I was relieved to discover that the book’s hero, Texas-based FBI agent Gil Martins, has a lot in common with Bernie. In investigating the suspicious deaths of a number of prominent atheists, Gil runs into all sorts of unexpected trouble, as bad as any Bernie encounters while trying to be an honest cop in Nazi Germany. Readers into noir with a supernatural tinge will relish how it all plays out for Gil, a lapsed Catholic who struggles with his faith.” I add that if searching for an analogue one could consider John Milton’s work

Kidd, Sue Monk. [The Invention of Wings](#) (\$17). From the author of 2002 Modern Firsts Club Pick and bestseller [The Secret Life of Bees](#) (\$16), a new novel. “Inspired by the true story of early-nineteenth-century abolitionist and suffragist Sarah Grimké, Kidd paints a moving portrait of two women inextricably linked by the horrors of slavery. Sarah, daughter of a wealthy South Carolina plantation owner, exhibits an independent spirit and strong belief in the equality of all. Thwarted from her dreams of becoming a lawyer, she struggles throughout life to find an outlet for her convictions. Handful, a slave in the Grimké household, displays a sharp intellect and brave, rebellious disposition. She maintains a compliant exterior, while planning for a brighter future. Told in first person, the chapters alternate between the two main characters’ perspectives, as we follow their unlikely friendship (characterized by both respect and resentment) from childhood to middle age. While their pain and struggle cannot be equated, both women strive to be set free...” —*Booklist* Starred Review

Knoll, Jessica. [Luckiest Girl Alive](#) (Simon & Schuster, \$25). The May Indie Next Pick: “Ani FaNelli has worked hard to become the girl who succeeded. She has the right job, the right clothes, the right address, and even Mr. Right. It doesn’t matter that it only works on the surface; the appearance is what will protect you when the truth comes out. Knoll has created a distinctly fierce and driven main character whose past is defined by a particularly modern kind of tragedy. The details are slowly revealed as Ani maneuvers her way up through the lingering trauma of this devastating teenage experience. I was caught up in an exciting mixture of suspicion, pity, and admiration for Ani, as Knoll explores whether that which does not kill us might make us stronger, and if the scars can ever fade away.”

Longerich, Peter. [Goebbels: A Biography](#) (Random \$40). I don’t feel we need a reappraisal of this horror of a man....

Lutz, Lisa. [How to Start a Fire](#) (Houghton \$25). Those who enjoyed *The Spellman Files* will find carryover into this novel which is not a mystery although it unfolds like one (hidden secrets, a death, damaged lives, and in the end a home burns down). What Lutz writes is the story of three wildly different women who meet in college and begin a friendship that endures over two decades despite their diverging personalities and damaging obsessions. Lutz reveals the damage that a parent can do, how childhood events can shape lives, and how women can both stick together and compete all at the same time, all in her own quirky style. The May Indie Next Pick adds, “Readers will fall in love with these three women as they experience failed marriages, career decisions, and other significant life events. Those who are new to Lutz will gobble up this standalone entry.”

Macdonald, Ross. [Ross Macdonald: Four Novels of the 1950s](#) (Library of America \$37.50). Revered by such contemporary masters as Sue Grafton, George Pelecanos, and James Ellroy, Ross Macdonald (the pseudonym of Kenneth Millar) brought to the crime novel new levels of social realism and psychological depth, while honing a unique gift for intricately involving mystery narratives. For his centennial year, The Library of America inaugurates its Macdonald edition with four novels from the 1950s, all featuring his incomparable protagonist, private investigator Lew Archer. Here are *The Way Some People Die*, a twisted journey through Los Angeles high and low, *The Barbarous Coast*, an exploration of crime and corruption in the movie business, *The Doomsters*, a breakthrough novel of madness and self-destruction, and *The Galton Case*, the mythically charged and deeply personal book that Macdonald considered a turning point in his career. As a special feature, this volume also includes five pieces in which Macdonald reveals the autobiographical background of his books and describes his distinctive approach to crime writing. He was married to the crimewriter Margaret Millar.

McCoy, Sarah. [The Mapmaker’s Children](#) (Crown \$25). McCoy weaves together the Civil War-era story of Sarah Brown, artist and abolitionist, with that of a modern-day woman struggling with infertility in her third novel. John Brown’s 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry, Va., in an attempt to start a slave insurrection, led to his execution and fanned the flames of dissension already smoldering across the country. But Brown’s family, especially his daughters, is less well known, though they supported his antislavery work. Taking Brown’s daughter Sarah as her central figure, Sarah McCoy weaves a richly layered story of love and sacrifice.

Mosley, Walter. [And Sometimes I Wonder About You Signed](#) (Knopf \$28). Patrick reviews: “I’ve always been a big Mosley fan, and 56 year-old detective, boxer and overall hardass Leonid McGill has gotta be one of the most satisfying protagonists in crime fiction today. He’s always ass-deep in personal issues, which seems to keep his as equally busy as his caseload. This time out, our old school hero does his best to operate in a modern world that annoys the hell out of him. His wife is in a mental ward after a suicide attempt, his relationship with his mistress has cooled, his son is off working on his own cases, etc. McGill gets sucked into a sordid case involving an old-money family, while still trying to track down his father, who remains in the wind... This complex net of drama is pulled together by Mosley’s superb storytelling, which is, as always, a joy to read.”

✶Nevill, Adam. [No One Gets Out Alive](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Horrors! When Stephanie moves to a notoriously cheap neighborhood of Birmingham, she’s just happy to find an affordable room for rent that’s large enough not to deserve her previous room’s nickname, “the cell.” The eccentric — albeit slightly overly-friendly — landlord seems nice and welcoming enough, the ceilings are high, and all of the other tenants are also girls. Things aren’t great, but they’re stable. Or at least that’s what she tells herself when she impulsively hands over enough money to cover the first month’s rent and decides to give it a go. But soon after she becomes uneasy about her rash decision. She hears things in the night. Feels them. Things...or people...who aren’t there in the light. It’s clear that something very bad has happened in this house. And something even worse is happening now. 600+ pages; a Stephen King analogue.

Newton, Charlie. [Traitor's Gate](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). Rich men marshal their resources as all sides race to acquire 100-octane aviation gasoline, an unproven, unstable witches' brew that could fuel the fastest attack aircraft. In a brutal maze of corporate treason, personal blackmail, and imperfect heroism, a young, brilliant petroleum engineer battling the Dust Bowl in Oklahoma may hold the key. Eight years ago in Jerusalem, schoolgirl Saba Hassouneh survived the murder of her family. Sentenced to the barbaric refugee camps, Saba is freed by a legendary Bedouin freedom-fighter. She embraces his life of a bandit/rebel, evolving into a fearsome Arab nationalist *femme de guerre* hunted by the colonial powers and religious mullahs. Saba has one mission: free her people, as this historical epic races toward the first shots of WWII. Newton's a favorite of Patrick for his earlier contemporary crime.

✠Padua, Sydney. [The Thrilling Adventures of Lovelace and Babbage: The \(Mostly\) True Story of the First Computer](#) (Pantheon \$28.95). "This print edition of Padua's webcomic is a must-have for anyone who enjoys getting lost in a story as brilliant in execution as conception. Padua debut graphic novel transforms the collaboration between Ada Lovelace (the daughter of Lord Byron) and Charles Babbage (a noted polymath) into an inspired, 'What If?' story. Lovelace was a talented mathematician and helped translate a paper on Babbage's ideas for an Analytical Engine, the world's first computer. The notes she added to the translation were so cleverly detailed that experts today recognize them as the first example of computer programming. Although Lovelace died a few years later and Babbage was left to tinker with his Analytical Engine until his death, Padua imagines an alternate reality where they build the engine and use it to 'have thrilling adventures and fight crime!' The immensity of Padua's research and the wit and allusions of her prose are striking, saying as much about what drove her to explore the possibilities of her protagonists' relationship as about the protagonists themselves. Permeated by delightful illustrations, obsessive foot- and endnotes, and a spirit of genuine inventiveness, it's an early candidate for the year's best."—*PW* Starred Review

Palaia, Marian. [The Given World](#) (SimonSchuster \$25). A Vietnam War road novel is reviewed by Karen Shaver. "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. Among them: Primo, a half-blind vet with a story he's not telling; Lu, a cab driver with an artist's eye and a habit she can't kick; Phuong, a Saigon barmaid who is Riley's conscience and confidante; and Grace, a banjo-playing girl on a train, carrying her dreams and her grandmother's ashes in a tin box. 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." Riley's a mess and knows it, but in Palaia's very capable hands, she's a survivor and an admirable mess. A May Indie Next Pick.

Patterson, James/Maxine Paetro. [14th Deadly Sin](#) (LittleBrown \$28). The 14th Women's Murder Club propels the narrative with a fast-breaking homicide scene. But the diligent detective Lindsay Boxer isn't on the case alone. After a terrifying video becomes public, it seems like everyone in San Francisco is searching for suspects—including a gang dressed as cops—but are they cops? New in paper from Patterson: [Hope to Die](#) (\$16), Alex Cross.

Pearl, Matthew. [The Last Bookaneer Signed](#) (Penguin \$29). The May Indie Next Pick for an ingenious literary caper (plus real history of Stevenson and his time in Samoa) that is our **May Modern Firsts Club Pick**: "An adventure, a mystery, an historical fiction — this exciting read defies categorization. With quirky and engaging characters who are at once villains, crooks, and heroes, along with exotic locations, literary figures, fast-paced action, and a surprise ending, this novel has something for everyone. Changing copyright laws spell the end of the line for career book thieves and spies, and a race against time and competitors makes for a story that is hard to put down. This will be another bestseller for Pearl!" A Starred Review adds, "The author imagines the life of 19th-century manuscript thieves called bookaneers, who unscrupulously published others' novels on their own, thereby depriving authors of their financial due. It is Pearl's contention that a historical 1890s international copyright agreement would soon put an end to this illegal practice, and he imaginatively conjures up two such bookaneers who embark on one last mission, traveling to Samoa to steal a dying Robert Louis Stevenson's final manuscript, *The Shovels of Newton French*. Arriving at the author's mountain compound, Davenport, in the guise of a travel writer, finds competition from a rival bookaneer named Belial, who is passing for a missionary. And so the race is on to take Stevenson's purloined manuscript and return with it to New York before the new law goes into effect. But standing in the way of literary glory are cannibals, incarceration, German colonials, and a betrayal from beyond the grave. Pearl gives the bookaneers a lively fictitious history."

Picoult, Jodi. [Leaving Time](#) (\$16). For more than a decade, Jenna Metcalf has never stopped thinking about her mother, Alice, who mysteriously disappeared in the wake of a tragic accident. Refusing to believe she was abandoned, Jenna searches for her mother regularly online and pores over the pages of Alice's old journals. A scientist who studied grief among elephants, Alice wrote mostly of her research among the animals she loved, yet Jenna hopes the entries will provide a clue to her mother's whereabouts. Desperate to find the truth, Jenna enlists two unlikely allies in her quest: Serenity Jones, a psychic who rose to fame finding missing persons, only to later doubt her gifts, and Virgil Stanhope, the jaded private detective who'd originally investigated Alice's case along with the strange, possibly linked death of one of her colleagues. As the three work together to uncover what happened to Alice, they realize that in asking hard questions, they'll have to face even harder answers. As Jenna's memories dovetail with the events in her mother's journals, the story races to an unexpected conclusion, always true in a Picoult. A possible Mother's Day gift, no?

Pitlor, Heidi. [The Daylight Marriage](#) (Algonquin \$24.95). Karen Shaver reviews: "Hannah and Lovell started out as a fun couple. She was upper-class, he was a studious, but introverted, climate

scientist. Things were great in the beginning, but as the years passed, the things that attracted them to each other became the breeding ground of resentment and unhappiness. One day, after a particularly intense argument, Hannah disappears, leaving Lovell with the responsibilities of parenting and examination of their lives. How could he have such expertise on hurricanes, but no clue to the subtle storm that was brewing in his own home? Meanwhile, Hannah is making decisions that lead her down a threatening and horrific path. Stephen King states the “structure is brilliant” and *Booklist* gives it a starred review saying it is the “powerful analysis of how dreams become nightmares...” This novel is a May Indie Next Pick.

Rosen, Lev AC. [Depth Signed](#) (SimonSchuster \$24.95). Rosen’s second novel is a nail-biting “private eye” story in an unnervingly imagined 22nd Century New York. The oceans have (as they are likely to) risen, invading the streets and submerging buildings to the 21st floor. Boston, Washington, Miami are among the coastal cities which are gone, Chicago is the coastline of a far-right proto-Baptist mid America thanks to its dykes. But about 1,000,000 New Yorkers live and work in a city networked by bridges, boats moored and moving, which link what buildings still stand. There is a lot of cool technology and a fascinating body disposal system. Into all this Simone, daughter of the NYPD, is snapping photos of her husband for a Mrs. St. Michel when Simone’s only real friend, deputy mayor Caroline Khan (of a Korean dynasty), asks her to assist an EU archaeologist who is looking for a kind of holy grail: a building or buildings whose construction may have been so air tight that they are preserved down to ground zero. Simone hates a time—and she proves to be right to be reluctant. Throw in murder, a valuable painting, and more and you get a truly surprising read that further chills with the possibility that the fate of the city (and the world, one where Venice has sunk for example), might come true. “Heinlein meets Hammett in this whip-smart whodunnit set amid the billowing fog and rising waters of a future New York.” —Chuck Greaves, who puts it better than I for our **May SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick**.

Scottoline, Lisa. [Every Fifteen Minutes Signed](#) (St Martins \$30). The May Indie Next Pick: “Have you ever read a book that stayed with you during the day while you were working, going about your daily routine? A book that made you want to turn on the news to see what was happening in the characters’ lives — even though you knew that you were just reading a novel? Scottoline’s latest made me do just that! The story of Chief of Psychiatry Eric Parish, his troubled patient, Max, and a murder for which Dr. Parish is suddenly seen as a ‘person of interest,’ along with other trumped-up charges against him, will not let readers put this book down until the stunning conclusion.” Scottoline has really done her homework about psychiatry and medical practice in a suburban hospital, sociopathy and other mental illnesses. This isn’t a Robin Cook but it is in her unique way a medical thriller. And you could think this was a Deaver with a twist...and then a twist. Our **May Thriller Club Pick**.

Simmons, Dan. [Hard Freeze](#) (\$16). Reissue of a 2002 hardboiled crime novel. “There’s a bitter wind brewing in Buffalo, New York, and it’s blowing in more than just snow.” Little Skag Farino, the last don of the local crime family, wants Kurtz dead and is sending in platoons of hit men, starting with the Attica Three Stooges and working up through more competent killers. Little Skag’s beautiful sister, Angelina Farino Ferrara, is back from seven years

in Sicily and has her own deadly agenda for Kurtz. If that isn’t enough. Kurtz is approached by a dying concert violinist who wants his daughter’s killer found. Rejecting the case at first, he is soon on the trail of a man who’s not just the murderer of one child, but a cold-blooded serial killer, who is a master of alternate identities and has the power to send a hundred men after Kurtz. As the bodies pile up like cords of wood, *Hard Freeze* hits town with the power of a whiteout blizzard and builds to a truly chilling climax.

Sweazy, Larry D. [See Also Murder](#) (Seventh Street Books \$15.95). It’s 1964 in rural North Dakota. Farmers struggle with the ups and downs of their lifestyle, wrestling with the weather and the economy. It becomes particularly difficult when Hank, Marjorie’s husband, has an accident leaving him paralyzed and blind. Two neighbor boys come by doing much of the hard labor while Marjorie takes on the job of being a professional indexer, sometimes thought of bringing order out of chaos. In the midst of those challenges, two of her neighbors have been murdered and the sheriff asks her to investigate an object that was left in one of the victim’s hands. As she researches the meaning of the object, things become more complicated and Marjorie develops her own index to make sense of it all. The indexer’s art is one seldom explored. Marjorie is an ace at it but even more so at maintaining some kind of balance and humor in the face of a devastating situation with no hope it will improve. My heart went out to her. Highly recommended.

Tallis, Frank. [Death in Vienna](#) (\$15). This reissue of the first Max Lieberman mystery set in 1902 is a winner for its smart and flavoursome *fin-de-siècle* portrait of the seat of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and for introducing Max Liebermann, a young physician who is feverish with the possibilities of the new science of psychoanalysis.” —*The Washington Post*

✶Thomas, Will. [Anatomy of Evil Signed](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Three Jack the Ripper thrillers —Will Thomas, Stephen Hunter, Alex Grecian—make for a memorable May! Like Sherlock Holmes, Jack is an iconic figure who just won’t go away and each author has a separate and intriguing take on the who and why of Jack (OK, for the why, the consensus is he was nuts). And recounts events in London’s Whitechapel area in the fall of 1888. Thomas’ Holmes and Watson duo, eccentric genius Cyrus Barker, the city’s leading private enquiry agent, and his Welsh assistant Thomas Lewelyn of complicated past, get a visit from Robert Anderson, head of the Yard’s CID. The queen has taken a horrified interest in the crimes. Anderson proposes that Barker be named a temporary envoy to the Royal Family while surreptitiously investigating (the CID has not achieved any results). Let’s remember that Victoria has (apparently) no inkling of what is today acknowledged as the aberrant behavior of her grandson, second in line to the throne. Thomas digs into the Whitechapel culture filled with immigrants, its large Jewish community, its busy economies, to construct a scenario for what is happening, and a solution. In exploring how a family might deal with someone seriously deranged, he highlights questions no less pressing, or successfully resolved, today.

White, Michael. [Travels in Vermeer](#) (Persea \$17.95). Grief memoirs spring up around us. This one is two-, or maybe three-fold. Poet and creative writing department head White is struggling to come to terms with a difficult divorce/custody battle with the young student he married too soon after his first wife’s devastat-

ing death from cancer; with his first wife's death; and with the apparent death of his muse. He's depressed, angry, and alienated. On break, he heads alone to Amsterdam, visits the Rijksmuseum (then still under renovation), and unexpectedly finds its paintings by Vermeer immensely consoling. Why? "His hushed clarity addresses me, is *for* me, as I stand here now." Creating his own understanding of Vermeer's art (and Rembrandt's), White devises a kind of pilgrimage to one museum after another to view more Vermeers. His journey is of interest but I recommend this for the way in which White comes to see art and his ability to translate that to you. I found it illuminating.

Wright, Erica. [Red Chameleon](#) (\$14.95). Poet Wright turns to crime. Kathleen Stone's ability to blend in makes her an ace private investigator, but when a cheating spouse she is tailing ends up dead she fears that someone from her past has seen through her disguises. As a private investigator, Stone relies on her ability to blend into the background. Aided by her street-smart drag queen friend plus the best wigmaker in NY to create her disguises, she feels confident that her camouflage is up to snuff. But when a cheating spouse she's been trailing ends up dead under suspicious circumstances, she fears that someone she angered in her past job—busting gangs and drug dealers as an undercover cop—has seen through her disguises. "Painful repressed memories start to surface that touch on the reason she resigned from the police force at age 25. A possible romance with Ellis adds to the intrigue, as does the appearance of a past lover." So, a fresh take on the private eye novel....and the start, one hopes, of a series.

#### OUR MAY MASS MARKET PAPERBACK PICKS

Atkins, Ace. [Robert B Parker's Cheap Shot](#) (\$9.99) Spenser is initially hired to act as a bodyguard for New England Patriot's linebacker Kinjo Heywood, whose rough and tough reputation on and off the field has created some serious public relations issues, but when Heywood's young son Akira is kidnapped, Spenser will stop at nothing to find the child and bring him back safely. *Booklist* says "Atkins' third shot at the Spenser caseload shows steady improvement over the first two. Spenser is as tough and funny as ever, and Atkins has become a worthy successor."

Box, C. J. [Shots Fired: Stories from Joe Pickett](#) (\$9.99) Joe Pickett #15 A collection of ten short stories (three new, four connected to the Pickett series) that originally appeared in anthologies or limited editions.

Burke, James Lee. [Wayfaring Stranger](#) (\$9.99) A chance run-in with Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow in Texas, shortly before the notorious bank robbers are gunned down in Louisiana, is just Weldon Holland's first brush with history. Holland eventually serves in the U.S. Army during World War II, survives the Battle of the Bulge, rescues Rosita Lowenstein from a concentration camp, and brings her back to the United States, where he struggles to make his name and fortune as a wildcat oilman. Burke's latest was a finalist for the 2014 Hammett Prize, and *PW* had this to say about the protagonist of *Wayfaring Stranger*: "His quest to save his wife generates some suspense, but this is more morality tale than thriller, the story of one man's struggle to live with integrity in postwar America. Burke, best known for his Dave Robicheaux series (*Light of the World*, etc.) writes with great assurance and wisdom, as well as a kind of bitter nostalgia for lost innocence.

Child, Lee. [Personal: A Jack Reacher Novel](#) (\$9.99) Jack Reacher #19. Reacher finds himself working for the State Department and the CIA to track down the American sniper who took a shot at the president of France and is possibly targeting the G-8 summit packed with world leaders in this follow up to *Never Go Back*. *LJ* summed up Child's latest action-packed novel with these words "Longtime fans won't be disappointed by this suspense-filled, riveting thriller."

Dunn, Matthew. [Dark Spies](#) (\$9.99) Will Cochrane #4. On the run from the CIA, intelligence operative Will Cochrane heads to the United States to uncover a diabolical spymaster at the center of an international conspiracy in this thrilling follow-up to *Slingshot*. *Bookpage* had this to say about Dunn's latest: "Cochrane's character neatly splits the difference between Ian Fleming's flamboyant James Bond and John le Carré's taciturn George Smiley, undoubtedly a result of Dunn's real-life experiences as an MI6 agent."

Hart, Carolyn G. [Death at the Door](#) (\$7.99) Death on Demand #24. Mystery bookstore owner Annie Darling is asked to look into the suicide of a local doctor by his sister, but once she begins snooping around, Annie finds there may be a link between the doctor's death and the recent murder of a local sculptor's wife. Hart's books are always an excellent choice for fans of traditional mysteries, and *PW* found her latest impeccably crafted mystery to have enough "understated local color and a charming cast of supporting characters that will keep Annie's fans glued to the page." For Death on Demand #25, see Event Books.

Jance, J. A. [Remains of Innocence](#) (\$9.99) Joanna Brady #16. When a family friend is found dead at the bottom of a hole in a limestone cavern near Bisbee, Sheriff Joanna Brady investigates and discovers there may be a link to another case in which a fortune in hundred dollar bills is discovered hidden in a house in Massachusetts. *PW* said "As the dual story lines crisscross and the body count mounts, Jance hits her stride with a suspenseful plot that will keep readers flipping pages until the surprising, if overly convoluted, finale."

Muller, Marcia. [The Night Searchers](#) (\$8) Sharon McCone #32. Sharon McCone is hired to investigate Camilla Givens' claim that she saw devil worshipers about to sacrifice a human baby, but what McCone really digs up is evidence that Camilla's husband Jay may be involved in a secret treasure-hunting cult called the Night Searchers. When Muller introduced McCone in 1977 with *Edwin of the Iron Shoes*, she was one of the first fictional female private eyes to successfully break into the male-dominated gumshoe world. Muller's numerous Shamus award nominations prove she knew what she was doing. Her latest is another gem that had *PW* saying "McCone's daring and smarts make her an irresistible heroine. The brisk narrative vividly evokes contemporary San Francisco."

Palmer, Daniel. [Desperate](#) (\$9.99) Gage Dekker and Anna Miller think their prayers for a child have been answered when they find a woman looking for adoptive parents, but soon things turn for the worse when the woman begins to wage psychological warfare on them. Fans of Harlan Coben's domestic suspense novels may want to give this a whirl. *Booklist* found Palmer's (son of Michael Palmer and brother of Matthew) latest to be "one of those thrillers where you know something is going on, and the writer gives you plenty of clues, but there are still some twists and turns he keeps hidden away until just the right moment. A smartly constructed tale that operates on multiple levels."



Pearson, Ridley. [The Red Room](#) (9.99) Risk Agent #3. Pressured into brokering an art deal in Istanbul, surveillance expert John Knox and his partner, the fearless Grace Chu, orchestrate a brief meeting with a mysterious man only to be thwarted by an unexpected number of adversaries. *Kirkus Reviews* found *The Red Room* to be a “Rubik’s cube of a thriller” while *Booklist* weighed in with “Another hit in this knockout thriller series featuring non-stop danger, casually clever descriptions of exotic locales, evolving characterization, and evenhanded sociopolitical commentary. Recommended for every beach bag.”

Sandford, John. [Field of Prey](#) (\$9.99) Lucas Davenport #24. Lucas investigates the discovery of several bodies in an abandoned Minnesota farmyard, and realizes they are the work of a local serial killer who has been murdering one victim every summer for years. *PW*’s take “As always, Sandford has tricks to play to confound readers before the tension rises and leads to a violent and surprising conclusion.”

Thompson, Victoria. [Murder in Murray Hill](#) (\$7.99) Gaslight #16. Detective Sergeant Frank Malloy and Victorian midwife Sarah Brandt join forces to find a young woman, who goes missing after responding to “lonely hearts” ads in the newspaper. *LJ* said “The horrors of the modern-day Cleveland abduction case will come to mind in this disturbing entry in Thompson’s long-running historical procedural series.” If you love Rhys Bowen’s “Molly Murphy” mysteries and haven’t discovered Thompson’s books yet, you may want to add them to your reading list.

Turow, Scott. [Identical](#) (\$10) Just as Paul Giannis is starting to campaign for mayor of Kindle County, his identical twin brother Cass is released from prison, 25 years after pleading guilty to the murder of his girlfriend, Dita Kronon. Dita’s brother Hal has never been satisfied that the whole truth about the murder ever came out, so he hires ex-FBI agent Evon Miller and private investigator Tim Brodie to reinvestigate. Critical reactions were mixed to Turow’s latest, which revolves around twins and the Greek myth of Castor and Pollux, but *Kirkus Reviews* had this to say “Turow never loses sight of the ancient underpinnings of his story, with a conclusion that places Hal, Zeus, Hermione and Aphrodite in the vicinity of Olympus, their true neighborhood. Classic (in more senses than one).”

#### NEW IN MASS MARKET PAPERBACK

- Andrews, Donna. [The Good, The Bad, and The Emu](#) (\$7.99) Meg Langslow #17  
Investigating her long-lost grandmother’s alleged killer, Meg teams up with investigator Stanley Denton and her grandfather to stage a feral emu and ostrich rescue only to find the rescue team accused of the suspect’s murder.
- Barrett, Lorna. [Book Clubbed](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Booktown #8  
When Booktown’s cranky Chamber of Commerce receptionist Betsy Dittmeyer is crushed by a bookcase, bookstore owner Tricia Miles and her sister Angelica discover almost everyone in town has a motive for wanting her dead.
- Blake, Heather. [Some Like it Witchy](#) (NAL \$7.99) Wishcraft #5  
Darcy Merriweather begins to think that death must be hosting an open house at the old Tavistock home when she and her friend Cherise Goodwin stumble across the body real estate agent Raini Gallagher.
- Bolin, Janet. [Seven Threadly Sins](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Threadville #5  
Willow Vanderling knows she doesn’t look good in black and

white stripes, which means she better find out who is trying to pin the murder of mean-spirited director of the Threadville Academy of Design and Modeling on her.

- Brackett, Leigh. [Stranger at Home](#) (St Martins \$9.99)  
A dead man turns up at a beach party to get revenge on the men who thought they had killed him, in this reissued mystery that was originally published in 1946 and “written” by actor George Sanders.
- Burton, Mary. [Be Afraid](#) (Kensington \$7.99)  
After returning home to Nashville, forensic artist Jenna Thompson helps Detective Rick Morgan with a case that may be connected to the brutal murders of Jenna’s family twenty-five years earlier. Burton’s books often cross into the romantic suspense genre, so if you enjoy authors like Lisa Jackson and Wendy Corsi Staub, give her a try.
- Carlisle, Kate. [The Book Stops Here](#) (\$7.99) Bibliophile #8  
While guest hosting on a local antiques appraisal show, Brooklyn Wainwright comes across a valuable children’s book only to later find she is being threatened by a man claiming to be the book’s rightful owner.
- Clarke, Richard A. [Sting of the Drone](#) (\$9.99)  
An alliance of assorted terrorists try to turn the tables on U.S. intelligence forces when they use drones to begin killing those operating them in America in this non-stop thriller that also delivers plenty of state-of-the-art technical details. Definitely topical given the latest newspaper headlines.
- Coco, Nancy. [Oh Say Can You Fudge](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Candy-Coated #3  
McMurphy Hotel and Fudge Shop owner Allie McMurphy is afraid her plans for a big Fourth of July celebration on Mackinac Island may fizzle out when pyrotechnics display artist Rodney Rivers is found dead in a warehouse packed with exploding fireworks.
- Collins, Jackie. [Double Lucky](#) (\$9.99)  
This reprint includes two Lucky Santangelo novels: *Drop Dead Beautiful* and *Goddess of Vengeance*. Perfect glitzy reading for beach bags everywhere (suntan lotion not included).
- Connelly, Michael. [Overlook](#) (\$10) Reissue Harry Bosch #13  
Harry Bosch investigates the murder of a doctor, whose death is linked to the theft of some dangerous radioactive substances.
- Conrad, Hy. [Mr. Monk and the New Lieutenant](#) (NAL \$7.99) Mr. Monk #19  
While attending the funeral of Judge Oberlin, Monk and Natalie find evidence that the man was poisoned.
- Couch, Dick. [Tom Clancy’s Op-Center: Out of the Ashes](#) (St Martins \$9.99)  
After terrorists begin detonating bombs in sports centers around the country, the President executes an executive order that brings the Op-Center back.
- Crawford, Isis. [A Catered Fourth of July](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Mystery with Recipes #10  
When the town Casanova winds up dead after a Revolutionary War reenactment, sisters Bernie and Libby Simmons find the must put their catering business on simmer while they search for a clever killer.
- Dobbs, Lou. [Border War](#) (Tor \$9.99)  
FBI agent Tom Eriksen, assisted by a beautiful NSA agent (aren’t they always beautiful?), takes on bureau corruption, a drug cartel, and a ruthless corporation in order to avenge a murdered friend and colleague.

Donally, Claire. [Hiss and Tell](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Sunny & Shadow #4

After she photographs men pulling the dead body of a woman out of the water, reporter Sunny Coolridge needs to figure out who invited a killer to the high society wedding she is covering for the paper.

Fluke, Joanne. [Fatal Identity](#) (Kensington \$7.99)

In this non-series reprint of a 1993 novel, Marcie Calder poses as her identical twin sister Mercedes in order to finish the movie her sister was filming right before she mysteriously drowned.

Fox, Mae. [Pattern of Betrayal](#) (AndrewsMcNeel \$7.99)

Julie Ellis' plans for a quilting murder mystery weekend at Quilt Haus Inn were running smoothly until a very real dead body turns up among her guests.

Gilstrap, John. [No Mercy](#) (Kensington \$9.99)

In this reissue of a 2009 paperback original, Jonathan Grave, a freelance covert rescue specialist, takes on a dangerous enemy, who will stop at nothing to hide the truth about the botched rescue attempt of a college student that led to a deadly shooting spree.

Greaney, Mark. [Tom Clancy Support and Defend](#) (Berkley \$8.99)

FBI agent Dominic Caruso (who also happens to be the nephew of President Jack Ryan) chases after a fugitive National Security Council staff member, who is trying to leak key U.S. intelligence to the nation's enemies.

Hamilton, Donald. [Intimidators](#) (\$7.99) Matt Helm #15

Helm searches for the missing fiancée of a Texas oil millionaire after she disappears in the Bermuda Triangle.

Johansen, Iris. [Perfect Witness](#) (\$7.99)

Teresa Casali, who has ability to read people's memories, is forced to flee the Witness Protection Program after her cover is exposed in this non-series paranormal thriller.

Ludlum, Robert. [Chancellor Manuscript](#) (\$9.99) Reissue

A cadre of Washington D.C. powerbrokers order up the murder of J. Edgar Hoover only to find that someone else has access to the FBI Director's "secret files" in this surprisingly topical thriller from the author of the Jason Bourne books.

Maxwell, Edith. [Til Dirt Do Us Part](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Local Foods #2

Farmer Cam Flaherty must weed out a killer from a bumper crop of suspects after disagreeable local entrepreneur Irene Burr turns up dead in a neighbor's pigsty.

McDermott, Andy. [Kingdom of Darkness](#) (Random \$9.99) Nina Wilde/Eddie Chase #10

Archaeologist Nina Wilde and ex-SAS bodyguard Eddie Chase find themselves in a race around the globe to find the Land of Darkness, where a natural spring is rumored to have the power of granting immortality. If you enjoy the globe-trotting, action-packed, history-dusted thrillers of Matthew Reilly and James Rollins, you will want to put McDermott on your reading list.

Meltzer, Brad. [Inner Circle](#) (\$8) Reissue Culper Ring #1

While trying to show off to his old high school crush Clementine Kaye by giving her a tour of National Archives, Beecher January stumbles across a hidden dictionary that may have

belonged to George Washington and which is now very much in demand by someone who will stop at nothing – including murder – to get their hands on it. Meltzer hosts a show on the History Channel, so you know the background details in this fast-paced thriller will be solid.

O'Neil, Carlene. [One Foot in the Grape](#) (Berkley \$7.99)

Penny Lively, who has recently inherited the family winery from her late aunt, agrees to help her neighbor Antonia Martielli find out who is trying to ruin Antonia's wine and killing her staff in this lively debut.

Palmer, Michael. [Resistant](#) (\$9.99)

Recovering drug and alcohol addict Dr. Lou Welcome races the clock to save the life of his friend, who has been infected by new strain of flesh-eating virus that is resistant to antibiotics. Don't read this one if you have any surgery scheduled in the near future!

Parra, Nancy J. [Flourless to Stop Him](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Baker's Treat #3

Gluten-free baker Toni Holmes takes off her apron and puts on her amateur detective cap when her brother is accused of killing a man found dead in the bathtub of his hotel room.

Preisler, Jerome. [NCIS Los Angeles—Novel 1](#) (Forge \$7.99)

First in a series (well, at least as long as the television show remains popular) about the LA based Office of Special Projects, an elite division of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

Reilly, Linda. [Fillet of Murder](#) (Berkley \$7.99)

In this fun cozy debut, Talia Marby casts a net for the real killer when her boss (and dear friend) at Lambert's Fish and Chips is accused of murdering a fellow shop owner. Yes, there is a cute cat too.

Ross, Barbara. [Musseled Out](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Maine Clambake #3

Julia Snowden, proprietor of the Snowden Family Clambake Co., must help her brother-in-law get out of hot water when he is accused of murdering shifty David Thwing, the "Mussel King" of upscale seafood dining. Ross does an excellent job capturing small town New England, so if you like Katherine Hall Page's Faith Fairchild mysteries, give Ross a try.

Stella, Charlie. [Eddie's World](#) (\$9.99)

Before he goes legit, Eddie Senta plots one last score, but the robbery goes bad and now Eddie finds himself involved in a case of triple homicide.

Viets, Elaine. [Catnapped! A Dead-End Job Mystery](#) (\$7.99) Dead-End Job #13

When Helen Hawthorne and her husband Phil Sagemont set out to retrieve a valuable show kitten for one of its owners, the trail ends in murder.

Whittington, Harry. [Haven for the Damned](#) (Berkley \$9.99)

In this vintage thriller originally published in 1961, eight people, each of whom have their own demons and dilemmas, meet in a small ghost town on the Mexican border.

Woods, Stuart. [Cut and Thrust: A Stone Barrington Novel](#) (\$9.99) Stone Barrington #30

New York attorney Stone Barrington discovers just how cut-throat politics can be when someone threatens First Lady Kate Rule Lee at the Democratic National Convention in LA.

*SciFi/Fantasy/Horror/Other*

Baker, Stephen. [Boost](#) (\$7.99)  
Bennett, Jenn. [Grave Phantoms](#) (\$7.99)  
Blake, E C. [Shadows: The Masks of Aygrima](#) (\$7.99)  
Bledsoe, Alex. [Wake of the Bloody Angel](#) (\$7.99)  
Brooks, Terry. [High Druids Blade the Defenders of](#) (\$7.99)  
Card, Orson Scott. [Earth Awakens](#) (\$7.99)  
Evans, Leigh. [Danger of Destiny](#) (\$7.99)  
Foster, Lori. [Holding Strong](#) (\$7.99)  
Harrison, Kim. [Witch with No Name](#) (\$7.99)  
Koch, Gini. [Alien Separation: Alien Novels Signed](#) (DAW \$7.99)  
Macalister, Katie. [A Midsummer Night's Romp](#) (\$7.99)  
McCullough, Kelly. [Darkened Blade](#) (\$7.99)  
Olsen, Gregg. [If I Can't Have You: Susan Powell](#), (\$7.99)  
Oppel, Kenneth. [The Boundless](#) (\$7.99)  
Pehov, Alexey. [Chasers of the Wind](#) (Tor \$9.99)