

BOOKNEWS from

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July Sparkles...

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

WEDNESDAY JULY 1 7:00 PM

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

THURSDAY JULY 2 7:00 PM Arizona Biltmore

Doors open at 5:00 Save your seat and eat

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

TUESDAY JULY 7 7:00 PM

Andi Teran signs [Ana of California](#) (Penguin \$16) *A Modern Anne of Green Gables*

WEDNESDAY JULY 8 2:00 PM Afternoon Tea catered by John Charles

Victoria Laurie signs [Sense of Deception](#) (NAL \$24.95) Psychic PI #15

Laurie will offer 2 Psychic Readings (value \$150 each) as prizes for book buyers

WEDNESDAY JULY 8 7:00 PM

Jeff Lindsay signs [Dexter is Dead](#) (Knopf \$24.95) The ultimate Dexter

THURSDAY JULY 9 7:00 PM

Neely Tucker signs [Murder DC](#) (Viking \$27.95) Brilliant noir Sully Carter #2

SATURDAY JULY 11 10:30 AM

Coffee and Crime discusses Laura Childs, [Bound for Murder](#) (\$7.99) Scrapbooking Mystery #3

MONDAY JULY 13 7:00 PM

Brian Panowich signs [Bull Mountain](#) (Putnam \$26.95) First Mystery Pick

Kevin Keating signs [Captive Condition](#) (Knopf \$24) Eye patch prize

TUESDAY JULY 14 7:00 PM

Roger Hobbs signs [Vanishing Games](#) (Knopf \$25.95) Ghostman #2

WEDNESDAY JULY 15 7:00 PM Unusual Thrillers

Barry Lancet interviews **Shane Kuhn**

Kuhn signs [Hostile Takeover](#) (SimonSchuster \$25) John Lago #2
Lancet signs [Tokyo Kill](#) (SimonSchuster \$25) Jim Brodie #2

SATURDAY JULY 18 10:30 AM

Croak & Dagger discusses MJ McGrath, [White Heat](#) (\$15) First Edie Kiglatuk, Canadian Arctic

MONDAY JULY 20 7:00 PM

Linda Castillo signs [After the Storm](#) (St Martins \$25.99) Kate Burkholder #7 Amish

Julia Dahl signs [Run You Down](#) (St Martins \$25.99) Rebekah Roberts #2 Jewish Orthodox

TUESDAY JULY 21 7:00 PM Origami Dogs Are Involved

David Rosenfelt signs [Who Let the Dog Out?](#) (St Martins \$25.99) Andy Carpenter; and [Lessons from Tara: Life Advice](#) (\$25.99)

WEDNESDAY JULY 22 7:00 PM Scottsdale Public Library 3839 N Civil Center Parkway, Lower Level

Doors open 6:00 PM, Ace talks 6:30 PM, Movie Billy Jack 7:00 PM (popcorn and drinks provided) Books presigned but you can stay for personalizations

Ace Atkins signs [The Redeemers](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Quinn Colson

THURSDAY JULY 23 7:00 PM

Spencer Quinn signs [Scents and Sensibility](#) (Atria \$25) Chet (the dog) & Bernie #8

SATURDAY JULY 25 2:00 PM

Brad Parks signs [The Fraud](#) (St Martins \$25.99) Carter Ross #6

TUESDAY JULY 28 7:00 PM Book Launch

Linwood Barclay signs [Broken Promise](#) (NAL \$25.95)

WEDNESDAY JULY 29 7:00 PM

Alex Kava signs [Silent Creed](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Ryder Creed & His K9 #2

THURSDAY JULY 30 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime discusses Kem Nunn, [Chance](#) (\$16)

SATURDAY AUGUST 1 2:00 PM

Christine Carbo signs [Wild Inside](#) (Atria \$16) Debut set at Glacier Park

MONDAY AUGUST 3 7:00 PM

CJ Box signs [Badlands](#) (St Martins \$26.99) Cassie Dewell
Keith McCafferty signs [Crazy Mountain Kiss](#) (Viking \$26.95) Sean Stranahan #4

TUESDAY AUGUST 4 7:00 PM Book Launch

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

SATURDAY AUGUST 8 10:30 AM

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

EVENT BOOKS

Atkins, Ace. [The Redeemers](#) (Putnam \$26.95 July 22). Corruption, Mississippi style. Quinn Colson got voted out of the sheriff's job in Tibbehah County thanks to local kingpin Johnny Staff. Quinn's OK with another tour in Afghanistan or something similar, but first he wants to bring down Stagg's operation. And rescue his own addicted sister, Caddy. When a trio of criminals break into the safe room of a local lumber baron and make off with millions in cash—something odd there since the baron isn't that wealthy—two people end up dead, one of them the new sheriff. Acting sheriff is now his friend Lillie Virgil and she asks Quinn to step into this mess. Why does he agree? Maybe he suspects there were secrets in that safe along with the money, secrets now on the loose, and dangerous.... [Order](#) earlier Colsons.

Barclay, Linwood. [Broken Promise](#) (NAL \$25.95 July 28). Well before Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl* became The Next Big Thing, Linwood Barclay was writing intricate thrillers filled with betrayals, buried secrets, and surprises, the sort that make you catch your breath and go, Wow. Domestic suspense is small stage drama. The circle of characters is tight and usually made up of family, friends, and neighbors—like those who fill Promise Falls, a small upstate New York town forming the landscape of *Broken Promise*, Barclay's summer suspense treat. It's like a "less salacious" return to Peyton Place. Anyone can be untrustworthy: spouses, parents, siblings. And while the stage is small and the stakes personal, they are huge for the players. Barclay, an elegant writer, skillfully smooths the reader along the narrative's path from one twist or revelation to another, quietly building up the suspense for the gut punch to come. I wrote that for Indie Next and the publisher. *PW*'s review adds, "Linwood's adept characterizations and knack for unsettling twists make this a surefire bestseller." Analogues are Joseph Finder and Harlan Coben. Signed on publication date so ask for your book to be dated. [Order](#) Barclay's earlier bestselling suspense [here](#).

Bowen, Rhys. [Malice at the Palace](#) (Berkley \$25.95 Aug. 4). 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 daughter 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. [Order](#) earlier Her Royal Spyness Mysteries [here](#).

Box, C J. [Badlands](#) (St Martins \$26.99 Aug. 3). 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." We still have Signed Firsts of CJ's short stories in [Shots Fired](#) (\$26.95).

Carbo, Christine. [Wild Inside](#) (Atria \$16 Aug. 1). It was a clear night in Glacier National Park. Fourteen-year-old Ted Systeard and his father were camping beneath the rugged peaks and starlit skies when something unimaginable happened: a grizzly bear attacked Ted's father and dragged him to his death. Now, twenty years later, as Special Agent for the Department of the Interior, Ted gets called back to investigate a crime that mirrors the horror of that night. Except this time, the victim was tied to a tree before the mauling. Ted teams up with one of the park officers—a man named Monty, whose pleasant exterior masks an all-too-vivid knowledge of the hazardous terrain surrounding them. Residents of the area turn out to be suspicious of outsiders and less than forthcoming. Their intimate connection to the wild forces them to confront nature, and their fellow man, with equal measures of reverence and ruthlessness. As the case progresses with no clear answers, more than human life is at stake—including that of the majestic creature responsible for the attack. Ted's search for the truth ends up leading him deeper into the wilderness than he ever imagined, on the trail of a killer, until he reaches a shocking and unexpected personal conclusion.

Castillo, Linda. [After the Storm](#) (St Martins \$25.99 July 20). Castillo comes to her hard-edged series from romance which enriches both the storylines of the criminals and of Kate Burkholder and her lover John Tomasetti, formerly a Cleveland cop but not an agent of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (meaning he can work with Kate, the police chief of Painters Mill, located in Holmes County). Kate's rebellious youth ended with her being expelled from the *Ordnung* and the Amish; she's on uneasy terms with her brother and sister and their families. And her status makes it both easier and harder to investigate crimes among the Amish. Her 7th investigation begins when a monster tornado tears through, destroying lives, buildings, a trailer park... and unearthing human remains. We know from the prologue who the remains are likely to be, but how Kate gets there, the secrets she unearths, the secret she's keeping, and the horrifying conclusion to a 30-year-old case are trademark Castillo. This is one of my favorite series for its remarkable characters, astonishing and appalling plots, stylish writing—and its depiction of a closed community in a modern world that can harbor more evil inside its religious framework—or because of it—than seems possible. This story once again underlines how hard it is to break away from something to the unknown....

Dahl, Julia. [Run You Down](#) (St. Martins \$25.99 July 20). David reviews: Tabloid reporter Rebekah Roberts is on the fence as to whether she wants to meet the mother who abandoned her 23 years ago. But it doesn't look like she will have much of a choice in the matter when she is requested to investigate the death of an Ultra-Orthodox woman. Rebekah's mother, Aviva is somehow connected to the dead woman and the Jewish community. Dahl uses the voice of both mother and daughter to weave an intricate tale of deception, murder, revenge and new beginnings. She does an exceptional job here as Rebekah finds herself drawn in the close-knit Hasidic communities of New York in her quest for the truth about the deceased woman. Rebekah learns of a gay uncle whose life revolves around revenge against the religious school where he was molested at as a child. Throw in a neo-Nazi cell hell bent on destroying the Jewish community, a small town police force with shady connections and you get a fast-paced thriller that not only satisfies but leaves a hunger for the next installment in the series. Pessi Goldin was found dead in her bathtub. Many think it was suicide, but her husband feels otherwise and he seeks Rebekah's help in finding the truth. Facts lead Rebekah to rely on her connections with people who have left the Hasidic community and are trying to make it in the secular world. What Rebekah finds are deep secrets, rage... and her mother. It would be negligent to write more about what happens, as this multi-layered and fine novel is so tightly woven, each level directly impacts the next. Dahl does not judge the lifestyle of the Ultra-Orthodox, rather she creates a stellar novel based on creativity and 'what if's'. This is the sequel to Dahl's Edgar finalist and 2014 Surprise Me Club Pick [Invisible City](#) (\$15.99). Fans of Faye Kellerman and Linda Castillo should definitely put Julia Dahl on their 'must read' list.

Hobbs, Roger. [Vanishing Games](#) (Knopf \$25.95 July 14). 2013 First Mystery Club Pick [Ghostman](#) (\$14.95) swiftly became an international sensation, praised for its "intrigue, tradecraft, and suspense,"—Lee Child. And this comment from the *NY Times*—"Although Hobbes is an assured stylist who favors clean precise prose, he handles violence with a lyric touch"—applies equally well to the *Ghostman*—robber Jack—and the situation he's gotten in thanks to Angela. Once his mentor and boss, Angela disappeared from Kuala Lumpur six years back; Jack thought she was likely dead. And now in one text she summons him to a meeting and it's game on for their partnership as the action opens just before dawn on the South China Sea when three experienced pirates open fire on a small smuggling yacht. John Charles adds, "Six years after she disappeared from his life, Jack White's old mentor/friend Angela sends him an email saying she is in trouble and desperately needs his help. Angela's attempt to hijack a ship carrying a cache of rare sapphires has gone south. Arriving in Macau, Jack works out a plan with Angela to recover the gems only to stumble across an even more valuable cargo; one for which any number of people will kill to possess. Hobbs' debut novel *Ghostman* (2013) introduced readers to Jack. The book was a finalist for an Edgar award as well as winning the Crime Writers Association's Ian Fleming Steel Dagger for best thriller. *Vanishing Games* proves once again that Hobbs knows how to craft a white-knuckle read. The pacing is relentless and the action never stops even as readers gradually learn more about Jack and Angela's complicated relationship as well as the unique skills they possess that allow them to run cons and successfully morph

from one person into another. *Vanishing Games* is a high-octane, high-stakes thriller that you won't want to miss (even though I did learn far more than wanted about the best way to decapitate a person)."

Kava, Alex. [Silent Creed](#) (Putnam \$26.95 July 29). Ryder Creed and his K9 search-and-rescue dogs return in the second installment of an exciting new series, teaming up once more with FBI profiler Maggie O'Dell in their riskiest case yet. When Ryder Creed responds to a devastating mudslide in North Carolina, he knows that the difference between finding survivors and the dead is time. He and his sturdiest search-and-rescue dog, Bolo, get to work immediately, but the scene is rife with danger: continued rainfall prevents the rescue teams from stabilizing the land; toxic household substances spread by the crushing slide fill the area with hazardous waste; and the detritus and debris are treacherous for both man and dog to navigate. But most perilous are the secrets hidden under the mud and sludge—secrets someone would kill to protect. For this is no ordinary rescue mission. Among the buildings consumed by the landslide was a top-secret government research facility, and Creed has been hired to find what's left of it. Then rescuers recover the body of a scientist from the facility who was obviously dead before the landslide—killed by a gunshot to the head. The FBI sends Agent Maggie O'Dell to investigate...." Order Kava's earlier work [here](#): not all the Maggie O'Dells are in print.

Keating, Kevin P. [Captive Condition](#) (Knopf \$24 July 13). They say Normandy Falls is haunted, but that doesn't keep Edmund Campion from moving there to study literature at the university. But when he discovers the drowned body of a local woman, and meets her psychic daughters, he begins to wonder if he should have stayed away. Meanwhile, an eccentric chef serves hallucinogenic cocktails, a criminal sets up a moonshine still, and an elderly artist plans a surreal retrospective. The *PW* Starred Review: "Keating's sophomore novel (after *The Natural Order of Things*) is a black comedy that transcends its own offbeat energy and becomes truly disturbing.... The comically formal tone of the first two-thirds shows Keating to be an astute student of spooky scene-setters from Edgar Allan Poe to Stephen King to David Lynch. But in many of the final passages, such as a horrific building fire, he proves to be at least their equal. It's a mysterious novel, both in terms of its plot and its ambitions—the book's biggest missed opportunity is that its world feels a bit too hermetic and detached from our own—but it's also a darkly funny read and a stylistic tour de force." Now this is a book that truly depends on your taste—the prose is Dickensian, long sentences, the author rapt with words.

Kuhn, Shane. [Hostile Takeover](#) (SimonSchuster \$25 July 15). Professional assassin John Lago faces off against his deadliest adversary yet—his wife—in the sequel to Shane Kuhn's bestselling debut [The Intern's Handbook](#) (\$15), which the *New York Post* called "a sexy, darkly comic thriller." I have to say that I think of this book as more made for the screen. "When newlywed hit man John Lago and his former nemesis, Alice, cap their bespoke Manhattan nuptials by bumping off their boss at Human Resources Inc.—a boutique contract assassination firm with the genius MO of getting killers close to otherwise inaccessible targets by placing them as interns—the couple expect some blowback. But nothing even their exquisitely twisted imaginations can conjure

comes remotely close to the smoke and mirrors scenario that unfolds. John is eventually forced to return to the office battlefield in a role he swore he would never play again: the intern. Those who like Dexter will love John Lago... Character soon takes a back seat to the inspired multiplex-ready execution scenarios of the bullet-train plot.”—*PW*

Lancet, Barry. [Tokyo Kill](#) (SimonSchuster \$25 July 15). If you missed Lancet’s second nifty thriller for Jim Brodie after First Mystery Pick [Japantown](#) (\$15.99), here’s your chance. He’s coming to chat with Shane Kuhn. When an elderly World War II veteran shows up unannounced at Brodie Security begging for protection, the staff thinks he’s just a paranoid old man. He offers up a story connected to the war and to Chinese Triads operating in present-day Tokyo, insisting that he and his few surviving army buddies are in danger. Fresh off his involvement in solving San Francisco’s Japantown murders, antiques dealer Jim Brodie had returned to Tokyo for some R&R, and to hunt down a rare ink painting by the legendary Japanese Zen master Sengai for one of his clients—not to take on another case with his late father’s P.I. firm. But out of respect for the old soldier, Brodie agrees to provide a security detail, thinking it’ll be an easy job and end when the man comes to his senses. Instead, an unexpected, brutal murder rocks Brodie and his crew, sending them deep into the realm of the Triads, Chinese spies, kendo warriors, and an elusive group of killers whose treachery spans centuries—and who will stop at nothing to complete their mission.

Laurie, Victoria. [Sense of Deception](#) (NAL \$24.95 July 8). This is Laurie’s 15th for Abby Cooper, a professional psychic and FBI consultant based in Austin, Texas, and we find her in the city jail for contempt of court after she expresses outrage when serial killer Don Corzo is freed following a mistrial, in part because of a defense challenge to Abby’s credibility. Outrage she expresses by outing a Federal Judge as having an affair with his young male clerk. By chance Abby’s cell mate is death row prisoner Skylar Miller who’s temporarily stashed there. Abby, a synesthete who reads auras, is convinced Skylar did not murder her young son. Abby’s best friend, Candice Fusco, agrees to help her exonerate Skylar, while Abby’s husband, Dutch Rivers, of D&M Security, provides his expertise and support for the Skylar and Corso cases. “Abby uses her psychic powers in ways that often have humorous results. Fans of hard-edged cozies will be rewarded.”—*PW*.

Lindsay, Jeff. [Dexter is Dead](#) (Knopf \$24.95 July 8). The concept of a vigilante serial killer working as a blood splatter tech in South Beach inspired a TV series. And now it’s drawing to a close with this final chapter. It opens as Dexter finds himself imprisoned in the Turner Guildford Knight Correctional Facility after being discovered *in flagrante sanguine* with the bodies of his wife Rita, famous actor Robert Chase, and Dexter’s 12-year-old adopted daughter Astor (the actual killer of pedophile Chase). Plus Dexter’s lover Jackie is dead, killed by Chase while Dexter hunted him. A mess that can only escalate. Can Dexter’s sister Deborah, a cop, deal with this? Or will his salvation, if any, lie with his demented brother Brian? But wait, there must be more players in the game, and a bigger game in motion, one that might lead to Dexter’s demise.... Order the full range of Dexters [here](#).

McCafferty, Keith. [Crazy Mountain Kiss](#) (Viking \$26.95 on sale in June, signed with CJ Box Aug. 3). 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. Reviews besides mine are terrific. *PW* Star: “The death of a young Montana rodeo star propels McCafferty’s terrific fourth mystery featuring artist, fly-fisherman, and occasional PI Sean Stranahan. When 16-year-old Cinderella “Cindy” Huntington is found dead in the chimney of a Forest Service cabin, it’s unclear if foul play is involved, but Cindy’s mother, Etta, hires Sean to do some digging. This means Sean will have to work with Sheriff Martha Ettinger, and things are tense between them since she recently called a halt to their romance. However, they undeniably make a good team, and what seems to be a straightforward death soon proves to be anything but. This is a must for fans of eclectic mysteries in which the setting is just as important as the characters.” “McCafferty does a marvelous job of manipulating mood, moving from light to dark... [*Crazy Mountain Kiss*] is the best McCafferty novel yet, and it’s a must for Craig Johnson and C. J. Box fans.”—*Booklist* Starred Review. Order Stranahan’s 3 earlier awesome investigations [here](#).

Panowich, Brian. [Bull Mountain](#) (Putnam \$26.95 July 13). The hottest debut of July, this **First Mystery Club Pick/Hardboiled Crime Club Pick** (Patrick likes it as much as I do) has garnered so many quotes, plus raves from our staff, that I can’t fit them all in. Here are a few. “Brian Panowich stamps words on the page as if they’ve been blasted from the barrel of a shotgun, and as with a shotgun blast, no one is safe from the scattered fragments of history that impale the people of Bull Mountain. From a conflict born of violence and loyalty, Panowich brings us a cast of remarkable characters who are linked by blood but severed by duty. This is a wonderfully rich and evocative debut novel that is steeped in both the history of Appalachia and well aware of the current challenges it faces.”—Wiley Cash. The July Indie Next Pick: “Set in the mountainous region of northern Georgia and reminiscent of *Winter’s Bone* by Daniel Woodrell, this debut is a potent tale about land and lineage, love and loyalty, livelihood and the law, and life itself. Panowich’s words are fresh and clean, hard and dirty; he knows what he is writing about. The book’s first chapter — a short story in its own right — is worth the price of admission to Bull Mountain. Climb on up and enjoy the view. Just watch your step!” And CJ Box adds, “Brian Panowich had me at the first word of his spectacular debut novel, ‘Family,’ and he held me until the very last page. *Bull Mountain* is a sprawling, gritty, violent, tribal inter-generational crime epic with a deeply rooted sense of place and an gut-punch ending I didn’t see coming.” James Ellroy gets the last word: “*Bull Mountain* is a stone gas and a stone winner! It’s brother-versus-brother in the dope-damned South. This first novel has it all: moonshine, maryjane and mayhem! Read this book now – and succumb to a startling new talent.”

Parks, Brad. [The Fraud](#) (St Martins \$25.99 July 25). David reviews: “The sixth installation of Brad Parks’ Carter Ross series really shines due to two aspects: humor and the main character. Carter Ross isn’t one of those jaded, hard drinking reporters bitterly reflecting on the good old days of journalism. He admits to his mistakes, learns from them and becomes a better reporter for them. He still has compassion for the less fortunate even when it clouds his judgment and leads him in the wrong direction. The humor he dishes out to himself and others around him makes for a likable character, one that the reader wouldn’t mind having as a friend. Carter Ross has a boss/girlfriend who is about to give

birth to their child and he is on edge when he is assigned a story. Newark has been the scene for a series of high end carjackings, a couple resulting in the death of the owners. Carter starts looking for a pattern and a connection for two of the deaths—one a well-to-do white man and the other a Nigerian immigrant looking for the American dream. He learns that the two men played a round of golf together, but what does it mean? Several dead-end conclusions bring Carter to the attention of the ring and the psychopathic killer himself, and put his girlfriend and child in harm's way, bringing forth a tense and satisfying conclusion. Parks' easy writing style makes for a quick and pleasant reading experience." Not all Parks' earlier books are available.

Quinn, Spencer. [Scents and Sensibility](#) (Atria \$25 July 23). Chet (the dog) and Bernie Little (the PI) have returned to Arizona, the Valley of the Sun, from the swampier venues of New Orleans and DC. It's a dry heat, welcome to both. What isn't welcome as that someone has entered the house and made off with the hidden wall safe, including Bernie's grandfather's watch, their most valuable possession and the one they pawn to gain a stake. And that their elderly neighbor Mr. Parsons' wife is in the hospital. Worse, once they establish that Mr. Parsons, who had their dwellings' key, lost custody of it, Special Investigator Ellie Newburg of the State's Department of Agriculture rolls up to the door to accuse him of saguaro poaching—or being in illegal possession of the cactus newly planted in his front yard. Agent Newburg is accompanied by a dog called Shooter who, we immediately suspect, is intimately related to Chet, a charge Bernie tries to refute until Chet flies over the back yard gate to snatch a Slim Jim from Shooter's jaws. It goes pear shaped from here past the Parsons' jailbird son, an old kidnapping, and a dangerous criminal bent on exploitation. 8th in this hugely popular series. Order the first 7 [here](#).

Rosenfelt, David. [Who Let the Dog Out?](#) (St Martins \$25.99 July 21). Reluctant-to-practice lawyer Andy Carpenter is now married to former Patterson, NJ cop Laurie who works as his private investigator. And they've adopted a young son, Ricky who, to Andy's dismay, shows little promise as a future baseball great. Life is happily slow until Willie Miller, Andy's partner in a dog rescue operation called the Tara Foundation after Andy's beloved Golden Retriever, calls with news the alarm has gone off there. The burglar has stolen just one item, a newly rescued dog called Cheyenne. As each Tara dog is fitted with a GPS-tracking collar, Andy and Willie trace Cheyenne to a house in downtown Patterson where they find Cheyenne next to a gruesomely murdered body. Is the victim the thief? If so, who hired him to steal Cheyenne, and why? It kicks off from here. We know from the get-go that a larger scheme connected to Maine is afoot so rock along and enjoy the ride with wisecracking Andy who rises to legal heights when he's really motivated. 14th in series. To go with, non-fiction: [Lessons from Tara](#) (St Martins \$25.99); and [Dogtripping: 25 Rescues, 11 Volunteers, and 3 RVs on Our Canine Cross-Country Adventure](#) (\$15.95).

Silva, Daniel. [The English Spy](#) (Harper \$27.99 July 2). With Chiara returning to Israel to await the birth of twins and Gabriel Allon devoting some time to restoring the long-lost Caravaggio that was a focus of 2014's [The Heist](#) (\$9.99), the last thing he needs is a summons from MI6. A bomb has exploded aboard a yacht carrying the iconic divorced wife of the heir to the British throne—an icon known only by her first name and beloved for her beauty, style, and charitable works, and her rich lover—

plus the crew. The only escapee appears to be a substitute chef brought on board to cook for the party for its holiday week. MI6 wants, indeed needs, the legendary spy/assassin Allon to track down her killer, a master bomb-maker who began with the IRA, hired out as a mercenary after peace talks, allied with Qaddafi before the dictator's end, and is a highly-paid free-lancer. In fact, one of the interesting story arcs of Allon's 15th quest is how two of the main actors—Irish Eamon Quinn, and British Christopher Keller, once a British Commando and now working out of Corsica for a Don—reached their present roles. Silva's [The Marching Season](#) (\$9.99) explored the Irish conflict while this is his 4th Allon to feature Keller and generate the wrap to an overall story arc for Keller that may propel us into a new one. Underlying the thriller is the question of what is the role of someone trained to create mayhem and kill, like Quinn, and how does he differ from the assassins Allon and Keller? A larger question for me has always been what happens to members of the IRA in peace—do they simply retire, or look for other troubles?

Taylor, Brad. [The Insider Threat](#) (Dutton \$27.95 July 1). Pike Logan and the members of the secret American antiterrorist unit Taskforce go up against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), traveling to Kenya where wealthy Saudi businessman, Ali Salim al-Naggar, is channeling funds to the Islamic State. Later, Pike and the team are ordered to Jordan to prevent an attack on a meeting of a new international anti-terror organization, which puts him on the trail of the Lost Boys, a group of four men directed by ISIS commander Omar al-Khatami. There's a lot going on in this 8th mission for Pike, Jennifer, and the team. All Vince Flynn readers should rush to read Taylor. Order Pike's earlier thrillers [here](#).

Teran, Andi. [Ana of California](#) (Penguin \$16 July 7). Here's a book that should bring adults and younger readers together. "Comparing Teran's debut to its inspiration, L.M. Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables*, would do Teran's novel a disservice, as this contemporary take has a much quicker pace and a unique protagonist. To keep 15-year-old Los Angeles native Ana Cortez out of a group home, she is sent to Garber farms in Hadley, Calif., in a work-based living arrangement. Fans of Montgomery's series will appreciate nods to blackberry bushes, Ana's uncontrollable mouth, and the farm setting, but not recognizing these references will not hinder other readers' enjoyment. The novel skews to a younger audience, with tougher subjects (such as Ana's parents' ties to gangs and drugs) minimally explored... Readers will appreciate the references to music, books, and art, and the way shared artistic interests can bring people together."

Tucker, Neely. [Murder DC](#) (Viking \$27.95 July 9). *Washington Post* journalist Tucker dazzled me with his second for DC reporter Sully Carter. This powerful urban noir—definitely for readers of Pelecanos—not only digs into the politics and powerful of our capital but into its African-American elite and history as well. The scion of one such Black family is found dead in the Potomac near the Bend. Sully has kept tabs on clusters of victims in the quadrants radiating out from the Capitol: the unsolved crimes (all male victims) form a "deluge across the Anacostia, in Southeast DC. What was floaterman, William Sanders Ellison, doing that made him one of them? The cops can't find a lead. The politicians want Sully to stop poking. But he thinks there is more to this than a drug deal gone bad or domestic tragedy. So he digs deeper, being the kind of guy who, when challenged, bucks. Sully's debut in [The Ways of the Dead](#) (\$16) was a 2014 First Mystery Club Pick.

FIRSTNOVELS

Arango, Sascha. [The Truth and Other Lies Signed](#) (SimonSchuster UK \$35) bears comparison to Patricia Highsmith the book fairly twangs with paranoia, sardonic humor and razor-sharp observation.”—*The Guardian* on a new **First Mystery Club Pick**. Snarky, satirical, elegant. A great book for summer.

Bai, Xiao. [The French Concession](#) (Harper \$27.99). Since David Downing’s [Jack of Spies](#) (\$15.95) remains one of my favorites, how could I resist a spy tale of 1930s Shanghai? The city of 1990s Inspector Chen (Qiu Xiaolong), of SJ Rozan’s *Shanghai Moon*. Tom Bradby’s terrific *The Master of Rain*. Lisa See’s [Shanghai Girls](#) (\$16). Unfortunately, and it may be in part the translation, I can’t get excited about Bai. There’s too much going on, too many players. *PW* says it well for me: “Even with the helpful list of dramatis personae, this novel of 1930s Shanghai from Xiao remains a hot mess of murky political intrigue, steamy couplings, foreign profiteering, and often-naïve Communist fervor. It’s hard to keep the players and their shifting allegiances straight when the characters themselves—most of whom go by multiple names, to make matters even more confusing—frequently find themselves in the same bind. Can central figure Hseuh, a half-Chinese, half-French photographer, become a useful undercover operative for the French police controlling the Concession, or will he remain a dilettante boy toy to the sexually insatiable White Russian arms dealer (who might really be German) alternately known as Therese Irxmayer and Lady Holly? Is Leng, the mysterious beauty who bewitches Hseuh, a Communist true believer or a muddled borderline supporter? By the time surprising plot fireworks finally begin to explode, the average reader will probably have long since conceded defeat.” I wanted this to be an Asian version of Alan Furst or David Downing, but no....

Bannalec, Jean-Luc. [Death in Brittany](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Can’t make it to Europe this summer? All is not lost, this intriguing novel sweeps you to the picturesque coast of Brittany, a French province rooted in the Celtic (Tristan and Iseult) with millennia of a fishing and boating culture (two tiny islands off the coast of Canada make up a part of this province). The ancient and paint-worthy village of Pont-Aven played host to Gauguin and a cluster of other artists in the late 19th Century, their center the Hotel Central. And today the hotel’s legendary owner, 91-year-old Pierre-Louis Pennec, is found murdered. The case falls to Commissaire Georges Dupin, a Parisian-born caffeine junkie who’s been exiled to the region. Stubborn and relentlessly curious, he pokes at the web of secrecy that clouds Pont-Aven’s quaint image and his murder investigation as well as resisting pressure to close it down. I really hope this is but the first of Bannalec’s mysteries to be translated into English.

Connell, John A. [Ruins of War](#) (Berkley \$26.95). This serial killer thriller stalks Munich, devastated by war, housing Germans of various stripes and past loyalties, Nazi and not. Mason Collins, a former Chicago homicide dick, soldier, and a prisoner of war at Buchenwald, is on a short trial as a US Army Investigator in the American Zone of Occupation. He’s a guy who doesn’t play well with others, resists authority, and has his own sense of justice. He’s the right guy to go after someone with a knowledge of human anatomy who is stalking the city, picking victims at apparent random, exploiting not only the ruined city, the rats nest of war criminals, but penetrating the Army’s own black market... See

Where in the World for more on this and other debuts in this section of the July *Booknews*.

✠Grey, Iona. [Letters to the Lost](#) (St Martins \$25.99). A story of love and loss rooted in World War II and spanning decades. See British Books for more of a book for readers of Pilcher, Willig, and Beatriz Williams.

✠Jarvis, Stephen. [Death and Mr. Pickwick Signed](#) (Cape \$46). Don’t say I haven’t warned you that this debut is going to become the new Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell now that it is published in a US edition. The *PW* Starred Review finds that in “this astounding first novel, Jarvis re-creates, in loving and exhaustive detail, the writing and publication of Charles Dickens’s first novel, *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club*, in 1836. Written under the pen name Boz, Pickwick made Dickens perhaps the first literary celebrity. But who deserves credit for creating Pickwick, the book’s protagonist: Dickens, the man who created the text, or Robert Seymour, the caricaturist who came up with the name and the graphic image of the rotund Englishman? Jarvis is clearly on the side of Seymour—and the book offers an impressively imagined account of Seymour, Dickens, and a huge host of others (the sheer scale of the book is, itself, Dickensian). This picaresque novel is structured with a framing story—a conversation between a present-day narrator and a Mr. Imbelicate, who wants assistance in writing the results of his life’s research on Dickens’s “immortal book.” This is a staggering accomplishment, a panoramic perspective of 19th-century London and its creative class.”

Karjel, Robert. [The Swede](#) (Harper \$26.99). A debut featuring a Swedish security force agent, Ernst Grip, who’s been dispatched to a remote military base in the Indian Ocean where he’s met by FBI Agent Shauna Friedman. Grip’s assignment: is the prisoner, known as “N,” a suspect in an Islamic terrorist attack, a Swedish citizen? Is he a survivor of the 2004 tsunami that struck Thailand, part of a cabal of survivors? And will Grip and Friedman each be able to keep their own secrets? It takes close reading to follow this complex thriller, its range, the international repercussions or 9/11 and other events, and the compromises and tactics being made in the name of security and survival.

Kirman, Robin. [Bradstreet Gate](#) (Crown \$26). John Charles reviews: Three Harvard students find their lives are forever changed when another student is murdered on campus in this elegantly written debut novel. Comparisons between Kirman’s *Bradstreet Gate* and Donna Tartt’s classic *The Secret History* are expected since both books featuring a group of Ivy League college students, who fall under the spell of a charismatic professor only to find themselves tangled up in a murder investigation. Fans of Tartt’s book, those readers who have become fascinated with the spate of domestic suspense novels featuring “unreliable” narrators *a la* *The Girl on the Train*, or anyone sucked in by the recent television show *How to Get Away with Murder* will definitely enjoy this literary mystery, though in my opinion it ends more with a whimper than a bang.

Kosmatka, Ted. [Flicker Men](#) (Holt \$27). Kosmatka effectively harnesses his impressive imagination in the service of a mind-blowing plot in this outstanding SF thriller. Struggling physicist Eric Argus, who has been contemplating suicide, gets a chance to rehabilitate his career by taking a provisional job at Massachusetts’s Hansen Research. The parameters of his work are loose

enough to allow him to conduct whatever research he wants, as long as it has scientific merit. Despite, or perhaps because of, this freedom, Eric is unable to gain any traction—until he decides to recreate the classic wave-particle experiment on the nature of quantum mechanics. Eric finds that conscious observation somehow affects the position of electrons passing through a slit. When he takes the inquiry a step further, to see whether animals could affect electrons by observing them, he gets an unexpected result that ends up having highly dramatic consequences. Ingenious plot twists, well-realized characters, and superior prose elevate this above similar books.

Medina, K T. [White Crocodile](#) (LittleBrown \$26). A woman British armed forces veteran with an MBA and MFA put it all to use in thriller about a woman, Tess Hardy, who has wrenchingly broken with her violent ex-husband. Then he calls from Cambodia where he's at work clearing mines (think Princess Di) and Tess hears an unusual note in his voice: fear. Two weeks later, she learns he's dead. Against her better judgment she's drawn to those killing fields where the Khmer Rouge interred its countless victims. And she learns that in Battambang, teenage moms are disappearing from villages around the (still uncleared) mine fields while other are found mutilated and dead, their babies abandoned. Rumors, whispers of the mythical White Crocodile who brings death to all who meet it terrify everyone. Including Tess. Even she cannot imagine the danger haunting these killing fields.... This is grim but gripping despite drawing on typical tropes in creating the monster that is the White Crocodile. Recommended.

Panowich, Brian. [Bull Mountain](#) (Putnam \$26.95 July 13). The hottest debut of July, this **First Mystery Club Pick/Hardboiled Crime Club Pick** (Patrick likes it as much as I do) has garnered so many quotes, plus raves from our staff, that I can't fit them all in. See Event Books for more.

Reichert, Amy E. [The Coincidence of Coconut Cake](#) (Gallery \$16). This isn't up to the level of Ruth Reichl or Stradal below, but it's a true ode to a great dessert and says a lot about Lou's passion for being a chef and running her restaurant. When it fails thanks to a horrible review by an anonymous food critic, and when Lou catches her fiancé in flagrante with an intern at his law firm, it's her passion that buoys her up for a reboot and romance. If your passion is coconut cake, as mine, here's your book.

Stradal, J Ryan. [Kitchens of the Great Midwest Signed](#) (Viking \$27.95). **Our July Modern Firsts Club Pick is going to be huge.** Think Farm-to-Table Dinners, a Locavore spin, unusual recipes with artisan 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, as does his wife Cynthia whom he marries while capturing Minnesota's Twin Cities with his cuisine. The voice(s) of this book is like none other, the concept is way out, both funny yet sad (never maudlin; in fact sad is almost off-hand), and what Stradal says about creating families and careers is... all her own. Rob, my own foodie, agrees there is nothing quite like this book.

BRITISH BOOKS

Beuman, Sally. [The Visitors](#) (\$15.99). I wanted to love this book by Beuman who wrote a knockout follow-up to DuMaurier's *Rebecca*. Although Egyptology, the discovery and opening of King Tut's tomb, the roles of Howard Carter, Lord Caernarvon (of Highclere Abbey, aka "Downton"), and Flinders Petrie (think Elizabeth Peters' Amelia Peabody series) are fascinating, the choice of narrator, a young girl, and the overwhelming detail made this a plod—for me. Instead, go for Beuman's [Rebecca's Tale](#) (\$14.95), set in 1951 but in one section creating a voice for the dead Rebecca.

Bebris, Carrie. [The Suspicion at Sanditon \(or, The Disappearance of Lady Denham\)](#) (Forge \$23.99). Bebris continues her Mr. and Mrs. Darcy Mysteries by taking the couple to the beachfront development of Jane Austen's last work. Accompanied by their friend Miss Charlotte Heywood, they encounter an array of eccentric villagers and visitors. Among Sanditon's most prominent residents: Lady Denham, a childless, twice-widowed dowager with a fortune to bequeath and a flight of distant relations circling for a place in her will. The Darcys have scarcely settled into their lodgings when Lady Denham unexpectedly invites them to a dinner party. Thirteen guests assemble at Sanditon House—but their hostess never appears. As a violent storm rises, a search for Lady Denham begins. The Darcys, like most of their fellow attendees, speculate that one of her ladyship's would-be heirs has grown impatient... until the guests start to vanish one by one. Does a kidnapper lurk in the centuries-old mansion, or is a still more sinister force at work? Don't expect Austen's quality in this series.

Brett, Simon. [Mrs. Pargeter's Principle](#) (Severn \$28.95). Mrs. Melita Pargeter is in top form in her long-overdue seventh outing. The late Mr. Pargeter, a thief, left his wealthy widow a little black book containing the names of the "Old Boys," the people who were involved in his so-called business enterprises. At the funeral of one of them, Sir Normington Winthrop, held at the Abbey in London, a menacing stranger warns her not to approach Sir Normington's widow. Her curiosity piqued, Mrs. Pargeter determines to learn more about the deceased. Truffler Mason, one of her husband's former associates turned private investigator, provides assistance. She also seeks to lend financial assistance to any Old Boy dependents who may be hard up. Benevolent and optimistic, Mrs. Pargeter is able to turn a blind eye to the foibles of others as necessary. Brett's customary wit and good humor abound. Ordered Upon Request.

Cannell, Dorothy. [Death at Dovecote Hatch](#) (Severn \$28.95). November, 1932. Still reeling from the recent murder at Mullings, country estate of the wealthy Stodmarsh family, the peaceful little village of Dovecote Hatch is about to be rocked by news of another violent death. When mild-mannered Kenneth Tenneson is found dead from a fall down the stairs at his home, the coroner's inquest announces a verdict of accidental death. Florence Norris, however – the quietly observant housekeeper at Mullings – suspects there may be more to it than that. Florence's suspicions of foul play would appear to be confirmed when a second will turns up revealing details of a dark secret in the Tenneson family's past. Ordered Upon Request.

Carroll, Lewis. [Alice's Adventures in Wonderland](#) (Penguin \$16). A new release celebrating the book's 150th anniversary.

Clark, Simon, ed. [The Mammoth Book of Sherlock Holmes](#) (Running Press \$14.95). *PW* Stars this collection: “Clark (*The Night of the Triffids*) has done a superior job in selecting the 15 original pastiches for this anthology, all of which remove Holmes from his Baker Street haunts to exercise his deduction skills in less familiar terrain. The standout, Paul Finch’s “The Monster of Hell’s Gate,” sends Holmes and Watson to East Africa, where the legendary Nandi bear, a creature familiar to cryptozoologists, has been decimating native workers on a new rail line. Finch blends suspense, atmosphere, and fair-play cluing so skillfully that many would welcome a longer Holmes story from his imagination. The always-reliable Denis O. Smith takes the duo to Russia in “The Adventure of the Colonel’s Daughter,” to clear a man caught literally red-handed at the scene of a murder. Clark’s own “The Climbing Man” confronts Holmes with an impossible crime in Mesopotamia. The consistent excellence makes this” an excellent choice, fun for summer reading.

De Palma, Felix J. [Map of Chaos](#) (Atria \$27). When the person he loves most dies in tragic circumstances, the mysterious protagonist does all he can to speak to her one last time. A session with a renowned medium seems to offer the only solution, but the experience unleashes terrible forces that bring the world to the brink of disaster. Salvation can only be found in *The Map of Chaos*, an obscure book that he is desperate to uncover. In his search, he is given invaluable help by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Lewis Carroll, and of course by H.G. Wells, whose *Invisible Man* seems to have escaped from the pages of his famous novel to sow terror among mankind. They alone can discover the means to save the world and to find the path that will reunite the lovers separated by death. Proving once again that he is “a master of ingenious plotting” (*Kirkus Reviews*), Palma brings together a cast of real and imagined literary characters in Victorian-Age London, when spiritualism is at its height.

Edwards, Martin, ed. [Truly Criminal](#) (The History Press \$22.95). A CWA anthology of True Crime. Among these real-life crimes, famous and forgotten, are such notorious cases as Samuel Herbert Dougal, the Moat Farm murderer; George Joseph Smith, the Brides in the Bath killer; and Dr. Hawley Harvey Crippen, one of the most infamous killers in British history. Contributors include Peter Lovesey, Andrew Taylor, and Catherine Aird, as well as 2013 CWA Crime Non-Fiction Dagger winner Paul French; a bonus essay by the late great Margery Allingham about the controversial William Herbert Wallace case has also been rediscovered. Foreword by international bestselling writer Peter James.

Elder, David. [The 50 Gems of the Cotswolds](#) (Gardners \$34). Enjoy the historic region’s 50 “most iconic places” lavishly illustrated. Ordered Upon Request from the UK.

Evans, Harriet. [A Place for Us](#) (Gallery \$25.99). The day Martha Winter decided to tear apart her family began like any other day. When Martha, a wife and mother of three, sits down one late summer’s morning to write out the invitations to her eightieth birthday celebration, she knows that what she is planning to reveal at the party could ruin the idyllic life she and her husband David have spent over fifty years building... But she has to let her family know what she and David have sacrificed. She can’t live a lie any more. The invitation goes out far and wide, calling her three children and their families back home to Winterfold, their rambling house in the heart of the English countryside. What will happen when Martha finally tells the truth?

Giltrow, Helen. [The Distance](#) (\$16.95). Charlotte Alton has put her old life behind her. The life where she bought and sold information, unearthing secrets buried too deep for anyone else to find, or fabricating new identities for people who need their histories erased. But now she has been offered one more job. To get a hit-man into an experimental new prison and take out someone who according to the records isn’t there at all. It’s impossible. A suicide mission. And quite possibly a set-up. So why can’t she say no?

Goddard, Robert. [The Ends of the Earth Signed](#) (Transworld \$45). July 1919. Ex-flying ace James ‘Max’ Maxted’s attempt to uncover the secret behind the death of his father, Sir Henry Maxted, murdered while serving as an adviser with the British delegation to the Paris peace conference, has seemingly ended in failure – and his own death. The trail uncovered by him leads to Japan and a mysterious prisoner held by Sir Henry Maxted’s old enemy, Count Tomura. Unaware of Max’s fate, the team he has recruited to finish the job are already there, where their paths cross that of former German spymaster, Fritz Lemmer, now rebuilding his spy network in the service of a new, more sinister cause. In the days and weeks ahead, the quest Max embarked on in Paris will reach its dizzying end at Tomura’s castle in the mountains of Honshu – and the full truth of what occurred thirty years before will finally be laid bare... Max Maxted #3

Grey, Iona. [Letters to the Lost](#) (St Martins \$25.99). A story of love and loss rooted in World War II and spanning decades. “Grey’s engaging, poignant, and romantic debut treats readers to an absorbing story within a story. Her detailed narrative chronicles the lives of these intriguing characters while fluidly travelling from past to present. The author’s subtle depictions to social and moral intolerances of the past and the gentle hand of fate that guides this tale makes her novel an excellent choice for fans of Beatrice Williams (*Overseas; A Hundred Summers*), Jon Clinch (*The Thief of Auschwitz*), and Kristina McMorris (*Bridge of Scarlet Leaves*).” —*LJ* Starred Review. I think of Rosamund Pilcher, Lauren Willig, and Kate Alcott here.

Herron, Mick. [Reconstruction](#) (\$14.95). Soho Press is reissuing Gold Dagger winner Herron’s earlier work, such as this. When a gunman breaks into South Oxford Nursery School and takes a group of hostages, teacher Louise Kennedy fears the worst. But Jaime Segura isn’t there on a homicidal mission, and he’s just as scared as those whose lives he holds as collateral. As an armed police presence builds outside the school’s gates, the only person Jaime will talk to is Ben Whistler, an MI6 accountant who worked with Jaime’s lover, Miro. Miro’s gone missing, along with a quarter of a billion pounds allotted for reconstruction work in Iraq. Jaime refuses to believe that Miro is a thief... what secrets may this situation unearth? This is a fine book that’s set up does not do justice to how the plot plays out.

Howells, Debbie. [The Bones of You](#) (Kensington \$25 comes with a fun card of three pins bearing quotes). **Our June British Crime Club Pick.** When eighteen-year-old Rosie Anderson disappears, the idyllic village where she lived will never be the same again. Local gardener Kate is struck with guilt. She’d come to know Rosie well, and thought she understood her—perhaps better even than Rosie’s own mother. A family torn apart Rosie was beautiful, kind and gentle. She came from a loving family and she had her whole life ahead of her. Who could possibly want

to harm her? And why? Kate is convinced the police are missing something. She's certain that someone in the village knows more than they're letting on. As the investigation deepens, so does Kate's obsession with solving the mystery of what happened to Rosie. Signed UK edition: [The Bones of You Signed](#) (Macmillan \$34)

Kerr, Philip. [The Hand of God Signed](#) (Zeus \$35). Scott Manson Soccer thriller #2 begins in Athens where London City is set to play Olympiacos in the Champion's League. The temperature is high, and tempers even higher. Greece is rioting and manager Scott Manson is keeping his team on a tight leash. There must be no drinking, no nightlife and no women. After the game, they are to get back to London refreshed and ready for a crucial match at home stadium Silvertown Docks. Then when City's star striker collapses mid-match, it shocks the nation. Is it a heart attack? Or something more sinister? As the Greek authorities mount a murder investigation, Scott launches his own in hopes he will get his team home to confront the Docks. Who knew that Kerr would tap into such a media-rich, corrupt landscape with this series? He did, having told me two years ago that given the vast number of soccer fans, a series set in their world could not miss.

Lovesey, Peter. [Down Among the Dead Men Signed](#) (Little Brown \$43). A nightmare discovery in the boot of a stolen BMW plunges car thief Danny Stapleton into the worst trouble of his life. What links his misfortune to the mysterious disappearance of an art teacher at a private school for girls in Chichester? Orders from above push Peter Diamond of Bath CID into investigating a police corruption case in the Chichester force, and he soon finds himself reluctantly dealing with spirited schoolgirls, eccentric artists and his formidable old colleague, Hen Mallin—he's almost 99% she's being railroaded although it may just be bad police work. Sadly for Diamond, he's forced to work in concert with his superior in Bath, a woman who drives him mad. Unsigned US edition: [Down Among the Dead Men](#) (Soho \$27.95). All Lovesey's are brilliant but I especially recommend his last two for Diamond: [The Tooth Tattoo](#) (\$15.95) and [The Stone Wife](#) (\$15.95).

Mark, David. [Taking Pity Signed](#) (Quercus \$40). If you're an Ian Rankin readers and waiting for fall's Rebus fix, then take up Mark and his excellent series. Three months back, a terrible tragedy ripped Hull DS Aector McAvoy's life apart, separated him from his wife and baby daughter although he's trying to parent his son. The destruction of his home and his enforced leave from CID means he's going stony broke. And his boss, Trish Pharaoh, and the Humberside Serious and Organized Crime Unit, whose relationship with McAvoy is... unusual... thinks he needs to get back in the game. The opportunity is to investigate whether a man confined to a mental institution for the past 30 years for crimes should be freed thanks to police wrongdoing. It's meant to be a simple assignment but the ruthless criminal network that has tightened its stranglehold on Hull intends to take no prisoners and let nothing stand in its way. Marks' 14th police procedural/thriller combines violence and brutality with love, tenderness, and some surprising literary/philosophical passages. Unsigned US edition: [Taking Pity](#) (Blue Rider/Putnam \$26.95). Start this series with Start with [The Dark Winter](#) (\$15).

Pebble, Stuart. [The Insect Farm](#) (LittleBrown \$26). **Our July British Crime Club Pick** is creepy and terrific—and a wonderful book both about brothers and about what it's like to take

responsibility for a mentally disabled child/adult. But it's more Gothic than mystery even though there is a murder that both warps one brother's life and creates part of the punch-in-the-gut ending. The Maguire brothers grew up in suburban Croydon, southeast of London, in a house with a typical shed in the garden. But the simple elder brother Roger's obsession is insects and the shed is his habitat/playground. Jonathan is used to the family dynamic of watching out for Roger, and Roger has proved he can watch out for Jonathan (as against, say, school bullies). In time, Jonathan's obsession becomes his wife Harriet. As Roger's insect farm becomes more complex, suggesting he is doing so as well, Jonathan's marriage does too. Their parents die in a fire. There's a murder. And then come real surprises. Recommended by Jeffery Deaver, David Morrell, and Lee Child as well as me.

Robinson, Peter. [Children of the Revolution](#) (\$14.99). Chief Inspector Alan Banks' latest case in paperback. See our July Trade Paperback Picks for more.

Smith, Alexander McCall. [The Novel Habits of Happiness](#) (Knopf \$24.95). From a small town outside Edinburgh comes the news that a young boy has been recounting vivid recollections of a past life: a perfect description of an island off the coast of Scotland which he couldn't possibly know, and a house there, where he claims to have spent his former life. When the boy's mother asks Isabel to investigate his claims, she feels she must—of course!—help them learn the truth, and she and Jamie set off for the island. But finding the house the boy described only leads to more complicated questions. And when she learns about the tragic story of the family who lived there, Isabel is suddenly faced with a situation of extraordinary delicacy that will require all of her skills both as sleuth and philosopher. (Meantime, back in Edinburgh: will an elderly lothario seduce away Grace the housekeeper? 10th in series.

Stewart, Mary. [Madam, Will You Talk?](#) (\$12.95). A classic returns, the first romantic suspense by bestseller Stewart. Charity Selborne, a lovely war widow, and her irreverent artist friend, Louise Cray, arrive in the South of France expecting a conventional holiday. The vistas of Provence delight them, and Charity soon meets David, a young man of 13 who is having trouble with his dog. He introduces himself and Charity is charmed—until she senses a terrible maturity behind his grave eyes and shortly hears the rumors about his father. And then.... I was prompted by this to reread my ancient and yellowing paperback copy, a treat.

Tyler, LC. [Crooked Herring](#) (Felony \$14.95). "At the start of Tyler's delightful fifth Ethelred and Elsie mystery, Ethelred Tressider, a midlist novelist, is skeptical of fellow crime writer Henry Holiday's claim that Henry may have killed someone New Year's Eve. But, loath to let a friend down even if that friend is a far more successful writer, Ethelred agrees to try to trace Henry's rakish progress from pub to club to who-knows-where around Sussex, where they live just a few miles apart, and to find out what, if anything, happened to the man who may (or may not) have been his victim. Biscuit-munching Elsie Thirkettle, Ethelred's irritable and bossy literary agent, arrives in Sussex to provide comfort and support. Entries from Elsie's journal contain amusing comments on her bumbling client's shortcomings. Some Amazon U.K. reviews of Ethelred's books add to the fun."—*PW*. For those who enjoy British humor, this series is a winner. We can order the first four for you.

Wallace, Edgar. [The Man Who Bought London](#) (Hesperus \$16.95). Edgar Wallace (1875–1932) was a prolific English writer, creating 18 stage plays, 957 short stories, and more than 170 novels. He is remembered as the author of the J.G. Reeder detective stories and *The Green Archer*, and as the creator of King Kong. Here is a reissue of one of his novels: American King Kerry and his associates own a huge and growing portfolio of properties, and he has come to London to expand his empire. A charming and ambitious man, he nevertheless has made a few enemies along the way—including the obnoxious and dangerous Hermann Zeberlieff, whose bad business decisions and gambling habit mean he would like nothing more than to get his hands on Kerry's fortune. When Elsie Marion, late for work again and in a dreadful rush, bumps into a charming grey-haired man on the tube, little does she know how much her life is about to change. For the dashing stranger has just bought Tack and Brighten, her place of employment, and is about to offer Elsie a new job she simply cannot refuse. Thus begins a whirlwind of mysterious events for Elsie, as she soon finds herself in the cut-throat world of London finance.

Walsh, Jill Paton. [The Late Scholar](#) (\$15.99). The great fun here in a wrap to the Lord Peter Wimsey mysteries (as continued by Walsh after Dorothy L. Sayers) is the return to Oxford, this time to St. Severins College where Peter has agreed to another title: that of Visitor, an Oxford term for a mediator. St. Severins possesses a priceless book alleged to have belonged to Alfred the Great. One faction of the Fellows wants to sell the book in order to purchase land to later sell at profit, while the other opposes the sale on the grounds that the scholarly value of the volume far outweighs its monetary worth. Deadlocked, they summon the new Visitor. Peter arrives to find the Warden missing and fatal accidents befalling certain dons, one so like a fall depicted in one of Harriet's books that the couple suspect...murder.

Ware, Ruth. [In a Dark, Dark Wood Signed](#) (Harvill \$36). 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 reached 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. And while the story creepily plays out, people die, secrets are revealed, I never find Nora believable or convincing, or the other characters either. It's more like a storm in a teacup. But it's being positioned for fans of *The Girl on the Train*. Out the end of July; please order early to avoid disappointment. A US edition publishes in August, Unsigned.

Watson, Peter. [Madeleine's War](#) (Knopf \$26.95). A nuanced marriage of military history and romance, set in a secret British resistance unit during World War Matthew fought on the ground in France with a secret British resistance unit until he suffered a severe injury. In his new role training fresh recruits, he meets Madeleine, a beautiful, talented French-Canadian woman determined to contribute to the war effort. Matthew's job is to train Madeleine for intelligence and sabotage before she parachutes behind enemy lines. Her superior officer, he is not supposed to fall in love with her, but the two nonetheless embark

upon a passionate, short-lived affair, before she is sent to France and disappears. Despite its title, *Madeleine's War* is told from Matthew's perspective, leaving the reader as in the dark as he is after Madeleine vanishes in Nazi territory. He is then left to track her down—out of both love and duty, which sometimes conflict. The plot then twists again as Matthew is given an uncomfortable mission of his own to carry out. Watson's expertise as a historian lends credibility to the context of this story: in his afterword he states that the geography, training procedures, technologies and secrecy he portrays are all based on fact.

Williams, Charlotte. [The Black Valley](#) (Harper \$14.99). Williams' [The House on the Cliff](#) (\$14.99 or better, Signed @\$20) formed a tight psychological thriller and First Mystery Club Pick. The mystery became, where was a new book? And the answer is that Williams died young, 59, in 2014. Her second and final novel takes the Welsh countryside for its landscape, the Black Mountain of the southeast, where psychotherapist Jessica Mayhew is treating a new patient. The obsessive painter Elinor Powell, who unwisely keeps a valuable portrait in the studio where her mother was killed in an unsolved robbery, is experiencing deepening paranoia about her twin, Isobel, and her ruthless art dealer brother-in-law Blake. Jessica begins to take Elinor (and the mother's death) more seriously when she meets the whole family at the vernissage of Blake's latest protégé, a reclusive former miner from Rhondda producing gloomy canvases of his former workplace. The painter Augustus John figures into this. The novel is more interesting for its various backgrounds than as a mystery.

Willig, Lauren. [The Other Daughter Signed](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Rachel Woodley believes her father died in her youth, leaving her to be raised by a furiously respectable widowed mother in a small English town. Rachel is working as a governess in France when she learns of her mother's death and returns home. There she finds a London society magazine, three months old, with a photograph of her father standing with his daughter. Father is an earl, his daughter a legitimate Lady, and Rachel realizes she is... what? Everything she thought she knew about herself and her family is a lie. Furious at the betrayals, including her elderly Cousin David, she hies herself up in the London of the 1920s and insinuates herself into the Bright Young Things crowd with the object of revealing the perfidy. But she meets her sister Olivia, whom she likes. And finds herself falling for Olivia's fiancé. And, her own story takes a new twist revealing some very questionable choices. Out in July, signed here Sept. 7.

Wilson, Laura. [Wrong Girl Signed](#) (Putnam \$40). In 2006, three-year-old Phoebe Piper went missing on a family holiday. Despite massive publicity and a long investigation, no trace of her was ever found. Seven years later, Molly Jackson, aged ten and recently uprooted to a Norfolk village, finds her great uncle Dan dead in his bed. Molly remembers nothing of her early years, but she's been sure for ages that she is Phoebe. Everything in her life points to it and now, finally, she has proof. Dan's death brings his hippie sister Janice back to Norfolk where she's re-united with Molly's mother Suze, the daughter she gave up for adoption decades earlier. Janice discovers that a former lover, Joe Vincent, lives nearby. Joe was a rock star who, at the height of his fame, turned his back on public life. As she is drawn back into the past, Janice begins to wonder if Dan's death and Joe's reputation as a reclusive acid casualty are quite what they appear. And then Molly disappears....

BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSICS

Crofts, Freeman Willis. [Antidote to Venom](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95) is a unique mystery, told from two perspectives – that of the criminal and that of the Inspector investigating the case. The novel examines how an ordinary, supposedly moral man can be driven to murder – and what the effects on him may be, unlike many novels written during the Golden Age of Mystery. George Surridge, the director of the Birmingham Zoo, is an unhappy man. His wife treats him with disdain, he lives beyond his means, and likes gambling a little too much. The situation comes to a head when he falls in love. Happiness is on the horizon, if only he can realize the funds. He is due a legacy from an Aunt, elderly and in failing health. Is this the answer to his prayers?

Crofts, Freeman Willis. [The Hog's Back Mystery](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). Dr James Earle and his wife live a quiet life at Hog's Back in the beautiful Surrey Countryside. When Dr Earle disappears, without his outdoor shoes, coat or hat, Inspector French is called in to investigate. After a house guest mentions seeing Dr Earle with a young lady in town earlier in the week, the police suspect that Dr Earle has abandoned his wife for a younger lover. But the pieces don't add up. When one of the Earle's guests disappears in the same manner, it becomes clear that it's a case of murder. This is a classic example of a (almost) perfect crime where Crofts plays fair with you the reader, but may well best you.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Adler, Elizabeth. [One Way or Another](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Here's a high-stakes beach read with suspense spinning both glamour and grit among the glitterati. It begins when portrait artist Marco, getting away from it all in a beachside hideaway at Fethiye, Turkey, sees a woman falling from a huge yacht. And we know from the earlier chapter that Angie, floating in the sea, felt a stab in her side, and a push, then her fall. And watched the yacht pull away. She's one of the narrators. The artist who failed to find her when he searched, is another. A third is Martha, the high-flying lover of Marco who is more genuine and down-to-earth than one might think. And she has a young and naïve sister. The super wealthy Ahmet owns the yacht. And, there is an appealing dog....

Arango, Sascha. [The Truth and Other Lies Signed](#) (SimonSchuster UK \$35) bears comparison to Patricia Highsmith the book fairly twangs with paranoia, sardonic humor and razor-sharp observation."—*The Guardian*. The *PW* Starred Review adds, "From the outside, Henry Hayden has a perfect life: he's a famous novelist with more money than he can spend, a grand house in the country, a loyal, clever wife. But Henry has a dark side. If only the readers and critics who worship his every word knew that his success depends on a carefully maintained lie. One he will stop at nothing to protect. His luck must surely run out, and he simply can't allow that to happen. In thrall to paranoia and self-interest, Henry makes a fatal error that could cause the whole dream to unravel and, despite his Machiavellian efforts, events swiftly spin out of control as lie is heaped upon lie, menace upon menace. And it turns out that those around him have their secrets too .The *PW* Starred Review: "German scriptwriter Arango's exceptional first novel, a highly entertaining thriller, focuses on Henry Hayden, a successful author who lives in a "nondescript coastal town." Wealthy beyond imagination, he appears to be a

loving husband to his wife, Martha, and is so humble that people automatically like him.... Henry's carefully constructed world is in danger when Betty becomes pregnant. His decision to take drastic action results in an accidental death. Dodging the police inquiry and an old acquaintance determined to expose his erratic past, Henry takes charge of his own fate. Wry humor punctuates this insightful look at a soulless man." **A First Mystery Club Pick**. No Signed US editions.

Aspe, Pieter. [From Bruges with Love](#) (Open Road \$15.99). This is the 3rd mystery by Flemish writer Aspe who's a European best-seller. I admit I don't warm to the humor (blunt) or the characters (blunt to brutal) but recognize this may be a cultural disconnect, or the translation from the Flemish. Bruges is a city in amber, a tourist destination. But it's also a modern EU metropolis and it has an elite society with Belgian movers and shakers as well as a seedy underworld. Inspector Pieter Van In works both. Although weakened by the rigorous diet his pregnant wife the deputy prosecutor is enforcing, Van In is quick to the farmhouse where the Vermasts have just found a skeleton in their garden. Their land formerly belonged to the richest mogul in West Flanders before it was handed-off to a right-wing charity. This foundation appears to have no cash inflow or outflow, so what, or who, is financing it, and why? And what does the skeleton have to do with anything?

Bai, Xiao. [The French Concession](#) (Harper \$27.99). Since David Downing's [Jack of Spies](#) (\$15.95) remains one of my favorites, how could I resist a spy tale of 1930s Shanghai? The city of 1990s Inspector Chen (Qiu Xiaolong), of SJ Rozan's *Shanghai Moon*. Tom Bradby's terrific *The Master of Rain*. Lisa See's [Shanghai Girls](#) (\$16). Unfortunately, and it may be in part the translation, I can't get excited about Bai. There's too much going on, too many players. See First Novels for an on-topic review.

Bannalec, Jean-Luc. [Death in Brittany](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Can't make it to Europe this summer? All is not lost, this intriguing novel sweeps you to the picturesque coast of Brittany, a French province rooted in the Celtic (Tristan and Iseult) with millennia of a fishing and boating culture (two tiny islands off the coast of Canada make up a part of this province). The ancient and paint-worthy village of Pont-Aven played host to Gauguin and a cluster of other artists in the late 19th Century, their center the Hotel Central. And today the hotel's legendary owner, 91-year-old Pierre-Louis Pennec, is found murdered. See First Novels for more.

Bruen, Ken. [Green Hell](#) (Grove \$25). In Jack Taylor's last case, [Purgatory](#) (\$14), the ex-cop had finally turned his life around, only to be taunted back into fighting Galway's corruption by a twisted serial killer named C33. Now Taylor has hit rock bottom: one of his best friends is dead, the other has stopped speaking to him; he has given up battling his addiction to alcohol and pills; and his firing from the Irish national police, the Guards, is ancient history. But Jack isn't about to embark on a self-improvement plan. Instead, he has taken up a vigilante case against a respected professor of literature at the University of Galway who has a violent habit his friends in high places are only too happy to ignore. And when Jack rescues a preppy American student on a Rhodes Scholarship from a couple of kid thugs, he also unexpectedly gains a new sidekick, who abandons his thesis on Beckett to write a biography of Galway's most magnetic rogue. Between pub crawls and violent outbursts, Jack's vengeful plot against the professor soon spirals toward chaos.

Connell, John A. [Ruins of War](#) (Berkley \$26.95). This serial killer thriller stalks Munich, devastated by war, housing Germans of various stripes and past loyalties, Nazi and not. Mason Collins, a former Chicago homicide dick, soldier, and a prisoner of war at Buchenwald, is on a short trial as a US Army Investigator in the American Zone of Occupation. He's a guy who doesn't play well with others, resists authority, and has his own sense of justice. He's the right guy to go after someone with a knowledge of human anatomy who is stalking the city, picking victims at apparent random, exploiting not only the ruined city, the rats nest of war criminals, but penetrating the Army's own black market. Mason's overworked commanding officer doesn't want him pursuing a homicide case that's likely a German-on-German crime with no leads. But the detective's suspicions that the killer isn't done leads him to risk his career to catch him. And what Mason doesn't know is that the killer is actually stalking him.... Excellent period detail rises above a plot that doesn't completely pay off, but a sequel seems in the works.

Disher, Garry. [Bitter Wash Road](#) (\$15.95). Shortlisted for Australia's 2014 Ned Kelly Best Novel Award. When Hirsch heads up Bitter Wash Road to investigate the gunfire he finds himself cut off without back-up. A pair of thrill killers has been targeting isolated farmhouses on lonely backroads, but Hirsch's first thought is that 'back-up' is nearby - and about to put a bullet in him. That's because Hirsch is a whistleblower. Formerly a promising metropolitan officer, now demoted and exiled to a one-cop station in South Australia's wheat belt. Called a dog by his brother officers. Threats; pistol cartridge in the mailbox. But the shots on Bitter Wash Road don't tally with Hirsch's assumptions. The truth turns out to be a lot more mundane. And the events that unfold subsequently, a hell of a lot more sinister. Disher is a prolific crimewriter. For more Australian crime, two reissues in Peter Corris' PI Cliff Hardy series: [Lugarno](#) (\$16.95) and [Other Side of Sorrow](#) (\$16 each).

Eriksson, Kjell. [Open Grave](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Uppsala police officer Ann Lindell is great at solving crimes. Her personal life not so good...but it's nothing as barren as that of the new Nobel Prize winner just announced. 84-year-old Professor Bertram von Ohler trumpets the good news, but not everyone in his quiet upper-class neighborhood is happy for him. Some gravely so....

Hewson, David. [The Flood Signed](#) (Severn \$45). Florence, 1986. A seemingly inexplicable attack on a church fresco of Adam and Eve brings together an unlikely couple: Julia Well, an English art student, and Pino Fratelli, a semi-retired detective who longs to be back in the field. Their investigation leads them to the secret society that underpins the city: an elite underworld of excess, violence and desire. Seeped in the culture of Tuscany's most mysterious city, *The Flood* takes the reader on a dazzling journey into the darkness in Florence's past: the night of the great flood in 1966...

Janes, J. Robert. [Clandestine](#) (Mysterious \$14.99). Jean-Louis St-Cyr visited l'Abbaye de Vauclare some 150 km northeast of Paris in the Great War when a sniper nearly picked him off. And how he's back alongside German DI Hermann Kohler in the fall of 1943 where a bank-owned armored Renault van stands, empty. The local coroner is not present, but bodies are. And the hijackers are missing, those who hit the van making collections from Reims to Laon, Soissons, and Senlis before returning to Paris.

However, while the money is also gone, there is a surprising store of champagne, cheese, and coffee, plus a pair of expensive high-heels, on hand. Did the thieves come from the Resistance, or the underworld? 16th in a series of procedurals pairing a French and a German cop tasked with solving crimes too ordinary for the Gestapo.

Jin, Ha. [Map of Betrayal](#) (\$15.95). Lilian Shang, a history professor in Maryland, knew that her father, Gary, had been the most important Chinese spy ever caught in the United States. But when she discovers his diary after the death of her parents, its pages reveal the full pain and longing that his double life entailed—and point to a hidden second family that he'd left behind in China. As Lilian follows her father's trail back into the Chinese provinces, she begins to grasp the extent of her father's dilemma—torn between loyalty to his motherland and the love he came to feel for his adopted country. As she starts to understand that Gary, too, had been betrayed, she finds that it is up to her to prevent his tragedy from endangering yet another generation of the Shangs.

Karjel, Robert. [The Swede](#) (Harper \$26.99). A debut featuring a Swedish security force agent, Ernst Grip, who's been dispatched to a remote military base in the Indian Ocean where he's met by FBI Agent Shauna Friedman. Grip's assignment: is the prisoner, known as "N," a suspect in an Islamic terrorist attack, a Swedish citizen? Is he a survivor of the 2004 tsunami that struck Thailand, part of a cabal of survivors? And will Grip and Friedman each be able to keep their own secrets?

Johnston, Paul. *Heads or Hearts* (Severn \$28.95). Fans of mysteries set in alternative realities will welcome Johnston's sixth Quint Dalrymple whodunit the rest of Scotland; 30 years later, most of Europe's parliaments have been destroyed, and the British monarchy has fallen out of popular favor after the marriage of Prince Charles to a "Colombian drugs heiress." The rulers of 2033 Edinburgh, the Council of City Guardians, turn to Dalrymple, a respected independent investigator, after someone leaves a human heart in the middle of a football stadium. This disturbing act worries the guardians, who were tipped off to the grisly find and are concerned that the person responsible was sending a message connected with legends of Scottish history. The case gets even more bizarre when a headless corpse turns up near another playing field. Johnston skillfully fleshes out his despotic future, making it easy for readers to buy into his imagined world."—*PW*. Ordered Upon Request

McGrath, M J. [The Bone Seeker](#) (\$16). When young Inuit Martha Salliaq goes missing from her settlement, her teacher, ex Polar Bear Hunter Edie Kiglatuk enlists her police friend Derek Palliser to help search for the girl. But once a body is discovered floating in a polluted lake on the site of a decommissioned Radar Station, Edie's worst fears are realized. As the investigation into Martha's murder begins, the Inuit community – and Martha's devastated family – are convinced the culprits lie within the encampment of soldiers stationed nearby. Before long Sergeant Palliser finds evidence linking two of the men with the dead girl. But Edie and local lawyer Sonia Gutierrez remain unconvinced. 3rd in a brilliant series that began with First Mystery Pick *White Heat*.

McPherson, Catriona. [Dandy Gilver and the Unpleasantness in the Ballroom Signed](#) (Hodder \$45). Glasgow, 1932, is a city in the grip of dance-fever. Public ballrooms and back-street dance-

halls are thronged every night and competition for professional titles is fierce. Even after the sudden death of one of last year's hopefuls there are plenty willing to take his place, and few who stop to wonder why he died. See History/Mystery for more.

Medina, K T. [White Crocodile](#) (LittleBrown \$26). A woman British armed forces veteran with an MBA and MFA put it all to use in thriller about a woman, Tess Hardy, who has wrenchingly broken with her violent ex-husband. Then he calls from Cambodia where he's at work clearing mines (think Princess Di) and Tess hears an unusual note in his voice: fear. Two weeks later, she learns he's dead. Against her better judgment she's drawn to those killing fields where the Khmer Rouge interred its countless victims... and the White Crocodile, a Cambodian symbol of death, roams.

Mendoza, Eduard. [An Englishman in Madrid](#) (Quercus \$26.99). Anthony Whitelands, an English art historian, is invited to Madrid to value an aristocrat's collection. At a welcome lunch he encounters Jose Antonio Primo de Rivera, founder and leader of the Falange, a nationalist party whose antics are bringing the country ever closer to civil war. The paintings turn out to be worthless, but before Whitelands can leave for London the *duque's* daughter Paquita reveals a secret and genuine treasure, held for years in the cellars of her ancestral home. Afraid that the *duque* will cash in his wealth to finance the Falange, the Spanish authorities resolve to keep a close eye on the Englishman, who is also being watched by his own embassy. As Whitelands—ever the fool for a pretty face—vies with Primo de Rivera for Paquita's affections, he learns of a final interested party: Madrid is crawling with Soviet spies. "A funny, gripping and perfectly balanced blend of PG Wodehouse, Evelyn Waugh and Graham Greene."—*The Independent on Sunday*

Mina, Denise. [Blood, Salt, Water Signed](#) (Orion \$39). DI Alex Morrow and her team have been shadowing a woman suspected of being involved in a large drug-smuggling and money-laundering operation. Roxanna Fuentecilla recently moved from London to Glasgow in suspicious circumstances and Morrow's bosses want all the glory when she's finally arrested. But then Roxanna disappears. She's left her partner and her two children and something about the situation, and the children's evasive attitude, leads Morrow to question what's really going on. In the nearby picturesque town of Helensburgh, Iain Fraser is struggling to live with his overwhelming guilt. Under orders from the infamous Mark Barratt he's just killed a woman and now he's left with blood on his hands. Meanwhile Miss Grierson, a former scout leader who left the sleepy seaside town decades ago, has returned. Allegedly she's here to sort out her recently deceased mother's estate, but Iain knows her mother died over two years ago and suspects she has an ulterior motive.

Simenon, George. [The Flemish House](#) (Penguin \$11). Book #14 in the Inspector Maigret reissues is set on the Belgian border. Maigret is asked to the windswept, rainy border town of Givet by a young woman desperate to clear her family of murder. But their well-kept shop, the sleepy community and its raging river all hide their own mysteries.

Simsion, Graeme. [The Rosie Effect](#) (\$15.99). The unexpected hero of bestseller [The Rosie Project](#) (15.95), Don now sets about learning the protocols of becoming a father with the same focus with which he approached dating...and gained Rosie. Think an

adult, and Australian, version of the boy in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*.

Soderberg, Alex. [The Other Son](#) (Crown \$26). The concept of [The Andalucian Friend](#) (\$15) was powerful, mixing a Swedish widowed, single-mother up with Spain's powerful Guzman crime family through its elder son Hector. "Epic... a crime novel that mixes familial drama — the Guzman crime family is drawing comparisons to Mario Puzo's Corleones — gang wars, the illegal gun trade, break-the-rules cops and unspeakable violence... The scope of this novel is sometimes astounding and always fascinating."—*USA Today*. Sometimes a high concept like this is good for only one book, but this is a trilogy. In book two, Sophie is kept in line by Aron Geisler, Hector's right-hand man while Hector lies in a coma. Sophie's son Albert, disabled by cohorts of Gunilla, a corrupt Swedish cop, adds to Sophie's crushing sense of guilt. By joining the enterprise she entered a world where rules and players constantly change and keeping her footing is a nightmare. Then Hector's brother Eduardo is killed by a rival clan and Sophie, so beloved of Hector, may have gained an edge... An international thriller and international hit being published in some 30 countries.

SPLENDID CITIES

Adult coloring books: color your way to calm... a wonderful summer idea in Hachette Libre's Art Thérapie Series.

De Las Cases, Z. [Secret Paris: Color Your Way](#) (LittleBrown \$1). Get out your pens and discover Paris. Stroll the picturesque streets, cross the Seine, and live like the French do, in a world of bistros, flea markets, and opulent architecture. Feel the stress melt away as your inner artist comes alive.

Goodwin, Rosie. [Splendid Cities: Color Your Way](#) (LittleBrown \$16). Let yourself be drawn into a world tour dotted with floating kingdoms in the sky and spooky cities, taking you from the domes of Moscow to the top of the Eiffel Tower. This journey knows no limits!

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Bear, Greg. [War Dogs](#) (\$16). At first, the Gurus seemed like God's gifts to humankind. With their mastery of advanced technologies and their elevated intellects, these intergalactic visitors provided invaluable help to earthlings at a small price: They only asked for military assistance to protect them from their Antag enemies. Sergeant Michael Venn and his far-ranging Skyrines were quite happy to join this relatively new alliance, but then something happened that changed everything—and not for the better.

Chu, Wesley. [Time Salvager](#) (Tor \$25.99). *The Lives of Tao* author Chu gets a *PW* Starred Review: "James Griffin-Mars, a highly trained "chronman," travels from 26th-century Earth to past eras on numerous planets, salvaging coveted relics and materials to maintain humanity's power supply without breaking Time Laws (for instance, bringing someone back from the past) or affecting the time line. An apparently unstoppable plague has made Earth one of the least desirable places to live; fortunately, advanced technology lets James communicate by thought, provides powerful armor, and shields him from environmental discomforts. Haunted by people he has left to die in the past (his sister; a Nazi soldier; "the legendary Grace Priestly") and wishing only to complete his contract, James accepts a dangerous mission from menacing private corporation Valta, leading to life-changing choices. Like James, intriguing secondary characters such as High Auditor

Levin and James's handler, Smitt, wrestle with increasingly complex ethical dilemmas; meanwhile, 21st-century scientist Elise, for whom James breaks the first Time Law, becomes his moral conscience and romantic interest, as well as a source of hope for a dying planet. Chu creates a fascinating world, strange and familiar, infused with humor, sorrow, courage, greed, and sacrifice. This page-turner is a riveting, gratifying read."

De Castell, Sebastien. [Greatcoat's Lament](#) (Quercus \$26.99). This title published in the UK as [Knight's Shadow Signed](#) (\$36). Castell continues his dark swashbuckling tale of idealism and betrayal in a country crushed under the weight of its rulers' corruption. The horrifying murder of a duke and his family sends Falcio val Mond, swordsman and First Cantor of the Greatcoats, in a deadly pursuit to capture the killer. But Falcio soon discovers his own life is in mortal danger from a poison administered as a final act of revenge by one of his deadliest enemies. As chaos and civil war begin to overtake the country, Falcio has precious little time left to stop those determined to destroy his homeland.

Begin with [Traitor's Blade](#) (\$14.99). "*Traitor's Blade* is a swashbuckling romp packed with charisma, camaraderie, quick wit and even quicker swordplay. That said, it's far from candy-coated—and it packs some serious substance... darkness is served up deliciously, only de Castell uses it as the sauce, not the soup ... What makes the book truly sing, though, is its rich historical backdrop. De Castell's fight scenes are as sumptuously detailed as the world Falcio inhabits... In its own way, *Traitor's Blade* is as grim and dark as the edgiest fantasy series on the shelves. It's also shot through with heroics, hope and a dazzling aptitude for fun."—Jason Heller, NPR"

Cline, Ernest. [Armada Signed](#) (Random \$26). Zack Lightman has spent his life dreaming. Dreaming that the real world could be a little more like the countless science-fiction books, movies, and videogames he's spent his life consuming. Dreaming that one day, some fantastic, world-altering event will shatter the monotony of his humdrum existence and whisk him off on some grand space-faring adventure. But hey, there's nothing wrong with a little escapism, right? After all, Zack tells himself, he knows the difference between fantasy and reality. And then he sees the flying saucer... Jeffrey of our staff reviews: "This second book by Cline, author of [Ready Player One](#) (\$14), will appeal to you if you love old Sci-fi movies, have ever wondered what the Pentagon has been spending those trillions in space on, or if you know anything about pop culture circa 1984. Kline returns with more of his casual yet engaging tone, his clever yet subtle insight in human psychology, both collectively and individually, and, last but not least, his unique brand of sardonic humor. *Armada* is every bit as fun and thought provoking as *Ready Player One*, and is sure to delight."

De La Cruz, Melissa. [Vampires of Manhattan: The New Blue Bloods Coven Series](#) (\$15). It is ten years after the great War with Lucifer, and the Coven has rebuilt. Leader of the Fallen, Oliver Hazard-Perry, plans to celebrate this prosperity by throwing a 400 Year Ball—and all Blue Blood society will be there. And then, all hell breaks loose...

De Lint, Charles. [Seven Wild Sisters](#) (\$8). This full-color, illustrated companion novel to *The Cats of Tanglewood Forest* includes "beautiful bookmaking, lovely storytelling, and wondrous illustrations....Readers will be enchanted" —*Kirkus* Starred Review (of the hardcover edition)

Gladstone, Wayne. [Agents of the Internet Apocalypse](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Gladstone, the so-called "Internet Messiah," has not only failed to bring back the Web, but his search has landed him in a New York City psychiatric ward. The rest of the world isn't doing so well either, filled with disconnected Internet users still jonesing for a fix, and an increasingly draconian Government, interrogating and detaining anyone deemed a "person of interest" under the NET Recovery Act. For Gladstone, however, finding the Net is less important than heading to Los Angeles to win back his ex-wife. He takes up residence on the couch of his old friend, gossip-blogger Tobey, while trying to rebuild his lost romance. But when Gladstone's old journal account of the Internet Apocalypse goes "paper viral," his newfound celebrity puts him at the forefront of the Internet Reclamation Movement. Soon he is a target for shadowy government agents, and a reluctant collaborator with Anonymous who provides a clue that promises to explain the Internet's disappearance. Gladstone continues the trilogy that imagines a dystopian world without the Web.

Goodkind, Terry. [The First Confessor](#) (Tor \$29.99). Married to the powerful leader of her people, safe among those gifted with great ability, Magda Searus is protected from a distant world descending into war. But when her husband, a man who loved life and loved her, unexpectedly commits suicide, she suddenly finds herself alone. Because she is ungifted herself, without her husband she no longer has standing among her people, and she finds herself isolated in a society that seems to be crumbling around her. Despite her grief, she is driven to find the reasons behind why her husband would do such a thing—why he would abandon her and her people at such a profoundly dangerous time. Though she is not gifted, she begins to discover that there may be more to her husband's suicide than anyone knew. What she finds next, no one is willing to believe.

Robinson, Kim Stanley. [Aurora](#) (Orbit \$26). An awesomely imagined story of our first voyage beyond the solar system from the bestseller and winner of the Hugo, Nebula, and Locus awards.

Schultz, Jamie. [Splintered: An Arcane Underworld Novel](#) (NAL \$7.99). Like a cross between the TV show *Leverage* and Jim Butcher's 'Dresden Files' books."—Library Journal The author of *Premonitions* continues his Arcane Underworld saga... Anna Ruiz is on a mission: Help her friend and partner-in-crime Karyn Ames break free of the tangle of hallucinations and premonitions that have cut her off from reality. With the aid of her crew—ex-soldier Nail and sorcerer Genevieve—she'll do whatever it takes... For more genre paperbacks see New in Mass Markets.

Stross, Charles. [The Annihilation Score](#) (Berkley \$26.95). Hugo Award-winning author Charles Stross presents the next case in *The Laundry Files*. Dominique O'Brien—her friends call her Mo—lives a curious double life with her husband, Bob Howard. To the average civilian, they're boring middle-aged civil servants. But within the labyrinthian secret circles of Her Majesty's government, they're operatives working for the nation's occult security service known as the Laundry, charged with defending Britain against dark supernatural forces threatening humanity. Mo's latest assignment is assisting the police in containing an unusual outbreak: ordinary citizens suddenly imbued with extraordinary abilities of the super-powered kind. Unfortunately these people prefer playing super-pranks instead of super-heroics....

Wexler, Django. [The Price of Valor](#) (NAL \$26.95). In the wake of the King's death, war has come to Vordan. The Deputies-General has precarious control of the city, but it is led by a zealot who sees traitors in every shadow. Executions have become a grim public spectacle. The new queen, Raesinia Orboan, finds herself nearly powerless as the government tightens its grip and assassins threaten her life. But she did not help free the country from one sort of tyranny to see it fall into another. Placing her trust with the steadfast soldier Marcus D'Ivoire, she sets out to turn the tide of history. 3rd in the Shadow Campaigns Novels called: "[An] audacious and subversive... mash-up of 17th-century technology and demon-summoning assassins." Highly recommended by our Patrick King.

JULY TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

Atkins, Ace. [The Forsaken](#) (\$16). Thirty-six years ago, a nameless black man wandered into Jericho, Mississippi, with nothing but the clothes on his back and a pair of paratrooper boots. Less than two days later, he was accused of rape and murder, hunted down by a self-appointed posse, and lynched. Now evidence has surfaced of his innocence, and county sheriff Quinn Colson sets out not only to identify the stranger's remains, but to charge those responsible for the lynching. As he starts to uncover old lies and dirty secrets, though, he runs up against fierce opposition from those with the most to lose—and they can play dirty themselves. See Event Books for the sequel.

⌘Downing, David. [Jack of Spies](#) (\$15.95). How I love this book. From the German territory of Tsingtau, 1913, to Shanghai, by ship to San Francisco, by train to New York (why can't we still take the Overland Limited before changing trains in Chicago?), down to Veracruz, then over to Ireland and London. A part time spy, Jack McColl, Scottish luxury automobile salesman who speaks nine languages, faces more and more difficult choices that push him towards accepting regular employment in British intelligence, all while war draws near and the Irish American woman he fell for in China and their many nights of hot sex—friends with benefits, or something more?—colors his every decision. So does his sense of patriotism and the role of religion. Wow! I loved the luxury of the pace as the story unfolds, never feeling rushed from one big bang to another, but never losing a quiet sense of urgency. Downing not only captures the era, he writes in its style, like say did Erskine Childers—a fact lost on reviewers accustomed to slam-bang spy stories. Downing's excellent WWII spy novels named after Berlin's train stations are a marvel, too.

Koryta, Michael. [Those Who Wish Me Dead](#) (\$16). When 13-year-old Jace Wilson witnesses a brutal murder, he's plunged into a new life, issued a false identity, and hidden in a wilderness skills program for troubled teens. The plan is to get Jace off the grid while police find the two killers. The result is the start of a nightmare... "Young Jace's journey to survive is a gripping rush. I know not to run in the woods but I wanted to tell him: run, woods or not, just run!"—Ron Carlson. [Click here](#) to order other Korytas. He signs a new PI novel here on August 16.

⌘Robinson, Peter. [Children of the Revolution](#) (\$14.99). The *Booklist* Starred Review finds that "Robinson writes police procedurals in which the latest forensic science enhances, while still taking a back seat to, the basic arts of detection; DCI Alan Banks is clearly on the side of old-fashioned discovery of motive and opportunity, and his questioning of suspects is wonderful

to witness. This time the body of a former university lecturer is found on the tracks of an abandoned railroad track in North Yorkshire. The man has been living hand to mouth since his dismissal on charges of sexual misconduct several years before. The scene reads as a suicide, except to Banks, who suspects that the 5,000 pounds left in the man's pocket and his recent reaching out to militant college contacts from the 1970s may point to a more complicated story. As usual with a Banks novel, the chief inspector's frictions with higher-ups are nearly as gripping as the unraveling of the case itself. First-rate procedural and character study." The Banks series has won a clutch of awards, including France's Grand Prix de Littérature Policière and Sweden's Martin Beck awards, along with nominations for Edgar and Agatha awards, and wins for the Arthur Ellis and the Edgar Short Story.

Rosenfelt, David. [Hounded](#) (\$15.99). An orphaned boy and a bas-set hound prompt NJ lawyer Andy Carpenter to get off the couch and into the game. Andy and his lover and investigator Laurie Collins have been summoned to the crime scene by a mysterious call from their friend, the cop Pete Stanton, who has just discovered the corpse of ex-con Danny Balfour. Pete has summoned Andy and Laurie to scoop up boy and dog so they don't get shunted into the "system." This isn't such a big favor although Tara, the Carpenter resident Golden Retriever, may have some say. But when Pete is arrested as suspect number one in Balfour's murder, he needs a bigger one: Andy Carpenter for the defense, or even better, to preclude the need for a defense.... See Event Books for the sequel.

Stevens, Taylor. [The Catch](#) (\$14). Vanessa Michael Monroe thriller which begins in Djibouti and boards an old freighter for a terrifying journey down the east Africa coast where it is attacked of Somali. But not as you might think. See New Books for the sequel.

Vichi, Marco. [Death and the Olive Grove](#) (\$14.95). Step away from our world to Florence, and into the 1960s. "The city is still pockmarked from WWII, and the inhabitants of the neighborhoods Bordelli travels through are filled with gang members, prostitutes, petty thieves, smugglers, and, in the latest, a killer who is evil incarnate. Inspector Bordelli, himself a veteran still shaken by his experiences fighting for both Axis and Allies in the war, is melancholy and reflective, a perfect guide through this world. Here a string of sad discoveries starts when Bordelli's friend Casimiro reports finding the body of a man in an olive grove outside Florence. Nothing is there when the inspector and Casimiro return to the scene. Then Casimiro goes missing and is found grotesquely slain. This is followed by a heart-stopping series of child kidnappings. Vichi weaves all these strands together into a complicated tale that keeps the suspense mounting, and his incorporation of his Italian father's war stories into the text makes a wonderful addition to the novel."—*Booklist*. Start with [Death in August](#) (\$14.95).

⌘Walsh, Jill Paton. [The Late Scholar](#) (\$15.99). I can't recommend you Sayers fans read this enough. Walsh wraps up the career of Lord Peter Wimsey and his wife, the novelist Harriet Vane, now a Duchess as Peter succeeds to his brother's estate and title: Duke of Denver. In a way this is *Downton*, and it breaks new ground while retaining the spirit of the Sayers' classics although I'm not convinced DLS, despite her love for Wimsey, would approve of his elevation to a dukedom. See British Books for more.

✂Winspear, Jacqueline. [The Care and Management of Lies](#) (\$15.99). You know going in this is going to be a heartbreaker as well as a story of grit and survival. Two women, best friends; two men who love one of them, who go to war; family, community, and tragedy. And the power of food, of a good table. “Winspear writes irresistibly about the First World War, both in the trenches of France and the fields of England. Her characters walk off the page and into our imaginations, as we fight with them, farm with them, cook with them. I devoured this book.”—Margot Livesey

Wright, Tom. [Blackbird](#) (Europa \$17). Texan Wright, a practicing psychologist, sets his Jim Bonham procedurals where Arkansas-Texas-Louisiana come together. His PD is thus housed in a building called Three that serves as a Tri-State public safety complex. In his second crime novel, the brutal murder of psychiatrist Dr. Deborah Gold, crucified to a tree was not the worst thing that happened to her that die—hers was a hard death. But why? In fresh and addictive prose Wright wends Jim through the investigation and its many unexpected turns, many of them back into his own life. Here’s a Starred Review: “Wright’s expertly crafted second novel updates the careers of Jim Bonham and Jim’s only cousin, Lee Ann Rowe, who were adolescents in Wright’s CWA Dagger Award–finalist debut, *What Dies in Summer*.... Wright has a gift for creating distinct and intriguing characters, none more so than Jim, a fully rounded person with friends and family who works closely with his fellow police officers—a refreshing change from the typical hard-bitten rogue cop so popular in the genre today. Jim’s “touch of the Sight,” a rare, unpredictable form of clairvoyance, adds a bit of paranormal spice to this accomplished crime thriller.” Our **Fresh Fiction Pick**.

Plus Two National Parks Mysteries

Carbo, Christine. [Wild Inside](#) (Atria \$16 Aug. 1). It was a clear night in Glacier National Park. Fourteen-year-old Ted Systeard and his father were camping beneath the rugged peaks and starlit skies when something unimaginable happened: a grizzly bear attacked Ted’s father and dragged him to his death. Now, twenty years later, as Special Agent for the Department of the Interior, Ted gets called back to investigate a crime that mirrors the horror of that night. Except this time, the victim was tied to a tree before the mauling. See Event books for more.

Graham, Scott. [Mountain Rampage](#) (Torrey House \$14.95). Colorado’s often violent mining past and its poaching present help propel Graham’s second National Parks Mystery. Archaeologist Chuck Bender, now a happy family man with Carmelita and her two young daughters, has left his post in Durango for a summer one in the Rocky Mountain National Park. Chuck’s Team Nugget is excavating around an old abandoned mine, with some of the students whining at the work. Rumors of The Cassandra Treasure, while called a hoax, swirl around Estes Park while the beheading of a bighorn sheep indicates a poacher or poachers in the neighborhood. It’s hard enough to keep order—Chuck’s hoping for repeat summer gigs from his former professor, one Sartore. Carmelita’s brother Clarence, an anthropology student, a chick magnet and inadvertent troublemaker, further complicates life. Never more so when one of the summer resort workers is murdered and Clarence is accused of doing the deed.... Chuck’s sleuthing career kicks off in [Canyon Sacrifice](#) (\$14.95), a 2014 Fresh Fiction Club Pick set at our Grand Canyon.

FOR THE ARMCHAIR OR ACTUAL TRAVELER

Buck, Rinker. [The Oregon Trail: A New American Journey](#) (SimonSchuster \$27.99). “Part Laura Ingalls Wilder, part Jack Kerouac, *The Oregon Trail* is an idiosyncratic and irresistible addition to the canon of American road-trip literature.” —George Howe Colt This #1 July Indie Next Pick presents an epic account of traveling the length of the Oregon Trail the old-fashioned way—in a covered wagon with a team of mules, an audacious journey that hasn’t been attempted in a century—which also chronicles the rich history of the trail, the people who made the migration, and its significance to the country. Spanning two thousand miles and traversing six states from Missouri to the Pacific coast, the Oregon Trail is the route that made America. In the fifteen years before the Civil War, when 400,000 pioneers used the trail to emigrate West—scholars still regard this as the largest land migration in history—it united the coasts, doubled the size of the country, and laid the groundwork for the railroads. Today, amazingly, the trail is all but forgotten. Traveling from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Baker City, Oregon, over the course of four months, Buck is accompanied by three cantankerous mules, his boisterous brother, Nick, and an “incurably filthy” Jack Russell terrier named Olive Oyl. Along the way, they dodge thunderstorms in Nebraska, chase runaway mules across the Wyoming plains, scout more than five hundred miles of nearly vanished trail on foot, cross the Rockies, and make desperate fifty-mile forced marches for water. The Buck brothers repair so many broken wheels and axels that they nearly reinvent the art of wagon travel itself. They also must reckon with the ghost of their father, an eccentric yet loveable dreamer whose memory inspired their journey across the plains and whose premature death, many years earlier, has haunted them both ever since. More than an epic adventure, this is a work of history that shatters the comforting myths about the trail years passed down by generations of Americans. Buck introduces readers to the largely forgotten roles played by trailblazing evangelists, friendly Indian tribes, female pioneers, bumbling U.S. Army cavalrymen, and the scam artists who flocked to the frontier to fleece the overland emigrants. Generous portions of the book are devoted to the history of old and appealing things like the mule and the wagon. We also learn how the trail accelerated American economic development. Most arresting, perhaps, are the stories of the pioneers themselves—ordinary families whose extraordinary courage and sacrifice made this country what it became.

Cope, Tim. [On the Trail of Genghis Khan](#) (\$22). Inspired by the extraordinary life nomads lead, Tim Cope embarked on a journey that hadn’t been successfully completed since those times: to travel on horseback across the entire length of the Eurasian steppe, from Karakorum, the ancient capital of Mongolia, through Kazakhstan, Russia, Crimea and the Ukraine to the Danube River in Hungary. From horse-riding novice to spending months in the saddle, he learnt to fend off wolves and would-be horse-thieves, and grapple with the haunting extremes of the steppe as he crossed sub-zero plateaus, the scorching deserts of Kazakhstan and the high-mountain passes of the Carpathians. As he travelled he formed a close bond with his horses and especially his dog Tigon, and encountered essential hospitality—the linchpin of human survival on the steppe—from those he met along the way. Cope bears witness to how the traditional ways hang in the balance in the post-Soviet world—an era that has

brought new-found freedom, but also the perils of corruption and alcoholism, and left a world bereft of both the Communist system upon which it once relied, and the traditional knowledge of the nomadic forefathers.

Norwich, John J. [Sicily: An Island at the Crossroads of History](#) (Random \$32). Sicily,” said Goethe, “is the key to everything.” It is the largest island in the Mediterranean, the stepping-stone between Europe and Africa, the link between the Latin West and the Greek East. Sicily’s strategic location has tempted Roman emperors, French princes, and Spanish kings. The subsequent struggles to conquer and keep it have played crucial roles in the rise and fall of the world’s most powerful dynasties. Yet Sicily has often been little more than a footnote in books about other empires. John Julius Norwich’s engrossing narrative is the first to knit together all of the colorful strands of Sicilian history into a single comprehensive study. I read in today’s paper that an enterprising American travel company has been arranging tours with a local crime family, exploring the island’s Mafia so to speak, and stirring up the locals. David Hewson has told Rob and me Sicily has some of the finest cuisines/restaurants in Europe.

NEW BOOKS

Amis, Martin. [The Zone of Interest](#) (\$15.95). Better, order the UK edition at a special price: [The Zone of Interest Signed](#) (\$25). A dark satire... [that] creates a chilling sense of the banality of evil by depicting Nazis as petty bureaucrats in office cubicles, who chatter away about their work in the breezy, self-absorbed tones of characters in, say, the comic strip Dilbert or television’s *The Office*. Although this approach to the subject may initially feel disturbingly irreverent, it seems clear that Mr. Amis wants to use this narrative strategy as a means of jolting the reader into a new understanding of how what one character calls “such a methodical, such a pedantic and such a literal exploration of the bestial” could take hold in ‘a sleepy country of poets and dreamers’... [that] builds to a haunting conclusion that slams home the horror of the Holocaust.”—*NY Times*. “Returning to the Holocaust—the subject of Time’s *Arrow*, still among [Amis’s] best books—Amis seems greatly energized, addressing the most serious theme with rigor, sophistication, and, most astonishingly, wit.” —*The Village Voice*. “Takes on themes of immense gravity... Martin Amis isn’t new to the business of turning the horrors of history into fiction, but he has never done so more thoughtfully than in this disquieting novel. He has confronted its challenges with honor and delicacy.” —*The Times Literary Supplement*

Backman, Frederik. [My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She’s Sorry](#) (Atria \$25). The Indie Next Pick: “The ability to write with both humor and sadness, to tell fairy tales without becoming sappy, to convey real love and grief — these are Backman’s remarkable gifts. Elsa is seven years old and curious about everything, braver than most adults, often difficult, and acutely aware of being an outsider. Her eccentric grandmother loves her fiercely and is willing to do many unusual things to bring joy and magic to Elsa’s life. When her grandmother passes away, Elsa discovers the roles played by the quirky inhabitants of her life and begins to find her way through her grief and to the discovery that being different may be the magic that saves them all.”

Birtcher, Baron R. [Hard Latitudes Signed](#) (Permanent Press \$29.95). Out now, Signed August 20th here. 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.

Child, Lee, ed. [Killer Year: Stories to Die For](#) (\$9.99). From 13 authors whose first novels were published in the year 2007. Each entry in this one-of-a-kind collection is introduced by the author’s Killer Year mentor, including James Rollins, Tess Gerritsen, Jeffery Deaver, Ken Bruen, Allison Brennan, Duane Swierczynski, Laura Lippman, and M.J. Rose.

Clark, Martin. [The Jezebel Remedy Signed](#) (Knopf \$29.95). I gave this a rave in June but since then we’re acquired Signed copies and it becomes our **July Surprise Me! Club Pick**. Here’s an insightful review from Bruce Jacobs, seconded by Patrick and me: “After three legal thrillers (the first memorably titled *The Many Aspects of Mobile Home Living*), veteran Virginia circuit court judge Martin Clark sets his fourth among the strip malls, tattoo joints, Ace Hardwares and gentleman farms of Martinsville, Virginia. The story centers on the marriage and legal practice of Joe and Lisa Stone—hardworking small-town lawyers who defend the defenseless and don’t mind providing counsel to local outlaws and oddballs. ‘Petty Lettie’ VanSandt is a prime example of the latter. A tattooed, animal-rescue, police-harassing, necromancer nutcase, she wastes Joe’s hours with secret potion patent filings and lawsuits against perceived frauds like light bulbs that don’t last the promised year (a 911 operator pictures Lettie “sitting there at her trailer with her gold tooth, wild-eyed, up to her neck in cats and dogs, probably juiced on meth...”). When Lettie offers one of her elixirs to a big pharma company and then suspiciously turns up dead in a meth cookhouse fire, Joe and Lisa find themselves in a complicated big-city case with their jobs and lives on the line. Clark’s legal bona fides provide plenty of courtroom and insider evidentiary drama, but his story also draws juice from moments of discord and reconciliation in Joe’s and Lisa’s 20-year marital and professional lives.” Lisa’s voice is awesome and sucks you into her story and her life. One of my favorite summer books.

Dubois, Brendan. [Blood Foam](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). A wounded and healing Lewis Cole, retired Department of Defense analyst and magazine columnist, returns to his fire-damaged home on Tyler Beach with two things on his mind: to recover from a bullet wound and to repair his nearly two hundred-year-old home before a hurricane scours his house into the unforgiving ocean. Then his former lover and journalist Paula Quinn makes an urgent request. Her fiancé, attorney Mark Spencer, has gone missing. Phone calls, e-mails, and text messages have gone unanswered. His car is gone, and his home is empty. Lewis is Paula’s last hope to find her missing fiancé, and despite his fear for what might happen to his home, Lewis agrees to search for the missing attorney. One puzzling aspect of Mark’s life leads to Lewis

asking more questions—and suddenly gunfire erupts in placid downtown Tyler.... I've always liked the intelligent Cole and the New Hampshire landscape of this series.

Estleman, Loren D. [Detroit is Our Beat](#) (Tyrus \$16.99). “An engaging look at World War II Detroit and the men who were left to safeguard it while others fought overseas. Estleman’s marvelous collection showcases his knowledge of this gutsy city, both past and present, that is guaranteed to please crime noir fans as well as history buffs.” —*Library Journal*.

Switching to another beloved Estleman arena: [The Long High Noon](#) (Tor \$24.99). Locked in a deadly feud, cowboys Randy Locke and Frank Farmer have spent decades attempting to annihilate each other any time they are within shooting distance. So far, the men are even. One of Frank’s bullets has given Randy a permanent limp. Vain Frank wears a prosthetic ear; his own lost to Randy’s assault. If either of them remembers the original reason for the feud, it seems moot now. Their quest for revenge has led them on a merry chase through the Old West—through soon-to-be ghost towns and major cities; cattle ranches and mountain cabins; brothels and fishing boats; jailhouses and movie sets. Even their marriages have fallen victim to the feud. Then comes a proposition from a promoter: why not publicize their next duel and sell tickets? And so the two make a date with death....

Faber, Michel. [The Book of Strange New Things](#) (\$17). Peter Leigh is a missionary recruited by the vaguely sinister multinational corporation USIC to preach to the inhabitants of the recently discovered planet Oasis, light-years away. Peter’s wife, Bea, is left back on Earth—deemed unfit for the mission by USIC—where the situation becomes increasingly desperate, possibly apocalyptic. This latest novel from the imaginative Faber is about the spreading of the gospel in an alien world, and the possible end of our world, is also an exploration of a marriage in crisis and how faith and fidelity are tested in extremis. We have two [The Book of Strange New Things Signed](#) (\$28).

Gischler, Victor. [Stay](#) (St Martins \$24.99). A suburban thriller (aka domestic suspense with a male lead) presents David Sparrow, awesome stay-at-home dad. How awesome he is becomes apparent when his wife Amy, who commutes into NYC where she has recently been promoted to Deputy DA, inherits a major case prosecuting crime lord Dante Payne. Payne decides to take the fight directly to Amy. So David “reactivates” himself, revealing a hidden history and deadly skill. Game on.

Horwitz, Joshua. [War of the Whales: A True Story](#) (\$16.99). Horwitz is a crusading attorney who stumbles on one of the US Navy’s best-kept secrets: a submarine detection system that floods entire ocean basins with high-intensity sound—and drives whales onto beaches. As Joel Reynolds launches a legal fight to expose and challenge the Navy program, marine biologist Ken Balcomb witnesses a mysterious mass stranding of whales near his research station in the Bahamas. Investigating this calamity, Balcomb is forced to choose between his conscience and an oath of secrecy he swore to the Navy in his youth. “A gripping, brilliantly told tale of the secret and deadly struggle between American national security and the kings of the oceans.”—Bob Woodward

Johansen, Iris. [The Naked Eye](#) (St Martins \$27.99). In Johansen and son Roy’s exciting third novel featuring Kendra Michaels, Kendra, a law-enforcement consultant whose senses of smell and

hearing are extraordinarily acute, believes that serial killer Eric Colby is still alive, even though he was supposedly executed by lethal injection at California’s San Quentin State Prison months earlier. Meanwhile, San Diego reporter Sheila Hunter, who’s eager to interview Kendra, runs a newspaper story that supports Kendra’s theory about Colby. Dismayed that Sheila’s story has tipped off Colby, Kendra agrees to talk to the reporter. Just hours after their meeting, Sheila turns up dead, hanging from the mast of a house boat in a local marina. The MO suggests that Colby could be the killer. Beth, the sister of Eve Duncan (the star of Iris Johansen’s main series), joins Kendra in a thrilling race against time to stop a killer who seems to follow Kendra’s every move.

Kahn, Michael A. [Grave Designs](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.95). The first Rachel Gold mystery, back in print. Graham Anderson Marshall III of Abbott & Windsor was the archetype of the powerful senior partner at a major corporate law firm. But then came his bizarre death, the kinky details of which his firm tried to squelch. After his funeral, other curious details of his private life surfaced, the most troubling—and potentially embarrassing, at least for his former firm—is a codicil to his will establishing a large trust fund for the care and maintenance of a grave at a pet cemetery. And the second, [Death Benefits](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.95). The odd disappearance and messy suicide of Stoddard Anderson, the managing partner of the St. Louis office of Abbott & Windsor, certainly qualifies as an “awkward situation,” especially when the firm learns that the only way Anderson’s widow can collect the full life insurance proceeds is to prove that his death was an accident, and the only way a suicide can be an “accident” is if the decedent was clinically insane at the time of his death. Abbott & Windsor is, to say the least, reluctant...

Kepnes, Caroline. [You](#) (\$16). When a beautiful, aspiring writer strides into the East Village bookstore where Joe Goldberg works, he does what anyone would do: he Googles the name on her credit card. There is only one Guinevere Beck in New York City. She has a public Facebook account and Tweets incessantly, telling Joe everything he needs to know: she is simply Beck to her friends, she went to Brown University, she lives on Bank Street, and she’ll be at a bar in Brooklyn tonight—the perfect place for a “chance” meeting. As Joe invisibly and obsessively takes control of Beck’s life, he orchestrates a series of events to ensure Beck finds herself in his waiting arms. Moving from stalker to boyfriend, Joe transforms himself into Beck’s perfect man, all while quietly removing the obstacles that stand in their way—even if it means murder. This debut presents a terrifying exploration of how vulnerable we all are to stalking and manipulation.

King, Jonathan. [Don’t Lose Her](#) (Open Road \$14.99). Edgar-winner King returns with Max Freeman, a Florida PI who dropped out of the Philadelphia PD and now works for lawyer Billy Manchester. Billy is married to a judge, the very pregnant Diane, who is presiding over the extradition hearing in federal court for a notorious Columbian drug lord. He’s menacing. Walking on her own to her lunch break, Diane is snatched off the streets, leaving a frantic Billy who sends an SOS to Max. And so begins a back and forth between Max’s hunt for Diane and Diane’s efforts to survive her captors. The resolution provides a surprise. 7th in the series.

Kurson, Robert. [Pirate Hunters: Treasure, Obsession, and the Search for a Legendary Pirate Ship](#) (Random \$27.99). The Indie

Next Pick: “Kurson, the author of *Shadow Divers*, follows a team of treasure hunters on their quest for the ultimate bounty of the oceans — a sunken pirate ship from the Golden Age of Piracy — as they race against the clock of international legislation and rival hunters. It quickly becomes clear that these are men who share more than a little in common with the pirates for whom they search. *Pirate Hunters* reminds us that the daring and romance of piracy’s heroes was good cause to inspire centuries of boyhood daydreams, which are still alive and well today.” Back in 2004 the legendary editor Jonathan Karp dared me to sell Kurson’s debut non-fiction, [Shadow Divers](#) (\$16), like a thriller: I responded with blowing through 120 copies to you. If you missed it, grab the paperback for a perfect summer armchair adventure with two intrepid, not to say reckless, scuba divers. But in the fall of 1991, not even these courageous divers were prepared for what they found 230 feet below the surface, in the frigid Atlantic waters sixty miles off the coast of New Jersey: a World War II German U-boat, its ruined interior a macabre wasteland of twisted metal, tangled wires, and human bones—all buried under decades of accumulated sediment. No identifying marks were visible on the submarine or the few artifacts brought to the surface. No historian, expert, or government had a clue as to which U-boat the men had found. In fact, the official records all agreed that there simply could not be a sunken U-boat and crew at that location. Over the next six years, an elite team of divers embarked on a quest to solve the mystery. Some of them would not live to see its end.

Lawson, Mike. [The House Rivals](#) (Grove \$25). Political fixer Joe DeMarco is sent from DC to North Dakota to protect a passionate but naïve 22-year-old blogger who has put herself in harm’s way. The young woman is Sarah Johnson, whose grandfather saved Mahoney’s life in Vietnam. For the past two years, Sarah has been on a relentless crusade against a billionaire oil tycoon who has profited handsomely from the natural gas boom in the Dakotas—and who she believes has been bribing small-time politicians and judges to keep things in his favor. Though she has no hard evidence against the man, Sarah has been assaulted and received death threats for her meddling. DeMarco, given his years of experience bending the rules in D.C., suspects that a middleman like himself is pulling strings for the tycoon. But as DeMarco tries to identify his adversaries, the situation turns unexpectedly violent, and DeMarco finds himself in a battle of wits against two ruthless problem solvers who will stop at nothing to win.

New in paperback: [House Reckoning](#) (\$14). Joe lost his dad Gino years ago. Dad was a solid guy—and a hit-man for a mob. Its *capo* had Gino killed to prevent trouble brewing in his bailiwick. The identity of Gino’s killer has long been concealed. And now Joe is about to find out who killed his dad...and fix it!

Lee, Harper. [Go Set a Watchman](#) (Harper \$27.99). Sure to be a huge bestseller. Excellent news is how many have returned to [To Kill a Mockingbird](#) (\$16.99) of which this is “an earlier version.”

Lee, Patrick. [Signal Signed](#) (St Martins \$28). This is one terrific thriller, rocket like and original in concept. With a spin towards a technology we must hope will remain imaginary. Its begins when ex-Special Forces Op Sam Dryden gets a late night call from Claire Dunham, who says he must meet her in two hours just off the interstate near Barstow. Bang. Sam trusts Claire, so he does. No phone, as requested. When she scoops him up she’s clearly racing down

the freeway against the clock. They arrive at an old trailer where a horror of a guy has four girls kept in a cage and is about to torch them. Dryden puts him down, Claire hustles them away saying the girls will be OK now that help is rolling in. But in the preceding chapter the guy set fire to the trailer and the girls, they died, he got away. What is going on? Read on.... **Our July Thriller Club Pick.**

Lynds, Gayle. [The Assassins](#) (St Martins \$27.99). It’s great to see Lynds, a founder of ITW, back—and with a kickass premise. The concept is a variation on a Tontine. Six master assassins—each a legend in the dark corners of international espionage—band together to steal a fortune from the middle of a war zone. But the mission goes tragically wrong, and they retreat into the shadows. And now... Judd Ryder is walking to his D.C. home when he spots a man coming out of his row house who looks like Ryder and is wearing his clothes. As Ryder slows to follow, the imposter is killed in a hit-and-run that’s no accident. Was the man the intended victim, or was it Ryder himself? Soon Ryder learns that the key to the mysterious events of the past and to his double’s murder is an infamous Cold War assassin, the Carnivore. Two of the last people to see the Carnivore were Ryder and CIA trainee Eva Blake, and someone is using them to lure him out. From Washington D.C. to Marrakech and Baghdad, the assassins wage a final battle—this time against one another—fighting for their reputations and Saddam Hussein’s long-missing billion-dollar fortune. In the end, only one can be left standing.

Macdonald, Ross. [The Archer Files](#) (Vintage/Black Lizard \$16). The complete short stories for Lew Archer, classic California private eye.

Mansbach, Adam. [The Devil’s Bag Man](#) (Harper \$24.99). Jessie Galvan’s mind and body are being inhabited by a five-hundred-year-old Aztec priest which endows him with superhuman powers and menacing dreams that both help and hurt him in his stand against Domingo Valentine’s drug cartel. Mansbach mixes up suspense with the supernatural. Read Winslow’s *The Cartel* for a high-octane look at drug cartels.

Mayne, Andrew. [Name of the Devil](#) (Harper \$15.99). Magician Mayne puts his knowledge to work in a second thriller for magician-turned-FBI-Agent Jessica Blackwood. It begins when a church in rural Appalachia combusts, suggesting diabolical forces at work. Jessica, a prodigy from a dynasty of illusionists who had captured a seemingly supernatural serial killer, the Warlock, in [Angel Killer](#) (\$14.99), and saved the Bureau’s ass, digs into the history of the victims as the death toll mounts. Her hunt moves from the West Virginia hills via Mexico’s cartels to the Vatican’s hallowed halls, drawing on her understanding of deception to unmask a murderer bent on avenging the past. Fast paced; something different.

McBain, Ed. [So Nude, So Dead](#) (Hard Case Crime \$9.95). Here is McBain’s very first crime novel, now back in print after half a century. The set up? He had a monkey on his back—and a dead woman in his bed. Ray Stone was once a piano prodigy before his hunger for drugs consumed him. What to do when he wakes up beside a beautiful, dead night-club singer and 16 ounces of pure heroin missing? On the run, desperate to prove his innocence, his greatest foe may be his craving for a fix... Includes “Die Hard,” a short story featuring private eye Matt Cordell from [The Gutter and the Grave](#) (\$9.95). Hard Case goes with pulp fiction covers.

McClain, Paula. [Circling the Sun Signed](#) (Random \$29). McClain, a former Scottsdalian, signed [The Paris Wife](#) (\$15)—a novel imagining the story of Ernest Hemingway’s first spouse—for us before it became a huge, long-running bestseller. And she’s agreed to sign this brilliant new novel, the No. 1 Indie Next Pick for August, for us. It kept me mesmerized, a kind of cross between Dinesen’s *Out of Africa* and Fuller’s *Don’t Let’s Go to the Dogs Tonight* plus anything you’ve ever read about Amelia Earhart. McClain takes you back to colonial Kenya where Beryl Markham spent a childhood not unlike that of Alexandra Fuller decades later. Markham, never a conventional fit with the ex-pats, forged a fearless and self-reliant personality. In time this wild child fell in love with flying and became a record-setting aviator caught up in a passionate love triangle with safari hunter Denys Finch Hatton and Danish settler Karen Blixen. Blixen eventually sold up and became better known as the writer Isak Dinesen (while in Africa her husband the Baron Blixen left her for another woman). Actually the between-the-world-wars playground that was the Happy Valley has been described in other books, fiction and non. Beryl wrote a memoir of her own, *West with the Night*, praised by Hemingway when first published, which praise led to its rediscovery and republication when Beryl was an old, impoverished woman and gave her an income. Her life is both tragic and a triumph and McClain does a magnificent job imagining it. And when you read about Denys you will want to watch *Out of Africa* all over again understanding more clearly why Robert Redford in his prime embodied the man, and why McClain says it was he Beryl loved best. **Here is our July Modern Firsts Pick—the Stradal novel will become the August Pick.**

Mitchell, David. [The Bone Clocks](#) (\$18). Last year’s Indie Next Pick: “Once again, Mitchell’s inventiveness and imagination prove to be nothing short of genius. He combines dark fantasy, boldly original prose, and finely drawn characters who will keep the reader riveted from Holly Sykes’ initial angst-ridden teen thought to the very last, hopeful sentence. Mitchell proves once again that he is a writer of no equal when it comes to the invention of language, place, and time, taking the reader to the edge of both the real and the imagined as if he were guiding you personally by the hand.”

Norton, Carla. [What Doesn’t Kill Her](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Reeve LeClaire is recovering, making a life in Seattle after four years of captivity. Daryl Wayne Flint is locked up in Olshaker Psychiatric Hospital where he belongs, but wanders the grounds performing harmless rituals apparently arising from the head injury he suffered in the car crash that freed Reeve. Post-concussive syndrome. Right. When opportunity knocks Flint makes his break and gets away. Reeve faces her worst nightmare: her kidnapper is on the loose. Before a day passes Flint kills someone from his past and Reeve’s blocked memories flood back. As Flint evades capture leaving a bloody trail in his wake, she realizes that she’s the only one who can stop him.

Paretsky, Sara. [Brush Back Signed](#) (Penguin \$27.95 Signed Aug. 15) VI Warshawski #17 out in July, gets this *PW* Starred Review: “South Chicago provides the setting for MWA Grand Master Paretsky’s electrifying 18th novel featuring PI V.I. “Vic” Warshawski. Vic thought she had left her old neighborhood—and her former teenage flame, Frank Guzzo—years ago, until he approaches her with a sensitive issue: his mother, Stella, just finished 25 years in prison for murdering Frank’s younger sister,

Annie, and she’s now proclaiming her innocence. Reluctant to get involved—Stella always hated the Warshawski family—Vic agrees to look into the matter, but is floored when Stella accuses the detective’s beloved late cousin and Chicago hockey legend Boom-Boom (who was murdered in 1984’s *Deadlock*) of having a hand in Annie’s murder. Determined to clear Boom-Boom’s name, Vic throws herself into the investigation, which takes her into the murky political waters of her former stomping ground, with its back channels leading to the state’s highest echelons of power. 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.”

Pettersson, Vicki. [Swerve](#) (Gallery \$25.99). Looking for a terrific psychopath, not quite a serial killer but clearly deranged? You will find him in *Swerve* where the action begins, symbolically, when the pristine Beemer being driven by Kristine’s surgeon-fiancé nearly swerves off the highway leading them across the Mojave from Vegas to Lake Arrowhead. They are heading for Daniel’s family’s estate on the lake for the Fourth. They stop at a desolate rest stop where Kristine can clean up—and Daniel is abducted. And she’s given a terrible choice: abandon him, never to see him again, or plunge forward into the desert on a trail devised by the deranged, filled with horrors. A horror in fact that Kristine, drawing on all her resources as a physician assistant, simply could not imagine. It’s quite a ride!

Pronzini, Bill. [Vixen: A Nameless Detective Novel Signed](#) (Forge \$27). Nameless #44! When Nameless is hired by Cory Beckett, a beautiful young woman who claims to be a model, to find her missing brother, Kenneth, it seems to be a routine matter. Kenneth has fled San Francisco in a drug-induced panic to avoid trial on a charge of stealing a valuable necklace from the alcoholic wife of the man for whom he works, wealthy yachtsman Andrew Vorhees. When agency operative Jake Runyon locates and questions the frightened young man, Cory Beckett’s motives come into question and the case takes on darkly sinister complexities.

Rader-Day, Lori. [Little Pretty Things](#) (Seventh Street \$14.95). Another summer story going back to high school, Midway High in Midway, Indiana, where Juliet Townsend is marking time—still, ten years in—behind a dead-end job at the Mid-Night Inn. This one star motel attracts only bargain hunters, the cheap, plus the desperate. So when the chic Maddy Bell, former track star and high school queen, checks in from Chicago flashing a big chunk of ice on her finger, and recognizes Juliet, it’s even more depressing. Then Maddy is killed, the ring is missing, and Juliet is the chief suspect in the murder. Jolted out of her lethargy, forced to face the past, Juliet can try to save herself...or not.

Reichs, Kathy. [Speaking in Bones Signed](#) (Ballantine \$29). Hazel “Lucky” Strike—a strident “websleuth,” an amateur detective who mines the Internet for cold cases—comes to forensic anthropologist Tempe Brennan’s Charlotte, NC, lab, with a tape recording of an unknown girl being held prisoner and terrorized. Strike is convinced the voice is that of Cora Teague, who went missing more than three years earlier. Strike, who keeps tabs on various registers, is also certain that the teenager’s remains are gathering dust in Temperance Brennan’s lab. Brennan has doubts about working with Strike, but she is interested enough to cancel a visit to Montreal and Andrew Ryan who works homicide for the Quebec Provincial Police—and who has asked a very skittish

Tempe to marry him, a question she keeps dodging throughout the narrative. Teague is part of a family living in Avery County in the Blue Ridge Mountains, a family belonging to an offshoot, fundamentalist branch of the Catholic Church. Searching the site where Cora's putative bones were found again, aided by local cop Ramsey, more bones are found. But questions get no answers, lines of inquiry are blocked at every step, and Tempe gets distracted not get by Ryan but by her mother who's checked into Heatherhill nearby and refusing chemo for cancer. Still, an odd theory takes shape. Reichs' forensics are as meticulous and interesting as ever but they take a backseat to the medicals in this hair-raising drama.

Rich, A. J. [The Hand That Feeds You](#) (Scribner \$26). The Indie Next Pick: "Morgan is living the good life until the day she returns home to find her fiancé mauled to death and her dogs covered in blood. She had rescued her dogs from a shelter, wanting to do something good, and now a man is dead. As time moves forward, the ground under Morgan shifts. She doesn't understand why her dogs, loving animals, would have done such a thing. And the victim is not all he seemed either — his job, his home, nothing is as he said, and then there is the discovery of other fiancées. This edge-of-your-seat mystery has twists and turns that will keep you guessing. A.J. Rich is the pseudonym of award winners Jill Ciment and Amy Hempel, writing as a team." The idea that a pair of pit bulls could be framed for murder is interesting and the sociopath depicted in this novel is a real horror.

Sanderson, Douglas. [Night of the Horns/Cry Wolf](#) (Stark House \$21). Sanderson wrote a series of white hot thrillers in the 1950s which were published under his two pseudonyms, Martin Brett and Malcolm Douglas. But he also published a good many novels under his own name, and Stark House is proud to reprint two of them, the first a seedy tale of a Southern California lawyer whose life is ripped apart when he agrees to do a job for a racketeer, the second the story of a double-cross affair that takes place on the coast of Spain. Publisher Greg Shepard provides the introduction

Schickel, Richard. [Keepers: The Greatest Films—And Personal Favorites](#) (Knopf \$26.95). Schickel gets a Starred Review for his reviews: "Film critic Schickel saw his first film in 1938 (*Disney's Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*) and started reviewing movies professionally in 1965. Since then, he estimates, he's seen 22,590 films. In this entertaining and informative journey through cinema history, the renowned *Time* critic—and author of 37 Hollywood biographies and histories—presents readers with a primer on film history and shares his unique insights on movies big and small. Schickel is clear from the start that he's a fan of popular (rather than "art") cinema and considers himself more of an expert on American film than international, despite later, perfectly cogent sections devoted to foreign directors such as Ingmar Bergman and Jean-Luc Godard. Moving roughly in chronological order, Schickel begins by paying his respects to the silent films of D.W. Griffith and Mary Pickford and the 1930s screwball comedies of Howard Hawks—he readily admits that his "loyalty, historically and emotionally speaking, is to the first two decades or so of the talkies." Then he moves on through *Bonnie and Clyde* and *Star Wars*. His taste is eclectic (Errol Flynn is his favorite movie star, Orson Welles is a disappointment) but his opinions are always fully backed up with examples. Schickel, who posits in his introduction that movies are about both nothing and everything, wholly succeeds in making readers care about every film he's seen."

Slater, Susan. [Hair of the Dog: A Dan Mahoney](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). It sounds like some work and mostly play when United Life and Casualty sends its investigator Dan Mahoney to Florida. Five greyhounds—all heavily insured—were lost in a fire at the Daytona dog track. So simple. Five dogs dead by smoke inhalation, bagged, tagged, and cremated. Papers all in order. Ashes in specialty urns on the desk of Dixie Halifax, track and casino co-owner. In jail, a young employee charged with arson to cover a murder he's blamed for committing. Then the body of kennel owner Jackson Sanchez is found face down in a pool of blood, a knife stuck in his back. But Sanchez didn't die from a knife wound. Someone has carved "thief" on his forehead. The blood pooled underneath his body isn't his. Should Dan be looking for a second corpse? And the one man who can answer questions, the track vet, dies in a motorcycle accident. Working this case is not as complicated for Dan as having his mother Maggie move into the FBI's favorite mob slob haven in nearby Palm Coast, while his fiancée Elaine Linden, on sabbatical, works on a PI license. Perfect—the FBI can set Elaine up to spy on Maggie's boyfriend who may be laundering cash in some geriatric mafia scheme. Also: [Hair of the Dog](#) (\$14.95).

In [Rollover](#) (\$14.95), Slater's excellent sequel to 2002's [Flash Flood](#) (\$14.95) where we first meet Dan and Elaine, takes them to tiny Wagon Mound, N.Mex., where someone tunneled into the town bank, ignored millions in cash, and took only a valuable necklace belonging to 85-year-old Gertrude Kennedy.

Stevens, Taylor. [The Mask Signed](#) (Crown \$26). Ever since our two trips to Japan, the most recent with Laurie R. King, I'm a sucker for books taking me (and you) there. Information hunter Vanessa Michael Munroe, the chameleon—the survivor of a blistering childhood that's left her damaged, skilled, and ruthlessly self-sufficient—is still healing from the brutal attack suffered Djibouti in 2014's [The Catch](#) (\$14). Nonetheless she joins her lover Miles Bradford in Osaka (a port near Kyoto and the first terminus of Kansai airport) where he's working in cyber security. She relaxes (as much as she is able) into a peaceful routine until Bradford is arrested for murder and faces 20 locked up in isolation. How far will she go to save him when the truth seems worse than his lies? Who will she trust in Japan? And who will she, a predator now reborn, kill? It's easy to liken Munroe to Reacher: neither eschews violence, but Reacher is a fixer, not a predator, so there's a difference.

Stradal, J Ryan. [Kitchens of the Great Midwest Signed](#) (Viking \$27.95). **Our July Modern Firsts Club Pick is going to be huge**—I say that because the new head of Penguin is a personal supporter of this debut which means resources will be poured into it. Sometimes bestsellers reflect the resources devoted to marketing. And it's offbeat and surprising enough to catch on with a natural marketing hook: Farm-to-Table Dinners, a Locavore spin, unusual recipes with artisan 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, as does his wife Cynthia whom he marries while capturing Minnesota's Twin Cities with his cuisine. The voice(s) of this book is like none other, the concept is way out, both funny yet sad (never maudlin; in fact sad is almost offhand), and what Stradal says about creat-

ing families and careers is... all her own. Rob, my own foodie, agrees there is nothing quite like this book.

Stroby, Wallace. [The Devil's Share](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Professional thief Crissa Stone has been resting for a full year, staying under the radar. It's a safe strategy, but so boring. Also lonely. She gets antsy, and her funds run low. So she agrees to act as a thief-for-hire for a wealthy art collector whose target is a truckload of plundered Iraqi artifacts before the treasures can be repatriated. The robbery scheme is so simple, what could go wrong? And soon Crissa is once again on the run dodging both an ex-military hit squad (who stole the stuff in the first place?) and her own partners in crime who have an agenda they didn't share. I've always liked Stroby's work. Crissa takes him close to the late Elmore Leonard's capers.

Swarup, Vikas. [Accidental Apprentice](#) (\$15.99). Vinay Mohan Acharya, a self-made industrialist and one of the richest Indians alive, approaches 23-year-old Sapna Sinha, a salesgirl struggling to support her family on the meager salary she earns from an electronics store in the heart of Delhi. The 68-year-old Acharya claims to have no worthy successor to his empire and offers to tap Sapna for the role, should she pass seven tests "designed to gauge mettle and potential as a CEO." Reluctant at first to submit to the whims of an apparent madman, Sapna is forced to accept Acharya's deal as she needs the reward he's offering. But, as she proves her mettle over and over again, questions arise: Is Acharya a benign spectator of the travails she has agreed to suffer or is he responsible for them? Is Acharya the person behind an ongoing financial scam that comes to light, and does he intend her to be the scapegoat? Or is the conspiracy elsewhere? It's not until she's falsely accused of murder that Sapna really understands her own capabilities or what she wants from life."—*PW* Starred Review on a book by the author of *Slumdog Millionaires* and *Six Suspects*.

Thor, Brad. [Code of Conduct Signed](#) (Atria \$27.99). We open on Scot Harvath escorting his beloved Lara to the private sector at Reagan to board a jet heading north to Alaska ahead of a pandemic already sending the President to the Bethesda Naval Hospital. Dial it back a week when Harvath is summoned to the Carlton Group's HQ in response to a video received by philanthropist Bea Beaman who heads CARE International. The video comes from a CARE clinic in Ituri Province, the Congo. Harvath is sent with a security team of four Brits, all former SAS, into Ituri. We already know it will not go well and indeed it gets way worse as realization that weaponized African Hemorrhagic Fever has been let loose. By whom? And why? And... what can Harvath or anyone do to halt it and derail the agenda behind it? Thor has clearly devised a plot from real world events made terrifyingly worse, an event that could, even without a fiend behind it, engulf nations or the whole world.

Twelve Hawks, John. [Spark](#) (\$15). Jacob Underwood is a contract employee of the Special Services Section, a small shadow department buried within the multinational corporation DBG, headquartered in New York City. A hired assassin, his job is to neutralize problems for the corporation. Then a motorcycle accident leaves him with Cotard's Syndrome, a condition that causes the afflicted to believe they are dead. Jacob now perceives of himself as a Shell with no emotions or moral compass. The Emily, a bright young associate for DBG disappears without a trace,

maybe with money, maybe with information, and Jacob is tasked to find her. And...he's over his head. [Spark Signed](#) (\$25.95, 3 copies).

Waite, Thomas. [Trident Code](#) (47th North \$14.95). Here is the second novel in Waite's Lana Elkins geopolitical thrillers. He uses his expertise in technology to craft a story of cyberhackers who ruthlessly seize a US nuclear sub with the object of training its most powerful weapon on a vulnerable, unusual target: Antarctica and its ice sheets. To combat them, former NSA operative Lana hooks up with a mysterious computer mastermind, a genius who might be working with the Russian hacker, but what choice does she have? Blackmail, intrigue, power plays follow as Armageddon looms. This scenario is all too possible even if it has not yet happened. Meet Lana in [Lethal Code](#) (\$14.95).

Walker, Sarai. [Dietland](#) (Houghton \$26). It's summer. We are more conscious of how we look. "Sarai Walker's audacious, hilarious-yet surprisingly touching-novel begins by spoofing the weight-loss industry and moves on to a devastating fantasy in which an avenger known as 'Jennifer' targets men who prey on women. Through it all marches Plum, a fat woman who learns to love herself as she is, and whom I loved at all stages of her education. Keenly intelligent, daring, and original, *Dietland* has something important to say to us all."—Alice Mattison

Williams, Beatriz. [Tiny Little Thing Signed](#) (Putnam \$26.95). In the summer of 1966, Christina Hardcastle—"Tiny" to her illustrious family—stands on the brink of a breathtaking future. Of the three Schuyler sisters, she's the one raised to marry a man destined for leadership, and with her elegance and impeccable style, she presents a perfect camera-ready image in the dawning age of television politics. Together she and her husband, Frank, make the ultimate power couple: intelligent, rich, and impossibly attractive. It seems nothing can stop Frank from rising to national office, and he's got his sights set on a senate seat in November. But as the season gets underway at the family estate on Cape Cod, three unwelcome visitors appear in Tiny's perfect life and it begins to unravel. Other than the eventual truths revealed about Frank and Tiny, this is so evidently a novel about the Kennedys, not just Jack but his father Joe, and his sibs, it's almost a roman a clef. You can tell that Williams let herself off the chain writing it and her enjoyment will transfer to you. A terrific summer read, sort of a break from election fever, or better put, a throwback.

Woods, Stuart. [Naked Greed](#) (Putnam \$27.95). I've already confessed that reading Woods' male fantasies as forged for Stone Barrington has become a kind of vice. He's off the political trail for now since his friends are re-fixed in the White House and he's been dumped by the woman pilot of his last situation. He's thus open to a new client for Woodman & Weld, NY attorneys at law, in the person of Jose Perado, third-generation brewer of Cerveza Perado, from San Antonio who is set upon by two thugs posing as detectives in the NYPD outside Patroon where Stone and the NYPD Chief Dino have been dining. Rescued by Stone, driven to the Waldorf, Perado reveals he's come to the city to establish a distributorship. And clearly he's getting serious pushback. So, off we go on a plot filled with a rag bag of crooks, a randy woman in advertising, a Brit needing a safe house in NY, Holly Barker in town, and a shifting landscape, some of it viewed from the air. It's all fun.

Young, Tom. [The Hunters](#) (Putnam \$26.95). The 6th military thriller from the former flight engineer for the Air National Guard focuses on Somalia. *Khatar* is a Somali world for dangerous. It's a word heard too often by Colonel Michael Parson who has balked into using his Air Force leave to fly relief supplies into the country in an antique DC-3 cargo plane by his friend Sophia Gold. On the ground: armed clans, pirates, terrorists: an Al-Shabaab leader, The Sheikh, is moving to repel all aid. And an activist actress in from Hollywood to make a documentary. Then there's a teenager, a wounded fighter, or might be seeking asylum—or martyrdom.

FOR YOUNG READERS

Bray, Libba. [Lair of Dreams](#) (LittleBrown \$19). After a supernatural showdown with a serial killer, Evie O'Neill has outed herself as a Diviner. Now that the world knows of her ability to "read" objects, and therefore, read the past, she has become a media darling, earning the title, "America's Sweetheart Seer." But not everyone is so accepting of the Diviners' abilities... Meanwhile, mysterious deaths have been turning up in the city, victims of an unknown sleeping sickness. Can the Diviners descend into the dreamworld and catch a killer? Diviners Series #2

Dr Seuss. [What Pet Should I Get?](#) (Random \$17.99). Ages 3-7.

George, Elizabeth. [The Edge of the Water](#) (\$9.99). A mysterious girl who won't speak; a coal black seal named Nera that returns to the same place every year; a bitter feud of unknown origin—strange things are happening on Whidbey Island, and Becca King is drawn into the maelstrom of events. But Becca has her own secrets to hide. Still on the run from her criminal stepfather, Becca is living in a secret location. Even Derric, the Ugandan orphan with whom Becca shares a close, romantic relationship, can't be allowed to know her whereabouts. As secrets of past and present are revealed, Becca becomes aware of her growing paranormal powers, and events build to a shocking climax anticipated by no one. The Edge of Nowhere Series #2.

Konigsberg, Bill. [The Porcupine of Truth](#) (Arthur A. Levine, \$17.99). "Carson is resigned to spending his summer in Billings, Montana, helping his mother to care for his ailing father. His life is changed forever, however, when he meets Aisha, a young girl who has just announced to her family that she is a lesbian. Carson is dealing with family issues, but his developing friendship with Aisha impacts his life in such a way that he is able to come to terms with his family. This heartwarming story demonstrates the power of love and determination and how true friendship can change the course of your life. Ages 14+

Patterson, James. [Daniel X: Lights Out](#) (LittleBrown \$17). His parents are dead. His home is ruined. And it's up to him to save the world. Find out how Daniel X copes in the conclusion to Daniel. X, written with Christ Grabenstein.

Sandford, John/Michele Cook. [Outrage Signed](#) (Random \$18.99). Shay Remby and her gang of renegades have struck a blow to the Singular Corporation. When they rescued Shay's brother, Odin, from a secret Singular lab, they also liberated a girl. Singular has been experimenting on her, trying to implant a U.S. senator's memories into her brain—with partial success. Fenfang is now a girl who literally knows too much. Can the knowledge brought by ex-captives Odin and Fenfang help Shay and her friends expose the crimes of this corrupt corporation? Singular has already

killed one of Shay's band to protect their secrets. How many more will die? A YA thriller: Book 2 in The Singular Menace after [Uncaged](#) (\$18.99 Signed).

Stevens, Robin. [Murder Is Bad Manners](#) (SimonSchuster \$16.99). Two friends form a detective agency—and must solve their first murder case—in this start to a middle grade mystery series at a 1930s boarding school. Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong are best friends at Deepdean School for Girls, and they both have a penchant for solving mysteries. In fact, outspoken Daisy is a self-described Sherlock Holmes, and she appoints wallflower Hazel as her own personal Watson when they form their own (secret!) detective agency. The only problem? They have nothing to investigate. But that changes once Hazel discovers the body of their science teacher, Miss Bell—and the body subsequently disappears. She and Daisy are certain a murder must have taken place, and they can think of more than one person with a motive. Determined to get to the bottom of the crime—and to prove that it happened—before the killer strikes again, Hazel and Daisy must hunt for evidence, spy on their suspects, and use all the cunning, scheming, and intuition they can muster... Ages 10+

JULY MASS MARKET PAPERBACK PICKS

Abel, James. [White Plague](#) (\$9.99) Col. Joe Rush leads a team of U.S. Marines in a race against the Chinese to rescue the crew of a technologically advanced U.S. nuclear submarine that has become frozen in the Arctic Ocean. *Booklist* loved this debut by the pseudonymous Abel saying it evoked "both Michael Crichton's medical thrillers and Tom Clancy's *The Hunt for Red October*." I loved it too for its topically themed plot and fast paced storyline, which in some ways it reminded me of those classic adventure novels by Alistair MacLean like *Ice Station Zebra*. And the icy setting will definitely help you stay cool!

Barclay, Linwood. [No Safe House](#) (\$9.99) In this follow-up to Barclay's *No Time for Goodbye*, Terry Archer and his family unwittingly are reconnected with the criminal, who saved their lives seven years earlier when Terry's teenager daughter follows her delinquent boyfriend into a strange house. *PW* had this to say "The twisty, craftily-plotted action accelerates along with the body count, providing plenty of suspense and a surprising number of laughs for readers willing to tolerate very bad things befalling some pretty good people."

Bass, Jefferson. [Identity Crisis Signed](#) (Harper \$3.99). In 1978, 56-year-old Leoma Patterson left a bar in Clinton, Tennessee, and was never seen again. Six months later, a female skeleton was found on a wooded lakeshore in a neighboring county. The bones were consistent with those of the missing woman, and one of Patterson's daughters recognized a ring found at the death scene as her mother's. The bones were buried, and six years later, a relative of Patterson's—one of the men she was last seen alive with—confessed to killing her. Case closed. But the tentative identification—made years before DNA testing was available to confirm it—failed to convince some of Patterson's relatives. And so it was that in 2005 Dr. Bass found himself winding around hairpin curves to the mountainside grave, where he would unearth the disputed remains and collect DNA samples. The forensic twists and turns that followed would test the limits of DNA technology ... and of Dr. Bass's half-century of forensic knowledge.

Becker, James. [Lost Treasure of the Templars](#) (Signet \$9.99) Antiquarian bookseller Robin Jessop needs the help of encryption

expert David Mallory when she stumbles across a piece of parchment written in code that has been hidden in a medieval book she bought. Becker, who also writes action-adventure novels under the name James Barrington and military history under the name Peter Smith in the U.K., delivers the perfect summertime *Da Vinci Code* thriller with just enough fast-paced action and intriguing historical back story to please fans of Andy McDermott, David Gibbons, and Steve Berry.

Davis, Krista. [Diva Steals a Chocolate Kiss](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Domestic Diva #9. Business is really sweet for Domestic Diva Sophie Winston when she is put in charge of Amore Chocolates' fifth anniversary celebration right until the moment that the company's CEO goes AWOL and the body of a fellow chocolatier turns up dead. Previous titles in this charmingly cozy series have been nominated for the Agatha award.

Follett, Ken. [Eye of the Needle](#) (\$7.99). A lonely Englishwoman on an isolated island is the only person who stands in the way of the ruthless German assassin with the codename "The Needle," who knows the secret behind the Allies' greatest deception. *Eye of the Needle* won the Edgar award in 1979. If you have never read it and enjoy spy thrillers by authors such as Daniel Silva or Len Deighton, treat yourself this summer to one of the best espionage novels ever written.

Francis, Felix. [Dick Francis Damage](#) (\$9.99). While investigating the activities of a suspicious racehorse trainer, Jeff Hinkley witnesses a gruesome murder. Fans of Dick Francis's classic mysteries have generally been pleased with the new novels written by his son Felix with *PW* saying this about the hardcover release of this novel: "The compelling main storyline deserves high marks for originality no mean feat given the almost 50 novels the author's father wrote."

Furlong, Susan. [Peaches and Scream](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Georgia Peach Mystery #1. When Nola Harper returns home to help run the family peach farm, she discovers business is far from peachy and finding the body of a local businessman in the orchard isn't helping matters one bit. Furlong also writes the "Novel Ideas" mysteries as Lucy Arlington, and her latest is tailor made for fans of Sheila Connolly's "Orchard" mystery series.

Hayes, Terry. [I Am Pilgrim](#) (\$9.99) Scott Murdoch (aka the Pilgrim) thought he had retired from the spy business but he finds himself called back into duty when a Muslim jihadist code name Saracen develops a fast-acting form of the small pox virus he intends on releasing in the United States. *Booklist* found this debut by screenwriter/producer Hayes (*Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome*) to be "gruesome at times, but none of the violence is gratuitous, and unfortunately, it all feels quite real and believable. Don't be put off by the length of this book. The story is tightly plotted, and the pages fly by ferociously fast. Simply unputdownable."

Kava, Alex. [Breaking Creed](#) (Berkley \$9.99) Ryder Creed #1. K9 search and rescue trainer Ryder Creed teams up with FBI profiler Maggie O'Dell to stop a human smuggling operation. Kava introduced Ryder as a supporting character in *Stranded* (2013) and now he takes center stage in this thriller that offers up plenty of twists and turns. "Romance fans will enjoy following how the attraction between O'Dell and Creed plays out. Dog lovers will also find a lot to like" is how *PW* summed up the debut in their review.

Preston, Douglas/Lincoln Child. [Blue Labyrinth](#) (\$10) Pendergast #14. While investigating the murder of a long-time enemy, Aloysius Pendergast journeys to an abandoned California mine on the shore of the Salton Sea, where he discovers a dark secret from his family's past. All the major review sources loved Preston/Child's latest with *Kirkus* saying "Great character-driven crime fiction—readers new to the series won't be entirely lost, and Pendergast patrons will be thoroughly satisfied."

Shelton, Paige. [Bushel Full of Murder](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Farmer's Market #6. Becca Robbins must juggle selling her jams and jellies at the local farmer's market while also playing amateur sleuth in an effort to help clear her cousin Peyton of the charge of murdering the town's business manager. Cozy readers who haven't yet discovered Shelton's wonderfully amusing "Farmer's Market" mysteries will definitely want to add them to their shopping lists.

NEW IN MASS MARKET PAPERBACK

Aarons, Kathy. [Truffled to Death](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Chocolate Covered Mystery #2.

The co-owners of Chocolates and Chapters, hope to sweeten sales in their shop by hosting an exhibit of Mayan pottery, but instead find themselves dealing with missing antiquities and a clever killer.

Alexander, Ellie. [A Batter of Life and Death](#) (St Martins \$7.99) Bakeshop Mystery #2.

When Jules Capshaw tries to promote her family's bakery by competing in reality show "Take the Cake," she discovers some of her fellow contestants would kill for the prize dough given to the winner.

Bass, Jefferson. [Identity Crisis: The Murder Signed](#) (Harper \$3.99)

Forensic anthropologist Bill Bass, founder of the Body Farm, tackles the real-life case of a woman who left a bar in Clinton, TN in 1978 and was never seen again.

Beaton, M C. [The Blood of an Englishman](#) (\$7.99) Agatha Raisin #25.

Curmudgeonly Agatha Raisin investigates the murder of a local baker, who was killed while performing in a local pantomime.

Blackwell, Juliet. [Spellcasting in Silk](#) (NAL \$7.99) Witchcraft #7.

Lily Ivory, vintage clothing boutique owner and unofficial witchy consultant to the San Francisco police, looks into a suspicious suicide tied to a *botanica* shop in the Mission District.

Bonner, Brynn. [Picture Them Dead](#) (Picador \$7.99) Family History #3.

Genealogists Sophreena McClure and Esme Sabatier are called upon by Detective Jenny Jones to help figure out who the corpse is buried in her father's back yard.

Budewitz, Leslie. [Butter Off Dead](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Food Lover's Village #3.

Someone is trying to ring down the curtain on Erin Murphy's attempts to organize Jewel Bay's first annual Food and Film Festival.

Burdette, Lucy. [Fatal Reservations: A Key West](#) (NAL \$7.99) Food Critic #7.

Key West food critic Hayley Snow must put down her review pen and pad and pickup her magnifying glass in order to find the clues needed to clear her friend of a murder charge.

Cantrell, Janet. [Fat Cat Spreads Out](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Fat Cat #2. Charity Oliver, owner of Bar None bakery, once again finds

- herself mixed up in murder when her plus-sized feline Quincy finds another body.
- Cates, Bailey. [Magic and Macaroons: A Magical](#) (NAL \$7.99) Magical Bakery #5. Magical baker Katie Lightfoot tangles with voodoo queens, a missing charm, and a vengeful witch.
- Connolly, Sheila. [Privy to the Dead](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Museum Mysteries #6. Nell Pratt, president of the Pennsylvania Antiquarian Society, investigates the suspicious death of a construction worker, who found a peculiar metal object while excavating a local privy.
- Cornwell, Patricia. [Flesh and Blood](#) (\$9.99). In this 22nd Scarpetta novel, the master forensic sleuth finds herself in the unsettling pursuit of a serial sniper who leaves no incriminating evidence except fragments of copper. In an almost impossible case, Scarpetta comes face to face with shocking evidence that implicates her techno genius niece, Lucy, her own flesh and blood.
- Corrigan, Maya. [Scam Chowder](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Five-Ingredient Mystery #2. Val Deniston stirs up trouble when she tries to clear her Granddad of the charge of murdering a local con man.
- Coulter, Catherine. [Power Play](#) (\$9.99) FBI Thriller #18. Everyone except FBI Special Agent Davis Sullivan thinks Natalie Black, the U.S. ambassador to the U.K., is making up the death threats she is receiving.
- Cussler, Clive. [Ghost Ship](#) (\$9.99) NUMA Files #12. Kurt Austin discovers a pattern of vanishing scientists, suspicious accidents, and human trafficking when he takes on a state-sponsored cybercrime ring.
- Gilstrap, John. [Against All Enemies](#) (Kensington \$9.99). Unable to believe a fellow combat veteran has gone rogue, Jonathan Grave sets out to find him first only to stumble across a deadly conspiracy.
- Hamilton, Donald. [Terminators](#) (Forge \$7.99) Matt Helm #17. Matt Helm seeks revenge when his new partner, a woman posing as his mistress, is killed while on a top-secret mission in Norway.
- Hamilton, Victoria. [Death of an English Muffin](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Merry Muffin Murders #3. When Merry Wynter decides to take in some boarders to earn a little spare cash, the results are murderous for one of the new tenants.
- Harris, Sherry. [The Longest Yard Sale](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Garage Sale Mysteries #2. Sarah Winston rummages for clues when her best friend Carol is accused of murdering an Air Force officer during New England's largest yard sale.
- Hechtman, Betty. [Wound Up in Murder](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Yarn Retreat #3. Casey Feldstein is looking forward to running her third yarn retreat until she finds the organizer's wife with a scarf wrapped just a bit too tight around her neck.
- Hyzy, Julie. [Grace Cries Uncle](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Manor House Mysteries #6. When Grace Wheaton's estranged sister Liza unexpectedly turns up, Grace knows there is more trouble to come, and she's right when the body of an FBI agent is found.
- Kellerman, Jonathan. [Time Bomb](#) (\$9.99) Alex Delaware #31. LAPD Homicide Detective Milo Sturgis and psychologist Alex Delaware investigate the death of a sniper, who is shot down after he opens fire on a schoolyard in California.
- Lowell, Virginia. [Dead Men Don't Eat Cookies](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Cookie Cutter Shop #6. Olivia Madison and her best friend Maddie's plans to convert an old boarding house into an arts and crafts school are sent back to the drawing board after a skeleton is found within the walls.
- Ludlum, Robert. [The Osterman Weekend](#) (\$9.99) A quiet suburban town becomes the gathering place for an odd assortment of men and women involved in murder and international intrigue in this reprint of Ludlum's second novel originally published in 1972.
- McAndrews, Jenn. [Death under Glass](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Stained Glass #2. Stained glass artisan Georgia Kelly's best friend Carrie insists she doesn't have any enemies, but Georgia is determined to find out who is targeting Carrie with a series of accidents.
- McGoran, Jon. [Deadout](#) (\$8.99). In this follow-up to *Drift*, Philadelphia Detective Doyle Carrick and his girlfriend Nola Watkins' New England coast vacation is interrupted by a disease killing local bee colonies. Think eco-terrorism with a hint of Michael Crichton.
- Meier, Leslie. [French Pastry Murder](#) (\$7.99) Lucy Stone #21. Lucy Stone's cooking classes in Paris might have to be cut short when the instructor, a renowned pastry chef, is found dead in the kitchen.
- Moran, Terrie F. [Caught Read-Handed](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Read'Em and Eat#2. Sassy Cabot's attempts to do good by donating some books to her local library end up entangling her in a murder case involving an angry library patron.
- Parra, Nancy J. [Bodice of Evidence](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Perfect Proposals #2. While helping her sister pick out the perfect wedding dress, Pepper Pomeroy discovers the body of the owner of the bridal boutique out in the alley behind the store.
- Patterson, James. [NYPD Red 2](#) (\$10) NYPD Red #2. Two detectives with the "elite" (this isn't your mother's police force) NYPD Red unit investigate a woman murdered in Central Park.
- Pressey, Rose. [All Dressed Up and No Place to Haunt](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Vintage clothing store owner Cookie Chanel finds herself starring in a real live murder investigation when she is hired to provide the gowns for a period film and one of the cast members winds up dead.
- Reed, Hannah. [Hooked on Ewe](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Scottish Highlands #2. When the head of the local welcoming committee in Glenkillen is murdered, Eden Elliott discovers being a special constable is more than just a courtesy title.
- Sefton, Maggie. [Yarn over Murder](#) (\$7.99) Knitting Mystery #12. Kelly Flynn and the rest of the gang at the House of Lambspun Knitters try to help out their friend Connie when she is accused of murdering the woman she thinks is trying to steal her husband.
- Spillane, Mickey. [King of the Weed](#) (\$7.99) Mike Hammer and Velda investigate a series of suspicious police deaths in this novel written by Max Allan Collins based on Spillane's iconic detective.

Truman, Margaret. [Margaret Truman's Undiplomatic Murder](#) (\$8.99)
Private investigator Robert Brixton seeks revenge after his youngest daughter is killed by a suicide bomber at an outdoor café in Washington D.C.

Wenger, Christine. [Macaroni and Freeze](#) (NAL \$7.99) Comfort Food #4.
Diner owner Trixie Matkowski's efforts to organize a mac and cheese cook off to raise funds for a new library roof result in murder.

Williams, Amanda. [Don't Talk to Strangers](#) (\$7.99) Keye Street #3.
Ex FBI profiler and current private eye Keye Street tangles with a serial killer working in a small Georgia town.

Young, Tom. [Sand and Fire](#) (\$9.99)
Marine gunnery sergeant A. E. Blount leads a strike force out to capture a North African jihadist leader with a supply of sarin gas.

SciFi/Fantasy/Horror/More

Arthur, Keri. [Wicked Embers](#) (NAL \$7.99) Souls of Fire #2.
As a plague-like virus continues to spread, Emberley Pearson and her partner Jackson Miller search for stolen research that may contain a cure.

Bova, Ben. [New Frontiers: A Collection](#) (Tor \$8.99)
A selection of short stories from the six-time winner of the Hugo Award.

Cheney, J Kathleen. [The Seat of Magic](#) (NAL \$7.99)
This alternate history fantasy novel set in Portugal in 1902 follows the author's debut novel *The Golden City* (2013).

Doyle, Tom. [American Craftsmen](#) (Tor \$9.99)
A debut novel that blends supernatural fantasy, military adventure, espionage thriller, and alternate history (whew!).

Galenorn, Yasmine. [Flight from Death](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Fly by Night #1.
Shimmer, a blue-dragon shifter, must adapt to Earthside culture while trying to figure out who wants to kill her.

Goodkind, Terry. [Severed Souls](#) (\$9.99) Sword of Truth #14.
Seeker of Truth Richard Rahl and his wife, Mother Confessor Kahlan Amnell, have more adventures.

Griffith, Clay. [The Undying Legion](#) (Ballantine \$7.99) Crown and Key #2.
The Victorian-era Urban fantasy series continues. Should appeal to fans of the television series *Penny Dreadful*.

Hamilton, Laurell K. [A Shiver of Light](#) (\$7.99) Meredith Gentry #9.
Faerie princess and former private eye Merry Gentry must fight for her own life as well as her new triplets

Kennedy, A L. [Doctor Who: The Drosten's Curse](#) (Crown \$9.99)
Dr. Who investigates a rash of disappearing guests at the Fetch Brothers Golf Spa Hotel.

Lackey, Mercedes. [House of the Four Winds](#) (\$8.99)
Impoverished Princess Clarice disguises herself as a boy and joins a pirate crew.

Lawrence, Mark. [Prince of Fools](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Red Queen's War #1.
The drinking, gambling and womanizing grandson of the Red Queen, Prince Jalan Kendeth, travels across the Empire to undo a spell linking him with a Norse warrior.

Monk, Devon. [Cold Copper: The Age of Steam](#) (NAL \$7.99) Age of Steam #3.

When a glacial storm stops Cedar Hunt and his team in their tracks, they seek refuge in Des Moines, Iowa and learn that the mayor is mining cold copper for the cataclysmic generators he's manufacturing deep beneath Des Moines.

Stross, Charles. [Rhesus Chart](#) (\$7.99) Laundry Files #5.
Bob Howard, tech geek and occasional spy, gets involved when some British investment bankers stumble across a formula that turns them into vampires.

Sweazy, Larry D. [Escape from Hangtown](#) (Berkley \$7.99)
Lucas Fume sets out to prove his friend Zeke is innocent of assaulting a senator's daughter.

HISTORY/MYSTERY

⌘Bebris, Carrie. [The Suspicion at Sanditon \(or, The Disappearance of Lady Denham\)](#) (Forge \$23.99). Bebris continues her Mr. and Mrs. Darcy Mysteries by taking the couple to the beachfront development of Jane Austen's last work. Don't expect Austen's quality. See British Books for more.

⌘Chaplin, Lisa. [The Tide Watchers](#) (Harper \$14.99). **Our July History/Mystery Paperback Pick** takes you to the winter of 1803 when England is increasingly uneasy over the prospect of a French invasion. Lisbeth Delacourt, daughter of Baronet Sir Edward Sunderland, had defied him by eloping to France. When her husband Alain (a French spy) breaks her heart by abandoning her, she has to resort to working in a local tavern while her mother-in-law raises her little son, Edmond. Lisbeth's father is a King's Man (spy). Duncan Aylsham, code named Tidewatcher) promised his boss, Sir Edward, to watch over Lisbeth while he searches the Channel region for evidence Bonaparte is assembling a fleet. Meanwhile American inventor Robert Fulton has been working on a fully submersible ship and new torpedo technology, planning on selling it to the French navy. It's not working out so Fulton accepts Tidewatcher's help to relocate but refuses access to his inventions. So Tidewatcher recruits Lisbeth to pose as a housekeeper and charm Fulton before the French fleet can sail, thus risking her life and her heart once again.... Chaplin is not the first novelist to fasten upon Fulton's role but she gives her story her own spin.

Davis, Lindsey. [Deadly Election](#) (St Martins \$25.99). "It's the year 89 B.C.E. Upon the retirement of her father, Marcus Didius Falco, Flavia Albia has inherited both his auction house and his clients as a private informer and sometime-sleuth. While preparing a sale of items from the household of wealthy Callistus Valens, who has gone to his country estate with his family, her workmen find a corpse inside a huge armored chest. Because it's too badly decomposed to identify, determining the body's killer, not to mention its identity, falls to Flavia despite the fact that Callistus suggests she simply dispose of it like rubbish. This potential slog takes a back seat when Flavia is buttonholed by rugged Manlius Faustus, a magistrate who's as attracted to her as she is to him, so far to little effect. Faustus hires Flavia to dig up dirt on the slate of candidates competing against his friend Sextus Vibius Marinus in the upcoming election for Plebian Aedile... A murder reminds Flavia of the danger she has placed herself in. But even she could never have foreseen her own arrest. Flavia's third case benefits from the heroine's combination of archness and vulnerability and the author's deep knowledge of the period."—*Kirkus Reviews*

De Palma, Felix J. [Map of Chaos](#) (Atria \$27). When the person he loves most dies in tragic circumstances, the mysterious protagonist does all he can to speak to her one last time. A session with a renowned medium seems to offer the only solution, but the experience unleashes terrible forces that bring the world to the brink of disaster. Salvation can only be found in *The Map of Chaos*, an obscure book that he is desperate to uncover. In his search, he is given invaluable help by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Lewis Carroll, and of course by H.G. Wells, whose *Invisible Man* seems to have escaped from the pages of his famous novel to sow terror among mankind. They alone can discover the means to save the world and to find the path that will reunite the lovers separated by death. Proving once again that he is “a master of ingenious plotting” (*Kirkus Reviews*), Palma brings together a cast of real and imagined literary characters in Victorian-Age London, when spiritualism is at its height.

Dickey, Christopher. [Our Man in Charleston](#) (Crown \$27). This terrific book (with black and white photo insert) should appeal to any reader of *Gone with the Wind* as it explores the Confederacy’s assumption that its cotton monopoly would leverage Europe, and especially Great Britain, into recognizing its legitimacy and supporting the war—despite Britain’s clear moral stance against the slave trade. [Take a moment to watch the movie *Belle*.] While Southerners officially declared slaving dead, in actuality it was expanding the trade, especially west. Robert Bunch, the ambitious British consul, soured on the South and used his position to not only send damning dispatches to Britain’s Foreign Office but to become its secret source on the Confederacy. And, Bunch became a double agent, convincing Charleston he was on the Confederate team. Dickey does a wonderful job exploring Bunch’s work and all sorts of issues, and tracing developments and careers once the war ended. Bunch is one of those forgotten men of history, when great powers stand on the brink, who deserve to be remembered.

Dietrich, William. [The Three Emperors](#) (\$9.99). In his 7th adventure, Flashman-like Ethan Gage in Venice having escaped after surviving the naval battle of Trafalgar. His plan: to circumvent the French Empire and rescue his wife, Astiza, and son, Harry, from imprisonment by a ruthless mystic who seeks revenge for disfigurement, and from an evil dwarf alchemist who experiments with the occult on Prague’s Golden Lane. Using death as his ruse, Gage seeks unlikely allies in the Jewish Napoleonic soldier Gideon Dray, who saves Ethan’s life at Austerlitz, and Gideon’s father, Aaron, a rabbi whose knowledge of the legends of the Golem adds another layer to the hunt for the Brazen Head. The three must decipher clues from Durendal, the sword of Roland. Meanwhile, Astiza uses her own research to concoct an explosive escape and find a lost tomb, with their tormentors in relentless pursuit.

⌘Flanders, Judith. [The Victorian City](#) (\$17.99). To enrich your reading of fiction, a vivid portrait of everyday life on the streets of Dickens’ London which grew from a compact Regency town to a metropolis of 6.5 million.

Forsyth, Kate. [The Wild Girl](#) (St Martins \$26.99). One of six sisters, Dortchen Wild lives in the small German kingdom of Hesse-Cassel in the early 19th century. She finds herself irresistibly drawn to the boy next door, the handsome but very poor fairy tale scholar Wilhelm Grimm. It is a time of tyranny and terror.

Napoleon Bonaparte wants to conquer all of Europe, and Hesse-Cassel is one of the first kingdoms to fall. Forced to live under oppressive French rule, Wilhelm and his brothers quietly rebel by preserving old half-forgotten tales that had once been told by the firesides of houses grand and small over the land. As Dortchen tells Wilhelm some of the most powerful and compelling stories in what will one day become his and Jacob’s famous fairy tale collection, their love blossoms...but may be blighted. “A] richly imagined tale of the girl who gave the Grimm brothers some of their best stories ... Ultimately, this novel inhabits the ground between Philippa Gregory and Hilary Mantel. It is both entertaining and serious-minded, but it has about it too that little touch of magic that makes Kate Forsyth’s voice so distinctive, so uniquely Kate.”—Kim Wilkins

⌘Fremantle, Elizabeth. [Sisters of Treason](#) (\$15.99). Early in Mary Tudor’s turbulent reign, Lady Catherine and Lady Mary Grey are reeling after the brutal execution of their elder seventeen-year-old sister, Lady Jane Grey, and the succession is by no means stable. Neither sister is well suited to a dangerous life at court. Flirtatious Lady Catherine, thought to be the true heir, cannot control her compulsion to love and be loved. Her sister, clever Lady Mary, has a crooked spine and a tiny stature in an age when physical perfection equates to goodness—and both girls have inherited the Tudor blood that is more curse than blessing. For either girl to marry without royal permission would be a potentially fatal political act. It is the royal portrait painter, Levina Teerline, who helps the girls survive these troubled times. She becomes their mentor and confidante, but when the Queen’s sister, the hot-headed Elizabeth, inherits the crown, life at court becomes increasingly treacherous for the surviving Grey sisters.

Don’t overlook Fremantle’s June novel [Watch the Lady](#) (SimonSchuster \$16), a paperback original, telling the story of Lady Penelope Devereux—the daring young beauty in the Tudor court, who inspired Sir Philip Sidney’s famous sonnets even while she plotted against Queen Elizabeth.

Garelick, Rhonda. [Mademoiselle Coco Chanel and the Pulse of History](#) (\$20). Her parents were an unmarried French street vendor and his laundrywoman girlfriend and she was orphaned at 12, but Coco Chanel (1883-1971) went on to become a world famous style icon, the only fashion designer among Time’s vaunted 100 Most Influential People of the 20th Century. A “detailed, wry and nuanced portrait of a complicated woman that leaves the reader in a state of utterly satisfying confusion—blissfully mesmerized and confounded by the reality of the human spirit.”—*The Washington Post*

⌘Goddard, Robert. [The Ends of the Earth Signed](#) (Transworld \$45). July 1919. Ex-flying ace James ‘Max’ Maxted’s attempt to uncover the secret behind the death of his father, Sir Henry Maxted, murdered while serving as an adviser with the British delegation to the Paris peace conference, has seemingly ended in failure – and his own death. The trail uncovered by him leads to Japan and a mysterious prisoner held by Sir Henry Maxted’s old enemy, Count Tomura. Unaware of Max’s fate, the team he has recruited to finish the job are already there, where their paths cross that of former German spymaster, Fritz Lemmer, now rebuilding his spy network in the service of a new, more sinister cause. In the days and weeks ahead, the quest Max embarked on in Paris will reach its dizzying end at Tomura’s castle in the mountains of Honshu –

and the full truth of what occurred thirty years before will finally be laid bare... Max Maxted #3

✠Gregory, Susanna. [A Poisonous Plot Signed](#) (LittleBrown \$48). In 1358, over a century after its foundation in Cambridge, the college of Michaelhouse is facing a serious shortfall of funds and competition from upstarts rivals such as Zachary Hostel. Their problems are made no easier by the hostility of the town's inhabitants who favor the university moving away to the Fens. This simmering tension threatens to break into violence when a well-known tradesman is found dead in one of the colleges. Matthew Bartholomew knows he was poisoned but cannot identify the actual substance, never mind the killer. He also worries that other illnesses and deaths may have been caused by the effluent from his sister's dye works. Torn between loyalties to his kin and to his college, he fears the truth may destroy both his personal and professional life, but he knows he must use his skills as a physician to discover the truth before many more lose their lives entirely. Matthew Bartholomew #21.

✠Hickson, Joanna. [Red Rose, White Rose](#) (\$7.99). In fifteenth century England the Neville family rules the north with an iron fist. Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmorland, a giant of a man and a staunch Lancastrian, cunningly consolidates power by negotiating brilliant marriages for his children. The last betrothal he arranges before he dies is between his youngest daughter, nine-year-old Cicely, and his ward Richard, the thirteen-year-old Duke of York, England's richest heir. Told through the eyes of Cicely and her half-brother Cuthbert, *Red Rose, White Rose* is the story of one of the most powerful women in England during one of its most turbulent periods. Born of Lancaster and married to York, the willowy and wayward Cicely treads a hazardous path through love, loss and imprisonment and between the violent factions of Lancaster and York. This is the territory of Philippa Gregory and Conn Iggulden. And of historian Desmond Seward: [The Last White Rose](#) (\$16.95), Yorkist pretenders, and his [Richard III](#) (\$16.95).

✠Hodgson, Antonia. [The Last Confession of Thomas Hawkins Signed](#) (Hodder \$36). Spring, 1728. A young, well-dressed man is dragged through the streets of London to the gallows at Tyburn. The crowds jeer and curse as he passes, calling him a murderer. He tries to remain calm. His name is Tom Hawkins and he is innocent. Somehow he has to prove it, before the rope squeezes the life out of him. It is, of course, all his own fault. He was happy with Kitty Sparks. Life was good. He should never have told the most dangerous criminal in London that he was 'bored and looking for adventure'. He should never have offered to help Henrietta Howard, the king's mistress, in her desperate struggles with a brutal husband. And most of all, he should never have trusted the witty, calculating Queen Caroline. She has promised him a royal pardon if he holds his tongue but then again, there is nothing more silent than a hanged man. Based loosely on actual events, Antonia Hodgson's new novel is both a sequel to [The Devil in the Marshalsea](#) (\$15.99) and a standalone historical mystery. And continues the rake's progress of Tom Hawkins—assuming he can find a way to survive the noose...

✠Huber, Anna Lee. [A Study in Death](#) (Berkley \$25.95). It's Edinburgh, 1831, and Lady Darby, widow and sometime sleuth using skills she learned from her anatomist husband, is affianced to her investigative partner Sebastian Gage. His family is opposed; her

very pregnant sister and kind brother-in-law supportive. Lady Darby is a society portrait painter and working on one of Lady Drummond commissioned by that lady's husband. She witnesses Lord Drummond's brutal treatment of his wife which strikes a chord since Lady Darby's deceased spouse was abusive. Arriving for a sitting session, Lady Darby finds Lady Drummond on the floor, dying. Lord D and the physician called in rule it apoplexy but Kiera suspects poison... and the husband. And despite all opposition, pursues an investigation that takes some surprising turns. 4th in a romantic mystery series for fans of, say, Deanna Raybourn and Tasha Alexander.

✠Jarvis, Stephen. [Death and Mr. Pickwick Signed](#) (Cape \$46). Like other massive historical novels set in Victorian England—e.g., *Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell* or *Drood*—Stephen Jarvis's impressive debut "is an immersive experience that richly rewards its readers, filled with an array of characters. It's about an ages-old debate concerning who was the creator of the 19th-century serial novel *The Pickwick Papers*. Robert Seymour, the most prolific illustrator/cartoonist of his era and the first Pickwick illustrator, said that the character of Mr. Samuel Pickwick and his Sporting Club were his ideas. When the monthly installments of the story were published in book form, young Charles Dickens, who provided the text to complement the illustrations using his pen name, Boz, claimed in a note that he was the sole creator. By then Seymour had committed suicide. As his novel runs its course, Jarvis exhibits his belief in Seymour's claim of ownership.... whether you accept his argument or not, Jarvis, via Scripity's book, provides a fascinating, detailed history of the business of publishing and book illustration in the early 19th century: how prints were made, sold, marketed and who the artists were who fulfilled the public's great thirst for them."—Tom Lavoie

Kane, Ben. [Enemy of Rome](#) (\$16.99). In the First Punic War, the Roman legions defeated and humiliated Carthage. Now Hannibal, a brilliant young Carthaginian general, is out for revenge. Caught up in the maelstrom are two young boys, Hanno, the son of a distinguished soldier and confidant of Hannibal, and Quintus, son of a Roman equestrian and landowner. A disastrous adventure will see Hanno sold into slavery and bought by Quintus's father. Although an unexpected friendship springs up between the two boys—and with Quintus's sister, Aurelia—the fortunes of the two warring empires will tear them apart.

Mahoney, Dennis. [Bell Weather](#) (Holt \$28). The Indie Next Pick: "Set in a fantastical 18th century world where rain falls up and color storms wash the land with bright hues, *Bell Weather* is, at its core, the story of a spirited young woman fighting for the freedom to choose her own path. Although Molly tells the townsfolk of Root almost nothing of her past, readers learn about her childhood with an overbearing governess, a cold father, and a brilliant, cunning brother who will stop at nothing to ensure that he and Molly are together and unbridled. Mahoney has created a marvelous world that readers will want to visit again and again.

✠Marston, Edward. [Timetable of Death Signed](#) (Allison \$45). 1859. St Mary's Church, Spondon. A little girl playing hide-and-seek jumps into a freshly-dug grave to find a dead man already occupying it. It is the body of a senior director of the Midland Railway. Inspector Colbeck and Sergeant Leeming travel to Derbyshire to investigate.

McClain, Paula. [Circling the Sun Signed](#) (Random \$29). McClain, a former Scottsdalian, signed [The Paris Wife](#) (\$15)—a novel imagining the story of Ernest Hemingway’s first spouse—for us before it became a huge, long-running bestseller. And she’s agreed to sign this brilliant new novel, the No. 1 Indie Next Pick for August, for us. It kept me mesmerized, a kind of cross between Dinesen’s *Out of Africa* and Fuller’s *Don’t Let’s Go to the Dogs Tonight* plus anything you’ve ever read about Amelia Earhart. See New Books for more on our **July Modern Firsts Club Pick**.

McPherson, Catriona. [Dandy Gilver and the Unpleasantness in the Ballroom Signed](#) (Hodder \$45). Glasgow, 1932, is a city in the grip of dance-fever. Public ballrooms and back-street dance-halls are thronged every night and competition for professional titles is fierce. Even after the sudden death of one of last year’s hopefuls there are plenty willing to take his place, and few who stop to wonder why he died. In the melting pot of the Locarno Ballroom in Sauchiehall Street, a debutante rubs shoulders with denizens of Glasgow’s meanest streets, her respectable fiancé oblivious, her parents dismayed. When she starts receiving threats from a rival, they grow frantic enough to call on Dandy Gilver to save their precious daughter from harm. But as Dandy and her side-kick, Alec Osborne, begin to unravel the secrets of the dancehall, they soon discover that the rot goes much deeper than rivalry and there’s more at stake than a silver cup. This may run late depending on McPherson’s travel schedule.

O’Brien, Charles. [Death at Tammany Hall](#) (Kensington \$15). O’Brien’s third Gilded Age Mystery pits attorney Jeremiah Prescott and investigator Pamela Thompson against Tammany Hall, the political machine that once dominated Manhattan.

✦Parker, Kate. [The Royal Assassin](#) (Berkley \$15). This 3rd Victorian Bookshop Mystery begins when the Duke of Blackford enters the shop of antiquarian bookseller Georgia Fenchuch, a woman who doubles as a private inquiry agent for the secret Archivist Society. The Tsar and his family are in England visiting Queen Victoria on the occasion of the engagement of the Russian Princess Kira to the son of a royal cousin. Kira’s bodyguard is soon found dead on a train returning from Scotland to London. The Russians suspect anarchists and refuse to aid an investigation, calling instead for extremists to be hanged. The Queen calls on Blackford and the Society to head off an international incident, and protect the princess. So Kira goes undercover into Kira’s household as her English secretary... This is fun and has some unusual Victorian history, but, as with so many American writers, the author unrealistically tries to bridge the class barriers with a degree of informality that would never have occurred.

Patel, Shona. [Flame Tree Road Signed](#) (Mira \$14.95). Library Journals reviews: “Patel’s latest historical opens in a small riverside village in 1870s India, where caste and tradition determine one’s lot in life. When young Biren Roy’s mother suffers the worst possible fate for a woman, widowhood, Biren swears he will become a lawyer and fight for women’s rights in India. Eventually, he becomes the focused lawyer he set out to be, full of hope and determination, but Biren faces a whole new set of challenges fighting the barriers of India’s history and tradition. Achieving his dream seems hopeless until he meets the passionate Maya. Armed with new hope because of her, Biren must find a balance between heritage and progress to attain his goals.

Tradition and setting dominate this story of passion, politics, and love. The Indian countryside and village life play a big role, and the slow pace of writing matches the pace of change in India. Beautifully written, this novel is sure to please fans of Khaled Hosseini and Jhumpa Lahiri.” This is a kind of prequel to one of our two bestselling trade paperbacks ever: [Teatime for the Firefly](#) (\$15.95). It takes you further back into India under the Raj and tells us the story of the grandfather. Patel’s books defy labels as they blend history, suspense, romance, thrills.

✦Pulley, Natasha. [The Watchmaker of Filigree Street Signed](#) (Bloomsbury UK \$35). Prepare to be immersed in London at a time of industrial change, characters on the margin of society, and Keita, a man who remembers the future. Not to mention his unforgettable companion, who you will surely fall for, a clockwork octopus... “Pulley’s electrifying debut is a triumph of speculative fiction. It captures the frenetic energy of a world undergoing extraordinary changes: London in the time of new electrical devices, Gilbert and Sullivan’s theatre, and the terror of Irish nationalist bombings. Pulley expertly employs the tools of mystery and fantasy to examine the social pressures faced by the marginalized. The plot revolves around finding the bomber, but the heart of the story is the universal human quest for acceptance, understanding, and love.”—*PW* Starred Review. This is **our July History/Mystery Pick and SciFi/Fantasy Book Club Pick**, recommended to readers of *Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell*—as well as recent bestseller, *The Bone Season*—and fans of Neil Gaiman, China Mieville... Unsigned US edition: [Watchmaker of Filigree Street](#) (Bloomsbury \$26)

✦Redgold, Eliza. [Naked: A Novel of Lady Godiva](#) (\$14.99). The legend has Lady Godiva riding naked through the streets of Coventry, covered only by her long, flowing hair. So the story goes, she begged her husband, Lord Leofric of Mercia, to lift a high tax on her people, who would starve if forced to pay. Lord Leofric demanded a forfeit: that Godiva ride naked on horseback through the town. There are various endings to Godiva’s ride, that all the people of Coventry closed their doors and refused to look upon their liege lady (except for “peeping Tom”) and that her husband, in remorse, lifted the tax. Redgold reimagines this tale and gives it a twist.

Scarrow, Simon. [Brothers in Blood](#) (Overlook \$26.95). A messenger on the streets of Rome has been intercepted and tortured, revealing a plot to sabotage the Roman army’s campaign against Caratacus, commander of Britannia’s native tribes. A treacherous agent’s mission is to open a second front of attack against them and eliminate the two Roman soldiers who could stand in the way. Unwarned, Cato and Macro are with the Roman army pursuing Caratacus and his men through the mountains of Britannia. Defeating Caratacus finally seems within their grasp. But the plot against the two heroes threatens not only their military goals but also their lives.

Spann, Susan. [A Flask of the Drunken Master](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Now that Laura Rowland has ended her wonderful medieval Japan series, I hope that someone will take up the torch. Spann doesn’t quite do it for me with her team of ninja Hiro Hattori and his Jesuit sidekick, Father Mateo of Portugal. It’s August 1565 and a murder has taken place outside Ginjiro’s brewery. The dead man is a rival artisan. The Kyoto magistrate arrests Ginjiro and seizes the brewery, making destitute the accused’s wife and

daughter. There are other suspects in a city made uneasy by the Shogun's recent death, a rival shinobi on the prowl, and a samurai threatening our sleuths every way they turn. The enjoyment here is not identifying the killer, who is obvious, but in the depiction of everyday life and trade. 3rd in series.

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

New in the US: [The Devil's Seal](#) (St Martins \$26.99). The 25th Sister Fidelma Mystery. When a curious deputation of religieux arrives in Cashel, death follows close behind and Sister Fidelma and her companion, Eadulf, seem unable to stem the bloodshed and discover the sinister reason behind it. Is one of the deputation responsible? What was the Venerable Verax, the elderly scholar from Rome, hiding? Was there an evil secret behind the austere and arrogant Bishop Arwald of Magonsaete? Indeed, what was the real reason behind Eadulf's own brother, Egric's, unexpected appearance at Cashel to coincide with these events? Victims and suspects combined to make a tangled skein...

✂Winspear, Jacqueline. [The Care and Management of Lies](#) (\$15.99). Not a Maisie Dobbs but a novel of WWI. See our July Trade Paperback Picks.