

BOOKNEWS from

ISSN 1056-5655, © The Poisoned Pen, Ltd.
Volume 27, Number 10
October Booknews 2015
sales@poisonedpen.com tel (888)560-9919
http://poisonedpen.com

4014 N. Goldwater Blvd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
480-947-2974



Happy Halloween!

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

THURSDAY OCTOBER 1 7:00 PM

Mark Coggins signs [No Hard Feelings](#) (\$30) August Riordan

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3 2:00 PM Surprise!

Karin Slaughter signs [Pretty Girls](#) (Morrow \$28) Surprise Me! Club Pick

SUNDAY OCTOBER 4 2:00 PM

Steph Cha signs [Dead Soon Enough](#) (St Martins \$26.99) Juniper Song #3

TUESDAY OCTOBER 6 More Fantastic Fiction

John Sandford and Ctien sign [Saturn Run](#) (Putnam \$28) SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick

THURSDAY OCTOBER 8 7:00 PM

Jeff Guinn signs [Buffalo Trail](#) (Putnam \$27)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 10 10:30 AM

Coffee & Crime discusses Kate Carlisle's [Homicide in Hardcover](#) (\$7.99)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 10 NOON

Romance Readers discusses Juliet Backwell's [The Paris Key](#) (\$15)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 10 2:00 PM Vince Flynn Tribute

Kyle Mills signs [The Survivor](#) (Atria \$28) Mitch Rapp

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14 7:00 PM

Anne Wilson hosts two military fiction thrillers

Jay Klages signs [Measure of Danger](#) (Amazon \$15.95)

Mike Maden signs [Drone Command](#) (Putnam \$27) Troy Pearce #3

THURSDAY OCTOBER 15 7:00 PM

Thomas Cobb signs [Darkness the Color of Snow](#) (Harper \$25.99) Hardboiled Crime Club Pick

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17 10:30 AM

Croak & Dagger discuss Keigo Higashino's Edgar nominee [The Devotion of Suspect X](#) (\$15.99)

TUESDAY OCTOBER 10 7:00 PM Debut

Bonnie MacBird signs [Art in the Blood](#) (Harper \$25.99) Sherlock Holmes

THURSDAY OCTOBER 22 7:00 PM Double Bill

Tasha Alexander signs [The Adventuress](#) (St Martins \$25.99)

Lady Emily #9

Steven Saylor signs [Wrath of the Furies](#) (St Martins \$26.99)

Gordianus the Younger

FRIDAY OCTOBER 23 7:00 PM

Sharona Frederick discusses Vampire Folklore from Europe, Peru, and Africa. This is not a book signing; it's about Vampires!

TUESDAY OCTOBER 27 7:00 PM A Soho Quartet with

Robert Anglen

Matt Bell signs [Scrapper](#) (Soho \$26)

James R. Benn via Skype: [White Ghost](#) (Soho \$28) Billy Boyle

Timothy Hallinan signs [Hot Countries](#) (Soho \$26.95) Poke Rafferty

Martin Limon signs [The Ville Rat](#) (Soho \$26.95) Slickly Boys

Diana Gabaldon's [Outlandish Companion 2](#) (\$40) and [Outlander Coloring Book](#) (\$15.95) go on sale, both Signed

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 28 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime discusses David Grubb's [The Night of the Hunter](#) (\$14.95), inspiration for the classic Robert Mitchum/Shelley Winters film

THURSDAY OCTOBER 29 7:00 PM

Lisa Scottoline signs [Corrupted](#) (St Martins \$27.99) Bennie Rosato

FRIDAY OCTOBER 30 7:00 PM

James Sallis and the Three Legged Dog Band

SATURDAY OCTOBER 31 Halloween Teens 2:00 PM

NOTE: The Pen closes at 5:00 PM October 31

Amy Lukavics signs [Daughters unto Devils](#) (Harlequin \$17.99).

Gena Showalter signs [Mad Zombie Party](#) (Harlequin \$18.99).

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3 7:00 PM

Hank Phillippi Ryan signs [What You See](#) (Forge \$25.99) Jane Ryland #4

EVENT BOOKS

Alexander, Tasha. [The Adventuress](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Lady Emily Hargreaves and her husband, Colin, journey to Cannes where they're celebrating the engagement of her beloved childhood friend, Jeremy Sheffield, Duke of Bainbridge, the man many expected she would marry. A confirmed bachelor, Jeremy has surprised everyone by a swift engagement to American heiress Amity Wells, sponsored by his young brother as just the right wife. You can see the influence on Consuela Vanderbilt and Jennie Jerome (Churchill) in the concept. Emily doesn't quite trust Amity's "studied perfection," but her doubts are overshadowed when a member of their party is found dead in Jeremy's hotel suite. The French coroner rules it suicide, but Emily suspects murder—and wonders whether Jeremy was the killer's real target. And why? The Wells family is pretty much to American newly-rich stereotype, mother and father, but Amity narrates sections of the novel in third person and through her eyes you can see life in India under the Raj, for her parents first took her to the sub-continent before moving on to Egypt and then the Riviera. Alexander weaves a compelling story of intrigue among upper-crust *fin de siècle* society as well as portraying a particularly calculating killer. I'd say more but I'd ruin the plot. [Click here](#) for Lady Emily's entire adventures.

Bell, Matt. [Scrapper](#) (Soho \$26 Oct. 27). "A fearless and harrowing meditation on the ruination and transformation of cities and of people; but amid loss and destruction, Bell finds a strain of piercing hope. This is an extraordinary book." —Emily St. John Mandel, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Station Eleven*. Two more quotes on a book I have yet to read: "Has the feel of Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* set in present-day Motor City... a morality tale about the duty to confront the evil in the world and within oneself, a tale told in powerful, controlled prose." "Matt Bell delves into the complexity of ruins: the wider American ruins and the local personal ruins. This is an evocative novel that lingers over what has been abandoned and shows us how the places we inhabit shape who we are and how we are."

Cha, Steph. [Dead Soon Enough](#) (St Martins \$26.99 Oct. 4). When at age 22 Song "was broke, bored, and quietly depressed, and had no strength to fight the call of easy money," she decided to become an ovum donor and sold three sets of her eggs for \$48,000. Years later, a new case revives memories of what for her was a questionable decision. Rubina Gasparian, a 37-year-old doctor who's unable to conceive with her husband, has arranged for her 26-year-old cousin, Lusig, to serve as her gestational surrogate. With only a month to go before the due date, Rubina is anxious that Lusig isn't taking care of either herself or the fetus, and she hires Song to follow Lusig. The gumshoe finds that Lusig's main source of stress is anxiety about a friend who's been missing for about a month, one Nora, the daughter of Armenian immigrants from the Soviet Union. Nora ran a website devoted to discussing the Armenian genocide of 1915, and her blog posts attracted a lot of creepy haters, so Song's focus shifts from Lusig to ascertaining Nora's fate. Veronica Mars fans will be pleased."—PW Starred Review. This is a very powerful presentation of a tragedy (yet to be acknowledged by Turkey) for which the world "holocaust" was formed, and Song is very clued up on blogs and trolls and such. A nifty, edgy book where the Korean PI is growing into her job and her skin! 3rd in series: [click here](#) to order all three.

Cobb, Thomas. [Darkness the Color of Snow](#) (Harper \$25.99 Oct. 15). Karen reviews: "Lydell is a small town struggling with the economic downturn, the subsequent unemployment and city budget cutting. Ronny Forbert was part of a mischievous group of boys back in high school but moved on to become a part of the town's law enforcement staff. On an icy night, while doing patrol, he spots a car on the road, with a missing light and suspicious driving. He stops the car only to find his former friends have been out for a good time, and not particularly sober. The leader, Matt Laferiere, resists Ronny's attempts to enforce the law and, between the deadly black ice and struggle between the two, a tragic accident results in a loss of life. Among the townsfolk, there are variations on the story regarding the guilt of Ronny, which he denies, or the possibility of the encounter being an accident. The townsfolk create a narrative of miscellaneous facts and assumptions to create a bastardized version of what really happened. Some use the story to justify their own agenda while Matt's father uses the incident to further his political ambitions. The town's sheriff is Ronny's biggest supporter, but that cannot quiet the jumbled conversations in his head, constantly revising that night on the highway. Cobb is the author of *Crazy Heart*, a 2009 Academy Award winning film. His storytelling has been compared to *No Country for Old Men* and *Snow Falling on Cedars*." And to Richard Russo's work.

Making this the **October Hardboiled Crime Club Pick**, Patrick writes, "Ronny Forbert is a young patrol officer in fictional Lydell, a town (in an unspecified state) dying a slow economic death. He was the one kid among his small group of local juvenile delinquent friends that was able to get out, thanks to the help of local Police Chief Gordy Hawkins, a kind and decent man who saw the potential in young Forbert. Now, years later, Forbert stops a speeding Jeep with one headlight on a snowy winter road. In it are his old high school 'friends' and the driver, Matt Laferiere is drunk and belligerent. Forbert tries to arrest Laferiere and a scuffle ensues, during which Forbert's former running buddy slips on the ice and is killed by a hit and run driver. In the aftermath of this accident, many in the community seem to think that Forbert really murdered Laferiere by pushing him into traffic. Cobb takes us back and forth in time, exploring the different relationships and small town alliances. At the heart of this well-crafted novel is Cobb's characterization of Gordy Hawkins, who is trying to put one foot in front of the other after his beloved wife's death. Not to be missed."

Coggins, Mark. [No Hard Feelings](#) (\$30). Winnie doesn't remember the last time she felt anything below her neck. Her spine is severed at the seventh vertebrae, but thanks to implants from a sabotaged biomedical start-up, she has regained mobility. She is a prototype: a living, breathing—walking—demonstration of revolutionary technology that never made it to market. Her disability has become her armor. Because she doesn't register fatigue, she has trained relentlessly. Her hand, arm, and leg strength are off the scales for a woman, and she has honed self-defense techniques to channel that strength. She's a modern-day Amazon who feels no pain. When the sociopath who torpedoed the start-up sends killers to harvest the implants from her body, Winnie must team up with broken-down private investigator August Riordan to save both their lives....

Guinn, Jeff. [Buffalo Trail](#) (Putnam \$27 Oct. 8). After barely escaping nemesis Killer Boots in the tiny Arizona Territory town of Glorious, Cash McLendon is in desperate need of a safe haven somewhere—anywhere—on the frontier. Fleeing to Dodge City, he falls in with an intrepid band of buffalo hunters determined to head south to forbidden Indian Territory in the Texas Panhandle. In the company of such colorful Western legends as Bat Master-son and Billy Dixon, Cash helps establish a hunting camp known as Adobe Walls. When a massive migration of buffalo arrives, Cash, newly hopeful that he may yet patch things up with Gabrielle Tirrito back in Arizona, thinks his luck has finally changed. But no good can come of entering the prohibited lands they've crossed into... Guinn's first in this series, [Glorious](#) (\$16), was a knockout.

Hallinan, Timothy. [Hot Countries](#) (Soho \$26.95 Oct. 27). Back when Poke Rafferty first arrived in Bangkok to write a travel guide, some of the old-timers in the Expat Bar on Patpong Road helped him make sense of the city. Now these men—many of whom have been living in Southeast Asia since the Vietnam War—have grown old and, in most cases, frail. When a talkative stranger named Arthur Varney turns up, they accept him without suspicion, failing to see that he's actually using them to get to Poke who out of loyalty, and to escape his family's addiction to TV, hangs out with them. Varney wants two things: money Poke doesn't have, and a person Poke is unwilling to hand over. A ruthless and determined Varney's action soon threaten the foundation of Poke's life in Thailand. And the much diminished men of the Expat Bar discover that they might still be a force to reckon with. How we love and admire Hallinan's chronicles of what befalls American ex-pat Poke in Thailand, the family Poke has created (his now pregnant ex-bar-girl wife and the street girl they adopted), and the way he wrestles with slippery choices and people. [Click here](#) to order Poke's amazing, Edgar-nominated, adventures.

Klages, Jay. [Measure of Danger](#) (amazon \$15.95 Oct. 14). David Hunenberg highly recommends this thriller. Kade Sims was a successful army intelligence officer until his hypomania disorder and impulsive behavior resulted in his discharge. Forced to adapt to a sedate civilian existence, he'd all but given up on a life of service. That is, until opportunity—and an FBI agent—knocks on his door. The FBI believes Kade's unique talents make him their best candidate to infiltrate AgriteX, an agricultural biotech company suspected of involvement in organized crime. Kade jumps at the chance to redeem himself and serve his country again. But he soon learns that AgriteX is invested in far more threatening pursuits—the company is secretly funding The Chapter, a high-tech militia plotting a savage attack on the United States. Klages is a former military intelligence officer and West Point graduate who lives in Gilbert, Arizona. He attended the MBA program at Arizona State University.

Limon, Martin. [The Ville Rat](#) (Soho \$26.95 Oct. 27). It's 1974 in this pulse-pounding 10th mystery for the Slick Boys: US 8th Army Sergeant George Sueño and Ernie Bascom. They work in the army's CID which investigates crimes by or related to Americans stationed in Korea. When a young Korean "entertainer" is found brutally dead in the Sonya River which is near a US base, the Army high brass makes dodging embarrassment—should an American be found responsible—its first priority. But the Slick Boys live for these moments. Their investigation north of Seoul

is quashed, they are yanked back to HQ, and so must get creative, collaborate with Korean cop Mr. Kill, to crack this one. I have loved these offbeat police procedurals, for that's what they are despite the military setting, which explore social and cultural clashes often raised by introducing soldiers into a civilian population holding different values and customs. In short, it may be the 1970s but it could as easily be 2015 Africa or Okinawa or the whole Islamic theater. Bravo to Limon who keeps upping his game. The partners, who have a reputation for not "overlooking crimes that were considered embarrassing," thrive on challenges in this "superior entry in a consistently impressive series," says the *PW* Starred Review, echoing me. [Click here](#) to order all the superb Slick Boys books, one of my very favorite crime series; I collect them.

MacBird, Bonnie. [Art in the Blood](#) (Harper \$25.99 Oct. 20). Sherlock Holmes is languishing at 221B Baker Street during a snowy December, 1888. The 34-year-old sleuth is back on cocaine after a disastrous Jack the Ripper investigation. Then a strangely encoded letter arrives from a Mlle La Victoire, Parisian cabaret star, who's desperate to learn why her young, illegitimate son by an English earl has disappeared. Plus she's apparently in danger, having been attacked on Montmartre's twisty streets. His interested piqued, Holmes heads to Paris with a fortunately free Watson by his side only to learn that the mystery of the child may be linked to two other crimes: the theft of an ancient statue akin to that of the Louvre's Winged Victory of Samothrace; the murder of several children working in a silk mill in Lancashire. Where, not coincidentally, Mlle's former lover, the father of her son, dwells on his estate which houses a remarkable art collection. Both his brother Mycroft and a French agent complicate things for Holmes in a debut by MacBird.

Maden, Mike. [Drone Command](#) (Putnam \$27). When China stakes a dubious claim in the hotly disputed waters of the East China Sea, the prime minister of Japan threatens to dispatch the country's naval assets and tear up its antiwar constitution unless the Americans forcefully intervene. The war-weary Americans are reluctant to confront the powerful Chinese navy directly, but if the Japanese provoke a military conflict with their historic enemy, treaty obligations would draw the United States into the fight. In order to deescalate the first foreign policy crisis of his administration, U.S. president Lane dispatches Troy Pearce and his team to Tokyo to defuse the situation. What they find is a quagmire of hawkish politicians, nationalistic fervor, special interests with their own hidden agendas, and possibly the greatest military threat that America has ever faced. In this treacherous atmosphere it will require all of Pearce's cunning—and his team's technological prowess—to separate the truth from misdirection. This is a timely and very well written and constructed thriller. I'm a fan of Maden's well thought out fiction: his first, [Drone](#) (\$9.99), made a First Mystery Club Pick. Then came 2014's [Blue Warrior](#) (\$9.99).

Mills, Kyle. [The Survivor](#) (Atria \$28 Oct. 10). A blistering novel that picks up where the late Vince Flynn's *The Last Man* left off. When Rick Rickman, a former golden boy of the CIA, steals a massive amount of the Agency's most classified documents in an elaborately masterminded betrayal of his country, CIA director Irene Kennedy has no choice but to send her most dangerous weapon after him: elite covert operative Mitch Rapp. Rapp quickly dispatches the traitor, but Rickman proves

to be a deadly threat to America even from beyond the grave. Eliminating Rickman didn't solve all of the CIA's problems—in fact, mysterious tip-offs are appearing all over the world, linking to the potentially devastating data that Rickman managed to store somewhere only he knew. It's a deadly race to the finish as both the Pakistanis and the Americans search desperately for Rickman's accomplices, and for the confidential documents they are slowly leaking to the world. I can't give away the stirring conclusion which includes a satisfying moment with a fork, but I can say Mills nails it! The publisher says that this, the 14th Rapp, is the first of three to be written by Mills.

Ryan, Hank Phillippi. [What You See](#) (Forge \$25.99 Nov. 3). Mary Higgins Clark Award-winner Ryan deftly handles four distinct story lines in her strong fourth Jane Ryland novel. "A man has been stabbed to death in a public square across from Boston's historic Faneuil Hall in broad daylight; a troubled college student deals with a boring job and survivor guilt following her perfect older sister's death; and newly unemployed reporter Jane, having quit her job for ethical reasons, finds herself thrust into a freelance gig covering the Faneuil Hall murder that her secret love interest, Det. Jake Brogan, is investigating. Finally, Gracie, the child of Jane's sister's fiancé, appears to have been kidnapped by Gracie's stepfather. As the story races on—and it does move fast—the layers of connection among these plot threads gradually become clear. Fully drawn characters, palpable suspense, and not one, but two unexpected endings are a plus...and some humor in the way Jane can't catch a break job-wise."—*PW*

Sandford, John/Ctien. [Saturn Run](#) (Putnam \$28 Oct. 6). Signed by both. This is publication day so ask for your copy to be dated. Joy, after you hit theaters to see *The Martian* (one of our bestselling Modern Firsts Club Pick ever), you will want more. And here is a "first-contact" thriller with not only interesting problems about how to survive in space to solve as in *The Martian*, but with great stuff on videography and photography (Ctien is the expert, hence his collaboration). It's actually vintage Sandford with a kind of Virgil Flowers character—an uber rich and apparently feckless guy with a hidden past—who goes along on a mission to a Saturn moon, racing the Chinese, to see if an anomaly spotted by a huge new telescope was really a starship... and all that such a discovery implies. It requires engineers and scientists to refit a US space station for the rapid voyage which you see in a gripping series of problem solving scenarios. And Sandford really lets himself go crafting terrific women, from the plump thermal engineering expert to the take-no-prisoners US President, a politician from New Mexico who wears a necklace of turquoise cabochons in a gesture to her native state, to the space station's Captain Fang-Castro who is thrust into command of the sudden transformation to interplanetary ship. The Chinese in the race split the sexes too. Sandford has said he stopped writing the Kidd books because he couldn't keep up with technology, but then he realized if he jumped up to 2066 he could make it up. But Cal Tech's Ctien's role is to avoid junk science and make it feel real.

Don't take just my word for it: "In this thoroughly absorbing first-contact yarn from author Sanford and photographer Ctein, the Americans and Chinese reenact the fable of the tortoise and the hare in a race to claim the richest scientific find in human history.... Scenes of wonder and beauty are joined with moments of helpless calamity at a pace that leaves the reader no time to

look back and consider what just happened. The authors include plenty of fascinating technology and inside jokes for SF fans, and the conclusion is inevitable and satisfying."—*PW* Starred Review. Stephen King says "Fans of Lucas Davenport and Virgil Flowers will eat this up," while Lee Child, the self-styled "world's biggest Sandford fan," calls *Saturn Run* "vintage Sandford all the way, with all his strengths and insights, except set in the future." This one cries out to be our **October SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick**—and it is.

Saylor, Steven. [Wrath of the Furies](#) (St Martins \$26.99 Oct. 22). After aging out Gordianus the Finder as the tide of events took Caesar across the Rubicon and to his fate, Saylor dropped back to Gordianus' youth and the kind of adventures that might befall a young Roman. "A highly suspenseful plot and a moving resolution distinguish Saylor's masterful third novel featuring Roman sleuth Gordianus the Finder in his younger years... It's 88 BC and Mithridates, King of Pontus (you may know him from the opera of this name by Mozart), has achieved an impressive string of victories against the troops Rome has thrown against him in Asia. Mithridates sees himself as the heir to Alexander and Gordianus, living in Alexandria, Egypt, has discovered his tutor Antipater, a poet, has been spying for Mithridates. Still, loyalties run deep and Gordianus resolves to enter Ephesus, now under the Pontic king's rule, and aid Antipater. Gordianus' timing is terrible as Mithridates is engaged in concocting a terrible plan to massacre tens of thousands of Romans trapped under his rule...."—*PW* Starred Review. Ephesus is very much a cruise ship stop today, filled with ruins. The old harbor silted up after deforestation and the resulting swamp produced killer malaria, but it was a thriving city when Mithridates hammered Roman rule in Asia and created a kind of holocaust for some 80,000 Romans. Grab [The Seven Wonders](#) and [Raiders of the Nile](#) (\$15.99 each) should you have missed the earlier books and want to read Gordianus going forward in life.

Scottoline, Lisa. [Corrupted](#) (St Martins \$27.99 Oct. 29). Despite the best efforts of Bennie Rosato, founder of the Rosato & DiNunzio law firm, 12-year-old Jason Leftavick landed at a juvenile detention center after being goaded to punch out a class bully. This led Bennie into a difficult love affair as well as a heartbreaking loss for her young client. Now an adult, he's accused of murdering the very same bully, and Bennie feels that she must fight to take back Jason's life. She owes him. She doesn't expect to meet her own past, too, but for a workaholic six-footer like Bennie, an impossible task with surprises all around is a tonic. Plus there are serious issues for her law firm to face. I like going outside Philly into the Poconos to the dreadful town of Mountaintop where Jason first tangled with the Gusini clan, and the law. His move to the city, to Fishtown, should have been a new start 13 years later, but the past is always alive....

Slaughter, Karin. [Pretty Girls](#) (Morrow \$28 Oct. 3). Here is our **October Surprise Me! Club Pick**—and believe me, it does. From the page one lines, "...you were so headstrong and passionate about your causes. Once you were gone, we understood that these were the qualities that painted young men as smart and ambitious and young women as trouble," you know that a missing girl, age 19, is not going to be a story, or a priority, in Atlanta, or nationally. Still, for her parents it was, and over long years, remained so. For her sisters Claire and Lydia, it shaped their

lives as sisters, strangers, survivors, ordinary women too well acquainted with betrayal and, ultimately, violence. Beautifully written, unflinching, and craftily plotted, this is a remarkable reading experience. And here's a word from Karin: "The book is a standalone, which I know I said about my last novel, then I kind of started thinking of other stories for the characters in *Cop Town* and took it back, but this time, I really mean it. *Pretty Girls* is a psychological thriller, both intimate and explosive, that speaks to a number of issues that have defined much of my work: the dangerous exploitation of women, the destructive power of violence, the almost biological need for justice. *Pretty Girls* is unlike anything I've written before." For sure.

The October Indie Next Pick: "I was grabbed from the first page of Slaughter's latest and roped in on the second. Boldly written and at times very raw, this psychological thriller is as suspenseful as it is scary. It is a gifted writer who can make you adore a character at the beginning of a book and loathe the same character at the end. Slaughter, author of both the Grant County and Will Trent series, has done just that in her newest stand-alone thriller."

And our Halloween Teens Oct. 31:

Lukavics, Amy. [Daughters Unto Devils](#) (Harlequin \$17.99). When sixteen-year-old Amanda Verner's family decides to move from their small mountain cabin to the vast prairie, she hopes it is her chance for a fresh start. She can leave behind the memory of the past winter; of her sickly ma giving birth to a baby sister who cries endlessly; of the terrifying visions she saw as her sanity began to slip, the victim of cabin fever; and most of all, the memories of the boy she has been secretly meeting with as a distraction from her pain. The boy whose baby she now carries. When the Verners arrive at their new home, a large cabin abandoned by its previous owners, they discover the inside covered in blood. And as the days pass, it is obvious to Amanda that something isn't right on the prairie.

Showalter, Gena. [Mad Zombie Party](#) (Harlequin \$18.99). Ali Bell and Cole Holland's crew of zombie slayers thought they'd won the war against Anima Industries, the evil company responsible for capturing and experimenting on zombies in an effort to discover the secret to immortality. In the last epic clash, the slayers lost many of their crew and closest friends. But Frosty, the ice man himself, has not recovered from one casualty in particular—the love of his life, Kat Parker. A chapter in the White Rabbit Chronicles.

COLORING BOOKS

[Click on this link](#) and you can view quite a few of this new rage, a chance to express yourself in color or ink. We have handsome [Studio colored pencil sets](#) (\$14.995) to go with your purchase/project.

Basford, Johanna. [Lost Ocean: An Inky Adventure](#) (\$16.95). For color-inners of all ages, discover an enchanting underwater world hidden in the depths of the sea. With intricate pen and ink illustrations to complete, color, and embellish, readers will meet shoals of exotic fish, curious octopi, and delicately penned seahorses. Visit coral reefs and barnacle-studded shipwrecks, discover intricate shells, and pirate treasure. Fans and newcomers alike will welcome this creative journey into an inky new world. Basford's earlier volumes have been unavailable for some time but we have them on order. Fingers crossed.

Gabaldon, Diana. [The Official Outlander Coloring Book Signed](#) (Random \$15.95). From the lush green of the Scottish Highlands to the military red of a British soldier's coat or the vibrant hues of a tartan kilt, the colorful world of Claire Beauchamp Randall and Jamie Fraser is now yours to explore. Featuring gorgeous natural landscapes, detailed drawings of Claire's medicinal herbs, depictions of the books' most beloved scenes and characters, and intricately rendered clothing, weapons, and armor straight out of eighteenth-century Scotland, all in black and white images to spur your creativity. Enjoy. Publishes October 27.

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

Martin, George RR. [The Official Game of Thrones Coloring Book](#) (Bantam \$16.95). In a world where weddings are red, fire is green, and debts are paid in gold, countless images leap off the page thanks to the eye-popping intricacy of the vivid settings and details. Now, for the first time, fans of this blockbuster saga can fill in the blanks and marvel as this meticulously imagined universe comes to life, one sword, sigil, and castle at a time. Publishes October 27.

McDonald, Steve. [Fantastic Cities: A Coloring Book of Amazing Places Real and Imagined](#) (Chronicle \$14.95). Features immersive aerial views of real cities from around the world alongside gorgeously illustrated, Inception-like architectural mandalas. Artist Steve McDonald's beautifully rendered and detailed line work offers bird's-eye perspectives of visually arresting global locales from New York, London, and Paris to Istanbul, Tokyo, and Melbourne, Rio, Amsterdam, and many more. Complementing the cityscapes are a selection of mind-bending labyrinthine architectural illustrations for still deeper meditative coloring adventures and imaginative flights of fancy.

And from Skyhorse Publishing, a nice group (\$9.99 each) of original designs, in different groups, printed in black & white on perforated pages so that one can remove a finished design for framing...or whatever. Both Mandalas come with a gallery of full color images for inspiration. The intent of the coloring book rage is to help people relax and unwind with a creative activity. Some titles are:

[Whimsical Designs](#); [Zen Patterns and Designs](#); [Art Nouveau](#); [Mandalas for Artists](#); [Mandalas for Everyone](#)

FIRST NOVELS

Fortunato, John. [Dark Reservations](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Bureau of Indian Affairs Special Agent Joe Evers still mourns the death of his wife and, after a bungled investigation, faces a forced early retirement. What he needs is a new career, not another case. But when Congressman Arlen Edgerton's bullet-riddled Lincoln turns up on the Navajo reservation, twenty years after he had disappeared during a corruption probe, Joe must resurrect his failing career to solve the mysterious cold case. Partnering with Navajo Tribal Officer Randall Bluehorse, his investigation antagonizes potential suspects, including a wealthy art collector, a former president of the Navajo Nation, a powerful U.S. senator, and Edgerton's widow, who is now the front-runner in the New Mexico governor's race. An unexpected romance further compli-

cates both the investigation and Joe's troubled relationship with his daughter. Multiple points of view, lots of dialogue, brusque in tone; New Mexico scenes include Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Winner of the Tony Hillerman Prize for best debut mystery set in the Southwest.

Hallberg, Garth Risk. [City on Fire Signed](#) (Knopf \$30). Hallberg's ambitious first novel overflows with the creative, financial and destructive energy of New York City in the mid-1970s. "With more than 900 pages, *City on Fire* is an ambitious, omnivorous story of dozens of characters whose lives increasingly intersect despite their economic, social and ethnic differences. At its center is the Central Park shooting of Samantha "Sam" Cicciaro, a young fanzine publisher and groupie of the storied punk band Ex Post Facto. Sam had tried to break away from her strict Long Island family to make herself "a kind of Minerva of suburbia: fierce, cosmopolitan, dependent on no one." Everybody seems to love Sam, but nobody knows who tried to kill her. On this New Year's Eve shooting, Hallberg builds a complicated story, as much a crime thriller as a social commentary on a time when New York wasn't the expensive playground of the hip and rich that it seems today."—Bruce Jacobs. **A Modern Firsts Club Pick.** See New Books for more.

✚Marsh, Ava. [Untouchable](#) (Berkley \$15). High-class escort Grace Thomas (professional name Stella), who narrates British author Marsh's well-executed debut, turns sleuth after a colleague of hers, Eliza (aka Amanda Mansfield), is found murdered in a cheap London hotel room. See British Books for more.

✚Ward, Sarah. [In Bitter Chill](#) (St Martins \$25.99). A debut for fans of Sharon Bolton and Stephen Booth by a Derbyshire author. Lots of old secrets, closed mouths and hearts stretching across 30 years from 1978 when two girls were kidnapped. A prime example of insularity. See British Books.

BRITISH BOOKS

Arlidge, M J. [Pop Goes the Weasel](#) (Penguin \$15). The second in a very dark series with DI Helen Grace, a woman with a rough past who resorts to bondage and beatings, usually a male thing. She ended her first case, [Eeeny Meeny](#) (\$15), a serial killer chase, almost unimaginably and here she's still on the squad out of Southampton Central Police Station, struggling with the fallout. And another serial killer is on the loose—a prostitute who targets married men on a Web forum called Bitchfest, seduces them, murders them, and cuts out their hearts. Once again, Helen is besieged by hostile newspaper reporter Emilia Garanita, who persists in exposing Helen's secret personal life. To make matters worse, her new boss, Detective Superintendent Ceri Harwood, a woman known for her skill at calming dark waters, appears intent on getting rid of Helen. Think of *Prime Suspect*, if darker.

Ballantyne, Lisa. [Everything She Forgot](#) (Morrow \$14.99). "The perfect melding of the times of a young man and the times of a young country, as both struggle to delineate the parameters of justice during war. When school teacher Margaret Holloway, the heroine of this absorbing psychological thriller from Edgar-finalist Ballantyne of [The Guilty One](#) (\$14.99), gets caught in a horrific traffic accident on a London motorway during a blizzard in December 2013, a mysterious disfigured man rescues her from her car. Increasingly obsessed about a dark time in her childhood that she seems to have blocked out, Margaret soon discovers

that the man who rescued her is now in a coma, and her growing unease is beginning to affect her family and her teaching career. In flashbacks to 1985, the youngest son of a murderous crime family desperately attempts to reconnect with his seven-year-old daughter as he seeks a new, more honest life, while a small-time journalist sinks his teeth into the disappearance of a child. Ballantyne weaves a fine tale of family drama, dark secrets, and the past's effect on the present. The threads seamlessly come together in a heart-wrenching, yet hopeful, finale."—*PW*, apparently a fan of dark as well as cozy British crime.

Bryson, Bill. [The Road to Little Dribbling Signed](#) (Doubleday \$45). More Notes from a Small Island. Twenty years ago, Bill Bryson went on a trip around Britain to celebrate the green and kindly island that had become his adopted country. The hilarious book that resulted, *Notes from a Small Island*, was taken to the nation's heart and became the bestselling travel book ever, and was also voted in a BBC poll the book that best represents Britain. Now, to mark the twentieth anniversary of that modern classic, Bryson makes a brand-new journey round Britain to see what has changed.

Christie, Agatha. [Murder on the Orient Express](#) (Morrow \$19.99). A facsimile hardcover edition of the famous novel, and thus a nice gift for a new reader or a longtime fan. I keep meaning to rewatch the film with Albert Finney as Poirot, no Suchet he, but still.... British TV and films do old trains really well.

Clark, Clare. [We That Are Left](#) (Houghton \$28). 1910. Jessica and Phyllis Melville have grown up at Ellinghurst, a family estate fraught with secrets. A headstrong beauty, Jessica longs for London — the glitter and glamour of debutante life — while bookish Phyllis dreams in vain of attending university. Into their midst walks Oskar Grunewald, a frequent visitor fascinated by the house but alternately tormented and ignored by the Melville children. Oskar seeks refuge in Ellinghurst's enormous library. Meanwhile Theo, the adored Melville brother, eclipses everyone around him. The Great War arrives to overturn the rules of their world, and Oskar's life once again becomes entwined with theirs.... "Deftly evoking the faded glory of the British gentry while weaving an intricate love story with an unlikely twist, acclaimed English writer Clark presents a historically rich, psychologically rewarding tale of heritage and romance." —*Booklist*

Cleeves, Ann. [Moth Catcher Signed](#) (Pan \$39). Life seems perfect in Valley Farm, a quiet community in Northumberland. Then a shocking discovery shatters the silence. The owners of a big country house have employed a house-sitter, a young ecologist named Patrick, to look after the place while they're away. But Patrick is found dead by the side of the lane into the valley — a beautiful, lonely place to die. DI Vera Stanhope arrives on the scene, with her detectives Holly and Joe. When they look round the attic of the big house — where Patrick has a flat — she finds the body of a second man. All the two victims have in common is a fascination with moths — catching these beautiful, rare creatures. Those who live in the Valley Farm development have secrets too: Annie and Sam's daughter is due to be released from prison any day; Nigel watches, silently, every day, from his window. As Vera is drawn into the claustrophobic world of this increasingly strange community, she realizes that there may be deadly secrets trapped here.

Dalton, Annie. [The White Shepherd](#) (Severn \$29.95). Children's and YA author Dalton makes her intriguing, though somewhat contrived, adult debut with the first in a canine mystery series set in Oxford, England. On a walk in the park, Anna Hopkins, an Oxford University administrator, and her white shepherd, Bonnie, come across the bloody corpse of an acquaintance, Naomi Evans, who agreed to help Anna trace Bonnie's history before the dog was left in an animal shelter. Anna, who has avoided other people ever since returning home one night 16 years earlier to find her family slaughtered by a still-unidentified killer, soon opens up to the two fellow dog walkers who rush to the crime scene after hearing her screams. Ordered Upon Request (one in stock).

Fraser, Antonia. [My History: A Memoir](#) (Random \$28.99). I'm always interested in what forms a writer: personality, people, events, opportunity among other factors. Lady Antonia shares her thoughts with us, but in a wider frame she writes wittily and affectionately of pre- and post-war Britain, of way of life, a British upper-class way of life, now forever lost. So you history buffs and fans of authors like Jackie Winspear and Angela Thirkell, to name two, will want to read this.

Francis, Felix. [Front Runner](#) (Penguin \$26.95). A new "Dick Francis". See New Books for more.

Galbraith, Robert. [Career of Evil](#) (LittleBrown \$28). In his 3rd investigation, Cormoran Strike is both surprised and alarmed when a package is delivered to Robin Ellacott—it contains a severed leg. He can immediately think of four people from his past who could envision this brutal act.... UK edition, unsigned: [Career of Evil](#) (Sceptre \$45). Whoever has an unsigned copy of either book on order will be put into a drawing to buy our single copy signed by JK Rowling, aka Galbraith.

George, Elizabeth. [A Banquet of Consequences](#) (Viking \$29.95). The suicide of William Goldacre is devastating to those left behind. But what was the cause of his tragedy and how far might the consequences reach? Is there a link between the young man's leap from a Dorset cliff and a horrific poisoning in Cambridge? Following various career-threatening misdemeanors, Detective Sergeant Barbara Havers is desperate to redeem herself. So when a past encounter with bestselling feminist writer Clare Abbott and her pushy personal assistant Caroline Goldacre gives her a connection to the Cambridge murder, Barbara begs DI Thomas Lynley to let her pursue the crime. Soon, Lynley finds himself investigating the London end... These books keep growing in size; this one is a full doorstop.

Goddard, Robert. [Painting the Darkness](#) (Mysterious \$15). Eleven years after his apparent suicide, a man claiming to be the heir to the Davenall baronetcy returns, determined to repossess his heritage. Reissue of a 1989 hit.

Griffiths, Elly. [The Ghost Fields](#) (\$14.95). This nifty chapter in the Ruth Galloway series plunges the Norfolk archaeologist into a kind of Cambridgeshire country house murder, complete with pig farm and a downed American fighter plane unearthed by a new construction crew. Old family secrets are on the boil. Terrific! To read this whole quirky series, one of my absolute favorites, [click here](#) to order.

Hannah, Sophie. [A Game for All the Family Signed](#) (Hodder \$36). After escaping London and a career that nearly destroyed her,

Justine plans to spend her days doing as little as possible in her beautiful home in Devon. But soon after the move, her daughter Ellen starts to withdraw when her new best friend, George, is unfairly expelled from school. Justine begs the head teacher to reconsider, only to be told that nobody's been expelled—there is, and was, no George. Then the anonymous calls start. When the caller starts to talk about three graves—two big and one small, to fit a child—Justine fears for her family's safety. If the police can't help, she'll have to eliminate the danger herself, but first she must work out who she's supposed to be... "Hanna, like Patricia Highsmith and Ruth Rendell before her, is an expert at exploring the delicate line between the ordinary and the monstrous, yet her everyday tales of warped psychology are laced with humor."
—*Independent*

Harrod-Eagles, Cynthia. [Keep the Home Fires Burning](#) (Little-Brown \$29.95). The second book in the War at Home series by the author of the much-loved Morland Dynasty novels. Set against the real events of 1915, this is an evocative, authentic and wonderfully depicted drama featuring the Hunter family and their servants.

Harvey, John. [Darkness, Darkness](#) (\$14.95). Thirty years ago, the Miners' Strike threatened to tear the country apart, turning neighbor against neighbor, husband against wife, father against son...and bringing copper Charlie Resnick his last case. See Our October Trade Paperback Picks.

James, Peter. [You Are Dead](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Logan Somerville drives into the underground car park beneath the block of flats where she lives with her fiancé in Brighton. She calls him, then she screams and the phone goes dead. The Sussex police are on the scene within minutes, but Logan has vanished, leaving behind her neatly parked car and mobile phone. That same afternoon, workmen digging up a park in another part of the city, unearth the remains of a woman in her early twenties, who has been dead for thirty years. At first Superintendent Roy Grace and his team thinks these events are unconnected, but then off we go into a serial killer thriller. Plus Grace is still chasing some word from his long-vanished wife Sandy although he's rebooted his personal life. The Graces are serial novels in that themes continue and a cliffhanger at each conclusion propels his readers forward to the next installment. New in paperback: [Want You Dead](#) (\$16.99).

Kelly, Jim. [Death on Demand](#) (Severn \$29.95). Why would anyone want to kill Ruby Bright, a resident at the Marsh House Rest Home, who was just about to celebrate her 100th birthday? That question is but one of the intriguing challenges that Kelly gives his two appealing West Norfolk policemen, Det. Insp. Peter Shaw and his partner, Det. Sgt., George Valentine, in their outstanding sixth outing (after 2014's *At Death's Window*). Someone took Ruby, in her wheelchair, to an area overlooking the coast, before suffocating her with a plastic bag. Apart from the lack of an obvious motive, Shaw and Valentine are stymied by the apparently impossible nature of the crime: all the facility's exits are covered by surveillance cameras, yet none shows any sign of Ruby or her killer leaving the building. Meanwhile, their superior's concern with security arrangements for an upcoming annual pilgrimage to a shrine of the Virgin Mary hampers their investigation. The plot takes some highly unusual detours en route to the surprising solution. Ordered upon request.

King, Laurie R. [Dreaming Spies](#) (\$16). It's hard for me to be objective on a Mary Russell/Sherlock Holmes novel dedicated to Rob and me, but so it is since we accompanied King on her "research" trip to Japan. This story fits into the chronicle where the pair is sailing from India to California and stop in Kobe. Aboard the ship, intrigue stirs almost immediately. Holmes recognizes the famous clubman the Earl of Darley, whom he suspects of being an occasional blackmailer: not an unlikely career choice for a man richer in social connections than in pounds sterling. And then there's the lithe, surprisingly fluent young Japanese woman who befriends Russell and quotes haiku. She agrees to tutor the couple in Japanese language and customs, but Russell can't shake the feeling that Haruki Sato is not who she claims to be. Once in Japan, Russell's suspicions are confirmed in a most surprising way. but it's back in England, at Oxford and the Bodleian library, where Russell learns the real story involving international extortion, espionage, and the shocking secrets that, if revealed, could spark revolution—and topple an empire. Read this as a stand-alone or part of the series. King will join us in early April to sign, gasp! [The Murder of Mary Russell](#) (Bantam \$27).

Lovett, Charlie. [First Impressions](#) (\$16). A literary mystery set mostly in London and harking back to Jane Austen's day. See our October Trade Paperback Picks. Coming in November: [The Further Adventures of Ebenezer Scrooge](#) (Viking \$19.95), a short Christmas treat moving Scrooge from 1843 to 1863 and showcasing his now relentless cheer and philanthropy. Bob Cratchit has something to learn from the ghost. See what came after *A Christmas Carol*....

Malliet, GM. [The Haunted Season: A Max Tudor Mystery](#) (St Martins \$25.99). The handsome vicar, newly married and a father, becomes caught up in a family drama at Totleigh Hall, his village's showplace. Usually the Lord and Lady of the manor are absent from Nether Monkslip, but the family is in residence and the matter of a local fundraiser takes Max to call. In the past the Baaden-Boomethistles have sprinkled benefits across the village like fairy dust, but the current lord has a demanding (new) lady and peculiarly behaved children. An invitation to dine at the Hall for the Tudors is interrupted by the lord's suspicious death.... I enjoy this series, cute local names and all, but this one lacks the force of the earlier Tudors. Plus realistically, Max is facing up to what his bishop, even the villagers, think about the rash of murders during his tenure. A former MI5 agent, Max has much to consider.

New in paperback: [A Demon Summer](#) (\$15.99). An excellent series entry, the 4th for Max. Someone has been trying to poison the 15th Earl of Lislelivet. With his gift for making enemies, no one, particularly his wife, is too surprised until they discover the source of the poison: a fruitcake made and sold by the Handmaids of St. Lucy of Monkbury Abbey. Just as Max comes to believe the poisoning was accidental, a body is discovered in the cloister well. Great fun. [Click here](#) to order Max's earlier cases and follow his unconventional romance along with solving the mysteries.

Mantel, Hilary. [The Assassination of Margaret Thatcher](#) (\$16). "Mantel's stories have their own special tang and quidditas. Even as one appreciates the suave authorial style—light pared-down, technically scintillating, like the Olympic gymnast who nails her landing every time—one has the sense too that Mantel is working

with some fairly edgy and complex private material in these contemporary fables..."—*NY Times* Book Review on this collection from the two-time Man Booker Prize winner.

Marsh, Ava. [Untouchable](#) (Berkley \$15). "High-class escort Grace Thomas (professional name Stella), who narrates British author Marsh's well-executed debut, turns sleuth after a colleague of hers, Eliza (aka Amanda Mansfield), is found murdered in a cheap London hotel room. Grace, who's not naive about her business and helps others by working at a rape crisis center, visits Eliza's romantic partner, Kristen Grainger, with whom Eliza shared a flat. That Eliza paid for the hotel room in advance doesn't make sense to Grace, while Kristen finds it highly suspicious that the police found no DNA evidence at the crime scene. Certain that no client would have killed Eliza, Grace takes her concerns to the police, who offer little sympathy. When Grace probes too deeply, she offends some powerful men, who first offer a gilded carrot and then a brutal stick. Grace's fascinating backstory gradually unfolds, from her divorce to the event that led her to become a prostitute."

McPherson, Ben. [A Line of Blood](#) (Morrow \$25.99). A London family, a mother, father and young son, must deal with the murder of their secretive next door neighbor and the intrusive police investigation that follows. Readers will be faced with ever shifting and increasingly frightening suspicions that one or all of them had something to do with it. An entry in the current vogue for Domestic Suspense. I wanted to like it, but... I just didn't.

McPherson, Catriona. [The Child Garden](#) (Midnight Ink \$24.99). "A divorced woman with a severely disabled teenage son gets sucked into a mystery that will change her forever. Gloria lives in a farmhouse on the remnants of a large Scottish estate. For the owner, who lives in the nursing home created out of the main house, her most important job is rocking the ancient stone in the garden 12 times a day to prevent the devil trapped inside from escaping. In addition, she takes care of the house and its dog and cats. In return, she can afford to keep her son, Nicky, in the same home. Stephen "Stig" Tarrant, a grade school pal, turns up on her doorstep saying he's being stalked by April Cowan, one of his fellow students from Eden, an alternative high school once based on the estate, and asks Gloria to go with him to a meeting April demanded. When they find April dead in a small stone hut on the estate, Stig slowly reveals a terrible story about the death of a boy at the school. Believing Stig's story of being set up, Gloria, whose job as a registrar gives her access to private information, starts to search for the other students and soon learns that most of them were apparent suicides. She's horrified to realize that her ex-husband was one of them...."—*Kirkus* Starred Review. McPherson lets her inner Gothic roll on this stylish as ever stand-alone.

Morton, Kate. [The Lake House](#) (Atria \$28). Publishes the end of October and so is our **November British Crime Club Pick**. It's got a country house, once beautiful, now in ruins. Action in Cornwall, and in London. A missing child. Family secrets. An aging crime writer who's still sharp but who can't quite penetrate her memory of what happened that 1933 summer. In its Starred Review, *PW* writes: "Morton excels in this mystery set against the gothic backdrop of 1930s England. In Cornwall, the wealthy Edevane family prepares for its annual midsummer ball at Loanneth, their isolated estate. That night, teenager Alice

Edevane is lingering near the nursery when someone kidnaps the cherished Edevane son, Theo; despite a lengthy investigation, he is never found. The story moves forward to 2003 London, where DS Sadie Sparrow is suspended after speaking to the media about a missing-person case, recently closed, that haunts her. Sparrow seeks refuge with her grandfather in Cornwall. On her first morning run there, she finds the now-dilapidated Loanneth mansion deep in the woods. Curious, Sparrow begins to investigate the 70-year-old Edevane case with help from the Cornwall locals, including a retired copper who was there in 1933 when Theo disappeared. Sparrow locates the now-elderly Alice, a celebrated mystery writer in London, who hands over the keys to the estate so Theo's case can be reopened. The compelling story moves back and forth in time as Sparrow uncovers what happened to Theo in 1933 while also resolving the recent missing-person case. Morton's plotting is impeccable, and her finely wrought characters, brought together in the end by Sparrow's investigation, are as surprised as readers will be by the astonishing conclusion." Actually I think coincidence plays an over-large role, but who cares? You root for Alice all the way through—and the engine behind the story is truly a surprise. Don't miss Morton's backlist: [click here](#) to order. We have one Signed Australian true first of *The Secret Keeper*, a lovely production.

Moyes, Joho. [After You](#) (Viking \$26.95). Here's what happened to Louisa Clark, caretaker to Will Traynor, after he dies and she must somehow cope. No matter our grief, there is (usually) an after, if not a happy ever one. [Me Before You](#) (\$16) became a bestseller. John Charles will have more to say in *Midmonth Booknotes*.

Muir, T. Frank. [Life for a Life](#) (Chicago Review Press \$14.95). "In Muir's effective but gory fourth police procedural starring Det. Chief Insp. Andy Gilchrist, the discovery of the frozen body of an escaped sex slave on the east coast of Scotland alerts methodical Gilchrist and his detectives to the presence of an especially ruthless human trafficker. Gilchrist is initially startled by the display of deadly brutality, but his new partner, Det. Sgt. Jessie Janes, a quick-witted and sharp-tongued young woman, recognizes the MO of the elusive Kumar, who enjoys butchering his foes and even beheaded an undercover cop in front of a video camera. As parts of his operation are compromised, Kumar lops off unnecessary underlings and intrusive police—until Gilchrist himself winds up at the man's mercy. Watching Gilchrist try to manage the emotional dynamics of his high-strung team is fascinating, but it's even more interesting to watch the detective's old-fashioned pluck confront the barely disguised primitive bloodlust of his quarry."—*PW*

Parsons, Tony. [The Slaughter Man](#) (St Martins \$25.99). New Year's Eve. Most of London is partying, and that's why no one at a large mansion in one of the city's toniest areas hears the teenage boy begging for assistance. When the child, his parents, and sister are found slaughtered like cattle and his 4-year-old brother missing, Max Wolfe and the other members of the Major Incident Team are on the case. The crime scene is horrific, but the biggest concern is the missing child, Bradley. The victims are no ordinary family, either. Both parents were Olympic athletes (the mother a well-known beauty and heiress known as the "Ice Virgin"). DCI Pat Whitestone leads the team into a countrywide search for the missing boy, but despite hundreds of leads, nothing pans out. When Wolfe and another investigator track down infamous

criminal Peter Nawkins, once imprisoned for killing a father and his three sons using a cattle gun like the one the killer employed on the dead family, things start going sideways. Wolfe, as a father and investigator, is both likable and worthy of the reader's empathy, and the writing is top-notch..."—*Kirkus*. But there's no denying that the whole is executed less well, especially the procedure which has some silly moments, than in Wolfe's crackerjack debut in [The Murder Bag](#) (\$17) which I unreservedly recommend.

Robinson, Peter. [Gallows View](#) (\$14.99) and [A Dedicated Man](#) (\$14.99). The first two cases for Yorkshire copper Alan Banks. If somehow you missed them wait no longer.

Scott, AD. [A Kind of Grief](#) (Atria \$16). Although Scottish, this is our **October Crime Club Pick** as it involves high level British... well, read it and find out. We're in 1959 in Scotland's Northeast. Enigmatic artist and herbalist Alice Ramsay chose to live in deliberate seclusion on an isolated Highlands estate after the war. She has been accused by local gossips, and acquitted, of witchcraft. Scenting a story, divorced freelance journalist Joanne Ross feels an immediate kinship with the older woman when she takes the three-hour drive north (I have visited Dornoch, nicely portrayed) to make an unannounced visit, but Alice freezes her out after Joanne inadvertently violates her privacy by leaking details of her life to the national press. When Alice is later found hanged in her barn, Joanne's guilt drives her to probe the verdict of suicide. With her new second husband, newspaper editor John McAllister, Joanne buys some of Alice's paintings and papers, among which appears to be coded information. "Scott ably integrates the period's Cold War intrigues into a story about the power of small communities both to sustain and to sabotage lives." This splendid book is for fans of *Foyle's War*, the most recent post-war episodes, and for those interested in Scotland's long history with witches and bigotry. I recommend the whole Highland Gazette Series, one of my favorites. [Click here](#) to order the entire superior series.

Todd, Charles. [A Fine Summer's Day](#) (\$14.99). What was Ian Rutledge, what was his England like, before the guns of August boomed, 1914? Here is a real gift to fans of this wonderful series, a prequel. "It was a fine summer's day in 1914 when life changed: Scotland Yard inspector Ian Rutledge proposed to his longtime companion, Jean Gordon, Archduke Ferdinand and his wife were assassinated in Sarajevo, and the death of a mother sparked a trail of murders, leading Rutledge across the English countryside in search of the killer. As Rutledge closes in on the solution to the case, rumors of war become a reality, and the inspector must not only deal with the aftermath of his investigation but also face the increasing needs of his betrothed, family, Scotland Yard, and Britain itself. In this 17th series entry, Rutledge deals with a killer's past and his own future in a country readying for war. A tight plot keeps readers on the edge until the stunning final pages."—*LJ*

Ward, Sarah. [In Bitter Chill](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Like the AD Scott Scottish town, Bampton, Derbyshire, located along the spine of the Peak District, is a community of closed circles and secrets. In 1978, Bampton suffered the trauma of a kidnapping. Two young schoolgirls went missing, taken by a woman who invited them into a car. One, Rachel, was found some hours later wandering alone along a roadside. The other, Sophie, has never been seen again. And now her mum is found dead, an apparent

suicide. DI Francis Sadler and his team are tasked with revisiting the cold kidnapping case, while Rachel, now a genealogist who spends a lot of time on her own (mostly matrilineal) family tree, tries to dodge the press and the police. The discovery of an elderly teacher from the school she and Sophie attended, murdered by strangulation, ups panic, spreads interest nationally, and ups the police game despite the stonewalling that surrounds the old case and the new. The resolution to this is not one you see coming. **I'm going to hold off to December to offer this to the British Crime Club as the final Pick of 2015, AD Scott and Kate Morton coming first for October and November.**

Waters, Sarah. [Paying Guests](#) (\$17). It is 1922, and London is tense. Ex-servicemen are disillusioned; the out-of-work and the hungry are demanding change. And in South London, in a genteel Camberwell villa—a large, silent house now bereft of brothers, husband, and even servants—life is about to be transformed as impoverished widow Mrs. Wray and her spinster daughter, Frances, are obliged to take in lodgers. With the arrival of Lilian and Leonard Barber, a modern young couple of the “clerk class,” the routines of the house will be shaken up in unexpected ways. Little do the Wrays know just how profoundly their new tenants will alter the course of Frances’s life—or, as passions mount and frustration gathers, how far-reaching, and how devastating, the disturbances will be. Waters has crafted a period domestic drama that mines class differences, then added an illicit love affair between two women. They are happy in their clandestine tryst, until their lives are transformed by a murder and its aftermath, which threatens everything they hold dear. Waters is a three-time Man Booker Prize nominee and international bestseller. I always feel like a failure when I read her work since it never moves me.

Weaver, Ashley. [Death Wears a Mask](#) (St Martins \$24.99). I liked Weaver’s debut novel, [Murder at the Brightwell](#) (\$15.99), so well it was a 2014 British Crime Club Pick. Christie-esque in style, set in the 1930s, it portrayed members of the upper class at play at a seaside resort hotel where murder struck. If you missed it in hardcover, grab it now. I wish I liked this sequel as well but where playboy husband Milo was mysterious and his wife Amory brave, here their relationship and its strains becomes tiresome rather than intriguing. Plus the pretext drawing Amory into an investigation, a request by one Serena Barrington to investigate the theft of her jewels at a dinner party, feel contrived and there’s no one to like in this shallow set. In short, I am disappointed—but hopeful that a third book may restore the verve of the first.

BRITISH LIBRARYCRIME CLASSICS

Bridges, Victor. [Trouble on the Thames](#) (Poisoned Pen #12.95): A British Library Spy Classic that rocks along wonderfully, filled with just about every cliché in speech and character type. What a charmer. I loved it! “First published in 1945, this charming entertainment from British author Bridges (1878–1972) stars Lt.-Commander Owen Bradwell, a naval officer whose sudden onset of color-blindness sidelines him shortly before the outbreak of WWII. Luckily, Captain Greystoke of Naval Intelligence is keen to employ a smart young man like Bradwell to help foil a dastardly German spy ring led by the crooked Mark Craig. Meanwhile, Sally Deane, an interior decorator, is set to intervene on her sister’s behalf with vile blackmailer Granville Sutton, who is also trying to put the squeeze on Craig. Sutton meets a sticky end, and

Bradwell wakes up next to his body after being hit with a cosh, just in time to be rescued by the pretty Miss Deane. Gents call each other “my dear chap,” and young women respond to news of murder with a heartfelt “gosh!” It’s all jolly good fun,” says *PW*.

Hay, Mavis Doris. [Santa Klaus Murder](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). Originally published in 1936, this delightful entry in the British Library Crime Classics series from Hay (1894–1979) contains all the elements of a golden age English whodunit. At Christmas-time, the members of the Melbury family gather at their ancestral home, Flaxmere, in the county of Haulmshire. Almost everyone at Flaxmere has some motive for murdering the family patriarch, Sir Osmond, who’s discovered shot in the study on Christmas Day. Colonel Halstock, a neighbor and the local chief constable, leads the investigation, and he soon comes to the unsatisfying initial conclusion that the only person who had the opportunity to kill Sir Osmond was the young man in the Santa suit who had no motive for the deed. Hay (Murder Underground) sets Halstock a merry puzzle, with family members changing their stories at every turn for their own reasons. Halstock eventually susses out the killer’s identity in such a way to cause the reader to exclaim, “Of course!”

And from Crippen & Landru, two volumes of classic stories:

Bentley, Phyllis. [Chain of Witnesses](#) (Crippen Landru \$19). Bentley, 1894-1977, was a major English novelist (awarded an OBE). She was even featured on cigarette cards, one of which is reproduced in the book. The stories about spinster sleuth Miss Phipps were favorites of Ellery Queen, and he wanted them collected into a book. Critic Nancy Ellen Talburt said, “Stylistically, the stories . . . share a quiet humor and misleading simplicity of statement with the works of Christie . . . Her work [is] informed and consistent with the classic traditions of the mystery.” Sixteen stories in a first book edition. Edited by Marvin Lachman, one of the greatest mystery critics.

Berkeley, Anthony. [The Avenging Chance and Other Mysteries from Roger Sheringham’s Casebook](#) (\$20). Berkeley, 1893-1972, founded the Detection Club whose history is recorded in Martin Edwards’ [The Golden Age of Murder](#) (Harper \$27.99). The title story has long been considered one of the greatest formal detective stories. This book also collects all the additional cases of Sheringham and Inspector Moresby. This enlarged edition includes, for the first time, the newly discovered short-short, “The Bargee’s Holiday.” Edited by Tony Medawar and Arthur Robinson.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Balson, Ronald. [Saving Sophie](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Jack Sommers was just an ordinary accountant from Chicago until his wife passed away, his young daughter was kidnapped, and he became the main suspect in an \$88 million dollar embezzlement case. Now Jack is on the run, hoping to avoid the feds long enough to rescue his daughter, Sophie, from her maternal grandfather, a suspected terrorist in Palestine. With the help of investigative team Liam and Catherine, and a new CIA operative, a secret mission is launched to not only rescue Sophie but also to thwart a major terrorist attack in Hebron. But will being caught in the crossfires of the Palestine-Israeli conflict keep their team from accomplishing the task at hand, or can they overcome the odds and save countless lives, including their own? A Jewish legal thriller by the author of *Once We Were Brothers*.

Banville, John. [The Blue Guitar Signed](#) (Viking UK \$32).

“Readers will hang on to every word written by Man Booker Prize winner Banville, because he knows their thoughts before they do. Narrating this tale is the curmudgeonly, melancholy, and hapless Olly Orme, who, “pushing fifty and [feeling] a hundred,” is back in the English village of his birth and suffering through a mid-life crisis. A modestly successful “paintster” who gives up painting for existential reasons (“What’s the difference between a blimp and a guitar? Any old object serves...”), and a rather philosophical thief for whom the thrill of stealing eventually wanes, Olly stumbles through an affair with Polly, his friend Marcus’s companion. When the lovers are found out, Olly runs away to the house where he was born, but is set upon by Polly and dragged to her own family home. A mad-hatter couple of days ensues in which Olly is tortured with cups of tea and English damp—and for the first and last time is caught stealing, in this case a little volume of poetry bound in crimson cloth. When he finally escapes and encounters his sensible wife again, she reveals a secret of her own. “Olly muses on each escapade, hilarious until such sadness sets in that no one inside or out of the story seems likely to survive it. And yet, Banville is such a fine architect of sentences—infusing them with wit and yearning—that the plot hardly matters. For what a brilliant navel-gazer Banville is: he creates loop-de-loops of self-absorbed prose that resonate so deeply about the human condition that they never become tiresome. *Bon mots* fill these pages, every one essential.”—*PW* Starred Review. Unsigned US edition: [Blue Guitar](#) (Knopf \$25.95). Banville, who writes crime as Benjamin Black, publishes one of those in January.

Blaedel, Sara. [The Forgotten Girls](#) (\$15). The body of an unidentified woman was discovered in a local forest. A large, unique scar on one side of her face should have made the identification easy, but nobody has reported her missing. As the new commander of the Missing Persons Department, Louise Rick risks involving the media by releasing a photo of the victim, hoping to find someone who knew her. Louise’s gamble pays off: an older woman phones to say that she recognizes the woman as Lisemette, a child she once cared for in the state mental institution many years ago. Lisemette, like the other children in the institution, was abandoned by her family and branded a “forgotten girl.” But Louise soon discovers something more disturbing: Lisemette had a twin, and both girls were issued death certificates more than thirty years ago. Aided by her friend journalist Camilla Lind, Louise finds that the investigation takes a surprising and unsettling turn when it brings her closer to her childhood home. And as she uncovers more crimes that were committed—and hidden—in the forest, she is forced to confront a terrible link to her own past.... Mixed reviews for this latest from Danish bestseller Blaedel.

Boyd, William. [Sweet Caress Signed](#) (Bloomsbury \$28). Amory’s first memory is of her father doing a handstand. She has memories of him returning on leave during the First World War. But his absences, both actual and emotional, are what she chiefly remembers. It is her photographer uncle Greville who supplies the emotional bond she needs, and, when he gives her a camera and some rudimentary lessons in photography, unleashes a passion that will irrevocably shape her future. A spell at boarding school ends abruptly and Amory begins an apprenticeship with Greville in London, living in his flat in Kensington, earning two pounds a week photographing socialites for fashionable magazines.

But Amory is hungry for more and her search for life, love and artistic expression will take her to the *demimonde* of Berlin of the late 1920s, to New York of the 1930s, to the Blackshirt riots in London and to France in the Second World War where she becomes one of the first women war photographers. Her desire for experience will lead Amory to further wars, to lovers, husbands and children as she continues to pursue her dreams and battle her demons. In this enthralling story of a life fully lived, William Boyd has created a sweeping panorama of some of the most defining moments of modern history, told through the camera lens of one unforgettable woman. This panoramic novel is punctuated with loads of photos.

Callaghan, Tom. [Killing Winter](#) (Quercus \$26.99). In this neo-noir set in the mountainous Central Asian republic of Kyrgyzstan, hard-bitten inspector Akyl Borubaev mourns the recent death of his beloved wife—the only humanizing force in his otherwise bleak life as a homicide detective in Bishkek. As he struggles to face his personal pain, Borubaev is assigned to investigate the murder of a young woman whose horribly mutilated body is found dumped in a public park in the dead of the forbidding Kyrgyz winter. When the pathologist informs Borubaev that the killer stuffed a fetus from another woman into the womb of the victim, the detective realizes he is hunting a psychopath. Then Borubaev discovers the woman is the only daughter of Mikhail Tekebayev, the powerful and ruthless Minister of State Security, and realizes the case will probably destroy him, regardless of where the evidence leads. Borubaev begins making enemies everywhere he turns, even as he is aided by a motley assortment of dangerous cut-throats: his uncle Kursan, whose cross-border smuggling is the stuff of local legend; the explosive police chief, who wants the case solved as soon as possible; Saltanat, a beautiful and murderous agent of the Uzbek Security Service; an entire police force of bent cops; and members of the Kyrgyz mafia. All of which would just be another day in the life of Akyl Borubaev—if the investigation didn’t turn up a blood-chilling connection to multiple homicides in several nearby countries, including one on a military base in Russia.

Camilleri, Andrea/Carlo Lucarelli/Giancarlo DeCataldo. [Judges](#) (Quercus \$24.99). Eurocrime: three novellas united by a theme of idealistic judges in an often futile struggle against crime and corruption. Camilleri’s novella recounts the charming Judge Surra. Leaving his family behind, he arrives in the 19th-century Sicilian town of Montelusa from Turin and is given quirky gifts from the locals, but is oblivious to the veiled threats accompanying them. Finally forced to contend with a hostile community and an imminent attempt on his life, Surra proves he is relentless in his quest for justice. Lucarelli’s novella presents a darkly hued Bologna in the 1980s, where judges are frequent targets of assassination attempts. The protagonist, Judge Valentina Lorenzi—“La Bambina”—stumbles upon an extensive money laundering operation involving prominent public officials. Determined to nip Valentina’s investigations in the bud, the criminals attack the judge and leave her clinging to life. Ultimately, Valentina is faced with a troubling question: will she break her vow to uphold the letter of the law in order to bring those responsible to justice? And De Cataldo’s “The Triple Dream of the Prosecutor” teeters between dream and reality. Prosecutor Mandati is engaged in a life-long feud with the corrupt mayor of Novere, and his efforts finally pay off on the night before the trial of his life. Kafkaesque, tumultuous, and thoroughly gripping.

Camin, Hector A. [Death in Veracruz](#) (Schaffer \$16.95). A noir centered on the so-called oil wars of the late 1970s, which pitted the extremely powerful and corrupt government-owned oil cartel PEMEX against the agrarian landowners in the coastal regions of Southern Mexico. This novel, translated for the first time in English since its publication 30 years ago, concerns a journalist who investigates the death of a colleague and friend Rojano in a bizarre shooting incident that takes place in a small rural village, and who finds himself up against crooked police and a charismatic and ruthless union boss. But, as he gets deeper into this Mexican Heart of Darkness, he finds Rojano was not all he seemed, and neither was his widow with whom he falls into a doomed affair...

Corris, Peter. [Big Drop](#); [Gun Control](#); [Man in the Shadows](#); [Marvellous Boy](#); [White Meat](#). Reissues at various prices of work by the Australian crimewriter.

DeGraaf, Andrew. [Plotted: A Literary Atlas](#) (Zest \$24.99). A wide-ranging collection of maps — all inspired by literary classics — offers readers a new way of looking at their favorite fictional worlds. Andrew DeGraaf's stunningly detailed artwork takes readers deep into the landscapes from *The Odyssey*, *Hamlet*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Invisible Man*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, *Water-ship Down*, *A Christmas Carol*, and more. Sure to reignite a love for old favorites and spark fresh interest in more recent works as well, *Plotted* provides a unique new way of appreciating the lands of the human imagination. A fun gift idea.

Fitzgerald, Conor. [Bitter Remedy](#) (\$17. Commissario Alec Blume, on leave for health problems, fleeing his partner Caterina and their newborn daughter, retreats to a villa somewhere in central Italy, where he enrolls in a natural remedies class conducted by a young woman named Silvana. But rather than finding comfort, Blume becomes increasingly ill—and ill at ease—in his new environment, and immediately makes an enemy of Niki, Silvana's ambiguous fiancé. Then a Romanian girl who works in Niki's nightclub comes to Blume and asks for his help in finding her disappeared friend, Alina. And Blume, isolated and sick, unadvisedly delves into the dark histories of the people around him. The tone of this series is much like that of later Andrea Camilleri's Inspector Montalbano's.

Fletcher, Martin. [War Reporter](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Tom Layne was a world-class television correspondent until his life collapsed in Sarajevo. Beaten and humiliated, he fell into a hole diagnosed as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Eleven years later he returns to the Balkans to film a documentary on the man who caused his downfall: Ratko Mladic, Europe's biggest killer since Hitler, wanted for genocide and crimes against humanity. Mysterious forces have protected Mladic for a decade, preventing his arrest, and these shadowy but deadly foes swing into action against the journalist. Tom soon falls into a web of intrigue and deceit that threatens his life as well as that of the woman he loves. Drawing upon his own experiences reporting on the wars in Bosnia and Sarajevo, Martin Fletcher has written a searing love story and a painfully authentic account of a war reporter chasing down the scoop of a lifetime.

Houellebecq, Michel. [Submission](#) (Farrar \$25). It's 2022. François is bored. He's a middle-aged lecturer at the New Sorbonne University and an expert on J. K. Huysmans, the famous 19th century Decadent author. But François' own decadence is consid-

erably smaller in scale. He sleeps with his students, eats microwave dinners, rereads Huysmans, queues up YouPorn. Meanwhile, it's election season. And although François feels about as political as a bath towel," things are getting pretty interesting. In an alliance with the Socialists, France's new Islamic party sweeps to power. Islamic law comes into force. Women are veiled, polygamy is encouraged, and François is offered an irresistible academic advancement—on the condition that he converts to Islam. "Houellebecq is not merely a satirist but, more unusually, a sincere satirist, genuinely saddened by the absurdities of history and the madneses of mankind."—*The New Yorker*

Marra, Anthony. [The Tsar of Love and Techno Stories](#) (Crown \$25). The October Indie Next Pick from the author of a terrific Modern Firsts Pick: "[A Constellation of Vital Phenomena](#) (\$15)—a Modern Firsts Club Pick—is one of my favorite novels of the last several years, and now Marra follows that up with a dazzling set of linked stories set in Russia, Chechnya, and Siberia over a period of time spanning from the Russian Revolution to the modern day and beyond. As with his debut novel, what I love are the characters that he makes readers care so deeply about, as well as the fact that I constantly found myself wanting to know more about their lives and the history of their countries. Get on the Marra train now because one thing is certain: He is one of our brightest young talents writing today."

Mayle, Peter. [The Diamond Caper](#) (Knopf \$24.95). Pure fun, and a mellow look at the life of the rich on the Riviera. The food and wine are the best parts. "From the engaging first sentence, bestseller Mayle's fourth novel featuring American detective Sam Levitt delights—more because of the French local color than any hardcore mystery solving. Sam and insurance investigator Elena Morales are on the hunt for a jewelry thief in the South of France. The thefts, which began small in 2002, have gradually escalated to include a two-million-euro necklace stolen from a party at the Cannes Film Festival. But the book's strength lies in the great descriptions of characters ("even [Sam's] voice sounded suntanned") and of all things French. As he does in his memoirs, Mayle excels at evoking French cuisine: the croissants and *cafe crème*, the *sauce mousseline*, and the shopping trips to the outdoor market, where even the peaches, apparently, taste better than anywhere else. Fans of his caper series will enjoy finding out how Sam and Elena's romance develops (hint: a house is purchased, and the phrase kept woman is invoked)." A delightful example of what Dana Stabenow calls "first world problems" revolving around estates, renovations and decorating, wine cellars, and how to give an impressive party—sort of on the lines of Hitchcock's *To Catch a Thief*.

Meyer, Deon. [Icarus](#) (Atlantic \$26). A week before Christmas, a young photographer discovers a plastic-wrapped corpse amidst the sand dunes north of Cape Town. The only thing found on the corpse is a dead iPhone, but it doesn't take long for the police to identify the body as that of Ernst Richter—the tech whiz behind MyAlibi, an internet service that provides unfaithful partners with sophisticated cover stories to hide an affair. Meanwhile, Benny Griessel is called to the scene of a multiple homicide involving a former colleague, and four years of sobriety are undone on the spot. He emerges from his drunken haze determined to quit the force, but the take-no-sass Major Mbali Kaleni, now his boss, wants Griessel on the Richter case. The high-profile murder has already been the subject of fierce media speculation, with

questions swirling about the potential for motive. And before the week is out, an unexpected connection to a storied family winery comes to light.... 5th in an excellent series.

Minier, Bernard. [The Circle](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Minier is a master of the grotesque. In the pool in the garden, dolls are floating. In the house, a woman lies drowned in her old bathtub. She's tied up with rope and a small flashlight, lit, was rammed down her throat. What a creepy set up. Commandant Martin Servaz of the Toulouse Crime Squad is, like his team, absorbed in the 2010 World Cup playing in Cape Town, and all resent the interruption of the murder. He's called into it when it's not really his case by a former lover from his university days. Marianne Bokhanowsky's 17-year-old son, Hugo, found poolside, is the prime suspect. The victim it turns out is one of his teachers, a woman with a doll obsession. Servaz should butt out, but he seems unable to shake off the lure of Marianne. Meanwhile Julian Hirtmann, the Hannibal Lecter-like genius serial killer from his last case, [The Frozen Dead](#) (\$15.99), who shares Servaz's taste for Mahler and remains at large, sends the detective taunting messages. While I found the length of this wearying, the plot is again striking and original and the structure flawless. Minier has something of Scandinavian starkness to his work rather than the warmth of say, a Bruno, Chief of Police, novel or the quirkiness of a Cara Black.

Oldfield, Mark. [The Exile Signed](#) (Zeus \$41). 1954: Comandante Guzmán has been posted deep into the Basque country to confront a man known only as 'El Lobo'. High in the mountains, Guzman will have to fight for his life, not only against El Lobo, but also against someone who has been searching for him for a very long time... 2010, Madrid: Forensic Investigator Ana María Galindez has spent seven months in hospital recovering from the blast that nearly killed her. Her obsession with Guzman's fate has disturbed long dormant forces. Now she shall reap the consequences: she will be purposely humiliated, abandoned by colleagues and friends, accused of murder... and worse. Book Two in a trilogy that began with *The Sentinel*. This is a timely publication given current events in Catalonia and on-going rumbling in Basque country.

Pamuk, Orhan. [A Strangeness in My Mind](#) (Knopf \$28.95). The unforgettable tale of an Istanbul street vendor and the love of his life. "Rich, complex, and pulsing with urban life: one of this gifted writer's best... As Pamuk follows his believably flawed protagonist and a teeming cast of supporting players across five decades, Turkey's turbulent politics provide a thrumming undercurrent of unease... Pamuk celebrates the city's vibrant traditional culture—and mourns its passing—in wonderfully atmospheric passages... [and] recalls the great Victorian novelists as he ranges confidently from near-documentary passages on real estate machinations and the privatization of electrical service to pensive meditations on the gap between people's public posturing and private beliefs." —*Kirkus* Starred Review. I came to this Nobel Prize winner via what is still my favorite of his books, an historical novel/mystery called [My Name Is Red](#) (\$15.99), set in the 16th Century city where a book miniaturist working on a dangerous project, figurative art forbidden by Islam but commissioned by the Sultan, disappears.

Parks, Tim. [Painting Death](#) (Arcade \$24.99). Morris Duckworth has a dark past. Having married and murdered his way into a wealthy Italian family, he has become a respected member of

Veronese business life. But it's not enough. Never satisfied with being anything short of the best, he comes up with a plan to put on the most exciting art exhibition of the decade, based on a subject close to his heart: killing. All the great slaughters of scripture and classical times will be on show, from Cain and Abel, to Brutus and Caesar. But as Morris meets stiff resistance from the director of Verona's Castelvecchio museum, everything starts to unravel around him. His children are rebelling, his mistress is asking for more than he wants to give, his wife is increasingly attached to her aging confessor, and, worst of all, it's getting harder and harder to ignore the ghosts that swirl around him, and the skeletons rattling in every closet. The shame of it is that Morris Arthur Duckworth really did not want to have to kill again. The final volume in the Duckworth trilogy, somewhat akin to Lindsay's Dexter novels. The first two are: [Cara Massimina](#) and [Mimi's Ghost](#) (\$14.99 each).

Pastor, Marc. [Barcelona Shadows](#) (Steerforth \$14.95). In 1917, Barcelona's infamous Raval district is alive with outlandish rumors. A monster is abducting and murdering young children. The police are either powerless to prevent his terrible crimes, or indifferent to them, since they concern only the sons and daughters of prostitutes. But Inspector Moisès Corvo is determined to stop the outrages, and punish their perpetrator. His inquiries take him on a tour of the Catalan capital, through slum, high-class brothel and casino, and end in a stomach-turning revelation. A British import that is pretty grim, and creepy.

Rankin, Ian. [Even Dogs in the Wild Signed](#) (Orion \$46). This Rebus is due in November but we urge you to order now to avoid disappointment. Retirement doesn't suit John Rebus. So when DI Siobhan Clarke asks for his help on a case, Rebus doesn't need long to consider his options. Clarke's been investigating the death of a senior lawyer whose body was found along with a threatening note. On the other side of Edinburgh, Big Ger Cafferty — Rebus's long-time nemesis — has received an identical note and a bullet through his window. Now it's up to Clarke and Rebus to connect the dots and stop a killer. Meanwhile, DI Malcolm Fox joins forces with a covert team from Glasgow who are tailing a notorious crime family. There's something they want, and they'll stop at nothing to get it. It's a game of dog eat dog — in the city, as in the wild.

Siger, Jeffery. [Devil of Delphi Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 Signed Nov. 18). Delphi once stood at the center of the world, a mountainous, verdant home to the gods, where kings and warriors journeyed to hear its Oracle speak. The Oracle embodied the decree of the gods—or at least the word of Apollo. To disobey risked...everything. Young Athenian Kharon chooses modern Delphi to rebuild his life among its rolling hills and endless olive groves. But his dark past is too celebrated, and his assassin's skills so in demand, that his fate does not rest entirely in his own hands. Greece is being flooded with bomba, counterfeits of the most celebrated alcoholic beverages and wine brands. The legitimate annual trillion-dollar world market is in peril. So, too, are consumers since the counterfeiterers are also adulterating the alcohol, often with poisonous substances. Who is masterminding this immensely lucrative conspiracy? Kharon will soon find out and be sucked in, as will Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis who finds a firestorm breaking on several fronts.... There's something of Donald E. Westlake in this plot as well as the presence of the goddess called Fate who controls destiny.... "The final plot twist

proves well worth the wait, but it won't take readers long to get there as they will be turning pages at a ferocious clip."—*Booklist* Starred Review. Also in paperback: [Devil of Delphi](#) (\$15.95)

Smith, Alexander McCall. [The Woman Who Walked in Sunshine](#) (Knopf \$24.95). Precious Ramotswe goes on vacation in Smith's enchanting 16th No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency novel. Her second in command, the prickly Grace Makutsi, is glad to take charge in her absence. Mma Ramotswe, who's basically staying home on Zebra Drive in Gaborone, can't help worrying about how things are going at the office. Her concern grows when Mr. Polopetsi, a part-time chemistry teacher who also helps out at the agency, confides that Mma Makutsi has failed to make progress on a new case involving a late government official. With Mr. Polopetsi's blessing, Mma Ramotswe discreetly investigates. Meanwhile, she comes to the assistance of Samuel, an abused boy she encounters on the street, and discovers that scheming Violet Sepotho, Mma Makutsi's rival from the Botswana Secretarial College, has started the No. 1 Ladies' College of Secretarial and Business Studies. As usual, Smith's blend of gentle humor and insights into human nature is irresistible."—*PW*. Start with The No. 1 Ladies Detective Club and move forward: [click here](#) to order.

Taylor, Patrick. [An Irish Doctor in Love and at Sea](#) (Forge \$25.99). Before Dr. Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly became the village doctor of Ballybucklebo, Ireland, he was a young surgeon- lieutenant in the British Navy aboard the *HMS Warspite*, honing his medical skills at the peak of World War II. In this latest addition to Taylor's hugely popular "Irish Country" series, Dr. O'Reilly and his wife Kitty are enjoying the comfortable life of their quaint Irish village when an event commemorating the war causes O'Reilly to revisit old friends and his days as a young surgeon in wartime. "This wonderfully fresh story in a great series is full of colorful characters, fascinating history, and charming Irish settings. Fans will be delighted to learn more of O'Reilly's wartime years and catch up with Fingal and Kitty. New readers can step right into their lives and be swept away by remembrances of experiences aboard the *HMS Warspite* and the love story of Fingal and Deirdre."—*LJ* Starred Review

Thomas, David. [Ostland](#) (\$14.99). A novel based on a horrifying true story. In wartime Berlin the brilliant, idealistic young detective Georg Heuser joins the Murder Squad in the midst of the biggest manhunt the city has ever seen. A killer is slaughtering women on S-Bahn trains and leaving their battered bodies by the tracks. Heuser doggedly tracks down the murderer. Soon after the case is solved, Heuser is promoted by the SS and ultimately sent off to oversee the systematic murder of tens of thousands of Jews in the conquered region to the east the Nazis call Ostland. Nearly twenty years after the war ends, Heuser thinks his diabolical past has been forgotten, but an enterprising young lawyer, Paula Siebert, searching through Soviet archives, discovers evidence of Heuser's wartime crimes. Siebert is haunted by one question: how could a once decent man have become a sadistic monster? Tried in the early 1960s along with other ex-Nazi officers as a war criminal, the wily Heuser deploys his training as a lawyer and years as a police detective to try and distance himself from his co-conspirators and thereby escape justice.

Vichi, Marco. [Death in Florence](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). Florence, 1966. The rain is never-ending. When a young boy vanishes on

his way home from school the police fear the worst, and Inspector Bordelli begins an increasingly desperate investigation. Then the flood hits. During the night of November 4th the swollen River Arno, already lapping the arches of the Ponte Vecchio, breaks its banks and overwhelms the city. Only the steely resolve of Bordelli prevents this case from being swept away, too. Vichi is not as dour as Camilleri and some of the Italian noirists, I think of him as more like the late Magdalen Nabb, reflecting a sunnier city. I recommend the earlier Bordellis; [click here](#) to order.

HALLOWEEN READING

Barnett, Mac. [Leo, A Ghost Story](#) (Chronicle \$16.99). As a ghost, Leo may be invisible and intangible, but he can still feel bruised. When a family moves into the empty home he occupies, they aren't exactly pleased to see the floating tray of tea and toast he has prepared for them. Leaving the house, Leo explores the unfamiliar city and befriends a girl named Jane, who mistakes him for an imaginary friend. Robinson's blue-black palette reflects the somewhat somber mood; along with the somewhat retro look of the art, Leo's formal attire suggests he's been a ghost for some time. Barnett concludes on a high note, though, as Leo foils a robbery with help from a classic ghost accessory—the white bed sheet. It's a warm and wise story about acceptance trumping difference—including that between life and death. Ages 3–5.

Beahm, George. [The Stephen King Companion](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Four decades of fear from the master of horror are showcased in a detailed companion to his work. Loads of photographs, interviews, biographical material and includes juvenilia from age 9 when he tried to get a story published called "Jhonathan and the Witches." This tribute is a very nice gift for teens on up—but at 588 pages is not going to fit into a Trick or Treat container easily.

Connolly, John. [Night Music Nocturnes 2 Signed](#) (Hodder \$34). Irish crimewriter Connolly presents a second volume of tales of the supernatural. From stories of the monstrous for dark winter nights to fables of fantastic libraries and haunted books, from a tender narrative of love after death to a frank, personal and revealing account of the author's affection for myths of ghosts and demons, this is a collection that will surprise, delight – and terrify. This volume also contains two novellas: the multi-award-winning "The Caxton Private Lending Library and Book Depository," and "The Fractured Atlas," featuring The Wanderer in Unknown Realms, previously published as an eBook, developed here into a five-part novella. US edition: [Night Music: Nocturnes Volume 2](#) (Atria \$16) due at the end of October.

Gay, William. [Little Sister Death](#) (Dzanic \$26.95). David Binder is a young, successful writer living in Chicago and suffering from writer's block. He stares at the blank page, and the blank page stares back—until inspiration strikes in the form of a ghost story that captivated him as a child. With his pregnant wife and young daughter in tow, he sets out to explore the myth of Virginia Beale, Fairy Queen of the Haunted Dell. But as his investigation takes him deeper and deeper into the legacy of blood and violence that casts its shadow over the old Beale farm, Binder finds himself obsessed with a force that's as wicked as it is seductive. "The late William Gay is pure Tennessee Gothic. He is what Cormac McCarthy would have become if he had stayed in Tennessee writing about murder, incest, necrophilia and backwoods love. It's hard to find writing this dark... A stirring literary rendition of Tennes-

see's famed *Curse of the Bell Witch*, *Little Sister Death* skillfully toes the line between Southern Gothic and horro-hat feels this authentic." —James Franco

Golden, Christopher, ed. [Seize the Night](#) (Gallery \$18) takes hold of a popular culture environment where the vampire has largely lost its ability to inspire fear, and now brings out the dread, showcasing twenty all-new tales of horrifying evil from an extraordinary lineup of contributors. "The notion of the romantic vampire is transcended to chilling and even heartbreaking effect in this stellar anthology of tales... The best is Laird Barron's atmospheric, Alaska-set "In a Cavern, in a Canyon," in which one woman examines her past as she confronts a very present horror. Other highlights include Michael Koryta's "On the Dark Side of Sunlight Basin"... These stories move smoothly from the subtle to the horrifying..."—PW Starred Review

Niffenegger, Audrey, ed. [Ghostly: A Collection of Ghost Stories](#) (Scribner \$28). Collected and introduced by the bestselling author of *The Time Traveler's Wife* and *Her Fearful Symmetry*—including her own illustrations for each piece, and a new story by Niffenegger—this is a haunting anthology of some of the best ghost stories of all time. From Edgar Allen Poe to Kelly Link, M.R. James to Neil Gaiman, H H. Munro to Niffenegger herself, *Ghostly* reveals the evolution of the ghost story genre with tales going back to the eighteenth century and into the modern era, ranging across styles from Gothic Horror to Victorian, with a particular bent toward stories about haunting—haunted children, animals, houses. Every story is introduced by Niffenegger.

THE COZY CORNER...

Andrews, Donna. [Two Deadly Doves](#) (\$16.99). "Six Geese A-Slaying" and "Duck the Halls" packaged in one Christmas look.

Berenson, Laurien. [The Bark Before Christmas](#) (Kensington \$25). "In Berenson's enjoyable 18th Melanie Travis canine mystery the headmaster of Howard Academy in Greenwich, Conn., presses Melanie, who has recently resumed her old job as a special-needs tutor at Howard, into serving as the chair of the school's annual Christmas bazaar fund-raiser. One of the event's biggest attractions is pet photos with Santa. Unfortunately, Kiltie, the West Highland White Terrier belonging to wealthy, troublesome Hanover parent Sondra McEvoy, goes missing from the crowded show, as does the show's Santa Claus, a last-minute replacement about whom the headmaster knows little. When Sondra threatens to sue the school for the loss of Kiltie (valued at \$100,000), Melanie, aided by her redoubtable aunt Peg Turnbull, must squeeze detection into her busy holiday schedule. The Travis family's six Standard Poodles, as well as various other breeds, all play major roles in a whodunit sure to please dog-loving cozy readers."—PW

Brown, Rita Mae. [Let Sleeping Dogs Lie](#) (\$15). Sister Jane Arnold and the Jefferson Hunt Club have traveled from Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains to the Bluegrass State of Kentucky to ride with the members of the Woodford Hounds—in the teeth of foul weather. Sister knows better than anyone that an ill wind blows no good. After the hunt, Sister Jane and her boyfriend, Gray Lorillard, head to a sumptuous party on a nearby estate, also home to a historic equine graveyard. The revelry is interrupted by jarring news: The discovery of grisly remains in the cemetery that are decidedly not equine.

Childs/Terrie Moran. [Parchment and Old Lace](#) (Berkley \$25.95). Carmela Bertrand, proprietor of the scrapbook shop Memory Mine, and her detective boyfriend, Edgar Babcock, have a brief encounter with assistant DA Isabelle Black—the sister of Carmela's tarot card-reader friend, Ellie—at a New Orleans restaurant. After dinner, the couple walk to Lafayette Cemetery, where they find Isabelle strangled with a piece of antique lace. Carmela sees a possible connection to the costume collection of Vesper Baudette, the disapproving mother of Isabelle's fiancé, Edward. Also providing grist for Carmela's investigating mill are the activities of Naomi Rattler, a fashion blogger; Julian Drake, an ambitious casino businessman; and Oliver Slade, Isabelle's chef ex-boyfriend. An uneven cozy reflecting the new co-authoring. Wait for the paperback.

Fletcher, Jessica. [Murder, She Wrote: The Ghost and Mrs. Fletcher](#) (NAL \$23.95). Jessica's friend, Eve Simpson is the town's premier real estate agent and has recently taken on the task of selling one of Cabot Cove's oldest properties—the Spencer Percy House, built in 1805 by a sea captain for his young wife. Its current occupant, Joe Cooper, a crusty former carpenter, is convinced he's about to die and wants the house sold so he can give the proceeds to his grandson, who spent much of his youth there. But not only is the building in deplorable physical condition, it is also rumored to be haunted. When Joe's deadly premonition becomes a reality, Dr. Seth Hazlitt is not so sure the man died of natural causes....

Fluke, Joanne. [Plum Pudding Murder](#) (\$15). Reissue of a Hannah Swensen bakery mystery with a movie tie-in cover.

Hart, Carolyn. [Ghost to the Rescue](#) (Berkley \$25.95). Deidre Davenport is just about broke, trying to support her two children, and has her hopes pinned on getting a faculty job with the Goddard College English department. Jay Knox, who is in charge of the writer's conference she's participating in, will decide who gets the job, but he's more interested in her body than her body of work. Not long after his advances are rejected, Knox turns up dead—and Deirdre's fingerprints are found on the murder weapon. Bailey Ruth, emissary from Heaven's Department of Good Intentions, knows Deirdre is innocent, and that the professor's lewd behavior is bound to have rubbed others the wrong way. Now to discover who....

Howell, Dorothy. [Swag Bags and Swindlers](#) (Kensington \$25). Haley Randolph's 25th birthday is just around the corner, and the full-time fashionista knows it might be time to edge into being an "adult." All she has to do is ace the upcoming performance review for her hot L.A. event-planning gig, and she can finally quit her credit card-paying job at Holt's Department Store. She just has to make sure absolutely nothing goes wrong with the big party she's planning for a Hollywood retirement home for a spunky group of retired actors, screenwriters, musicians, dancers, and other entertainers who have been in the biz for their whole lives. But when Haley finds Derrick Ellery, the home's assistant director, sprawled on his bloody office floor, she sees her hope of keeping her job—not to mention the dream of owning a Sassy, the season's hottest handbag—vanishing before her eyes....

MORE NEW BOOKS

Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem with Anna Waterhouse. [Mycroft Holmes Signed](#) (Titan \$25.99). I gave this a rave in the September *Booknews*, noting that I usually shy away from celebrity authors

but Abdul-Jabbar is actually a Holmes fan and author. He and Waterhouse give this zippy, unusual story a special spin by taking it to Trinidad, and making Mycroft the center of the story. Here's another review: "Fresh out of Cambridge University, the young Mycroft Holmes is already making a name for himself in government, working for the Secretary of State for War. Yet this most British of civil servants has strong ties to the faraway island of Trinidad, birthplace to his best friends, Cyrus and Georgiana Douglas. When they receive troubling reports from home about mysterious disappearances, strange footprints in the sand, and spirits enticing children to their deaths, Georgiana abruptly departs for Trinidad. Near panic, Mycroft convinces Douglas that they should follow her, drawing the two men into a web of dark secrets that grows more treacherous with each step they take..." Signed by both authors and recommended by me.

Armstrong, Charlotte. [Night Call and Other Stories of Suspense](#) (Crippen Landru \$20). This small, quality press is back in business bringing you collections of stories by past masters of crime. Here's what they say about this one: Armstrong introduced suspense into the commonplace, the everyday, by writing short stories and novels in which one simple action sets a series of events spiraling into motion, pulling readers along, breathless with anxiety. By creating characters that could be one's next-door-neighbors and by relocating suspense from its Gothic ancestral settings, to locales she knew best, Armstrong created what the mystery writer Jan Burke aptly named "suburban noir." Anthony Boucher observed of her work, "The method by which she achieves her magical effects defies critical analysis." All the stories are previously uncollected, and 2 previously unpublished. Edited by Armstrong's biographer, Rick Cypert, and Kirby McCauley. Afterword by Armstrong's son.

Benedict, Laura. [Charlotte's Story](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). Now here is a real Gothic, truly framed by a storied Virginia mansion, Bliss House. It's 1958. Young wife Charlotte Bliss lives with her husband Press and their two children Eva and Michael in the Bliss family home. You think it's a tranquil life. But then death strikes, one of them a child's. And gradually Charlotte's life is peeled back, layer by creepy layer, revealing her mother-in-law's true history, her husband's true nature, and the face of one enemy... and then more. Poe would be proud.

Blackwell, Elise. [The Lower Quarter](#) (Unbridled Books \$16.95). Charles Finch reviews this novel of post-Katrina New Orleans in *USA Today*, pointing out "this atmospheric mystery tracks four characters with connections to two crimes: a body found in a city hotel, and a missing painting by a minor European master." He finds it veers into the gothic, but is "nonetheless a restrained and lovely work, admirably resistant to melodrama, punctuated by moments of sublime insight." I have ordered a copy for me to read.

Brunkhof, Alex. [The Gilded Life of Matilda Duplaine](#) (Mira \$26.99). The Indie Next Pick: "As Thomas walked into Lily Goldman's antiques shop, he had no idea that his life was about to change completely. Assigned to write about Lily's deceased father, a famous film industry mogul, Thomas meets a host of fabulously wealthy and eccentric people and quickly becomes a part of their privileged lives. Things get complicated when he meets Matilda, daughter of the most powerful man in Los Angeles, who has kept her confined to their estate her whole life. Thomas' journalistic instincts kick in as he is enchanted by

Matilda and he soon uncovers the many secrets these powerful people would rather not have revealed. This book is the definition of a page-turner: filled with romance, mystery, and great writing." I think that's over-enthused; this is a kind of Great Gatsby tale with a nicer guy than Jay and a different outcome. A kind of Stuart Woods analogue; see my Woods review below.

Butcher, Jim. [The Cinder Spires](#) (NAL \$27.95). **We have a limited number of Signed copies of this first in a new series.** Since time immemorial, the cinder spires have provided shelter for humanity. But the ancient power that once upon a time sank the world into a shroud of mists and filled it with monstrous and fantastic creatures has returned. PW gives this new series start this Starred Review: "Butcher opens the imaginative Cinder Spires series with this sweeping fantastical epic with pseudo-Victorian sensibilities. In this strange realm, some cataclysm has left the surface world uninhabitable, but the ancient Builders created spires that stretch miles into the sky. Transportation, trade, and warfare are conducted by way of airships. The AMS Predator is captained by Francis Grimm, formerly of the Albion Fleet, and when Grimm's quick action saves his spire from a devastating attack, he and several members of the Spirearch's Guard are sent on a secret assignment to prevent disaster. Butcher brings a fresh and exciting perspective to secondary-world steampunk, giving the reader a thrilling ride."

Cantor, Jillian. [The Hours Count](#) (Riverhead \$26.95). A woman who befriends Ethel and Julius Rosenberg is drawn into their world of Cold War intrigue.

Childress, Ron. [And West is West](#) (Algonquin \$26.95). Karen reviews: Winner of the PEN/Bellwether Prize for Socially Engaged Fiction, Childress has crafted a story of a changing culture where technology allows us to express ourselves freely, be protected by distance, and promote increased isolation. The story is a tale of two highly skilled, lower-level workers and their hopes for success. Ethan works in the financial world, programming his bank's trading computers to take advantage of market volatility. Jessica is an Air Force drone pilot who takes pride in her accuracy in striking the assigned enemy. Ethan's success is interrupted when someone gains access to his coding, resulting in dire consequences for which he is blamed. He is determined to fight back and regain his reputation and position in the financial world. Jessica executes orders for a strike, even though she can see it will destroy more than the intended target. A crisis of conscience sends her into hiding, isolating herself from everything and everyone. Their individual experiences leave both Brian and Jessica transformed. The author may have put it best: "we win in this world not by destroying the enemies but by enriching our humanity." This is an elegant, thought provoking read and well worth anyone's time.

Copperman, EJ. [The Question of the Unfamiliar Husband](#) (Midnight Ink \$14.99). "In the captivating sequel to 2014's [The Question of the Missing Head](#) (\$14.99) from Copperman (the pseudonym of Jeff Cohen), Samuel Hoenig, a highly unusual investigator who runs a little service in Piscataway, N.J., called Questions Answered, puts the single-mindedness of his Asperger's syndrome to good use. With some help from his mother and from a one-time client, Samuel looks for an elusive woman, graphic artist Sheila McInerney, who lured him from his office in order to leave the body of her husband, Oliver Lewis, there. In

addition to trying to figure out the mystery before the protagonist does, the reader has the pleasure of watching Samuel maneuver in a universe where other people—unlike him—are neither literal nor orderly. The complicated story focuses on Lewis’s tawdry history and collection of unhappy ex-wives. Samuel gets arrested, goes on a date, and has a full-blown Asperger’s crisis when things go wrong.”—*PW* Starred Review

Connelly, Michael. [The Crossing Signed](#) (LittleBrown \$28). Publishes November 3. Please order now to avoid disappointment. Patrick reviews: “Harry Bosch, recently retired from the LAPD, has plans to restore an old motorcycle and spend quality time with his daughter, who is about to head off to college. When his half brother Mickey Haller approaches him for help with a case, the last thing Bosch envisions doing is crossing the aisle to work for defense. He agrees to make a few inquiries, however, and his instincts, honed over a thirty-year career, kick in and he quickly finds a lot of holes in what appears to be an iron-clad case against a former gang member whose DNA was found on the body of a well-known woman in the LA business community murdered in her home. The accused seems to be the model of successful rehabilitation; he’s been out of prison for over a decade and has reinvented himself as a successful painter and teacher. The “crossing,” the lines that intersect perpetrator and victim, just don’t seem to fit. Bosch covertly enlists his old partner Lucy Soto to help him out and, as his investigation proceeds, Bosch follows a trail that might lead into the LAPD itself. In some ways this novel is a turning point (one is tempted to say “crossing”) for Bosch, and Connelly is at the top of his game here. An outstanding book.”

Cook, Robin. [Host](#) (Putnam \$26.95). What is going on in the Shapiro Institute? Lynn Peirce, a fourth-year medical student at South Carolina’s Mason-Dixon University, thinks she knows, and is grateful and excited. Then her lawyer boyfriend, Carl Vandermeer, suffers severe brain damage during a routine orthopedic procedure. Baffled by what went wrong, Lynn teams up with a colleague, Michael, and what they learn upends their lives.... A tense medical thriller made intelligible technologically. The title rather gives away the plot’s core and the ending is a stretch, but hang on for the ride....

Cornwell, Patricia. [Depraved Heart](#) (Morrow \$28.99). Here’s what the publisher says: Dr. Kay Scarpetta is working a suspicious death scene in Cambridge, Massachusetts when an emergency alert sounds on her phone. A video link lands in her text messages and seems to be from her computer genius niece Lucy. But how can it be? It’s clearly a surveillance film of Lucy taken almost twenty years ago. As Scarpetta watches she begins to learn frightening secrets about her niece, whom she has loved and raised like a daughter. That film clip and then others sent soon after raise dangerous legal implications that increasingly isolate Scarpetta. The diabolical presence behind what unfolds seems obvious—but strangely, not to the FBI. Certainly that’s the message they send when they raid Lucy’s estate and begin building a case that could send her to prison for the rest of her life.

De Gramont, Nina. [The Last September](#) (Algonquin \$25.95). Perfectly attuned to the autumn season, a novel of love, loss, dire distress, resolution, and acceptance. Brett, dead in love with charismatic Charlie from the moment she espied him in college, forsaking her fiancé, has known for some time that her marriage is no longer a fairy tale. Handsome Charlie is struggling with a

failing restaurant. One day in September he says how much he loves her, heads off to work—and bang (literally, his killer used a hammer), he’s dead. Brett is not so much paralyzed by grief as made thoughtful—was she somehow active in this tragedy? All clues point to Charlie’s schizophrenic brother Eli, a man in and out of hospitals and too often off his meds. The lush yet desolate autumn beauty of Cape Cod heightens the emotions of Charlie’s survivors as they work through the puzzle of Charlie and his death.

Dodson, Zachary. [Bats of the Republic](#) (Doubleday \$27.95). An illuminated novel of adventure, featuring hand-drawn maps and natural history illustrations, subversive pamphlets and science-fictional diagrams, and even a nineteenth-century novel-within-a-novel—an intrigue wrapped in innovative design. In 1843, fragile naturalist Zadock Thomas must leave his beloved in Chicago to deliver a secret letter to an infamous general on the front lines of the war over Texas. The fate of the volatile republic, along with Zadock’s future, depends on his mission. When a cloud of bats leads him off the trail, he happens upon something impossible... 300 years later, the world has collapsed and the remnants of humanity cling to a strange society of paranoia. Zeke Thomas has inherited a sealed envelope from his grandfather, an esteemed senator. When that letter goes missing, Zeke engages a fomenting rebellion that could free him—if it doesn’t destroy his relationship, his family legacy, and the entire republic first.

Donaldson, Stephen R. [The King’s Justice](#) (Putnam \$27.95). Two original novellas in one volume encompass Donaldson’s first fiction since he completed the Chronicles of Thomas Covenant in 3013: “The King’s Justice” and “Augur’s Gambit.”

Dorsey, Tim. [Shark Skin Suite](#) (\$13.99). The Sunshine State’s favorite psychotic killer and lovable Floridaphile Serge Storms has found a new calling, legal eagle, and he’s going to make a killing as a crusading attorney—and star as a dashing lawyer on the big screen. Meanwhile he’s a wildcat paralegal. One of Serge’s old flames, young lawyer Brook Campanella, is also a rising star thanks to her expertise in the field of foreclosure law. Ruthless at taking down the greedy banksters kicking people out of their homes, she lands a major class-action lawsuit, and wins big. The opposition is determined to shut her down and they’ll go to extreme lengths to do it. Luckily for her, Serge has been hired to do some investigative legwork on the case....

Dunn, Matthew. [The Spy House](#) (Harper \$25.99). In this 5th Spy-catcher thriller, the assassination of Israel’s French ambassador puts Israel on the brink of waging a war to end Hamas. Admiral Tobias Mason, an adviser to the U.S. president, creates a joint intelligence outpost in Beirut manned by four top agents—French, British, American, and Israeli—to discover whether Hamas was responsible for the assassination. When the four are found shot dead in their operational headquarters, called the Gray Site, it appears that American agent Roger Koenig killed them before being killed himself. Mason tasks Will Cochrane, now a free agent no longer attached to the CIA-MI6 Task Force S, to investigate. A mysterious and shadowy figure known only as Thales puts two able men in motion to stop Cochrane. In addition, a mole in Mason’s office monitors Cochrane’s every move as he uses his years of knowledge and training to figure out what conspiracy shrouds the Gray Site....

Egan, Elisabeth. [A Window Opens](#) (SimonSchuster \$26). John Charles will be reviewing this charming debut on the age-old theme of a woman wanting to have it all only to learn that every opportunity comes at a price, but I want to put in my two cents and say that her depiction of new media, social media, and her New Jersey hometown's bookstore won my heart. At first Alice, whose husband has not made partner and is embarking on solo practice, feel lucky to land a job at Scroll, a start-up....

English, T.J. [Where the Bodies Were Buried: Whitey Bulger and the World That Made Him](#) (Morrow \$28.99). Patrick writes, "When 82 year old Whitey Bulger was finally arrested in Santa Monica California in 2011 after sixteen years on the lam, it seemed as though the notorious Irish-American mobster, who essentially controlled the New England underworld for nearly 30 years, would finally be brought to account for his crimes. The 2013 trial in Boston was a media phenomenon, garnering daily worldwide reportage, as dozens of former associates as well as the families of the numerous people murdered by Bulger's Winter Hill Gang. America's preeminent chronicler of the Irish-American mob, T.J. English (*The Westies, Paddy-whacked*) was there every day covering the trial and presents this exhaustively researched, which demonstrates the extent to which Bulger was apparently given immunity for his crimes by paying off the FBI and providing protection for key figures. If you've seen the recent film *Black Mass* this will answer a lot of questions. An irresistible and shocking account of unchecked crime and government corruption."

Everett, Percival. [Half an Inch of Water: Stories Signed](#) (Graywolf Press \$16). Patrick writes, "I've been following Everett's remarkable career for a long time now, and he is one of those very rare artists (like James Sallis) whose work explodes genre or classification. This new collection of short stories is a real treasure trove: all are set in the west, where Everett's wanderlust takes him to small towns and communities and the disparate lives he finds there. In one story, a young American Indian girl goes missing and is found untouched on a rocky basin surrounded by dozens of rattlesnakes. In another, a proud elderly woman takes off for her daily horse ride and becomes disoriented and sees her beloved long-deceased dog. A civil engineer working on the Arapaho reservation is summoned in the story 'Graham Greene' by 102-year old Roberta Cloud to look for her son, Davy, who seems to bear a striking resemblance to the American Indian actor Grahame Greene."

Fink, Joseph. [Welcome to Night Vale Signed](#) (Harper \$19.99). From the creators of the wildly popular "Welcome to Night Vale" podcast comes an imaginative mystery of appearances and disappearances that is also a poignant look at the ways in which we all struggle to find ourselves... Located in a nameless desert somewhere in the great American Southwest, Night Vale is a small town where ghosts, angels, aliens, and government conspiracies are all commonplace parts of everyday life. It is here that the lives of two women, with two mysteries, will converge. Nineteen-year-old Night Vale pawn shop owner Jackie Fierro is given a paper marked "KING CITY" by a mysterious man in a tan jacket holding a deer skin suitcase. Everything about him and his paper unsettles her, especially the fact that she can't seem to get the paper to leave her hand, and that no one who meets this man can remember anything about him. Jackie is determined to uncover the mystery of King City and the man in the tan jacket before she herself unravels. Night Vale PTA treasurer Diane

Crayton's son, Josh, is moody and also a shape shifter. And lately Diane's started to see her son's father everywhere she goes, looking the same as the day he left.... "Hypnotic and darkly funny. . . . Belongs to a particular strain of American gothic that encompasses *The Twilight Zone*, Stephen King and *Twin Peaks*, with a bit of *Tremors* thrown in."—*Guardian*

Francis, Felix. [Front Runner](#) (Penguin \$26.95). "In the start of bestseller Francis's entertaining second novel featuring British Horseracing Authority investigator Jeff Hinkley, Dave Swinton, a champion steeplechase jockey who's the public face of the sport, confesses to his friend Jeff that he intentionally lost a race, a breach of the BHA's rules that could bar him from racing for a decade. Dave refuses to say more, though he later tells Jeff in confidence that he was blackmailed into doing so by a person who threatens to tell the tax authorities that the athlete neglected to report sizable gifts. This makes the situation even more awkward for Jeff, who urges Dave to admit he made an error and pay what he owes to the revenue service. When Dave's burned corpse turns up in his car in what appears to be a case of suicide, Jeff investigates. Francis again offers an imaginative variant on the racetrack-related thriller plots of his father, Dick.

Gabalton, Diana. [Outlandish Companion 2 Signed](#) (Random \$40). On sale Oct. 27. No inscriptions but you can choose: Happy holidays; Merry Christmas; Happy Birthday; Slainte! (good health). In stock now: [Outlandish Companion 1](#) (Random \$40). Again, no inscriptions but choose a greeting. And what fun, a perfect gift: [Diana Gabalton's Outlander Coloring Book](#) (Random \$15.95).

Gerritsen, Tess. [Playing with Fire Signed](#) (Ballantine \$28 Signed Nov. 8). When violinist Julia Ansdell first plays the moody minor-key, arpeggio-laced "Incendio Waltz," she blacks out—and awakens to find her young daughter involved in an act of violence. That sends Julia scurrying to speak with the sheet music's previous owner in Venice, where she uncovers a horrific secret that dates back to the Holocaust. Our **November Surprise Me! Club Pick**.

Gregson, Tyler Knott. [All the Words Are Yours Signed](#) (Penguin \$18). What fun. Here is a collection of "hot haikus on love." Nice gift, no?

Groff, Lauren. [Fates and Furies Signed](#) (Penguin \$27.95). The No. 1 October Indie Next Pick "is an engrossing and complex novel about a seemingly perfect marriage of beautiful people, told in two parts. The first is a gentle introduction to Lotto and Mathilde, their marriage, and their friends and family; the second, a violent storm to wash away all you thought you knew. Groff crafts amazing, shocking sentences and brilliantly reveals the lies and deceit hiding behind the perfect façade. It's a book you will finish too quickly and then want to tell your friends about." I add that this is the kind of relationship-driven rather than plot-driven fiction a lot of generalist independent bookstores like because of their discussion club dynamics. I am bored by most books like this, lots of talk, little happens, which is why crime and suspense holds me fast.

Grisham, John. [Rogue Lawyer](#) (Doubleday \$28.95). Sebastian Rudd takes the cases no one else wants to take: the drug-addled punk accused of murdering two little girls; a crime lord on death row; a homeowner who shot at a SWAT team. Rudd believes that every person accused of a crime is entitled to a fair trial – even if

he has to cheat to get one. He antagonizes people from both sides of the law: his last office was firebombed, either by drug dealers or cops. He doesn't know or care which. But things are about to get even more complicated for Sebastian. Arch Swanger is the prime suspect in the abduction and presumed murder of 21-year-old Jiliana Kemp, the daughter of the assistant chief of police. When Swanger asks Sebastian to represent him, he lets Sebastian in on a terrible secret....

Hallberg, Garth Risk. [City on Fire Signed](#) (Knopf \$30). A **Modern Firsts Club Pick**, and hefty at 900+ pages including some nifty meta-fiction elements pulled from various media. I can't begin to describe all the elements but I will say it nails 1970s New York City, has much to say about blood ties, being gay, art, the weight of expectations.... Expect huge PR for this.... a book Knopf clearly imagines as the new Great American Novel. "Big, juicy, and full-throated, *City on Fire* absorbs readers into an expertly crafted 1970s New York City and introduces them to character after lushly drawn character: the charismatic young woman with a hidden life, her asthmatic punk groupie friend, the wizened reporter, the obscenely rich and rebellious, the not-so-rebellious, and those who love them. Their lives create a rich tapestry, beginning with a murder on the brink of the New Year in 1977 and culminating later that year during the infamous blackout. With unequivocal skill, Hallberg makes readers feel like they are holding the whole city in their hands."

Harrison, Mette. [The Bishop's Wife](#) (\$15.95). In the Mormon community of Draper, Utah, seemingly perfect families have deadly secrets. Inspired by a chilling true crime and written by a practicing Mormon, this debut mystery presents Linda Wallheim, a devout Mormon, the mother of five boys and the wife of a bishop. But Linda is increasingly troubled by her church's structure and secrecy, especially as a disturbing situation takes shape in her ward. One cold winter night, a young wife and mother named Carrie Helm disappears, leaving behind everything she owns. Carrie's husband, Jared, claims his wife has always been unstable and that she has abandoned the family, but Linda doesn't trust him. As Linda snoops in the Helm family's circumstances, she becomes convinced that Jared has murdered his wife and painted himself as a wronged husband. Linda's husband asks her not to get involved in the unfolding family saga. But Linda has become obsessed with Carrie's fate, and with the well-being of her vulnerable young daughter.

Hart, Ellen. [The Grave Soul](#) (St Martins \$25.99). In Hart's riveting 23rd mystery featuring Minneapolis PI and restaurateur Jane Lawless, Guthrie Hewitt, a teahouse owner, is worried about his girlfriend, Kira Adler, who suffers from nightmares about her mother, Delia. When Kira was five, Delia fell into a deep ravine from the back deck of their house in New Dresden, Wis. It was a cold December day, and her frozen body wasn't found for hours. Was it suicide or a tragic accident? When Kira tells Guthrie that in her dreams her mother is strangled by one or another immediate family member, Guthrie begins to suspect it's a case of murder. Cordelia Thorn, Jane's best friend, persuades Jane to investigate the past on Kira's behalf, though Jane comes to regret her probe when she gets too close to the truth. Readers will be caught up in this harrowing look at the damage done in the name of family preservation. Veteran Hart has won any number of Lambda nominations and awards in the gay mystery genre.

Hayes, Frank. [Death on the High Lonesome](#) (Berkley \$15). Here is the second Sheriff Virgil Dalton investigation, returning us to Hayward Arizona, and into events still echoing from [Death at the Black Bull](#) (\$15). Love the writing, love the portrait of the ranching and high country – the High Lonesome ranch borders some Indian lands in the rugged mountains – and really bond with the characters, not just the Sheriff but his staff and the community. The action begins when deputy Jimmy is almost killed when his patrol car skids off a high road when an object crashes down from a highway overpass. It's the body of a woman. And next the elderly wife of the owner of the High Lonesome is found dead in a rocker on her porch. With no new Craig Johnson for fall, and with Anne Hillerman's last a receding memory, here is just the ticket. Enjoy this October Trade Paperback Pick!

Hoch, Edward D. [Nothing is Impossible: Further Problems for Dr. Sam Hawthorne](#) (Crippen Landru \$19) Hawthorne, a New England country doctor in the first half of the twentieth century, was constantly faced by murders in locked rooms and impossible disappearances. *Nothing Is Impossible* contains 15 of Dr. Sam's most extraordinary cases solved between 1932 and 1936, including a circus acrobat who vanishes from a trapeze, an invisible weapon, and murder in a cabin surrounded by unmarked snow.

Holm, Chris. [The Killing Kind](#) (LittleBrown \$26). The anti-hero is one we can root for if we adopt a different moral compass. Holm crafts a high-octane thriller pitting Michael Hendricks, a guy who kills for money, but limiting his targets to other hit men. Really, other than his new calling, the former covert op for a false-flag unit of the US Army is a decent guy. He took this turn when an overseas mission went sideways and blew apart his old life. So, if you think someone is coming for you, Michael's your guy. But he's being targeted by two determined opponents. One is FBI Special Agent Charlotte Thompson, a woman with demons of her own to quell. And the other is another hunter whose mission is to kill rather than capture Michael, a killer who is merciless and psychopathic. And so, game on.... Recommended by a list of authors including David Baldacci, Megan Abbott, Chelsea Cain, Joseph Finder, and Owen Laukkanen.

Hooper, Kay. [Fear the Dark](#) (Berkley \$26.95). Something strange is happening in the small mountain town of Serenity, Tennessee. People going on routine errands never reach their destination. It's as if they simply disappear. Over the past few weeks, it's happened to five men and women—and now a child. The local police chief calls the FBI, and a team from the Special Crimes Unit is immediately sent in. Agents Lucas and Samantha Jordan, partners in work and in life, with different skills. The town is already on the edge of panic, but the mysterious events take a sinister turn when a body unrelated to the missing persons case surfaces and one of the SCU agents vanishes. The Halloween season fits this book, no?

Howard, Jonathan L. [Carter & Lovecraft](#) (St Martins 25.99). I'm no Lovecraft scholar but my friend the Senior Reviews Editor at *Publishers Weekly* is a renowned one. I'm assuming this is his review of the start of a supernatural series with classic PI tropes by the author of the excellent Johannes Cabal mysteries: "This refreshingly original novel updates the eldritch horrors of H.P. Lovecraft for the 21st century. Dan Carter, a

New York cop turned PI, heads to Providence, R.I., to claim a windfall inheritance from an unknown benefactor. That inheritance includes Hill's Books, an antiquarian bookstore run by Emily Lovecraft, a descendant of the great horror writer. (Her African-American heritage may be a sly nod to recent discussions of Lovecraft's racism.) Shortly afterward, Dan and Emily cross paths with William Colt, a student at local Clave College, whose mathematical savvy has given him access to the Twist, a perceptual portal to the Lovecraftian otherworld of cosmic horrors. Their confrontation proves to have been engineered by master manipulators with their own cosmic agenda, which Howard (the Johannes Cabal series) reveals gradually... Howard sometimes makes explicit ideas that Lovecraft more effectively suggested, but his novel shows a thorough understanding of Lovecraft's conceptual horrors and features an ending that cleverly bears out those concepts." Christopher Golden (echoed by F Paul Wilson and Brian Lumley) adds, "*Carter & Lovecraft* is a Pandora's Box loaded with all of the wonderfully twisted stuff I love, including a two-fisted homicide cop turned P.I., warped realities, a mysterious bookstore, the Cthulhu mythos, a dash of romance, and creepy fish-men. What's not to love? Jonathan L. Howard knows how to show his readers a wickedly good time." This is our **October Fresh Fiction Club Pick**.

Jackman, Clifford. [The Winter Family](#) (Knopf \$25.95). Here is the review Patrick wrote for *True West Magazine*: "Jackman's remarkably assured historical novel recounts the exploits of a gang of former union soldiers turned outlaws in the years following the Civil War. Led by the charismatic, golden-eyed Augustus Winter, whose devotion to violence approaches the mystical, the 'Winter Family' flees from certain court martial at the end of the war and heads west. The family quickly builds a reputation for savagery, a vicious Chicago election, to collecting Apache scalps in the Arizona territory. As it must, Jackman's meditation on violence and the dark recesses of human nature owes a debt to Cormac McCarthy's *Blood Meridian*, but it simmers with a potency all its own."

Johansen, Iris. [Shadow Play](#) (St Martins \$27.99). As the 18th Eve Duncan kicks off, the Atlanta-based forensic sculptor agrees to do a reconstruction job on the skull of a nine-year-old girl, who disappeared about eight years earlier, for Sheriff John Nalchek of Sonderville, Calif., who's sure if he just has a face to work with he can discover the girl's identity and killer. The sheriff's passion surprises Eve. Even more surprising are the emotions Eve feels during the reconstruction, especially when she senses the deceased girl talking to her and even views her apparition. After someone intercepts the skull on its way back to Sonderville, Eve and her paramour, former FBI agent Joe Quinn, travel to California to assist Nalchek in finding the thief—and in stopping the murderer from killing again. "Johansen delivers a no-holds-barred mystery that maintains suspense throughout and boasts a cast of multifaceted characters."—*PW*

Johnson, Denis. [The Laughing Monsters](#) (\$16). Best known for writing about Vietnam (*Tree of Smoke* won the National Book Award) and America's dispossessed (*Jesus' Son*; *Angels*), Johnson sets his new literary spy thriller in Africa. Roland Nair, a Scandinavian with a U.S. passport, returns to the continent where he once made a fortune when his longtime friend Michael Adriko invites him to Freetown, Sierra Leone. The stated reason is to attend Michael's wedding to his newest fiancée,

Davidia, but because both Roland and Michael have spent their lives working for various government and military organizations, Roland has reason to suspect that Michael has a hidden agenda. Soon Roland, Michael, and Davidia are traveling deeper and deeper into Africa, their destination a mystical place called Newada Mountain in the Congo: Michael, a war orphan, remembers it from his chaotic, violent childhood. NATO, the U.N., Mossad, and Interpol get wrapped up in his dangerous plan. Much of the novel follows the shifting military and political loyalties in a post-9/11 world, and there is plenty of subterfuge and secrecy, but Johnson's at his best when describing the pervasive, threatening strangeness of Roland's life in Africa. "Denis Johnson's interests have always been in wreckage, both individual and universal. If *Train Dreams* (a Pulitzer finalist) dealt with the dignified tragedy of a past American antonym, *The Laughing Monsters* addresses the vanishing present, a giddy trickle-down of global exploitation and hubris—the farcical exploits of cold dudes in a hard land." —Joy Williams, *NY Times Book Review*

Karr, Mary. [The Art of Memoir](#) (Harper \$24.99). The Indie Next Pick: "Karr, a professor of literature at Syracuse University and the author of three memoirs, provides readers and writers with background, insights, hints, history, and humor related to both her own writing and that of other memoirists, past and present. The book is valuable not only to those who aspire to document portions of their own lives, but also to those who find the genre of memoir of interest for casual reading."

Katzenbach, Joh. [Dead Student](#) (Grove \$26). In this clever cat-and-mouse thriller, the mysterious Student #5 has spent decades murdering people he believes got him banned from his chosen studies in abnormal psychology. His latest victim—staged as a suicide—is the uncle of Ph.D. student Timothy "Moth" Warner. An alcoholic, Moth just knows his uncle wouldn't kill himself. Enlisting the support of his ex-girlfriend Andy Candy and DA Susan Terry—and with his AA group that meets in the church known as Redeemer One acting as casual advisers as the investigation progresses—he begins his quest, which ranges from Massachusetts to Miami and Key West, to learn the truth and catch the mastermind. Slow at first, the book finally picks up momentum when paths cross and Student #5 suddenly realizes he now has a few more names to scratch off his death list. But the super-criminal won't find the easy marks as easy as they look...."

Kellerman, Faye. [The Theory of Death Signed](#) (Harper \$26.99). A heads up that this new investigation for Rina and Pete will be signed here on November 5. There's some interesting brain science and math involved, and a brilliant young Mennonite student mysteriously found dead in the Dexters' new upstate NY location....

Kelly, Mary Ann. [Twillyweed](#) (\$14.95). One of the first things Claire Breslinsky loved about Johnny was that he never even glanced at her sister. Carmela had always been the glamorous one, but Johnny only had eyes for Claire—the frazzled, world-traveling photographer who solved mysteries in her spare time. Only when their marriage fell apart did Claire learn that Johnny avoided Carmela because they'd had a clandestine fling in high school. When Carmela discovered she was pregnant, she fled to Ireland, where she left her daughter to be raised by her ec-

centric spinster aunts. Jenny Rose Cashin arrives from Ireland to take a job as an au pair in a fading Long Island resort town, hoping to reconnect with her long-lost mother. But something evil lurks in the quiet beachside residences of Sea Cliff. There is a killer on the grounds of this strange art colony, and Jenny Rose will need all the help she can get from her aunt Claire to uncover the truth—and stay alive. A reissue.

King, Stephen. [Joyland \(Illustrated Edition\)](#) (Titan/Hard Case Crime \$23.99). Features more than 20 illustrations by artists Pat Kinsella, Robert McGinnis, and Mark Summers, a new look for a novel that is a mystery, horror story, and coming-of-age novel.

Land, Jon. [Strong Light of Day](#) (Forge \$25.99). Caitlin Strong is a fifth generation Texas Ranger as quick with her wits as she is with her gun. But she isn't prepared for an investigation that pits her against ruthless billionaire oilman Calum Dane, whose genetically engineered pesticide may have poisoned a large swath of the state. How that poisoning is connected to the disappearance of thirty high school students from a Houston prep school, including the son of her outlaw lover Cort Wesley Masters....

Lanh, Andrew. [Return to Dust Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). In Lanh's absorbing second Rick Van Lam mystery after 2014 Surprise Me! Club Picks [Caught Dead](#) (\$14.95), Rick's talkative house cleaner, Marta Kowalski, whom the investigator doesn't like much, takes a fatal fall from a Farmington, Conn., bridge into the Farmington River. The police rule Marta's death a suicide, but when her attractive niece, Karen Corcoran, calls on Rick and insists that her aunt was murdered, Rick takes the case. In a search of Marta's home, Rick finds evidence of her Catholic piety and her quaint reading habits—but none of depression. Marta did incite strong feelings in the people in her life. Her nephew, for example, loathed her. And then there's the tricky circumstance that Karen stands to benefit from an insurance policy if it can be proved that her aunt's death wasn't suicide. "Lively supporting characters include Rick's ex-wife, Liz, and pal Hank Nguyen. Lanh (the pseudonym of Ed Ifkovic) seamlessly fills in their backstories"—*PW*. I add that this is a joy to read, in part because you can't see where it's going!

Lindsay, Jeff. [Red Tide](#) (Diversion \$15.95). Billy Knight wants to ride out Key West's slow-season with the occasional charter and the frequent beer. But when he discovers a dead body floating in the gulf, Billy gets drawn into a deadly plot of dark magic and profound evil. Along with his plucky, gun-happy friend Nicky, and Anna, a resilient and mysterious survivor of her own horrors, Billy sets out to right the wrongs the police won't, putting himself in mortal peril on the high seas. The sequel to *Tropical Depression* by the author of the Dexter series.

Lyons, CJ. [Farewell to Dreams](#) (Edgy \$25.99). In the chaos of the ER, functioning without sleep is a prized skill. But even Dr. Angela Rossi will admit that five months is far too long, especially when accompanied by other worrisome symptoms: night sweats, tremors, muscle spasms, fevers. Then a dead nun speaks to her while Angela is holding the nun's heart in her hand. "Find the girl," the nun commands, although no one else in the trauma room can hear, the words drilling directly into Angela's brain. "Save the girl." Aided by a police detective fallen from grace, Angela searches the midnight catacombs beneath the city, facing down a ruthless gang leader and stumbling onto a serial

killer's lair. Her desperate quest to save the girl leads her to the one thing she least expected to find: a last chance for love. Plus, as her symptoms escalate in bizarre and disturbing ways, Angie realizes exactly how serious her illness is.

Maguire, Gregory. [After Alice Signed](#) (Harper \$26.99). Tip-ins. When Alice toppled down the rabbit-hole 150 years ago, she found a Wonderland as rife with inconsistent rules and abrasive egos as the world she left behind. But what of that world? How did 1860s Oxford react to Alice's disappearance? Ada, a friend of Alice's mentioned briefly in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, is off to visit her friend, but arrives a moment too late—and tumbles down the rabbit-hole herself. Ada brings to Wonderland her own imperfect apprehension of cause and effect as she embarks on an odyssey to find Alice and see her safely home from this surreal world below the world. If Eurydice can ever be returned to the arms of Orpheus, or Lazarus can be raised from the tomb, perhaps Alice can be returned to life. Either way, everything that happens next is "After Alice." From the author of *Wicked*.

McCann, Colum. [Thirteen Ways of Looking](#) (Random \$26). It is a cold day in January when J. Mendelssohn wakes in his Upper East Side apartment. Old and frail, he is entirely reliant on the help of his paid caregiver, and as he waits for the heating to come on, the clacking of the pipes stirs memories of the past; of his childhood in Lithuania and Dublin, of his distinguished career as a judge, and of his late wife, Eileen. Later he leaves the house to meet his son Elliot for lunch, and when Eliot departs mid-meal, Mendelssohn continues eating alone as the snow falls heavily outside. Moments after he leaves the restaurant he is brutally attacked. The detectives working on the case search through the footage of Mendelssohn's movements, captured by cameras in his home and on the street. Their work is like that of a poet: the search for a random word that, included at the right instance, will suddenly make sense of everything. Told from a multitude of perspectives.

Mitchell, David. [Slade House Signed](#) (Little Brown UK \$28). Our UK supplier reports this work is, "Born out of the short story Mitchell published on Twitter in 2014 and inhabiting the same universe as his latest bestselling novel *The Bone Clocks*, this is the perfect little book to curl up with on a dark and stormy night." Turn down Slade Alley – narrow, dank and easy to miss, even when you're looking for it. Find the small black iron door set into the right-hand wall. No handle, no keyhole, but at your touch it swings open. Enter the sunlit garden of an old house that doesn't quite make sense: too grand for the shabby neighborhood, too large for the space it occupies. A stranger greets you by name and invites you inside. At first, you won't want to leave. Later, you'll find that you can't. This unnerving, taut and intricately-woven tale by one of our most original and bewitching writers begins in 1979 and reaches its turbulent conclusion around Hallowe'en 2015. US: [Slade House](#) (Random \$26)

The New Yorker. [The 50s: the Story of a Decade](#) (Random \$35). The 1950s are enshrined in the popular imagination as the decade of poodle skirts and "I Like Ike." But this was also a complex time, in which the afterglow of Total Victory firmly gave way to Cold War paranoia. A sense of trepidation grew with the Suez Crisis and the H-bomb tests. At the same time,

the fifties marked the cultural emergence of extraordinary new energies, like those of Thelonious Monk, Sylvia Plath, and Tennessee Williams. *The New Yorker* was there in real time.... Including contributions by Elizabeth Bishop • Truman Capote • John Cheever • Roald Dahl • Janet Flanner • Nadine Gordimer • A. J. Liebling • Dwight Macdonald • Joseph Mitchell • Marianne Moore • Vladimir Nabokov • Sylvia Plath • V. S. Pritchett • Adrienne Rich • Lillian Ross • Philip Roth • Anne Sexton • James Thurber • John Updike • Eudora Welty • E. B. White • Edmund Wilson. And featuring new perspectives by Jonathan Franzen • Malcolm Gladwell • Adam Gopnik • Elizabeth Kolbert • Jill Lepore • Rebecca Mead • Paul Muldoon • Evan Osnos • David Remnick...

Oliver, Mary. [Dog Songs: Poems](#) (\$16). A collection of new and favorite poems, celebrating the dogs that have enriched the poet's world.

Patterson, James, ed. [The Best American Mystery Stories 2015](#) (Houghton \$15.95). Here's a nice gift idea. The 20 entries "share a fine sense of character along with solid plotting and minimal violence. Classism, racism, and revenge all figure in Doug Allyn's "Snow Angel," about the death of a logger's daughter. Tomiko M. Breland's lean prose powerfully illustrates the past, present, and future of five girls and a teacher involved in a devastating school tragedy in "Rosalee Carrasco." Michael Connelly's Harry Bosch and Dennis Lehane's Patrick Kenzie join forces in "Red Eye," ensuring an instant fan favorite. A never-robbed bank practically invites criminals in John M. Floyd's amusing heist yarn, "Molly's Plan." Sly wit shows in Jeffery Deaver's "The Adventure of the Laughing Fisherman," in which a loner emulates Sherlock Holmes. A kidnapping's aftermath haunts a family—and others—in Janette Turner Hospital's creepy "Afterlife of a Stolen Child." Guest editor Patterson has assembled a superb anthology that never disappoints," says *PW*. [Hardcover edition](#) (\$28).

Switch to science fiction and fantasy in a 2015 collection, [Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy](#) (Houghton \$14.95), edited by Joe Hill (son of Stephen King and a bestseller in his own right). Neil Gaiman, TC Boyle, Daniel H. Wilson are among the contributors.

Roberts, Gregory David. [The Mountain Shadow](#) (Grove \$32.50). [Shantaram](#) (\$17.99) became a kind of cult bestseller when it published in 2004, perhaps as much for the colorful history of the author—once ten years on the run as Australia's Most Wanted Man who then did ten years hard time—as for its characters. Australian fugitive Lin (nothing autobiographical here, no?), worked as a passport forger for a branch of the Bombay mafia. So in this sequel, Lin is trying to find his way, two years post *Shantaram* (this is fiction; real time isn't necessary) in a Bombay run by a different generation of dons who are playing by different rules. Lin can't seem to leave the Island City, or his soul mate Karla, or turn down one final mission. I tried some sample chapters and gave up; I don't object to profanity but I get truly bored when it dominates the dialogue. And honestly, some of the regular prose is just clunky.

Rushdie, Salman. [Two Years, Eight Months, and Twenty-Eight Nights Signed](#) (Cape \$42). After a superstorm hits New York, a group of individuals finds they have been granted special powers due to their lineage. Unbeknownst to them, they are the

descendants of Jinn, fanciful spirits that once visited the earth on a regular basis but now keep to their own world. But with the storm comes a cabal of dark Jinn, happy to wreak destruction, and it is up to the rag-tag demigods and their Jinn ancestor to fend off the supernatural invasion. "As tense as that description sounds, Rushdie isn't much interested in *Sturm und Drang*. Instead, he uses Jinni and their descendants to plumb questions of what exactly makes us human. By creating a raucous, capricious species that represents a hyperbolic version of humanity in the Jinn, Rushdie argues for some of our smaller qualities (a dedication to work well done, to simple connections between people), and the most important human concept of all: love. In the hands of another writer, *Two Years Eight Months* would be a Michael Bay-esque battle across the world. Instead, Rushdie uses the apocalypse as a place for meditation. "—Noah Cruickshank. Think 1001 Nights here.

Russell, Alan. [A Cold War](#) (amazon \$15.95). Here's our old friend Russell, author of humorous mysteries like *The Hotel Detective*, and some thrillers, heading north to Alaska for a chiller based in part upon real events. Nina Granville, engaged to Congressman Terence Donnelly of a dynasty and of presidential potential and seeking privacy, is abducted off the streets of Fairbanks. She expects her family to pay the ransom, and be let go, but her captor cuts off her ring finger to send along with the ransom note, and then cages her in his remote cabin. I draw a curtain on what happens next, and how it ties into an earlier event. It plays out in surprising ways, one of which I don't believe, but... Good for Nina who transforms from victim to avenger.

Scottoline, Lisa. [Betrayed](#) (\$15.99). Rosato & Associates, the all-female Philly law firm headed by Bernie Rosato (see Event Books for Bennie's update), is fortunate in its associates. Judy Carrier. Judy, normally a calm champion of the underdog, is feeling left behind when her BFF at the firm, Mary, plans her wedding. But she sets her own dramas aside when Iris, longtime housekeeper to Judy's Aunt Barb, is found dead. Heart attack? Judy doubts it and so begins a really twisty investigation that will surprise you, as it did me, with the turns it takes. Even if you're new to Scottoline, grab this one as there are many facets both to enjoy and to make you think.

Shapiro, BA. [The Muralist Signed](#) (Algonquin \$26.95). I was moved to write an Indie Next Pick for this, and here it is: Just when you think there can't be another facet of World War II to explore, along comes a knockout novel braiding two forgotten historical threads into a larger tapestry of the Depression; the WPA; the beginnings of Abstract Expressionism and an evolving New York art scene; and the pain Americans with relatives living under threat in Europe felt. Shapiro clearly delineates how isolationists divided the United States before Pearl Harbor, working to keep us out of the war. And she infuriates by stripping bare the role of Breckinridge Long, who became Assistant Secretary of State in 1940, in not only ignoring the plight of Europe's refugees (not just Jews), but refusing to issue them visas. One can only wish those forming a Long assassination plot success. Using time jump between 2015 and 1939-40 to frame the narrative, saving a final surprise to the end, Shapiro captures the turmoil and pain as well as joys and loves that this calamitous time sparked. Readers of Kristin Hannah's *The Nightingale* and Tatiana De Rosnay's *Sarah's Key* should zero in on *The Muralist*.

I think this novel has all the energy, excitement, and that page-turning sense of discovery that her bestseller [The Art Forger](#) (\$14.95) possessed. Plus, throw in the likes of Eleanor Roosevelt, Mark Rothko, Jackson Pollock. This **October Modern Firsts Club Pick** mixes art, passion, politics, war, and some mysterious paintings for a terrifically entertaining novel.

Sisman, Adam. [John Le Carré, The Biography Signed](#) (Bloomsbury \$50). From his bleak childhood – the departure of his mother when he was five was followed by ‘sixteen hugless years’ in the dubious care of his father, a serial-seducer and con-man – through recruitment by both MI5 and MI6, to his emergence as the master of the espionage novel, le Carré has repeatedly quarried his life for his fiction. Millions of readers are hungry to know the truth about him. Written with exclusive access to le Carré himself, to his private archive and to many of the people closest to him, this is a major biography of a master

Smiley, Jane. [Golden Age](#) (Knopf \$26.95). Smiley grandly concludes her Last Hundred Years trilogy, a multigenerational saga about an Iowa farm family. In each novel, Smiley has subtly yet pointedly linked forces political, technological, financial, and social to personal lives, tracing in the most organic, unobtrusive, yet clarifying manner the enormous changes that have taken place over the last century... “Smiley revels in the blissfulness of being, celebrating the glory of horses, the good company of dogs, the sweet astonishment of quickening life and newborn babies, the sheltering intimacy of a loving marriage, the pleasure of solitude....” —*Booklist* Starred Review

Starr, Jason. [Savage Lane](#) (Polis \$25.95). Karen Daily, recently divorced, lives with her two kids in a quaint suburb of New York City. She’s teaching at a nearby elementary school, starting to date again, and for the first time in years has found joy in her life. Mark Berman, Karen’s friend and neighbor, wants out of his unhappy marriage, and so does his wife, Deb, but they have stayed together for the sake of their children. Unbeknownst to Karen, while Mark’s marriage has deteriorated his obsession with her has grown. And as Mark’s rich fantasy life takes on a more sinister edge, rumors begin to spread about Karen and a bigger secret is uncovered. And soon Karen finds that Mark is not the only one who has taken an undesired interest in her...

Sternbergh, Adam. [Near Enemy: A Spademan Novel](#) (\$15). New York is toxic—decimated by a dirty bomb years ago. The limnosphere is a virtual safe haven—if you’re rich enough to buy in. Spademan is a hit man—box-cutter at the ready. His latest job is to snuff out Lesser, a lowlife lurking around other people’s fantasies. As Spademan is about to close the deal, Lesser comes back from the limn with a wild claim: terrorists are planning to attack New York. Again. This time from the inside out. Spademan works best alone... or so he thinks. The sequel to [Shovel Ready](#) (\$14), both of them scifi-noir.

Stevens, Mark. [Lake of Fire](#) (Midnight Ink \$14.99). In the context of the fires raging in California and drought in the West, here we begin with a giant wildfire raging through Colorado’s Flat Tops Wilderness. The blaze bares some terrible secrets... and bones, found by one Devo, a man who’s constantly followed by camera people for a reality TV show based on his idea of living completely off the grid in the wilderness. Devo determines the fire was set and that the bones may be those of environmentalist Dante Solo. Murdered. Meanwhile, hunting guide Allison

Coil, devastated by the damage being done to her forest hunting grounds, is at the ranch owned by her boyfriend Colin McKee’s family. In the face of a mandatory evacuation order, the patriarch Earl McKee decides to stay and fight the fire. Devo trusts Allison so he tells her about the body, which draws in the cops to his dismay. And a reporter who, with Allison, digs deep and finds an underground group of extremists are operating.... Fast paced, this 3rd Allison Coil is not preachy but practical, draws some rugged landscapes, and bites into some thorny issues. And, it’s in part a continuing love story. Recommended.

Talbot, David. [The Devil’s Chessboard](#) (Harper \$29.99). Dulles’s decade as the director of the CIA—which he used to further his public and private agendas—were dark times in American politics. Calling himself “the secretary of state of unfriendly countries,” Dulles saw himself as above the elected law, manipulating and subverting American presidents in the pursuit of his personal interests and those of the wealthy elite he counted as his friends and clients—colluding with Nazi-controlled cartels, German war criminals, and Mafiosi in the process. Targeting foreign leaders for assassination and overthrowing nationalist governments not in line with his political aims, Dulles employed those same tactics to further his goals at home, Talbot charges, offering shocking new evidence in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. “A fearless, passionate, angry book.... The story of how the Kennedy brothers tried to change the world.” —*NY Times*

Trigiani, Adriana. [All the Stars in Heaven Signed](#) (Harper \$26.99). These are tip-ins... fun, possibly fattening, good as gifts. The movie business is booming in 1935 when 21-year-old Loretta Young meets 34-year-old Clark Gable on the set of *The Call of the Wild*. Though he’s already married, Gable falls for the stunning and vivacious young actress instantly. Far from the glittering lights of Hollywood, Sister Alda Ducci has been forced to leave her convent and begin a new journey that leads her to Loretta. Becoming Miss Young’s secretary, the innocent and pious young Alda must navigate the wild terrain of Hollywood with fierce determination and a moral code that derives from her Italian roots. Over the course of decades, she and Loretta encounter scandal and adventure, choose love and passion, and forge an enduring bond of love and loyalty that will be put to the test when.... Real life characters appear like Spencer Tracy, David Niven, Myrna Loy, and Hattie McDaniel.

Ward, Nathan. [The Lost Detective](#) (Bloomsbury \$26). How did Dashiell Hammett transform himself from a Pinkerton detective to a hardboiled crime writer? The mystery community has long known that his experiences informed his craft, especially in the Continental Op stories but certainly in *Red Harvest*. But the larger literary world appears to be surprised by this study by Ward. “Leaving school at thirteen, he joined the Pinkerton National Detective Agency as an operative in 1915, and remained with the agency until, in 1922, the tuberculosis he contracted during WWI forced him to retire”—and into a new career. The publisher’s blurb says, “Nathan Ward’s enthralling *The Lost Detective* for the first time links Hammett’s life experience to his stories. His childhood, his life in San Francisco, and especially his years as a detective deeply informed his writing and characters, from the nameless Continental Op, hero of his stories and early novels, to Sam Spade and Nick Charles. He would write five novels between 1929 and 1934, two of them (*The Maltese Falcon* and *The Thin Man*) American classics, inspiring generations of crime

writers from Chandler to Connelly. Yet after *The Thin Man* he never finished another book, and his popular image was largely shaped by the remembrance of Hellman, who knew him after his literary reputation was made.” I’m amused by this, but that doesn’t mean there isn’t interesting material to be found here. “All my characters were based on people I’ve known personally, or known about.” Hardboiled crime novel fans will find Ward’s research into what it meant to Hammett to be an actual detective before he wrote about them quite fascinating.”—Tom Lavoie. Joe Gores wrote a classic bio of Hammett; Val McDermid is also a Hammett scholar.

Watkins, Claire. [Gold Fame Citrus](#) (Riverhead \$27.95). “In her powerful depictions of the scorched and merciless landscape, Watkins realizes a genuine nostalgia for our lost living world, and the American West in particular...[W]ith its damaged and complicated heroine and multiple voices, shifting perspectives, and unconventional narrative devices, [*Gold Fame Citrus*] is a wholly original work.”—*Library Journal* Starred Review

Winchester, Simon. [Pacific Signed](#) (Harper \$28.99). These are tip-ins too. As the Mediterranean shaped the classical world, and the Atlantic connected Europe to the New World, the Pacific Ocean defines our tomorrow. With China on the rise, so, too, are the American cities of the West coast, including Seattle, San Francisco, and the long cluster of towns down the Silicon Valley. Today, the Pacific is ascendant. Its geological history has long transformed us—tremendous earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis—but its human history, from a Western perspective, is quite young, beginning with Magellan’s sixteenth-century circumnavigation. It is a natural wonder whose most fascinating history is currently being made.

Wishnia, Ken. [Jewish Noir](#) (Akashic \$17.95). “The 33 stories in this uneven anthology, most of them original to this volume, exemplify the editor’s claim that “practically anything” can be Jewish noir. For example, Adam D. Fisher’s brief “Her Daughter’s Bat Mitzvah: A Mother Talks to the Rabbi” is simply an extended kvetch. Wishnia does include some gems that better fit the typical noir label, such as Charles Ardai’s “Who Shall Live and Who Shall Die,” which places a synagogue’s congregation in a horrifying moral dilemma during Yom Kippur. In “The Flowers of Shanghai,” S.J. Rozan powerfully describes a woman’s struggle to reconcile survival with morality in a Chinese city under Japanese occupation during WWII. The high point is B.K. Stevens’s “Living Underwater,” which starts as a biting satire of the state of higher education, but gets much, much darker. Other contributors include Harlan Ellison, Eddie Muller, Marge Piercy, Jonathan Santlofer, Jason Starr, and David Zeltserman.”—*PW*

Woods, Stuart. [Foreign Affairs Signed](#) (Putnam \$27.95). Stone’s lifestyle and the series of events he faces grow ever more unrealistic... but read these for the kind of male fantasy that they are (a parade of willing women, hot sex, great food, luxury travel, high-level connections... and actual, very good stuff about piloting private planes). Here Stone is dining with Dino, NY’s top cop, when his secretary Joan informs him she forgot he had a noon meeting in Rome—Italy, not Georgia. With the Arrington hotel group. Only in this book would Dino summon up a cop car and wail along to JFK, dropping Stone at the Alitalia ramp where the plane is being held. Miraculously, not only is his middle seat coach upgraded to first class on take-off, but the

gorgeous woman next to him—from wealth herself so why is she in tourist?—gets a companion seat. Once in Rome, sharing the suite at a fabled hotel, Stone attends a board meeting where it is decided to take over the site of a failed hotel project and build an Arrington a stroll away across the Borghese Gardens. A mafioso who deported himself from NY when things got hot then begins a campaign to pressure the Arrington group into agreeing to various rackets, construction, protection, permits, and such. And Stone fights back... in Rome, on the Amalfi coast, and in Paris. The way he moves from place to place is as much fun as how he blocks Leo Casselli. Travel cancels Woods’ event here but he’s signing our books for us. And we will have a few Signed firsts of July’s Stone Barrington: [Naked Greed](#) (\$28).

OCTOBER TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

✚Bridges, Victor. [Trouble on the Thames](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). What fun, a 1930s thriller, very top hat and amusing. See British Library Crime Classics.

Eskens, Allen. [The Guise of Another](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). Karen reviews: “Max and Alexander Rupert are Minnesota detectives. Alexander, a Medal of Valor winner, is under suspicion of corruption and has been assigned to the bowels of the Frauds Unit where he is bored and out of touch with his fellow detectives. He is convinced that if he could get his hands on an important case, he could redeem himself in the eyes of the department, his colleagues and his brother. When an apparent case of mistaken identity crosses his desk, he decides it may be the opportunity he needs. Max attempts to keep him on track in getting ready for a grand jury subpoena, but Alexander is too focused on the case that becomes more and more intriguing with each clue. Alexander makes choices that benefit his investigation, but at the peril of his own well-being. The consequences are tragic. Esken’s first book, [The Life We Bury](#) (\$15.95), was an Edgar Award Finalist. Although the current title is a departure, his writing and story-telling of flawed human beings maintains the same quality.”

✚Harvey, John. [Darkness, Darkness](#) (\$14.95). Thirty years ago, the Miners’ Strike threatened to tear the country apart, turning neighbor against neighbor, husband against wife, father against son – enmities which smoulder still. Resnick, recently made up to inspector, and ambivalent at best about some of the police tactics, had run an information gathering unit at the heart of the dispute. Now, in virtual retirement, and still grieving over the violent death of his former partner, the discovery of the body of a young woman who disappeared during the Strike brings Resnick back to the front line to assist in the investigation into the woman’s murder—forcing him to confront his past in what will assuredly be his last case. Rats!

Hayes, Frank. [Death on the High Lonesome](#) (Berkley \$15). An excellent second investigation for Hayward, Arizona, Sheriff Virgil Dalton. Perfect reading for fans of Craig Johnson and the Hillermans. See New Books for my longer review.

✚King, Laurie R. [Dreaming Spies](#) (\$16). Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes stop at Kobe, Japan, en route from India to California and there become involved with intrigue that follows Russell back to Oxford and the Bodleian Library. Dedicated to me, and to Rob, King’s companions in Japan. See British Books for more.

Lanh, Andrew. [Return to Dust](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). Lahn’s second mystery really surprised me while editing it with the

direction it took. Loved it. So do various reviewers, among them Kirkus: “Did she jump or was she pushed? That’s what Amerasian college instructor/detective Rick Van Lam’s client wants to know. Although the Connecticut detective agency in which Rick (Caught Dead, 2014) is a partner deals mostly with insurance companies, he occasionally takes outside cases. He barely knows Karen Corcoran, who wants to hire him, but her recently deceased aunt, Marta Kowalski, was his cleaning lady. Well-known in Farmington, Marta was an argumentative, often grumpy, deeply religious Catholic who nevertheless flirted with men, frequented bars, and took trips to Vegas. Although she appears to have leaped from a bridge, Karen is convinced she was murdered. Rick gets some help from his former student Hank Nguyen, whose Vietnamese-immigrant family has all but adopted Rick, who spent his early years in an orphanage in Ho Chi Minh City. Although Rick is still scorned by some Vietnamese for being of mixed race, Hank’s family provides an entry into the community.... The more Rick digs into her surprisingly complicated life, however, the more convinced he grows that she was murdered. Lanh delves into the problems facing many in the Vietnamese community while providing a tantalizing look at the way a woman’s obsessions led to her death.” Rick’s first case, [Caught Dead](#) (\$14.95), was a 2014 Surprise Me! Club Pick which earned Starred Reviews. Both books sport beautiful covers.

✦ Lovett, Charlie. [First Impressions](#) (\$16). A bibliomystery set in an antiquarian bookworld in London harking back to Hampshire and Miss Jane Austen. See British Books for more.

Mayor, Archer. [Proof Positive](#) (\$15.99). The 25th mission for Vermont top cop Joe Gunther and his squad begins with what looks to be a tragic accidental death of a hoarder. But the dead Ben Kendall’s cousin, medical examiner Beverly Hillstrom, unsettled by the circumstances of his death, alerts Joe. Ben, it seems, brought back something else from Vietnam than personal demons—he also brought back combat photos and negatives that someone else wants desperately to keep from the public eye. When Beverly’s daughter Rachel made her cousin Ben—and his photos—the subject of her college art project, some of those photos appeared on the walls of a local art gallery. This in turn resulted in the appearance of a two man hit squad, searching for some other missing negatives. And a race is on... also a romance. An excellent case for Joe’s 25th. See New Books for the 26th.

Meyer, Deon. [Cobra](#) (\$15). Visit South Africa’s wine country as you hurtle through a plot translated from his native Afrikaans. It begins when a famous English mathematician is kidnapped and his two bodyguards are killed at a guest house in the beautiful wine country outside Cape Town. It’s clearly a professional hit, and the spent shell cases offer a chilling clue: Each is engraved with the head of a spitting cobra. Meanwhile, in the city, a skilled thief is using his talents to put his sister through college. But he picks the wrong pocket, grabbing the wallet of a young American woman delivering something very valuable and dangerous to South Africa. The thief not only becomes the target of the Cobra, but unwittingly has in his possession information that could cause an international outcry. Captain Benny Griessel and his elite investigation team must find the pickpocket and track down the Cobra...immediately! See Where in the World for Meyer’s new Griessel thriller.

Minier, Bernard. [The Frozen Dead](#) (\$15.99). A complex serial killer thriller featuring a modern Toulouse policeman with some very traditional (and also unorthodox) ideas, and a Hannibal Lector-like antagonist. Terrific on landscape, dense, and scary. See Where in the World for more, and for Minier’s follow up crime thriller.

✦ Todd, Charles. [A Fine Summer’s Day](#) (\$14.99). A prequel to the Inspector Ian Rutledge series set in the summer of 1914 before the war upended Rutledge’s life, that of his fiancée, and many others. Plus, there’s a murder to solve. See British Books for more.

✦ Weaver, Ashley. [Murder at the Brightwell](#) (\$15.99). An appealing debut set in the 1930s at a posh seaside resort hotel where a glamorous young woman married to an enigmatic if not philanthropic husband becomes involved in a bad set.... And death. See British Books for more.

OCTOBER MASS MARKET PAPERBACK PICKS

Andrews, Donna. [The Nightingale before Christmas](#) (\$7.99) Meg Langslow #18. While helping with a Christmas themed decorator house event, Meg Langslow once again becomes tangled up in a murder investigation when her mother is accused of killing another interior decorator. Agatha award-winning Andrews’ books are always good for a chuckle or two, and *LJ* adds “the small town of Caerphilly, VA and its inhabitants provide a charming backdrop for this Christmas cozy.”

Baldacci, David. [Escape](#) (\$9.99) John Puller #3. When his older brother escapes from a military prison, military investigator John Puller finds himself involved in the search for him, but during his investigation, Puller discovers some troubling details about the case. *LJ* loved Baldacci’s latest having this to say “The surprises are frequent and the family dynamics compelling. This is the best one in the Puller series, and one of Baldacci’s better novels, period.”

Buckley, Julia. [Big Chili](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Undercover Dish #1. Lilah Drake, the owner of Covered Dish, a business which provides fresh-cooked meals to customers that they can then pass off as their own, finds herself in hot water when one of her dishes is used to poison a local woman.

Gerritsen, Tess. [Die Again](#) (\$9.99) Jane Rizzoli #11. Detective Jane Rizzoli and medical examiner Maura Isles investigate the murder of a big game hunter, whose demise may be connected to several other seemingly unrelated deaths. *Booklist* had this to say “Gerritsen expertly creates a sinister atmosphere—especially when the scene shifts to Botswana and the terrorized tourists—while also working in a lively commentary on the ethics of big-game hunting.” The author will be at the Poisoned Pen on November 8 to sign her new standalone novel *Playing with Fire*.

Hart, Carolyn. [Ghost Wanted](#) (\$7.99) Bailey Ruth Raeburn #5. Ghostly detective Bailey Ruth Raeburn investigates a prankster at Adelaide’s College Library whose antics are disrupting the matchmaking services of another ghost. The usually cranky review service *Kirkus* offered their positive take “Hart’s amusing and vivacious ghostly sleuth puts her invisibility, her gusto, and her sharp mind to good use in her latest outing.”

Hoag, Tami. [Cold, Cold Heart](#) (\$9.99) Still struggling with PTSD a year after escaping from a serial killer, television reporter Dana Nolan uses her investigative skills to take another look at the case

of her best friend's disappearance after their high school graduation. *Booklist* gave this a starred review saying "Hoag has been writing nail-biting thrillers for years, but this time she ups the ante. The suspense remains high, but the stakes are even higher as Hoag delves into traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder."

Kappes, Tonya. [Ghostly Murder](#) (Harper \$7.99) Southern Ghost #4. Emma Lee Raines, co-owner of Eternal Slumber Funeral Home, agrees to help the ghost of Mamie Sue Preston, the richest person in Sleepy Hollow, find her killer. The only problem is that Mamie was buried by the Raines family's business archrival: Burns Funeral Home so digging up clues in the case might be a bit difficult.

Koryta, Michael. [The Ridge](#) (\$7.99). After receiving a suicide note from the builder of a homemade lighthouse in the middle of the woods, a local Kentucky reporter must convince people that an age-old local legend has come to life. *LJ's* review of this spooky standalone from the award-winning author included "mystery readers, supernatural thriller lovers, and horror buffs who can live without gore all will appreciate Koryta's latest effort." Sounds like the perfect tale to curl up with this Halloween, no?

Maden, Mike. [Blue Warrior](#) (\$9.99) Troy Pearce #2. Pearce and his team deploy drones to rescue some friends, who are caught in a dispute in the Sahara Desert between warrior nomads, the Chinese government, and al-Qaida. *PW's* review of Maden's latest included this "Techno thriller fans will welcome Maden's episodic second Troy Pearce novel (after 2013's *Drone*), which combines grunt-level action, advanced cyber warfare, and plenty of high-tech weaponry."

Sandford, John. [Deadline](#) (\$9.99) Virgil Flowers #8. Virgil Flower's investigation of a sinister dognapping is interrupted by a suspicious death that may be connected to a secret decision made by a local school board. *Booklist* had this to say "Sandford neatly balances straight-talking Virgil Flowers' often hilariously folksy tone against Trippton's dark core of methamphetamine manufactures and sociopaths; the result is pure reading pleasure for thriller fans."

NEW IN MASS MARKET PAPERBACK

Alan, Isabella. [Murder, Plainly Read](#) (NAL \$7.99) Amish Quilt Shop #4.

When Old Order Bishop Bartholomew Belier is found dead in her bookmobile shortly after he vowed to ruin her, librarian Austina Shaker and her local quilting circle set out to find the real killer.

Allen, Beverly. [Floral Depravity](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Bridal Bouquet Shop #3

Florist Audrey Bloom (with a name like this is it any wonder she works with flowers?) must root out a clever murderer when the father of the groom at a medieval-themed wedding ceremony is poisoned to death.

Berenson, Laurien. [Jingle Bell Bark](#) (\$7.99) Melanie Travis #11
Melanie, with a little help from her obstinate Aunt Peg, must sort through a list of suspects to find out who has been naughty and who has been nice when her son's bus driver, Henry Pruitt, is found dead.

Blake, Heather. [Ghost of a Potion](#) (NAL \$7.99) Magic Potion #3
When her boyfriend's mother is accused of killing architect Haywood Dodd during a costume ball, shop owner Carly Beth Hartwell uses her special skills of deduction to find the real murderer.

Childs, Laura. [Gossamer Ghost](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Scrapbooking #12

After discovering a body at a neighboring antiques shop, scrapbooker Carmela Bertrand uncovers links between the murder victim and the theft of a priceless death mask.

Connolly, Sheila. [Gala Event](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Orchard #9

Orchard owner Meg Corey temporarily puts aside picking out her wedding dress to help ex-con Aaron Eastman, who has come back to Granford, find the answers to who really was responsible for the tragic fire that sent him to jail twenty-five years ago.

Cox Bryan, Moll. [Scrapbook of the Dead](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Scrapbooking Club #5

Reporter Annie Chamovitz investigates when two sisters, both of whom are found clutching pages from a scrapbook, are murdered.

Evanovich, Jane. [Job](#) (\$8.99) Fox and O'Hare #3

It doesn't matter that FBI agent Kate O'Hare despises con man Nicholas Fox. O'Hare's bosses insist that she must work with him again to catch a Columbian drug lord.

Fluke, Joanne. [Plum Pudding Murder](#) (\$7.99) Hannah Swensen #12

It is the busiest time of the year for bakery owner Hannah Swensen, but she must stop everything in order to sift through a list of suspects to discover who killed the owner of the Crazy Elf Christmas Tree Lot.

Hollon, Cheryl. [Pane and Suffering](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Webb's Glass Shop #1

When her father and his trusted assistant are found dead, Savannah Webb, a stained glass artist, must piece together the clues to the crime in order to save her family's glass shop.

Holmes, Juliann. [Just Killing Time](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Clock Shop #1

After her grandfather is found dead in his clock shop, expert clockmaker Ruth Clagan must try to turn back the hands of time to catch a crafty killer.

James, Miranda. [Dead with the Wind](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Southern Ladies #2

Sisters Angel and Dickce Ducote find themselves faced with a wealth of suspects among the wedding guests when a murderer robs a bride-to-be of her happily ever after.

Johansen, Iris. [Your Next Breath](#) (\$7.99) Catherine Ling #4

CIA operative Catherine Ling uses her professional skills to confront an enemy from her past, who is killing everyone Catherine loves.

Kellerman, Faye. [Moon Music](#) (\$9.99) Reissue

Detective Sergeant Romulus Poe of the Las Vegas police department must sort through the city's unglamorous past, as well as Native American legends and twentieth-century science, to find the killer of a beautiful showgirl.

Kelly, Diane. [Death, Taxes, and a Chocolate Cannoli](#) (St Martins \$7.99) Tara Holloway #9

IRS Special Agent Tara Holloway goes undercover as a waitress in order to catch local crime boss Giustino “Tino” Farbrizio extorting payments from his “customers.”

Kelly, Sofie. [Faux Paw](#) (NAL \$7.99) Magical Cats #7

After stumbling across the body of a visiting curator, librarian Kathleen Paulson, her detective boyfriend Marcus, and her magical cats (yes, you read that right: magical cats) Owen and Hercules must track down a murderous art thief.

Lavene, Joyce a. [Looking for Mr. Good Witch](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Retired Witches #2

Retired witches Milly and Elsie, with a little help from a mermaid, try to keep coven hopeful Brian Fuller out of the clutches of a murderous sea witch.

London, Colette. [Dangerously Dark](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Chocolate Whisperer #1

When her friend’s fiancé turns up dead just before the launch of his Chocolate-After-Dark tour, chocolate-whisperer (who knew this was a career option?) Hayden Mundy Moore uses her unique palate to track down the choco-crazed killer. You might need some Hershey’s or Godiva’s chocolates (depending on your budget) on hand while reading this.

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

Self-made millionaire businessman Andrew Trevayne jeopardizes both himself and his family when he agrees to uncover the secret power group that controls the US government (suddenly, those magical cats mentioned above don’t sound quite so silly, do they?)

McBride, Susan. [Say Yes to the Death](#) (Harper \$7.99) Debutant Dropout #5

Debutante dropout Andrea Kendricks investigates when an old prep-school bully is found dead at a wedding she planned.

Myers, Ann. [Bread of the Dead](#) (Morrow \$7.99) Santa Café #1

Life couldn’t be sweeter for Tres Amigas Café chef Rita Lafitte, who is busy preparing for Santa Fe’s Day of the Dead bread-baking contest, until her landlord Victor is found murdered next door.

Peikoff, Kira. [Die Again Tomorrow](#) (Kensington \$9.99)

Isabel Leon, the star of a survival reality show, thinks she can endure anything. But when she unwittingly gives an unscrupulous mogul a chance to profit from her murder, she becomes the target of a terrifying killer.

Perry, Leigh. [Skeleton Haunts a House](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Family Skeleton #3

On Halloween, Sid, a living skeleton, finds his night of being able to freely mix with humans spoiled by the discovery of a dead body at the local haunted house.

Plame, Valerie. [Burned](#) (\$9.99) Covert Operative #2

After believing that a nuclear arms dealer whom she has pursued throughout her career is behind a series of terrorist incidents, cover CIA ops officer Vanessa Pierson is shocked when she is contacted by her target, who claims a government insider is actually responsible.

Rotenberg, Robert. [Stray Bullets](#) (Tor \$9.99)

On a snowy evening in Toronto outside a downtown doughnut shop, gunshots ring out and a young boy is critically wounded. Now the legal clock is ticking as Detective Ari Greene must find real shooter while defense counsel Nancy Parish finds herself defending her oldest and most difficult client.

Truman, Margaret. [Murder in the White House](#) (\$7.99) Capitol Crimes #1 Reissue

White House counsel Ron Fairbanks is ordered by his boss to investigate when womanizing Secretary of State Lansard Blaine is found strangled in the Lincoln Bedroom.

Truman, Margaret. [Murder on Capitol Hill](#) (\$7.99) Capitol Crimes #2 Reissue

Attorney Lydia James thinks there may be a connection between the murder of Senator Cale Caldwell at a champagne reception and the murder of his niece two years earlier.

Washburn, Livia. [Trick or Deadly Treat](#) (NAL \$7.99) Fresh-Baked #9

Phyllis Newsom and her friend Carolyn are positive the police are barking up the wrong tree when they arrest veterinarian Hank Baxter for the murder of his wife.

Wilson, F Paul. [Fear City](#) (\$9.99)

In this conclusion to the three-part prequel arc that began with *Cold City* and *Dark City*, a violent plot in 1993 New York cements the emergence of Jack’s alter ego Repairman Jack.

HISTORY/MYSTERY

✦Ackroyd, Peter. [Rebellion: The History of England from James I to the Glorious Revolution](#) (\$18.99). #3 in the incredibly prolific Ackroyd’s History of England Series.

Bowman, Erin. [Vengeance Road](#) (Houghton \$17.99). Western Action/Adventure for ages 14+. In a tale set in 1877 and inspired by the legend of the Lost Dutchman, Kate Thompson sets out on a quest for revenge after her father is strung up by outlaws; disguised as a man, she gets caught up in two brothers’ hunt for gold in the Superstition Mountains of the Arizona Territory. Bowman (the Taken series) crafts an unflinchingly bloody tale of the Wild West, with flesh-and-bone characters she doesn’t hesitate to obliterate with a bullet. Each plot twist—and there are many—is purposeful, driving Kate toward her goal while allowing her to grow, alternately showing a steely nerve and a compassionate side. In Jesse, Kate finds a perfect foil, and their friendship, marred by lies and betrayal, is the stuff of reality rather than folk legend. Kate’s narration, peppered with phrases like “I says” and “it weren’t,” is initially jarring, but the driving force of her story quickly vanquishes any stumbling over her diction. Kate’s pursuit of the murderous Rose Riders, intertwined with gold-rush greed driving men to madness, is a lively tale.

✦Bracewell, Patricia. [The Price of Blood](#) (\$17). An exciting new chapter in Bracewell’s series about Emma of Normandy, married reluctantly to King Aethelred, mother of a son, in love with another... and with much more of her incredible career to go.... Think a 1006 Game of Thrones with a Danish player in the wings called Canute. [Shadow on the Crown](#) (\$16) begins the saga.

Broers, Michael. [Napoleon: Soldier of Destiny](#) (Pantheon \$35). With 2015 as the 200th anniversary of Waterloo, books about the main players, and minor, continue to publish.

Brooks, Geraldine. [The Secret Chord](#) (Viking \$27.95). “Brooks takes on one of literature’s richest and most enigmatic figures: a man who shimmers between history and legend. Peeling away the myth to bring David to life in Second Iron Age Israel, Brooks traces the arc of his journey from obscurity to fame, from shepherd to soldier, from hero to traitor, from beloved king to murderous despot and into his remorseful and diminished dotage. *The Secret Chord* provides new context for some of the best-known episodes of David’s life while also focusing on others, even more remarkable and emotionally intense, which have been neglected. . . . Brooks has an uncanny ability to hear and transform characters from history.”—*PW*. The October Indie Next Pick adds, “The Old Testament includes tantalizing references to a prophet called Natan. Brooks brings this mysterious figure to life as the confidante to and narrator of King David’s life. From David’s beginning as an unknown, fearless rebel fighter through his rise to ruling the Kingdom of Israel, the people, places, and politics of ancient times are brought to life. David is a complex and compelling character who jumps off the page, and Natan is his conscience and conduit to their God. Brooks once again proves herself a master of meticulously researched and vividly imagined historical fiction.

Bull, Andy. [Speed Kings: The 1932 Winter Olympics](#) (Gotham \$26.95). Just as British publishers keep harking back to the glorious days of Roman Britain or Empire, so Americans are mining sports heroes of legend: here a team called the fastest men in the world.

Butler, Robert. [The Empire of Night](#) (\$16). It is 1915, and President Woodrow Wilson is still assessing the war’s threat to the United States. There is a mole in the British government, and Christopher Marlowe Cobb’s intelligence handlers send him to a castle on the Kentish coast to investigate a key suspect, Sir Albert Stockman. Working deep undercover, Cobb must also contend with an unusual sidekick—his own mother, the beautiful and mercurial Isabel Cobb. A famous stage actress, she is starring in a touring production of *Hamlet* and has been recruited to simultaneously keep tabs on Stockman, who happens to be an ardent fan. As the trio leaves the relative safety of Britain and heads into the lion’s den of Berlin, Kit must unravel Stockman’s secret agenda, and remain in character even under the very nose of the Kaiser. 3rd in the Cobb series.

✦Clark, Clare. [We That Are Left](#) (Houghton \$28). A novel of the First World War. See British Books.

Cooney, Kara. [The Woman Who Would Be King](#) (\$16). Hatshepsut successfully negotiated a path from the royal nursery to the very pinnacle of authority, and her reign saw one of Ancient Egypt’s most prolific building periods. Scholars have long speculated as to why her monuments were destroyed within a few decades of her death, all but erasing evidence of her unprecedented rule. Constructing a rich narrative history using the artifacts that remain, noted Egyptologist Kara Cooney offers a remarkable interpretation of how Hatshepsut rapidly but methodically consolidated power—and why she fell from public favor just as quickly. I have always found her a fascinating figure. . . . whoever she was and however her life went.

✦Cornwell, Bernard. [Warriors of the Storm Signed](#) (Collins \$46). Note: Cornwell’s books always arrive late. A fragile peace reigns in Wessex, Mercia and East Anglia. King Alfred’s son

Edward and formidable daughter, Æthelflaed, rule the kingdoms. But all around the restless Northmen, eyeing the rich lands and wealthy churches, are mounting raids. Uhtred of Bebbanburg, the kingdom’s greatest warrior, controls northern Mercia from the strongly fortified city of Chester. But forces are rising up against him. Northmen allied to the Irish, led by the fierce warrior Ragnall Ivarson, are soon joined by the Northumbrians, and their strength could prove overwhelming. Despite the gathering threat, both Edward and Æthelflaed are reluctant to move out of the safety of their fortifications. But with Uhtred’s own daughter married to Ivarson’s brother, who can be trusted? In the struggle between family and loyalty, between personal ambition and political commitment, there will be no easy path. 9th in series.

Cullen, Lynn. [Twain’s End](#) (SimonSchuster \$26). I can understand a wish to dig into anomalies in the life of an icon such as Mark Twain. But I advise you to be wary of reading this novel based upon his relationship to his late-life private secretary Isabel V. Lyon and the scandals that ensue. It will alter your view of Clemens/Twain in an unpleasant way. It’s 1909 when the novel opens and it closes in 1910 soon after Twain’s death. The question Cullen asks is, what happened to rouse such ire in Twain towards Isabel, one that prompted him to pen a 429-page diatribe, to fire her and her new husband, to sue her. . . . The story involves Clara Clemons who also comes across badly, Helen Keller and her teacher Anne Sullivan, along with other real characters from history, and is based on Isabel Lyon’s extant diary as well as Twain’s writings and letters. I have to say in the end I was sorry I read this.

✦Doherty, Paul. [The Herald of Hell](#) (Severn \$29.95). May, 1381. The Great Revolt draws nearer. The Upright Men roam the streets of London, waiting for violence to begin. Their mysterious envoy, the Herald of Hell, appears at night, terrifying those who oppose them. But who is he? When his chancery clerk is found hanged in a Southwark brothel, Brother Athelstan is summoned to investigate. Ordered Upon Request.

Felton, Mark. [Zero Night](#) (St Martins \$25.99). On August 30, 1942, “Zero Night,” 40 Allied officers staged the most audacious mass escape of World War II. Months of meticulous planning and secret training hung in the balance during three minutes of mayhem as the officers boldly stormed the huge double fences at Oflag Prison. Employing wooden ladders and bridges previously disguised as bookshelves, the highly coordinated effort succeeded and set 36 men free into the German countryside. Later known as the ‘Warburg Wire Job’, fellow prisoner and fighter ace Douglas Bader once described the attempt as ‘the most brilliant escape conception of this war’. The first author to tackle this remarkable story in detail, historian Mark Felton brilliantly evokes the suspense of the escape and the adventures of those escapees who managed to elude the Germans, as well as the courage of the civilians who risked their lives to help them in enemy territory.

Freeman, Philip. [Sacrifice](#) (Pegasus \$24.95). Someone is killing the nuns of 6th Century Ireland in an island ruled by kings and druids. The grisly discovery of an elderly sister of Saint Brigid’s monastery strangled, bled dry, and thrown into a bog is just the beginning. Soon a beautiful young nun is found decapitated and hung from a barren tree. It doesn’t take long before the members of the struggling monastic community of Kildare realize that not only are the nuns being hunted by a serial killer, but the murderer

is performing the gruesome slayings in the manner of the ancient druid sacrifices. Clearly for readers of Peter Tremayne's Sister Fidelma mysteries as well as Cora Harrison's medieval Irish crimes.

New in paperback: [Saint Brigid's Bones](#) (\$14.95). The nuns of Saint Brigid are fighting to keep their monastery alive. When the bones of Brigid go missing from their church, the theft threatens to destroy all they have worked for. No one knows the danger they face better than Sister Deirdre, a young nun torn between two worlds. Trained as a bard and raised by a druid grandmother, she must draw upon all of her skills, both as a bard and as a nun, to find the bones before the convent begins to lose faith.

Gwynne, SC. [Rebel Yell](#) (\$18). A Finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, the epic bestselling account of how Civil War general Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson became a great and tragic national hero.

Harris, Robert. [The Dictator Signed](#) (Random UK \$45). There was a time when Cicero held Caesar's life in the palm of his hand. But now Caesar is the dominant figure and Cicero's life is in ruins. Exiled, separated from his wife and children, his possessions confiscated, his life constantly in danger, Cicero is tormented by the knowledge that he has sacrificed power for the sake of his principles. His comeback requires wit, skill and courage – and for a brief and glorious period, the legendary orator is once more the supreme senator in Rome. But politics is never static and no statesman, however cunning, can safeguard against the ambition and corruption of others.

Holland, Tom. [Dynasty: The Rise and Fall of the House of Caesar](#) (Knopf \$30). As an interesting pairing with Harris' novel, read Holland's history of the reign of the first five Roman emperors.

Holleman, Emily. [Cleopatra's Shadows](#) (LittleBrown \$27) captures the hostile dynamics between the last generation of the Ptolemaic dynasty as Berenice, elder sister of Cleopatra, leads a coup to oust her hated father as ruler of Hellenistic Egypt. While the more famous Cleopatra makes cameos at the beginning and end of the book, the action centers on Berenice's struggles to establish her rule and preserve her imperiled kingdom, while their youngest sister, Arsinoe, finds her own life in danger from various threats. I mention this as a Ptolemaic prince is part and parcel of Saylor's wonderful *Wrath of the Furies* reviewed in Event Books.

✦Laurence, Janet. [A Fatal Freedom](#) (The History Press \$17.95). London 1903. Needing to earn her living, Ursula Grandison teams up with old friend and private investigator Thomas Jackman, who soon finds himself drawing on Ursula's investigative abilities as they battle to save an innocent woman from the noose. Set against a background of Edwardian constraints and the fight for women's suffrage.... The supply for this title is limited so don't delay.

Mayer, Eric. [Murder in Megara Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Having worked through 10 rounds of the ancient "One for Sorrow, Two for Joy" verse, John, the Lord Chamberlain to Byzantium's Emperor Justinian, goes into exile back to his family's old estate in Megara, Greece. He and his family expect to lead the lives of farmers, looking over their shoulders for any of Justinian's agents as that volatile ruler might send one to snuff them out or haul them back. But what they find is that their overseer has been systematically cheating them, the neighbors

are not only surly but probably up to something, his boyhood friends may be, too, and the City Defender is suspicious. This official is the more so when John's despised stepfather who has reappeared and asked for money, is found stabbed in an outlying building on the estate. I like the way this whole "country house murder" shakes the series up, placing John in a powerless position in an unfamiliar setting, with baggage from his old life to boot. Also in paperback: [Murder in Megara](#) (\$15.95), which is our **October History Paperback Pick**. Read the whole delightful series from *One for Sorrow* on... [Click here](#) to order.

Moorehead, Caroline. [Village of Secrets](#) (\$16.99). During the Nazi occupation, the inhabitants of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon saved over 3,500 people from the concentration camps. There were no informers, no denunciations, and no one broke ranks. Together, the villagers held their silence, and kept persecuted people—resisters, freemasons, communists, downed allied airmen and above all Jews, many of them children and babies—from danger. During raids, the children would hide in the woods, their packs on their backs, waiting to hear the farmers' song which told them it was safe to return. Just why and how Le Chambon and its outlying parishes came to save so many people has never been fully told. But several of the remarkable architects of the mission are still alive, as are a number of those they saved. Caroline Moorehead travelled across the world to interview these people, and searched archives that few have seen, to bring us the unforgettable testimonies of many of those involved. That some Frenchmen were anti-Semitic and actively participated in Nazi persecutions is known; Moorehead, like Kristin Hannah whose novel *The Nightingale*, remains a bestseller, reminds us that some communities actively resisted.

Seton, Anya. [Foxfire](#) (\$14.95). Amanda Lawrence, a charming, sheltered New York socialite, falls in love with Jonathan Dartland, a part-Apache mining engineer who belongs to the vastness of the Arizona desert. Amanda responds to his strength and self-reliance, but has nothing and nobody to guide her when she follows him to the grim town of Lodestone. A reissue.

Severin, Tim. [Book of Dreams](#) (Pan \$14.95). Frankia 780AD: Sigwulf, a minor Saxon prince, is saved from execution after his family is slaughtered by the ruthless King Offa of Mercia. Sigwulf is exiled to the Frankish court of King Carolus, the future Charlemagne. He gains the friendship of some—Count Hroudland, Carolus's powerful and ambitious nephew but—mysteriously—several attempts are made on Sigwulf's life. When he obtains a Book of Dreams, a rare text giving understanding to their meaning, he attracts the attention of Carolus himself. But the Book proves to be a slippery guide in a world of treachery and double dealing. Sent into Spain to spy on the Saracens, Sigwulf becomes caught between loyalties.... Saxon Series #1

✦Shapiro, James. [Year of Lear: Shakespeare in 1606](#) (Simon-Schuster \$30). Preeminent Shakespeare scholar James Shapiro shows how the tumultuous events in England in 1606 affected Shakespeare and shaped the three great tragedies he wrote that year—*King Lear*, *Macbeth*, and *Antony and Cleopatra*)

Smith, Wilbur. [Golden Lion](#) (Morrow \$28.99). A new chapter in Smith's long-running Courtney Novels set in his native Southern Africa—he's Rhodesian, now Zambia. Henry Courtney saw his father executed in battle. He spent his youth avenging that death. And now Hal is a man with a ship – and a family – of his own.

But fate has not finished with Hal. On a voyage along the eastern shore of Africa, a powerful enemy abducts his wife, the fearless warrior Judith... and with her, Hal's unborn child. For Hal, a man all too familiar with loss, there is only one way forward: He must track his nemesis across desert and ocean, through the slave markets of Zanzibar and the dangerous waters of the coast, in pursuit of the woman he loves, the child he sired, and destiny....

Stewart, David. [The Wilson Deception](#) (Kensington \$25). President Woodrow Wilson's arrival in Paris in December 1918 unites the city in ecstatic celebration. Major Jamie Fraser, an army physician who has spent ten months tending American soldiers, is among the crowd that throngs the Place de la Concorde for Wilson's visit. As an expert on the Spanish influenza, Fraser is also called in to advise the president's own doctor on how best to avoid the deadly disease. Despite his robust appearance, Wilson is frailer than the public realizes. And at this pivotal moment in history, with the Allied victors gathering to forge a peace treaty, the president's health could decide the fate of nations. While Fraser tries to determine the truth about Wilson's maladies, he encounters a man he has not seen for twenty years. Speed Cook—ex-professional ball player and advocate for Negro rights—is desperate to save his son Joshua, an army sergeant wrongly accused of desertion. Pledging to help Cook, Fraser approaches Allen Dulles, a charming American spy who is also Wilson's close aide. Soon Cook and Fraser's personal quest will dovetail with the dramatic events unfolding throughout Paris, as French premier Georges Clemenceau narrowly survives an assassination attempt and peace negotiations begin to unravel. OK, that's the novel. Stewart's style is less that of a novelist than an historian so read this for his account of this decisive period, the legacy of which we are dealing with still.

Taylor, Andrew. [The Silent Boy](#) (Harper \$26.99). "Covered in blood, 11-year-old Charles, mute from the horror he has just witnessed, stumbles through the streets of 1792 Paris in the grips of revolution. No longer safe in France, Charles is sent to a country estate in England with other exiled aristocrats. Edward Savill, the estranged husband of Charles's mother, is dispatched to collect him from the estate and deliver him into the care of his great uncle. When Charles is kidnapped, Savill, unsure whom to trust in a complicated web of spies and betrayals, must find the boy before he is discovered by those who want him dead. This second novel starring Savill delves into the complicated world of English and French espionage during the French Revolution."—LJ

Tillman, Barrett. [The Forgotten Fifteenth](#) (\$18.99). From November, 1943, to May, 1945, the US Air Force waged an unprecedented and decisive—and violent—campaign on the Reich's southern flank with its vital oil and industrial production. The story of the Fifteenth Air Force is less well known than that of the Eighth... but no longer. An excellent, and engrossing, book.

Vowell, Sarah. [Lafayette in the Somewhat United States](#) (Riverhead \$27.95). An unconventional account of George Washington's trusted officer and friend, that swashbuckling teenage French aristocrat the Marquis de Lafayette, both as part of the Revolution and in 1824 as a returning hero and last standing general of the Continental Army. Over three quarters of New Yorkers turned out to greet him. Bickering, infighting, contentious politics do not swamp friendship and ideals.

And, unusual portraits of two cities:

MacLean, Rory. [Berlin: Portrait of a City Through the Centuries](#) (\$18). "The admiration and love travel writer and filmmaker MacLean (*Stalin's Nose*) has for Berlin is evident throughout this history of the city, which begins in the 17th century. His careful arrangement of detail and far-reaching scope make for a perfect description of one of Europe's most enigmatic and controversial cities. When Berlin was just a small town, isolated from the busier marketplaces in what is now Germany, it was a city "incapable of tenderness," one that "only ran fiery hot or bitter cold." As he moves through the years, depicting the horrors of the Thirty Years' War and the establishment of the Prussian state, the narrative's tempo picks up. MacLean visits new eras in each successive chapter (assigning all of them with a theme and representative figure), engulfing readers in the atmosphere of the city and the lives of Berliners both ordinary and noteworthy. It's when he explores the minds of Berlin's modern masters—particularly Marlene Dietrich and David Bowie, with whom the author made films—that MacLean reveals his prowess as a storyteller, flawlessly weaving together history, facts, and folklore. Moreover, MacLean's treatment of Berlin under The Third Reich and during the Cold War perfectly reflects the tension of the city's own attempts at remembrance. Photos."—PW Starred Review. I am taking this along to read on our visit to Berlin after October's Frankfurt Book Fair.

Sante, Luc. [The Other Paris](#) (Farrar \$28). This vivid and thorough compendium describes the history of the Paris neighborhoods historically occupied by the poor, the dirty, and other undesirable. Focusing primarily on the 19th and 20th centuries, Sante zigzags through the arrondissements, touring the history of the hospitals, bordellos, cafes, and drinking establishments of the poor.