

# BOOKNEWS from

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## Hello to June!

### AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

#### TUESDAY JUNE 2 7:00 PM Launch Party

**Anne A. Wilson** signs [Hover](#) (Forge \$24.99) Debut—US Navy background

#### WEDNESDAY JUNE 3 7:00 PM

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

#### MONDAY JUNE 8 7:00 PM

**Gini Koch** signs [Alien Separation](#) (DAW \$7.99) #11

#### TUESDAY JUNE 9 7:00 PM

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

#### WEDNESDAY JUNE 10 7:00 PM

**Jon Talton** signs [High Country Nocturne](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) David Mapstone

#### THURSDAY JUNE 11 7:00 PM

**Joe Finder** signs [The Fixer](#) (Dutton \$27.95) Perfect for Father's Day

#### SATURDAY JUNE 13th 10:30 AM

**Coffee & Crime** discusses Betty Webb's [The Anteater of Death](#) (\$14.95) Gunn Zoo Mystery #1

#### TUESDAY JUNE 16 7:00 PM

**Michael Harvey** signs [The Governor's Wife](#) (Knopf \$24.95)

Chicago PI Michael Kelly, former priest

**Sean Chercover** signs [The Devil's Game](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95) Daniel Byrne, Vatican Investigator

**John Rector** signs [Ruthless](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95) Nick White

#### WEDNESDAY JUNE 17 7:00 PM

**Grant Blackwood** signs [Tom Clancy Under Fire](#) (Putnam \$28.95) Jack Ryan, Jr.

#### THURSDAY JUNE 18 7:00 PM

**CANCELLED! Christopher Reich** signs [Invasion of Privacy](#) (Knopf \$27.95) FBI Thriller. Meetings intervene. But we'll provide Signed books from Reich.

#### FRIDAY JUNE 19 7:00 PM

**Conn Iggulden** signs [Wars of the Roses: Margaret of Anjou](#) (Putnam \$27.95) Volume II

#### SATURDAY JUNE 20 10:30 AM

**Croak & Dagger** discusses Malla Nunn's [A Beautiful Place to Die](#) (\$16)

#### SATURDAY JUNE 20 2:00 PM

**Win and Meredith Blevins** sign [Darkness Rolling](#) (Tor \$25.99) Starts a Southwestern Series in Monument Valley

#### MONDAY JUNE 22 7:00 PM

**Jefferson Bass (Jon Jefferson & Bill Bass (via Skype))** sign [Breaking Point](#) (Harper \$26.99) A Body Farm Mystery

#### TUESDAY JUNE 23 7:00 PM

**Ingrid Thoft** signs [Brutality](#) (Putnam \$26.95) PI Fina Ludlow #3

#### WEDNESDAY JUNE 24 7:00 PM

**Don Winslow** signs [The Cartel](#) (Knopf \$27.95) More *Power of the Dog*

#### THURSDAY JUNE 25 7:00 PM

**Hardboiled Crime** discusses Charles Willeford's [Sideswipe](#) (\$15)

#### FRIDAY JUNE 26 7:00 PM

**Brad Meltzer** signs [The Presidents Shadow](#) (Grand Central \$27.99) Culper Ring #3

#### MONDAY June 29 7:00 PM

**Joe R. Lansdale** signs [Paradise Sky](#) (LittleBrown \$26) Deadwood Dick

#### TUESDAY JUNE 30 7:00 PM Launch Party Wear Red!

##### Special Prizes and Food

**Shona Patel** signs [Flame Tree Road](#) (Mira \$14.95)

#### WEDNESDAY JULY 1 7:00 PM

**Brad Taylor** signs [Insider Threat](#) (Dutton \$27.95) Pike Logan #8

#### THURSDAY JULY 2 7:00 PM Arizona Biltmore

**Daniel Silva** signs [The English Spy](#) (Harper \$27.99) Gabriel Allon

## EVENT BOOKS

Bass, Jefferson. [Breaking Point](#) (Harper \$26.99). It's been ten years since Dr. Bill Brockton created the Body Farm—the world's first postmortem research facility dedicated to advancing the frontiers of forensic science—and the researcher is at the pinnacle of his career. Under his leadership, the University of Tennessee's forensic anthropology program has become the most prominent in the world, and Brockton's skills and knowledge are in high demand among top law enforcement like the FBI. The agency now issues an urgent summons: a fiery small plane crash, single pilot, slap into Otay Mountain in its wilderness outside of San Diego, needs a rush job: to identify the charred remains of a maverick millionaire at the helm. There are just shards of the man left, some teeth. And there's a surprise in store—not as big as one that follows when Brockton's ID of the millionaire is called into question, the man's formidable wife, partner in humanitarian work, demands more answers, university politics threaten to derail the Body Farm, and Brockton's life is under threat. And not just his... adding a poignant note. While some of the plotting is weak in this chapter in Brockton's career, the depiction of the crash, the crash site, and the evidence recovery is mesmerizing, a one-sitting read, and what lies behind it equally appalling. And I hope many women will attend the program since there is much to say—I have a lot to say—about the fate of Brockton's wife Kathleen. [Click here](#) to order earlier Body Farm books which in addition to forensics and crimes portray East Tennessee very well.

Blackwood, Grant. [Tom Clancy Under Fire](#) (Putnam \$28.95). Good news: Blackwood is relocating to Phoenix. On a routine intelligence gathering mission in Tehran, Jack Ryan, Jr., has lunch with his oldest friend, Seth Gregory, an engineer overseeing a transcontinental railway project. As they part, Seth slips Jack a key, along with a perplexing message. The next day Jack is summoned to an apartment where two men claim Seth has disappeared—gone to ground with funds for a vital intelligence operation. Jack's oldest friend has turned, they insist. They leave Jack with a warning: If you hear from Seth Gregory, call us immediately. And do not get involved. Also by Blackwood in the Clancy franchise: [Dead or Alive](#) (\$8.99).

Blevins, Win. [Darkness Rolling](#) (Tor \$25.99). Karen reviews: “When Yazzie Goldman, one-half Navajo and one-half Jewish, returns to the desert after serving in WW II, his mother and grandfather have high hopes that he will be able to restore the family trading post to prosperity. Mose, his grandfather, a fiercely independent man, has been felled by a stroke and is limited by resulting disabilities. But Yazzie has something else in mind for his life. John Ford (the Hollywood one) is shooting a movie nearby and hires Yazzie as both a translator for the cast and a bodyguard for his star, Linda Darnell. As you might expect, there is an affair between the two, with Yazzie teaching her about the spirituality of the land and the significance of each season. Also involved in the story is Aunt Iris, an artist who has a special talent for making art out of the land. She is frequently accompanied by her cat, Cockeyed, who has one eye that will look at the speaker while the other wanders in another direction. This tight-knit family is unaware of the man watching their every move with the intention of destroying them as revenge for what he perceives was their

destruction of him. In addition to this being a good story, there is something almost magical in how the authors describe the land and the myths of the Navajos. There is humor – I like the parts with the FBI – and Hollywood gossip, with fleeting mention of John Wayne, Peter Fonda, and Victor Mature, and Iris' way of being politically incorrect...”

Chercover, Sean. [The Devil's Game](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95). Daniel Byrne worked as an investigator for the Vatican for ten years, scrutinizing miracle claims, until one investigation shook his faith and uncovered more troubling human conspiracies. Determined to find the truth, he joins a secretive group that wields massive influence over world events by embedding operatives at all levels of government, media, corporations, universities, and religious organizations. Daniel infiltrates a covert medical facility and uncovers a new strain of a plague with unusual side effects. Teaming up with disgraced physician Kara Singh, a woman beset with inexplicable visions, Daniel traces the root of this deadly pathogen from the valleys of Norway to the war-ravaged countryside of Liberia, where he discovers a terrifying truth... Follows [The Trinity Game](#) (\$14.95). Chercover's blend of religious, political, medical, spiced with a bit of the supernatural, is a long way from his Chicago PI roots but it's great fun and stylish.

Coes, Ben. [Independence Day](#) (St Martins \$26.99). So, here's another of those coveted Starred Reviews for our **June Thriller Club Pick**: “Compelling characters, a wealth of technical detail, and ticking-clock suspense make bestseller Coes' fifth Dewey Andreas novel 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.” Order earlier books by Coes [here](#).

DeMille, Nelson. [Radiant Angel](#) (Grand Central \$28). Best-seller DeMille's exciting seventh John Corey adventure finds the former NYPD detective working as a contract agent for the Federal government. Currently a part of the Diplomatic Surveillance Group, Corey is keeping an eye on the comings and goings of Col. Vasily Petrov, ostensibly a diplomat but actually a member of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service. Corey and rookie agent Tess Faraday follow Petrov and two other men when they drive out of the Russian mission on Manhattan's East Side. Corey prides himself on never losing someone he's watching, but Petrov gives them the slip in a carefully orchestrated escape by boat, and after Corey and Faraday learn more about the identity of his two companions, the action quickly heats up. Petrov plans an attack as devious as it is devastating, and although Corey calls in help from numerous sources, stopping Petrov will fall to him and Faraday. As Corey demonstrates, sometimes a loose cannon

is the only means to win a battle. DeMille's new novel takes us into the heart of a new Cold War with a clock-ticking plot...and a cranky, obstreperous Corey to wind it up. [Click here](#) to order other DeMille books.

Finder, Joseph. [The Fixer](#) (Dutton \$27.95). When former investigative reporter Rick Hoffman loses his job, fiancée, and apartment, his only option is to move back into—and renovate—the home of his miserable youth, now empty and in decay since the stroke that put his father in a nursing home. As Rick starts to pull apart the old house, he makes an electrifying discovery—millions of dollars hidden in the walls. It's enough money to completely transform Rick's life—and everything he thought he knew about his father. Yet the more of his father's hidden past that Rick brings to light, the more dangerous his present becomes. Soon, he finds himself on the run from deadly enemies desperate to keep the past buried, and only solving the mystery of his father—a man who has been unable to communicate, comprehend, or care for himself for almost 20 years—will save Rick... [Click here](#) to order earlier thrillers by Finder.

Harvey, Michael. [The Governor's Wife](#) (Knopf \$24.95). You will recognize from the get go that Harvey's twisty new story for Chicago PI Michael Kelly, once a priest and still a kind of Good Shepherd, is rooted in the reality of Illinois politics and its imprisoned former governor Rod Blagojevich. As Harvey says, what if...? It's been two years since disgraced Illinois governor Ray Perry disappeared from a federal courthouse in Chicago moments after being sentenced to 37 years in prison on corruption charges. Kelly is sitting in his office when he gets an anonymous e-mail offering to pay him nearly a quarter of a million dollars if he will find Perry, no questions asked. Kelly's investigation begins with the woman Ray Perry left behind—his wife, Marie. Ostracized by her former friends and hounded by the feds, Marie tells Kelly she has no idea where her husband is. Like everyone else, Kelly doesn't believe her. As he hunts for her husband, and turns over even more corruption, Chicago style, Kelly begins to unwind Marie Perry's past. What he finds is a woman who turns out to be even more intriguing than her husband. This complex story plays out in offbeat ways trademarked by Harvey and is our **June Surprise Me! Club Pick**. To order his earlier ace books, [click here](#).

Iggulden, Conn. [Wars of the Roses: Margaret of Anjou](#) (Putnam \$27.95). Volume Two in a trilogy that depicts a real-life *Game of Thrones*.... The Plantagenets and their successors the Tudors retain the fascination of say Sherlock Holmes, iconic figures filled with dynastic tropes, dysfunctional families, domestic suspense way more devastating than anything cooked up by Gillian Flynn and the current crop of writers in this genre, and personal tragedies that, appallingly, hooked in their subjects to spread the misery and deaths, as well as the glory, around. It's hard to imagine how terrifying life as a courtier or minister would have been, success going to the fluid and the nimble, and not less so for citizens, soldiers, anyone purposefully or randomly in the way. Henry VI, left king as a baby, was miserably unfit to rule. The unfortunate Margaret, his bride and mother of his only son, was stuck with trying to hold it all together for the Lancastrians, wearers of the Red Rose, as their ambitious relatives the Yorkists, of the White, sought the great prize, England's throne. Iggulden (it's a Sussex name) is a charming author we hope will leave off his three-piece suit this summertime at the Pen and a super stylish writer with many books under his belt, a marvelous read for those who devour

Sharon Kay Penman or George RR Martin or PF Chisholm. Many of his novels plumb ancient Rome. [Click here](#) to order.

Koch, Gini. [Alien Separation](#) (DAW \$7.99). It's back to the Alpha Centauri system when Kitty and the crew land on Beta Eight, separated and facing a solar system wide civil war. Undaunted as ever, Kitty plows ahead, making unusual friends of both people and animals as she goes. 11th in local author Koch's rollicking and complex Katherine Katt series—"Koch continues to be the go-to author for anyone wanting madcap futuristic adventure heavily laced with deadly danger and laugh-out-loud fun."—*RT Book Reviews*. [Click here](#) to order the Alien series.

Lansdale, Joe R. [Paradise Sky](#) (LittleBrown \$26). A trademark Lansdale novel about Nat Love, an African-American cowboy with a famous nickname. Patrick reviews: "It's the 1870's and although the Union won the war, young black men like Willie Jackson are supposed to know their place. After his father is murdered by local thugs, Willie is forced on the run from his small Texas farm. He makes his way west, joins the buffalo soldiers for a brief stint, fights off roving bands of Apache Indians, picks up a group of Chinese prostitutes eager to escape from their sadistic pimp, and ultimately ends up in Deadwood, South Dakota. He befriends Wild Bill Hickok and soon becomes a part of the west's mythology after winning a sharpshooting contest. Rechristened 'Deadwood Dick,' he enjoys frontier fame and weds a beautiful young woman, but his past somehow manages to catch up with him, and our hero is forced on the run again, but this time he is the pursuer, intent on wreaking bloody havoc on those who would try to destroy his new life and family. Basing his protagonist on a real life character from western lore, Lansdale crafts a rollicking, raunchy adventure that satisfies on all levels."

Meltzer, Brad. [The President's Shadow](#) (Grand Central \$28). The action in this near-future third in series opens on a peaceful scene: the First Lady is giving herself a therapeutic break gardening at the White House when she digs up a severed arm. Her alarmed husband Orson Wallace sends a message to the National Archives where Archivist Beecher White not only works but is one of six current members of The Culper Ring, a secret society founded by George Washington to "protect the presidency." Not an easy assignment for Beecher since he knows that Wallace once committed a violent crime, but is it the man, or the office, at stake? The dead man's hand is clutching a penny which furthers possible conspiracies at work as it may tie into the death of Beecher's father years ago, further affecting Beecher's judgment. Meltzer lets his inner Dan Brown off the chain in this third chapter of The Culper Ring #3 after [The Inner Circle](#) and [The Fifth Assassin](#).

Patel, Shona. [Flame Tree Road](#) (Mira \$14.95). A kind of prequel to one of our two bestselling trade paperbacks ever: [Teatime for the Firefly](#) (\$15.95). It takes you further back into India under the Raj and tells us the story of the grandfather. Patel's books defy labels as they blend history, suspense, romance, thrills. Here is a four star review from Romantic Times: "Readers fascinated by Brien Roy from *Firefly* will be thrilled to read this story. Patel enlivens her richly developed plot by deftly incorporating social and political issues, cultural differences and vivid descriptions of India's food, flavors and flame trees into the novel. The drama and sadness of the era come to life alongside a beautiful romance. Patel knows her country and its struggles so well that readers feel a part of it as well."

OK, now we see that *Library Journal* has a different take: “Patel’s latest historical opens in a small riverside village in 1870s India, where caste and tradition determine one’s lot in life. When young Biren Roy’s mother suffers the worst possible fate for a woman, widowhood, Biren swears he will become a lawyer and fight for women’s rights in India. Eventually, he becomes the focused lawyer he set out to be, full of hope and determination, but Biren faces a whole new set of challenges fighting the barriers of India’s history and tradition. Achieving his dream seems hopeless until he meets the passionate Maya. Armed with new hope because of her, Biren must find a balance between heritage and progress to attain his goals. Tradition and setting dominate this story of passion, politics, and love. The Indian countryside and village life play a big role, and the slow pace of writing matches the pace of change in India. Beautifully written, this novel is sure to please fans of Khaled Hosseini and Jhumpa Lahiri.”

A perfect companion to *Teatime* is Jeff Koehler’s [Darjeeling](#) (Bloomsbury \$27). Darjeeling tea is a lot like fine wine. For most people, the flavor is so light they aren’t able to truly taste it unless they’ve worked hard at refining their palate. Although Darjeeling is rarely drunk in its home country, tea enthusiasts claim that it is the best tea on earth (that’s certainly the reason why it’s the most expensive). In *Darjeeling*, food and travel writer Jeff Koehler (Spain) takes a magnifying glass to the practice and history of growing the tea, tracing a line from the early efforts of British colonizers to create a staple crop on the edge of the Himalayas, to the modern plantations in a brutal battle with climate change and the industrialization of India’s economy. The book is a quick primer about the British in India, a guide to the cultivation of tea and even provides recipes at the end.

Rector, John. [Ruthless](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). Nick White is the only person who can save Abigail Pierce. After uncovering a plot to have her killed, he attempts to warn her but instead puts himself squarely in the crosshairs. They know who he is, they know where he lives, they know how to get at his family. Drawn into the conspiracy surrounding Abigail, Nick soon discovers the danger is bigger than he ever believed. Now he must uncover the truth to save her and himself.

Silva, Daniel. [The English Spy](#) (Harper \$27.99). She is an iconic member of the British Royal Family, beloved for her beauty and charitable works, resented by her former husband and his mother, the Queen of England. But when a bomb explodes aboard her holiday yacht, British intelligence turns to one man to track down her killer: legendary spy and assassin Gabriel Allon. Gabriel’s target is Eamon Quinn, a master bomb maker and mercenary of death who sells his services to the highest bidder. Fortunately Gabriel does not pursue him alone; at his side is Christopher Keller, a British commando turned professional assassin who knows Quinn’s murderous handiwork all too well. And though Gabriel does not realize it, he is stalking an old enemy.... [Click here](#) to order earlier thrillers by Silva.

Talton, Jon. [High Country Nocturne](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). The *Booklist* Starred Review: “Phoenix private investigator David Mapstone is a former county sheriff. He gets a desperate late-night call from Sharon Peralta, wife of Mike, Mapstone’s partner. Mike has been accused of being the principal in a Phoenix diamond robbery and has disappeared. The FBI has his truck and wants to find out if either David or Sharon knows where Mike is

and if they were accomplices. On the way to meet law enforcement, David is pulled over for speeding. In a truly harrowing scene the young female ‘officer’ who pulls him over apparently intends to kill him until she’s scared off by unexpected traffic. It’s in that context David and Sharon are interrogated by the FBI. The message is unequivocal: they better deliver Mike on a platter. This is a complex, multifaceted thriller in which Phoenix itself is a principal player, with its depressed economy, residual Wild West mindset, casinos, mobsters, and corrupt infrastructure all key aspects of its character....” *Library Journal* adds in its Starred Review: “As with Bill Crider’s and Michael McGarrity’s mysteries, Talton’s books are studies in atmosphere and setting. Arizona’s wild and beautiful landscape figures prominently, and the interior examination of Mapstone’s hopes and fears makes this a terrific character study as well.” [High Country Nocturne](#) (\$14.95). [Click here](#) to order earlier David Mapstones by Rogue Columnist Talton now writing from Seattle.

Taylor, Brad. [The Insider Threat](#) (Dutton \$27.95). Pike Logan and the members of the secret American antiterrorist unit Taskforce go up against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS, traveling to Kenya where wealthy Saudi businessman, Ali Salim al-Naggar, is channeling funds to the Islamic State. Later, Pike and the team are ordered to Jordan to prevent an attack on a meeting of a new international anti-terror organization, which puts him on the trail of the Lost Boys, a group of four men directed by ISIS commander Omar al-Khatami. There’s a lot going on in this 8th mission for Pike, Jennifer, and the team. Order earlier thrillers with Pike Logan and his team [here](#).

Thoft, Ingrid. [Brutality](#) (Putnam \$26.95). PI Fina Ludlow #3. When soccer mom Liz Barone is attacked in her kitchen and left with a life-threatening injury, Fina Ludlow is hired by Liz’s mother to identify her attacker. It’s unusual for Fina, daughter of a famous (and ruthless) Boston Personal Injury Lawyer and, unable to stomach the family firm, acting as its investigator) to take a case that isn’t connected to Ludlow and Associates. What hooks Fina is that Liz was in the process of suing her alma mater, New England University—a suit that could be a legal gold mine as the visibility of damages sustained in head injuries grows. Fina is interested in justice for Liz, but she can sell investigating to her father on this basis. While Fina casts a wide net, in the end what she hooks is, sadly, close to home. This terrific books threads difficult relationships into a blockbuster plot drawing upon collegiate sports and high flying finance.... I like the way Thoft is both following in the tradition of VI Warshawski and Kinsey Millhone yet reinventing the private eye novel, in part by allying it with a legal thriller. Hank Philippi Ryan will add her voice to mine in a June blog post about Thoft. Fill your time superlatively while waiting for our August events for Paretsky (15th) and Grafton (25th) by reading all three Thofts. [Click here](#) to order.

Wilson, Anne A. [Hover](#) (Forge \$24.99). Helicopter pilot Lt. Sara Denning joins a navy battle group with little fanfare—and that’s just the way she likes it. After her brother Ian’s tragic death, her career path seemed obvious: step into his shoes and enter the Naval Academy, despite her fear of water. But then comes a Navy SEAL team flight coordinator who requests her as an exclusive pilot and upends her world, not least during a stop in Hong Kong, and then a mission heading west where the US Vice President is in jeopardy... A terrific debut by a metro Phoenix author mixing Tom Clancy into Kristin Hannah territory. I read every word (in

one gulp): thriller, romance, women's fiction, military fiction.

Winslow, Don. [The Cartel](#) (Knopf \$27.95). Patrick writes, "Winslow's exceptional sequel to *The Power of the Dog* picks up in 2004 to continue his epic story of the Mexican drug cartel wars. Adan Barrera, leader of the Sinaloa cartel, has recently escaped from prison and is busy rebuilding his fractured empire against heavy inroads from competing organizations such as the Zetas. DEA Agent Art Keller agrees to jump back into the fray against his old nemesis, who remains in the wind and apparently untouchable. Meanwhile, ground zero for the war becomes Juarez as the violence reaches epidemic proportions. Winslow's grasp of the material is awe-inspiring and he creates a devastating chronicle that will leave the reader forever changed." Author Benjamin Percy says, "You don't have to read Don Winslow's [The Power of the Dog](#) (\$15.95) to get swept away by *The Cartel*, its ripped-from-the-headlines sequel, but you should. You should try to get your hands on everything Winslow's written, because he's one of the best thriller writers on the planet. You've read the headlines about the decapitations in Juárez, the kidnappings in Mexico City, the mass graves and battling cartels and corrupt politicians and police, the daily casualties of the Mexican-American drug wars, which made you second-guess that Club Med vacation. An epic, gritty south-of-the-border *Godfather* for this time." And, "Don Winslow is to the Mexican drug wars what James Ellroy is to L.A. Noir. It's a long-awaited sequel to one of his greatest, *The Power of the Dog*." —Janet Maslin, *New York Times*

#### FIRST NOVELS

✎Abramowitz, Andy. [Thank You, Goodnight](#) (Touchstone \$26). "Teddy Tremble had his fifteen minutes of fame as the lead singer of Tremble, the rock band with one megahit ten years ago. Now Teddy is relatively content with his far less glam life working in a law firm and living with Sara, a woman he thinks he might love. However, when a less than flattering photo of Teddy turns up in a London museum exhibit dedicated to the formerly famous, something inside Teddy snaps. It doesn't matter that Teddy and his bandmates haven't spoken for more than a decade. It doesn't matter that Teddy hasn't written a note in years. Teddy is going to get the band back together for one last shot at fame. Abramowitz has a wonderfully sharp sense of humor that he wields with great effect in this unforgettable story about 'love, lyrics, and finding one's legacy in the unlikelyst of places.' Technically, *Thank You, Goodnight* is not a romance novel. If it had been published 15 years earlier when Chick Lit was all the rage, it might have been marketed as Lad Lit (the male equivalent). However, whatever publishers may want to call Abramowitz's debut novel, the bottom line is that is a remarkable book that you will not want to miss (and this comes from someone, who really isn't a fan of rock music)!" —John Charles

Arango, Sascha. [The Truth and Other Lies Signed](#) (SimonSchuster UK \$35). On the surface, Henry Hayden seems like someone you could like, or even admire. A famous bestselling author who appears a modest everyman. A loving, devoted husband even though he could have any woman he desires. A generous friend and coworker. But Henry Hayden is a construction, a mask. Then a mistake makes his façade crumble. Now not only are the police after Henry, but his past—which he has painstakingly kept hidden—threatens to catch up with him as well. Henry is an ingenious man and he works out an ingenious plan. He weaves lies,

truths, and half-truths into a story that might help him survive. But bit by bit the noose still tightens. The *PW* Starred Review: "German scriptwriter Arango's exceptional first novel, a highly entertaining thriller, focuses on Henry Hayden, a successful author who lives in a "nondescript coastal town." Wealthy beyond imagination, he appears to be a loving husband to his wife, Martha, and is so humble that people automatically like him. In truth, the vain and selfish Henry is seeing a mistress, Betty Hansen, who's also his editor, and a few other women besides. As for those bestsellers, Henry never wrote one word—Martha did, allowing him to take credit as long as her authorial role remained a secret. Henry's carefully constructed world is in danger when Betty becomes pregnant. His decision to take drastic action results in an accidental death. Dodging the police inquiry and an old acquaintance determined to expose his erratic past, Henry takes charge of his own fate. Wry humor punctuates this insightful look at a soulless man." **A First Mystery Club Pick.**

✎Arlidge, MJ. [Eeeny Meeny](#) (NAL \$15) "debuts one of the best new series detectives, Helen Grace. Determined, tough, and damaged, she must unravel a terrifying riddle of a killer kidnapping victims in pairs to send a particularly personal message. Mesmerizing!" —Lisa Gardner on our June **Fresh Fiction Club Pick.** See British Books.

Bolen, Christopher. [Orient](#) (Harper \$26.99). Orient is an isolated town on the north fork of Long Island, its future as a historic village newly threatened by the arrival of wealthy transplants from Manhattan—many of them artists. One late summer morning, the body of a local caretaker is found in the open water; the same day, a monstrous animal corpse is found on the beach, presumed a casualty from a nearby research lab. With rumors flying, eyes turn to Mills Chevern—a tumbleweed orphan newly arrived in town from the west with no ties and a hazy history. As the deaths continue and fear in town escalates, Mills is enlisted by Beth, an Orient native in retreat from Manhattan, to help her uncover the truth. To get inside this story takes some knowledge of NYC's culture. The last chapters are the best when, spoiler, you can feel how two outsiders, foster children, arrived at their confrontation. Plus there's a clever real estate scam.

Ervin, Andrew. [Burning Down George Orwell's House](#) (Soho \$26). Ray Welter, who was until recently a highflying advertising executive in Chicago, has left the world of newspeak behind. He decamps to the isolated Scottish Isle of Jura in order to spend a few months in the cottage where George Orwell wrote most of his seminal novel, *1984*. Ray is miserable, and quite prepared to make his troubles go away with the help of copious quantities of excellent scotch. But a few of the local islanders take a decidedly shallow view of a foreigner coming to visit in order to sort himself out, and Ray quickly finds himself having to deal with not only his own issues but also a community whose eccentricities are at times amusing and at others downright dangerous. Also, the locals believe—or claim to believe—that there's a werewolf about, and against his better judgment, Ray's misadventures build to the night of a traditional, boozy werewolf hunt on the Isle of Jura on the summer solstice. "Big Brother might not be watching [Ray Welter] but the island's eccentric locals sure are and also, possibly, a werewolf. High comedy ensues as Welter tries to find himself, Orwell and the savage beast." —*New York Post*

Galassi, Jonathan. [Muse](#) (Knopf \$25). From its seedy offices on

Union Square to the outsized personality of its founder, Homer Stern, the “scrappy but consequential” publishing house Purcell & Stern is a clear proxy for FSG, where Galassi has worked for the last 30 years, and its iconic leader, Roger Straus. Homer, a scion of the German-Jewish aristocracy, has spent his career locked in professional combat with Sterling Wainwright, owner of Impetus Editions and a certified member of the WASP establishment. The ferocity of their competition sustains the two men into their eighth decades. To their rivalry comes Paul Dukach, the novel’s protagonist. Hired by Homer as an editor, he brings to his job an “old-fashioned author-centered vision of publishing,” but more than that, an obsession with the dynamic Ida Perkins, “the distinctive poetic voice of her generation.” When Sterling, Ida’s only publisher (a prize Homer covets), shares with Paul a collection of cryptic notebooks from one of her former lovers, the younger man is torn between these “figures from another era, these competing fathers.” He eventually manages to meet his idol, now an elderly woman living out her final days in isolation in a Venetian palazzo, and Galassi uses that encounter to fashion a fitting resolution of the literary triangle that provides the plot’s momentum. . . . Galassi delivers realistic glimpses of pressures that loom over the traditional book business today. “For all the wistfulness of its backward-looking glance, *Muse* is anything but a nostalgia trip. Instead, this gentle, wry novel should reinforce the belief of anyone who loves books that the survival of the world Jonathan Galassi portrays is worth fighting for.” —Harvey Freedenberg.

Hawkins, Scott. [The Library at Mount Char](#) (Crown \$26). In Hawkins’s terror-driven debut, set in a twisted version of our world, the library at Garrison Oaks serves as both heaven and hell, a place where mastery of the library’s 12 sections can bring untold power or unending misery. See *Out of This World* for more.

✎Howells, Debbie. [The Bones of You](#) (Kensington \$25). Kate, a likable mother in a quaint English village, learns that 18-year-old Rosie Anderson—seemingly straitlaced, well behaved, and from a good family—is missing. Fond of Rosie, who’s the same age as her own daughter, Kate is overwhelmed almost immediately by a sense of foreboding. No one else seems as concerned until Rosie is discovered fatally beaten and stabbed. A **British Crime Club Pick**. See *British Books* for more.

Hughes, Andrew. [The Convictions of John Delahunt](#) (Pegasus \$24.95). *Kirkus* says, “Debut novelist Hughes imagines the circumstances leading up to the Victorian-era real-life hanging of John Delahunt, a convicted Irish child-murderer. See *History/Mystery* for a longer review and 2 Signed UK 1sts.

Jaff, Sophie. [Love is Red](#) (Harper \$25.99). A debut opens with a killer preying on the women of New York City, but as the body count rises over the course of a summer it becomes clear that he is being driven by something beyond our comprehension—igniting a trilogy that brings a darkly sophisticated twist to the epic fantasy of Deborah Harkness, Lev Grossman, and Diana Gabaldon. Extraordinary storyline exploring our ever-evolving journey to comprehend the meaning of life, the nature of our world, and our place within it. Building towards a pivotal battle, on which the fate of the Universe depends, the *Night Song* trilogy is inspired by myths, legends, and religions drawn from across time.

✎Knight, Renee. [Disclaimer](#) (Harper \$25.99). The Indie Next

Pick for a First Mystery Club Pick in the UK edition 1 left): “A normal woman’s entire life is changed in one fateful day, when her past finally catches up with her. A breathtakingly suspenseful debut novel, it captures the consuming desire for revenge, and the terrible price we pay for hiding the truth. Everyone who reads *Disclaimer* says the same thing—that they can’t rest until they discover the secret. And in revealing what happened to Catherine twenty years ago, Knight delivers a heart-stopping twist that completely upends the all-consuming world she’s created. You do not see this ending coming. Will connect to readers of Gillian Flynn, S. J. Watson, Laura Lippman, and Sophie Hannah.

Miller, Jax. [Freedom’s Child](#) (Crown \$25). To call this debut Redneck Noir doesn’t do it justice although many familiar tropes run through the narrative. What makes it outstanding is Freedom, the focal character. “Boozing, brawling, and fierce but emotionally fragile, Freedom Oliver has been pissing away her life in witness protection like someone with nothing left to lose—until fate unexpectedly offers her one last long shot at redemption in this debut thriller, which hits like a beer bottle to the head. Freedom, a heavily inked redhead known in a former life as Nessa Delaney, is shaken out of her stupor slinging drinks at a biker bar in Painter, Oregon, by the release from prison of her vengeance-bent brother-in-law, Matthew. Matthew is a member of the spectacularly sociopathic Delaney clan, headed by a 600-pound coke-dealing matriarch, and he lusts for payback from the woman he blames for framing him for murder. Even worse, the Delaneys may get their hands on the two now-grown children Freedom gave up for adoption, Mason and Rebekah. When Freedom learns that Rebekah has disappeared from her adoptive home in Goshen, Kentucky, she’s but a stolen bike and Glock away from a desperate race to save the daughter.”—Starred Review. This is so new I haven’t had time to give it to Patrick to read; he may say more. **His latest Hard-boiled Crime Club Pick is Rachel Howzell Hall’s [Skies of Ash](#)** (Forge \$25.99), a voice akin to that of Paula Woods.

Swyler, Erika. [The Book of Speculation](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Here’s another imaginative, genre-bending novel blending books (an 18th century journal from a traveling carnival), drowning deaths, generations of a Connecticut family saga (mermaids!), a mansion perched perilously on bluff overlooking the Atlantic, and the possible impending death of young librarian Simon Watson’s sister on July 24, just six weeks away.

Tiraboschi, Roberto. [The Eye Stone, A Novel of Venice](#) (Ecco \$17). An Italian screenwriter, playwright and novelist, has incorporated many traditional elements from the genre into his first novel published in English. It features a mysterious serial killer who makes his victims into gruesome trophies, a conspiracy involving an ancient text and an ethically loose businessman attempting to manipulate the situation to his benefit. However, if the novel is formulaic, it’s a formula executed well, and setting the action in medieval Venice was a stroke of genius, thanks to Tiraboschi’s keen historical eye and sense of atmosphere. Edgardo d’Arduino, a cleric and skilled copyist, is the supposed protagonist of the novel, but at the risk of invoking cliché, Venice is the true protagonist. While d’Arduino’s search for the titular “eye stone,” which he hopes will heal his failing sight, is an engaging plot, it is the backdrop that truly shines. Tiraboschi portrays Venice as something akin to a Wild West boomtown built on top of a swamp. His potent descriptions also provide moments of great beauty that suggest why men and women continued to try to live

in such an impossible place:

### FATHER'S DAY TREATS

You can't do Stocking Stuffers for Dad's Day, but you can put together two or three little paperback gems with a treat he'll enjoy, all popped in a gift bag. Add a Poisoned Pen Mug (\$8 white or black). A Poisoned Pen Gift Card fits all sizes and ages—we can email one for you.

*For books, we recommend:*

Cotterill, Colin. [The Coroner's Lunch](#) (\$9.99). A quirky, intelligent, and surprising case starts the sleuthing career of Dr. Siri, reluctant national coroner of Laos. There's humor, but Dr. Siri's work, while accounting for the role of superstition as well as science, is cutting edge. See more on Cotterill in *Where in the World?* This is a new low price for a First Mystery Club Pick and winner of the Independent Mystery Booksellers' Dilys Award.

Edwards, Martin, ed. [Resorting to Murder](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). From a golf course at the English seaside to a pension in Paris, and from a Swiss mountain resort to the cliffs of Normandy, here are the enjoyable and unexpected ways in which 14 vintage crime writers have used summer holidays as a theme, ranging widely across the golden age of British crime fiction. Stellar names from the past are well represented.

Hunter, Stephen. [The Citadel](#) (\$9.99). This is a novella by Hunter centered on a bibliomystery which in turn brings in Alan Turing of Bletchley Park and his wartime code (and decoding) work. It's very clever. The real joy in this gem is meeting Basil St. Florian, the sort of thug with the gloss of manners and rough physicality that the playing fields of Eton and Magdalen College, Oxford, produced. James Bond without the sophistication but with the sort of skills and guts that Daniel Craig brings to Bond. Basil goes on a more or less suicidal mission into Occupied France where in his view the French are treating the Germans as new markets and the Germans are so thankful it's Not Russia... well, it's a rocket of a ride. I truly loved it and so has everyone I've pressed it upon. My mission now is to get Hunter to write more missions for Basil.

Lovesey, Peter. [The Last Detective \(Peter Diamond #1\)](#) (\$9.99). The start of cantankerous but brilliant Bath copper Peter Diamond's stellar career.

### BRITISH BOOKS

Ace, Cathy. [The Case of the Dotty Dowager](#) (Severn \$28.95). This start of the "Wise Enquiry Agent series" is by a Welsh-Canadian author who recently won a prize for Best Canadian Light Mystery (cozy). Henry Twyst, eighteenth Duke of Chellingworth, is convinced his mother is losing her marbles. She claims to have seen a corpse on the dining-room floor, but all she has to prove it is a bloodied bobble hat. Henry is worried enough to retain the women of the Wise Enquiries Agency—but the truth is more deadly than anyone could have foreseen. Why is the agency called WISE? It's run by four women: one Welsh, one Irish, one Scottish, one English. **As with all books published by Severn, Ordered Upon Request (it's a supply side issue, it's not a statement about the quality of the books).**

Arlidge, M J. [Eeeny Meeny](#) (NAL \$15). Take a walk on the dark side with this debut introducing DI Helen Grace—a read for fans of, say, Mo Hayder. Two people are abducted, imprisoned, and left with a gun. As hunger and thirst set in, only one walks away

alive. It's a game more twisted than any Detective Helen Grace has ever seen. If she hadn't spoken with the shattered survivors herself, she almost wouldn't believe them. Helen is familiar with the dark sides of human nature, including her own, but this case—with its seemingly random victims—has her baffled. But as more people go missing, nothing will be more terrifying than when it all starts making sense.... I'd call this a Mo Hayder and Denise Mina sensibility and a British analogue of authors like Lisa Gardner and Karin Slaughter. It's our **June Fresh Fiction Pick**.

Barrie, JM. [Peter Pan](#) (Harper \$27.99). J. M. Barrie's classic children's story is reimagined in this delightful full-color deluxe edition filled with all-new illustrations and ten removable features specially designed by MinaLima, the award-winning design studio behind the graphics for the Harry Potter films.

Brackston, Paula. [The Silver Witch](#) (SimonSchuster \$25.99). Spanning many centuries, *The Silver Witch* is told from two points of view: that of Tilda, as she slowly rebuilds her life and career as a ceramicist and makes new friends, and that of Seren, the shaman of a small village that used to exist on the shores of the lake. As Tilda uncovers the truth about Seren and other ancient villagers, the mysterious crisscrossing of their paths creates a fast-paced story, full of beautiful descriptions and intense magic. The resulting suspense culminates in a satisfying and heart-pumping conclusion to a magical fantasy filled with romance and Welsh lore.

Billingham, Mark. [Time of Death Signed](#) (LittleBrown \$41). "DI Tom Thorne and his lover, DS Helen Weeks, return to Helen's hated hometown in Warwickshire to confront some ugly accusations and some even uglier secrets. . . . What lingers in the memory is the group portrait of the Polesford locals brutally closing ranks against a man they're certain deserves to die."—*Kirkus Reviews*. Unsigned US edition [Time of Death](#) (Atlantic \$25) publishes July 2. New in paper: [The Bones Beneath](#) (\$14). Tom Thorne is back in charge—but there's a terrifying price to pay. Stuart Nicklin, the most dangerous psychopath he has ever put behind bars, promises to reveal the whereabouts of a body he buried twenty-five years before. But only if Thorne agrees to escort him. Unable to refuse, Thorne gathers a team and travels to a remote Welsh island, at the mercy of the weather and cut off from the mainland. Thorne is determined to get the job done and return home before Nicklin can outwit them. But Nicklin knows this island well and has had time to plan ahead.... UK edition: [The Bones Beneath Signed](#) (\$25).

Casey, Jane. [The Kill](#) (St Martins \$26.99). The 5th Maeve Kerrigan grips me as much as the first. I'm not alone: "A captivating police procedural heavy on characterization that will keep readers up late into the night. . . . The voice of the novel is unique and captivating. Casey's talent for constructing several different storylines and bringing them all together in the end is what makes this a great read."—*Romantic Times Book Reviews* 4½ stars. The fierce yet vulnerable Kerrigan is away from London for a colleague's wedding, and she's enjoying an excuse to spend a beautiful fall weekend relaxing in the English countryside. It's a much-needed break from the grit and grime of her daily life on the job. Midway through the reception, Maeve and her abrasive, unpredictable, but usually loyal partner DI Josh Derwent, are called back to London. A fellow policeman has been murdered, in a compromising position in a public park at night. When Maeve and Derwent

call on the victim's family, his wife and daughter are surprisingly cold and reticent, which adds further layers of complexity to an already delicate investigation. And Maeve knows the victim and his family aren't the only ones with things to hide: the dark secret that her boss, Superintendent Godley, has been keeping for years is threatening to blow up in his—and everyone's—face... [Click here](#) for the earlier Kerrigan cases which remind me of the wonderful procedurals by Harry Bingham.

Crombie, Deborah. [To Dwell in Darkness](#) (\$13.99). See Our June Trade Paperback Picks.

Donoghue, Clare. [No Place to Die](#) (St Martins \$27.99). I wanted to like this one; I wanted to like her first. The forensics are good and the plots work but the voice doesn't grab, the characters either, like they do in Jane Casey's books.

Diamond, Sarah. [In the Spider's House](#) (Felony Mayhem \$14.95). This novel of suspense has an intriguing hook in the plot, but it's not enough to sustain the length and weight of a very slow moving, detailed story. I'd rather it had been a snappy short story about a couple who move to a home in a small village. The husband's work takes him away, the wife's job cancelled with the move. And she can't settle. The house feels freighted with something; her neighbors are a bit odd. And soon she learns that there's a history to her house, home to a murderer released into the community. But what is the real history to be uncovered?

Dundas, Zach. [The Great Detective: The Amazing Rise and Immortal Life of Sherlock Holmes](#) (Houghton \$26). Calling the Holmesian myth "the ultimate Lego set for imaginative minds," Dundas explores ways in which writers, actors and fans have followed "the impulse to re-create, remix, remodel, subvert, and generally tinker with Sherlock Holmes." —Katie Noah Gibson. What is it about Arthur Conan Doyle's peculiar creation that continues to fascinate us? The publisher says, "Dundas presents a history of an idea, a biography of someone who never lived, a tour of the borderland between reality and fiction, and a joyful romp through the world Conan Doyle bequeathed us. Through sparkling new readings of the original stories, Dundas unearths the inspirations behind Holmes and his indispensable companion, Dr. John Watson, and reveals how Conan Doyle's tales laid the groundwork for an infinitely remixable myth, kept alive over the decades by writers, actors, and readers. This investigation leads Dundas on travels into the heart of the Holmesian universe. The Great Detective transports us from New York City's Fifth Avenue and the boozy annual gathering of one of the world's oldest and most exclusive Sherlock Holmes fan societies; to a freezing Devon heath out of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*; to sunny Pasadena, where Dundas chats with the creators of the smash BBC series *Sherlock* and even finagles a cameo appearance by Benedict Cumberbatch himself. Along the way, Dundas discovers and celebrates the ingredients that have made Holmes go viral—then, now, and as long as the game's afoot." This is a question we addressed during our May 19 week of Victorian crime fiction and is worth exploring further. And add to it, what is the enduring fascination with Jack the Ripper?

Fitzgerald, Penelope. [The Bookshop](#) (\$14.95). A reissue. In 1959 Florence Green, a kindhearted widow with a small inheritance, risks everything to open a bookshop—the only bookshop—in the seaside town of Hardborough. By making a success of a business so impractical, she invites the hostility of the town's less prosper-

ous shopkeepers. By daring to enlarge her neighbors' lives, she crosses Mrs. Gamart, the local arts doyenne. Florence's warehouse leaks, her cellar seeps, and the shop is apparently haunted. Only too late does she begin to suspect the truth: a town that lacks a bookshop isn't always a town that wants one.

French, Nicci. [Thursday's Children](#) (\$16). Twenty years ago teenager Frieda Klein was brutally attacked in her own home. No one believed her, not the police, not her mother, not her friends. She left town, trained as a psychologist, and never went back. Now an old classmate has shown up. She wants help with her daughter, who claims to have been attacked at home. An attack eerily similar to the one on Frieda. No one else believes the girl's story. Now, with a school reunion in the offing, Frieda returns to the darkness she fled. To the small town which refused to help her and which hides a terrible secret... 4th in a series that started on a Monday. French is a UK bestseller.

Galbraith, Robert. [The Silkworm](#) (\$18). When novelist Owen Quine goes missing, his wife calls in private detective Cormoran Strike. At first, Mrs. Quine just thinks her husband has gone off by himself for a few days—as he has done before—and she wants Strike to find him and bring him home. But as Strike investigates, it becomes clear that there is more to Quine's disappearance than his wife realizes. The novelist has just completed a manuscript featuring poisonous pen-portraits of almost everyone he knows. If the novel were to be published, it would ruin lives—meaning that there are a lot of people who might want him silenced. When Quine is found brutally murdered under bizarre circumstances, it becomes a race against time to understand the motivation of a ruthless killer. [The Cuckoo's Calling](#) (\$18) is the first Strike in a crime series by JK Rowling—and a good one too.

Hannah, Sophie. [The Monogram Murders](#) (\$14.99). Hercule Poirot's quiet supper in a 1920s London coffee house is interrupted when a young woman confides to him that she is about to be murdered. She is terrified, but begs Poirot not to find and punish her killer. Once she is dead, she insists, justice will have been done. Later that night, Poirot learns that three guests at a fashionable London hotel have been murdered, and a cufflink has been placed in each one's mouth. Could there be a connection with the frightened woman? While Poirot struggles to put together the bizarre pieces of the puzzle, the murderer prepares another hotel bedroom for a fourth victim and a police detective whose marked sensitivity oddly sidelines him relies upon Poirot.

Healey, Emma. [Elizabeth is Missing](#) (\$15.99). Despite Maud's growing anxiety about Elizabeth's welfare, no one takes her concerns seriously—not her frustrated daughter, not her caretakers, not the police in the south of England, and especially not Elizabeth's mercurial son—because Maud suffers from dementia. But even as her memory disintegrates and she becomes increasingly dependent on the trail of handwritten notes she leaves for herself in her pockets and around her house, Maud cannot forget her best friend. Armed with only an overwhelming feeling that Elizabeth needs her help, Maud resolves to discover the truth—no matter what it takes. As this singular obsession forms a cornerstone of Maud's rapidly dissolving present, the clues she uncovers lead her deeper into her past, to another unsolved disappearance: that of her sister, Sukey, who vanished shortly after World War II. As vivid memories of a tragedy that occurred more than fifty years ago come flooding back, Maud's search for Elizabeth develops a



frantic momentum. Whom can she trust? Herself maybe least of all?

Herron, Mick. [Smoke and Whispers](#) (\$14.95). The reissue of an excellent book. Oxford private detective Zoë Boehm turns up dead in Newcastle, afloat in the River Tyne, launching her friend Sarah Tucker into an investigation with several leads—but no one she can trust. Herron is one of those writers who should be much better read as he's imaginative, does wonderful characters, and has style. [Click here](#) to order his other work.

Howells, Debbie. [The Bones of You](#) (Kensington \$25). “Kate, a likable mother in a quaint English village, learns that 18-year-old Rosie Anderson—seemingly straitlaced, well behaved, and from a good family—is missing. Fond of Rosie, who's the same age as her own daughter, Kate is overwhelmed almost immediately by a sense of foreboding. No one else seems as concerned until Rosie is discovered fatally beaten and stabbed. Kate becomes preoccupied with the murder and gets caught up in the complicated dynamics of Rosie's family, in which nothing is as it seems. This second novel by the author of *Wildflowers* has been compared to Alice Sebold's *The Lovely Bones*, as they both feature young murdered females as narrators. Indeed, Rosie's voice offers a dynamic narrative. Her disembodied perspective, tempered with other points of view—chiefly Kate's—adds an unusual and haunting layer to the novel. Still, the complex tragedy behind her death is in stark contrast to Sebold's Susie. Kimberly McCreight's *Reconstructing Amelia* is a more apt comparison.”—*LJ*. In its Starred Review, *PW* finds that, “Savvy mystery fans will identify the culprit before the big reveal, but the increasingly tense storytelling and astute observations on mother-daughter relationships will keep readers turning the pages.” A **British Crime Club Pick**. We will have a few of the Signed UK edition publishing in July: [The Bones of You Signed](#) (\$34).

Kelly, Erin. [Broadchurch](#) (\$16.99). The popular BBC-TV drama starring David Tennant and Olivia Colman debuted in 2013 and was acquired for BBC America, debuting in August, 2013. Set on the coast of Dorset, it begins with an 11-year-old boy who is found dead beneath cliffs and declared murdered. It's going to be called *Gracepoint* in a new US version. Anyway, here is the novelization based on the story of series creator Chris Chibnall. It's a classic British police enquiry in a quiet seaside town with results that are tragic but not truly surprising. It's hard to say if you should watch or read *Broadchurch* first.

Lovesey, Peter. [Down Among the Dead Men Signed](#) (Little-Brown UK \$43). A nightmare discovery in the boot of a stolen BMW plunges car thief Danny Stapleton into the worst trouble of his life. What links his misfortune to the mysterious disappearance of an art teacher at a private school for girls in Chichester? Orders from above push Peter Diamond of Bath CID into investigating a police corruption case in the Chichester force, and he soon finds himself reluctantly dealing with spirited schoolgirls, eccentric artists and his formidable old colleague, Hen Malin—he's almost 99% she's being railroaded although it may just be bad police work. Sadly for Diamond, he's forced to work in concert with his superior in Bath, a woman who drives him mad. New in paperback: [The Stone Wife](#) (\$15.95)

Mosby, Steve. [The Nightmare Place](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). I like Mosby's work but this one is more or less a routine serial killer/dysfunctional guys preying on women sort of effort. It does have

a truly arresting first chapter written inside the head of a man who becomes known as the Creeper although clearly he does not see himself that way. It falls to DI Zoe Dolan to track him. The message in such sorts of books is how vulnerable women are.

Peace, David. [Red or Dead](#) (Melville \$18.95) is “David Peace's demented novel about real-life soccer coach Bill Shankly... The novel is barking mad, but quite brilliant, and is a monument to a kind of magnificent decency once at the core of British life, but now rapidly fading.”—Kazuo Ishiguro, *New York Times Book Review*, on a 700-page novel about the coach of an English soccer (football) team. Raves from others include this from the *Washington Post*: “As both postmodern epic and ultimate sports novel, Red or Dead is a winner.” And this: “It's about so much more than soccer. It's about politics, obsession, community—plus, what could be more British than football?”—*Condé Nast Traveler*

Watson, S.J. [Second Life](#) (Harper \$26.99). Watson's First Mystery Club Pick, CWA Best Debut Novel Dagger winner, and international bestseller [Before I Go to Sleep](#) (\$15.99) preceded the current field of domestic suspense successes. I wish I could say I like this new novel, not a sequel, as well but I couldn't get caught up in the “sexual playground that gives her fantasies free rein.” Julia being the older sister of Kate who adopted Kate's son when Kate gave birth at 16. And now Kate's brutal murder and the irresistible pull of her secret life threaten to unmoor Julia.... And it takes forever.

Willig, Lauren. [That Summer](#) (\$15.99). A Brontë sort of novel flowing a modern story of a young woman come to London over a Victorian domestic tragedy. See Our June Trade Paperback Picks. Willig will appear in September with a new British novel plus a new entry in her Pink Carnation romantic suspense series.

### BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSICS

Edwards, Martin, ed. [Resorting to Murder](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). From a golf course at the English seaside to a pension in Paris, and from a Swiss mountain resort to the cliffs of Normandy, here are the enjoyable and unexpected ways in which 14 vintage crime writers have used summer holidays as a theme, ranging widely across the golden age of British crime fiction. Stellar names from the past are well represented – Arthur Conan Doyle and G. K. Chesterton, for instance – with classic stories that have won acclaim over the decades. The collection also uncovers a wide range of hidden gems: Anthony Berkeley – whose brilliance with plot had even Agatha Christie in raptures – is represented by a story so (undeservedly) obscure that even the British Library seems not to own a copy. The stories by Phyllis Bentley and Helen Simpson are almost equally rare, despite the success which both writers achieved, while those by H. C. Bailey, Leo Bruce, and the little-known Gerald Findler have seldom been reprinted. What could make better summer reading than going on vacation on your own vacation?

Edwards, Martin, ed. [Capital Crimes: London Mysteries](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). London is a city where anything can happen. The possibilities for criminals and for the crime writer are endless. London has been home to many of fiction's finest detectives, and the setting for mystery novels and short stories of the highest quality. Edwards has curated an eclectic collection of London-based crime stories, blending the familiar with the unexpected in a way that reflects the

personality of the city. Alongside classics by Margery Allingham, Anthony Berkeley, and Thomas Burke are excellent and unusual stories by authors who are far less well known, and give you a flavor of how writers have tackled crime in London over the span of more than half a century. Their contributions range from an early serial-killer thriller set on the London Underground and horrific vignettes to cerebral whodunits. What they have in common is an atmospheric London setting, and enduring value as entertainment. For other British Library Crime Classics (coming on line at Poisoned Pen Press so some are not available now), [click here](#). Some forthcoming publications will be Classic Spy Stories. Coming in July: two by Freeman Willis Crofts.

### WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Beukes, Lauren. [Broken Monsters](#) (\$16). Detective Gabriella Versado has seen a lot of bodies. But this one is unique even by Detroit's standards: half boy, half deer, somehow fused together. As stranger and more disturbing bodies are discovered, how can the city hold on to a reality that is already tearing at its seams? If you're Detective Versado's geeky teenage daughter, Layla, you commence a dangerous flirtation with a potential predator online. If you're desperate freelance journalist Jonno, you do whatever it takes to get the exclusive on a horrific story. If you're Thomas Keen, known on the street as TK, you'll do what you can to keep your homeless family safe—and find the monster who is possessed by the dream of violently remaking the world. Here is a new spin on the serial killer thriller.

Bird, Kai. [The Good Spy the Life and Death of Robert Ames](#) (\$16). On April 18, 1983, a truck loaded with explosives crashed into the lobby of the United States embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. Today, it's "a largely forgotten moment in the history of America's presence in the Middle East," Kai Bird writes in *The Good Spy*, but one with great underlying significance—"the beginning of America's deadly encounter with a political Islamist movement." Among the 63 people killed in the bombing was Robert Ames, a CIA agent who had played a pivotal role in establishing a line of communication between the U.S. government and the Palestinian Liberation Organization. *The Good Spy* pays tribute to his accomplishments and sacrifice; though it was written without any official cooperation from the CIA, more than 30 retired officers shared their personal and professional recollections.

Carlotto, Massimo. [The Gang of Lovers](#) (Europa \$15). Padua, Italy. An unremarkable man, a husband and father, disappears without a trace. After a few months of searching, the police send his file to the cold cases department to be thrown in with the files of other missing persons. One woman knows the truth about his disappearance, but, being the daughter of a prominent and wealthy Swiss industrialist she fears coming forward with what she knows: that she was his lover and that there is more to his disappearance than another bored suburban husband running out on his. Stricken by guilt, she finally confides in a lawyer who advises her to turn to Marco Buratti, aka The Alligator, for help. Buratti agrees to assist the woman. Initially, the case of the woman's missing lover seems like a lost cause, but a clue puts the Alligator and his trusted associates, Max the Memory and Beniamino Rosini, on the trail of the unscrupulous and brilliant criminal, Giorgio Pellegrini, protagonist of *The Goodbye Kiss* and *At the End of a Dull Day*. The deadly game of chicken in which the good guys and the bad guys are often hard to tell apart is Carlotto's specialty. But good or bad, these men are survivors.

Coelho, Paulo. [Adultery](#) (\$14.95). A woman in her thirties begins to question the routine and predictability of her days. In everybody's eyes, she has a perfect life: happy marriage, children, and a career. Yet what she feels is an enormous apathy. All that changes when she encounters a successful politician who had, years earlier, been her high school boyfriend. As she rediscovers the passion missing from her life, she will face a life-altering choice.

Corris, Peter. [The Washington Club](#) (Allen & Unwin \$16.95 each). Corris is one of Australia's most successful crime writers. *The Washington Club* is the 19th investigation for Cliff Hardy who finds himself with a personal stake in the action. His investigations introduce him to the shadowy world of corporate high-fliers at Sydney's exclusive Washington Club and bring him into contact with loose cannon 'Haitch' Henderson and his soft but unpleasant pimp of a son, Noel. In one of his grittiest cases ever, Hardy has to take drastic action before the pieces fall into place and very rough justice is seen to be done. Also reissued: [Black Prince](#); [Forget Me If You Can](#) (\$16.95 each). [Click here](#) for earlier books.

Cotterill, Colin. [Six and a Half Deadly Sins](#) (Soho \$26.95). Laos, 1978: Dr. Siri Paiboun, a 72-year-old medical doctor, has unwillingly been appointed the national coroner of the new socialist Laos. His lab is underfunded, his boss is incompetent, and his support staff is quirky, to say the least. But Siri's sense of humor gets him through his often frustrating days. When the body of the wife of a prominent politician comes through his morgue, Siri has reason to suspect the woman has been murdered. To get to the truth, Siri and his team face government secrets, spying neighbors, Hmong shamans, botched romances, and other deadly dangers as his new job puts him in a unique position to identify the dead—and their killers. In this his 6th investigation, everyone is heading north. Dr. Siri & Daeng are pursuing a trail of clues including a dismembered finger sewn into the hem of a Laophasin skirt. Inspector Phosy goes to arbitrate a village dispute and ends up insulting a warlord. Constable Civilai goes to prevent a little war with China—what's that project underway? And whose funeral is it at the end of the book? If you never read the first Dr. Siri, [The Coroner's Lunch](#) (\$9.99), winner of the Independent Mystery Bookseller's Dilys Award, a First Mystery Club Pick, and one of my favorite first novels. There's humor, but Dr. Siri's work, while accounting for the role of superstition as well as science, is cutting edge. Try it at this new low price.

Crompton, Richard. [Hell's Gate](#) (Farrar \$26). I wasn't crazy about the story here but the Maasai warrior Mollel turned detective and the Maasai culture, the landscape of a small town on the edge of an African national park, are well worth your time. It looks like his career has nosedived when he ends up far from Nairobi in Hell's Gate, and his colleagues may be guilty of the typical corruption plaguing the police. Then the body of a flower worker turns up and in the local lake and Mollel wonders if the local cops aren't into something much worse.... 2nd in series.

Daoud, Kamel. [The Meursault Investigation](#) (Other Press \$14.95). The Indie Next Pick finds this, "is a complex and subtle reckoning with the legacy of colonialism and the silences it imposes. The narrative is from the point of view of Harun, the brother of the man killed by the antihero of *The Stranger* by Albert Camus [Harun's older brother, Musa, an Algerian Arab, was shot by the

Frenchman Meursault on an Algiers beach in 1942; his body was never recovered. Musa's missing corpse casts a long shadow over Harun, "condemned to a secondary role" by his widowed mother as she drags him on an interminable investigation into the death. Readers realize quickly that it haunts those shadows not because it lacks its own light, but because Daoud wants to plumb the depths of that darkness to tell a story that demands to be heard. I hope everyone listens."

Farrow, John. [The Storm Murders](#) (St Martins \$25.99). All the review media gave this stars but me (and Karen)—neither of us could get into the voice or what I would describe as the initial glacial pace. So once again here are Starred Review extracts so you can make up your own minds: "In Farrow's smart, enthralling fourth Émile Cinq-Mars thriller, the retired Montreal police detective consults on a case involving the murder of a married couple at an isolated Quebec farmhouse. Cinq-Mars works with an FBI agent who's investigating several murders committed in like fashion in the U.S. Each of the American murders was committed after a natural disaster, and the Canadian one occurred during a severe snowstorm. In every case, the wife's naked body was found upstairs with no sign of sexual assault, the husband found shot or knifed to death, and each victim's left ring finger severed and taken from the crime scene. After Cinq-Mars's much younger wife, Sandra, who's considering leaving him, offers to assist him, he knows his marriage may well depend upon the success of their collaboration. The hair-raising action moves from New Orleans to Alabama and back to Quebec, building to a brilliantly executed conclusion." *Kirkus* give some background: "Farrow, the pen name of Trevor Ferguson, an acclaimed Canadian literary novelist, honors the traditions of the genre while adding enjoyable wrinkles. The slow-moving but fast-thinking Cinq-Mars can be counted on for plenty of frumpy humor, but when things get cold and sinister, he's no pushover, even when making words his weapon. Because he's so good at it, a long scene that would be talky in another novel is gripping in this one. One of the best mysteries from Canada in some time, this fourth book in a strong series is equally good at capturing the atmosphere of New Orleans and the distinctive qualities of Montreal." So maybe I'll go back to it and skip to the end scenes....

George, Nina. [The Little Paris Bookshop](#) (Crown \$25). Karen reviews: This title has been called "a love letter to books". Jean Perdu owns and operates a barge on the Seine called The Literary Apothecary. He prides himself in being able to prescribe the right book, rather than pharmaceuticals, as "the only remedy for countless, undefined afflictions of the soul". The only person he hasn't been able to diagnose is himself. His is still brooding over a lost love who left a letter when she walked away. He never knew why she left until he was convinced to open and read her note. He subsequently set off on his barge, down the Seine, to search for his lost past. He is joined by a successful first-time writer experiencing writer's block, and an expert in the sensory sciences of flavors and aromas. Together, this not-so-hapless trio moves out of their comfort zone in a hilarious trip down the river. A bit of trouble occurs when the barge turns sideways, blocking the canal and annoying both pleasure and working boats. They charm a group of women, having tea, into replenishing their dwindling provisions and, at another time, discover the seduction and etiquette of dancing the tango. On a more serious note, the team attempts to rescue a deer unable to climb the riverbank. The animal's fearful

look and frantic moves demonstrate, to them, the loneliness of dying alone. On a lighter note, the book ends with recipes to stir your senses. Lavender Ice Cream, anyone? There's also a section on books to be considered for an assortment of maladies. For instances, George Orwell, *1984*: "Reduces gullibility and apathy. Old home remedy for chronic optimism, but past sell-by-date." Or Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*: "To overcome adult worries and rediscover the child within." Before you begin reading *The Little Paris Bookshop*, grab a hot cup of coffee—or a glass of wine—and a comfortable chair and let the world go away. Coincidentally, in *Publishers Weekly* of May 11, Soapbox page, psychiatrist Paul Steinberg, who was facing prostate cancer, credits Philip Roth with his recovery. He states, "Through Roth I was able to stay in touch with my inner skirt chaser."

Hewson, David. [The Killing III](#) (\$13.95). The final volume in British author Hewson's dramatization of the complex Danish TV series which in the U.S. unrolls in its moody complexity in Seattle.

Hooper, Emma. [Etta and Otto and Russell and James](#) (\$15.99). An offbeat and sweetly fantastical short tale of an octogenarian called Etta who decides leave her husband behind and walk from Saskatchewan 1000+ miles east to the ocean she has never seen. Husband Otto, who has, understands, and is flooded with memories. Neighbor Russell who has loved Etta from afar, goes after her (James is a dog). Not a coming-of-age but an end-of-life story.

Hjortsberg, William. [Mañana](#) (Open Road \$13.99). William "Gatz" Hjortsberg hung around with the 1960s weed and whiskey writers crowd that included Ken Kesey and Richard Brautigan. In 2012, Hjortsberg published an 800-page biography about the tragic life of his friend Brautigan, but his best known work is 1978's Edgar Award-winning juju-noir novel *Falling Angel* (source of the cult movie *Angel Heart*). His new novel, *Mañana*, goes back to those days when the adventurous and fugitive went down to kick back on Mexico's Pacific coast with cheap dope and sunshine. Married eight years, Tod and Linda leave the Summer of Love chaos in San Francisco to rent half a duplex in tiny Barra de Navidad for the 1968 Semana Santa celebrations. In a haze of music, surfing, sex, drugs and booze, they party with the next-door group of young ex-cons and dopers on the lam from a Beverly Hills jewelry robbery. *Mañana* launches with Tod waking from a drugged night to find a girl in his bed, her throat slashed, and Linda and the criminals gone.

Hornbostel, Peter. [Ambassador to Brazil](#) (Four Winds \$15.95). I'm quoting the publisher: The history: In March 1964, a secret task force of United States warships and tankers set sail from the Caribbean bound for Brazil. The flotilla, which had the code name Operation Brother Sam, included the world's largest aircraft carrier, several destroyers, a troop carrier, and three tankers. Its purpose was to support the Brazilian military in its meticulously planned coup d'état against President João Goulart, which was successfully completed on April 1. The novel: In this work of fiction, Peter Hornbostel deftly weaves fact and fiction to draw a classic example of U.S. intelligence operations in Latin America out of the shadows, and to speculate on what the role of the United States may have been. The novel's protagonist, Ambassador Anthony Carter, maneuvers to influence unfolding events despite being kept in the dark by the CIA and the Brazilian military. Although the success of the coup is inevitable, the novel

demonstrates how U.S. hegemony mixed with Cold War hostilities to escalate the crisis, and how the outcome could have been much worse. In addition to the political intrigue, this is the story of Ambassador Carter's Rio-based love affair with his Brazilian mistress, Marina.

Jamali, Naveed. [How to Catch a Russian Spy](#) (Scribner \$26). We can see that Cold War stories and tropes are on the rise along with Putin's ambitions for Russia. But here's an unusual twist with a US win (and surely a movie to come). How did a young man's post-college adventure become a real-life US counter-intelligence coup? He had no previous counter-espionage experience. Everything he knew about undercover work, he'd learned from *Miami Vice* and *Magnum P.I.* reruns and movies like *Ronin*, *Spy Game*, and anything with Bond or Bourne in the title. And yet, hoping to gain experience to become a Navy intelligence officer, he convinced the FBI and the Russians they could trust him. With charm, cunning, and a big load of naiveté, he matched wits with a veteran Russian military-intelligence officer who was recruiting spies on American soil, out-maneuvering the Russian spy and his secret-hungry superiors. Along the way, Jamali and his FBI handlers cast a rare light on espionage activities at the Russian Mission to the United Nations in New York and earned a solid US win in the escalating hostilities between Moscow and Washington. Here is Jamali's whole story behind his double-agent adventure—from coded signals on Craigslist to the Russian spy's propensity for Hooters' Buffalo wings.

Kanaris, Leo. [Codename Xenophon](#) (Daedalus \$15.99). Karen reviews: "George Zafiris, a private investigator in Athens Greece, is asked to solve the murder of a well-known professor of ancient Greece. Later murders of a politician and a journalist add to the mix, but how, or if, they connect is not obvious. The biggest obstacles for Zafiris in his investigation are the wide-ranged bureaucratic corruption and subsequent financial crippling of the country. He attributes his challenges to the "taking it easy as a national disease". After much stonewalling a colleague advises him to combine his logical mind with intuitive thinking. George blends these two approaches, drawing a diagram which provides a guide to connecting the dots. The solution is creative and the story is replete with descriptions of a society once honored for its contribution to civilization on a steady descent. This debut novel is interesting, educational, thoughtful and well worth the time to read. I look forward to more investigations with George Zafiris."

Harkness, Deborah. [The All Souls Trilogy Boxed Set](#) (Penguin \$51)

Knausgaard, Karl Ove. [My Struggle Book Four](#) (SimonSchuster \$27). Eighteen-year-old Karl Ove moves to a tiny fishing village in the Arctic Circle to work as a school teacher. As the nights get longer, the shadow cast by his father's own sharply increasing alcohol consumption, also gets longer.... This series has attracted an enthusiastic cult following.

Larsson, Åsa. [The Second Deadly Sin](#) (\$14.99). Swedish villagers gather to dispatch a rampaging bear. When the beast is brought to ground they are horrified to find the remains of a human hand inside its stomach. In nearby Kiruna, a woman is found murdered in her bed, her body a patchwork of vicious wounds, the word WHORE scrawled across the wall. Her grandson Marcus, already an orphan, is nowhere to be seen. Grasping for clues, Rebecka Martinsson begins to delve into the victim's tragic fam-

ily history. But with doubts over her mental health still lingering, she is ousted from the case by an arrogant and ambitious young prosecutor. Before long a chance lead draws Martinsson back into the thick of the action... 5th in series.

Lawrenson, Deborah. [The Sea Garden](#) (\$15.99). On the lush Mediterranean island of Porquerolles off the French coast, Ellie Brooke, an award-winning British landscape designer, has been hired to restore a memorial garden. Unsettled by its haunted air and the bitterness of the garden's owner, an elderly woman who seems intent on undermining her, Ellie finds that her only ally on the island is an elusive war historian. "The Lavender Field." Near the end of World War II, Marthe Lincel, a young blind woman newly apprenticed at a perfume factory in Nazi-occupied Provence, finds herself at the center of a Resistance cell. When tragedy strikes, she faces the most difficult choice of her life and discovers a breathtaking courage she never expected. "A Shadow Life." Iris Nightingale, a junior British intelligence officer in wartime London, falls for a French agent. But after a secret landing in Provence results in terrible Nazi reprisals, he vanishes. When France is liberated, Iris is determined to uncover the truth. Was he the man he claimed to be?

Leon, Donna. [Quietly in Their Sleep](#); [Through a Glass, Darkly](#) (\$14 each). Reissues of two Commissario Brunetti mysteries. Rob and I recently rewatched Leon's first Brunetti, [Death at La Fenice](#) (\$7.99 or \$14.99) which takes place in Venice's opera house (before it burned and was rebuilt) and presents a soprano as a suspect in the death of the legendary conductor during a performance of *La Traviata*. It's a terrific novel you should grab if you have not yet read it. And Flavia is a wonderful diva so meeting her again enriched a quick reread of Leon's masterful new Brunetti, [Falling in Love Signed](#) (\$40 UK edition, \$26 US), where Flavia moves central stage—as a possible victim of...whom? This time the opera is *Tosca* and the story's climax dovetails right into the opera's finale.

Loomis, Susan Herrmann. [In a French Kitchen: Tales and Traditions of Everyday Home Cooking](#) (Gotham \$26.95). Loomis' food apprenticeship/travel memoir [On Rue Tatin](#) (\$616) is one of my favorite books ever, ranking right in there with Ruth Reichl's [Comfort Me with Apples](#) (\$16), her journey to becoming a food critic. Loomis there plunges you into the very soul of Normandy and she and her husband renovate a dilapidated convent in Louviers and make a life despite challenges through persistent conversation—and baking. Actually *On Rue Tatin* is a terrific read for anyone who liked Joanne Harris' debut with [Chocolat](#) (\$16) as much as did I. So whether you cook or not, you will enjoy both Loomis' books on life and cooking a la France.

MacBride, Stuart. [The Missing and the Dead](#) (Harper \$25.99). Book 9 in the Logan McRae series set in Scotland's Granite City, Aberdeen. The investigations are as rough and formidable as the stone. When you catch a twisted killer there should be a reward, right? What Acting Detective Inspector Logan McRae gets instead is a 'development opportunity' out in the depths of rural Aberdeenshire. Welcome to divisional policing – catching drug dealers, shop lifters, vandals and the odd escaped farm animal. Then a little girl's body washes up just outside the sleepy town of Banff, kicking off a massive manhunt. The Major Investigation Team is up from Aberdeen, wanting answers, and they don't care who they trample over to get them. Logan's got enough on his

plate keeping B Division together, but DCI Steel wants him back on her team. As his old colleagues stomp around the countryside, burning bridges, Logan gets dragged deeper and deeper into the investigation. One thing's clear: there are dangerous predators lurking in the wilds of Aberdeenshire, and not everyone's going to get out of this alive....

Mezrich, Ben. [Once Upon a Time in Russia: The Rise of the Oligarchs](#) (Atria \$28). The true story of two billionaire oligarchs who surfed the waves of privatization in post-Communist Russia to astounding wealth. Boris Berezovsky vs. Roman Abramovich were originally partners, Berezovsky acting as the younger man's protector. They built a gigantic oil company from the ground up, but their partnership frayed when Boris attacked Putin in the media and had to flee to the UK while Roman stayed home and prospered more. In time Boris' associate Litvinenko died of Polonium poisoning, and then Boris was declared a suicide. Clearly you couldn't make this stuff up were you writing a thriller. Mezrich's books turn into movies – *The Social Network*, 21—so...

Carner, Talia. [Hotel Moscow](#) (Harper \$14.99). To read with Mezrich's tale of men shamelessly looting the post-Soviet economy is this second novel by Carner. In late September 1993, Brooke Fielding, a thirty-eight-year-old New York investment manager and the daughter of Jewish Holocaust survivors, accepts an invitation to teach entrepreneurial skills to Russian businesswomen in Moscow. Though excited by the opportunity to be one of the first Americans to visit Russia after the fall of communism, she wonders what awaits her in the country that persecuted her mother just a generation ago. But as the Russian parliament's uprising against President Boris Yeltsin turns Moscow into a volatile war zone, Brooke finds that her involvement comes at a high cost. For in a city where "capitalism" is still a dirty word, where neighbors spy on neighbors and the new economy is in the hands of a few dangerous men, nothing Brooke does goes unnoticed

Nichols, Peter. [The Rocks](#) (Riverhead \$27.95). To call this novel an odyssey certainly fits because Homer's *Odyssey* permeates the story and indeed shapes the actions of one of the characters. We begin in 2005 in an off-kilter Mediterranean idyll, a seaside resort area on the eastern end of the island of Mallorca. Two halves of a failed marriage nearly 60 years ago have a fateful, and fatal, encounter. Clearly a terrible event, kept secret, has divided them, shaping two families, four lovers, and one resort community. What that is we learn as the story unrolls backwards in time, at last revealing what irrevocably damaged the new marriage of Lulu and Gerald. I get her story, but am not sure I enter into his. Fans of the bestseller *The Beautiful Ruins* and say, Richard Russo, will enjoy Nichols' second novel which gets a Starred *PW* Review saying, "Nichols has conjured the perfect beach read: a romantic story set in a rich beach town on Mallorca called Cala Marsopa. Though you may not get sand between its easy-to-turn pages, you'll feel as though you have." In fact, I don't agree, it did little for me. Tastes in stories and voices truly vary, no? I mostly quote Starred Reviews when I agree with them and doing so saves me time typing so I can read more.

Pastor, Ben. [Tin Sky](#) (Bitter Lemon \$15.95). Ukraine, 1943. Having barely escaped the inferno of Stalingrad, Major Martin Bora, an aristocrat torn between his duty as an officer and his integrity/compassion as a person, is serving on the Russian front as a German counterintelligence officer. Weariness, disillusionment, and battle fatigue are a soldier's daily fare, yet Bora seems to be one

of the few whose sanity is not marred by the horrors of war. As the Wehrmacht prepare for the Kursk counter-offensive, a Russian general defects aboard a T-34, the most advanced tank of the war. Soon he and another general, this one previously captured, are found dead in their cells. Everything appears to exclude the likelihood of foul play, but Bora begins an investigation, in a stubborn attempt to solve a mystery that will come much too close to home. Pastor effectively melds a well-constructed whodunit with a grim portrayal of the Eastern front. For those like me who loved Hunter's [Sniper's Honor](#) (\$9.99), and also for fans of Philip Kerr and Alan Furst. I highly recommend the Hunter for a Father's Day gift!

Pauls, Alan. [A History of Money](#) (Melville \$24.95). "The first book published in the U.S. from acclaimed Argentine author Pauls is a stream-of-consciousness novel chronicling a family's tumultuous relationship with money. The nameless narrator's mother has left his father and remarried a wealthier man. As the story begins, an executive with a mining company, who is a friend of the narrator's stepfather, has been sent to deliver a briefcase full of money to a group of striking workers. A bribe? A concession to demands? Payoff for strikebreakers? We never know: the helicopter carrying him crashes, and, though the body is found, the briefcase goes missing. The narrator spends pages evoking the irritating sound the family friend made while chewing *crostini*, the awful crunching serving as metaphor for a generation's conspicuous consumption. Such bravura sequences largely take the place of plot—the narrator jumps between reminiscences of his father, reflections on his own life, and stories of his troubled relationship with his mother, darting around time and space, connected by feelings and details but seldom by events. Meanwhile, the economy booms and busts, alternately compounding the family's calamities and enabling their upswings. Pauls tells the story of this dark and politically troubled period in Argentine history almost entirely through an economic prism, suggesting that materialism is the mother of complicity. This caustic indictment, and the stylistic tour de force through which it's delivered, should help secure English speakers' awareness of Pauls as an important writer."

Pryor, Mark. [The Reluctant Matador Signed](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). More on this in July as we work to get Pryor here to sign the latest Hugh Marston taking the former agent, now in charge of US Embassy Security in Paris, to Barcelona when the daughter of a friend vanishes there.... I'm a fan of Pryor's clever books. [Click here](#) to order the others.

Simenon, Georges. [The Mahe Circle](#) (\$11); [The Saint Fiacre Affair](#) (\$10). Two more reissues. Also new: [Inspector Maigret Omnibus: Volume 1](#) (Penguin \$30), four titles from the series so far: *Pietr the Latvian*, *The Hanged Man of Saint-Pholien*, *The Carter of La Providence* and *The Grand Banks Cafe*. Additional material includes the original French first edition covers, art directed by Georges Simenon himself. Penguin is publishing the entire series of Maigret novels.

Soderberg, Hjalmar. [Doctor Glas](#) (Continuum \$16). Another reissue: first published in 1905, this astonishing novel juxtaposes impressions of *fin-de-siècle* Stockholm against the psychological landscape of a man besieged by obsession. Lonely and introspective, Doctor Glas has long felt an instinctive hostility toward the odious local minister. So when the minister's beautiful wife

complains of her husband's oppressive sexual attentions, Doctor Glas finds himself contemplating murder. Doctor Glas confronts a chilling moral quandary with gripping intensity.

Smith, Alexander McCall. [The Handsome Man's De Luxe Cafe](#) (\$14.95). Over the years Mma Ramotswe has found many lost things, but never before has she been asked to help a woman find herself—until now. A kindhearted brother and sister have taken in a nameless woman with no memory of her own history or how she came to Botswana. It falls to Precious Ramotswe and her new co-director, Grace Makutsi, to discover the woman's identity. Meanwhile, motherhood proves to be no obstacle to Mma Makutsi's professional success, as she launches a new enterprise of her own: the Handsome Man's De Luxe Café, a restaurant for Gaborone's most fashionable diners, even if it becomes quickly apparent that she's bitten off a bit more than she can chew. And next door, Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni is forced to make a choice that will directly affect not only Tlokweng Road Speedy Motors, but the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency as well. 15th in the series. If you haven't yet read the Mma Ramotswe series, start with [The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency](#) (\$14.95).

Taylor, Patrick. [Only Wounded: Stories of the Irish Troubles](#) (Forge \$25.99). Raised in Bangor, County Down in Northern Ireland, now a resident of British Columbia, bestseller Taylor traces a path through the six counties known as Ulster in portraits of ordinary, and some extraordinary, people caught in its partisan brutality. It died down when the Celtic Tiger prospered but with straitened finances, violence is back as a primary tool of extremists both Catholic and Protestant.

Walker, Martin. [Dying Season Signed](#) (Quercus \$42). The Dordogne town of St Denis may be picturesque and sleepy, but it has more than its fair share of mysteries, as Bruno, chef de police, knows all too well. But when Bruno is invited to the 90th birthday of a powerful local patriarch—a war hero with high-level political connections in France, Russia and Israel—he encounters a family with more secrets than even he had imagined. When one of the other guests is found dead the next morning and the family tries to cover it up, Bruno knows it's his duty to prevent the victim from becoming just another skeleton in their closet. Even if his digging reveals things Bruno himself would rather keep buried. Meanwhile, very modern battles are being fought in St Denis between hunters defending their traditions and environmentalists protecting local wildlife. Neither side, it seems, is above the use of violent tactics. At the centre of it all, Bruno must use all his cunning and character to protect his community's future from its present—and its past. The Brunos make our bestselling paperback series. [Click here](#) to order and read from the beginning with *Bruno, Chief of Police*.

## OUT OF THIS WORLD

Anderson, Kevin J. [Blood of the Cosmos](#) (Tor \$27.99). As the second book of the Saga of Shadows trilogy opens, the humans and Ildirans, having narrowly escaped annihilation at the hands of the Shana Rei and their robot allies in Book One, are desperate to find a way to combat the black cloud of antimatter of the Shana Rei. The mysterious alien Gardeners, who had helped them previously, turn out to be a disaster in disguise and because of them, the world tree forests are again in danger. The allies believing they have found a way to stop their dreaded enemies, a new weapon is tested, but it's a horrible failure, throwing the human race and its allies to the brink of extinction.

Barker, Clive. [The Scarlet Gospels](#) (St Martins \$26.99) takes readers back many years to the early days of two of Barker's most iconic characters in a battle of good and evil as old as time: The long-beleaguered detective Harry D'Amour, investigator of all supernatural, magical, and malevolent crimes faces off against his formidable, and intensely evil rival, Pinhead, the priest of hell.

Brooks, Terry. [Darkling Child: The Defenders of Shannara](#) (Random \$28). Here's a standalone story in this legendary series. After taking up his enchanted sword against the dark sorcerer Arcannen, Paxon Leah has become the sworn protector of the Druid order. Now a critical hour is at hand, as a beloved High Druid nears the end of her reign and prepares to pass from the mortal world to the one beyond. There is little time for Paxon to mourn his friend and benefactor before duty summons him. For in a distant corner of the Four Lands, the magic of the wishsong has been detected. Paxon must accompany a Druid emissary to find its source—and ensure the formidable power is not wielded by the wrong hands.

Green, Simon R. [From a Drood to a Kill](#) (NAL \$26.95). Some call me Shaman Bond, but I was born Eddie Drood, the latest in a long line of folks who chase monsters out of closets for a living to keep humanity safe from all that is dark, demonic, and just downright evil. Needless to say, we've made our fair share of enemies over the centuries—and made some questionable bargains. In exchange for the power to fight the forces of darkness, my parents signed over their souls. They're not the only ones who've made deals with Heaven, Hell, and every otherworldly realm in between, but now the bill's due for several big names in the supernatural community. Including my girl, Molly. She, my parents, and other major players have been kidnapped so they'll pay up—or participate in the "Big Game." A Secret Histories Novel.

Grossman, Lev. [The Magician's Trilogy Box Set](#) (Picador \$48). A fellow writer raves: "Lev's series has brilliantly brought back the wonder I felt on those late nights listening to CS Lewis' *Narnia Chronicles*, but this story is definitely not for little boys and girls. Like the previous two novels, *The Magician's Land* packs enough twists, turns and surprises to fill several books, but its greatest feat lies in how the story is brought to an end. This is one of the most satisfying ends to a series I have ever read, and although that in and of itself is deserving of high praise, the fact that it can make you feel the excitement and wonder of childhood makes it truly magical." This fantasy coming-of-age trilogy—a cunning mix of magical lands, ironic Harry Potter references, Narnia re-takes, and real world realizations—will be brought to the screen soon.

Hamilton, Laurell K. [Dead Ice](#) (Berkley \$27.95). Someone is producing zombie porn. Anita Blake has seen her share of freaky undead fetishes, so this shouldn't bother her. But the women being victimized aren't just mindless, rotting corpses. Their souls are trapped behind their eyes, signaling voodoo of the blackest kind. It's the sort of case that can leave a mark on a person... even someone like Anita.

Hawkins, Scott. [The Library at Mount Char](#) (Crown \$26). "In Hawkins's terror-driven debut, set in a twisted version of our world, the library at Garrison Oaks serves as both heaven and hell, a place where mastery of the library's 12 sections can bring untold power or unending misery. Twelve children orphaned in a mysterious disaster are taken in by Father, the stern librarian at

Garrison Oaks. The library's millions of books cover topics ranging from the mundane to the downright spooky, and the orphans become Father's students, each assigned to a specific area of the library for study. Young Carolyn's section is languages, both human and other—but first and foremost she is learning fear, obedience, and deep, quiet hatred of Father. Readers may struggle with the opening sections, where much happens and little is explained, but they will be relieved by the belated inclusion of flashbacks that answer many questions. Hawkins's cunning plotting is backed up by crisp dialogue, a sensation of constant dread, and a solid, subtly weird setting."—*PW*

Johansen, Erika. [Invasion of the Tearling](#) (Harper \$24.99). The Indie Next Pick: "I loved Johansen's first book, *Queen of the Tearling*, and was thrilled to find the sequel to be equally enjoyable. The new book focuses on the Mort invasion of the Tearling and Queen Kelsea's growth, both as a queen and as a person. Faced with many difficult decisions, an enemy abroad, and a new enemy in the Church, Kelsea finds herself learning more about her powers and making some mistakes. She also finds herself overwhelmed by visions of a woman in a past time that could lead to answers about The Crossing. Cheers to Johansen for proving that the reign of Queen Kelsea will be thrilling from start to finish!"

Jordan, Robert. [Towers of Midnight: Book Thirteen](#) (\$21.99), with Brandon Sanderson. This new edition will feature cover art from acclaimed fantasy artist Raymond Swanland.

Kadrey, Richard. [The Getaway God](#) (\$14.99). A half-human, half-angel with a bad rep and a worse attitude—we are talking about the former Lucifer here—James Stark, aka Sandman Slim, has made a few enemies. None, though, are as fearsome as the vindictive Angra Om Ya—the insatiable, destructive old gods. But their imminent invasion is just one of Stark's problems, as L.A. descends into chaos, and a new evil stalks the city. No ordinary killer, the man known as St. Nick takes Stark deep into a conspiracy that stretches from Earth to Heaven and Hell. And there's more.... #6 in the Sandman Slim series.

Mandel, Emily St John. [Station Eleven](#) (\$15.95). For Kirsten Raymonde, Shakespeare came before and after the end of the world. Twenty years after a virus wiped out so much of the human population that no statisticians were left to tally up the damage, many comforts are relics of a lost past: electricity, medicine, digital technology, automobiles. The Traveling Symphony offers cultural enrichment in exchange for food and shelter in loosely governed towns. In one such place, the company meets a dangerous cult leader known as the Prophet and his rabidly loyal followers. When the performers inadvertently attract the Prophet's wrath, they struggle to escape. Their intended destination, an airport rumored to hold a Museum of Civilization, may also hold the key to the Prophet's true identity—and link directly back to Arthur Leander, whose rise to fame, fortune and regret is told in interludes between pieces of the Symphony's story. Thoroughly chilling, Mandel's vision of the apocalypse gives humanity neither blame nor control over a collapse that crept upon the world.

Pratchett, Terry. [The Long Utopia](#) (Harper \$26.99). "In 2012, *The Long Earth* launched a collaborative series featuring the first new universe created by Discworld visionary Pratchett in over three decades. Now, after two more best-selling works, we've arrived at the years 2045–59, with humans having spread throughout

many Earths while continuing to evolve on their original home. As foundering AI Lobsang tries to pass as human, brilliant post-humans called "the Next" deign to fit in among their not-so-smart compatriots and the inhabitants of an alien planet ensnared with a Long Earth world plan human conquest."—*LJ*

[Darwin's Watch: The Science of Disc World](#) (Knopf \$15.95). When Charles Darwin writes the wrong book and reverses the progress of science, Unseen University's wizards must once again save Roundworld (Earth, that is) from an apocalyptic end.

Stephenson, Neal. [Seveneves Signed](#) (Morrow \$35). When the moon explodes, no one knows why, how or who made it happen, but humanity needs to figure out what to do next, and fast. The Indie Next Pick: "In this exciting and cerebral epic spanning 5,000 years, Stephenson explores the effects of a devastating catastrophe on the course of humanity. After the moon is shattered by an unknown agent, small groups of humans survive the ensuing holocaust—some by digging deep underground, others by seeking refuge in space. Millennia later, the separate branches of mankind converge, inexorably changed. I was completely consumed by this book, terrified and awed by Stephenson's vision of our future. This is essential science fiction."

Stirling, SM. [The Change: Tales of Downfall and Rebirth](#) (NAL \$27.95). Stirling invites the most fertile minds in science fiction to join him in expanding his rich Emberverse canvas. Here are inventive new perspectives on the cultures, the survivors, and the battles arising across the years and across the globe following the Change. In his all-new story "Hot Night at the Hopping Toad," Stirling returns to his own continuing saga of the High Kingdom of Montival. In the accompanying stories are fortune seekers, voyagers, and dangers—from the ruins of Sydney to the Republic of Fargo and Northern Alberta to Venetian and Greek galleys clashing in the Mediterranean. At least 15 fellow authors add their stories.

Tremblay, Paul. [A Head Full of Ghosts](#) (Harper \$25.99). This is an unsettling book of domestic suspense drawing on the increasingly thin line between reality shows and scripted dramas and between what can be found on the internet and dreamed up. More unsettling is that Tremblay provides no concrete answers. *PW* awards this one of its infrequent and coveted Starred Reviews: "Is the protagonist of this book a demon-possessed victim or a clever, manipulative teen? This savvy tale of horror tantalizingly keeps the reader waiting for an answer. When 14-year-old Marjorie Barrett begins behaving as though she's demonically possessed, her Massachusetts family starts a reality-based television show, *The Possession*, to earn the money they desperately need to keep their household together. But is Marjorie really channeling a creature of supernatural evil, or is she just good at Internet research, which keeps her one step ahead of her gullible parents and doctors? Marjorie's younger sister, Meredith, who is recounting these events 15 years after her family's ordeal, even wonders whether it's possible for Marjorie "to be both possessed by a demon and faking it too." Tremblay paints a believable portrait of a family in extremis emotionally as it attempts to cope with the unthinkable, but at the same time he slyly suggests that in a culture where the wall between reality and acting has eroded, even the make believe might seem credible. Whether psychological or supernatural, this is a work of deviously subtle horror.

## JUNE TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

Ahmad, AX. [The Last Taxi Ride](#) (\$16.99). 2nd in the Ranjit Singh Mysteries after [The Caretaker](#) (\$14.99), which I recommend you read first as it informs this story. Singh, exiled from India and his army career, drives a taxi in metro NY, trying to survive. His wife who returned to India has divorced him; his daughter is coming for a visit. He has friends in the taxi-driver community, rooted in the old country and bonded by the hard, low-paying life. One of them turns up as the doorman at the Dakota on Central Park West and that leads Singh, unwisely, inside and into the life of a Bollywood star, a lovely if aging woman with an apartment in the iconic building. Disaster, murder, follows.... An absorbing, unusual community is well worth exploring.

Bouman, Tom. [Dry Bones in the Valley](#) (\$14.95). A 2014 Hardboiled Crime Club Pick won the *LA Times* Book Award. In Wild Thyme, PA, some families go back a long ways and some devastating secrets as well. Henry Farrell, the lone cop in this rural town, finds himself having to deal with the rising drug trade, the shenanigans of fracking companies, and the occasional murder. "So smooth it's as if it was written on spring water. Shadowy, swift, impossible to put down. I was enraptured. Any justice and this writer will soon be a major star."—Joe Lansdale. I say it is so, Joe.

Brookes, Adam. [Night Heron](#) (\$15). A lone man called Peanut escapes a labor camp in the dead of night, fleeing across the winter desert of north-west China in harrowingly described scenes. You are immediately stunned by his perseverance, patience—and cunning. Two decades earlier, he was a spy for the British. But now Peanut must disappear on Beijing's surveillance-blanketed streets. Desperate and ruthless, he reaches out to his one-time MI6 paymasters via crusading journalist Philip Mangan, offering military secrets in return for extraction. But the secrets prove more valuable than Peanut or Mangan could ever imagine...and not only to the British. A first rate thriller, unusual, and also a 2014 **First Mystery Club Pick**. I was forcibly reminded of Eliot Pattison's Edgar-winning debut [The Skull Mantra](#) (\$16.99).

Cumming, Charles. [A Colder War](#) (\$15.99). Last year's Indie Next Pick: "This is another smashing tale of spycraft from Cumming. MI6 veteran Thomas Kell, who readers will recall from [A Foreign Country](#) (\$9.99), is sent to Istanbul to determine what really happened to a colleague killed in the crash of the small plane he was piloting. Beautiful women and treacherous double agents are present, but more prominently the reader experiences the beginning of the psychological wiles that ushered in the eponymous 'colder war.' Cumming's descriptions are so evocative I felt as if I had actually traveled to the Bosphorus and experienced the intrigue firsthand!"

☞Crombie, Deborah. [To Dwell in Darkness](#) (\$13.99). Recently transferred to the London borough of Camden from Scotland Yard headquarters, Superintendent Duncan Kincaid and his new murder investigation team are called to a deadly bombing at historic St. Pancras Station. By fortunate coincidence, Melody Talbot, Gemma's trusted colleague, witnesses the explosion. The victim was taking part in an organized protest, yet the other group members swear the young man only meant to set off a smoke bomb. As Kincaid begins to gather the facts, he finds every piece of the puzzle yields an unexpected pattern, including the disappearance of a mysterious bystander. The bombing isn't the only mystery

troubling Kincaid. He's still questioning the reasons behind his transfer, and when his former boss—who's been avoiding him—is attacked, those suspicions deepen.... This long-running series is one of my favorites. [Click here](#) to order earlier investigations.

Fesperman, Dan. [Unmanned](#) (\$15.95). Fesperman puts you right in the seat of a drone operator (hence the title). I've always admired his imagination, his craft as a writer, and the way he seeks the less traveled path for thrillers. *Library Journal* writes, "Winner of the Crime Writers' Association of Britain's John Creasey Memorial Dagger and Ian Fleming Steel Dagger awards and the International Association of Crime Writers' Dashiell Hammett Award, Fesperman once again proves that he's great for sophisticated readers with this work about a drone pilot devastated by what the drone's display revealed (particularly an Afghan child running for her life) after one catastrophic mission. So he teams up with some journalists to discover the anonymous operative who managed that mission—" *PW* adds, "As Cole and the reporters follow a trail through ex-CIA agents, intelligence contractors, and military technocrats, Fesperman delineates the capabilities of modern drone aircraft in details that evoke wonder as well as chills at their disturbing implications for personal privacy.

Goodwin, Jason. [The Baklava Club](#) (\$16). 19th Century Istanbul. Yashim returns for his 5th and final adventure. Three naïve Italian liberals, exiled in Istanbul, have bungled their instructions to kill a Polish prince—instead, they've kidnapped him and absconded to an unused farmhouse. Little do they realize that their revolutionary cell has been penetrated by their enemies, who are passing along false orders under the code name La Piuma, the Feather. It falls to Yashim to unravel all this—he's convinced that the prince is alive and that the Italians have hidden him somewhere. But there are just a few problems: He has no idea who La Piuma is, and he's in no mood to put up a fight—he's fallen in love! As he draws closer to the farmhouse and to the true identity of La Piuma, what Yashim discovers leaves him shocked and in the most dangerous situation of his career. Yashim's first investigation, [The Janissary Tree](#) (\$16), a First Mystery Club Pick, won the Edgar for Best Novel. [Click here](#) to order all Yashim's cases.

Limon, Martin. [The Iron Sickle](#) (\$15.95). Limon ups his game in this shattering entry into his long-running series. Here is *PW*'s Starred Review: "Limón brilliantly combines a procedural with a harrowing portrayal of the wounds of war in his ninth novel featuring U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division agents George Sueño and Ernie Bascom. Sueño and Bascom, who are serving in South Korea in the 1970s, have developed a reputation for pursuing the truth without regard for the consequences. They must once again balance integrity with professional (and personal) survival in the case of a Korean man, who entered the Seoul compound that houses the office responsible for claims for reparations, compensation, and damages against units attached to United States Forces Korea and slit the throat of its civilian head, C. Winston Barrettsford, with a sickle. Sueño's fluency in Korean gives him an advantage in tracking the killer, even as his superiors try to divert the pair with other duties. The murderer, who left a bizarre totem, including wire and a dead rat, strikes again, upping the pressure on the partners to solve the case."

Lin, Ed. [Ghost Month](#) (\$15.95). August is Ghost Month in Taiwan, a time to commemorate the dead: burn incense, visit shrines, honor ancestors, and avoid unlucky situations, large



purchases, and bodies of water. Jing-nan, a young man who runs a food stand in a bustling Taipei night market, doesn't consider himself superstitious, but this August is going to haunt him no matter what he does. He is shocked to the core when he learns his ex-girlfriend from high school has been murdered. And that class valedictorian Julia had dropped out of university in America and was working in a bikini selling betel nuts to passing truckers. Seriously? These women are generally viewed as prostitutes. Guilt-ridden by his abandonment both of his own American dream and of Julia, Jing-nan visits her parents and accepts a mission to discover what happened to Julia...

Lovesey, Peter. [The Stone Wife](#) (\$15.95). ). This may be the 14th investigation for Bath's portly and often surly Superintendent Peter Diamond, but it maintains Lovesey's creativity and pace as strongly as ever. A Bath auction house puts a slab of stone up for sale, expecting a civilized bidding process. Instead it grows intensely competitive before being interrupted by a hold up attempt. Three masked men enter, shoot the high bidder, a professor, then flee, leaving the stone behind. The victim had recognized the carving thereon as Chaucer's Wife of Bath... "One of the great things about reading one of Lovesey's police procedurals starring Chief Superintendent Peter Diamond of the Bath CID is the natural way Diamond's cases take the reader into the history of Bath itself. Lovesey's latest is filled with [Chaucerian] details... riveting. If you've never encountered Diamond before, this is a good place to start." —*Booklist* Starred Review

McCafferty, Keith. [Dead Man's Fancy](#) (\$15). 3rd in the Sean Stranahan series showcasing Montana's beautiful, rugged landscape and the impressive writing chops of this survival and outdoor skills editor of *Field & Stream*. Fishing guide and reluctant PI Stranahan and Sheriff Martha Ettinger "lasso up a range of topics—wolf reintroduction, wilderness living and survival, animal rights—that are uncovered through his protagonists' meticulous sleuthing."—*Library Journal*. McCafferty signed the hardcover of this here with his serious fan Nevada Barr last year. On August 3 he'll appear here with CJ Box, another fan, with the 4th Stranahan, [Crazy Mountain Kiss](#) (Viking \$26.95), which is akin to Box or Johnson but verging towards Crumley crossed with James Lee Burke. And... being a fan too, I will get a new fly tied by McCafferty (so will CJ so as not to spark off a homicide).

Willig, Lauren. [That Summer](#) (\$15.99). Willig describes this as her English Gothic and it is, blending stories that begin in 2009 and 1839. They are both rooted in a house on London's Herne Hill, inherited in 2009 by New Yorker Julia Conley from a great-aunt. Surprise. Julia, still traumatized by the death of her mother when she was five, has grown up in the city, starting a career she took more or less to defy her family. Abruptly fired, she goes to Herne Hill to sort out the house and is cast into a modern family drama as well as one from the past, and into mysteries that include a hidden Pre-Raphaelite painting found behind a false back in an old wardrobe. The Victorian story is pretty grim, more Bronte than Willig, and very powerful.

#### BOOKS WITH A LITERARY TWIST

Arango, Sascha. [The Truth and Other Lies Signed](#) (SimonSchuster UK \$35). On the surface, Henry Hayden seems like someone you could like, or even admire. A famous bestselling author who appears a modest everyman... And everything about Henry is a lie. See first novels.

Bertman, Jennifer. [Book Scavenger](#) (Holt \$16.99) Ages 8+. When your parents' blog is called 50 Homes in 50 States, you had better be able to make new friends easily, but Emily Crane, 12, is shy. Still, there are two positives about her latest address: James, the fellow puzzle-lover downstairs, and the location—San Francisco, home to Garrison Griswold, the "Willy Wonka of book publishing." Griswold is the mastermind behind *Book Scavenger*, a book-trading game with half a million followers, Emily included. After Griswold is gravely wounded by thieves who are after his special edition of Poe's *The Gold-Bug*, the book winds up in Emily's possession; she and James must solve the mystery surrounding the book before the bad guys do. Full of heart and replete with challenging ciphers for readers to decode, Bertman's debut is literary cousin to classic puzzlers like *The Westing Game*, and a story that values books and reading above other pursuits.

Birmingham, Kevin. [The Most Dangerous Book: Ulysses](#) (\$18). "A great story—how modernism brought down the regime of censorship—told as a great story. Kevin Birmingham's imaginative scholarship brings James Joyce and his world to life. There is a fresh detail on nearly every page."—Louis Menand

Blanding, Michael. [The Map Thief](#) (\$17). Considered by many to be a reputable antique map dealer, E. Forbes Smiley III was also a thief who stole hundreds of valuable maps (some estimates put his haul at over 200) from libraries and other institutions and then sold them. Here, reporter Blanding examines and contextualizes the curious case. What began as the occasional pilferage in order to keep his business afloat ballooned as Smiley's debt increased exponentially, due in no small part to a grand lifestyle—the most glaring example of which was Smiley's renovation of a rustic farmhouse, including a \$105,000 kitchen from Italy. This is a highly readable profile of a narcissist who got in over his head and lost it all. Sort of like the on-line vendor of autographed books who one day put up for sale a signed copy of *A Confederacy of Dunces*. He, too, lost it all.

Galassi, Jonathan. [Muse](#) (Knopf \$25). From its seedy offices on Union Square to the outsized personality of its founder, Homer Stern, the "scrappy but consequential" publishing house Purcell & Stern is a clear proxy for FSG, where Galassi has worked for the last 30 years, and its iconic leader, Roger Straus. Homer, a scion of the German-Jewish aristocracy, has spent his career locked in professional combat with Sterling Wainwright, owner of Impetus Editions and a certified member of the WASP establishment. The ferocity of their competition sustains the two men into their eighth decades. To their rivalry comes Paul Dukach, the novel's protagonist... See First Novels.

George, Nina. [Little Paris Bookshop](#) (Crown \$25). Karen reviews: This title has been called "a love letter to books". Jean Perdu owns and operates a barge on the Seine called The Literary Apothecary. He prides himself in being able to prescribe the right book, rather than pharmaceuticals, as "the only remedy for countless, undefined afflictions of the soul". The only person he hasn't been able to diagnose is himself. His is still brooding over a lost love who left a letter when she walked away. See Where in the World.

Hawkins, Scott. [The Library at Mount Char](#) (Crown \$26). In Hawkins's terror-driven debut, set in a twisted version of our world, the library at Garrison Oaks serves as both heaven and hell, a place where mastery of the library's 12 sections can bring untold power or unending misery. See Out of This World for more.

Jarvis, Stephen. [Death and Mr. Pickwick Signed](#) (Cape UK \$46). On 31 March 1836 the publishers Chapman & Hall launched the first issue of a new monthly periodical entitled *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club*. Conceived and created by the artist Robert Seymour, it contained four of his illustrations; the words to accompany them were written by a young journalist who used the pen-name Boz. The story of a sporting-cum-drinking club presided over by fat, loveable Mr. Pickwick, assisted by his cockney manservant Sam Weller, *The Pickwick Papers* soon became a popular sensation, outselling every other book except the Bible and Shakespeare's plays, and read and discussed by the entire population of the British Isles, from the duke's drawing-room to the lowliest chophouse. But one does not need to have read a single word of *The Pickwick Papers* to be enthralled by the story of how this extraordinary novel came to be. Jarvis presents a vast, intricately constructed, indeed Dickensian work that is at once the ultimate homage to a much-loved book. As we see books like *The DaVinci Code* and *Gone Girl* become phenoms, ask yourself if a century from now one will be the subject of a book like this.

Makkai, Rebecca. [The Hundred-Year House](#) (\$16). Meet the Devohrs: Zee, a Marxist literary scholar who detests her parents' wealth but nevertheless finds herself living in their carriage house. Then there's Violet Devohr, Zee's great-grandmother, who they say took her own life somewhere in the vast house, and whose massive oil portrait still hangs in the dining room. Violet's portrait was known to terrify the artists who resided at the house from the 1920s to the 1950s, when it served as the Laurelfeld Arts Colony—and this is exactly the period Zee's husband, Doug, is interested in. An out-of-work academic whose only hope of a future position is securing a book deal, Doug is stalled on his biography of the poet Edwin Parfitt, once in residence at the colony. All he needs to get the book back on track—besides some motivation and self-esteem—is access to the colony records, rotting away in the attic for decades. But when Doug begins to poke around where he shouldn't, he finds Zee's mom Gracie guards the files with a strange ferocity, raising questions about what she might be hiding. The secrets of the hundred-year house would turn everything Doug and Zee think they know about her family on its head—that is, if they were to ever uncover them.

Oates, Joyce Carol. [Jack of Spades](#) (Grove \$24). I quote a NY bookseller who finds this, “an exquisite, psychologically complex thriller about the opposing forces within the mind of one ambitious writer, and the line between genius and madness. Andrew J. Rush has achieved the kind of critical and commercial success most authors only dream about: his twenty-eight mystery novels have sold millions of copies in nearly thirty countries. But Rush is hiding a dark secret. Under the pseudonym ‘Jack of Spades,’ he writes another string of novels—dark potboilers that are violent, lurid, even masochistic. One day, Rush receives a court summons in the mail explaining that a local woman has accused him of plagiarizing her own self-published fiction. Rush's reputation, career, and family life all come under threat—and unbidden, in the back of his mind, the Jack of Spades starts thinking ever more evil thoughts.”

Swyler, Erika. [The Book of Speculation](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Here's another imaginative, genre-bending novel blending books (an 18th century journal from a traveling carnival), drowning deaths, generations of a Connecticut family saga (mermaids!), a mansion perched perilously on a bluff over the Atlantic and the

possible impending death of young librarian Simon Watson's sister on July 24, just six weeks away. Instrumental in all this is Madame Ryzhkova's deck of cards. And of course, there's a lot about books in this debut.

Zaleski, Philip. [The Fellowship](#) (Farrar \$30). They were a group of precocious, Christian professors at Oxford who called themselves the Inklings. Its members had “nostalgia for things medieval and archaic,” and in the early 1930s they met in their rooms or a local pub to discuss literature, philosophy and to read aloud from works in progress. Their impact on modern literature was immense....Zaleski shows in exquisite detail how these young writers evolved, influenced each other and went on to write some of the most popular books of the 20th century. The four main Inklings were J.R.R. Tolkien, the Catholic; C.S. Lewis, the Anglican; Owen Barfield, the esotericist; and Charles Williams, the “magus.” Others, including W.H. Auden and Dorothy L. Sayers, were loosely associated with them as well. Tolkien unleashed a mythic awakening; C.S. Lewis spurred a Christian one. For the Zaleskis, Lewis is ‘arguably the bestselling Christian writer since John Bunyan.’ The Zaleskis note that feminist critic Germaine Greer feared Tolkien would become “the most influential writer of the twentieth century.” “But as the authors beautifully demonstrate in this virtuoso book, the Inklings were instrumental in a ‘revitalization of Christian intellectual and imaginative life’ while showing everyone the importance of a good story. —Tom Lavoie.

## THE WOMAN IN GOLD

I recommend this moving and illuminating movie starring Helen Mirren to everyone. Go see it. Then you can visit the actual Gustav Klimt painting at New York's Neue Gallery, or [click here](#) to do a virtual visit.

Then you can read two terrific books. One is the actual inspiration for the movie.

Anne-Marie O'Connor, [The Lady in Gold](#) (\$17.95). “The lushly detailed story of Gustav Klimt's most famous painting, detailing the relationship between the artist, the subject, their heirs and those who coveted the masterpiece. . . . Art-history fans will love the deep details of the painting, and history buffs will revel in the facts O'Connor includes as she exposes a deeper picture of World War II.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

The other is a Modern Firsts Club Pick from 2005:

Elizabeth Hickey's [The Painted Kiss](#) (\$14), which I have reread. It focuses on a different Klimt painting, *The Kiss*. But what it says about Klimt is central. Here's the *Booklist* Starred Review: “This first novel, which springs boldly to the reader's attention as an admirably accomplished, beguilingly effortless story, is based on the lives of two actual historical figures. Hickey takes us back to the lush elegance of *fin-de-siècle* Vienna, “the most beautiful, cosmopolitan city in the world”—back to when the emperor still ruled divinely yet the arts were breaking old barriers. Gustav Klimt, a denizen of Viennese bohemia, has already made a painter's name for himself when a well-to-do businessman commissions him to draw his young daughters' portraits. Thus the lives of this permanent fixture in the world's artistic firmament and his mistress-to-be, Emilie Flöge, intersect. Alternating flash-forwards to mid-World War II, when the Old World truly crumbled and Klimt was long dead, frame the story with a perfect nostalgia for the novel's “real” time: the beautifully expressed charting of the growing relationship between Klimt and Emilie, who eventually

runs a fashion house in the Austrian capital and dresses all the ladies of the arts world. Hickey possesses a comfortably secure voice in sharing her understanding of the nature of this unsordid affair and her knowledge of the glamorous but teetering-on-the-edge time and place.”

## NEW BOOKS

Bacigalupi, Paolo. [The Water Knife Signed](#) (Knopf \$25.95).

Our June Modern Firsts Pick gets raves from Patrick who has interviewed the author, from me, and this Indie Next Pick: “The near-future depicted in *The Water Knife* is disturbing and disorienting in its familiarity. Imagine an America so scraped away by ecological disasters—hurricanes, dust storms, and drought—and the brutal struggle to control the water supply that results in a refugee crisis in the Southwest rivaling those that have devastated third world nations.” while California watches, deciding if it should just take the whole river all for itself. Into the fray steps Las Vegas water knife Angel Velasquez. Detective, assassin, and spy, Angel “cuts” water for the Southern Nevada Water Authority and its boss, Catherine Case, ensuring that her lush, luxurious arcology developments can bloom in the desert and that anyone who challenges her is left in the gutted-suburban dust. When rumors of a game-changing water source surface in Phoenix, Angel is sent to investigate. As bodies begin to pile up and bullets start flying, Angel finds himself a pawn in a bigger, darker game. “This book moves like a high-octane thriller but includes a wealth of warnings about where America and the world at large may be headed: a dark future where the brutal reality of everyday survival makes people, corporations, and governments do terrible things. *The Water Knife* may turn out to be 2015’s most talked about book.” —Indie Next Pick

Barrett, Lorna. [A Fatal Chapter](#) (Berkley \$25.95). While out walking her sister’s bichon frise, bookshop owner Tricia Miles is led by the agitated dog to a body in a gazebo. It’s Pete Renquist, president of the Stoneham Historical Society, apparently in cardiac arrest. When he’s rushed to hospital and dies, evidence suggests he may have been murdered. Haunted by his last words to her, Tricia mulls over possible suspects from his personal and professional lives hoping to prevent anyone else from becoming history.... 9th in the Booktown Mysteries cozy series.

Blume, Judy. [In the Unlikely Event Signed](#) (Knopf \$27.95). *PW* gives a Star to what Blume says (for now, at age 77) is her last book. “The three fatal plane crashes that hit Elizabeth, N.J., during the winter of 1951–52 are the inspiration for Elizabeth-native Blume’s latest adult novel (the first since 1998’s *Summer Sisters*), in which young and old alike must learn to come to terms with technological disaster and social change. The novel opens in 1987, when Miri Ammerman’s return to Elizabeth for a commemorative ceremony brings back memories of the year she turned 15. In flashback, readers are brought back to the 1950s—Kate Smith, Lilly Dache, J.D. Salinger, Korea—from a variety of perspectives: Miri; her single mom; her supportive uncle; her wise grandmother; Miri’s best friend, Natalie, daughter of a workaholic dentist and his shopaholic wife; Christina, a Greek girl secretly dating an Irish boy; passengers on the ill-fated planes. Miri’s uncle earns recognition for reporting on the crashes in the local newspaper, but when Miri writes about the reactions at school she lands in the principal’s office. Disaster produces other unexpected developments: Miri’s boyfriend saves lives, while

Natalie hears dead people. Maintaining her knack for personal detail, Blume mixes Miri’s familiar coming-of-age melodrama with an exploration of how disasters test character, alter relationships, and reveal undercurrents of a seemingly simple world.”

Brooks, Malcolm. [Painted Horses](#) (\$15). Catherine Lemay is a young archaeologist on her way to Montana, with a huge task before her—a canyon “as deep as the devil’s own appetites.” Working ahead of a major dam project, she has one summer to prove nothing of historical value will be lost in the flood. From the moment she arrives, nothing is familiar—the vastness of the canyon itself mocks the contained, artifact-rich digs in post-Blitz London where she cut her teeth. And then there’s John H, a former mustanger and veteran of the U.S. Army’s last mounted cavalry campaign, living a fugitive life in the canyon. John H inspires Catherine to see beauty in the stark landscape, and her heart opens to more than the vanished past. Reminiscent of the work of Wallace Stegner, Thomas McGuane, and Annie Proulx.

Burke, Alafair. [All Day and a Night](#) (\$15.99). Has suspected serial killer Anthony Amaro spent 18 years in New York’s Five Points Correctional Facility for a murder he didn’t commit? “In Burke’s gripping fifth novel of suspense featuring NYPD Det. Ellie Hatcher, Ellie must suss that out in the wake of a fresh slaying in Brooklyn with the same signature, for which Amaro has an ironclad alibi. She must also consider the evidence against Amaro in five earlier murders in his hometown of Utica, N.Y., for which he was never prosecuted. That Ellie has recently moved in with the guy calling the shots, ADA Max Donovan, complicates matters, as does Carrie Blank, the associate of the lawyer handling Amaro’s wrongful-conviction claim, being the half-sister of one of the Utica victims. Burke sets the equally driven Ellie and Carrie on a collision course in a propulsive thriller...” —*PW*. [Click here](#) to buy Burke’s earlier books.

Carlisle, Kate. [Ripped from the Pages Signed](#) (NAL \$26). Excited to explore the secrets of wine country, Brooklyn attends an excavation of the caves hidden deep under her parents’ commune—and the findings are explosive. A room is unearthed, and it contains a treasure trove of artwork, rare books, a chest of jewelry...and a perfectly mummified body. A closer examination of the murdered man’s possessions reveals a valuable first edition of Jules Verne’s *A Journey to the Center of the Earth*. Hidden in the book is a secret map that unveils an even greater hoard of treasures brought to California by French winemakers fleeing the Nazi invasion with the commune leader’s grandfather, Anton, among them. As reporters and art appraisers flock to Sonoma to see the precious bounty, questions begin to rise—did Anton hide these items to protect them, or did he steal them for himself? Who is the mysterious man left for dead inside the cave? But not all crime is buried in the past.

Clark, Martin. [The Jezebel Remedy](#) (Knopf \$27.95). One of the best voices going, Virginia circuit court judge Clark transforms legal fiction into something arresting, entertaining—and unexpected! And in this, his 4th knockout novel, he adds a portrait of a marriage gone stale (in wife Lisa’s eyes), the brinkmanship that becomes part of its dynamic, and the surprising result. Lisa and Joe Stone, lawyers (she was *Law Review*), partners, and 20 years man and wife, practice in Henry County, Virginia, a not so prosperous area. Their caseload is seldom glamorous, more the stuff of daily living, domestic disputes, personal injury work, some

wills and estates. Their cantankerous client Lettie VanSandt sucks up a ridiculous amount of time with her constant will modifications, but then she dies in a freakish fire that the local law rules was the result of Lettie cooking meth. Lettie left a handwritten will, superseding one she'd recently drawn, making Joe her sole beneficiary and executor. And that's the start of a scenario of conspiracies, slippery ethical choices, a rising murder investigation, and for Lisa, a need to shield Joe from a truly stupid mistake as his career, and hers, and everything, hang in the balance. Don't miss this one.

Clark, Mary Higgins. [The Melody Lingers on](#) (SimonSchuster \$26.99). As the sole assistant to a famous upscale interior designer, Lane Harmon, mother to five-year-old Katie, is accustomed to visiting opulent homes around the tri-state area. A born optimist, Lane finds the glimpse into these gilded worlds fascinating, and loves the reward of exceeding the expectations of their often-demanding owners. When she is called to assist in redecorating a modest townhouse in Bergen County, she knows the job is unusual. Then she learns the home belongs to the wife of a notorious and disgraced financier named Parker Bennett. Parker Bennett has been missing for two years. He dropped out of sight just before it was discovered that the \$5 billion dollars in the fund he had been managing had vanished. Bennett had gone out on his sailboat in the Caribbean. Was it suicide or had he staged his disappearance? The scandal around his name has not died down. His clients and the federal government all want to trace the money and find Bennett if he is still alive. Lane is surprised to find herself moved by Mrs. Bennett's dignity and apparently sincere belief in her husband's innocence. Which starts her down a scary road. Clark also publishes [Death Wears a Beauty Mask and Other Stories](#) (SimonSchuster \$26) including the never-before-published novella "Death Wears a Beauty Mask," her first-ever published story (1956's "Stowaway"), and classic tales featuring Alvirah and Willy, My Gal Sunday and many more.

Clark, Mary Higgins, ed. [Manhattan Mayhem: New Crime Stories](#) (Quirk \$24.95). Clark edits an anthology of all-new stories from the Mystery Writers of America. From the Flatiron District (Lee Child) and Greenwich Village (Jeffery Deaver) to Little Italy (T. Jefferson Parker) and Chinatown (S.J. Rozan), you'll encounter crimes, mysteries, and riddles large and small. Illustrated with iconic photography of New York City and packaged in a handsome hardcover.

Cooley, M P. [Flame Out](#) (Harper \$24.99). Former FBI special agent June Lyon, having survived the events of [Ice Shear](#) (\$14.99), is now serving on the Hopewell Falls PD. It's a Rust Belt town full of abandoned factories that line the Mohawk River just before it joins the Hudson, a town where her much-loved father was Chief of Police and is able to look after her little daughter Lucy while June works, June's husband Kevin having died from cancer three years earlier. Hopewell Falls is home to a big Ukrainian immigrant community, refugees from Stalin, one member being June's partner Dave Batko. When June barely saves a woman from burning to death in the old Sleep-Tite clothing factory, and then a mummified body is found in a sealed barrel behind a fake wall in the destroyed factory's basement, Dave's volatile family becomes major players. His uncle Bernie, once the factory's owner, has done 30 so far for the murder of his wife Luisa and son, missing but never found. It's assumed the woman so long in the barrel is the missing Luisa. But.... I am intrigued

by the Ukrainian culture and cuisine, by the plot which while not completely believable all hangs together, by the vivid characters, and by the sheer force of June who not only hangs tough while making some tough choices but gives promise of excellent things to come.

Corleone, Douglas. [Robert Ludlum's the Janson Equation](#) (Grand Central \$28). Senator James Wyckoff hires former government agents-turned-private security consultants Janson and Kincaid to locate his teenage son Gregory whose girlfriend Lynell has been found strangled in a Seoul hotel. Gregory has fled the city to avoid being arrested for the crime. The Senator suggests that Lynell, who was a translator, may have been murdered because of something she overheard at a recent international conference. And when Janson and Kincaid realize they're being hunted by an assassin, they suspect that this crime—and the cover-up—was orchestrated by.... A thriller plot looking to Korea makes a change from the Middle East.

Doiron, Paul. [The Precipice Signed](#) (St Martins \$25.99). When two female hikers disappear in the Hundred Mile Wilderness—the most remote stretch along the entire Appalachian Trail—Maine game warden Mike Bowditch joins the desperate search to find them. Hope turns to despair after two unidentified corpses are discovered—their bones picked clean by coyotes. Do the bodies belong to the missing hikers? And were they killed by the increasingly aggressive wild dogs? Soon, all of Maine is gripped with the fear of killer coyotes. But Bowditch has his doubts. His new girlfriend, wildlife biologist Stacey Stevens, insists the scavengers are being wrongly blamed. She believes a murderer may be hiding in the offbeat community of hikers, hippies, and woodsmen at the edge of the Hundred Mile Wilderness. With no new Kent Krueger novel this year, Doiron steps up to deliver his own knockout punch.

New in paper: [The Bone Orchard](#) (\$15.99). "Having quit the Maine Warden Service for various personal reasons, Mike Bowditch barely ekes out a living as a fishing guide, showing off Maine's North Woods to tourists, in Edgar finalist Doiron's excellent fifth series installment featuring thoughtful plotting and strong characters." Though he still spends most of his time outdoors, Mike is acutely aware that he no longer has the authority to arrest lawbreakers, nor does he have the respect of his former colleagues. Mike realizes just how much of an outsider he is when his mentor and former boss, Sgt. Kathy Frost, kills Jimmy Gammon, a distraught Afghan war veteran and former military policeman, in self-defense. Then things get worse, especially for Kathy...

Dubow, Charles. [The Girl in the Moonlight](#) (Harper \$25.99). A lifetime of love and lust, with a backdrop of fine art, vast wealth and high society. Wylie Rose has known the Bonet siblings since he was 10, when he fell out of a tree and broke his arm at a party on their massive estate. He studies painting with the elder son, who becomes a dear friend; he admires the younger twins and the rest of the family, who are all brilliant, luminous, talented, beautiful and tremendously rich. But it is Cesca, two years older than Wylie, who hypnotizes him, and ruins him for any other woman or any other life than self-destructive devotion to her. From a distance of decades, adult Wylie reflects on that life—always coming when Cesca called, from their first sexual encounter when he was a teen through her unpredictable comings and goings over the years, and the apparently mature and healthy relationships

he throws aside for her in Manhattan, Paris and Barcelona. The mystery here is the power of obsession.

Evanovich, Janet/Phoef Sutton. [Wicked Charms](#) (Random \$28). Murdered and mummified nearly a century ago, notorious bootlegger Collier “Peg Leg” Dazzle discovered and re-hid a famous pirate’s treasure somewhere along the coast of New England. A vast collection of gold and silver coins and precious gems, the bounty also contains the Stone of Avarice—the very item reluctant treasure seeker, baker Lizzy Tucker (her cupcakes drive men mad) and her partner, Diesel, have been enlisted to find. While Lizzy would just like to live a quiet, semi-normal life, Diesel is all about the hunt. And this hunt is going to require a genuine treasure map and a ship worthy of sailing the seven seas...or at least getting them from Salem Harbor to Maine. The sin (of seven for this series) here is greed.

Fuller, David. [Sundance](#) (\$16). What if the Sundance Kid, Harry Longbaugh, did not die in Bolivia in 1908 but instead did time in a Wyoming Prison? Released in 1913, he finds the world different (they track him by car after he has to fight a gun duel), but his resolution to find his wife Etta Place is strong as ever. It’s been two years since her letters stopped coming. He follows her trail to New York, discovers what’s up, and then tries to save her before his own legend catches up and beats him. A refreshing, pacy story, poignant yet unsparing, seizing a fascinating idea and running with it. Robert Redford is probably past the role, Harry not yet being a senior.

George, Elizabeth. [Edge of the Shadows](#) (\$18.99). The first fire may have been an accident, but what about the second? And the third—the one that killed someone. Becca King and her friends wonder if one of the newcomers to the island is to blame. Perhaps it’s Isis Martin’s brother, Aidan, just home from a school for troubled teens. Or Parker Natalia, a talented musician fired by his bandmates for unknown reasons. Meanwhile, Becca’s education in the paranormal continues, as fellow psychic Diana Kinsale encourages her to explore her growing extrasensory abilities. 3rd in the Whidbey Island series.

Golden, Christopher. [Tin Men Signed](#) (Random \$26). *Avatar* meets Sigma Force, Taskforce, or Scot Harvath in a tense thriller upping war technology to a new level—the Remote Infantry Corps. Soldiers enter pods in hidden underground bases and pilot thousands of robots in the field. When anarchists set off a global pulse that shorts out electrical connections, a platoon in Damascus realizes its soldiers are trapped inside the Tin Men—something the government never warned them could happen. (Note: how much of today’s world and the future presumes, depends on, an uninterrupted supply of electricity? Deaver wrote a dandy about this on a small scale; Golden ups it.). Meanwhile a G20 Summit in Athens comes under fire and POTUS is at risk as chaos descends complete with Bot killers. I was torn whether to put this into *Out of This World* with other science fiction but really, this well imagined work defies a label.

Harper, Tom. [Zodiac Station](#) (Harper \$14.99). I’ve been crazy for Harper’s blend of landscape, biology, archaeology, politics, and the unexpected. His new novel gets another rave from me and this Starred Review from *PW*: “Harper (*The Orpheus Descent*) brilliantly uses a framing device straight out of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* in crafting an utterly compelling, sophisticated page-turner set in the Arctic. Capt. Carl Franklin and his crew

aboard the U.S. Coast Guard ice-breaker Terra Nova face a baffling mystery when they rescue a man named Thomas Anderson from an ice floe in the middle of nowhere. Anderson, who’s in bad shape from hypothermia and frostbite, tells Franklin that he’s a researcher from Zodiac Station, a scientific base on the island of Utgard. Martin Hagger, a biologist who believes that life on Earth originated at the poles, recruited Anderson, but when Anderson arrived at Zodiac, Hagger was gone. This was but the first of many puzzles Anderson encountered. After the base was devastated by an explosion, Anderson traveled more than 100 miles in just four days in search of help. Franklin, who finds aspects of Anderson’s narrative questionable, probes relentlessly for the truth about what happened at the research outpost on Utgard. The plotting is complex but logical, with a fairly clued and stunning payoff.” [Click here](#) to order the nifty earlier Harpers.

Harris, Charlaine. [The Aurora Teagarden Mysteries](#) (Berkley \$16). Before there was Sookie Stackhouse or other Harris characters, there was Georgia librarian Aurora Teagarden. *Real Murders*. Roe belongs to a club called Real Murders, which meets once a month to analyze famous cases. But after she finds a member dead, killed in a manner that eerily resembles the crime the club was about to discuss, Roe has to uncover the person behind a terrifying game, one that casts all the members of Real Murders, herself included, as prime suspects—or potential victims... *A Bone to Pick*. When a deceased acquaintance names Roe as heir to a substantial estate, which includes money, jewelry—and a house complete with a skull hidden in a window seat—Roe concludes that the elderly woman has purposely left her a murder to solve. She must identify the victim and figure out which one of Jane’s ordinary-seeming neighbors is a murderer—without putting herself in deadly danger... If you missed these cozies first time around, you’re in luck. And rumor has it Harris is writing a new one...

Housewright, David. [Unidentified Woman #15](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Minnesota Twin Cities’ unlicensed PI (he’s a former St. Paul cop) Rushmore McKenzie works investigations somewhat like Lucas Davenport light. He’s got the private wealth, the rogue approach, the take-no-prisoner’s love interest, and the talent for not just mixing in but courting trouble. When he’s driving Interstate 94 through a blizzard and someone opens a tail gate and rolls out a body onto the freeway right in front of McKenzie’s Audi, he not only avoids running her over and gets himself, partner Nina, and the woman clear of what becomes an historic pile-up, but in time takes “Unidentified Woman #15”—for so she is called since she claims total amnesia—in. And not convinced she’s as blank as she says, starts down a path, urged by his former police partner Bobby Dunston, to sort things out. My feeling is that Housewright makes his plots that bit too complex for the kind of page-turning you get with Sandford, but he does have an ingenious mind for crime. 12th in the McKenzie series.

James, EL. [Grey: 50 Shades of Grey as Told by Christian](#) (Vintage \$15.99). James has just announced that she will release a new version of her worldwide bestselling novel *Fifty Shades of Grey*—this time written from Christian Grey’s point of view. The new book will be published on June 18th—a date that devotees may remember as Christian’s birthday.

Kiely, Tracy. [Murder with a Twist](#) (Midnight Ink 14.99). John Charles reviews: “Good riddance to bad rubbish. That is what almost everyone in the Martini clan thinks when Leo Beasley suddenly disappears since Leo is nothing but a sleazy, gold-digging cad. Unfortunately, Leo’s wife Audrey is bereft at the idea of not having her husband by her side to celebrate her upcoming birthday, so Audrey’s cousin Nigel convinces his new wife Nic (a former police detective) to take the “case.” *Murder with a Twist*, the first in a new series by Kiely, is a wonderfully entertaining literary homage to Dashiell Hammett’s classic *The Thin Man*. Nigel and Nic can match Nick and Nora Charles drink for drink, and their sense of wit is as dry as a perfectly mixed martini. Fans of Asta will also be pleased to see the author gives her sleuthing couple their own canine companion in the form of a bull mastiff named Skippy. If you loved the Mr. and Mrs. North mysteries by Richard and Frances Lockridge, Frances Crane’s detective series featuring Pat and Jean Abbott, or the Dagobert and Jane Brown books by Delano Ames (or you just enjoy cleverly written contemporary mysteries with a dash of romance), definitely put *Murder with a Twist* on your to-buy list.” Starts a series.

King, Stephen. [Finders Keepers](#) (Scribner \$30). Bill Hodges, the retired detective hero of the 2015 Edgar Allan Poe Award winner [Mr. Mercedes](#) (\$16), stars in this taut thriller about the thin line separating fandom from fanaticism. In 1978, Morris Bellamy murders his literary idol, John Rothstein (clearly modeled on J.D. Salinger), and pilfers more than 100 notebooks filled with Rothstein’s unpublished writing. After serving 35 years in the clink for another crime, Bellamy returns to the Midwestern everyville of Northfield to reclaim the stashed notebooks—only to discover that they’ve fallen into the hands of teenage Rothstein fan Pete Saubers, who’s in dire need of Hodges’s protective services when the murder-minded Bellamy comes after him. “Bellamy is one of King’s creepiest creations—a literate and intelligent character whom any passionate reader will both identify with and be repelled by. His relentless pursuit of a treasure that his twisted thinking has determined is rightfully his generates the nail-biting suspense that’s the hallmark of King’s best work.”—*PW* Starred Review.

Larson, Nathan. [The Immune System](#) (Akashic 15.99). “Larson treats the English language as a sort of toy to play with and use for experimentation; language is not just used to tell the story, in other words, but is a part of the story, an extension of its narrator, Dewey Decimal, one of the more offbeat characters in fiction. A fitting conclusion to a unique and memorable trilogy.” —*Booklist*. New York City is still in tatters after a monstrous attack on 9/11. The city is a shell of its former self and corruption and violence rule the streets. Disturbed anti-hero Dewey Decimal is a freelance fixer, though lately he’s been at the beck and call of a crooked senator. When Dewey is tasked with disrupting unrest from a growing group of outcast civilians he must decide if he is to be part of the elite control system or willing to commit himself to the unknown. Larson winds this up well. Fans of Ben Winters’ *Last Policeman* trilogy and Adam Sternbergh’s *Spademan* series will find this right up their alley. The first two: [The Dewey Decimal System](#); [The Nervous System](#).

Leonard, Elmore. [Charlie Martz and Other Stories](#) (Harper \$25.99). This collection features 15 stories, 11 of them never previously published, from the early career of the late, great Leonard. As a writer making his name, especially in Westerns, he explores voices and locations in small-town New Mexico and Michigan,

a Hollywood film set, a military base in Kuala Lumpur. Classic characters include aging lawman Martz and the weary former matador Eladio Montoya.

Matthews, Jason. [Palace of Treason Signed](#) (Scribner \$26.99). The June Indie Next Pick for the next thriller by First Mystery Pick author Matthews. “Matthews’ debut, [Red Sparrow](#) (\$9.99), was only the first ‘date’ for Russian agent Dominika Egorova and the CIA’s Nate Nash. Now, in *Palace of Treason*, the spies and lovers find themselves on opposite sides of an even more dangerous game. Tight, authentic tradecraft was the hallmark of Matthews’ former career in the CIA and it shows in this twisty race to unravel moles in both America and in Putin’s Russia. Dominika is getting closer to Putin himself—close enough to catch his eye!—while Nate races to stop a man hell-bent on revenge on everyone. Spy versus spy, sex, trained assassins—here is everything you want in a summer read!” Matthews heats up the Cold War with sparring, skullduggery and passion between Nathaniel Nash, a young CIA officer, and Dominika Egorova, a Russian intelligence officer. Did you think the Cold War was over? Not so, says Matthews: “I’ll quote Vladimir Putin himself who said, ‘Russia never lost the Cold War... because it never ended.’ In the summer of 2010, eleven Russian deep-cover intelligence officers were arrested by the FBI. Some of them had lived in the U.S.—as Americans, maybe your neighbors—for a decade, trying to develop access to secrets.” Matthews adds a surprising twist to the genre: recipes. “I had always admired authors who wrote passionately about food in their novels. Len Deighton is a good example. I thought it would be different (and maybe a little provocative) to include an elliptical recipe at the end of each chapter, many of which I have tried myself. Blending descriptions of interesting foreign food into the plot just takes a little planning.”

Meade, Glenn. [Snow Wolf](#) (\$15.99). First published in 1997, Glenn Meade’s first internationally bestselling thriller is back and better than ever, as it takes you on a riveting ride into the heart of a Cold War plot to assassinate Joseph Stalin. It’s 1953—the middle of the Cold War. Joseph Stalin is a major threat—with his deteriorating mental stability, reports that he’s about to resume his horrifying purges, and the Soviet Union on the cusp of developing nuclear weapons, it’s a risk the US government is unwilling to take. Operation Snow Wolf is created to eliminate Stalin before it’s too late. CIA agent Jake Massey is chosen to run the operation and he recruits Alex Slanski—AKA Wolf—to do the deed, along with Anna, who recently escaped from a Soviet gulag, to be his guide. But someone knows their plan, and the KGB have dispatched their own deadly Major Yuri Lukin to hunt down the hunters. As circumstances quickly unravel, Jake must somehow put an end to the mission he had set into motion—before the entire situation explodes into World War III.

Mosley, Walter. [Rose Gold](#) (\$15.95). Set in the Patty Hearst era of radical black nationalism and political abductions, a black ex-boxer self-named Uhuru Nolica, the leader of a revolutionary cell called Scorched Earth, has kidnapped Rosemary Goldsmith, the daughter of a weapons manufacturer, from her dorm at UC Santa Barbara. If they don’t receive the money, weapons, and apology they demand, “Rose Gold” will die—horribly and publicly. So the FBI, the State Department, and the LAPD turn to Easy Rawlins, the one man who can cross the necessary borders to resolve this dangerous standoff.

Palmer, Daniel. [Constant Fear](#) (Kensington \$25). I've become an avid reader of Palmer's nail-biting domestic suspense. *LJ* agrees with me in its Starred Review of this his 6th thriller: "Palmer sets out to tell a fast-paced, suspenseful story and doesn't fail. A former baseball all-star and single father, Jake Dent spends his days as a custodian at the prestigious Pepperell Academy where his son, Andy, attends on a scholarship. At night, he trains the boy as a survivalist in preparation for the doomsday he is convinced will soon arrive. Jake keeps that side of himself secret from everyone except Andy, including his love interest, Ellie. When Andy and his hacker friends steal money from a drug cartel, Jake must use every skill he's learned in order to save the students from killers set on revenge. Sure to get hearts pumping and bound to be a winner with fans of Greg Iles and Iris Johansen..." And from *Booklist*: "Palmer takes a straightforward kidnapping story and turns it into a compelling tale filled with not-so-typical heroes. Setting the action in a high school is risky, but Palmer pulls it off. Fans of Harlan Coben or Linwood Barclay will especially enjoy this one." Also by Palmer, completing an unfinished book by his late father Michael: [Trauma](#) (St Martins \$27.99), a medical thriller.

Pronzini, Bill. [Vixen: A Nameless Detective Novel Signed](#) (Forge \$24.99) #44! When Nameless is hired by Cory Beckett, a beautiful young woman who claims to be a model, to find her missing brother, Kenneth, it seems to be a routine matter. Kenneth has fled San Francisco in a drug-induced panic to avoid trial on a charge of stealing a valuable necklace from the alcoholic wife of the man for whom he works, wealthy yachtsman Andrew Vorhees. When agency operative Jake Runyon locates and questions the frightened young man, Cory Beckett's motives come into question and the case takes on darkly sinister complexities.

Reich, Christopher. [Invasion of Privacy Signed](#) (Knopf \$27.95). On a remote, dusty road forty miles outside of Austin, Texas, FBI agent Joe Grant and a confidential informant are killed in a deadly shootout. Left to pick up the pieces is Mary Grant, Joe's young wife and mother of their two daughters. The official report places blame for the deaths on Joe's shoulders . . . but the story just doesn't add up and Mary has too many troubling questions that need answers. How did Joe's final voice mail—containing a cryptic warning for Mary, recorded moments before the fatal shooting—disappear without a trace from her phone? Stonewalled by the FBI, Mary will be drawn into a deadly conspiracy that puts her in the crosshairs of the richest and most powerful men in America...and the newest and most terrifying surveillance system known to man. Reich is a master of complicated and surprising thrillers embracing varied landscapes and subjects. And—he's a terrific writer. [Click here](#) to order earlier Reichs.

Richtel, Matt. [Deadly Wandering, A Tale of Tragedy](#) (\$15.99). Richtel explores the science of attention going back to say 1850: the dopamine squirt of texting or talking, its attention-diverting power, and how that impacts driving or any other potentially dangerous activity. How many of us even understand the risks? The narrative by the Pulitzer-winning *NY Times* reporter pairs the story of a mysterious, deadly car crash with a study of the science of attention to answer the question: what is technology doing to our brains? Can our minds keep up with the pace of change, and with the demands of technology?

Sandford, John. [Outrage Signed](#) (Random Children's \$18.99). Shay Remby and her gang of renegades have struck a blow to the Singular Corporation. When they rescued Shay's brother, Odin, from a secret Singular lab, they also liberated a girl. Singular has been experimenting on her, trying to implant a U.S. senator's memories into her brain—with partial success. Fenfang is now a girl who literally knows too much. Can the knowledge brought by ex-captives Odin and Fenfang help Shay and her friends expose the crimes of this corrupt corporation? Singular has already killed one of Shay's band to protect their secrets. How many more will die? A YA thriller: Book 2 in *The Singular Menace* after [Uncaged](#) (\$18.99 Signed).

Sefton, Maggie. [Purl Up and Die](#) (Berkley \$25.95). Kelly Flynn's summer in Fort Connor, Colorado, is off to a great start with romantic celebrations with her boyfriend, Steve, and enjoyable—albeit challenging—knitting classes taught by her friend Barb at the House of Lambspun. But while Barb's advanced stitches are giving Kelly the slip, a more deadly problem soon has her friend coming apart at the seams. A young woman has accused Barb's son, Tommy—a young doctor doing his residency—of assaulting her. The yarns spun by the local rumor mill are bad enough, but when the young woman is found dead in her ransacked apartment, Tommy becomes the number one suspect. The police are ready to close the case, but not Kelly.... #12 in this cozy series.

Shafer, David. [Whiskey Tango Foxtrot](#) (\$16). "A battle for control over all the information in the world has begun. The Committee, an international organization comprising industry and media leaders, has plans to privatize the news, the publishing industry, and all other social media. Dear Diary, an online movement, has set itself up as a formidable enemy of the Committee, using politics, spy craft, and technology to thwart its initiatives. Caught up in this war are Leila Majnoun, a disaffected nonprofit worker; Leo Crane, an unorthodox kindergarten teacher who lives off a modest trust fund; and Mark Deveraux, a drug addict who inadvertently becomes a bogus self-help guru and appears to work for the Committee. At times convoluted but never slack, the plot thrives on a realistic approach while seamlessly switching between such locales as Myanmar, London, and Oregon. The Committee's takeover of the Internet, its ability to change words as they are being typed, and its targeting of enemies' family members evokes a chilling, Orwellian society."—*PW* Starred Review

Skalka, Patricia. [Death at Gills Rock](#) (Univ. of Wisconsin \$26.95). Karen reviews: The small town of Gills Rock in Wisconsin's Door County is getting ready to honor three men hailed as heroes when they returned from WW II. Adding to the adulation has been their generosity to the community and the establishment of successful businesses. When the three are found dead, apparently of carbon monoxide poisoning from a space heater in their small cabin, it looks like an open and shut case. But Sheriff Dave Cubiak, formerly a Chicago homicide detective, finds the picture unsettling and begins to ask questions. New information brings out long hidden layers of greed and violations of social taboos. Skalka is skilled at creating a vivid sense of place and small town culture. With sympathetic characters, she crafts steady suspense and shows the reader that, sometimes, there is more than one side of justice.

Stella, Charlie. [Eddie's World](#) (\$9.99). Charlie Stella's first great crime novel, back in print and available in paperback for the first time! Eddie Senta is suffering a mid-life crisis and decides to get involved in a heist. Everything that can go wrong, does. Cover photo by noted fan photographer, Peter Rozovsky. This is a reissue that is part of a new mass market initiative called Black Gat Books by noir publisher Stark House.

Also from Black Gat: Leigh Brackett, [Stranger at Home](#) (\$9.99). Originally published as by the actor George Sanders, this domestic mystery by science fiction author Leigh Brackett is the story of a rich heel who comes back to get even with those who thought they had left him for dead. And Harry Whittington, [Haven for the Damned](#) (\$9.99). A group of eight people all converge on a small ghost town on the outskirts of the Mexican border, each with their own demons and dilemmas. They all want something they've lost: freedom, a lost wife, their youth. Not all of them will leave alive. Includes a new introduction by David Laurence Wilson.

Stout, Rex. [The Last Drive and Other Stories](#) (\$14.95). When Colonel Phillips begins his final game of golf, his greatest problem in life is that he has begun to slice the ball. Playing with his lawyer and nephews, Phillips fights his way back into the game and is on the verge of victory when he keels over. He clutches his chest, mumbles a few words, and is dead in minutes. The doctor has no doubt: The colonel was poisoned. Finding the culprit falls to the president of the golf club, amateur detective Canby Rankin, who will do whatever it takes to find the killer on the links. Written nearly a century ago, "The Last Drive" is now available for the first time in book form. Clever, charming, and absolutely baffling, it is the tale that inspired the first Nero Wolfe novel, *Fer-de-Lance*.

Thomas, Matthew. [We Are Not Ourselves](#) (\$16). Eileen Tumulty was born in the early '40s, the only child and dutiful caretaker of alcoholic parents. As a young woman, she hopes to leave her family's dingy apartment in Woodside, Queens, and move up the social ladder. Eileen falls in love with and marries Ed Leary, a quiet neuroscientist whom she sees as the means to an upper-middle-class future. But Ed is dedicated to pure scientific research, and he turns down lucrative job offers from pharmaceutical companies and academic institutions. The couple's apartment in Jackson Heights is a step up from Eileen's parents' apartment, but she wants a home in tony Westchester County. Later, Eileen pursues an arduous career as a nursing administrator to secure a future for their son, Connell. But once she gets her gracious but dilapidated fixer-upper in Bronxville, in southern Westchester, Ed is diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's, and the family slowly endures "the encroaching of a fathomless darkness." "Eileen's life, observed over a span of six decades, comes close to a definitive portrait of American social dynamics in the 20th century."—*PW* Starred Review

Thornton, Betsy. [Empty Houses](#) (Severn \$28.95). The author of several mysteries set in Bisbee starts a new series. Dudley, Arizona is an isolated desert town attracting people who need to escape. Kate Waters flees there following an abusive relationship. Phoenix cop Malcolm MacGregor comes to recover from the death of his wife. No one knows why Carrie and Wes Cooper arrived. But when they are shot dead, the town authorities' first instinct is to protect the lucrative tourist trade and make a quick arrest – without asking too many questions. Having once spoken to Carrie briefly, Kate becomes increasingly convinced that the wrong man has been arrested for the crime... Ordered Upon Request.

Vachss, Andrew. [Sign Wave: An Aftershock Novel](#) (Knopf \$26.95). Once a mercenary, later an assassin, and now living a different life, Dell has bone-marrow-deep loyalty and protective instincts. When his wife, former battlefield nurse Dolly, receives a thinly veiled threat, Dell reverts to his old ways to untangle the background of a prominent local figure, George Byron Benton. Benton combines the deadly patience of a Gila monster and a complex agenda—including a public life that's all elaborate disguise. To penetrate Benton's dense facade, Dell methodically works his way through the only reliable source of news in the area—a blog called Undercurrents. If he manages to track Benton down, Dell will have to decide how far he is willing to go to recapture the sense of safety that Benton has stolen. But first...

[Shockwave](#) (\$15.95). "In Vachss' engrossing sequel to 2013's [Aftershock](#) (\$15.99), a battered corpse with a shattered skull washes up on the beach of the Oregon town where Adelbert 'Dell' Jackson and his wife, Dolly, have settled, determined to live peacefully under aliases. The only clues to the dead man's identity are in the Nazi tattoos covering his body. The police arrest Homer, a schizophrenic homeless man, for murder after he produces the victim's watch. Mack, a social worker colleague of Dolly's who believes Homer is innocent and won't survive confinement, asks Dolly for help. Dolly turns to Dell, who's forced to return to the violent life he forsook when he joined the French Foreign Legion. Along with Mack, Dell explores a dark world inhabited by the homeless, hate groups, and tattoo artists. Intelligently drawn characters and assured prose help make this crime novel a winner."—*PW*

Vanhoeacker, Mark. [Skyfaring: A Journey with a Pilot](#) (Knopf \$25.95). The author, a British Airways pilot, wrote a piece in the *New York Times* that mesmerized me with his language skills and his astonishing range of observation, emotion, and world—or rather air, view. Vanhoeacker demystifies the complexities of flight and engages readers with his wit, knowledge and excitement for his profession—a modern farer of the skies. Whether you travel, whether you fly, sharing his thoughts about soaring above our world, his world, will be a transformative experience. I feel the same way about a memoir by another Brit, Helen MacDonald's [H Is for Hawk](#) (Grove \$26), a gloriously written and intense view of, and sharing of, the natural world. Combined, interestingly, with a kind of biography of the author TH White and her thoughts about the whys and how some of the best and most beloved children's books were written (hint, by outsiders who constructed worlds of their own).

Walbert, Kate. [Sunken Cathedral](#) (Scribner \$25) paints an elegant picture of a Lower Manhattan neighborhood and its citizens, at risk from both "sudden weather" and relentless gentrification. "Walbert shapes the lives of these neighbors and friends in jewel-like vignettes, with more information in narrative footnotes. Her characters cross paths on the streets, in Marie's small backyard, at Ben's school, in Sid's studio and even in a shared therapist's office. *The Sunken Cathedral* (a reference to a Breton legend and the Debussy prelude of the same name) is as much the story of a vanishing New York City as it is of its evolving population. Set in the shadows of the hip High Line with "delivery boys and muscle boys and pretty women who work at magazines weaving in and out of the stalled traffic on 'CitiBikes' and square in the perilous Flood Zone 1, Walbert's taut novel touches on all that is now at risk in the city..."—Bruce Jacobs



Williams, Beatriz. [Tiny Little Thing Signed](#) (Putnam \$28). In the summer of 1966, Christina Hardcastle—“Tiny” to her illustrious family—stands on the brink of a breathtaking future. Of the three Schuyler sisters, she’s the one raised to marry a man destined for leadership, and with her elegance and impeccable style, she presents a perfect camera-ready image in the dawning age of television politics. Together she and her husband, Frank, make the ultimate power couple: intelligent, rich, and impossibly attractive. It seems nothing can stop Frank from rising to national office, and he’s got his sights set on a senate seat in November. But as the season gets underway at the family estate on Cape Cod, three unwelcome visitors appear in Tiny’s perfect life, to unravel it...or worse....

#### FOR YOUNGER READERS

Droyd, Ann. [If You Give a Mouse an iPhone](#) (\$15.95). “In this tech-savvy parody of the contemporary classic *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, a hyperactive pet mouse named Applesauce goes off the deep end (literally) while mesmerized with his boy’s iPhone.”—*Kirkus Reviews* on a book worth a discussion regardless of your age.

Sandford, John. [Outrage Signed](#) (Random Children’s \$18.99). A YA thriller follow-up to [Uncaged](#) (\$18.99 Signed). See New Books

Winn, Catherine A. [Beyond Suspicion](#) (Poisoned Pencil \$10.95). Her mom’s remarriage has been hard on fifteen year old Shelby. Roger is strict and treats her like a child. At least they’re letting her go to her first boy-girl party. That is until she gets home from school and finds that Roger has changed his mind—he wants Shelby to babysit her year-old brother Josh. It’s so unfair! Fuming, Shelby takes Josh in his stroller to the park. After all, it’s not his fault. Someone sets off fireworks, distracting Shelby. When she turns around—Josh is gone. Teens

Zobel, Melissa Tantaquidg. [Wabanaki Blues: Book 1](#) (Poisoned Pencil \$10.95). “Some days you appreciate the dead; others, you don’t dare think about them.” These are the words of Mona Lisa LaPierre, teen blues musician, also known as the girl who never smiles. When her out-of-touch parents send her to the New Hampshire boondocks to stay with Grumps, her reclusive grandfather, Mona is not exactly thrilled. She nevertheless slings her beloved guitar, Rosalita, over her shoulder, says goodbye to Beetle, the oblivious boy she adores and sets out to meet her destiny. Destiny pops up in various forms: a blonde bear name Marilyn with a fondness for bananas, a fellow musician named Del, and a green-flamed motorcycle that was last seen racing away from her high school the day a girl from her school named Mia Delaney disappeared eighteen years ago. Mona’s search for Mia’s murderer becomes a quest for identity, love, and meaning. She is guided along the way by Grumps and her dead Grandmother, Bilki, whose spirit speaks to her in moments of need. Mona’s amazing journey is enriched by Native American traditions, a passion for music and art, and her growing realization that to achieve what is most important in her life, she must sacrifice what she most loves. This is the first book in the Wabanaki Trilogy. Teens.

#### ROMANCE (by John Charles)

✚Balogh, Mary. [Only a Promise: Survivors’ Club](#) (NAL \$7.99) Ralph Stockwood has never shied away from doing his duty. When his grandmother summons Ralph to the family’s country estate in order to inform him that he must marry quickly in order

to carry on the family name, Ralph begins looking for a suitable matrimonial candidate. After several disastrous seasons, Chloe Muirhead knows she is probably doomed to life as a spinster when she overhears Ralph talking to his grandmother about marriage. Since Ralph needs to find a wife right away, Chloe thinks she just might have the perfect solution for him by presenting him with the idea that the two of them get married. Balogh’s latest superbly written Regency historical is another symphony of elegant writing and exquisite characterization.

Cabot, Meg. [Royal Wedding: Princess Diaries V](#) (Harper \$14.99) In the 11th addition to Cabot’s popular series (and the first written as an adult romance), Princess Mia Thermopolis of Genovia and her long-time boyfriend (and very own Prince Charming) Michael Moscovitz are finally ready to tie the knot if, that is, Mia can just find a way to avoid the ever-present paparazzi, an obsessed online stalker, her meddling grandmother, and a royal secret that could leave Genovia without a monarch. Cabot continues to write with a breezy sense of charm, and her latest sweet romance is wonderful mix of love and laughter.

Dave, Laura. [Eight Hundred Grapes](#) (SimonSchuster \$24.95) When it comes to wine-making, music, and romance, timing – or synchronicity – is everything. One week before her wedding, Georgia Ford discovers her fiancé Ben has been keeping a big secret from her. Without stopping to think about it, Georgia takes off with just the clothes on her back (ironically her wedding dress since she was at a fitting) and heads home to her family’s winery in Sonoma. Once she arrives at the Last Straw Winery, Georgia expects the familiar setting and comfortable embrace of her family will help her decide what to do. Instead, Georgia quickly finds out that everyone close to her – her father, her mother, and her brothers – have been keeping secrets, and now nothing in her life will ever be the same again. Dave demonstrates a real flair for creating realistically flawed and easily relatable characters as well as a gift for evoking the quiet beauty and subtle magic of a vineyard.

Fertig, Judith. [The Cake Therapist](#) (Berkley \$16) Pastry chef Claire “Neely” O’Neil has a unique talent: she can read people by translating their feelings into different flavors. Neely has always been able to use her culinary talents to help others deal with life’s joys and sorrows, but when Neely’s own life starts to unravel, who is going to bake her a cake? At times whimsical and poignant, Fertig’s debut is a real charmer with the same literary flavor as Sarah Addison Allen’s magical novels.

Hilderbrand, Elin. [Rumor](#) (LittleBrown \$28) Struggling with writer’s block and a looming deadline, author Madeline King tests her friendship with Grace when she “borrows” elements from Grace’s secret affair for the plot of her new novel. With its irresistible mix of scandal, gossip, friendship, and romance in summertime Nantucket, Hilderbrand’s latest simply screams “beach read!”

Mackin, Jeanne. [A Lady of Good Family](#) (NAL \$16) In Gilded Age America, women like Beatrix Farrand had one goal in life: to marry well. As the niece of Edith Wharton, Beatrix had an easy entrée to the cream of the society, but Beatrix has a different passion in life: plants. For Edith, nothing is more satisfying than designing the perfect landscape, and she is determined to follow her dream even if it means going against the expectations of society as well as her own family. MacKin’s latest impeccably

researched historical novel is the fascinating story of one of the first female landscape architects in America.

Porter, Jane. [It's You](#) (Penguin \$16) When Dr. Alison McAdams receives a phone call from the retirement community in Sonoma County where her father lives saying he has fallen and broken a wrist, Ali immediately clears her schedule so that she can travel to Napa to care for him. It doesn't matter that Ali and her father are not really close; he is all Ali has left ever since both her fiancé and her mother died. As Ali meets some of her father's friends at the retirement community, she finds herself fascinated by one woman in particular: sharp-tongued and sharp-witted Edie Stephens. As Edie slowly recounts her own story about loving and losing someone, it helps Ali deal with the crushing burden of guilt and grief that she has been carrying with her for the last year. In *It's You*, Porter writes with great compassion and insight about dealing with some of the most difficult things in life but there also is a strong message of hope and healing to the story. In addition, Edie's diary provides a fascinating look at valiant, tragic effort by a small group of Germans to resist what was going on in their country during World War II. If you loved Kristin Hannah's *The Nightingale*, *It's You* is women's fiction of the same high caliber.

Smith, Stephanie. [300 Sandwiches: A Multilayered Love Story](#) (Ballantine \$26) After *New York Post* writer Stephanie Smith whipped up a turkey and Swiss sandwich for her boyfriend Eric, he said "Honey, you are 300 sandwiches away from an engagement ring." While a few feminist critics cried foul (or fowl considering there are a lot of chicken sandwiches included in the book), the truth of the matter is that for the author, this book wasn't so much about trying to bait a matrimonial trap with sandwiches for her boyfriend but more about showing him how much she loved him by cooking for him (and to be fair, Smith's boyfriend did an equal amount of reciprocal cooking for her). The resulting book is a charming tale about two people falling in love and forging a relationship that can weather life's inevitable ups and downs. Of course recipes are included and they range from the savory (Grilled Cheese and Pear) to the sweet (Mint Chocolate Chip Ice Cream Sandwiches).

Sykes, Lucy. [The Knockoff](#) (Doubleday \$25.95) After being away on medical leave for six months, Imogene Tate, the editor-in-chief of *Glossy* magazine returns to work only to find everything is changed. The print magazine has gone the way of a new web-based, app-driven model, and Imogene's former assistant Eve Morton is now editor in charge of digital content at the new *Glossy.com*. All the old staff has been replaced by a cadre of perky twenty-somethings led by Eve, who tweet, blog, and text their way through the office. While she may know fashion inside and out and have all the top designers on speed-dial, Imogene knows her days at *Glossy* are numbered unless she can figure out a way to beat Eve at her own game. *The Knockoff* is an absolute hoot. Sykes and Piazza are definitely channeling the spirit of a certain classic woman's film starring Bette Davis (right down to the killer closing sentence in the novel) with a generous dollop of *The Devil Wears Prada* thrown in for good measure. All of which make *The Knockoff* the most fun and fashionable summer read of 2015.

Taylor, Mary Ellen. [At the Corner of King Street](#) (Berkley \$16). After spending years living with a crazy mother and sister, Addie

Morgan finally walked away and started a new life working for a winery in Virginia. Now seven years later, a frantic call from her sister Janet and a surprise visit from her aunt Grace bring Addie back to Alexandria, where she will be forced to make a difficult choice between her picture perfect future and the family she thought she had left in her past. Taylor, the author of *The Union Street Bakery* and *Sweet Expectations*, inventively traces the roots of the "curse" that has affected the women in Addie's family back to events in colonial Virginia, and Addie turns out to be a realistically flawed heroine, who ultimately handles her family dilemma with quiet strength and a hard-won sense of grace.

White, Kate. [The Wrong Man](#) (Harper \$15.99 Kit Finn's attempt to shake up her dull, ordinary life by indulging in a one night stand with a stranger goes horribly wrong in White's latest thrilling novel of romantic suspense. While on vacation in the Florida Keys, Kit decides to do something risky for once in her life and she accepts the flirtatious offer of another guest, Matt Healy, at the hotel for dinner, which soon turns into drinks and more back at his room. At first both agree that this will be just a one-time thing, but Matt later calls Kit and tells her he wants to have dinner with her once they arrive back home in New York City. However, when Kit shows up at Matt's door for their date, another man answers and claims he is Matt Healy. Oops. White is a pro at mixing fast-paced suspense with just the right measure of sexy romance, and her latest is another stay-up-late-past-your-bedtime winner.

#### **JUNE MASS MARKET PAPERBACK PICKS**

Cain, Chelsea. [One Kick: A Kick Lannigan Novel](#) (\$7.99) Cain introduces Kick Lannigan, who was kidnapped from her home in Portland, Oregon at the age of six and finally rescued five years later by the FBI. Now years later, John Bishop, a man with shadowy connections to law enforcement, wants Kick to use her special skills (and draw on her own appalling past) to help locate two kidnapped children. *PW* states "Readers will want to see a lot more of the feisty Kick." (And they will since the sequel *Kick Back* comes out next January).

Erickson, Alex. [Death By Coffee](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Krissy Hancock and her best friend Vickie Patterson's first day as owners of Pine Hill's new café/bookstore "Death by Coffee" may be their last when one of their customers drops dead after drinking a cup of their coffee. Erickson's debut has all the necessary elements cozy mystery readers love including a cast of quirky characters, a charming small town setting, and a dash of wry humor (and yes, the requisite cat). If you love Lorna Barrett's, Kate Carlisle's, or Jenn McKinley's endearing cozies, add this to your reading list.

Gardiner, Meg. [Phantom Instinct](#) (\$7.99) No matter what the official investigation might say, Harper Flynn swears there were three gunmen involved in the bar fight that killed her boyfriend Drew, but the only one who believes her is Aiden Garrison, an LA Sheriff's Deputy, who suffers from Fregoli Syndrome (a traumatic brain injury that causes him to see the suspect everywhere). *LJ* says "Readers who enjoy strong heroines and emotionally vulnerable heroes along with nonstop cinematic action will be unable to put this fast-paced, plot-driven thriller down."

Maron, Margaret. [Designated Daughters](#) (\$8) Deborah Knott #19. Judge Deborah Knott's Aunt Rachel, who is under hospice care, isn't dying fast enough for somebody, who hurries the process along by smothering Rachel with a pillow. Now Deborah must

find out exactly what her aunt might say that would spook someone enough to kill her quickly. *Bookpage* weighs in with “As is typically the case with Maron’s novels, *Designated Daughters* is character-driven, and the characters are exceptionally well drawn and colorful.” Think of the old TV drama “The Waltons,” set in modern times, with Grandma Walton killed off before she can reveal sensitive family secrets. There’s a family genealogy chart to help readers keep the enormous Kezzie Knott, Deborah’s father, family straight.

Penny, Louise. [Still Life](#) (\$7.99) Armand Gamache #1. Chief Inspector Armand Gamache is called to Three Pines, a tiny village south of Montreal to investigate the suspicious “hunting accident” death of a resident. If you haven’t had the pleasure of reading Penny’s award-winning, superbly written traditional mysteries, this is the book that starts things off. *Booklist* says “This is a real gem of a book that slowly draws the reader into a beautifully told, lyrically written story of love, life, friendship, and tragedy. And it’s a pretty darn good mystery too.” Think an English village mystery set in Quebec with a touch of *Brigadoon* about Three Pines.

Pike, Penny. [Death of a Chocolate Cheater](#) (NAL \$7.99) Food Festival #2. San Francisco food truck vendor Darcy Burnett and her Aunt Abby are hoping to win the grand cash prize offered by the reality show Chocolate Wars, but that might be a bit difficult when one of judges turns up dead in a vat of chocolate. Pike is the pseudonym for Penny Warner, who also wrote the Party-Planning series. If you like your cozy mysteries served up with plenty of culinary extras and a pinch of romance, you will definitely want to dig into this new series.

Rollins, James. [6th Extinction: A Sigma Force Novel](#) (\$9.99) Sigma Force #10. When a remote military research station in Antarctica is completely decimated, Commander Gray Pierce and the Sigma Force must solve a mystery from the land’s distant past using an ancient map that leads them to a new form of death, buried under miles of ice. *PW*’s reviewer found that “the book has everything the genre demands: Nazis, ancient maps, alien life forms, a ticking nuclear clock, and exotic, deadly beasts. Rollins makes it all believable, and ties everything together in a satisfying climax that hints at more adventures to come.”

Stevens, Chevy. [Never Knowing](#) (\$7.99) Sara Gallagher has always wondered about who her birth parents were, but when she tries to track them down in order to get closure with her past, she discovers some questions are best left answered. Steven’s debut *Still Missing* was a breakout success, and this is a mass market reissue of her sophomore 2011 suspense novel. *PW* says “While the plot flirts with clichés, the skillful storytelling never flags.” P.D. James did something similar with the premise in her book *Innocent Blood*.

Taylor, Brad. [Days of Rage](#) (\$9.99) Pike Logan #6. Pike Logan and the Taskforce must find a way to keep Russia from delivering a weapon of mass destruction to Muslim extremists in Nigeria. *PW* loved it saying “Taylor is adept at combining past tragedies, like the terrorist attack on the 1972 Munich Olympics, with more recent developments, like the Snowden disclosures, and tracking the geopolitical changes in between. Throw in modern technology, gunfights, hand-to-hand combat, and a daring race to prevent a disaster that would make the Munich Olympics attack pale by

comparison, and you have a thriller that really thrills.” Check out Taylor’s new Pike Logan in Event Books (July 1).

Taylor, Patrick. [Irish Country Wedding](#) (\$8.99) Irish Country Doctor #7. For Dr. Fingal Flahertie O’Reilly, being a G.P. in a place like Ballybucklebo often means more than simply splinting broken bones and tending to aches and pains. It can also mean helping a struggling young couple acquire their first home, clearing the name of a cat accused of preying on a neighbor’s prize pigeons, and encouraging a bright working-class girl who dreams of someday becoming a doctor herself. Sometimes you need a break from murder and mayhem and Taylor’s warm and cozy series is just the ticket. Or as *Booklist* notes, “Fans of Frank Delaney, Jan Karon, and Gail Fraser will appreciate Taylor’s humorous, dialect-tinged take on small-town drama. A spirited and compassionate story filled with pastoral Irish imagery, cheerful village life, and heartwarming romance.”

Thor, Brad. [Act of War](#) (\$9.99) Scot Harvath #13. With the United States facing an imminent and devastating attack, America’s new president must turn to covert counterterrorism operative Scot Harvath to help carry out two of the most dangerous operations in the country’s history. All of Thor’s thrillers have that “ripped from the headlines” appeal. This one has a zinger of a plot, a credible Chinese threat, and is in my (Barbara’s) opinion the best in Thor’s thrillers.

#### JUNE MARKET PAPERBACKS

- Adler, Elizabeth. [Last to Know](#) (\$7.99) Boston Police Detective Harry Jordan’s attempts to get some much needed peace and quiet at his lakeside cottage are blown to bits when an explosion rocks a nearby home belonging to mysterious newcomers Bea Havnel and her mother Lacey.
- Berenson, Laurien. [Death of a Dog Whisperer](#) (\$7.99) Melanie Travis #17. Melanie Travis already has a full plate what with juggling marriage, motherhood, and taking care of her own six poodles, but now she must find out who wanted to kill her aunt’s dog-whispering protégé.
- Brown, Dale. [Target Utopia: A Dreamland Thriller](#) (Harper \$9.99) Dreamland #16. Colonel Danny Freaah and his Whiplash Team are sent to investigate when Muslim extremists are found with a mysterious UAV in the Malaysian part of Borneo.
- Craig, Elizabeth. [Tying the Knot](#) (NAL \$7.99) Beatrice Coleman #5 Beatrice Coleman and the Village Quilters stitch together clues in order to find out who killed the best man at her new beau Wyatt’s sister’s wedding.
- Deva, Mukul. [Weapon of Vengeance](#) (\$9.99) Ravinder Gill, the head of India’s anti-terrorist force, has no idea that the real reason his daughter Ruby, whom he hasn’t seen since she was three years old, has come home to New Delhi is because she is determined to destroy a Palestine-Israeli peace summit taking place there. Talk about an awkward family reunion.
- Evanovich, Janet. [Top Secret Twenty One](#) (\$8.99) Stephanie Plum #21. New Jersey bounty hunter Stephanie Plum’s latest assignment is protecting former hospital security guard and general pain in the behind Randy Briggs.
- Evanovich, Janet. [Wicked Appetite](#) (\$5.99) Diesel #1. Diesel recruits pastry chef Lizzie Tucker in his quest to keep the Stones of Saligia out of the hands of his evil criminal mastermind cousin in this reissue of the first of the cross-over Diesel books.

Fury, Dalton. [Full Assault Mode: Delta Force](#) (\$9.99) It's Delta Force Operator Kolt Raynor (you gotta love that name) to the rescue again when a terrorist plot to bomb a nuclear power plant in the U.S. threatens the lives of thousands of people.

Golemon, David L. [Overlord](#) (St Martins \$7.99) Event Group #9. The Event Group must overcome internal conflicts and old enemies if they want to stop the launch of a long-planned Armageddon in this conclusion to the trilogy that began with *Event* and *Legacy*.

Grant, Andrew. [Run: A Novel](#) (\$9.99) In this standalone thriller, software designer Marc Bowman loses his high-paying job and his wife within days all because he happened to download some company data onto a memory stick. Now someone wants the data back and they aren't taking no for an answer. If you loved Joseph Finder's corporate thrillers like *Paranoia*, give this one a whirl.

Hollis, Lee. [Death of a Cupcake Queen](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Hayley Powell #4. Hayley Powell discovers that high school reunions are not only annoying but deadly when someone ices former prom queen Ivy Foster.

Knox, Annie. [Collared for Murder: A Pet Boutique](#) (NAL \$7.99) Izzy McHale #3. Pet boutique owner Izzy McHale knows that competitors in the Midwestern Cat Fancier's Organization can occasionally get a bit catty, but the claws really come out when the first prize disappears and the director of the organization is done in with a pair of grooming shears.

Kornetsky, L. A. [Clawed: A Gin & Tonic Mystery](#) (Picador \$7.99) Gin & Tonic #4 Ginny Mallard and her cohort Teddy Tonica (along with their faithful pets) once again are forced to play detective when a body turns up in the parlor of Ginny's latest client.

Laurie, Victoria. [Fatal Fortune: A Psychic Eye Mystery](#) (\$7.99) Abby Cooper #12. Abby Cooper can't believe her best friend and business partner Candice Fusco would shoot a man in cold blood, so Abby heads to Las Vegas to find the proof she needs to clear Candice's name. Laurie will be visiting the bookstore in July with her latest Abby Cooper mystery, *Sense of Deception*, so mark your calendars now.

Lockwood, Ryan. [What Lurks Beneath](#) (Kensington \$9.99) Eric Watson, an expert on remote control underwater devices, and Valerie Martell, a marine biologist, team up to stop something with lots of sharp teeth that lives on the ocean floor. Read this together with Peter Benchley's classic *Jaws* (which celebrates its 41st birthday this year), and I guarantee you won't want to dip even a toe in the water this summer.

Ludlum, Robert. [The Parsifal Mosaic](#) (\$9.99) Michael Havelock thought his partner and lover Russian double agent Jenna Karas died on a beach in Costa Brava. Turns out Michael is wrong when both Russian and U.S. assassins start gunning for him.

Meltzer, Brad. [Fifth Assassin](#) (\$8) Culper Ring #2. Archivist Beecher White discovers a link between the individuals responsible for the four successful presidential assassinations in the United States.

Slaughter, Karin. [Blindsighted](#) (\$9.99) Sara Linton #1. Introduces Georgia pediatrician and medical examiner Sara Linton, whose first case involves the grisly mutilation murder of a young college professor.

Slaughter, Karin. [Kisscut](#) (\$9.99) Sara Linton #2. Linton investigates the death of a teen at a local skating rink in this reissue of

Edgar award-winning Slaughter's popular series.

Woods, Stuart. [Paris Match](#) (\$9.99) Stone Barrington #31. In this mass market release of the latest Stone Barrington novel, the attorney/CIA consultant/hotelier/ lady's man travels to Paris for the opening of his latest hotel only to once again find himself hip deep in trouble and women.

#### SCIFI/Fantasy/Horror/More

Blackmoore, Stephen. [Hungry Ghosts](#) (DAW \$7.99)

Colfer, Chris. [Land of Stories: A Grimm Warning](#) (LittleBrown \$8)

Gaiman, Neil. [Chu's First Day of School Board Bo](#) (Harper \$7.99)

Green, Simon R. [Property of a Lady Faire: A Secret](#) (NAL \$7.99)

Griffith, Clay. [Shadow Revolution](#) (Ballantine \$7.99)

Grove, S E. [Glass Sentence](#) (Penguin \$8.99)

Helms, Alyc. [Dragons of Heaven](#) (\$7.99)

Herbert, Brian. [Hellhole Inferno](#) (\$8.99)

Hickman, Tracy. [Unwept: Book One of the Nightbirds](#) (\$7.99)

Kollin, Dani. [Unincorporated Man](#) (Tor \$8.99)

Russell, Romina. [Zodiac](#) (Random \$9.99)

Wendig, Chuck. [Atlanta Burns](#) (Ace \$9.99)

Wexler, Django. [Shadow Throne](#) (NAL \$7.99)

#### HISTORY/MYSTERY

Bingham, Emily. [Irrepressible](#) (Farrar \$28). Historian Bingham views the Jazz Age through the lens of one life—her own great aunt, whose story was buried for decades. Henrietta Bingham was raised like a princess in one of the most powerful families in the American South and was offered the helm of a publishing empire. Instead, she ripped through the Jazz Age like an F. Scott Fitzgerald character: intoxicating and intoxicated, selfish and shameful, seductive and brilliant, and often terribly troubled. In New York, Louisville, and London she drove men and women wild with desire, and her youth blazed with sex. But her lesbian love affairs made her the subject of derision and drove a doctor to try to cure her. After the speed and pleasure of her youth, the toxicity of judgment coupled with her own anxieties led to years of addiction and breakdowns. “Henrietta rode the cultural cusp as a muse to the Bloomsbury group, the daughter of the ambassador to England during the rise of Nazism, the seductress of royalty and athletic champions, and a pre-Stonewall figure who never buckled to convention.”

Read Gary Krist's [Empire of Sin: A Story of Sex, Jazz, Murder, and the Battle for Modern New Orleans](#) (\$16) for a view of the Jazz Age through a different lens.

Bowen, Rhys. [For the Love of Mike](#) (\$15.99). Reissue. 3rd in the Molly Murphy series. It brings Molly who's trying to establish herself as a detective a case. An aristocratic family in Dublin fears their daughter has fled to the New World with her unsavory boyfriend, and they hire Molly to track the two down and send the young woman back home.

Burton, Jessie. [The Miniaturist](#) (\$16.99). This debut for fans of Chevalier's *The Girl with a Pearl Earring* and Tartt's *The Goldfinch* is set in claustrophobic 1700s Amsterdam and opens with a young woman knocking on the door of the older, wealthier man to whom she has been betrothed. The title references a doll house the heroine's husband gives to her, thinking it will be a source of entertainment. The editor calls the book a novel of “secrets and hypocrisies” detailing “how our private lives so often differ from our public ones.”

Cervantes, Miguel De. [Don Quixote Deluxe Edition](#) (Harper \$19.99). A new translation by Edith Grossman.

☞Clarke, Susanna. [Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell](#) (\$18). Reissued to support its adaptation into a BBC series. Back in 2004 B&N include Clarke in its rising authors: “When Susanna Clarke set out to write her sensational first novel, she determined to write a book about magic that would keep readers from their coveted sleep. She has certainly succeeded. A hefty doorstop of a book, it has already drawn comparisons to works by Dickens, Austen, and the Harry Potter books. Set in early-19th-century England, Clarke’s novel introduces readers to a group of magicians from whom the “magic” has departed. Enter Mr. Norrell, a misanthropic, book-hoarding magician who takes up a challenge to prove that magic still exists. After Mr. Norrell succeeds at his ambitious endeavor, he takes on a pupil, the charismatic Jonathan Strange, and together they begin to restore the sorry state of English magic. But a rift opens between these two allies, leading them to turn their magic on each other, and a darker, more sinister magic begins to reveal itself.” It’s been so long since I read it I quote this from *The New Yorker* for you purists: “Clarke’s ability to construct a fully imagined world—much of it explained in long, witty footnotes—is impressive, and there are some suspenseful moments. But her attempt to graft a fantasy narrative onto such historical realities as the Battle of Waterloo is more often awkward than clever.”

Davis, Lindsey. [Enemies at Home](#) (\$15.99). Roman law decreed that if the head of a household was murdered at home, and the culprit wasn’t quickly discovered, his slaves—all of them, guilty or not, “enemies at home”—were presumed responsible and were put to death. Without exception. When a couple is found dead in their own bedroom and their house burglarized, some of their household slaves know what is about to happen to them. They flee to the Temple of Ceres, which by tradition is respected as a haven for refugees. This is where Flavia Albia comes in. The authorities, under pressure from all sides, need a solution. Flavia Alba #2 following [The Ides of April](#) (\$15.99).

☞Deas, SJ. [The Royalist](#) (\$15.99). William Falkland is a dead man. A Royalist dragoon who fought against Parliament, he is currently awaiting execution at Newgate prison. Yet when he is led away from Newgate with a sack over his head, it is not the gallows to which they take him, but to Oliver Cromwell himself. Cromwell has heard of Falkland’s reputation as an investigator and now more than ever he needs a man of conscience. His New Model Army is wintering in Devon but mysterious deaths are sweeping the camp and, in return for his freedom, Falkland is dispatched to uncover the truth.

☞Dunn, Carola. [Superfluous Women](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Daisy Dalrymple, wife to Inspector Alec Fletcher of the Yard, establishes herself at the Saracen’s Head in Beaconsfield where the air is clearer than the 1927 London smog to recover from a bad bout of bronchitis. She’s there in part because an old school friend, Lucy, has recently set up housekeeping nearby with two other single women—all three of them “superfluous women” made so by the devastating number of men lost in WWI—two million more women than men remain in their generation. Daisy rests up and then ventures to their home for tea, then when Alec joins her, to Sunday lunch. And in quest of a better bottle of wine, they open a wine cellar door and are nearly knocked out by a foul smell. It is, of course, a body.... 22nd in an engaging series.

☞Entwistle, Vaughn. [The Dead Assassin](#) (St Martins \$25.99). It’s 1895. England is in the grip of hysteria as Anarchists are detonating bombs. Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle is summoned to the murder scene of a senior member of Her Majesty’s government—the body of the attacker lies nearby, riddled with bullets. One of the detectives on hand identifies the dead assassin as local Cockney pickpocket and petty thief Charlie, which not only makes him an unlikely suspect but an impossible one for the young cop-her had watched Charlie hanged at Newgate Prison two weeks earlier. Summoning his friend Oscar Wilde for assistance, Doyle sets up an unconventional, indeed bizarre, investigation into this perplexing paranormal mystery in a series called *The Paranormal Casebooks for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*.

☞Fremantle, Elizabeth. [Watch the Lady](#) (SimonSchuster \$15.99). Penelope Devereux is a legendary beauty in the court of Elizabeth I, with a smile that would light up the shadows of hell. But it’s not just her looks which have won her favor with the Queen; her canny instinct for being in the right place at the right time, and her skilled political maneuverings under the guise of diplomacy, have rendered her a formidable adversary to anyone who stands in her path. Including Elizabeth. For Penelope must secure the future of the Devereux dynasty at whatever cost. Even treason. And the Queen, a woman she holds responsible for the death of her father, the exile of her mother and her failure to marry the one man she ever truly loved, is just one more pawn in a deadly game. Walking the knife-edge of court, whilst ensuring that her reckless brother Essex remains the only star in the Queen’s firmament – and out of the Tower – Penelope must plan for the inevitable succession of an ailing monarch. But her secret letters of friendship to a foreign King – one who has a strong claim to the English throne – could see her illustrious family in the gutter and her own head on the block. A Signed UK edition can be ordered Upon Request.

Gabaldon, Diana. [Written in My Own Heart’s Blood](#) (\$18). It’s 1778, France has declared war on Great Britain, Washington is on the march from Valley Forge, and.... There’s a terrific scene about how to treat a terrible asthma attack with remedies at hand, thanks to Claire’s 20th Century medical training. And there is a 20th century storyline...

Gear, Kathleen/Michael. [People of the Songtrail](#) (Tor \$25.99). “It’s the first millennium, and Viking ships sail to Helluland, Markland, Vinland, and Albania-Land in a never-ending quest of “landnám, the process of land taking...as the gods intended.” As the prolific Gears continue to chronicle settlement of the North American continent, Captain Godi Gunnar and the crew of Thor’s Dragon leave behind a homeland embroiled in turmoil. There’s unrest and rebellion following King Aethelred’s massacre of Danish settlers in England’s “northern region known as the Danelaw.” Now the king’s son, Edmund, is moving to seize the throne, and Norse King Cnut waits “for the civil war in England to weaken both sides.” In Gunnar’s landnám expedition, there’s also the malignant seer...” *Kirkus* adds, “There’s far more magick at play than immersion into a re-creation of Viking or pre-Columbian aboriginal life. More historical fantasy than historical fiction.”

Goldstone, Nancy. [The Rival Queens](#) (LittleBrown \$30). Renaissance France had its own Game of Thrones going on while the Lancastrians and Yorkists were battling their way to the Tudor Age. The conflict was more religious than dynastic as Catholics

tried to suppress the French Protestants, aka Huguenots. Key players were Catherine de Medici, wife to Henri II, and daughter Marguerite de Valois, forced to marry her cousin Henri IV, Huguenot leader. “Goldstone upends conventional thought with this well-researched and well-written book, arguing that Catherine de’ Medici (1519–1589), the French queen mother, was less Machiavellian in nature than generally believed and that she reacted to geopolitical situations with disastrous results for both her family and France. As a Catholic power broker, de’ Medici manipulated friends and rivals in her meticulous plan to ensure the marriage of her reluctant daughter Marguerite to a French Huguenot prince—then just as carefully had the new husband’s wedding party slaughtered four days later. While this was clearly a ploy to combat the threat of a rising Protestantism, it created an untenable political situation in France. For her part, Marguerite showed considerable intellect and negotiating skills as she maneuvered around religions, powerful French families, and constantly shifting political terrain while being sabotaged by her family and husband. Goldstone’s witty comments make this historical family drama as easy to read as the best fiction, but it’s all the more tragic for being true.”—*PW* Starred Review. Over a century later the revocation of Henry IV’s Edict of Nantes propelled Huguenots into exile, some of whom were recruited by the Dutch to upgrade the nascent Cape Town area wine industry.

Goodwin, Jason. [The Baklava Club](#) (\$16). The 5th and final adventure for Yasmin whose first won an Edgar Award. See Our June Trade Paperback Picks.

✎Gregory, Susanna. [The Poisonous Plot Signed](#) (LittleBrown \$46). In 1358, over a century after its foundation in Cambridge, the college of Michaelhouse is facing a serious shortfall of funds and competition from upstarts rivals such as Zachary Hostel. Their problems are made no easier by the hostility of the town’s inhabitants who favor the university moving away to the Fens. This simmering tension threatens to break into violence when a well-known tradesman is found dead in one of the colleges. Matthew Bartholomew knows he was poisoned but cannot identify the actual substance, never mind the killer. He also worries that other illnesses and deaths may have been caused by the effluent from his sister’s dye works. Torn between loyalties to his kin and to his college, he fears the truth may destroy both his personal and professional life, but he knows he must use his skills as a physician to discover the truth before many more lose their lives entirely. Matthew Bartholomew #21.

✎Hodgson, Antonia. [The Last Confession of Thomas Hawkins Signed](#) (Hodder \$36). Spring, 1728. A young, well-dressed man is dragged through the streets of London to the gallows at Tyburn. The crowds jeer and curse as he passes, calling him a murderer. He tries to remain calm. His name is Tom Hawkins and he is innocent. Somehow he has to prove it, before the rope squeezes the life out of him. It is, of course, all his own fault. He was happy with Kitty Sparks. Life was good. He should never have told the most dangerous criminal in London that he was ‘bored and looking for adventure’. He should never have offered to help Henrietta Howard, the king’s mistress, in her desperate struggles with a brutal husband. And most of all, he should never have trusted the witty, calculating Queen Caroline. She has promised him a royal pardon if he holds his tongue but then again, there is nothing more silent than a hanged man. Based loosely on actual events, Antonia Hodgson’s new novel is both a sequel to *The*

*Devil in the Marshalsea* and a standalone historical mystery. And continues the rake’s progress of Tom Hawkins—assuming he can find a way to survive the noose...

Hughes, Andrew. [The Convictions of John Delahunt](#) (Pegasus \$24.95). *Kirkus* says, “Debut novelist Hughes imagines the circumstances leading up to the Victorian-era real-life hanging of John Delahunt, a convicted Irish child-murderer. Trinity College education near complete, Delahunt anticipated launching himself into 1840s Dublin society as a gentleman. Then his father died. Delahunt soon learned the estate was mortgaged to pay for his father’s care. That was an inopportune time to meet Thomas Sibthorpe, who works for the shadowy ‘Department’ at the Castle, headquarters of Dublin’s police. Transpiring thereafter is an intense character study, one in which Delahunt’s life becomes Hobbesian—nasty, brutish, and short.” *The Irish Independent* finds this debut “Reminiscent of John Banville’s *The Book of Evidence*. A bracing, lurid tale that is as engrossing as it is chilling.” Sentiments echoed by CJ Sansom, Robert Goddard, and Charles Palliser. Two UK Firsts: [The Convictions of John Delahunt Signed](#) (\$30).

✎Jarvis, Stephen. [Death and Mr. Pickwick Signed](#) (Cape UK \$46). On 31 March 1836 the publishers Chapman & Hall launched the first issue of a new monthly periodical entitled *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club*. Conceived and created by the artist Robert Seymour, it contained four of his illustrations; the words to accompany them were written by a young journalist who used the pen-name Boz. The story of a sporting-cum-drinking club presided over by fat, loveable Mr. Pickwick, assisted by his cockney manservant Sam Weller, *The Pickwick Papers* soon became a popular sensation, outselling every other book except the Bible and Shakespeare’s plays, and read and discussed by the entire population of the British Isles, from the duke’s drawing-room to the lowliest chophouse. But one does not need to have read a single word of *The Pickwick Papers* to be enthralled by the story of how this extraordinary novel came to be.

Kaplan, Fred. [John Quincy Adams: American Visionary](#) (\$17.99).

Kuhns, Eleanor. [Death in Salem](#) (St Martins \$26.99). It’s 1796. Weaver Will Rees has traveled to Salem, Mass., in search of a splendid gift of cloth for his pregnant wife from the traders at the famed harbor, and some goods to sell for profit too since the family farm in Maine is pretty dicey. He comes upon a funeral procession and a friend who fought alongside him in the war against Britain who tells him the dead lady had been very ill. The next day the town is abuzz with news the women’s husband has also died—definitely by murder. Twig’s true love is a black woman he cannot marry who works in the dead couple’s household and is an easy arrest for the lazy and incompetent Salem constable. Rees agrees to stay on and investigate which draws him into the mess that is Salem politics and the strained though wealthy Boothe family of merchants. 4th in a consistently interesting and well plotted series traveling a landscape little-known to modern readers. [Click here](#) to order the earlier Rees mysteries.

✎Laoutaris, Chris. [Shakespeare and the Countess](#) (Pegasus \$29.95). Never far from controversy when she was alive—she sparked numerous riots and indulged in acts of breaking-and-entering, bribery, blackmail, kidnapping and armed combat—Lady Elizabeth Russell, the self-styled Dowager Countess of Bedford, has been edited out of public memory, yet the chain of

events she set in motion would make Shakespeare the legendary figure we all know today. The self-proclaimed countess threatened Shakespeare's livelihood with her suit against "London's first permanent playhouse, the Theatre," near her home, but her opposition inadvertently resulted in the creation of the famous Globe Theatre, which secured the Bard's legacy. "While Russell's voice is heard strongly through letters and legal documents, Shakespeare's opinion on the war over the Blackfriars property appears largely in the book's last third, primarily through Laoutaris' reading of his plays. That results in some tenuous threads—though others are much firmer—linking his opponents to various characters, including the notable Falstaff. As Laoutaris shows, Russell—a "staunch Puritan," funerary monument designer, and the only female sheriff in Elizabethan England—was worthy of starring in a Shakespearean drama."—*PW*

☞Lawrence, Mary. [The Alchemist's Daughter](#) (Kensington \$15). Bianca Goddard, daughter of an infamous alchemist, earns a living by making salves and remedies for the poor of Southwark, using chemical skills she learned from her father. So when her friend Jolyn, a former muckraker of the muddy Thames riverside trying to work her way up in Tudor society, comes to her complaining of stomach pains, Bianca quickly mixes her a peptic brew. To Bianca's shock and dismay, a few minutes later Jolyn convulses and dies. Many people, including the local constable, assume that Bianca poisoned Jolyn. But Bianca knows that her brew was harmless, and quickly deduces that the stomach pains of which Jolyn had complained must mean she'd already been poisoned before she arrived. Desperate to prove her own innocence and to find her friend's killer, Bianca begins an investigation into the seamy side of Tudor London life....

Levy, Lawrence H. [Second Street Station](#) (Crown \$14). Emmy nominee Levy presents Mary Handley, a 19th Century Brooklyn lass working at the Lowry Hat Factory as a start to her life plan: to become a detective with the police, a role her in her view undeserving brother fills. When she's fired from the factory for insubordination, she lands at a murder scene where the victim is the former bookkeeper of Thomas Edison. Hired by the Brooklyn PD as its first policewoman she's pushed to solve the crime and ends up tangling with JP Morgan, Edison, and Nikola Tesla in what turns out to be a truly cut-throat situation. The same rivalry between the ruthless Edison and his talented rival Tesla is well illustrated in Bernadette Pajer's [The Edison Effect](#) (\$14.95), set across the country in Seattle. Both are fascinating in the way that rival tech company wars are today. I recommend both: the Levy is our **June History/Mystery Paperback Pick**.

Macbain, Bruce. [Odin's Child](#) (Blank Slate \$18.95). Starts a Norse series by the author of [Roman Blood and The Bull Slayer](#) (\$14.95 each), two mysteries with Pliny the Younger.

☞Maclean, SG. [The Seeker Signed](#) (Quercus \$43). London, 1654. Oliver Cromwell is at the height of his power and has declared himself Lord Protector. Yet he has many enemies, at home and abroad. London is a teeming warren of spies and merchants, priests and soldiers, exiles and assassins. One of the web's most fearsome spiders is Damian Seeker, agent of the Lord Protector. No one knows where Seeker comes from, who his family is, or even his real name. All that is known of him for certain is that he is utterly loyal to Cromwell, and that nothing can be long hidden from him. In the city, coffee houses are springing up, fashionable

places where men may meet to plot and gossip. Suddenly they are ringing with news of a murder. John Winter, hero of Cromwell's all-powerful army, is dead, and the lawyer, Elias Ellingworth, found standing over the bleeding body, clutching a knife. Yet despite the damning evidence, Seeker is not convinced of Ellingworth's guilt. He will stop at nothing to bring the killer to justice.

☞Mantel, Hilary. [Wolf Hall](#) and its conclusion in [Bring Up the Bodies](#) (\$16 each), the two Booker Prize winners bringing Mantel's view of the Tudors to Broadway and TV.

Maxwell, Alyssa. [Murder at Beechwood](#) (Kensington \$15). For Newport, Rhode Island's high society, the summer of 1896 brings lawn parties, sailboat races...and murder. Having turned down the proposal of Derrick Andrews, Emma Cross has no imminent plans for matrimony—let alone motherhood. But when she discovers an infant left on her doorstep, she naturally takes the child into her care. Using her influence as a cousin to the Vanderbilts and a society page reporter for the Newport Observer, Emma launches a discreet search for the baby's mother. One of her first stops is a lawn party at Mrs. Caroline Astor's Beechwood estate. But an idyllic summer's day is soon clouded by tragedy. During a sailboat race, textile magnate Virgil Monroe falls overboard. There are prompt accusations of foul play—and even Derrick Andrews falls under suspicion. Deepening the intrigue, a telltale slip of lace may link the abandoned child to the drowned man. The setting is well done, the plot more or less routine.

Mays, Andrea. [The Millionaire and the Bard](#) (SimonSchuster \$27). Printing the First Folio involved different compositors, so there were numerous textual variants from one copy to another. The actors sold the First for £1; buyers had to bind it themselves. They sold out of the approximately 750 copies by 1632, so they ordered a reprint (with more variants). Mays notes that Henry Folger bought his first First, a poor copy, around 1893, and then another in 1896, for \$4,500. He bought the last of his 82 folios in 1928 for \$68,750, the most he ever paid for one. How could he afford this? That is the other fascinating aspect of Mays's story. Folger was "kind, humorous and unpretentious," the president and later the chairman of Standard Oil, one of the Gilded Age's richest men. Born to wealth, he was a nephew to the founder of Folger's Coffee, maintained many good connections and endeared himself to John D. Rockefeller when Folger was still a clerk—a relationship that eventually launched him to the top of the company. He loved books in general, but he was obsessed with Shakespeare. Mays chronicles Folger's lifelong fervor to own Shakespeare materials; his library includes the only 1594 quarto of Titus Andronicus known to the world. He often competed with other wealthy collectors and libraries, and he had quite a spat with his "nemesis and lifelong literary irritant," the Shakespeare bibliographer Sidney Lee. He eventually built the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., to house his library and voluminous collection; it opened April 23, 1932—Shakespeare's 368th birthday, nearly two years after Folger's death. This is a great story, wonderfully told, that book lovers, readers and collectors will savor.

☞Medieval Murderers. [The Deadliest Sin](#) (SimonSchuster UK \$19.99 trade pbk). In the spring of 1348, tales begin arriving in England of poisonous clouds fast approaching, which have overwhelmed whole cities and even countries, with scarcely a human being left. While some pray more earnestly and live yet more de-

voutly, others vow to enjoy themselves and blot out their remaining days on earth by drinking and gambling. And then there are those who hope that God's wrath might be averted by going on a pilgrimage. But if God was permitting his people to be punished by this plague, then it surely could only be because they had committed terrible sins? So when a group of pilgrims are forced to seek shelter at an inn, their host suggests that the guests should tell their tales. He dares them to tell their stories of sin, so that it might emerge which one is the best—meaning the worst ....

Robinson, Daniel. [Death of a Century](#) (Arcade \$24.99). Set in 1922, Robinson's atmospheric tale of betrayal and revenge paints a passionate picture of the Lost Generation, those who came of age during WWI. When New York reporter Joe Henry pays a call one night on old army buddy and newspaper colleague Wynton Gresham at his Greenwich, Conn., house, Joe finds Gresham lying dead on his sofa with two bullet holes in his chest. The sheriff who arrives soon after regards Joe as a suspect, but allows him to go home. Later, in Gresham's office desk, Joe discovers a first-class ticket on a Cunard liner leaving for Cherbourg the following day. Posing as Gresham, Joe uses the ticket to sail to France, where he hopes to find his friend's killer and clear his own name. Joe's reflections on his time in the war and the atrocities he witnessed slow the narrative, but Robinson brings Hemingway's Paris to life.

Rohmer, Sax. [Fu-Manchu: Re-Enter Fu-Manchu](#) (Titan \$9.95). The 1950s—the era of the Cold War. The USSR is poised to begin the space race by launching the Sputnik satellite, Mao Zedong rules Communist China, and the greatest global fear is of the atomic bomb. Missing for nearly a decade, Fu-Manchu re-emerges in an attempt to wrest control of China from the accursed Communists. Nayland Smith pursues his enemy from London to Cairo to New York, determined to end his reign of terror. But there's something amiss with Smith—something his allies need to uncover before it's too late. Titan is doing well reissuing the Fu Manchus with arresting new covers for a new generation of readers. [Click here](#) to order. The whole package should appeal to YA readers and hipsters.

Ross, John F. [Enduring Courage](#) (\$16.99). The true story of Eddie Rickenbacker, America's greatest flying ace.

Shaara, Jeff. [The Fateful Lightning](#) (Random \$28). The 15th and final novel in Shaara's Civil War Series recounts the final 8 months from multiple perspectives. New in paperback: [The Smoke at Dawn](#) (\$17).

Sides, Hampton. [In the Kingdom of Ice](#) (\$16.95) "chronicles American naval officer George Washington De Long's harrowing 1879 expedition to the North Pole, an account as frightening as it is fascinating. Each page envelops readers in the bravery of De Long and the crew of the Jeannette, their indefatigable quest for the "Polar Grail," and their dogged will to survive. News mogul James Gordon Bennett Jr., a colorful personality who famously sent Sir Henry Stanley to Dr. David Livingstone, was De Long's patron, mostly because he desired another front-page stunner for his paper. De Long's journal entries are mixed in with Sides' description of a voyage fraught with peril—their steamboat was wedged in ice for two winters and, upon released, was crushed. Seeking rescue, the crew hauled supplies hundreds of miles across Arctic ice fields. Impeccable writing, a vivid re-creation of the expedition and the Victorian era, and a taut conclusion make this an exciting gem."—*PW*

Tiraboschi, Roberto. [The Eye Stone, A Novel of Venice](#) (Ecco \$17). Medieval Venice. See First Novels.

Tremayne, Peter. [The Second Death Signed](#) (Headline \$45). Due in July, a new Sister Fidelma. Ireland, AD 671. The Great Fair of Bealtain is almost upon the fortress of Cashel, and a line of painted wagons carries entertainers to mark the occasion. But preparations take a deathly turn when one of the carriages is set alight, and two corpses are found, lying poisoned, within. As Sister Fidelma and her companion, Eadulf, investigate, they are quickly plunged into the menacing marshlands of Osraige—where the bloody origin of the Abbey of Cainnech is wreaking his revenge. What is the symbolism of the Golden Stone, and who are the mysterious members of the Fellowship of the Raven? Fidelma and Eadulf must face untold mortal danger before they can untangle the evil that strikes at the very heart of the kingdom. Order early as we often run out of copies.

New in trade paperback: [Atonement of Blood](#) (\$16.99). 24th in series. Winter, 670 AD. King Colgú has invited the leading nobles and chieftains of his kingdom to a feast day. Fidelma and Eadulf are enjoying the feast when it is interrupted by the entrance of a religieus, who claims he has an important message for the King. He approaches the throne and shouts 'Remember Liamuin!' and then stabs King Colgú. The assassin is slain, but does enough damage to take out Colgú's bodyguard, and to put the king himself on the verge of death. As King Colgú lies in recovery, Fidelma, Eadulf, and bodyguard Gormán are tasked with discovering who is behind the assassination attempt, and who Liamuin is.

Vreeland, Susan. [Lisette's List](#) (\$16). In 1937, newlyweds Andre and Lisette Roux move from France's vibrant capital to the pastoral southeastern town of Roussillon to care for his grandfather, Pascal, who has written that he is dying. A passionate Parisian, Lisette is at first miserable in the backwater town, and infuriated when Pascal turns out to be healthier than he let on: he simply wanted their company, and to share what he remembers about the famous French artists he has known. But Lisette is as fervent about art as she is about Paris, and Andre has trained in his grandfather's trade of carving fine frames for fine paintings. She is captivated by Pascal's collection of seven paintings. As a miner in the nearby ochre mines and later a pigment salesman, Pascal made the most of his access to these men, and now shares his recollections with the rapt Lisette—as well as his wisdom about life and love. Then war arrives. Before going off to fight, Andre hides the paintings without telling her where to protect her from inquisition. During the Occupation Lisette meets Marc Chagall and his wife, Bella, who are hiding in a nearby town. Upon receiving a gift painted specially for her by Chagall, she begins her own art collection and narrative. And with war's end, comes the question of where is Pascal's collection?