

BOOKNEWS from

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ANOTHER AWESOME AUGUST...

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

SATURDAY AUGUST 1 1:00 PM Book Notes

August-September Books Preview with Barbara and John Charles

2:00 PM Glacier National Park Mystery

Christine Carbo signs [The Wild Inside](#) (Atria \$16) Debut

MONDAY AUGUST 3 7:00 PM Fishing and Tying Flies + Murder

CJ Box signs [Badlands](#) (St Martins \$26.99) Cassie Dewell.

Comes with special inlaid postcard

Keith McCafferty signs [Crazy Mountain Kiss](#) (Viking \$26.95)

Sean Stranahan #4

TUESDAY AUGUST 4 7:00 PM Book Launch Party!

Rhys Bowen signs [Malice at the Palace](#) (Berkley \$25.95) Lady Georgiana Rannoch

Also Rhys Bowen & Jenn McKinlay 2:00 PM, Sunrise Mountain Library 21200 N 98th Ave. Peoria, AZ 85382

SATURDAY AUGUST 8 10:30 AM

Coffee and Crime discusses Steven Axelrod, [Nantucket Sawbuck](#) (\$14.95)

SATURDAY AUGUST 8 2:00 PM 3 Authors + Tana French

Maegan Beaumont signs [Promises to Keep](#) (Midnight Ink \$14.99)

Matt Coyle signs [Night Tremors](#) (Oceanview \$26.95)

David Putnam signs [The Replacements](#) (Oceanview \$26.95)

Tana French signs [The Secret Place](#) (Penguin \$17) via Skype)

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12 7:00 PM Legal Eagles

Linda Fairstein signs [Devil's Bridge](#) (Dutton \$27.95) Alexandra Cooper

Robert Tanenbaum signs [Trap](#) (Gallery \$27) Butch Karp

SATURDAY AUGUST 15 10:30 AM

Croak & Dagger discuss Julia Dahl's [Invisible City](#) (\$15.99)

SATURDAY AUGUST 15 2:00 PM

Sara Paretsky signs [Brush Back](#) (Putnam \$27.95) 18th V.I. Warshawski

SUNDAY AUGUST 16 2:00 PM Triple the Tea Party

Jenny Milchman signs [As Night Falls](#) (Random \$26)

Michael Koryta signs [Last Words](#) (LittleBrown \$26)

NOTE: buy your book here, [click on this link](#), and receive a free paperback by Koryta from his publisher

Jeanne Lyet-Glassman signs [Blood of a Stone](#) (History Press \$19.95)

MONDAY AUGUST 17 Outlander Plus!

Diana Gabaldon signs [Written in My Own Hearts Blood](#) (\$17) and/or [Written in My Own Hearts Blood](#) (Delacorte \$35)

P.F. Chisholm signs [A Chorus of Innocents](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95) 6th Sir Robert Carey Elizabethan romp, a perfect companion to the Outlander Series

TUESDAY AUGUST 18 6:00 PM Book Launch

Jonathan Kellerman signs [The Murderer's Daughter](#) (Random \$28)

Faye Kellerman signs assorted titles

THURSDAY AUGUST 20 7:00 PM

Baron Birtcher signs [Hard Latitudes](#) (Permanent Press \$29.95)

Mike Travis

SATURDAY AUGUST 22 2:00 PM YA Alert!

Bill Konigsberg signs [The Porcupine of Truth](#) (Scholastic \$18)

Tom Leveen signs [Shackled](#) (Simon Pulse \$17.99) Ages 14+

Amy Nichols signs [While You Were Gone: Duplexity Part II](#) (Random \$18)

TUESDAY AUGUST 25 Book Launch Party!

Grafton signs [X](#) (Putnam \$28.95) 24th Kinsey Millhone

Arizona Biltmore Hotel 2400 E. Missouri Phoenix, AZ 85016

5:00 PM Doors Open; Program at 7:00 PM

\$5 payable at the door, no reservations required. Come early, Save Your Seat, use the hotel's coupon to Eat (or save it for a late dinner or dessert afterwards)

Rooms at the Biltmore: \$105/taxes Reservation Code: 2726435

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26 7:00 PM Science Fiction Star

John Scalzi signs [The End of All Things](#) (Tor \$24.99)

THURSDAY AUGUST 27 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime discusses Harry Whittington's [A Haven for the Damned](#) (\$9.99)

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5 2:00 PM

Eileen Brady signs [Unleashed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95) Vet Kate Turner #2

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7 Double the Labor Day Fun

4:00 PM Our new Romance Readers organizational meeting

And at 5:00 PM

Deanna Raybourn signs [A Curious Beginning](#) (NAL \$25.95) Starts a Victorian series

Lauren Willig signs [The Other Daughter](#) (St Martins \$25.99) British suspense; and [The Lure of the Moonflower](#) (NAL \$16) the story of the Pink Carnation herself

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8 7:00 PM Butch Cassidy

Margaret Coel signs [The Man Who Fell from the Sky](#) (Berkley \$26.95)

EVENT BOOKS

Beaumont, Maegan. [Promises to Keep](#) (Midnight Ink \$14.99). For years Michael O'Shea has been forced to act as a personal assassin for Livingston Shaw, the cold-blooded puppet master who controls the remote bioweapon implanted in Michael's back. Shaw offers to release him if he can recover a kidnapped boy, but the only witnesses are being murdered and Michael can't shake the agonizing memories of another child he was once sworn to protect. Against all his instincts, Michael must draw in police Inspector Sabrina Vaughn, the woman he loves but must avoid. Can this end well? 3rd in the Sabrina Vaughn series. Order the first two [here](#).

Birtcher, Baron R. [Hard Latitudes](#) (Permanent Press \$29.95). A botched blackmail scheme draws Mike Travis, an ex-homicide cop, back from Hawaii to Los Angeles to the aid of his estranged brother, a man of privilege with the soul of a predator. A seemingly arbitrary act of violence in Macau has initiated a chain of events that ripples across the Pacific, developing into a thunderstorm of murder, extortion, and betrayal half a world away. Together with Travis' friend, Snyder – a man with a checkered past of his own – Travis uncovers vile truths involving sexual slavery and insatiable personal greed that have already cut a path of vicious cruelty from the shipyards of Hong Kong to the shores of the Hawaiian islands. As Travis unravels the disparate thread of duplicity and moral compromise, it threatens to devastate the lives of one powerful family, while Travis himself becomes a suspect in a murder that threatens to destroy his life as well.

Bowen, Rhys. [Malice at the Palace](#) (Berkley \$25.95). October, 1934. Back from the dangers of Hollywood and abandoned instantly by her mother (who returns to Germany to marry a super-rich industrialist), Lady Georgiana Rannoch, 35th in line for the British throne but impoverished and homeless, briefly bunks with her friend Belinda. Belinda's surprise return from America sends Georgie back to her family's London home whence she is summoned by Queen Mary who wants her to show Princess Marina who is about to marry Prince George, 4th son of George V and the queen, how to go on in London. Georgie moves into antiquated Kensington Palace where ghosts and two elderly daughters of Victoria reside, and soon finds herself hobnobbing with Noel Coward and a fast crowd, learning more than she wishes about Prince George's libertine life (lovers of both sexes), observing the Prince of Wales and Mrs. Simpson, being embarrassed by her maid Queenie, and confronted with the murder of a drug-injecting society beauty. And Georgie's true love Darcy turns up... what's up? This racy story incorporates actual history and personages.

Box, CJ. [Badlands](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Carrying forward some characters themes from his earlier standalones, Box relocates Cassie Dewell (*The Highway, Back of Beyond*) to Grimstad, a little town in the booming North Dakota oil fields. Despite the sub-zero weather, this prairie burg is bursting with roughnecks and rowdies who overstrain not only its small infrastructure but local law, allowing ruthless drug dealers wide scope. Cassie arrives just as a series of brutal murders signals the breakout of war between two rival drug gangs; we see its beginning when a pre-dawn car crash lands a duffle bag of swag in the hands of a special-needs kid doing his paperboy round. 12-year-old Kyle

yearns for a stable home life, not the perils of possessing the bag, which he and Cassie work to combat in alternating chapters of the narrative. And then, for Cassie, the Lizard King, the serial killer who preys at truck stops, complicates things. In its Starred Review, which I have seen in a preview, *PW* adds, "The vulnerable boy's plight gives emotional heft to the criminal investigation, balancing cynicism with warm empathy."

Brady, Eileen. Brady, Eileen. [Unleashed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). In Brady's amusing, well-plotted second Kate Turner mystery, the Oak Falls, N.Y., veterinarian gets investigated the death of Claire Birnham, whose Cairn terrier was treated at the local veterinary hospital. Claire appears to have committed suicide, but it begins to look like a case of foul play after various pet owners reveal details about the woman's life. When Kate's brain-damaged assistant, Eugene Spragg, is arrested for Claire's murder, Kate sifts through a number of suspects, including Claire's alcoholic mother, Beverly; Beverly's abusive boyfriend, Buzz; Gilda Tremont, the owner of the art gallery where Birnham worked; up-and-coming artist Andrei Roshenkov; and Claire's rocker ex-boyfriend, A.J. Janssen. Meanwhile, Turner treats a pot-bellied pig and a smelly cocker spaniel, besides getting chased by a flock of geese. Readers will eagerly look forward to Kate's further adventures."—*PW*. Follows [Muzzled](#) (\$24.95; \$14.95). Also [Unleashed](#) (\$15.95)

Carbo, Christine. [The Wild Inside](#) (Atria \$16). In an interview about her debut, Carbo says, "Much of it came from my experience of living close to the stunning, and sometimes haunting, Glacier Park, and the research I did to understand how local law enforcement deals with land shared by a particular county and the federal government I came to crime fiction after reading a Dennis Lehane mystery in my early thirties. I remember being taken with his ability to write poignantly while still propelling the story forward through the 'whodunit' aspect. I can say that some of my favorites, besides Lehane, have been Tana French, Tom Franklin, Donna Tartt, Daniel Woodrell, Mo Hayder, Michael Connolly, and William Kent Krueger. The rural setting turned out to be a perfect match for my characters. Not only was I able to use the natural conflict of communities plagued by unemployment and sometimes drugs, and of small towns nestled within the wonders and dangers the wilderness has to offer, I was able to write about the place I love the most: the evocative and commanding, Glacier Park. It became almost a living, breathing character, and in my protagonist's mind, the park became his antagonist." Ted Systeard, at 14, was in the Park fishing when his father fell victim to a marauding grizzly bear. 20 years later, Ted is a Special Agent for the Department of the Interior and back in Glacier to investigate the death of a man mauled by a grizzly. But the victim had been tied to a tree first. It's murder. And the life of the bear, who carries with it valuable evidence, is now at stake. I add that Carbo also has Arizona history: after earning her private pilot's license she attended Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, then got degrees in humanities and linguistics.

Chisholm, P F. [A Chorus of Innocents](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). In this superb novel, our **August History Club Pick** given raves by Diana Gabaldon, Sharon Kay Penman, and Dana Stabenow, non-stop action begins on Thursday, 12th October, 1592. That's just 18 days after the action closes in [An Air of Treason](#) (\$14.95:

\$24.95). Courtier Sir Robert Carey and Carey's surly, larcenous, and loyal henchman Henry Dodd, Land Sergeant of Gilsland, are back in Carlisle and the Debateable Lands, the Border country, the Wild North, the land of the hot trod where the thieving, feuding reiver clans are "English when it suited, and Scots at their pleasure." The focus of this story is Sir Robert's married true love, Lady Elizabeth Widdrington (her husband is a loser, a brute, but she stays physically faithful to him), who champions a very pregnant young woman whose minister husband has been murdered and she, raped. Gabaldon says, "You wouldn't think these books could possibly get any better—and yet they do, every single time. *A Chorus of Innocents* is no exception: intricately clever plot and fascinating characters, with the patented P.F. Chisholm blend of matter-of-fact Elizabethan violence, straight-faced hilarity, and truly moving moments of tenderness and human longing." Dana adds, "The action proceeds full tilt for ten days and finishes with a marvelous set piece of derring-do involving enough arms and ammunition for the siege of Stalingrad, plus the last line will leave you with your heart in your mouth. As always the scene Chisholm sets is a veritable time travel portal you step through the instant you turn to the first page." [A Chorus of Innocents](#) (\$15.95). Order the earlier Careys [here](#).

Coel, Margaret. [The Man Who Fell from the Sky](#) (Berkley \$26.95). Can this really be the 19th time Jesuit Father John and Arapaho lawyer Vicky Holden have been thrust into investigating a crime or crimes? Wow. Coel has always liked drawing on real history in her plots, and here what we have is Butch Cassidy (Ok, and the Sundance Kid in vignettes), his story, and the legend of the treasure—robbery proceeds—he was rumored to have buried somewhere on Arapaho land. The case begins when Robert Walking Bear's body is found in the Wind River Mountains, floating in a beautiful lake, a favored fishing spot, alongside his truck. His death appears to be accidental—except we learn he had once again been out hunting for Butch Cassidy's buried loot with a map he had gotten from his grandfather, a map believed to have been drawn by the leader of the Hole in the Wall gang himself. Butch had been a "guest" of the grandparents, their property an ideal hide-out for him. And while he and Sundance were reported to have died south of the border, further legend is that he returned to the Wind River Rez, but never could find the loot he'd buried. When one of Robert's cousins falls prey to another deadly accident, Vicky and Father John are convinced the victim was the anonymous caller who'd claimed to have witnessed Robert's death. Who else will die in what may well be a chase after Cassidy's cache... or, of course, after something else? [Click here](#) to order Coel's previous books.

Coyle, Matt. [Night Tremors](#) (Oceanview \$26.95). Nightmares of the man he killed two years ago still chase Rick Cahill through his sleep. The memory of his murdered wife haunts him during waking hours. His private investigative work, secretly photographing adulterers, paid for his new house but stains his soul. When an old nemesis asks for his help to free a man from prison, a man he thinks is wrongly convicted of murder, Rick grabs at the chance to turn his life around. His investigation takes him from the wealthy enclave of La Jolla to the dark underbelly of San Diego. His quest fractures his friendship with his mentor, endangers his steady job, and draws the ire of the Police Chief who had tried to put Rick behind bars forever.... [Yesterday's Echo](#) (\$26.95) won the 2014 Anthony Award for Best First Novel.

Fairstein, Linda. [Devil's Bridge](#) (Dutton \$27.95). We're in a Manhattan courtroom where Antonio Estevez is being tried. The top count on the indictment is Sex Trafficking. Estevez is looking at 25 if convicted, but Juror #8 is acting out. Worse, the door opens to admit Coop's paralegal—a woman Coop learns is married to Estevez. In short, she's a plant. And she's hacked into Coop's computer. The good news? Mike Chapman, now Coop's main squeeze, brings news that the NYPD has picked up Raymond Tanner for doing a girl in Central Park. You'd think Coop would be safe despite the Estevez mess. But no. She's kidnapped right off a city street. The complications, and list of suspects, are terrifying as we learn when the narrative switches to Chapman. Is her relationship to him behind this? Even the Commissioner is concerned about what methods Chapman will use to get Coop back. Whatever—it plays out at the Manhattan waterfront, one of New York City's most magnificent vistas, boasting both the majestic Statue of Liberty and the George Washington Bridge, the world's busiest span for motor vehicles. Order the first 16 Alexander Coopers [here](#).

French, Tana. [The Secret Place](#) (\$17 Unsigned, but discussed via Skype). Det. Stephen Moran, who works in the cold-case unit, is biding his time until he can make the Murder Squad. When 16-year-old Holly Mackey, a colleague's daughter, shows up with a clue to an old crime, Moran sees his chance. A student at St. Kilda's boarding school, Holly vividly remembers the previous year's murder of Chris Harper, a popular teen from Colm's, the neighboring boys' school. "French stealthily spins a web of teenage secrets with a very adult crime at the center."—*PW* Starred Review. See our August Trade Paperback Picks for more.

Gabaldon, Diana. [Written in My Own Heart's Blood](#) (\$17) and/or [Written in My Own Heart's Blood](#) (Delacorte \$35). The 8th Outlander novel. New this year: [The Outlandish Companion Revised and Updated](#) (\$40). [The Outlandish Companion Volume Two](#) (\$40) will be available, Signed, on October. 27.

Grafton, Sue. [X](#) (Putnam \$28.95). Talk about timing. Rob and I attended a gorgeous show of JMW Turner's paintings at the Getty in LA a month before my ARC of *X* arrived. And right there in the 24th Kinsey Millhone's opening pages is a woman, a divorced and pissed off wife, who resolves to steal a small painting she believes is a Turner from the contents of a home her ex is putting up for sale. Next, a very wealthy woman asks the Santa Teresa PI to meet her in her glass-walled Montebello manse to take on the task of locating a young man out on parole from the federal prison at Lompoc, a young man the woman says is the son she bore at 15. She wants to make "amends." And there's Kinsey's old friend Ruthie Wolinsky who wants help with some papers left by her husband Pete, a local PI fatally shot the year before in a robbery. And off we go. It's March, 1989, and California is deep into a drought, water police maybe forming. *X* could have been for xeriscape, but how sexy is that? Well, it earns a flat-folded paper cup coated with wax inside from Grafton as a gift to you. There's a divorced couple named Xanakis in the story. X means ten. X is the 24th letter of the alphabet. X marks... what? A spot on a map? Grafton decides to call this one just "X". In its Starred Review, *PW* adds, "This superior outing will remind readers why this much-loved series will be missed as the end of the alphabet approaches." Two books to go....

Order the first 23 [here](#). If you want them all in hardcover, email sales@poisonedpen.com. Free shipping comes with a full set.

Kellerman, Jonathan. [The Murderer's Daughter](#) (Random \$28). Now and then bestseller Kellerman takes a break from Alex Delaware (and Milo Sturgis) and turns his skills as a clinical psychologist and med school professor to other characters. He promises that you've never met anyone like Dr. Grace Blades—and I agree. In this high-wire act (actually it ends in one) we get to follow Grace from (pre)birth to master psychotherapist along a path through foster homes, school success, VA practice, teaching, and into private practice dealing with what she calls the Haunted, people crippled by devastating encounters, loss, and grief but who have become “super survivors.” Having witnessed her mother kill her father, then herself, Grace can relate. She's also into risk; she likes to go trolling for one-night stands in LA. And her odyssey climaxes when she takes on two of the sick and twisted. August 18 is publication date so ask for your copy to be Signed.

Konigsberg, Bill [The Porcupine of Truth](#) (Scholastic \$17.99). An epic road trip involving family history, gay history, the girlfriend he can't have, and the grandfather he never knew. Carson Smith is resigned to spending his summer in Billings, Montana, helping his mom take care of his father, a dying alcoholic he doesn't really know. Then he meets Aisha Stinson, a beautiful girl who has run away from her difficult family, and Pastor John Logan, who's long held a secret regarding Carson's grandfather, who disappeared without warning or explanation thirty years before. Together, Carson and Aisha embark on an epic road trip to find the answers that might save Carson's dad, restore his fragmented family, and discover the “Porcupine of Truth” in all of their lives. Ages 14+

Koryta, Michael. [Last Words](#) (LittleBrown \$26). We get to sell this 2 days before on-sale date so ask for your copy to be dated. Here is the *PW* Starred Review: “This moving series launch from bestseller Koryta illustrates why he's among today's top thriller writers. PI Mark Novak has not done well since his wife, Lauren, was murdered on her way to an interview on behalf of the Florida firm that specializes in exonerating death-row inmates for which the couple worked. Two years later, Mark, who's at risk of being fired by that firm, receives an unusual request. Ridley Barnes, an eccentric cave explorer, wants him to look into the decade-old murder of 17-year-old Sarah Martin, who disappeared inside Trapdoor Caverns in Garrison, Ind. Barnes was a prime suspect in that case, though he was never charged. The tragedy plunged the town into an economic depression after the cave's owners sealed it, cutting off the tourist trade. In Garrison, Mark encounters people who refuse to talk—and violence. Koryta sensitively portrays regret and grief while plunging the reader into exciting, claustrophobic scenes deep inside the massive cave.” The creative Koryta has given you PI stories, supernatural thrillers, and a pure wilderness adventure. And he's only 32! You can order it all [here](#). Consult Page One to learn how to submit your proof of purchase for a free Koryta paperback from his publisher.

Leveen, Tom. [Shackled](#) (Simon Pulse \$17.99). Jeff reviews: “At age 10, Pelly's best friend Tara was abducted from the mall. Six years later, Pelly is still dealing with the fall out, crippled by agoraphobia, unable to connect with family or friends, or have even the semblance of a normal teenage life. She smokes, cuts herself, and, above all, constantly worries. Then a girl who looks like Tara walks into Pelly's work, accompanied by a suspicious middle-aged man. As Tara leaves, she glances over her shoulder,

mouthed the word help. Now, Pelly is forced to face the demons of her past while trying to find and save her friend. As always, Tom Leveen delivers a book that grabs you from page one, bringing to life all of Pelly's angst and pain and struggle. For teens, or anyone seeking insight into them, this book is an excellent choice.” Ages 14+. [Click here](#) to order other Leveen YAs.

Lyet-Gassman, J. [Blood of a Stone](#) (Tuscan Press \$19.95). Set in the first century on the edges of the Roman Empire and the Jesus movement. Faced with the brutality of slavery, Demetrios confronts his master and flees by the blood of a stone. Determined to escape his past, he struggles to create a new life and a new identity with his friend and fellow escaped slave, Elazar. However, freedom has its price. Secrets cannot remain secret forever. A chance for love is lost. Elazar betrays Demetrios to a so-called prophet named Jesus of Nazareth. Fearing the Roman authorities and Jesus, Demetrios risks everything to silence those who would enslave him again.

McCafferty, Keith. [Crazy Mountain Kiss](#) (Viking \$26.95). The 4th for Sean Stranahan is dark, dangerous, devious, and off the wall, akin to Box or Craig Johnson but verging towards James Crumley crossed with James Lee Burke. Disclaimer: the fact that outdoor expert/columnist McCafferty ties a fly for me each book does not mean he buys me—I have raved about all four. The last book I hooked him up with Nevada Barr at The Pen, this time CJ Box. Here is a [fabulous review](#) written by Robert Anglen for the *Arizona Republic*.

Milchman, Jenny. [As Night Falls](#) (Random \$26). After a heart-pounding prison escape, a sociopath and his giant cellmate, a kind of programmable weapon, turn a family's quiet winter evening into a deadly nightmare. The Tremont family just moved into their ideal home in a remote area of the Adirondacks. Ben, his wife, Sandy, and their teenage daughter, Ivy, are going about their lives when Nick and Harlan stroll through the front door and turn their dream into a nightmare. It's interesting that this book emerges at the time of the well-publicized prison break and manhunt in upper NY, a kind of real-time parallel without the family hook. The Indie Next Pick: “If you want to experience a great psychological thriller, you must read *As Night Falls*. Sandy has tried to leave her past behind and start a new life, but it comes crashing in on her in a vicious way. Two convicts break into her house, and that is just the beginning of the terror as Sandy must try to face the past and save her family. I could not put this book down!” [Click here](#) to order Milchman's first two books. The first won the Mary Higgins Clark Award. Milchman and her family have adopted a nomadic lifestyle for book promotion which has included The Pen each time.

Nichols, Amy K. [While You Were Gone: Duplexity Part II](#) (Random \$17.99). An artist without a cause meets a rebel without a clue. Eevee is a promising young artist and the governor's daughter in a city where censorship is everywhere and security is everything. When a fire devastates her exhibition—years in the making—her dreams of attending an elite art institute are dashed. She's struggling to find inspiration when she meets Danny, a boy from a different world. Literally. . . . Jeff of our staff finds this,” is a fast read, so engaging you'll never find yourself peeking ahead for a chapter break. It's a darker book than the first, a meditation on the chilling effects that overly invasive

government surveillance can have on culture and society, while still chock full of teen angst and romance and adventure. Oh yeah, and some pretty cool quantum physics too. Amy K. Nichols is a name to watch. If you haven't yet read *While You Were Gone*, or its predecessor, [Now That You're Here](#) (\$12.99), then you should immediately. You will be able to claim having discovered her first, before Hollywood and the rest of the herd do."

Paretsky, Sara. [Brush Back](#) (Putnam \$27.95). The 18th VI Warshawski investigation takes VI back to her old neighborhood on Chicago's South Side, the one she and her cousin, Blackhawks star Boom Boom, moved up and away from. Despite the perfectly appalling Stella, a mother who is out after doing a full 25 for beating her daughter to death and at war with the Warshawskis, all, for decades, VI pokes into Stella's conviction. In part it's sentiment—Stella's son Frank was her short-lived high school sweetheart, a guy who could maybe have made it to MLB but fluffed his tryout at Wrigley Field and has long been driving a truck. Naturally this is just the set up; things roll worse from here. It all proves you can't, you should not, go home again. We learn things we didn't know about VI's early life. And there's great hockey and baseball stuff, or the Blackhawks and the Cubs, plus Wrigley Field plays a major role. "Paretsky never shies from tackling social issues, and in this installment she targets political corruption without ever losing sight of her dogged sleuth's very personal stake in the story."—*PW* Starred Review. [Click here](#) to order VI's earlier cases.

Putnam, David. [The Replacements](#) (Oceanview \$26.95). Putnam's thrilling sequel to 2014's [The Disposables](#) (\$26.95) finds Bruno Johnson, a former L.A. sheriff's cop, settled in Costa Rica with his wife, Marie, and the eight abused children they rescued and took (illegally) from the U.S. Early in his career, Johnson intervened in a violent domestic case and managed to save the life of five-year-old Jonas Mabry. Now an adult, Jonas has kidnapped two young girls and will deal only with Johnson. Johnson is unable to resist the appeal of Montclair, Calif., police chief Barbra Wicks, and returns to California to track down Jonas. Jonas proves to be a diabolically clever opponent as he runs circles around Johnson, leading him down one blind alley after another and forcing him to make desperate moves. The narrative charges ahead full tilt, like a bullet train.

Raybourn, Deanna. [A Curious Beginning](#) (NAL \$25.95). London, 1887. As the city prepares to celebrate Queen Victoria's golden jubilee, Veronica Speedwell is marking a milestone of her own. After burying her spinster aunt, the orphaned Veronica is free to resume her world travels in pursuit of scientific inquiry—and the occasional romantic dalliance. As familiar with hunting butterflies as she is fending off admirers, Veronica wields her butterfly net and a sharpened hatpin with equal aplomb, and with her last connection to England now gone, she intends to embark upon the journey of a lifetime. But fate has other plans, as Veronica discovers when she thwarts her own abduction with the help of an enigmatic German baron with ties to her mysterious past. Promising to reveal in time what he knows of the plot against her, the baron offers her temporary sanctuary in the care of his friend Stoker—a reclusive natural historian as intriguing as he is bad-tempered. But before the baron can deliver on his tantalizing vow to reveal the secrets he has concealed for decades, he is found murdered. So begins a Victorian series from bestseller Raybourn of the Lady Julia Grey mysteries. "The intrepid Veronica's wit

and the sexual tension she shares with the equally eccentric and articulate Stoker deliver a fun read with promises of more to come."—*Publishers Weekly*. Some of Raybourn's earlier work is not in print so please [click here](#) to see what we have.

Scalzi, John. [The End of All Things](#) (Tor \$24.99). Humans expanded into space... only to find a universe populated with multiple alien species bent on their destruction. Thus was the Colonial Union formed, to help protect us from a hostile universe. The Colonial Union used the Earth and its excess population for colonists and soldiers. It was a good arrangement... for the Colonial Union. Then the Earth said: no more. Now the Colonial Union is living on borrowed time—a couple of decades at most, before the ranks of the Colonial Defense Forces are depleted and the struggling human colonies are vulnerable to the alien species who have been waiting for the first sign of weakness, to drive humanity to ruin. A down-on-his-luck Colonial Union starship pilot finds himself pressed into serving a harsh master/in a mission against the CU. But his kidnappers may have underestimated his knowledge of the ship that they have, quite literally, bound him to piloting. Part One of the four parts of *The End of All Things*, John Scalzi's conclusion to the Old Man's War tale that began with *The Human Division*. Order the scintillating Scalzi's earlier work [here](#).

Tanenbaum, Robert. [Trap](#) (Gallery \$27). When a tremendous blast rocks an old school building in East Harlem during a meeting of the New York Charter Schools, killing six and wounding a dozen others, it's initially blamed on a natural gas explosion. However, as Butch Karp digs a little deeper, he discovers the explosion was the work of a mysterious serial arsonist in the employ of the teacher's union president, who is angry at the unqualified successes of the charter school movement in New York City and worried for the corrupt public school system. Also involved in the planning and cover-up is a major law enforcement player and a political hack who panders to the union for financial support and gets caught up in the homicidal scheme. At least that's the conclusion Butch Karp is operating under when he indicts the pair for murder. But is it a trap? Real courtroom drama here as Karp rolls over opposing attorney Irving Mendelbaum. And insights into what it means to be Jewish. Plus great cover art! Tanenbaum, who in real life has never lost a felony case, appears with his longtime friend and colleague Linda Fairstein on August 12. Order earlier Butch Karp thrillers [here](#).

Willig, Lauren. [The Other Daughter](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Deceit. Passion. Revenge! What would you do if you discovered what you thought you knew about yourself and your history was a lie? Raised by her widowed mother in genteel poverty in an isolated English village, Rachel Woodley has been working for six years in France as a nursery governess. When her mother unexpectedly dies, she returns to England to clear out the cottage, and finds a photo from *The Tatler* under her mother's pillow—a photo of Rachel's father, who is clearly very much alive. He's an earl. And he has a family. And a daughter, a debutante making a splash in society. Pained, and furious, Rachel gets only half-truths from an old family friend. But the appearance of a mysterious man-about-town inspires her to assume a false ID and enter into London Society with the object of bringing shame to her father and half-sister Olivia. Rachel doesn't expect to like Olivia... or to fall for Olivia's fiancé....

[The Lure of the Moonflower](#) (NAL \$16) is the story of Jane Wooliston, the Pink Carnation herself, and with this 12th novel wraps up, for now, this engaging time-jump series that moves from the present to the Napoleonic era and back. Taking original inspiration from Baroness Orczy's classic spy novel *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, Willig has imagined a network of women led by Jane who have spied for England. Their adventures in espionage and romance are the hearts of each of the 12 books, as discovered by modern graduate student Eloise Kelly who set off for England to research and finish her dissertation on *The Scarlet Pimpernel* and *The Purple Gentian* and chanced upon a cache of papers in the country house of the maddeningly attractive Colin. As Eloise and Colin's stormy history unfolds so do the stories of the spy ring. And now we are in 1807 Lisbon, December, where Jack Reid, the British agent known as *The Moonflower* (he was formerly undercover in France), awaits his new contact. He does not expect it to be a woman, and not a woman but the legendary Pink Carnation herself. As French troops march towards and city the Portuguese royals are set to take ship to Brazil. But what if mad 73-year-old Queen Maria didn't sail but was kept in the country by Loyalists determined to rally a resistance? Jack, product of an unsettling childhood, has such sweeping trust issues the joint mission is surely going to fail, while in modern England we wonder if Eloise and Colin will successfully tie the knot. [Click here](#) to order the whole Pink Carnation series which among its other virtues take you to some wonderful locations, Regency era.

FIRST NOVELS

Batacan, FH. [Smaller and Smaller Circles](#) (Soho \$26.95). Set in the Philippines in 1997, Batacan's richly detailed and deeply unsettling debut won the Philippine National Book Award in its original short form. In this expanded version, Fr. Gus Saenz, whose skills as a forensic anthropologist with a concentration in forensic pathology are often sought after by the country's National Bureau of Investigation, helps look into the deaths of six boys, all of whom were found in Quezon City's Payatas dump site, where children often pick through garbage to provide for their families. "The victims' faces, hearts, and genitals were removed, and Saenz, along with his friend and protégé, Fr. Jerome Lucero, a clinical psychologist, are sure the killer has a very specific agenda. As the priests work to identify the boys and their killer, they must wade through the political muck surrounding a case that no one wants publicized, in a country where centralized crime statistics are unheard of and resources are scarce. Batacan evokes the mountain of garbage at the heart of the story so clearly that readers can almost smell the stench, but it's clear from this gruesome tale that refuse isn't the only thing that's rotten in Manila."—*PW* Starred Review

Eckel, Wendy Sand. [Murder at Barclay Meadow](#) (St Martins \$25.99). A cozy debut highlights Maryland's Eastern Shore and it's relaxed lifestyle—and food—with a sleuth whose occupations, having been dumped in a painful divorce, include renovating the farmhouse willed to her by her late aunt, taking a creative writing course, and getting seriously into baking using her aunt's favorite bread recipe for inspiration. Barclay Meadows' untended fields—this is farmland—and general disrepair get her down, but not as much as discovering a body floating in her marsh grass. The belligerent sheriff rules it an accident, the nearby college president doesn't ring true, and as Rosalie confides her doubts about accident to her new writing class friends, she begins to

receive threats.... This is a mystery spin on middle-age-divorce lit where the wronged wife builds a new life and the husband rues his decision, and there's a new man around somewhere....

Hart, Elsa. [Jade Dragon Mountain Signed](#) (St Martins \$28). Just a heads up about ordering a First Mystery Club Pick out in early September. This elegantly written and conceived debut may be set in 18th Century China, but its elements hold true today: an emperor (Qing) trying to consolidate power after his family upends the old (Ming) dynasty and using cutting edge technology to do it; scapegoating Tibetans; European powers (The East India Company) pushing to expand trading interests; killer rivalries among foreign factions (Jesuits and Dominicans as well as the English, Portuguese, Indians); an excited populace in the emperor's host city; its chief magistrate trying not to rock the boat to preserve his own advancement; his ambitious yet unwed consort securing her future. And into this comes the magistrate's cousin, exiled imperial librarian Li Du, a man with no taste for politics but too curious to let the murder of an elderly Jesuit slide.... Set in tea-rich Dayan, modern Lijiang in Yunnan province.

Harvey, Cameron. [The Evidence Room](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Everyone in Cooper's Bayou knows the story of Raylene Atchison, the local woman who was murdered on the banks of the bayou, and her daughter, Aurora, who was found on the steps of the mini-mart, alone. But when Aurora, who was raised far away from Cooper's Bayou, returns to Florida to settle her grandfather's estate, she learns that the suspect in her mother's murder was wrongly accused. Aurora meets Josh Hudson, a cop who has been put on administrative leave, banned to the department's Evidence Room, a warehouse of dusty and forgotten items that could hold the key for solving Raylene's murder. There are gators. There's the Crumpler clan. Maybe there are answers, even another body, just below the surface of the bayou. This is soft rather than hard-boiled, full of local color.

Lee, JM. [The Investigation Signed](#) (Pegasus \$25). A knockout 2014 debut makes it to the US so we are offering our 5 remaining Signed Firsts at the US price. The story begins when a man is found murdered inside Fukuoka Prison. It's 1944. See *Where in the World* for more.

Stradal, J Ryan. [Kitchens of the Great Midwest Signed](#) (Viking \$27.95). Don't miss this hotly anticipated debut about a young woman with a once-in-a-generation palate who becomes the iconic chef behind the country's most coveted dinner reservation." Think Farm-to-Table Dinners, a Locavore spin, unusual recipes with artisanal foods, and a narrative handed off from one character to another starting with the inspired chef Lars Thorvald of Duluth, unwilling master of lutefisk (dried whitefish soaked in lye), who works slavishly to escape his assigned family role and the smell that indelibly clings to him. His young daughter Eva first appears in his chapter. "In the story of Midwestern chef savant Eva Thorvald and the people — and foods — that touch her life, Stradal has created a picture of the American foodie revolution of the past 25 years and of its intersections with class, economics, family, and culture. Along with irresistible characters and stories, this is a novel about the potential that food and cooking offer for joy and empowerment, for snobbery and shame, and for identity and reinvention. Beautifully structured and affectionately and hilariously written, this is a novel that — like Thorvald's exclusive pop-up supper club — everyone is going to be talking about!" And it's our **August Modern Firsts Club Pick**.

Syken, Bill. [Hangman's Game](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Some members of my family are football fans (3 are Arizona Cardinals season ticket holders). So this debut set in the world of pro football by a former *Sports Illustrated* reporter caught my eye. Punter Nick 'Hangman' Gallow of the Philadelphia Sentinels and his agent, Cecil Wilson, take first-round draft choice Samuel Sault to a steakhouse, where they're greeted by the Sentinels' obnoxious star linebacker, Jai Carson, who invites them to join his party. The diffident Samuel insults Jai by saying no. After dinner, the three visit the Sentinels' empty stadium, where a drive-by shooting kills Samuel and wounds Cecil. Detective Rizotti, the lead investigator, homes in on Jai as the chief suspect, but Nick knows that pass rusher Samuel left a trail of broken quarterbacks during his college career, any one of whom may have wanted him dead. "Syken really nails the world of professional football, including the training camp competition between Nick and a rival rookie punter, as well as the violence, conspicuous consumption, and tragic endings endemic to the sport."—*PW*. Interestingly, while mysteries set in the world of baseball and golf and motorsports have attracted readers, football (and tennis) has not. With so much attention being given to the culture of football, its toll on players, and the character flaws and corruption (OK, and actual crimes) of some in the game, this is a timely novel.

Urza, Gabriel. [All That Followed](#) (Holt \$25). The *PW* Starred Review: "Set in the foothills of the Pyrenees, Urza's debut novel is as subtle and enveloping as the *txirimiri*, a Basque word for 'rain so fine that an umbrella is useless against it.' The village of Muriga, a Basque stronghold dominated by a 'looming fortress' that was once the site of a massacre during the Spanish Civil War, is picturesque and sinister in equal measure. It is a town proud of its antifascist past but bedeviled by a strain of separatist extremism that leads several teenagers to murder a local politician. The novel is narrated by three townspeople, each providing a first-person account that cautiously circles the political crime in increasingly tight orbits... Deceptions and past tragedies come to light, but most remarkable is how Urza thematically handles the violence lurking in an insular community. Be it a Basque town with its own language and history, a transplanted organ, or a nonnative inhabitant, everything in this tense novel revolves around the notion of an ineradicable foreignness that inexorably leads to bad blood."

Tran, Vu. [Dragonfish Signed](#) (Norton \$26.95). The Indie Next Pick for a **First Mystery Club Pick**: "Tran has written a highly original noir mystery involving Suzy, a Vietnamese immigrant, and her police officer ex-husband, Robert. Suzy goes missing in Las Vegas and her current husband, Sonny, enlists Robert's help to track her down. During his search for Suzy, Robert discovers a packet of letters written by her to Mai, Suzy's long-lost daughter, who is now a professional gambler living in Las Vegas. Suspenseful, cinematic, and haunting, Tran's storytelling is superb, and *Dragonfish* is an excellent debut."

Van Aldemede, Kim. [Orphan #8](#) (Morrow \$14.99). A striking debut gets an Indie Next Pick: "In 1919, tragedy strikes in New York City and four-year-old Rachel is separated from her brother Sam and sent to a Jewish orphanage, where Dr. Mildred Solomon, in the name of research, subjects her to experiments with X-rays, leaving Rachel disfigured, bald, and the brunt of cruelty by other orphans. To Dr. Solomon, Rachel is just a number, Orphan Number Eight. Years later the tables are turned when Dr. Solomon ends up with cancer and reliant on morphine in Manhattan's Old

Hebrews Home, where Rachel is the attending nurse. Will Rachel take her revenge or treat her patient with mercy? This powerful and stunning debut, based on a little-known true story, will remain with readers long after the last page is turned."

Ware, Ruth. [In a Dark, Dark Wood](#) (Gallery \$26). S&S is giving this debut a big push into the current wave of domestic suspense fueled this year by *The Girl on the Train*. It's a bit of an Agatha Christie in that former school mates of a young woman called Clare are invited to attend her pre-wedding "hen party" by Clare's BFF Flo. It is held in a remote, modern glass house deep in a woods and up a terrible road. See British Books for more.

BRITISH BOOKS

Angus, Chris. [London Underground: A Thriller](#) (Iguana \$14.99). Beneath the streets of London lie many secrets. Subterranean rivers carve channels through darkened caverns. Hidden laboratories and government offices from WWII offer a maze of corridors and abandoned medical experiments. Lost in the depths of this underground are the contents of a looted Spanish galleon from the days of Henry VIII and a Nazi V-2 rocket that contains the most horrible secret of all. Carmen Kingsley, in charge of London projects for the British Museum, and Scotland Yard Inspector Sherwood Peets race to unravel the mysteries behind these contents before the great city succumbs to a frightening disease not seen since the age of the Henrys, monarchs who did not contend with a frightening new breed of giant sewer rats. This is unread by me but I am a sucker for exploring what lies under London.

Bauer, Belinda. [Rubbernecker](#) (Grove \$24). For Patrick Fort, the daily grind of being a medical student working in a cadaver lab is complicated by Asperger's syndrome. But perhaps his condition gives him special insight, since the body he's examining seems to be telling him something highly suspect about the lab where he's working. And although the body "speaks to him," no one believes a crime has taken place... Bauer won the 2010 Crime Writers' Association's Gold Dagger Award for Crime Novel of the Year for her first novel, *Blacklands*, and was short-listed for the 2012 CWA Dagger in the Library Award for outstanding body of work. *Rubbernecker* won the 2014 Theakston's Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year Award.

Booth, Stephen. [The Murder Road Signed](#) (LittleBrown \$40). For the tiny Peak District hamlet of Shawhead, there's only one road in and one road out. Its residents are accustomed to being cut off from the world by snow or floods. But when a lorry delivering animal feed is found jammed in the narrow lane, with no sign of the driver except for a blood-stained cab, it's the beginning of something much more sinister. Detective Inspector Ben Cooper must attempt to unravel the history of secrets, lies and loyalties that will lead to the truth behind the missing lorry driver. But the residents of Shawhead are not used to having strangers in their midst and, while getting to grips with staff changes in E Division, Ben's way forward is far from clear. Will he turn to Detective Sergeant Diane Fry, now working in Special Operations at Nottingham's Major Crimes Unit, for help when the case takes a dramatic turn?

Challinor, CS. [The Murder Comes Calling](#) (Midnight Ink \$14.99). A Scottish barrister travels to quiet Notting Hamlet, Bedfordshire, at the request his widowed friend, Malcolm Patterson, a bumbling retired medical pathologist who in a panic tampered with evidence related to four unsolved murders. When a neighbor found the

eldest victim, Ernest Blackwell, garroted with piano wire, his neck nearly severed, she alerted Malcolm, who proceeded to wipe off the letters smeared in blood on Blackwell's forehead. For now the only suspect is the house agent who represented all four victims in the midst of selling their properties. Malcolm fears that he'll fall under suspicion next if Rex doesn't help him solve the mysterious rash of murders. An intuitive sleuth, Rex befriends the locals in his effort to find the crucial connection among the deceased. NOTE: this is a British cozy, not long on puzzle but fun. Lighten up with our **August British Crime Club Pick**.

Edwards, Martin. [The Dungeon House](#) (Poisoned Pen \$25). Edwards is busy editing the British Library Crime Classics and anthologizing, but he continues to write his own atmospheric mysteries. Here's the *PW* review: "At the start of Edwards's engrossing seventh Lake District mystery, Malcolm Whiteley, the proprietor of the majestic Dungeon House, is depressed over business problems and enraged at his wife Lysette's infidelities and her request for a divorce. Following the annual barbecue for family and friends, a drunken Whiteley realizes that he can use his Winchester rifle to resolve these issues. Flash forward 20 years to the present. Det. Chief Insp. Hannah Scarlett's Cumbria police team is working on the case of Lily Wellstone, a teenage girl who disappeared three years earlier. Lily's father was Whiteley's accountant. Coincidence strikes again when the daughter of Nigel Whiteley, Malcolm's nephew and the Dungeon House's current occupant, goes missing. Edwards has a way of tangling lives and spinning a cloud of suspicion over several characters, sending readers up and down wonderfully entertaining blind alleys that keep interest high." Here is our **September British Crime Club Pick**. [Click here](#) to order the earlier books in the series—you will see that Rebecca Tope also calls her series Lake District Mysteries so please separate them out.

Ellis, Kate. [The Death Season](#) (\$12.95). When a middle-aged man is found dead in a hotel room, it seems like a routine matter—until it becomes clear to DI Wesley Peterson that it is a case of cold blooded murder and that the identity the victim has been using isn't his own. Then DCI Gerry Heffeman, frustrated at being given only cold cases during his recovery from being shot in the line of duty, discovers from a DNA review that Wesley's mystery man was responsible for the murder of a child back in 1979. But soon, as Wesley delves in to the events of the past more people die. Meanwhile archeologist Neil Watson is investigating a ruined village that tumbled into the sea during a storm at the time of World War I. Events take a cryptic turn when he encounters a 100-year-old mystery with echoes in the present... 19th in the Wesley Peterson series which involves old crimes and archaeology.

Forbes, Elena. [Evil in Return](#) (\$15.95). Bestselling novelist Joe Logan walks out into a hot summer's evening in central London. The next day his body is found dumped in a disused Victorian crypt at the Brompton Cemetery. He has been tied up, shot, and castrated. Detective Mark Tartaglia is convinced that Logan's personal life holds the key to his violent death, but unraveling his past proves difficult. Following the overnight success of his debut novel, Logan had become a recluse. Was Logan just publicity shy or did he have something to hide? Then the body of a second man is found in an old boathouse on the Thames — killed in an identical fashion.... I like Tartaglia in this medium-boiled procedural series.

Hilary, Sarah. [No Other Darkness](#) (Penguin \$16). "Both victims and villains abound in Hilary's searing, intricately plotted police procedural, the sequel to 2014's [Someone Else's Skin](#) (\$16). DI Marnie Rome and her partner, DS Jake Noah, get on the case after Terry Doyle, who lives in a new development on the outskirts of London, finds the bodies of two little boys in an old bunker under his garden. Terry and his wife have two small children and are also fostering a troubled teen, Clancy. Clancy brings back unpleasant memories for Marnie, who has not yet completely dealt with her parents' murders years earlier by her 14-year-old foster brother. The subsequent disappearance of the Doyle's two biological children raises the stakes. Hilary provides insights into the over-the-edge survivalist movement responsible for London's secret underground refuges, built by sleazy opportunistic contractors for quick gain, as well as the psyches of police officers who must cope with the unthinkable."—*PW* Starred Review. Hilary won the 2014 Theakston's Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year Award. The organizers praised *Skin* as a "compelling first thriller" that is "superbly disturbing, twisty and tricky."

Lovesey, Peter. [Down Among the Dead Men](#) (Soho \$27.95). "What'll it be today? A knotty puzzle mystery? A fast-paced police procedural? Something more high-toned, with a bit of wit? With the British author Peter Lovesey, there's no need to make those agonizing decisions, because his books have it all. His new mystery featuring Peter Diamond, detective superintendent of the Bath constabulary, opens on a light note, with a professional car thief (call him "Driveaway Danny") updating his skills with a remarkable gizmo that prevents a car from being locked — only to discover that the silver BMW he's stolen has a body in the trunk. The scene then changes to Priory Park School in Chichester, where all the A-level girls are swooning over their dreamy new art teacher, Tom Standforth, who drives a vintage MG and lives on a grand estate. All the girls, that is, except Melanie Mason, the scholarship student, who is upset that their old art teacher, Miss Gibbon, is listed on the police website as a missing person — and no one, not even the starchy headmistress, seems to care. At precisely the right moment, the narrative shifts into a police procedural... Lovesey adroitly assembles all these random puzzle pieces and idiosyncratic characters into a resolution that is technically brilliant, subversively funny and — quite brave of him — rather cruel."—*NY Times Book Review*. [Down Among the Dead Men Signed](#) (Little Brown \$43) You cannot go wrong rereading, or reading, every Peter Diamond mystery, among My (late) Mother's all time favorites, starting with the award-winning [The Last Detective](#) (\$9.99).

Marrison, James. [The Drowning Ground](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Chief Inspector Guillermo Downes is a difficult superior to please, so his new Sergeant, called Graves, who's been transferred into Moreton-on-Marsh from Oxford under something of a cloud, goes carefully. But right away comes a murder, a local estate owner called Frank Hurst who's been savagely stabbed through the throat by a pitchfork. Downes, known to his fellow coppers as Shotgun, met Frank when Frank's second wife drowned in the family swimming pool. His young daughter Rebecca left the Cotswolds soon after, evoking Downes' memories of two young girls who went missing in the area some ten years earlier. As the investigation proceeds into a seemingly peaceful village, we learn what lies under its surface. The solution to the plot is obvious, but the richly textured landscape, targeting fans of *Broadchurch*, compels.

Marsh, Ngaio. [Dead Water](#); [False Scent](#); [Hand in Glove](#); [Killer Dolphin](#) (Felony \$14.95 each). For some earlier reissues of the New Zealand author's work (she wrote most of her mysteries on voyages from New Zealand to England), [click here](#). I've always loved *Colour Scheme* which is set in her homeland, taking Alleyne there. Many of her books draw upon her love for and work in the theater, and many on classic English legends and tropes. I think of her as a Golden Age of Crime writer although she wrote on later than many of her older colleagues. If you're enjoying the British Library Crime Classics series, then reread, or introduce yourself, to Marsh.

McDermid, Val. [Splinter the Silence Signed](#) (LittleBrown \$43). Psychological profiler Tony Hill is trained to see patterns, to decode the mysteries of human behavior, and when he comes across a series of suicides among women tormented by vicious online predators, he begins to wonder if there is more to these tragedies than meets the eye. Similar circumstances, different deaths. Could it be murder? But what kind of serial killer wants his crimes to stay hidden? Former DCI Carol Jordan has her own demons to confront, but with lives at stake, Tony and Carol begin the hunt for the most dangerous and terrifying kind of killer—someone who has nothing to fear and nothing to lose....

Rayne, Sarah. [The Death Chamber](#) (Felony \$14.95). Calvary Gaol, with its grim façade and brutal history, lives up to its name. On a chilly night its ghosts can all but be heard chattering, from the doomed political radical to the dapper ladies' man with a knife in his sleeve, from the blackmailed doctor to the spiritualist who fed, like a vampire, on the misery of World War I. Calvary is abandoned now, but those ghosts are still calling, and TV producer Chad Ingram can't stop listening. With a crew and a journalist in tow, he resolves to film in the prison's execution chamber—sure it's spooky, but with the bustle and technology of the 21st century, he can't imagine they've got anything to fear. Right.... Rayne's psychological novels have much in common with Rendell writing as Barbara Vine.

Rendell, Ruth. [The Girl Next Door](#) (\$16). This is the penultimate novel by the late, great Diamond Dagger doyen of British crime writing. An old murder sends shockwaves across a group of astonishingly carnal and still-in-the-game elderly friends. "...grim, grotesque and yet strangely beautiful...Rendell makes clever work of a split time frame to transport her characters from the past to the present and back again. But her best, most idiosyncratic study is her portrait of the villain of the piece, a wicked man in his youth and an absolute devil in his dotage, determined to live to be 100 out of pure spite." Sometimes the worst crimes are done quietly.

Rickman, Phil. [Night After Night](#) (\$12.95). "Engrossing and beautifully dark, combining personality disordered TV performers (like myself) and morally vacant journalists along with a collection of spiritual and spirited oddballs all residing in a Big Brother type situation and the inevitable clashes that result. Chuck in a house which may or may not be haunted but certainly has the bleakest of atmospheres and a cracking good read ensues."—Jo Brand. So here's a sinister country house murder from the always imaginative and "sharply contemporary" Rickman who lives in the kind of English country where ghosts might crop up. We have 3 Signed Firsts reduced in price: [Night After Night Signed](#) (\$25).

Rimington, Stella. [Close Call](#) (\$17). I like the Liz Carlyle thrillers where she and her Thames House counter-espionage team go up against external threats. But here, in the context of the Arab Spring, she faces arms deals in Yemen, a UN embargo forbidding supplying arms to any combatant, and a turncoat French intelligence officer who tells Liz her worst fears, that arms are being sold through the UK, might be true. And what is the elegantly dressed mystery man who received something from the Frenchman up to?

Robinson, Peter. [In the Dark Places](#) (Morrow \$25.99). Robinson published [Gallows View](#) (\$14.99), his first case for Inspector Alan Banks, in 1987. I opened *The Poisoned Pen* in 1989—he's thus been a part of our story from the beginning, visiting us often. This new Alan Banks {UK title is 2014's *Abattoir Blues*} is quintessential Banks, full of the wine, music, Yorkshire scenery and a page-turning plot. And here we are at his 22nd Alan Banks that begins quietly when Banks investigates the disappearance of a tractor belonging to a gentleman farmer. Why connect the theft to a bloodstain found at a nearby WWII airplane hangar? The tale moves off in unexpected directions, still rich in the landscape and culture of Yorkshire. Still populated with characters moving through their lives, reacting to events, reaching for experiences, skills, relationships—and justice for victims. Still ingeniously plotted though the astute reader should keep up despite nerve-racking suspense. Still flush with the musicality of his prose, and with the love of music that is so much a part of Banks. And still shaping the story with local history and landmarks so that *In the Dark Places*, like each Alan Banks, is unique, yet contributing to a remarkable portrait of modern Britain in all its insularity and diversity. I've often thought that Robinson's division of his time between Yorkshire and Canada allows him to maintain a perpetually fresh eye and perspective. Watching scenes from the book filmed in Yorkshire for the Inspector Banks TV series underlines how superb a sense of place fills Robinson's work, and how deftly he etches his characters. "Robinson is equally adept at making murder on a small scale as compelling as any serial killer hunt, and Banks continues to charm."—*PW* Starred Review. Don't skip the earlier Banks; you can [order them here](#) for binge reading!

Robotham, Michael. [Close Your Eyes Signed](#) (LittleBrown \$45). A mother and her teenage daughter are found brutally murdered in a remote farmhouse, one defiled by multiple stab wounds and the other left lying like Sleeping Beauty waiting for her Prince. Reluctantly, clinical psychologist Joe O'Loughlin is drawn into the investigation when a former student, calling himself the 'Mindhunter', trading on Joe's name, has jeopardized the police inquiry by leaking details to the media and stirring up public anger. With no shortage of suspects and tempers beginning to fray, Joe discover links between these murders to a series of brutal attacks where the men and women are choked unconscious and the letter 'A' is carved into their foreheads. As the case becomes ever more complex, nothing is quite what it seems and soon Joe's fate, and that of those closest to him, becomes intertwined with a merciless, unpredictable killer.... 8th in series

Todd, Charles. [A Pattern of Lies Signed](#) (Harper \$25.99). Inspired by the actual destruction of a powder factory in 1916 Kent near Faversham, Todd imagines the fallout of the death of 100 men, the economic run of a village by the blast and by the factory's relocation up north away from the enemy, and equally how the

survivors in Cranbourne near the Swale are desperate for someone to blame for it all, a human someone, not God. And so the factory owner, Philip Ashton, and his family are targets of malice and actual hostility. Nursing sister Bess Crawford is brought to spend the night by a former patient, Captain Ashford, the family's only son, when her train to London is delayed, and so is caught up in an escalating series of events culminating in Philip's arrest for the murders of the 100 dead men, his family helpless to defend him, and what follows. This is a chilling case where the power of rumor to fuel retaliation and revenge, even though misdirected, is potent and where Bess has to chase all kinds of leads on both sides of the Channel as the war moves towards Armistice. I wonder where this series will go when we get to war's end; here it is June, 1918, and the weather is terrible.

Walters, Louise. [Mrs Sinclair's Suitcase](#) (Putnam \$26.95). The Indie Next Pick: "Working in a used bookstore, Roberta has a habit of keeping letters or notes she may discover in the used books she receives. One day, her father brings her an old suitcase filled with books that belonged to her grandmother. In one of the books, Roberta finds a letter written by her grandfather to her grandmother, months after he supposedly died in the war, referencing a dark secret from over 70 years ago. A story of love lost, secret love, and love found, set in the English countryside during WWII and in a bookstore in modern England, *Mrs. Sinclair's Suitcase* had me hooked with the simple line, 'In wartime, people become desperate.'"

Ware, Ruth. [In a Dark, Dark Wood](#) (Gallery \$26). A new entry in domestic suspense fueled this year by the success of *The Girl on the Train*. It's a bit of an Agatha Christie in that former school mates of a young woman called Clare are invited to attend her pre-wedding "hen party" by Clare's BFF Flo. It is held in a remote, modern glass house deep in a woods and up a terrible road. London-based writer Nora at first dismisses her invitation—she doesn't want to revisit events of ten years past about which we know nothing—but after badgering and also learning Brazilian-born doctor Nina is going, agrees. At this point we want to start crying, "Don't go into the woods" as we would in one of those suspense stories where you know the heroine should not go up to the dark attic. Much of the story recalls British school life, the betrayals, rivalries, jealousies it fosters... even ten years on.

Wilson, Robert. [Stealing People Signed](#) (Orion \$40). London, January 2014. In the space of 32 hours, in a well-planned and highly organized operation, six billionaires' children are taken off the streets of London in a series of slickly well-executed kidnaps. The gang demands £25 million per hostage for 'expenses' – not ransom. And when your child goes missing, you need Charles Boxer: a man with little left to lose who'll stop at nothing to save families suffering what he has. The wealthy parents of the missing children know that Boxer will do more than police can – but that doesn't mean the law will leave it to him. Intelligence agencies are all interested in the kidnaps because in each case the parents are related to people in power in the various countries involved. Soon the investigation goes beyond the corridors of power and the boardrooms of big corporations – and to far darker corners. Even more worryingly for Boxer, and his ex-wife Mercy, it threatens to lead back to their own lives, too. But still nobody knows what this mysterious kidnap gang ultimately wants and, if they have a cause, what the hell is it?

BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSICS

Adams, Charles. [The Notting Hill Mystery](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). First published between 1862 and 1863 as an eight-part serial in the magazine *Once a Week*, it was widely acknowledged as the first detective novel then. The story is told by insurance investigator Ralph Henderson, who is building a case against the sinister Baron R—, who is suspected of murdering his wife. Henderson descends into a maze of intrigue including a diabolical mesmerist, kidnapping by gypsies, slow-poisoners, a rich uncle's will... and three murders.

Sprigg, Christopher St. John. [Death of an Airman](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). George Furnace, flight instructor at Baston Aero Club, dies instantly when his plane crashes into the English countryside. People who knew him are baffled – Furnace was a first-rate pilot, and the plane was in perfect condition – and the inquest records a verdict of death by misadventure. An Australian visitor to the aero club, Edwin Marriott, Bishop of Cootamundra, suspects that the true story is more complicated. Could this be a dramatic suicide – or even murder? Together with Inspector Bray of Scotland Yard, the intrepid bishop must uncover a cunning criminal scheme. "Bubbles over with zest and vitality ... A most ingenious and exciting plot, full of good puzzles and discoveries and worked out among a varied cast of entertaining characters." – Dorothy L. Sayers

Coming in September

Farjeon, J. Jefferson. [Thirteen Guests](#) (\$12.95) and [The Z Murders](#) (\$15.95). Farjeon wrote a sleeper bestseller for 2014 on republication called [Mystery in White, A Christmas Story](#) (\$15). Londoner Farjeon (1883-1955) won praise from colleagues like Sayers, had films made of several books, and is enjoying a renaissance.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Aichner, Bernhard. [Woman of the Dead](#) (Scribner \$25). Austrian author Aichner packs a lot into a powerful thriller, his first to be translated into English. Blum, a female undertaker, has been leading a good life as the loving wife of a decorated police officer whom she met in a time of terrible crisis, a loving mother, and a successful business woman. Husband Mark and her friends adore her. And then in one moment it's all ripped away: a hit and run kills Mark. Overwhelmed by grief, Blum packs up his office one day and discovers evidence that Mark's death was no accident. It was murder. So Blum, a woman with a skill set few suspect and a resolve honed in a dreadful childhood to match, goes after the killer or killers, bent on revenge. Wow. This is the first in a Blum trilogy and is our **August Fresh Fiction Club Pick**. Only our inability to get signed copies keeps me from making this a First Mystery Club Pick. You Taylor Stevens and Lisa Gardner readers, Greg Rucka readers, those who like kickass women—buy this. The publisher is going with Jo Nesbø, Jussi Adler-Olsen, and Camilla Läckberg as analogues but this is not a Scandinavian sensibility at work. It does pair up with Sweden's Soderberg's action-laden rather than melancholy-laced thrillers.

Alaux, Jean-Pie. [Flambé in Armagnac](#) (Knopf \$12.95). Slight but amusing, and of course, there's the wine. Also Armagnac, which was a favorite with my late father. I once, as a teen, daringly tried to flambé something, not realizing one had to first heat the liquor, etc, and wasted a whole bottle. MF was so not pleased. Anyway wine expert Benjamin Cooker often does insurance work and one

day he's called upon to make an immediate estimate of the loss suffered by the Baron de Castayrac when a fire ravages his estate's warehouse. How much Armagnac did he lose, and at what value? Sadly the master distiller died in the fire, which becomes part of the ever curious Cooker's inquiry. There's a lot of good food and wine so while you are waiting for Martin Walker to come and sign his 8th Bruno, Chief of Police, pick up this new Winemaker Detective sleuthing set in Gascony (think d'Artagnan of *The Three Musketeers*). You can catch the TV made from the novels if you can access European crime series. Order the first 6 books [here](#). I missed alerting you to the 6th, *Mayhem in Margaux*. **Excellent for those enjoying cozy crimes.**

Aswany, Alaa Al. [The Automobile Club of Egypt](#) (Knopf \$27.95). "So soon after the 2011 revolution, the novel at its simplest level may serve to remind Egyptians and others involved in the Arab Spring of some of the historical reasons so many pursued democracy and how elusive it remains." —*Kirkus* Starred Review. *PW* finds that, "The latest from bestselling Egyptian novelist Al Aswany memorably evokes corrupt British-occupied Egypt in the years before the 1952 revolution. When well-respected landowner Abd el-Aziz Gaafar is forced into bankruptcy, he moves his wife and family from Daraw to Cairo and finds work at the Automobile Club of Egypt. A microcosm of Egypt itself, the Eurocentric, elitist club employs Egyptians as menials and treats them like slaves. Beaten for his lack of submissiveness, Abd el-Aziz dies suddenly, leaving his family in peril. Dutiful daughter Saleha forsakes her beloved studies for a marriage that benefits her selfish brother, Said. Her other brothers, Mahmud and Kamel, take jobs at the Automobile Club; Mahmud uses his position to meet wealthy women who pay him lavishly for sex, while Kamel juggles his job with dangerous work in the underground nationalist movement, which is beginning to gain a foothold in the country. The desire for dignity and human rights arises in the club as well. But workers who demand more humane treatment face opposition from powerful Alku, the hedonistic king's right-hand man, and fellow employees who have grown craven from years of abuse. Myriad colorful details, intertwining narratives, and dramatic cliffhangers form an earthy, entertaining contrast to the novel's sober preoccupations—namely, the human spirit's capacity to both transcend and be crushed by oppressive systems."

Britain's Michael Pearce illuminates Egypt under British "protection" and the start of its transition in his wonderful Mamur Zapt novels. Start with *The Return of the Carpet* and read on. [Click here](#) to order. This series is so good I have collected it in its entirety for my library.

Batacan, FH. [Smaller and Smaller Circles](#) (Soho \$26.95). Set in the Philippines in 1997, Batacan's richly detailed and deeply unsettling debut won the Philippine National Book Award in its original short form. In this expanded version, Fr. Gus Saenz, whose skills as a forensic anthropologist with a concentration in forensic pathology are often sought after by the country's National Bureau of Investigation, helps look into the deaths of six boys, all of whom were found in Quezon City's Payatas dump site, where children often pick through garbage to provide for their families. A dark story and an unfamiliar (to me anyway) setting.

Brookes, Adam. [Spy Games Signed](#) (Little Brown \$28). We first met British journalist Philip Mangan in Brooke's amazing debut spy thriller, [The Night Heron](#) (\$15), a First Mystery Club Pick

and 2015 awards nominee, and one of my Top Ten 2014 First Novels. It's a spoiler to say that Mangan eventually escaped his traumatic introduction to the Great Game in China, but how else can I say that he's now keeping his head down, sent far distant from British Intelligence down to Ethiopia where he's reporting on local unrest in Addis Ababa. The British Empire may largely have disappeared from red colored territories on a map, but it's still alive in influence and offshore finance. And banging into China which has serious expansionist plans in East Africa, all of Africa, bent on its own sphere of influence. So as one double agent is done to death in China, Mangan is suddenly caught up in events that snake back to Beijing, but have an active player right in Addis Ababa. Mangan is over his head again, working to get out alive, while back in London, in LeCarre fashion, all is not straightforward in spy HQ. Thrillers are shifting focus fast to Africa, following real world events.

Burdett, John. [The Bangkok Asset](#) (Akashic \$25.95). An unusual crime scene disturbs Sonchai Jitpleecheep in Burdett's "wild and entertaining sixth novel featuring the Thai homicide cop." Near the corpse of a 12- or 13-year-old girl, whose head seems to have been pulled off her body by sheer brute force, someone wrote a message in the victim's blood indicating that the writer knows who Sonchai's father is. Before he can really process this suggestion regarding his unknown biological father, Sonchai witnesses two men in a boat each throw a woman off a boat to drown in the Chao Phraya River during a storm. The tragedy only gets weirder when video of the crimes shows that the boat's other passenger, an enormously strong "tall blond *farang*," swimming to shore against a raging current. That man is seen meeting with Joseph Goldman, a CIA spook, who was involved in notorious mind-control experiments. "Impressively, everything comes together," says *PW*. I say there is a real touch of Marvel here in the action figure. For my money Timothy Hallinan does Bangkok better, but Burdett provides an unorthodox read. Order the earlier Sonchai's [here](#).

Clarke, Lucy. [The Blue](#) (Touchstone \$24.99). There's an old crime, an old betrayal, and a new murder in this narrative, but the charm of this romantic adventure is less about crime than it is about the beauty and seductive power of stepping off land onto a yacht (called *The Blue*) with a small circle of fellow adventurers and enjoying unmoored days making way from the Philippines where two British girls are invited in towards New Zealand. Lana and her best friend Kitty landed in the Philippines by chance and onto *The Blue* by chance, and then.... Paradise found, paradise lost... a relationship blooms despite the captain's rules. Arguments and revelations rise. And then a yacht is lost and at least one of the crew.... I enjoyed the writing, the sailing, and the broad landscape of the story.

Cleave, Paul. [Trust No One](#) (Atria \$26). So interesting: German author Sascha Arango debuts his First Mystery Club Pick [The Truth and Other Lies Signed](#) (\$36) building the story around an untrustworthy novelist who turns killer; and here, New Zealand star Paul Cleave gives us one Jerry Grey, known as "Henry Cutter," whose 12 books detail ghastly murders committed by bad men—and confesses that his stories are real. He should know—he committed the crimes. But Jerry, age 49, has been diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's. Is he a reliable narrator of his own story, let alone anyone else's? His family, friends, and caretakers are sure that this scenario is all in his head, a consequence of his terrible, memory-scrambling disease. But is it? Cleave leads the

reader down “a dark and clever path to determine the fine line between an author and his characters, between fact and fiction.” His books have been nominated for a 2014 Edgar, 2014 Barry Award, a 2007 Ned Kelly Award (Australia), and won the 2011 Ngaio Marsh Award (New Zealand). This is his 9th crime novel.

Condran, Jeffrey. [Prague Summer](#) (\$15.95). Stefanie and Henry are Americans living in Prague; she works for the State Department, he is a rare books dealer. They live the life of a comfortably married couple – morning coffee at the same café every day, social events with the same small group of friends, a little too much to drink in the evenings and a single episode of Poirot every night before bed. Until one day their world is turned upside down by the arrival from the States of Stefanie’s old friend, Selma Al-Khateeb whose husband has been mysteriously arrested and indefinitely imprisoned. At first it appears that Selma has come to escape her problems but soon sinister reasons for her coming to Prague emerge and the couple’s placid life is blown up.... Should appeal to those like me who enjoyed Chris Pavone’s Edgar-winning [The Expats](#) (\$15).

Dahl, Arne. [To the Top of the Mountain](#) (Vintage \$15.95). Stockholm’s Intercrime team—a specialized group created to investigate violent, international crime—has been split up, their leader forced into early retirement, and his officers reassigned to mundane cases. Detectives Arto Söderstedt and Viggo Norlander answer calls around the city, Gunnar Nyberg is on the child abuse team, Jorge Chavez is immersed in dull research tasks, Paul Hjelm and Kerstin Holm are assigned to the meaningless murder of a young soccer supporter in a pub. But a series of precisely targeted bomb attacks—in a high-security prison, a car involved in a drug deal, and a dark suburban street—brings the Intercrime team back together, urgently. There is something dangerous approaching Sweden....

Fossum, Karin. [The Drowned Boy](#) (Houghton \$24). Norwegian Fossum’s crime novels have won honors including the *LA Times* Book Prize for mystery/thriller and the Gumshoe Award. This new Sejer case is more a character study than plot driven, and it is truly chilling. Not only is the death at its heart that of a toddler, Tommy, whom we learn had Downs Syndrome, but the questions about how he wandered to the pond, fell in, and drowned, focus on his mother. As Sejer questions, and revelations are made, we gradually see who Carmen is. That is what is so chilling. There’s lovely irony in the last paragraph. Recommended.

Hoffman, Alice. [The Marriage of Opposites](#) (Scribner \$27.95). The Indie Next Pick: “Hoffman’s newest novel is based on the life of Rachel Pomie Petit Pissarro and her favorite son, Camille, who would become the famed “Father of impressionism.” Growing up in a Jewish refugee community on tropical St. Thomas in the 1800s, strong-willed Rachel dreams of the cool, rainy streets of Paris. Raised by a stern mother and a kind-hearted father, Rachel is forced to marry a widower to save her family’s business and later follows forbidden passions, creating a scandal that turns her community against her. Hoffman fills the pages with the island’s magic and color in this unforgettable tale of what it means to walk the tightrope between tradition and independence, love and logic.”

Jones, Kaylie. [The Anger Meridian](#) (Akashic \$26.95). Merryn is up late at night, awaiting and fearing her husband’s drunken homecoming, when she opens the door to find two policemen

announcing that he has been killed in a car accident. She quickly bundles up their nine-year-old daughter, the precocious Tenney, and leaves Dallas for her mother’s home in San Miguel de Allende, in central Mexico, where Merryn’s mother, Bibi, presides over an opulent home and her frightened daughter’s life. As Merryn struggles to navigate her husband’s legacy (the FBI has followed her to Mexico to investigate his business dealings) and her and Tenney’s future, she has the opportunity to confront many dishonesties, including her own. Lying is one of *The Anger Meridian’s* central themes.” Jones creates a seething portrait of a narcissistic mother in this story of an adult daughter’s attempt to reconcile the appearance of her prosperous and successful family with the harsh reality of a life built on a series of lies.... Jones keeps the action churning... but perhaps the novel’s greatest feat is Bibi, an all-too-real toxic monster of a mother.”—*PW*

Kershaw, Alex. [Avenue of Spies: A True Story of Terror, Espionage, and One American Family’s Heroic Resistance in Nazi-Occupied Paris](#) (Crown \$28). The Indie Next Pick: “Dr. Summer Jackson was the chief surgeon at the American Hospital in Paris during the Nazi occupation. After observing the ever-escalating levels of Nazi brutality, Dr. Jackson, at great danger to himself and his family, became directly involved in an underground network that smuggled imperiled people to safety in Spain and Great Britain. A gripping true story of courage, this is a moving testimony to the power of the human spirit

Lagercrantz, David. [The Girl in the Spider’s Web Signed](#) (Quercus \$45). Genius-hacker Lisbeth Salander and journalist Mikael Blomkvist face a dangerous new threat and must again join forces. Late one night, Blomkvist receives a phone call from a trusted source claiming to have information vital to the United States on Artificial Intelligence. The source has been in contact with a young female super hacker—a hacker resembling someone Blomkvist knows all too well. The implications are staggering. Blomkvist, in desperate need of a scoop for *Millennium*, turns to Lisbeth for help. She has been using her old codename of Wasp, and has been attempting to crack the NSA – “a lunacy driven by vengeance, and fraught with every possible consequence”, said the UK publisher. She is also being targeted by “ruthless cyber gangsters who call themselves the Spiders”, and “the violent unscrupulousness of this criminal conspiracy will very soon bring terror to the snowbound streets of Stockholm, to the *Millennium* team – and to Blomkvist and Salander themselves.” I am ambivalent about the Stieg Larsson estate hiring a writer to produce a 4th Lisbeth Salander. The quarrel between Larsson’s partner Eva on one side and his father and brother on the other continues with comments thrown back and forth. The publisher, of course, hopes there will again be huge money in the *Millennium* books. Read more here in [The Guardian](#).

Writing a novel of his own, Lagercrantz penned [Fall of Man in Wilmslow Signed](#) (\$44), our **May History Club Pick**, which title is obscure unless you know that’s where Alan Turing ate the poisoned apple. June 8, 1954. Turing is found dead at his home in sleepy Wilmslow, dispatched by a poisoned apple. Taking the case, Detective Constable Leonard Corell quickly learns Turing is a convicted homosexual. Confident it’s a suicide, he is nonetheless confounded by official secrecy over Turing’s war record. What is more, Turing’s sexuality appears to be causing alarm among the intelligence services—could he have been blackmailed by Soviet spies? Stumbling across evidence of

Turing's genius, and sensing an escape from a narrow life, Corell soon becomes captivated by Turing's brilliant and revolutionary work, and begins to dig deeper. But in the paranoid, febrile atmosphere of the Cold War, loose cannons cannot be tolerated.

Lee, JM. [The Investigation Signed](#) (Pegasus \$25). A knockout 2014 debut makes it to the US so we are offering our 5 remaining Signed Firsts at the US price. The story begins when a man is found murdered inside Fukuoka Prison. It's 1944. The war rages but this was not a war crime even though victim Sugiyama was a prison guard. A fellow guard, Watanbe Yuichi has a passion for reading. He is ordered to investigate the murder. Although a powerful inmate confesses, Yuichi has interrogated Yun Dong-Ju, a highly talented Korean poet, and he suspects the dead man was not the feared guard he appeared to be. As the war progresses and bombing increases, Yuichi feels he must protect the poet at any cost... Lee paints a portrait of Korea before its civil war and provides a testament to "the redemptive power of poetry." This is a terrific book, unusual too.

9781472118943 McGilloway, Brian. *Preserve the Dead Signed* (Corsair \$40). McGilloway weaves a pacy, intricate plot, full of tension to the very last page. In DS Lucy Black's third outing, she is visiting her father, a patient in a secure unit in Gransha Hospital on the banks of the River Foyle. He's been hurt badly in an altercation with another patient, and Lucy is shocked to discover him chained to the bed for safety. But she barely has time to take it all in, before an orderly raises the alarm—a body has been spotted floating in the river below. The body of an elderly man in a grey suit is hauled ashore: he is cold dead. He has been dead for several days. In fact a closer examination reveals that he has already been embalmed. A full scale investigation is launched—could this really be the suicide they at first assumed, or is this some kind of sick joke? Troubled and exhausted, Lucy goes back to her father's shell of a house to get some sleep; but there'll be no rest for her tonight. She's barely in the front door when a neighbor knocks, in total distress: his wife's sister has turned up badly beaten. Can she help? Patrick and I are enthused fans of Ireland's McGilloway whose first novel *Borderlands* was a 2007 First Mystery Club Pick.

McClain, Paula. [Circling the Sun Signed](#) (Random \$29). "Reading *Circling the Sun* reminded me of the deep pleasure of solid storytelling: the vast landscape of colonial Kenya, complicated and compelling historical characters, love, suffering, and adventure combine to create a captivating narrative. McLain imagines the African childhood and early adulthood of real-life horse trainer and pioneering female aviator Beryl Markham, as well as her social milieu, which included Denys Finch Hatton and Karen Blixen, who, as Isak Dinesen, wrote *Out of Africa*. Markham lived a fascinating and uncompromising life filled with danger, ill-fated romance, and stunning bravery, and McLain does justice to her memory with this sensitive and beautifully written portrayal." The No. 1 Indie Next Pick for July, and our **Modern Firsts Club Pick**, is a beautiful novel. Reviewer Katie Noah Gibson finds that, "in prose as luminous as the African skies, McLain charts Beryl's journey of self-discovery: searching, stumbling, getting back up and eventually soaring. Heartbreaking and defiantly hopeful—like Beryl herself—*Circling the Sun* is a masterful story of hardship, courage and love."

Mina, Denise. [Blood, Salt, Water Signed](#) (Orion \$39). Patrick reviews: "Iain Fraser is an ex-con whose debt to a local crime boss required him to murder a young woman who knew too much. After delivering the last fatal blow, Fraser leaned in and breathed in the woman's last breath, whose spirit now seems to inhabit his psyche, and the misplaced trust she placed in him seems to be devouring the criminal from the inside out. After the body is found in nearby Loch Lomond, whose mile deep waters hold many secrets, Glasgow Detective Inspector Alex Morrow is brought in to investigate. Nearly Helensburgh is a picturesque Victorian town and home to many of Scotland's millionaires, but underneath the surface is a dark world of deceit and white collar crime, and as the vote for Scottish Independence looms, Morrow pursues strands that may implicate some very important players. Rippling with a depth and psychological complexity, this is crime fiction at its best. If you've never read Mina's exquisite novels, this is a fine place to start."

Mogford, Thomas. [Sleeping Dogs](#) (Bloomsbury \$25). Gibraltar lawyer Spike Sanguinetti, plagued by nightmares after the death of his lover, decides to visit his friend and law partner Peter Galliano, who is recuperating from a hit-and-run at his family's vacation home on Corfu. To Spike's surprise and initial discomfort, Peter has also invited Spike's former flame Jessica Navarro, who was recently promoted to detective sergeant in the Gibraltar police. For Spike and Jessica, Corfu loses its idyllic aura when the body of an Albanian man is found on the Hoffman estate, next door to Peter's house. When one of Peter's employees is arrested for the murder, he begs Spike to represent Latsis pro bono. Spike, unable to resist the plea of his injured friend, takes on Latsis's case, in spite of pressure from the wealthy Hoffman family to hurry matters along. As Spike and Jessica dig into the events surrounding the murder of the Albanian, and go on to Corfu, they discover that beneath the cheerful, quotidian Greek culture are family vendettas and political corruption.

Penny, Louise. [The Nature of the Beast Signed](#) (St Martins \$29). My take is given in New Books. Here is a Starred Review for you: "The bucolic Quebec village of Three Pines again proves no refuge in Penny's stellar 11th Armand Gamache novel. Gamache has settled in the small community after retiring from the Sûreté, where he worked as a homicide detective. But he's drawn back to the hunt after Laurent Lepage, a nine-year-old boy with a penchant for crying wolf, is found dead under circumstances that Gamache finds suspicious. The death followed Laurent's latest fantastic—and disbelieved—claim, of having found a gun as big as a building with a winged monster on it in the woods. Despite Gamache's unofficial status, he's allowed to work the case, which takes multiple unexpected turns. In this typically engaging and fairly clued installment, Gamache wrestles with whether he can truly be content with the quiet life Three Pines offers, a struggle that echoes the choices, past and present, others have made about their responsibility to confront the evil the human spirit is capable of. Series fans will delight in Penny's continued complex fleshing out of characters they have come to love." See also our August Trade Paperback Picks for book ten in the series.

Rankin, Ian. [The Beat Goes on: The Complete Rebus Stories](#) (LittleBrown \$26). The 31 rewarding stories in Edgar-winner Rankin's complete John Rebus collection span the Scottish detective's entire career, from his early days as a policeman learning the ropes right up to the time of his quasi-retirement. The best

entries, such as “A Good Hanging,” which involves a murder disguised as a suicide during the Edinburgh fringe festival, feel like short novels.

Royes, Gillian. [The Rhythm of the August Rain](#) (Atria \$16). Lovely fishing village Largo Bay, Jamaica, is laid back. Shadrack Myers owns a bar and does a little sleuthing when needed. As when Canadian photojournalist Shannon calls to say she’s about to return and bring her 14-year-old daughter Eva with her. The child is the product of the fiery affair between Shannon and hotel owner Eric which fell apart when she fell pregnant. Eva should get to know Eric. But Shannon is also coming to find out why another Canadian, young dancer Katlyn, who had fallen for a Rastafarian and his culture, went missing over 30 years ago, never to be seen again. Shannon wants Shad to help her navigate all these shoals even though he’s busy building an overdue new hotel with Eric and preparing for his own wedding. Naturally, things go bad.... Not a cozy, but a laid back read digging into the island’s culture as well as the imagined crimes.

Saville, Guy. [The Madagascar Plan](#) (Holt \$30). “Set against a world dominated by an undefeated Third Reich, the Freudian blood feud between mercenary Burton Cole and Oberstgruppenführer Walter Hochburg rages into Madagascar. Dropping in back story tidbits to bring new readers up to speed, Saville opens here after his debut [The Afrika Reich](#) (\$16.99) focused on the Cole-engineered attack on Hochburg’s African headquarters, Schädelplatz. Both escape colossal carnage, but Hochburg must cope with a Kongo-wide war—Europeans and Africans have allied and rebelled. Cole returns to London hoping to find Madeleine Cranley, a Jewish Austrian refugee who’s pregnant with his child, but the fact that he’s lost a hand pales when he discovers that he’s lost Madeleine, with whom he had a passionate connection because the “wounded, the incomplete, seek each other out.” When her husband, a British government official, discovered her infidelity, Madeleine was transported to Madagascar, Hitler’s “grand reservation” for Western Europe’s Jews. Madagascar is Auschwitz writ large. Most of the bloody action takes place there as Cole pursues Madeleine and in turn is pursued by Hochburg. Saville has the English flair for language—‘brogues obese with mud’—and his alternate history...” —*Kirkus*

Schneider, Pete. [Berlin Now: The City After the Wall](#) (Farrar \$15). An intriguing journey through Berlin by a longtime interested observer, taking an interest in projects that have transformed the city since 1989, the Communist and Stasi legacy, and much more. I’m getting a copy since Rob and I are spending four days in the city after the Frankfurt Book Fair mid-October.

Simenon, George. [The Madman of Bergerac](#); [Misty Harbour](#) (Penguin \$11). Two more reissues in Penguin’s ambitious Margaret republication project.

Smith, Dan. [The Darkest Heart](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). With Brazil coming center stage with the 2016 Olympics here’s “a journey through its shadowy heart and the even darker mind of a killer.” Zico is determined to leave violence behind, hoping he was done with Costa. But Costa isn’t done with Zico. He offers a deal: \$1000 for a kill. The target is one Dolores Beckett. *Sister Dolores Beckett*....

[Red Winter](#) (\$14.95). This Starred Review underline’s Smith’s versatility: “At the start of this pulse-pounder set in 1920 Central Russia from Smith (*The Child Thief*), Nikolai Levitsky,

a deserter from the Red Army, returns home to the village of Belev, where everyone appears to be missing, including his wife and sons. When Nikolai does find one person, Galina Petrova, an elderly friend of his late mother, she tells him that Belev was attacked by Koschei (aka the Deathless One), a monster from children’s fairy tales. According to Galina, the Koschei took all the villagers, leaving behind one decapitated corpse. Nikolai’s search for his family across Russia exposes him to evidence of the futility of the conflict between the Reds and Whites. Luminous prose complements the compelling plot (e.g., “the low winter sun poured light through cloud and smoke and fire, reddening and casting a crimson glow across the yard and the field beyond, where the frost glistened red as if each crystal had been formed with the blood of men.”

Steele, Jon. [The Way of Sorrows](#) (Blue Rider/Putnam \$26.95). I didn’t get an ARC so I give you *PW*’s strong review: “Steele wraps up his apocalyptic Angelus trilogy with a bang. As readers know from 2012’s *The Watchers* and 2013’s *Angel City*, a war has been raging for the “soul of man” after supernatural beings betrayed their mission to guide humanity in its designated role of caretakers of Earth’s life forms. The beings’ lust for female humans led to breeding with them, which introduced evil into the world. Impressively, Steele balances the high eschatological stakes with humor. For example, Jay Harper, who’s actually a being hiding in the form of a dead man, wonders, “How the hell did we superior creatures of light survive two and a half million years in paradise while spending great swathes of time not knowing what to do next?” *PW* adds, “Such passages are a welcome respite from the grim narrative, which places the globe on the brink of nuclear Armageddon. Steele also deserves credit for making the complex backstory easy for first-timers to follow.” Rob and I met up with Steele in Switzerland two years back and enjoyed re-enacting a scene from *The Watchers*. Plus we dined on raclette. Yum.

Urza, Gabriel. [All That Followed](#) (Holt \$25) describes the fallout of the 2004 murder of a local politician in Muriga, a fictional town in the Basque region of Spain. Urza, whose family is Basque, was inspired by a real-life case, involving a Basque political party with alleged links to terrorists, that he studied while doing legal research in San Sebastián, on a grant from the Kellogg Institute that he received while at Notre Dame. Urza says the ability to address Basque politics through fiction was “essential.... When you fictionalize something, it gives you a lot more leeway... to deal with characters as characters, rather than [as] historical or political figures.” See First Novels for more.

Tran, Vu. [Dragonfish Signed](#) (Norton \$26.95). Tran pens a trans-Pacific cinematic work of sophisticated suspense that is receiving starred reviews from numerous publications. This **First Mystery Club Pick** is reviewed above in First Novels.

Walker, Martin. [The Patriarch Signed](#) (Knopf \$24.95). Publishes in August, Signed here September 29. Bruno is at first somewhat awed by the WWII hero and his legendary aviation exploits and ties with Soviet allies. Murder at the Patriarch’s 90th birthday fete at his Dordogne estate plunges the St. Denis Chief of Police into current and wartime politics linked to Moscow and to national security. Bruno also faces a turn in his relationship with his English lover Pamela. And then there’s the loyalty of his sturdy horse and of his young dog, Balzac, and more luscious food and

wine. 8th in our bestselling series in paperback. UK title is: *The Dying Season*.

Yanique, Tiphonie. [Land of Love and Drowning](#) (\$16). “Yanique’s characters form a chorus of voices from the Caribbean in this debut novel. In the early 1900s, as the Virgin Islands are passed from Danish to American control, a ship sinks off the coast of St. Thomas, leaving the captain’s three children orphaned. As the siblings recount their lives, their stories become intertwined with the island’s history.” —*NY Times*

OUT OF THIS WORLD...

Armstrong, Kelley. [Deceptions: A Cainsville Novel](#) (Dutton \$26.95). Olivia Taylor-Jones has discovered she’s not only adopted—her real parents were serial killers. A media frenzy blows up and she finds herself in Chicago taking refuge with her new boss, defense attorney Gabriel Walsh. Her former fiancé James sends a couple of “deprogrammers” to retrieve her (there is that \$25 million trust fund that will come due when she turns 25), whom Olivia and Gabriel swiftly subdue. Now what? There’s Ricky the biker. What powers does Gabriel have? Is James in charge of James, or is someone manipulating him? Armstrong is adept at throwing in twist after twist in her sexy, out of this world suspense....

Bodard, Aliette de. [The House of Shattered Wings](#) (Roc \$26.95). Nebula-winner de Bodard makes her big-house debut (following the Obsidian and Blood trilogy, published by Angry Robot) with a gripping tragedy of forlorn individuals caught up in an angelic version of the Cold War. In this rendition of history, Paris was devastated by a Great War that began in 1914—a war waged by its competing houses of Fallen angels and witches. Sixty years later, the city is still in ruins. Two Frenchwomen have very different relationships with the supernatural side of Paris: Selene, the leader of House Silverspires, struggles to step into the shoes of its founder, the mysteriously missing Morningstar (aka Lucifer), and House alchemist Madeleine must balance her addiction to angel essence against her fears of being sent back to her former master, Asmodeus. Philippe, a Vietnamese conscript and former Immortal, is caught sampling the blood of a newly Fallen angel, and his attempt to escape precipitates a long-hidden curse on Silverspires that sets the Furies and the other houses to seek its destruction. The story holds up well as a standalone, with clear possibilities but no pressing need for a sequel. De Bodard aptly mixes moral conflicts and the desperate need to survive in a fantastical spy thriller that reads like a hybrid of *le Carré* and *Milton*, all tinged with the melancholy of golden ages lost

Bova, Ben. [Power Surge](#) (Tor \$24.99). I have not read this so I can’t say if the acerbic *Kirkus* reviews it fairly or not. For what it’s worth, its take is: “An idealist from Montana takes on the Washington machine in this near-future novel. Jacob Ross came to D.C. to help freshman senator Frank Tomlinson write a comprehensive energy plan that will help the country deal with climate change and prepare for the future. He’s got the ideas, and he’s got the passion. What he doesn’t have is any idea how to get things done in this town. But he’s about to get a crash course in politics—the dirty kind. Jake’s up against the oil lobby, the farm lobby, and most dauntingly, the powerful senator known as the Little Saint, Mario Santino.... People who don’t like Santino don’t tend to get very far. Unfortunately, neither does the action in this slow-paced novel. Bova spends far too much time explain-

ing and overexplaining how the hard-nosed horse-trading of D.C. politics works and not nearly enough time developing a sense of the personal stakes for his hero. While there’s futuristic technology here, the story itself is really about the politics, and few readers will be as surprised as Jake seems to be by the idea that D.C. runs on self-interest and sordid deals.”

Farnsworth, Christopher. [The Eternal World](#) (Harper \$25.99). A crackling high concept action/adventure novel adding in history and paranormal twists in the spirit of James Rollins, Brad Thor, and Douglas Preston, by the author of the cult favorite President’s Vampire series. It begins 500 years ago when conquistadors searched for gold in the sunny and humid swamps of the New World. They were really after the legendary Fountain of Youth. Too bad they slaughtered the Water Clan of the Uzita, the tribe that guarded those very waters. But wait—the chief’s lovely daughter Shako escaped and swore vengeance. So, the destruction of the source of the fountain today threatens the surviving conquistador who drank its waters, Simon, and the empire he built. For help his organization turns to scientific prodigy David Robinton who believes he’s on the verge of an unimaginable medical breakthrough. As is the centuries-old war between Simon and Shako. Fun, and it has a surprisingly touching ending.

Herman, Eleanor. [Legacy of Kings](#) (Harlequin \$19.99). Blood of Gods and Royals #1—historical fantasy for teens. Imagine a time when the gods turn a blind eye to the agony of men, when the last of the hellions roam the plains and evil stirs beyond the edges of the map. A time when cities burn, and in their ashes, empires rise. Alexander, Macedonia’s sixteen-year-old heir, is on the brink of discovering his fated role in conquering the known world but finds himself drawn to newcomer Katerina, who must navigate the dark secrets of court life while hiding her own mission: kill the Queen. But Kat’s first love, Jacob, will go to any lengths to win her, even if it means competing for her heart with Hephaestion, a murderer sheltered by the prince. And far across the sea, Zofia, a Persian princess and Alexander’s unmet fiancée, wants to alter her destiny by seeking the famed and deadly Spirit Eaters... So another *Game of Thrones* rises alongside the man who becomes Alexander the Great.

Hobb, Robin. [Fools Quest: Book II of the Fitz and the Fool Trilogy](#) (Ballantine \$28). Long ago, Fitz and the Fool changed the world, bringing back the magic of dragons and securing both the Farseer succession and the stability of the kingdom. Or so they thought. But now the Fool is near death, maimed by mysterious pale-skinned figures whose plans for world domination hinge upon the powers the Fool may share with Fitz’s own daughter. Distracted by the Fool’s perilous health, and swept up against his will in the intrigues of the royal court, Fitz lets down his guard... and in a horrible instant, his world is undone and his beloved daughter stolen away by those who would use her as they had once sought to use the Fool—as a weapon. But Fitz Chivalry Farseer is not without weapons of his own. An ancient magic still lives in his veins as do his dormant skills as a royal assassin... Begin the trilogy with [Fool’s Assassin: Book One](#) (\$8.99).

Kadrey, Richard. [Killing Pretty Signed](#) (Harper \$28). Urban fantasy fans who place a premium on humor are most likely to enjoy Kadrey’s seventh Sandman Slim novel (after *The Getaway God*). Slim, aka James Stark, is one of the nephilim—half human, half angel—who’s working as a PI in Los Angeles. His powers are pretty impressive; before the book begins, he’d killed “a

weasely fragment of God who, if he'd lived, would have ruined the universe." That, understandably, has annoyed the angelic host, who joins a lengthy roster of Stark's foes. Thwarting Stark's hope of returning to more mundane cases, Kadrey gives him another daunting challenge: someone dragged Death into a human body and cut out his heart, killing him, and Stark's boss, Julie Sola, wants him to find out whodunit. Julie hopes that finding Death's killer will restore some normalcy. Right!

Stroud, Carsten. [The Reckoning](#) (\$15.95). Whether working in the atmospheric regional mode of James Lee Burke, the modern horror vein of Stephen King, the sardonic gangster idiom of Carl Hiaasen, or the supernatural traditions of H.P. Lovecraft and Bram Stoker, Stroud can be a great storyteller, as shown in this sprawling, sometimes confusing conclusion to his Niceville trilogy. Aided by Niceville native Lemon Featherlight, an expert on local history and legends, Det. Nick Kavanaugh pursues a relentless killer who's driven by something evil that haunts the Southern town (in an unnamed state). Meanwhile, Nick's lawyer wife, Kate, does what she can to save her and Nick's foster son, Rainey Teague, from whatever possesses him. A huge cast of characters—some of them vivid, others indistinguishable—must contend with such threats as zombies, demons, and an annoying Chihuahua.

Tripp, Ben. [Fifth House of the Heart](#) (Gallery \$16). "Tripp melds the modern vampire myth with comic mystery and detective fiction in this intriguing and intelligent horror novel. Asmodeus 'Sax' Saxon-Tang, an aging and immensely wealthy procurer of antiques, has a secret: his astonishing success has come from looting the hoards of vampires, ancient shapeshifting predators who kill with cunning and ruthlessness. When Sax learns of a dangerous unknown vampire attempting to rebuild her own trove, he realizes he's been marked for death and sets off on a globe-trotting hunt to kill the beast and reclaim her treasure. Tripp's crotchety, cowardly protagonist, reminiscent of Jonathan Gash's Lovejoy, is instantly appealing and provides a fascinating viewpoint for the novel's diverse cast of vampire hunters. The story is exhaustively researched and the prose is rife with dry wit, all the funnier for scholars of history but easily accessible to others."—*PW* Starred review.

Wendig, Chuck. [Zeroes Signed](#) (Harper \$28). In the vein of David Ignatius' *The Director* and the TNT series *Leverage*, *Zeroes* follows five hackers—an Anonymous-style rabble rouser, an Arab spring activist, a black-hat hacker, an old-school cipherpunk and an online troll—who are scooped up by the U.S. government and told they face prison sentences, they take the deal that's offered them: working as white-hat hackers in service to their nation. This first major hardcover publication for the talented Wendig is our **August SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick**. Highly recommended by Pat King of our staff, this is an edgy, fun, but important read.

New in paperback

SciFi/Fantasy/Horror

Black, Holly. [The Iron Trial](#) (\$7.99)

Estep, Jennifer. [Spider's Trap](#) (Picador \$7.99)

Griffith, Clay. [The Conquering Dark](#) (Ballantine \$7.99)

Jacka, Benedict. [Veiled](#) (Berkley \$7.99)

Ochse, Weston. [Grunt Traitor](#) (\$7.99)

Richardson, Kat. [Revenant](#) (NAL \$7.99)

Sapkowski, Andrew. [Last Wish](#) (Orbit \$8)

AWARDS

2015 Barry Award Nominees

Best Novel

Jussi Adler-Olsen, [The Marco Effect](#) (\$16)

James R. Benn, [The Rest Is Silence](#) (\$15.95)

Reed Farrel Coleman, [The Hollow Girl](#) (\$16.99)

Bruce DeSilva, [Providence Rag](#) (\$15.99)

Greg Iles, [Natchez Burning](#) (\$9.99)

Arnaldur Indridason, [Strange Shores](#) (\$16 Sept.)

Best First Novel:

Adam Brookes, [Night Heron](#) (\$15) FMC Pick

M. P. Cooley, [Ice Shear](#) (\$14.99)

Julia Dahl, [Invisible City](#) (\$15.99) Surprise Me Pick

Elizabeth Little, [Dear Daughter](#) (\$16) FMC Pick

Laura McHugh, [The Weight of Blood](#) (\$16) FMC Pick

William Shaw, [She's Leaving Home](#) (\$15)

Best Paperback Original:

Joel Dicker, [The Truth about the Harry Quebert Affair](#) (\$18) FMC Pick

Allen Eskens, [The Life We Bury](#) (\$15.95) A Karen Pick

Alex Marwood, [The Killer Next Door](#) (\$16)

Malla Nunn, [Present Darkness](#) (\$16)

Lori Rader-Day, [The Black Hour](#) (\$15.99)

Stav Sherez, [Eleven Days](#) (\$18)

Best Thriller:

Joe Finder, [Suspicion](#) (\$9.99)

Ian Hamilton, [The Water Rat of Wanchai](#) (\$16)

Robert Harris, [An Officer and a Spy](#) (\$15.95)

Terry Hayes, [I Am Pilgrim](#) (\$16 or \$9.99) FMC Pick

Michael Koryta, [Those Who Wish Me Dead](#) (\$16)

2015 CWA Daggers

Diamond Dagger: Catherine Aird

Dagger in the Library: Christopher Fowler

2015 Maltese Falcon Prize from Japan

Roger Hobbs, [Ghostman](#) (\$14.95)

2015 Theakston Old Peculier Novel of the Year

Sarah Hilary, [Someone Else's Skin](#) (\$16)

2015 Strand Magazine Critic's Awards

Best Novel:

Megan Abbott, [The Fever](#) (\$15) and Laura Lippman, [After I'm Gone](#) (\$14.99)

Best First Novel:

Elizabeth Little, [Dear Daughter](#) (\$16) a 2014 FMC Pick

2015 T Jefferson Parker Award Nominees

Anne Flett-Giordano, [Marry, Kiss, Kill](#) (\$15)

David Putnam, [The Replacements](#) (\$26.95 SIGNED Aug. 8)

Don Winslow, [The Cartel](#) (\$27.99 SIGNED)

2015 Thriller Awards

Hardcover Novel:

Megan Abbott, [The Fever](#) (\$15)

Paperback Original Novel:

Vincent Zandri, [Moonlight Weeps](#) (\$18.99)

First Novel:

Laura McHugh, [The Weight of Blood](#) (\$16) FMC Pick

E-Book Original Novel:

C.J. Lyons, for *Hard Fall* (Legacy Books))

ThrillerMaster:

Nelson DeMille, in recognition of his legendary career and outstanding contributions to the thriller genre.

Silver Bullet Award:

Kathy Reichs

2015 Motorsports Book of the Year

Tammy Kaehler, [Avoidable Contact](#) (\$14.95)

Avoidable Contact is the third mystery featuring professional race car driver Kate Reilly. *Braking Points*, the second in the series, won the 2013 Motorsports Book of the Year Award. The fourth Kate Reilly book, *Red Flags*, will leave the starting gate April 2016.

OUR AUGUST TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

✦ Alexander, Tasha. [The Counterfeit Heiress](#) (\$15.99). The Duchess of Devonshire holds a great ball on July 2, 1897. It's the event of the season if not the decade. Lady Emily, dressed as Artemis in a Worth gown and carrying the huntress' bow, has a very odd encounter with a costumed male guest. Shortly thereafter a woman thought to be a mysterious, reclusive heiress and world traveler, Estella Lamar, is murdered. Is the woman actually Estella, whom no one has seen for years and years? Or is she an imposter? And regardless, who would kill either of them at a society event? Lady Emily's husband, Colin Hargreaves, a special investigator (often for the Queen), has questions. [Click here](#) to order the earlier Lady Emilys, so elegant, so entertaining. Alexander joins us October 22 with Steven Saylor and his new Roman novel to sign the 7th Lady Emily mystery: [The Adventuress](#) (St Martins \$25.99).

Belsky, RG. [Shooting for the Stars](#) (Atria \$16). I'm not usually a fan of books about Hollywood. But Belsky's second for reporter Gil Malloy sucked me in from the first page with its engaging voice and the equally engaging and enigmatic woman at the heart of the story. Plus it's sentimental, not sensational, in tone. It's about a 30-year-old murder/suicide: legendary movie star Laura Marlowe, shot to death by a crazed fan in Manhattan. Two days later the fan hanged himself—end of story. But it comes alive again for Malloy with another celebrity murder, that of TV personality Abbie Kincaid. Before her death she'd informed Malloy—who's in need of a strong story to bolster a flagging career—that she had new evidence, maybe a scoop, on Marlowe's death. The star had made only three movies before dying at 22. And she had some questionable associates plus a terror of a stage mother. More deaths make Malloy wonder if some kind of serial killer is at work.... Belsky writes me, "I draw extensively on my own real-life media background for the story and the Gil Malloy character. I was managing editor of the *New York Daily News*; metropolitan editor of the *New York Post*; news editor of *Star* magazine; and, most recently, a managing editor at NBC News." So the man knows a good story, and also the pain of modern journalism. Meet Gil in his first outing: [The Kennedy Connection](#) (\$16).

Benn, James R. [The Rest is Silence](#) (\$15.95). Here's a wonderful surprise, an English Country House Murder interpolated into this wartime thriller series. Benn, like Furst, has taken us into theaters and aspects of WWII with verve and skill, mixing fact and fiction and different genres. Here he uses the backdrop of D-Day, the run up to it in June, 1944, for a classical whodun-

nit. Billy Boyle who works on a special investigative remit from Dwight D Eisenhower (a distant cousin), is on England's South Coast looking into whether a washed-up corpse might be a Nazi agent. The location is one of those used to practice amphibious assaults—and Benn lets us see one Navy clusterfuck that kills troops. The body could result from a feud among local gangsters, but as he and his partner lodge with a friend in his nearby country house, new theories and truths emerge, as do new facets of the affable, former Boston-cop Boyle and his pals. We will have Signed copies of his crackerjack new thriller set in the Solomons where a young JFK has survived the sinking of his PT Boat in September: [The White Ghost](#) (Soho \$28). And Benn will be part of a Soho Crime Panel (with Matt Coyle, Timothy Hallinan, and Martin Limon) on October 27, joining us from New England by Skype. [Click here](#) to order all the Billy Boyle books.

Eve, Nomi. [The Henna House](#) (\$16). Those of you who joined us for our July 20 program with Linda Castillo and Julia Dahl on closed communities should seize this paperback of our August 2014 Modern Firsts Club Pick, one of my favorite debut novels. Eight-year-old Adela Damri, a Jewish girl living in a conservative religious community in Yemen nearly 100 years ago, has a distant, harsh mother and an ill, shoemaker father. She's isolated until the family of her father's brother arrives and she meets her cousins Asaf and Hani. Adela is betrothed to Asaf and finally gains the protection she lacks in a world where orphaned Jewish children are swept up by a Muslim official, The Confiscator, and thrust into Islamic families. Greater still is the influence Hani's friendship has on Adela's sense of self worth. Hani and her mother, a henna artist of great renown, somehow exist outside the constraints of societal expectations. Covered in beautiful temporary art, their skin is a tapestry of stories. We approach the 1930s. Asaf goes traveling—Adela's mother dies as disease sweeps into their small community. The family moves to a larger town. Hani marries. Asaf returns and so does Adela. But then...Can a betrayal ultimately prove to be a sacrifice? Follow the story through WWII and into Israel, learning aspects of history and a culture, including that of henna tattooing, that will surprise you.

✦ Finch, Charles. [The Laws of Murder](#) (\$15.99). It's 1876 and Charles Lenox, once London's leading private investigator, is trying to find his footing after giving up his seat in Parliament. With three colleagues he's formed an agency, but it's a hard slog for Lenox. Has he been off the game too long, or is someone sabotaging his new start? A chance to become a player arrives when, tragically, a friend, a member of Scotland Yard, is shot near Regent's Park. Near the elegant home of a man Lenox considers to be truly evil. As Lenox begins to parse the peculiar details of the death – an unlaced boot, a days-old wound, an untraceable luggage ticket – he realizes that the incident may lead him into grave personal danger, Lady Jane and his loved ones as well. One reason I love this series is that each book—this is the 8th—propels you toward the next. Which is [Home by Nightfall](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Finch will sign it here November 15 with Anne Perry who has a Christmas novella, [The Christmas Escape](#) (\$18), then for you. Order the earlier Charles Lenox mysteries [here](#).

French, Tana. [The Secret Place](#) (\$17). Detective Stephen Moran has been waiting for his chance to get a foot in the door of Dublin's Murder Squad—and one morning, sixteen-year-old Holly Mackey brings him this photo. "The Secret Place," a board where the girls at St. Kilda's School can pin up their secrets any-

mously, is normally a mishmash of gossip and covert cruelty, but today someone has used it to reignite the stalled investigation into the murder of handsome, popular Chris Harper. Stephen joins forces with the abrasive Detective Antoinette Conway to find out who and why. But everything they discover leads them back to Holly's close-knit group of friends and their fierce enemies, a rival clique—and to the tangled web of relationships that bound all the girls to Chris Harper. Every step in their direction turns up the pressure. "...a book full of giddy, slangy, devious schoolgirls who cannot be trusted about anything, at least not on the first, second, third or fourth rounds of questioning...Part of this book's trickiness is its way of letting characters hide the truth behind the smoke screen of language and let both readers and investigators gradually figure out who is lying." — Janet Maslin, *New York Times*. French will join us on August 8 by Skype from Ireland for a chat with Q&A. Order her earlier books [here](#): the first, *In the Woods*, was a 2007 First Mystery Club Pick.

Goldberg, Tod. [Gangsterland](#) (\$15.95). David Hunenberg raves about this, saying, "Chicago hitman Sal Cupertine is at the top of his game: beautiful wife, son he adores, dream house in the suburbs and in demand for his services. David Cohen is the new young rabbi at Temple Beth Israel in Las Vegas, adored by his congregants and respected by the community. Problem is, in his not too distant past, he was Sal Cupertine and he is a wanted by the feds for a killing spree that claimed the lives of three agents in an operation that went bad. In his new life as a rabbi, Cohen begins to piece together the real story behind him being able to live after his rampage with the feds. As he tries to maintain his cover (was that a quote from the Talmud or a line from a Springsteen song?) and protect his wife and son, a rogue FBI agent is also piecing together the same story and is in pursuit of the presumed dead hitman. Tod Goldberg has taken a published short story and expanded it to a full length novel that is slick, darkly humorous with a noir texture. His writing is clever as he takes the absurd story line and makes it believable with the reader hoping for a sequel."

Keller, Julia. [Summer of the Dead](#) (\$15.99). Prosecutor Bell Elkins chooses to live and work in Acker's Gap, West Virginia, at the cost of first her marriage. And now, sadly for Bell, her almost-grown daughter picks Oxford over Acker's Gap for the summer. But a distracted Bell is tracking a serial killer. And handicapped by the return of her older sister, Shirley, from prison (Shirley murdered their abusive father, thus saving Bell at the cost of her own freedom). A sister like Shirley is both a blessing and a trial for Bell. But really, no one is making good choices in this 3rd book in an atmospheric series I like a lot, finding it akin to the early mysteries of John Billheimer, and the Ballad Books of Sharyn McCrumb. Heller's 4th, due out the end of this month, is filled with suspense and more surprises: [Last Ragged Breath Signed](#) (St Martins \$28). See New Books for more.

Little, Elizabeth. [Dear Daughter](#) (\$16). A First Mystery Club Pick contending for various Best First Novel Awards. The narrator is a socialite who did ten years for the murder of her even more glamorous and impossible mother and was then released thanks to tainted lab work at the LA County Crime Lab. She's thrilled to be free—but she still doesn't know if she killed her mother. So devising various disguises to avoid celebrity seekers and all manner of media, Janie Jenkins, once an "It" girl, makes her way to an isolated South Dakota town. Enlisting the help of some new

friends (and the town's wary police chief), Janie follows a series of clues—an old photograph, an abandoned house, a forgotten diary—and begins to piece together her mother's seemingly improbable past, hoping to learn whether or not she, Janie, committed matricide. Janie has a slicing wit, unusual and dangerous skills, leaps into risk, and is in a life forever warped by her past.

Penny, Louise. [The Long Way Home](#) (\$15.99). Armand Gamache has retired from the Sûreté du Québec and is living leisurely and happily in Three Pines with wife Reine-Marie. Then villager Clara appears to say that her husband Peter, once the more famous artist of the two, has failed to return as promised on the first anniversary of their separation. She's looking for some help. Reluctant to leave his new nest, Gamache agrees to investigate. Together with his former second-in-command, Jean-Guy Beauvoir, and the village bookseller, Myrna Landers, he begins a journey that is both urban and goes deep into the province towards the mouth of the St. Lawrence in search of Peter Morrow. Not only is this riverain landscape one difficult to imagine, the knockout surprise twists in this story are too. See New Books for my rave review of this month's sequel, [The Nature of the Beast Signed](#) (St Martins \$29), which, amazingly, is based on something real although unbelievable. Ruth the poet has a key role (as does the duck).

Rufin, Jean Christophe. [The Red Collar](#) (Ecco \$16). Here's a slim treat: a superbly crafted little gem that does everything a novel can do in less than 150 pages, as we follow a 30-year-old military investigator on his last case before returning to his wife and two children. Formerly an idealist, now hardened by the war, Major Lantier finds himself in a village where everyone loves the imprisoned young man. Morlac was a conscripted country bumpkin who learned to read, found his salvation in books and became a hero who led a decisive charge before committing an outrage to the nation. Now his life depends on the investigator's report. Lantier tries to stop the 28-year-old defendant from going to his death, but the hopelessly sincere Morlac refuses to lie to defend himself. His honesty and the growing involvement of the investigator build together with the secret of the dog and the complications of a girl raising a fatherless three-year-old in a nearby village. The reader learns exactly how Morlac became a hero and exactly what happened on the day of the parade. Rufin concludes his tale with a final stroke of genius. With the intensity of a tightly wound theater piece, the entire plot is carried on the shoulders of three good people and a dog.

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

✂Willig, Lauren. [The Lure of the Moonflower Signed](#) (NAL \$16). See Event Books for my review of this 12th book in a modern day-Regency era spy series. In it we learn, at last, the story of master spy The Pink Carnation.

THE COZY CORNER

Look to British Library Crime Classics above, and many Mass Market Paperbacks below.

Andrews, Donna. [Lord of the Wings](#) (St Martins \$25.99). The offbeat, zany charm of this series set in a small Virginia town has not diminished over the course of, now with this entry, 18 Meg Langslow investigations that combine animals, blacksmithing, parenting, mystery, and navigating politics on a minor scale. Caerphilly has done so well with its Christmas tourist draws that the mayor wants it turned into Spooky City for Halloween. It's a team effort with residents decorating and doing cosplay, roaming the streets in costume. All too soon, a real body mars the creepy fun, and it falls to Meg, still a volunteer but chafing under the idiot, ambitious Special Assistant to the Mayor, to save the day... or rather, eve.

Brady, Eileen. [Unleashed Signed](#) (\$15.95). Dr. Kate Turner is working as a relief vet in a charming Hudson River town. With her assistant, Mari, she travels the countryside treating everything from cats and dogs to llamas and pigs. When one of her clients, Claire Birnham, is found dead, an apparent suicide, Kate immediately suspects that all is not what it seems. Claire, who'd left her precious cairn terrier, Toto, at Kate's office after he was bitten by a rat, had seemed very happy with her new job in a Manhattan art gallery and had been eager to move to the city. The romance that always seems promised by Kate's friendship with police officer Luke Gianetti is forestalled once more when she calls him with her theory that Claire was murdered. Even her grandfather, a former arson investigator, warns her to mind her own business. But Kate thinks talking to people won't hurt and may turn up some suspects... When Kate's kennel assistant, a young man with brain damage, is arrested for the crime, she redoubles her efforts to find a calculating killer. Kate's second after [Muzzled](#) (\$14.95) is a treat for animal lovers. The plethora of suspects keeps you guessing."—*Kirkus*. Brady will sign [Unleashed](#) (\$26.95) on Sept. 2 at 2:00 PM

Challinor, CS. [The Murder Comes Calling](#) (Midnight Ink \$14.99). Scottish barrister travels to quiet Notting Hamlet, Bedfordshire, at the request his widowed friend, Malcolm Patterson, a bumbling retired medical pathologist who in a panic tampered with evidence related to four unsolved murders. See British Books for more.

Levine, Laura. [Death by Tiara](#) (Kensington \$25). John Charles reviews: Freelance writer Jaine Austen thinks she may finally have landed her big literary break when she answers an ad on Craigslist from someone looking to hire a songwriter to write the lyrics for an industry star. Unfortunately, the "industry star" turns out to be Heather Van Sant's teenage daughter, who needs a song for the talent portion of the Miss Teen Queen America pageant. Since her bank balance is currently in the red, Jaine takes the job, because, after all, how difficult can it be? Of course, this is before Jaine discovers just how far some people will go to get their hands on a tiara. It isn't surprising that Levine has such a deft hand at writing comedy since she her former literary credits include such classic sitcoms as The Bob Newhart Show

and Laverne and Shirley, and the latest addition to her Jaine Austen series is another hoot and a half. If you are a fan of Donna Andrews, Dorothy Cannell, or Joan Hess and haven't discovered Levine's mysteries yet, you are in for a treat.

Meier, Leslie. [Candy Corn Murder](#) (Kensington \$25). Halloween is coming to Tinker's Cove, Maine, and local reporter Lucy Stone is covering the town's annual Giant Pumpkin Fest for the Penny-saver. There's the pumpkin-boat regatta, the children's Halloween party, the pumpkin weigh-in...even a contest where home-built catapults hurl pumpkins at an old Dodge! But not everything goes quite as planned. Someone starts bumping off the competition for the Giant Pumpkin Weigh-In. The pumpkin-themed scenes along the town common are also vandalized, but the dead body at the Pumpkin Catapult contest clearly means some sicko wants to stop the festival. And with Lucy's husband, Bill, as the number-one suspect.... This one's out early for Halloween with a cover to match the holiday.

Schweitzer, Mark. [The Maestro Wore Mohair Signed](#) (St James Press \$13.95). A new Liturgical Mystery set in a small North Carolina town. See New Books for more.

Swank, Denise Grover. [Twenty-Eight-and-a-Half Wishes](#) (Crooked Lane \$14.99). I was never entirely sure while reading through this series start whether the author is writing tongue-in-cheek, or not. But she's got a lot of books under her belt including this first of ten in the Rose Gardner series which I believe were all self-published first on CreateSpace and as e-books. The plan for this new press appears to be to schedule the series to publish monthly in simultaneous hardcover and here, trade paperback, which is what I recommend. I'm not sure I can capture Rose for you: she works at the DMV, her mamma is horrible to her although she hasn't broken away as her sister has; she sees visions. And one day the vision is that she, Rose, is dead. Disconcerted, dizzy, she leaves work early, visits sister Violet, makes a bucket list on the back of the Wal-Mart receipt. And goes home where she finds the house dark and mamma dead, her new neighbor Joe oddly helpful, and herself the chief suspect. Rose is so naïve it's hard to find her real, but there's a zany sort of charm to it all. And Joe is sweet. Romantic suspense light.

NEW BOOKS

Abel, James. [Protocol Zero](#) (Berkley \$26.95). Clive Cussler fans will relish the pseudonymous Abel's sequel to [White Plague](#) (\$9.99). On a bluff overlooking the Arctic Ocean, Col. Joe Rush, a Marine doctor, is studying whether polar bears are dying from a new germ when he receives a call from North Slope police chief Merlin Toovik. Merlin reports that he received a disturbing phone call from 15-year-old Kelley Harmon, who considers Joe her adoptive uncle. Kelley was hysterical, screaming about a sickness, when Merlin heard a shotgun blast just before the call went dead. Merlin also heard some strange background grunting noises. Though under orders not to get involved in local affairs, Joe goes to the isolated Harmon cabin, where he finds Kelley, her parents, and her cousin all shot to death. The full transcript of Kelley's last call, including references to funny-tasting water and extreme light sensitivity, gives Joe some clues as to what happened. Abel nicely blends action and science in the service of a plausible, but terrifying, plot, peopled with well-developed characters.

Battles, Matthew. [Palimpsest](#) (Norton \$26.95). “Battles makes a dazzling foray into the history of text, from cuneiform to computer screens, narrating the evolution of the written word in captivating detail. The book begins with the appearance of writing in fourth-century B.C.E. Mesopotamia and proceeds through the invention of the codex by early Christians, the dissemination of manuscripts, and the history of printing. Drawing on accounts from varied cultures and eras, Battles finds that Socrates compared rhetoric to the planting and sowing of seeds, and that the fourth-century C.E. Chinese poet Su Hui conceived of writing as a “perceiving-through: a look through a window or a lens.” Battles also explores the insidious link between writing and power, using *Great Expectations* to illustrate writing’s liberating effects. Elsewhere, he quotes *A Room of One’s Own* on writing as a system that can “absorb the new into the old” without tearing the fabric of the whole. In the digital age, computer code represents a new kind of writing, though one not visible to most readers....” —*PW* Starred Review

Brown, Sandra. [Friction](#) (Grand Central \$26). A Texas Ranger stuck at a desk because of reckless behavior is in court fighting to regain custody of his daughter when a masked gunman breaks in, threatening the attractive family court judge. Will our intrepid hero leap in to help?

Cha, Steph. [Dead Soon Enough Signed](#) (St Martins \$26.99 out in August, Signed here October 4). “Cha wins the reader’s sympathies for her L.A. PI at the outset of her outstanding third Juniper Song mystery. When at age 22 Song “was broke, bored, and quietly depressed, and had no strength to fight the call of easy money,” she decided to become an ovum donor and sold three sets of her eggs for \$48,000. Years later, a new case revives memories of what for her was a questionable decision. Rubina Gasparian, a 37-year-old doctor who’s unable to conceive with her husband, has arranged for her 26-year-old cousin, Lusig, to serve as her gestational surrogate. With only a month to go before the due date, Rubina is anxious that Lusig isn’t taking care of either herself or the fetus, and she hires Song to follow Lusig. The gumshoe finds that Lusig’s main source of stress is anxiety about a friend who’s been missing for about a month, one Nora, the daughter of Armenian immigrants from the Soviet Union. Nora ran a website devoted to discussing the Armenian genocide of 1915, and her blog posts attracted a lot of creepy haters, so Song’s focus shifts from Lusig to ascertaining Nora’s fate. Veronica Mars fans will be pleased.” —*PW* Starred Review

Charney, Noah. [The Art of Forgery](#) (Phaidon \$35). I love art mysteries and, on a broader scale, questions relating to history, provenance, and real crimes in an ever-shifting world of perceptions and values. I’ve recommended the movie *Woman in Gold* before and do so again, for an immersive experience in the twining of art and life. Charney is an art historian with a special interest in art crime. Here he collects stories of forgers throughout history, organized into chapters by their various motivations, with beautiful and informative illustrations on almost every page

Child, Lee. [Make Me Signed](#) (Bantam \$45). Jack Reacher #20. Pubs September 8 but order now to avoid disappointment. As of now no word about Signed US copies so the safe bet is this one.

Corleone, Douglas. [Gone Cold](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Former US Marshal Simon Fisk has never given up on the cold case of high daughter Halley—abducted 12 years ago when she was 6, and

still missing. Her mother committed suicide and Fisk became a private recovery specialist, tracking down missing kids who’ve mostly been kidnapped by one of their estranged parents. Home from a case he gets serious, transforms his apartment into a war room, and drills in. And he gets a break—an urgent computer message with two attached images, one of Halley as she might look now, and one of a young woman wanted for murder in Ireland. And, he’s off to Dublin where more surprises await. Begin with [Good as Gone](#) (\$9.99), a slam bang start. This second Fisk doesn’t disappoint.

Coughlin, Jack. [Night of the Cobra](#) (SimonSchuster \$25.99). Consonant with the shift of thrillers towards Africa comes a new Kyle Swanson, to-ranked Marine Sniper, mission in Somalia. Some years ago he was on a peace-keeping mission to Mogadishu and captured the “Cobra.” Kyle nearly lost his life but was saved by a schoolteacher who risked hers to keep him alive. Now he’s back in country to track down two targets: the Cobra, the warlord who spent 20 years in prison but is now leading the Somali underworld; the grandson of the schoolteacher who has joined the Cobra’s army of terror. The boy got his start in a Detroit-based Somali gang before fleeing home. His grandmother says the boy is an innocent, but the CIA orders Kyle to kill him....

Della Pietra, Cheryl. [Gonzo Girl](#) (Touchstone \$24.99). Author Cheryl Della Pietra spent a few months in 1992 as the assistant to infamous “gonzo” journalist Hunter S. Thompson (*Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*), helping him write what turned out to be “Polo is My Life,” a novel that was excerpted in *Rolling Stone* but never published. 20 years later, she’s written a *roman à clef* based on this experience. Walker Reade is Thompson, Ally Russo is Della Pietra, and most supporting characters are identifiable as well: Hans Bauer is *RS* editor Jann Wenner, Larry Lucas is John Cusack, Tommy Jagger is Johnny Depp, though he’s only mentioned in passing as he comes from a much later period.... Della Pietra evokes the legendary insanity of the scene at Thompson’s Aspen compound—peacock coop, shooting range and all, in glorious and often very funny detail. The story turns on a problem: Reade can’t write the way he used to. Among the many glaring flaws of the pages he’s produced so far is... it’s kind of boring. So as the sun rises each morning, with a few last lines of coke and a pot of coffee to keep her going, Ally runs across the breezeway to her room with the page or two he has squeezed out on his old Selectric. But here’s the thing: As she retypes it into her Mac, she rewrites it completely. She brings back the old Walker Reade, ‘the distinctive, adrenalized, paranoid, genius on speed voice.’ Then she faxes the revised pages to Lionel Gray, his longtime editor, who has promised her \$25,000 if she can do what eight previous assistants have failed to accomplish: deliver a completed manuscript. The plot of the book, such as it is, revolves around when Reade will find out that the pages she’s sending are not really his.... One can’t help wishing she could have written this book as a memoir, because you end up really wanting to know what’s real and what isn’t...” —*Newsday*. Reading this has the compulsive fascination of joining a train wreck.

DuBrul, Jack. [The Lightning Stones Signed](#) (Doubleday \$28). A prologue set in 1937 in bestseller DuBrul’s fast-paced eighth Philip Mercer thriller offers a new explanation for the disappearance of aviatrix Amelia Earhart. John Charles reviews: Geologist Philip Mercer hopes to have the chance to connect with his old professor and mentor Abe Jacobs, who is leading a team of

scientists doing some climatology research at the Leister Deep Mine in Minnesota. Unfortunately, before Mercer can meet with Abe, a small group of masked men infiltrate the mine and execute Abe and his entire team. Mercer pursues the assassins, but they manage to elude him. Now Mercer must not only figure out what these men wanted, but also find a way to pay them back for murdering his friend. Last seen in *Havoc* (2006), Mercer returns for another rip-roaring adventure that takes readers around the globe from Afghanistan to the South Pacific as Mercer tries to connect the dots between Amelia Earhart's last flight and the megalomaniac CEO of a European corporation out to control the earth's climate. With its addictively readable mix of non-stop action, a Timex hero (he takes a licking and keeps on ticking), and just the right dash of intriguing historical details, *The Lightning Stones* has all the necessary ingredients for the perfect summertime thriller.

Ellroy, James. [Perfidia](#) (\$16.95). "It is welcome news that Ellroy's latest effort, *Perfidia*, returns home, sliding in as a prequel to the L.A. Quartet, set in the previous decade.... He is driven by a paradoxical obsession: to keep on digging up dark memories of the city, in the hope of rising above the psychic traumas of the past—not reborn, but newly wise." —*The Atlantic*. "*Perfidia* brings the two sides of his work together: the period crime-writing of LA Quartet, with its highlighting of police misdemeanors, and the wider politico-historical concerns of his subsequent Underworld USA trilogy." —*The Guardian*. Try Ellroy's nonfiction: [LAPD '53](#) (Abrams \$24.95).

Evans, Mary Anna. [Isolation Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 Signed Sept. 12). Archaeologist Faye Longchamp-Mantooth has dug herself a deep hole and she can't make her way out of it. As she struggles to recover from a shattering personal loss, she sees that everyone she loves is trying to reach out to her. If only she could reach back. Instead she's out digging holes all over her home, the Florida island of Joyeuse. Gradually we find out why, but it takes the murder of a close friend at the local marina, the first of crimes against women which rock Micco County, to propel both the action and Faye's journey back to life forward. *Isolation* is the perfect title for Evans' 9th mystery as it fits people and events in multiple ways. The past, the Civil War, propels the story, which we learn through documents. Maybe fifty years ago I read a bestseller turning on the same plot point. You can discover what it is by reading this latest excellent archaeological mystery by Evans. Also [Isolation](#) (\$15.95).

Flett-Giordano, Anne. [Marry, Kiss, Kill](#) (Prospect \$15). The first victim is blues busker Charley Beaufort. Late-30-something Santa Barbara police detective Nola MacIntire and her partner, Tony Angellotti, take the case, and Nola doesn't buy the theory that a junkie found with Charley's guitar is the killer. Next, a wealthy man seemingly commits suicide, but Nola thinks his unbelievably beautiful and vapid "Viagra wife" pulled the trigger. As more victims turn up, Nola and Tony find themselves smack in the middle of a conspiracy involving film festivals, ecoterrorism and a real estate scheme—but hopefully not the gorgeous Air Force Major Nola meets in the course of the investigation. With Nola's razor-sharp instincts and Tony's charm, the pair of sleuths might just manage to catch a killer, avert a major catastrophe and untangle their love lives before it's too late. Reviewer Marilyn Dahl adds, "It is absolutely hilarious, and worth re-reading if only

to memorize some of the witty lines spoken by Santa Barbara police detective Nola MacIntire. With her randy partner, Tony Angellotti, she's involved in eco-terrorism, real estate scheming, and murder. The rat-a-tat banter will delight you, as will Nola's takes on being a woman."

Æfforde, Jasper. [The Eyre Affair](#) (\$16). This is a stellar first novel from 2001. I came across this comment from a children's librarian about why she loves it so am publishing it to spur you to read it: "It's bookish sci-fi, fictional literary criticism. Oh, that doesn't sound interesting to anyone who wasn't an English major, does it? But it's full of action, adventure, intrigue, romance and conspiracies. Its heroine, Thursday Next, lives in a world where books are so important, Shakespeare gangs and Marlowe gangs fight on the street, and the next big exploitable industry is traveling into books. My favorite part is that from the first book in the series to the last, Thursday ages from her mid-30s to her 50s. It is rare to find an older sci-fi heroine who drives the action and saves the day, but Thursday does it all with humor, humanity and a really cool car." This young librarian hopes to grow up to be Thursday Next.

Freemantle, Brian. [The Cloud Collector](#) (St Martins \$26.99). A thriller from the frontlines of today's war on terror: the cryptic world of cyber warfare. When Western intelligence services recognize that a global jihadist attack has been initiated, the United States and the United Kingdom—its primary targets—lead a desperate counteroffensive. Sally Hanning, a brilliant British MI5 agent, is assigned to assist the CIA task force. She must help them hunt down the enemy mastermind along an intricately disguised online trail. To do so, she entails the services of Jack Irvine, a guilt-burdened NSA code-cracker, using enticements both personal and professional. Though they foil the terrorists' plans, the mastermind seems to elude the MI5 and the CIA every time....

Goolrick, Robert. [The Fall of Princes](#) (Algonquin \$25.95). Karen reviews: "When you strike a match, it burns brighter in the first nanosecond that it will ever burn again. 1980 was the year, and I was the match..." This is the story of the 1980s culture on Wall Street for young and daring players who possessed relentless ambition driven by high-octane adrenaline. The byproduct of the combination was obscene amounts of money that provided a lifestyle of high rise apartments, world-wide travel, unlimited sex with the partner(s) of choice and wardrobes worth more than many household budgets. As the economy faded, so did the investors, resulting in unemployment for the players. Some chose suicide, some housed themselves in a cardboard box. Others, like the narrator, decided to re-design their lives. Armed with the words of a streetwise friend who tells him "I love you", he ventured out. The narrator, after some effort in various jobs, finds his place as the manager of the fiction department in a bookstore describing his work as "...a job that requires both caution and bravado". Goolrick's writing is mesmerizing, even as it is sometimes exhausting, as the pace never stops. This book is informative, humorous and educational about a time of prosperity and decadence and the aftermath.

Griffin, WEB. [Deadly Assets](#) (Putnam \$27.95). "At the start of Griffin's gripping 12th Badge of Honor novel, the fourth to be co-authored with son Butterworth, Sgt. Matt Payne of the Philadelphia PD visits a North Philly diner, the workplace of Daquan Williams, a good kid who's on parole and trying to go straight. Payne

hopes Daquan might have information about a recent drive-by shooting, but their conversation is interrupted by the arrival of two armed teenagers, one of whom fires three shots before Payne stops him with a bullet to the chest. Meanwhile, as the end of the year approaches, a series of murders raises the annual death toll on Philadelphia streets to 362. The Rev. Josiah Cross, an ex-con who served time for assault and forgery, is leading protests over the killings in ‘Killadelphia’; Cross’s campaign includes a poster of Payne at a crime scene with the caption Public Enemy #1. Payne and his cohorts face long odds in a gritty police series that provides sociological comment but no easy answers.”—*PW*

Grisham, John. [Gray Mountain](#) (\$16). In 2008, Samantha Kofer was a third year associate at Scully & Pershing, New York City’s largest law firm. Two weeks after Lehman Brothers collapsed, she lost her job, her security, and her future. A week later she was working as an unpaid intern in a legal aid clinic deep in small town Appalachia. There, for the first time in her career, she was confronted with real clients with real problems. She also stumbled across secrets that should have remained buried deep in the mountains forever. This might start a series.

Heaberlin, Julia. [Black Eyed Susans](#) (Crown \$26). A serial killer thriller presents Tessa, sole survivor of this psycho’s attacks. She thought he’d been arrested and imprisoned nearly two decades ago thanks to her testimony. So who’s planted a bed of black-eyed Susans outside her bedroom window? Is this a message from the man in jail whose execution is approaching? Haunted by her fragmented memories, Tessa wonders if somehow she helped convict an innocent man. And what of the safety of her now teenage daughter? Part of the suspense lies in the slow path to a Texas execution and whether one can be derailed—or should be? Heaberlin clearly put a lot of research and craft into her complex plot. Fans of Mary Willis Walker will remember she wrote a gripping story about Texas and executions although the outcome was different.

Johnson, Adam. [Fortune Smiles](#) (Random \$27). Stories by the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for his acclaimed novel about North Korea, 2012 Modern Firsts Club Pick [The Orphan Master’s Son](#) (\$16).

Jurado, JG. [Point of Balance](#) (Atria \$24.99). If you want to take out someone almost completely inaccessible, how would you do it? One answer is to coerce a brilliant neurosurgeon scheduled to operate for a glioblastoma into making an impossible moral decision. How? By kidnapping the doctor’s daughter? Will he find his way out of this—or who will die? Interestingly the author of this very American drama is a Spanish journalist and bestseller living in Madrid.

Kahn, Michael. [Firm Ambitions](#) (\$14.95). Lawyer Kahn writes some of the best legal thrillers ever—and while they have courtroom drama they draw plots from criminal enterprises relating to business and ordinary life which gives them a satisfying human scale. After the death of her father, attorney Rachel Gold has returned to her hometown of St. Louis to spend more time with her mother. The savvy and beautiful Rachel, who made a name for herself in complex corporate litigation in Chicago, finds herself enmeshed in *Landau v. Landau*, a high-stakes divorce case far nastier than any of her former lawsuits. And, as she will soon find out, far deadlier. Rachel’s client is Eileen Landau, the best friend of her sister Ann. Eileen and Ann are just two of many wealthy,

bored housewives who get their kicks three days a week in an aerobics classes conducted by the handsome fitness guru, Andros, at an upscale gym. Eileen, however, gets some additional kicks once or twice a week with Andros at an upscale hotel. Shortly after his last tryst with Eileen, Andros is found dead. As Rachel probes and works her way through the list of angry wives seduced and scorned by Andros, she realizes that sex may not have been the motive behind his seductions. Indeed, Andros may have been doing the bidding of a puppet master far more dangerous....

Next, book four: [Due Diligence](#) (\$14.95). The phone call Rachel Gold received from a nervous CPA almost seemed routine. Rosenthal wanted to meet with her to discuss something confidential about a corporate merger. Hardly an unusual request of a lawyer. But Rosenthal never made it to the meeting—and when his corpse is discovered, it was clear he had died under circumstances too bizarre to believe. Having never even met the murdered CPA, Rachel is willing to let the police try to close the case. But that all changes with the next victim—someone so dear to Rachel that the hunt for the killer becomes her personal vendetta. What lethal facts did the slain accountant find buried in the books of Armstrong Bioproducts while doing the pre-merger due diligence? Was there any connection between that pharmaceutical company and the presidential campaign of Rachel’s political hero, Dr. Douglas Armstrong? Start with Rachel Gold #1, [Grave Designs](#), and #2, [Due Diligence](#) (\$14.95 each).

Keller, Julia. [Last Ragged Breath Signed](#) (St Martins \$27). You can’t do cheery when writing about dying towns in West Virginia’s mining country, but you can write compelling and clever. Keller is an ace at plots and at portraying the self-sufficient citizens of Acker’s Gap where Belfa Elkins has forsaken the urban ease of DC and the kind of law practice her classmates enjoy for that of prosecutor of Raythune County. It’s cost her her marriage, much of her only daughter Carla’s time, and now her longtime collaboration with Sheriff Nick Fogelson, who didn’t stand for reelection. With a wife disabled by mental illness, Nick has had enough. His replacement, former deputy Pam Harrison, summons Bell from a dinner date to a murder scene. The high-pressure salesman for Mountain Magic, a zillion-dollar high-end project, has been murdered. The chief suspect is Royce Dillard, a holdout against selling his property (and owner of 7 dogs). He’s arrested and facing trial. Bell could just accept the Dillard scenario, none other presents itself, but she keeps worrying at it and in time a real piece of West Virginia history enters the picture and directs her towards.... Keller sucks me in every time with her plots and portraits of this beautiful, beleaguered state.

Kubica, Mary. [Pretty Baby](#) (Mira \$24.95). I find I am distancing myself from stories of domestic suspense. So here’s a Starred Review for one by the author of bestseller *The Good Girl*: Heidi Wood’s husband, Chris, and 12-year-old daughter, Zoe, are used to her rants about recycling, poverty, and literacy, as well as her endless, depressing stories about the immigrants and refugees she meets through the Chicago nonprofit for which she works. But her family didn’t expect Heidi to invite homeless teen Willow Greer and her infant, Ruby, to live with them. Heidi, whose dreams of a large family ended when she had a hysterectomy to save her life, becomes obsessed with Willow and especially Ruby, even as her marriage frays and she ignores Zoe. Afraid that Willow could be violent, Chris tries to find out her background and whether Ruby is even her baby. A series of flashbacks shift among the points of

view of Heidi, Chris, and Willow as this heartbreaking tale about obsession, foster care, and the debilitating effects of unacknowledged grief builds to its conclusion.

Littlefield, Sophie. [The Guilty One](#) (Gallery \$16). Littlefield started out her published works path with a mystery series, unorthodox and fun, but her heart is into standalones. This one begins with a man standing on the Golden Gate poised to jump—but only if the woman at the other end of the phone tells him to. Wow, there's a wicked start! There a murder behind this, a Bay Area mom's life in wreckage, a guilt-wracked father... and much more. Here's an interesting fact I learned long ago from either Marcia Muller or Ridley Pearson: 99% or maybe 100% of the Golden Gate jumpers jump facing San Francisco, not the Pacific

Locke, Thomas. [Trial Run](#) (Revell \$14.99). I could put this first in the Fault Lines Series in Out of This World as speculative fiction with spy elements, medical elements, quantum computing.... But it's such a cool thriller I put it here. I don't pretend that I understood much of the science but I get the outlines and in fact you don't need to be fully clued in to grasp what's going on and why industry executives, government agents, two surprising projects testing the limits of consciousness and the line between life and death, intelligence gathering, remote-viewing technology, and algorithms that subvert encryption—plus one confused graduate student, no make that two, and an ambitious, angry lawyer—all fuse into a story that propels you forward as far as this chapter goes so you can await the next. It's really a rocket ride, mind-bending. I can't wait for Fault Lines #2.

Maron, Margaret. [Long Upon the Land Signed](#) (Grand Central \$28). The *PW* Starred Review: "Maron's 20th Deborah Knott mystery combines strong plotting, a superb cast of recurring characters, and a rare sense of place that transports readers to rural North Carolina. District court judge Deborah and the huge Knott clan headed by Deborah's father, reformed bootlegger Kezzie Knott, become involved in a murder investigation when Kezzie finds Vick Earp bludgeoned to death on the family farm. Vick and his Earp relatives have had an ongoing feud with the Knotts. When Deborah's lawman husband, Dwight Bryant, is appointed lead investigator, the victim's uncle, Joby Earp, is quick to stir up charges of favoritism. Providing counterpoint to the murder case is the backstory of Deborah's mother, Sue Stephenson, and Sue's relationship with the mysterious Capt. Walter Raynesford McIntyre, of the U.S. Army Air Corps, whom she meets in 1943 at a USO club. It all adds up to another sparkling chapter of the Knott family saga."

Reissued: [Bloody Kin](#) (\$11.95). When Jake Honeycutt is killed in a hunting accident, his pregnant wife, Kate, decides to return to the North Carolina farm where Jake grew up to have his baby. A successful fabric designer, she leaves behind the fast-paced life of Manhattan and a comfortable apartment on the Upper West Side for the idyllic world of cotton and tobacco fields, of piney woods and quiet starlit nights. But Kate's arrival at the farm is far from peaceful: on her first day, she stumbles across the body of one of Jake's Vietnam war buddies and discovers that her husband's hunting accident was no accident. Considered a prequel to her Judge Deborah Knott series, it introduces many of the "Colleton County" characters that readers came to know and love in the later books. Readers familiar with the series will be amused to meet Sheriff's Deputy Dwight Bryant before his life became irrevocably entangled with the judge's.

McMahon, Jennifer. [The Night Sister](#) (Knopf \$25.95). Hitchcock, Alfred that is, is on McMahon's mind in this novel of suspense referencing Psycho. Back in the 1950s the Tower Motel and its namesake tower were the main attraction, if not only, of tiny London, Vermont. Now it's a wreck, alive only in the memories of Amy, Piper, and Piper's sister, Margot. They played there as girls until one day their fames uncovered a dark and sinister something in Amy's family's past. And it ruined their friendship. As adults Piper and Margot have moved on. Then Piper gets a call from Margo who's been studying local history: Amy and her family are dead, all supposedly by Amy's hand. Before she died, Amy scrawled a message to the sisters, one they now must translate. It read, "29 rooms."

Moore, Christopher. [Secondhand Souls Signed](#) (Harper \$26.99). Something really strange is happening in the City by the Bay. People are dying, but their souls are not being collected. Someone—or something—is stealing them and no one knows where they are going, or why, but it has something to do with that big orange bridge. Death Merchant Charlie Asher is just as flummoxed as everyone else. He's trapped in the body of a fourteen-inch-tall "meat" waiting for his Buddhist nun girlfriend, Audrey, to find him a suitable new body to play host. To get to the bottom of this abomination, a motley crew of heroes will band together: the seven-foot-tall death merchant Minty Fresh; retired policeman turned bookseller Alphonse Rivera; the Emperor of San Francisco and his dogs, Bummer and Lazarus; and Lily, the former Goth girl....

Morgan, Ann. [The World Between Two Covers](#) (Liveright \$24.95). British blogger and journalist Morgan spends many chapters on the beguiling joys of reading, reading across boundaries, and how to structure a year-long program of reading one book from every country (currently) in the world. What's the first Qatari novel to be translated into English? Questions like that. She also dwells on the community of readers around the globe who suggested or even furnished books. 291 pages may be more than you want to absorb on all that, but at the end she provides the bibliography which is fascinating both in its list of countries and in the work she chose (from those available to her in English) from each. This could be a project for you, or a browse. Enjoy.

Moriarty, Liane. [Big Little Lies](#) (\$16). Madeline is a force to be reckoned with. She's funny, biting, and passionate; she remembers everything and forgives no one. Celeste is the kind of beautiful woman who makes the world stop and stare but she is paying a price for the illusion of perfection. New to town, single mom Jane is so young that another mother mistakes her for a nanny. She comes with a mysterious past and a sadness beyond her years. So, a murder... A tragic accident... Or just parents behaving badly? What's indisputable is that someone is dead.

Penny, Louise. [The Nature of the Beast Signed](#) (St Martins \$29). The 11th Armand Gamache finds the retired policeman and his wife Reine-Marie retired and loving it in Quebec's charming village of Three Pines. But the terrible murder of a child and echoes, and a relic, of war propel Gamache into action. The fact that he is only consulting with, not leading, his former team is additionally unsettling, leading to the question of what might his future be? He has years ahead of him... The mystery at the novel's heart is both wonderful (and terrifying), the more so for being rooted in something real. And what most sticks with me is, referenc-

ing a Dr. Seuss moment, this line: “on the lam from green eggs and ham.” See *Where in the World* (this is, after all, Canada) for more.

Raimondo, Lynne. [Dante’s Dilemma](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). Excellent psychiatrist Mark Angelotti is a cranky guy—and who can blame him? A rare genetic disorder, Leber’s Hereditary Optic Neuropathy, is robbing him of sight. He’s adjusted as best he can although a blizzard winter in Chicago is testing. Worse, his department head is retiring and Mark’s archenemy Jonathan Frain is replacing him. Raised by a tyrannical father from birth, Mark wears emotional armor that makes him good at his profession and poor at relationships. But he’s learned he has a young son and that matters. When he’s asked to evaluate the estranged wife of a murdered University of Chicago professor, a woman who confessed to the murder but now mounts a battered woman’s defense, and testify for the prosecution, Mark finds some uncomfortable parallels in his own life, plus a tip connects the case to another murder and Mark begins to wonder if Rachel may not be guilty. If not, why did she confess? 3rd in series.

Stradal, J Ryan. [Kitchens of the Great Midwest Signed](#) (Viking \$27.95). “The protagonist of only one chapter, Eva dances in and out of the narrative like a will-o’-the-wisp seen mainly through the eyes of others, and the latter half finds her appearing only at critical moments. Stradal has more of the Midwest to showcase than Eva alone can provide. Only Pat, devout Lutheran widow, can serve as entry ticket to the high-stakes drama of the county fair bakeoff. Eva may buy locally sourced venison, but first Jordy, an alcoholic forced to watch his terminally ill mother slip away, takes us deer hunting on an opening weekend filled with unexpected pathos. Finally, the perspective of a near stranger from Eva’s past provides our gateway to the extravagance of her crowning achievement, a series of famously over-the-top pop-up dinner parties with \$5,000-a-plate price tags and innovative locations like an anchored boat on the edge of a waterfall. Complete with recipes for wild rice casserole and peanut butter bars, Stradal cooks up a boisterous yet authentic story of America’s Heartland.”—Jaclyn Fulwood on our **August Modern Firsts Club Pick**.

Schweitzer, Mark. [The Maestro Wore Mohair Signed](#) (St James Press \$13.95). Why do people keep dying in the mountain town of St. Germaine? It’s hard to say, but as the police chief of the “Murder Capital of Western North Carolina,” Hayden Konig has his work cut out for him. As a detective, Hayden is famous for solving crimes. As the organist at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, he’s renowned for his musical skills. As a crime novelist, he has no peer—no peer, and no discernible talent. Still, he is not deterred. With Raymond Chandler’s old 1939 Underwood typewriter for inspiration, he continues to inflict his efforts upon whoever will read them. Autumn is drawing nigh, and when a skeleton turns up in the woods, it’s all anyone is talking about. That is, until the Maestro and her minions come to town. Now there’s another dead body, a thirty-year-old murder mystery, and all the usual suspects. Can Hayden, Nancy, and Dave figure it all out before another victim is found? Is there any doubt? [Click here](#) to order Schweitzer’s earlier, amusing Liturgical Mysteries.

Scottoline, Lisa/Francesca Serritella. [Does This Beach Make Me Look Fat?](#) (St Martins \$21.99). Here’s a little summer pleasure with dozens and dozens of super-short essays by a mom-daughter

duo. They write about everything from comfy chairs at movie theaters, to cats doing their business in all the wrong places, to why Beyoncé is the spiritual leader of our times. In short, like the best humor memoirists, they take the little details and annoyances of everyday life and make them flat-out funny. Example, from Lisa: Lisa: “You can even buy a Fitbit scale, which will connect to your Fitbit bracelet and a fitness app on your phone, so that all the inanimate objects in your life can talk about how fat you are behind your back.”

Simmons, Dan. [Hard As Nails](#) (\$16). A reissue of the 3rd Joe Kurtz novels by Simmons, his purest crime fiction. Kurtz was a PI and is now a paroled felon after some years in Attica, and back on the streets of Buffalo, NY. He does pick up some PI work.... #1 [Hardcase](#); #2 [Hard Freeze](#) (\$16 each). Just the ticket for an August reread project.

Stroby, Wallace. [The Devil’s Share Signed](#) (St Martins \$28). Patrick makes the **August Hardboiled Crime Club Pick**: “Professional thief Crissa Stone has been forging her own freelance criminal career ever since her mentor and lover Wayne Boudreaux was sentenced to a lengthy prison sentence. This 4th time out, Crissa takes the tricky job of helping an eccentric millionaire heist a shipment of illegally-obtained religious artifacts as they are en-route to be repatriated to the Middle East. Stone meticulously plans the snatch down to the last detail but things go horribly wrong and she is sent on the run from a gang of ex-military mercenaries. One of the finest writers in the genre today, Stroby keeps upping his game with each new book.”

Tosches, Nick. [Under Tiberius](#) (LittleBrown \$26). I should perhaps put this in History since nearly all of the narrative unrolls during the reign of Emperor Tiberius, stepson to Caesar Augustus, a man who gradually grew more depraved and mad and finally went into exile on Capri. The premise is that in 2000 Tosches found himself in the Vatican researching a novel. With access to the Archivio Segreto, he and the librarian assigned to him make an astounding discovery: an ancient manuscript, tattered and filmed with dust, written in Latin. A memoir written by a grandfather to a grandson, it recounts the old man’s early career as a speechwriter, so to speak, for Tiberius, his dismissal and exile of Judea, and a project he conceives, a scam, when he meets a filthy, impoverished specimen of wandering rabbi who calls himself... yes, you guessed it... and sets to work writing a series of stories and aphorisms for the 30-something man. The librarian translates their find for Tosches and the two hastily replace it in the archives, back into oblivion. But then Tosches presents the translation and really, it’s astonishing. Warning: some readers may be offended at *Under Tiberius*, for so the Roman titles his manuscript, which Tosches “borrows” for his.

Waldman, Ayelet. [And Murder Makes Three](#) (Berkley \$17). Before she began to write edgy fiction, Waldman, wife of Michael Chabon, wrote *The Mommy Track Mysteries*. Here are the first three gathered into a single volume. *Nursery Crimes*. Bored with playdates and trips to the park, Juliet Applebaum, a public defender turned stay-at-home mom, gets off the mommy track to hunt down the murderer of a preschool principal. *The Big Nap*. When her infant son’s babysitter disappears, an exhausted Juliet and her over-tired kids travel to Brooklyn to find answers, justice, and maybe the chance to get a nice, long nap. *A Playdate with Death*. Juliet is happy to be getting some kid-free time at the

gym—until her peppy personal trainer dies under mysterious circumstances. Always up for a reason to get out of the house, Juliet jumps at the chance to investigate.

Wilson, Daniel, ed. [Press Start to Play](#) (Mulholland \$15.95). 26 stories (most of which are original to this volume) exploring what video gaming does for and to its participants. With a foreword from Ernest Cline, bestselling author of *Ready Player One*, here are provocative and discussion-worthy works from Daniel H. Wilson, Charles Yu, Hiroshi Sakurazaka, S.R. Mastrantone, Charlie Jane Anders, Holly Black, Seanan McGuire, Django Wexler, Nicole Feldringer, Chris Avellone, David Barr Kirtley, T.C. Boyle, Marc Laidlaw, Robin Wasserman, Micky Neilson, Cory Doctorow, Jessica Barber, Chris Kluwe, Marguerite K. Bennett, Rhianna Pratchett, Austin Grossman, Yoon Ha Lee, Ken Liu, Catherynne M. Valente, Andy Weir, and Hugh Howey.

FOR YOUNGER READERS

Jaimet, Kate. [Endangered](#) (Poisoned Pencil \$10.95). She's the kind of girl who talks tough, bleeds ink, and can handle the discovery of a dead body with *sang froid*—even if she is only seventeen. But Hayley Makk is pulled off her first big scoop (which involves an isolated shack splattered in human blood) by her dad, who sends her on a research trip with her former biology teacher, Ms. Cameron, to locate and study a rare sea turtle and earn the final credit for her high school diploma. Hayley reluctantly embarks on the science assignment, accompanied by clueless fellow-student, Ernest. They spot the turtle, but can't tag the elusive creature. The voyage takes a sinister twist when a fishing boat appears, apparently intent on capturing the turtle at any cost. When shots are fired, Ms. Cameron halts the expedition and returns to Halifax. Back on the story of the blood-streaked shack, Hayley learns from 19-year-old RCMP Constable Alex Turpin that the cops believe a local teen was murdered there. Soon Hayley uncovers a connection between the murder and the rare sea turtle....

Llewellyn, Tom. [The Shadow of Seth](#) (Poisoned Pencil \$10.95). What L.A. was to Chandler, Tacoma—a working-class port city now undergoing urban renewal—is to author Tom Llewellyn. Sixteen-year-old Seth Anomundy has grown up in Tacoma's tough neighborhoods, where he's perfectly at home in Choo-Choo's boxing gym and Miss Irene's soul food palace, the Shotgun Shack. With his mom working nights as a cleaner, Seth goes to high school, gets decent grades, and makes money where he can: filling in as cook at the Shotgun Shack, working as a sparring partner, and running errands for Nadel, the clock repairman. Life is hand-to-mouth, but okay—until he gets the news that his mother has been killed. The police don't care about the death of just another drug addict, so a bewildered Seth takes it upon himself to find the killer. On a clock delivery run, he meets a beautiful rich girl named Azura Lear, who encourages Seth and tries to help track down the killer. But instead of finding answers, Seth finds only trouble... First in a Seth Anomundy series.

Wilkinson, Kerry. [Renegade](#) (St Martins \$18.99). “A political adventure starring a teen with a dating conundrum. Wilkinson keeps the mood tuned to a fever pitch with bouts of hand-to-hand combat, disguises, ruses, secret codes, and cliff-hangers. He also excels at world-building: the dissonance between the hard-scrabble, medieval lifestyle of most people and the capital city's extravagant modernity is especially striking.” —*School Library Journal* on Silver Black Thorn #2.

AUGUST MASS MARKET PAPERBACK PICKS

Bowen, Rhys. [Queen of Hearts](#) (\$7.99) Royal Spyness #8. Lady Georgiana “Georgie” Rannoch finds herself once again playing the part of amateur detective when a Hollywood movie producer, who promised Georgie's mother a part in his new picture, winds up dead. Here is what *LJ* had to say “Georgie's effervescent sprit and Bowen's prose are light as air, adding pizzazz to an already amusing and intriguing 1930s-era mystery.” Bowen will be visiting later this month to sign her latest Georgiana mystery, *Malice at the Palace*.

Bridge, Kathleen. [Better Homes and Corpses](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Hamptons Home and Gardens #1. While visiting the swanky East Hamptons home of her old college roommate Jillian Spenser, Meg Barrett finds herself entangled in a murder investigation when Jillian's mother is found dead. Need a vacation from the hot, dry summer in Arizona? Try visiting the breezy Hamptons in this fun debut cozy.

Cochran, Peg. [Berried Secrets](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Cranberry Cove #1. The first thing Monica Albertson has to do when she comes back to Cranberry Cove to help her brother Jeff run the family's berry farm, is figure out who dumped the body of the town's mayor (and Jeff's former business partner) in one of their bogs. This terrific debut has plenty of fascinating facts about the cranberry business (as well as some tasty recipes) as well as cultural tidbits about the Dutch, who settled on the shores of Lake Michigan. Throw in an engaging cast of characters and a charming small town setting and you have the perfect new series for anyone who enjoys Katherine Hall Page's or Sheila Connolly's books.

Fairstein, Linda. [Terminal City](#) (\$9.99). Alexandra Cooper #16. Assistant District Attorney Alexandra “Coop” Cooper teams up with Special Victim Unit detectives Mike Chapman and Mercer Wallace to find the killer, who has been leaving bodies all of which have strange markings on them in the area around Grand Central Terminal. *LJ* sums up the appeal of this series by saying “Need a good thriller that describes the intricate details and history of one of New York City's better known landmarks? Then Fairstein's 16th adventure with ADA Alexandra Cooper is just the ticket.”

Gerber, Daryl W. [Fudging the Books](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Cookbook Nook #4. Between Pirate Week in Crystal Cove and the local Chocolate Cookbook Club's meeting at her bookstore, Cookbook Nook owner Jenna Hart has her hands full, but then the body of a book editor turns up and Jenna must find time to track down a sticky-fingered killer. Agatha award-winner Gerber also writes the Cheese Shop mysteries under the pseudonym Avery Ames.

Kellerman, Jonathan/Jesse. [The Golem of Hollywood](#) (\$9.99). Sent to investigate a murder in the Hollywood hills, Det. Jacob Lev finds only a neatly severed head and the Hebrew word for justice scorched into the kitchen counter.

Martin, Nancy. [A Little Night Murder](#) (NAL \$7.99). Blackbird Sisters #10. A very pregnant Nora Blackbird juggles her sisters' assorted domestic problems while at the same time trying to find out who wanted to kill the daughter of a legendary composer. Martin has a very sharp sense of wit, which she often uses to skewer the more pretentious members of Philadelphia's high society. *PW* found the latest Blackbird sister's mystery to be quite “diverting.”

Mason, Jamie. [Three Graves Full](#) (\$9.99). Pushed into committing a murder that he covers up by burying the body in his backyard, mild-mannered Jason Getty finds his life completely unraveling when a landscaper discovers two other graves on his property. Mason's debut was both a *Booklist* and *LJ* Best Crime novel of the Year when it debuted in hardcover in 2013. *PW* had this to say: "Mason strides confidently into Coen brothers territory with her highly entertaining, solidly plotted debut about loneliness and the need for companionship."

Moss, Todd. [The Golden Hour](#) (\$9.99) Stymied by infighting and turf battles after being appointed director of the new State Department Crisis Reaction unit, Judd Ryker attempts to prove himself during a coup in Mali that becomes a violent maelstrom of dominating personalities and shifting loyalties. Moss's hardcover debut wowed readers and critics including *PW*, whose review included these words "an intriguing cast of morally dubious characters, an intricately constructed plot, and a tantalizing cliffhanger make this thriller a page-turner of the highest order."

White, Randy Wayne. [Haunted](#) (\$9.99) Hannah Smith #3. Hired by a wealthy Palm Beach widow to prove that a historic, reputedly haunted house is too valuable to be razed for a condominium complex, Hannah Smith hopes the case will reveal interesting facts about her Civil War ancestors—but it soon leads to her being targeted by an obsessed killer. John D. MacDonald fans might enjoy the book's sultry Southern setting and White's distaff version of Travis McGee.

NEW IN MASS MARKET PAPERBACK

Abbott, Allyson. [In the Drink](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Mack's Bar #3 Milwaukee bar owner Mackenzie "Mack" Dalton has a reputation for using her "special" gifts to solve crimes, which is exactly why the bar's newest customer Tiny wants Mack to look into his sister's murder

Adams, Ellery. [Murder in the Paperback Parlor](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Book Retreat #2

With the number of enemies author Rosamund York collected, it isn't surprising that she would wind up murdered. Now Jane Steward, owner of the Book Retreat resort, must call upon the help of her fellow book club members to find the killer before someone else gets a very unhappy ending.

Cabot, Sam. [Skin of the Wolf](#) (\$9.99)

In this follow up to *Blood of the Lamb* (2013), art historian Livia Pietro, scholar Spencer George, and Father Thomas Kelly must once again join forces when a vicious murder at Sotheby's initiates a series of strange events surrounding an Iroquois ritual mask and a secret that could unleash chaos on the world. Cabot is the pseudonym for Carlos Dews and S.J. Rozan

Connolly, John. [Wolf in Winter](#) (\$7.99) Charlie Parker #12 Private investigator Charlie Parker is certain something strange is going on in the small town of Prosper, ME when a homeless man who was searching there for his missing daughter commits suicide.

Deaver, Jeffery. [Coffin Dancer](#) (\$9.99) Lincoln Rhyme #2 NYPD Detective Lincoln Rhyme and his protégé Detective Amelia Sachs are on the trail of a brilliant assassin, but because he keeps successfully changing his appearance, the only clue they currently have is that he has an eerie tattoo on his arm of the Grim Reaper waltzing in front a casket.

Delaney, Luke. [The Toy Taker](#) (\$7.99)

A clever killer begins toying with D.I. Sean Corrigan by making children in London disappear without a trace.

Fluke, Joanne. [Final Appeal](#) (Kensington \$7.99)

Ten years after he was found guilty of murdering his wife, Michael Hart escapes from the state mental hospital for the criminally insane determined to prove he is innocent.

Genova, Rosie. [A Dish Best Served Cold](#) (NAL \$7.99) Italian Kitchen #3

Mystery writer Victoria "Vic" Rienzi and her family are cooking up dishes like crazy for the family restaurant's 70th anniversary party when old family friend Pete Petrocelli stops by to tell Vic he may know something that would make a great story. At first Vic thinks Pete is just shooting the breeze until he dies in an "accident" later that same night.

Griffin, WEB. [Top Secret](#) (\$9.99) Clandestine Operations #1 "Squeaky clean" Second Lieutenant James D. Cronley Jr. is recruited by a new government organization that will eventually become the CIA and given seven days to extract a vital piece of information from a Soviet agent.

Grisham, John. [Gray Mountain](#) (\$9.99)

After she loses her job on Wall Street, third year law associate Samantha Kofler ends up working as an unpaid legal intern in a clinic in Appalachia, where she stumbles across a dangerous secret tied into the coal mining industry.

Hooper, Kay. [Haunted](#) (Berkley \$9.99) Bishop Special Crimes Unit #15

Medium Hollis Templeton and telepath Reese DeMarco investigate the murders of several young females hiking the trails of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Georgia.

Howell, Dorothy. [Beach Bags and Burglaries](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Hayley Randolph #7

Part-time sleuth and full-time fashionista Haley Randolph's all paid vacation to exclusive Rowan Island is interrupted when one of the resort's maids is found murdered.

Jackson, Lisa. [Never Die Alone](#) (Kensington \$9.99)

A detective, a reporter, and a woman determined to prove her cousin is innocent of the crimes find themselves entangled in the search for a serial killer who kidnaps and ritualistically murders twins right before their 21st birthday.

Kennedy, Mary. [Dream a Little Scream](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Dream Club #2

The book tour for celebrity chef Sonia Scott turns into a nightmare for Taylor Blake when Sonia is murdered. Now Taylor and the other members of Savannah's Dream Club must put their heads together to find the real killer.

Logan, Kylie. [Revenge of the Chili Queens](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Chili Cook-Off #3

As part of the Chili Showdown, Maxie Pierce and her half-sister Sylvia dress up as the historic "Chili Queens," but when a troubadour at the event is killed, Maxie and Sylvia have to switch costumes for that of amateur sleuths in order to clear their friend of a murder charge.

Lucas, Mason. [Error in Diagnosis](#) (Berkley \$9.99)

Neurologist Jack Wyatt has never seen anything like the epidemic sweeping across the country. The only common element is that all of the victims are pregnant.

Ludlum, Robert. [Gemini Contenders](#) (\$9.99)

Andrew and Adrian Fontine, antagonistic twin sons of Vittorio Fontine-Cristi, search separately for the small Greek monastery vault and its priceless ancient documents, hidden high in the Italian Alps.

Lutz, John. [Slaughter](#) (Kensington \$9.99) Frank Quinn #10
Detective Frank Quinn must try and put the bloody pieces of a puzzle together fast when a serial killer begins leaving a trail of explosions, train derailments, and other mechanical mayhem around New York City. Lutz is a multiple Edgar and Shamus award winner.

Marks, Mary. [Gone But Knot Forgotten](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Quilting #3

In order to hem in a clever killer, Martha Rose needs the help of her fellow quilters to piece together the truth about an old friend's death.

Martin, Carol A. [Loom and Doom](#) (NAL \$7.99) Weaving #4
Weaving studio owner Delia Wright once again finds herself tangled up in murder when the town's building inspector is found dead in his office.

McHugh, Mary. [Cancans, Croissants, and Caskets](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Happy Hoofers #3

The Happy Hoofers are having the time of their lives in Paris on a cruise on the Seine until an important patron winds up dead on the top deck.

O'Brien, Kevin. [No One Needs to Know](#) (Kensington \$9.99)
When a movie company begins shooting a film about the murders of a Seattle family in 1970 in the mansion where they were killed, it stirs up old memories as well as a killer, who might not be finished with his work.

Robb, J D. [Obsession in Death](#) (\$7.99) Eve Dallas #40
NYPSP lieutenant Eve Dallas, Eve must contend with an admirer who proves his or her devotion by killing repeatedly. Whatever happened to flowers and a nice note?

Rowland, M L. [Murder on the Horizon](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Search and Rescue #3

Gracie Kinkaid and her Search and Rescue teammates discover a trash bag containing human body parts while searching the highway in the blistering hot Mojave Desert.

Shelton, Paige. [If Onions Could Spring Leeks](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Country Cooking School #5

Country cooks and amateur sleuths Bett Winston and her grandmother must investigate a double mystery if they want the tourists to keep coming to Broken Rope.

Smith, Karen Rose. [Drape Expectations](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Home Staging #4

After her demanding new Southern belle client is found strangled by the tieback to her tacky velvet drapes, home stager (yes, people really do this for a living) Caprice De Luca wonders if she might be next on the killer's list.

Smith, Wilbur. [Desert God](#) (\$9.99)

Talia – a slave turned close advisor to Pharaoh Tamose – tries to find a way to break up the alliance between Egypt's enemies: the Minoans and the Hyksosans. This is a reissue of the first in a terrific series for fans of Elizabeth Peters. Barbara highly recommends.

Sweeney, Leann. [The Cat, The Sneak and The Secret](#), (NAL \$7.99) Cats in Trouble #7

When a new feline member of the family brings back an antique locket, Finn enlists Tom's and Jillian's sleuthing skills, but their search for answers is sidetracked when a body is found.

Vallere, Diane. [Crushed Velvet](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Material Witness #2

Polyester Monroe is on pins and needles as she prepares for the opening of her fabric shop, but when her friend Genevieve is accused of murdering her husband, Poly must put everything on hold in order to clear her friend of a murder charge.

Wait, Lea. [Threads of Evidence](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Mainly Needlepoint #2

While appraising an estate's sizeable collection of needlepoint furniture, Angie Curtis discovers exactly what happened to the home's original occupant, who died under mysterious circumstances.

HISTORY/MYSTGERY

Alexandra, Belinda. [The Golden Earrings](#) (Gallery \$16). I chose this for our **August History Paperback Pick** for the story of loyalties, loves, and great betrayals. And because it illuminates not only the Spanish Civil War in ways new to me, but follows the lives of some Spanish—make that Catalanian—refugees who fled Barcelona to Paris and made lives there. It's also about ballet and specifically the Paris Opera Ballet, plus flamenco. There are three main characters, the 1975 one Paloma; Mamie, her grandmother (plus Paloma's dead mother, a great dancer); and a woman known as *La Rusa* who rose from early 20th Century poverty to become one of the great flamenco artists of her era—before she committed suicide. It is *La Rusa*, a ghost, who proves the time jumps in this long and lush novel. Alexandra's depiction of *La Rusa's* early life in a Barcelona slum is the equal of Dickens.

Freeman, Kimberley. [Evergreen Falls](#) (Touchstone \$16). While waiting for a new Kate Morton novel, try Freeman, author of *Wildflower Hill* and *Ember Island*. She's into old secrets, old buildings, flummoxed romances, suspense, all that wonderful stuff. Here it's 1926 and Violet Armstrong is waitressing at the grand Evergreen Spa Hotel where Australia's glitterati are wintering. A wealthy brother and sister have checked in for an extended stay and the brother, Sam, and Violet experience an attraction that is... inappropriate. When a sudden snowstorm moves in, trapping everyone at the Evergreen, a tragedy ensues. 88 years later, Lauren Beck takes a job in a café in the Blue Mountains where the first stage of returning the Evergreen to grandeur is underway. Lauren discovers a series of passionate love letters alluding to a whirlwind affair hidden away, and a tragic secret. Might it affect her own family? Freeman says this novel was inspired by elements of her grandmother's life....

Freydond, Shelly. [A Gilded Grave](#) (Berkley \$16). 1895. During her first Newport, RI, season, Deanna Randolph attends a ball given in honor of Lord David Manchester, a Barbadian sugar magnate, and his sister, Madeline. The Manchesters are an immediate success—along with their exotic manservant and his fortune-telling talents. But on the nearby cliffs, a young maid lies dead—and suspicion falls on Joseph Ballard, a member of one of the town's most prestigious families. Joe humiliated Deanna when he rebuffed an engagement to her, but while he may be a

cad, she knows he isn't a killer. They reluctantly ally to navigate a world of parties, tennis matches, and séances to find the real murderer....

✚Gregory, Philippa. [The Taming of the Queen](#) (Touchstone \$27.99). Henry VIII is my least favorite English monarch—George IV also fell from golden youth to repulsive, selfish glutton. A faithless friend and lover, at least George didn't kill people—his damage was mostly limited to the exchequer. Gregory writes a memorable portrait of the dilemma faced by the twice-widowed Kateryn Parr when Henry VIII proposed marriage shortly after executing his 5th wife. Kateryn could not refuse him, neither could she imagine being wed to a man too morbidly obese to get into bed unassisted (you really almost close your eyes during the “sex” scenes). Kateryn was in love with dashing Thomas Seymour, but heigh ho, wed to Henry she must be. And, while never safe from so capricious a monarch, she made the best of it, uniting his family, creating a study circle at court, maintaining her role as a leader of religious reforms (she became the first woman to publish work in English). She survives charges of heresy. She makes sure she doesn't get pregnant. And she survives... only, I'm sad to say, to wed Seymour and die in childbed. How ironic. Gregory writes this one R-rated, and it's ribald and riveting.

✚Gregory, Susann. [Death of a Scholar](#) (\$12.95). The 20th Chronicle of Cambridge scholar and physician Matthew Bartholomew finds him back at the university in the summer of 1358. And distracted by burglaries from supporting his sister Edith who husband, in the cloth trade, has suddenly died, leaving a wayward son too. As well as the theft of irreplaceable items from Michaelhouse, which threatens its very survival, a new foundation, Winwick Hall, is causing consternation amongst Matthew's colleagues. The founder is an impatient man determined that his name will grace the University's most prestigious college. He has used his wealth to rush the construction of the hall, and his appointed Fellows have infiltrated the charitable Guild founded by Stanmore, in order to gain the support of Cambridge's most influential citizens on Winwick's behalf. A perfect storm between the older establishments and the brash newcomers is brewing when the murder of a leading member of the Guild is soon followed by the death of one of Winwick's senior Fellows. There's a lot going on....

Hales, Dianne. [Mona Lisa, A Life Discovered](#) (\$16). Mona Lisa Gherardini del Giocondo was the wife of a prosperous Florentine merchant, Francesco del Giocondo, who either commissioned the painting from Leonardo da Vinci or was approached by the artist to create the iconic painting that now hangs in the Louvre. So, who was she? “This is cultural history that reads like a detective novel as Dianne Hales tracks down the real woman behind one of the world's most famous and enigmatic faces. Expertly sleuthing her way through the treasure troves of archives and palazzos, she offers her own fascinating portrait not just of Lisa Gherardini but also of the vibrant Renaissance world that nurtured both Lisa and Leonardo's painting.”—Ross King.

Hart, Elsa. [Jade Dragon Mountain Signed](#) (St Martins \$25.99). A debut set in 18th Century Yunnan province, China, with an exiled imperial librarian as sleuth. **A First Mystery Club Pick.** See First Novels.

Loan-Wilsey, Anna. [A Deceptive Homecoming](#) (Kensington \$15). “Poignant backstory, historical color, and expert pacing distinguish this mystery, the fourth featuring secretary Hattie Davish and the best yet in Loan-Wilsey's 19th-century cozy series.”—*PW*. Hattie receives an anonymous letter containing a newspaper obituary for Frank Hayward, father of a girlhood chum and bookkeeper at Hattie's alma mater, Mrs. Chaplin's School for Women. Driven home to St. Joseph, Mo., for the first time since her father's tragic death, she finds Mrs. Chaplin's plagued by disturbing incidents, including financial irregularities implicating Frank. Worse, lack of a characteristic scar suggests that the accident-disfigured body at the funeral isn't his. Her investigation of Frank's whereabouts, the corpse's identity, and the school's troubles winds through a local insane asylum, the site of Jesse James's death, and her own unresolved past. [Click here](#) for the first three.

✚Lovegrove, James. [Sherlock Holmes: The Thinking Machine](#) (Titan \$14.95). It is 1895, and Sherlock Holmes is settling back into life as a consulting detective at 221B Baker Street, when he and Watson learn of strange goings-on amidst the dreaming spires of Oxford. A Professor Quantock has built a wondrous computational device, which he claims is capable of analytical thought to rival the cleverest men alive. Naturally Sherlock Holmes cannot ignore this challenge. He and Watson travel to Oxford, where a battle of wits ensues between the great detective and his mechanical counterpart as they compete to see which of them can be first to solve a series of crimes, from a bloody murder to a missing athlete. But as man and machine vie for supremacy, it becomes clear that the Thinking Engine has its own agenda.... Start with [SH: The Stuff of Nightmares](#) (\$14.95).

✚McGee, James. [The Blooding](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). We've carried McGee's work in UK editions: supply has always been erratic. Here's a Starred Review of the new US edition: “Matthew Hawkwood's heartbreaking past meets his hair-raising present in McGee's splendid fifth Regency thriller. In 1812, chance takes Hawkwood, a former Bow Street Runner, to northeastern America, a dangerous place for a British operative given the fledgling nation's war with England. After he frees his friend, fellow British agent Major Douglas Lawrence, from a military prison near Albany, the pair seek Canada's safety. They narrowly escape encounters with American soldiers, Oneida warriors, and other perils only to discover evidence of an American plan to invade Canada. Its success would mean disaster for the Crown, so Hawkwood and Lawrence must warn British authorities in time. Alternating segments depict Hawkwood's traumatic childhood in New York's Mohawk Valley, where the 12-year-old formed a transformative bond with the Mohawk chief Tewanias. Balancing moments of poignancy with swashbuckling action, historical interest, powerful suspense, and wry wit, McGee delivers all the delights of a classic adventure story.”

Morrow, Jill. [Newport](#) (Harper \$14.99). Spring 1921. The Great War is over, Prohibition is in full swing, the Depression still years away, and Newport, Rhode Island's glittering “summer cottages” are inhabited by the gloriously rich families who built them. Attorney Adrian De la Noye is no stranger to Newport, having sheltered there during his misspent youth. Though he'd prefer to forget the place, he returns to revise the will of a well-heeled cli-

ent. Bennett Chapman's offspring have the usual concerns about their father's much-younger fiancée. But when they learn of the old widower's firm belief that his first late wife, who "communicates" via séance, has chosen the beautiful Catherine Walsh for him, they're shocked. And for Adrian, encountering Catherine in the last place he saw her decades ago proves to be a far greater surprise. Still, De la Noye is here to handle a will, and he fully intends to do so—just as soon as he unearths every last secret, otherworldly or not, about the Chapmans, Catherine Walsh...and his own very fraught history. A skillful alchemy of social satire, dark humor, and finely drawn characters, Newport vividly brings to life the glitzy era of the 1920s.

☞Peacock, Caro. [Friends in High Places](#) (Severn \$28.95). September, 1840. Novelist and patron of the arts Lady Blessington has hired Liberty Lane to escort a French gentleman to The Hague. For he has in his possession important papers that will assist in the forthcoming trial of Prince Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, the late emperor's nephew who has failed in an attempt to seize power in France. Plans for the undercover expedition are disrupted however when a body is found hanging in the attic at Gore House, Lady Blessington's Kensington mansion. Uncovering evidence that the murder was meticulously prepared for and planned well in advance, Liberty determines to track down the killer. But she is about to find herself plunged into a highly dangerous game involving blackmail, treachery, espionage—and murder. Ordered Upon Request.

Rowland, Laura. [The Iris Fan](#) (\$15.99). I've read each entry in this excellently researched and plotted series of feudal Japan which is a version of Game of Thrones with the Tokugawa shoguns and their court (the emperor is a mere figurehead). Sano Inchiro begins at a lowly position and rises to become chief rival of the Lord Chamberlain for power. Rowland ties up many threads as she brings Sano and his family to the close of the long story arc that has carried him along with his spirited wife and his children into peril and back again.

Strathern, Paul. [Death in Florence](#) (Pegasus \$29.95). If you are searching for a big End of Summer Reading Project you should consider digging into this detailed, compelling look at 15th Century Florence and the contest between the Medici led by Lorenzo called "The Magnificent" and the monk called Savonarola, the one a champion of the Renaissance, humanism, capitalism, and a kind of benign despot, the other a fundamentalist determined to turn the city back towards the certainties of the medieval world. Fascinating stuff. And lord, does it ever mirror or world today. This is nonfiction from a Somerset Maugham prize-winning novelist who's written also on the Venetians, Napoleon, and other epochal figures and periods.

☞Swanston, Andrew. [The King's Return](#) (\$14.95). Spring 1661. After years of civil war followed by Oliver Cromwell's joyless rule as Lord Protector, England awaits the coronation of King Charles II. The mood in London is one of relief and hope for a better future. But when two respectable gentlemen are found in a foul lane with their throats cut, it becomes apparent that England's enemies are using the newly reestablished post office for their own ends. There are traitors at work and plans to overthrow the king. Another war is possible. Thomas Hill, in London visiting friends, is approached by the king's security advisor and asked to take charge of deciphering coded letters intercepted by the post office. As the body count rises and the killer starts prey-

ing on women, the action draws him into the hunt for the traitors and the murderer. 3rd in a colorful series. Order the first two Thomas Hills [here](#).

☞Todd, Charles. [A Pattern of Lies Signed](#) (Harper \$25.99). Inspired by the actual destruction of a powder factory in 1916 Kent near Faversham, Todd imagines the fallout of the death of 100 men, the economic ruin of a village by the blast and by the factory's relocation up north away from the enemy, and equally how the survivors in Cranbourne near the Swale are desperate for someone to blame for it all, a human someone, not God. See British Books for more.

Tolkien, JRR. [Beowulf: A Translation and Commentary](#) (\$15.95). While Seamus Heaney's newer translation is considered a kind of gold standard, the publisher offers this: Tolkien completed his translation of *Beowulf* in 1926: he returned to it later to make hasty corrections, but seems never to have considered its publication. This edition includes an illuminating written commentary on the poem by the translator himself, drawn from a series of lectures he gave at Oxford in the 1930s. Edited by Christopher Tolkien. Consider reading them side by side to compare.

☞Trow, MJ. [Secret World](#) (Severn \$28.95). June, 1589. Now a feted poet and playwright, Kit Marlowe is visiting his family in Canterbury, but it's not the happy homecoming he had hoped for. A long-standing family friend has been found dead in her bed, killed by several blows to the head. Convinced that the wrong person has been found guilty of the crime, Marlowe determines to uncover the truth. Ordered Upon Request.

Van Aldemade, Kim. [Orphan #8](#) (Morrow \$14.99). A striking debut gets an Indie Next Pick: "In 1919, tragedy strikes in New York City and four-year-old Rachel is separated from her brother Sam and sent to a Jewish orphanage, where Dr. Mildred Solomon, in the name of research, subjects her to experiments with X-rays, leaving Rachel disfigured, bald, and the brunt of cruelty by other orphans. To Dr. Solomon, Rachel is just a number, Orphan Number Eight. Years later the tables are turned when Dr. Solomon ends up with cancer and reliant on morphine in Manhattan's Old Hebrews Home, where Rachel is the attending nurse. Will Rachel take her revenge or treat her patient with mercy? This powerful and stunning debut, based on a little-known true story, will remain with readers long after the last page is turned."

Vollmann, William. [The Dying Grass](#) (Viking \$55). The Nez Perce War of 1877 lies at the center of Vollmann's epic new novel, the fifth volume in his series Seven Dreams: A Book of North American Landscapes, and the first since 2001's *Argall*. Not surprisingly, given its length, it also offers a panoramic view of the era and the decades leading up to it. Seventy-plus years of abuse toward the Nez Perce are stingingly presented in a chapter of quotations from famous Americans of the time period. Why the high price? Almost 200 pages of notes, maps, and background documents follow the narrative proper, encouraging a deeper read. This massive novel is sometimes challenging, but ultimately rewarding. Rob and I learned much about the Nez Perce on our trip up the Columbia River in 2014.

Wilde, James. [Hereward: The Immortals Signed](#) (Bantam UK \$45). Chapter 5 in historical high adventure. 1073 AD. Under the merciless sun of the east, a dark force has risen—a Norman

adventurer who could rival the feared King William for bloody ambition. He has conquered his land, he has built his fortress and he has amassed his army. And now he has taken Constantinople's ruler as his prisoner... It falls to Hereward to rescue this precious captive. For this great English warrior-in-exile and his spear-brothers, it will mean mounting a raid that could prove the most dangerous and deadliest of their lives. Assisting them in their task will be an elite and legendary band of fighters, the Immortals – so-called because they believe they cannot die in battle. But it will not be enough... Ordered Upon Request.