

# BOOKNEWS from

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## A SPECTACULAR SEPTEMBER...

**AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...**

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

### **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5 2:00 PM**

**Eileen Brady** signs [Unleashed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95; \$15.95)

Vet Kate Turner #2

### **MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7 Double the Labor Day Fun**

**Store Hours: Noon to 7:00 PM**

**4:00 PM Our new Romance Readers organizational meeting  
And at 5:00 PM**

**Deanna Raybourn** signs [A Curious Beginning](#) (NAL \$25.95)

Starts a Victorian series

**Lauren Willig** signs [The Other Daughter](#) (St Martins \$25.99)

British suspense; and [The Lure of the Moonflower](#) (NAL \$16) the story of the Pink Carnation herself

### **TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8 7:00 PM Butch Cassidy Treasure**

**Margaret Coel** signs [The Man Who Fell from the Sky](#) (Berkley \$27)

### **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9 7:00 PM Debut**

**William S. Kirby** signs [Vienna](#) (Forge \$27) First Mystery Club Pick

### **THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10 7:00 PM**

**Reed Farrel Coleman** signs [Robert B Parker's The Devil Wins](#)

(Putnam \$27) Jesse Stone

**Hester Young** signs [The Gates of Evangeline](#) (Putnam \$26.95) A

Southern Gothic & First Mystery Club Pick

### **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12 10:30 MA**

**Coffee and Crime** discusses Agatha Christie's Miss Marple—your choice of books. I've always loved her first the best; [Murder at the Vicarage](#) (\$12.99).

### **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12 2:00 PM A Cupcake Cozy**

**Mary Anna Evans** signs [Isolation](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95;

\$15.95) Faye Longchamp

**Jenn McKinlay** signs [All Sales Final](#) (Berkley \$7.99) 5th Good

Buy Girls, writing as Josie Belle

### **TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15 7:00 PM Book Launch Party**

**Cake! Champagne! Cool Giveaways!**

**Todd Moss** signs [Minute Zero](#) (Putnam \$27) Judd Ryker #2

### **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16 7:00 PM Victorian Mystery**

**Anne Perry** signs [Corridors of the Night](#) (Ballantine \$27)

William and Hester Monk

### **THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17 7:00 PM A Pair of Sleuths**

**JA Jance** signs [Dance of the Bones](#) (Harper \$26.99) JP

Beaumont and Brandon Walker

### **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19 10:30 AM**

**Croak & Dagger** discusses Christopher Fowler's [A Full Dark House](#) (\$15) First case for London's Peculiar Crimes Unit

### **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19 2:00 PM Party Like It's 1886—or 2015**

**Charles Belfoure** signs [House of Thieves](#) (Sourcebooks \$25.99)  
Sept. History Pick

**Mark Pryor** signs [The Hollow Man](#) (Seventh Street Books  
\$15.95) and the 6th for bookseller/security agent Hugo Marston,  
[The Reluctant Matador](#) (\$15.95)

### **TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22 7:00 PM Fantastic Fiction!**

Sip Coffee & Beer House, 3617 N Goldwater Scottsdale 85251

**Jane Linskold** signs [Artemis Invaded](#) (Forge \$25.99)

**Victor Milán** signs [The Dinosaur Lords](#) (Forge \$26.99)

**Melinda Snodgrass** signs [The Edge of Dawn](#) (Forge \$27.99)

### **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23 7:00 PM Mysterious China**

**Elsa Hart** signs [Jade Dragon Mountain](#) (St Martins \$25.99) First  
Mystery Club Pick

**Qiu Xiaolong** signs [The Shanghai Redemption](#) (St Martins  
\$25.99) Inspector Chen Cao

### **THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24 7:00 PM**

**Hardboiled Crime** discusses Kamel Daoud, [The Meursault  
Investigation](#) (\$14.95)

### **FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25 7:00 PM Live Music!**

**James Sallis & The Three-Legged Dog Band** play

### **SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26 1:30 PM Assassins & Recipes!**

**1:30 PM Gayle Lynds** signs [The Assassins](#) (St Martins \$27.99)  
Spy thriller

**2:00 PM Diane Mott Davidson** signs [Goldy's Kitchen Cook-  
book](#) (Morrow \$24.99) Memoir/cookbook

### **TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 29 7:00 PM Bruno Returns!**

**Martin Walker** signs [The Patriarch](#) (Knopf \$24.95)

### **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 30 7:00 PM Irish Noir**

**Stuart Neville** signs [Those We Left Behind](#) (Soho \$27.95)

Belfast DCI Serena Flanagan

### **SATURDAY OCTOBER 3 2:00 PM Surprise!**

**Karin Slaughter** signs [Pretty Girls](#) (Morrow \$28) Standalone  
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

## 2015 Anthony Award Nominees

### Best Novel:

Joe Clifford, [Lamentation](#) (\$25.95)  
 Tana French, [The Secret Place](#) (\$17)  
 Laura Lippman, [After I'm Gone](#) (\$14.99)  
 Louise Penny, [The Long Way Home](#) (\$15.99)  
 Hank Phillippi Ryan, [Truth Be Told](#) (\$7.99)

### Best First Novel:

Kristi Belcamino, [Blessed Are the Dead](#) (\$11.99)  
 M. P. Cooley, [Ice Shear](#) (\$14.99)  
 Julia Dahl, [Invisible City](#) (\$15.99)  
 Allen Eskens, [The Life We Bury](#) (\$15.95)  
 Lori Rader-Day, [The Black Hour](#) (\$15.99)

### Best Paperback Original:

Alison Gaylin, [Stay with Me](#) (\$5.99)  
 Alex Marwood, [The Killer Next Door](#) (\$16)  
 Catriona McPherson, [The Day She Died](#) (\$14.99)  
 Ben H. Winters, [World of Trouble](#) (\$14.95)  
 James W. Ziskin, [No Stone Unturned](#) (\$15.95)

## EVENT BOOKS

Belfoure, Charles. [House of Thieves](#) (Sourcebooks \$25.99 Sept. 19). The Sept. Indie Next Pick for a **History Club Pick**: “The Cross family has it all. Born into the wealthy class in the 1880s and related to the Astors of New York City, their lives are envied. John, the patriarch, is a highly regarded architect; his wife, Helen, a beauty; and his children, George, Julia, and Charlie, each accomplished. But all is not as it seems. George has a gambling problem, and his inability to control himself causes criminals to threaten his family for repayment. Belfoure weaves a fascinating story that reveals the descent of this family into the underworld of crime. The endeavor to save George and the drama that ensues not only captivates the Cross family, but the reader as well. Belfoure is the author of bestseller [The Paris Architect](#) (\$14.99)—he really is an architect as well as author. Librarians pick this as a Top Ten Read for Sept.: “Belfoure’s intriguing novel is set in Gilded Age New York City. John Cross, head of the family, finds an unexpected talent for planning robberies, while his wife and children also discover their inner criminals. The historical details and setting evoke old New York. I enjoyed every minute of their escapades.”

Brady, Eileen. [Unleashed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 Sept. 5). Here’s an amusing mix of murder and medicine. “In Brady’s amusing, well-plotted second Kate Turner mystery, the Oak Falls, N.Y., veterinarian gets investigates the death of Claire Birnham, whose Cairn terrier was treated at the local veterinary hospital. Claire appears to have committed suicide, but it begins to look like a case of foul play after various pet owners reveal details about the woman’s life. When Kate’s brain-damaged assistant, Eugene Spragg, is arrested for Claire’s murder, Kate sifts through a number of suspects, including Claire’s alcoholic mother, Beverly; Beverly’s abusive boyfriend, Buzz; Gilda Tremont, the owner of the art gallery where Birnham worked; up-and-coming artist Andrei Roshenkov; and Claire’s rocker ex-boyfriend, A.J. Janssen. Meanwhile, Turner treats a pot-bellied pig and a smelly cocker spaniel, besides getting chased by a flock of geese. Readers will eagerly look forward to Kate’s further adventures.”—*PW*. Follows [Muzzled](#) (\$24.95; \$14.95).

Cha, Steph. [Dead Soon Enough](#) (St Martins \$26.99 Oct. 4). “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 LA PI Juniper 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 Korean Song is growing into her job and her skin! Click here for Song’s two earlier cases.

Coel, Margaret. [The Man Who Fell from the Sky](#) (Berkley \$26.95 Sept. 8). Coel writes, “Father John O’Malley and Vicky Holden are back! And this time out, they find themselves involved in a murder with links to none other than Butch Cassidy. Yes, we know from history that the outlaw had ties to the Wind River area. During one of his attempts to go straight, he ranched just north of the reservation. Arapahos and Shoshones and everyone else in the area got to know him. And they liked him. But that going straight thing never worked out very well for Butch, and soon he was back to robbing banks and trains. But he could always hide out with his Wind River friends. No one would give him up. Today, people in the area still refer to Butch as “the good bad guy.” It’s all there in *The Man Who Fell from the Sky*. The people, the places and the rumors of buried treasure that Butch left behind. Which link a present-day murder to murder in the past, and challenge Father John and Vicky to bring a killer to justice before the killer can strike again. And to put the past to rest.” [Click here](#) for the earlier Coels in print.

Belle, Josie. [All Sales Final](#) (Berkley \$7.99). There’s something 100% off about Maggie and her fiancé Sam’s new dream home in the historic section of St. Stanley. The lights flicker, the doors blow shut, and their cat, Marshall Dillon, hisses at empty space. And there’s something in the basement that’s definitely not a bargain. When Maggie discovers a skeleton in the root cellar, she’s convinced her house is haunted by a murdered man’s ghost. With the help of her Good Buy Girls, she digs into the history of her new digs. This final entry, 5th in the Good Buy Girls Series, come with bargain hunting tips. Belle, alter ego of Jenn McKinlay, will be focusing on her cupcake, hat shop, and library cozy series. [Click here](#) to order the earlier Belles.

Coleman, Reed Farrel. [Robert B Parker’s The Devil Wins](#) (Putnam \$27 Sept. 10). Parker’s flawed Jesse Stone, now the police chief of Paradise, Mass., is still having trouble separating from his ex, connecting with people emotionally, and dealing with guilt over a subordinate’s near-fatal shooting. Therapy sessions help somewhat, but Jesse’s job is on the line after the discovery of three corpses. A man’s body is recent, but the other two are the skeletal remains of Mary Kate O’Hara and Virginia Connolly, two 16-year-olds who vanished about 25 years earlier.

The dead girls were close friends of Jesse's number two, police officer Molly Crane, whose personal connection to the case complicates matters. Paradise's political leaders are dismayed at the bad press the murders bring to the town, and Jesse's given a tight deadline to clear everything up.

Davidson, Diane Mott. [Goldy's Kitchen Cookbook](#) (Morrow \$24.99 Sept. 26). This generous book is packed with over 160 recipes plus charming anecdotes about Davidson's writing and cooking life—thus part memoir, part manual, and part cookbook. This is a real treat and an excellent gift idea.

Evans, Mary Anna. [Isolation](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 Sept. 12). Evans's meaty ninth mystery set on Florida's Gulf coast... skillfully uses excerpts from the fictional oral history of Cally Stanton, recorded by the Federal Writers' Project in 1935, to dramatize the past. Archaeologist Faye Longchamp-Mantooth has dug herself a deep hole and she can't make her way out of it. As she struggles to recover from a shattering personal loss, she sees that everyone she loves is trying to reach out to her. If only she could reach back. Instead she's out digging holes all over her home, the Florida island of Joyeuse. Gradually we find out why, but it takes the murder of a close friend at the local marina, the first of crimes against women which rock Micco County, to propel both the action and Faye's journey back to life forward. *Isolation* is the perfect title for Evans' 9th mystery as it fits people and events in multiple ways. The past, the Civil War, propels the story, which we learn through documents. Maybe fifty years ago I read a bestseller turning on the same plot point. You can discover what it is by reading this "satisfying tale of greed and passion." —*Kirkus*. [Click here](#) to order the earlier, award-winning Faye Longchamp mysteries.

Hart, Elsa. [Jade Dragon Mountain](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Sept. 23). This elegantly written and conceived debut may be set in 18th Century China, but its elements hold true today: an emperor (Qing) trying to consolidate power after his family upends the old (Ming) dynasty and using cutting edge technology to do it; scapegoating Tibetans; European powers (The East India Company) pushing to expand trading interests; killer rivalries among foreign factions (Jesuits and Dominicans as well as the English, Portuguese, Indians); an excited populace in the emperor's host city; its chief magistrate trying not to rock the boat to preserve his own advancement; his ambitious yet unwed consort securing her future. And into this comes the magistrate's cousin, exiled imperial librarian Li Du, a man with no taste for politics but too curious to let the murder of an elderly Jesuit slide (the poison, aptly, comes from the magistrate's library). As all tea-rich Dayan prepares for the festival honoring the emperor and the eclipse of the sun he foretells, Li Du, tripping over suspects and clues, refuses to back down as Hart builds to her startling conclusion

Jance, JA. [Dance of the Bones](#) (Harper \$26.99 Sept. 17). A Boxed and Starred Review! "Bestseller Jance's 51st novel brings together two of her popular series characters—Seattle detective J.P. Beaumont and Arizona sheriff Brandon Walker—in a highly entertaining plot that honors both of these now-retired cops. Grounded in the legends and lore of the Tohono O'odham people, the story also delivers a solid look at the vagaries of justice. In 1970, Walker arrested John Lassiter for the shooting murder of Lassiter's foster father, prospector Amos Warren. Still

in prison after all these years and suffering from MS, Lassiter refuses a plea deal that might release him. Instead, Lassiter wants Walker to find the real killer, using the work Walker does with Last Chance, a volunteer organization of retired law enforcement experts. When a link is found to an unsolved Seattle case, Walker gets in touch with Beaumont. The kidnapping of two boys ratchets up the suspense. Jance satisfies fans of both series with an energetic plot resplendent with believable twists, leaving readers eager for Beaumont and Walker's next outing." Right on, an excellent book. If you have not read Jance's [Hour of the Hunter](#) (\$9.99) which highlights the Tohono O'odham culture—Jance taught on the tribe's reservation for some years—do so before she appears here. Still in stock, her last Ali Reynolds: [Cold Betrayal Signed](#) (Touchstone \$25.99). And don't miss her new JP Beaumont novella, [Stand Down](#) (Harper \$3.99).

Kirby, William S. [Vienna](#) (Forge \$26.99). There are two reasons to love this **September First Mystery Club Pick** (besides the compelling pace and writing). Much of the narrative focuses on and is informed by Vienna, an autistic savant who's adrift in an overwhelming world. Readers of Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* will instantly relish this. Vienna has, in compensation, some remarkable skills. And two, while the plot is befuddling and ultimately embodies a kind of treasure hunt, at heart this is an offbeat love story as A-list model Justine, hottest fashionista on the European stage, engages with the odd English girl and begins to mentor her. Part of the plot includes photographs, no surprise with a super model in the picture. Part involves a set of wooden mannequins. And then there's the murder of Justine's current beau in the bathroom of her hotel room, and the twin scandals of the crime plus the relationship between the women. Justine and Vienna are pursued across Europe by paparazzi, tabloid headlines, and the mystery of Vienna's own shadowy past, which holds the key to everything in a debut inspired by a classic Sherlock Holmes story.

Lynds, Gayle. [The Assassins](#) (St Martins \$27.99 Sept. 26). An outstanding thriller from June will be signed by Lynds who is in Phoenix receiving the Founders Award from the Military Writers Society of America for the book. Former military spy Judd Ryder is walking to his D.C. home when he spots a man coming out of his row house who looks like Ryder and is wearing his clothes. As Ryder slows to follow, the imposter is killed in a hit-and-run that's no accident. Was the man the intended victim, or was it Ryder himself? Soon Ryder learns that the key to the mysterious events of the past and to his double's murder is an infamous Cold War assassin, the Carnivore. Two of the last people to see the Carnivore were Ryder and CIA trainee Eva Blake, and someone is using them to lure him out. From Washington D.C. to Marrakech and Baghdad, the assassins wage a final battle—this time against one another—fighting for their reputations and Saddam Hussein's long-missing billion-dollar fortune. In the end, only one can be left standing.

Moss, Todd. [Minute Zero](#) (Putnam \$27 Sept. 15). Publication day so as ever when this happens we urge you to ask for your book to be dated. Amherst academic Judd Ryker was pitched into the Crisis Reaction Unit in a kind of State Department experiment in [The Golden Hour](#), a 2014 First Mystery Club Pick. His wife Jessica, met in Mali and now mostly a stay-at-home mom, had been an agronomist with expertise in drought-resistant crops before their family move to DC. She encourages him to head to

Africa in response to an emergency building in Zimbabwe where a challenge is being mounted to strongman Robert Mugabe's (disgraceful) presidency. Armed gangs, crackdowns, dirty money pouring in... and reports of highly enriched uranium, too. Interesting revelations emerge, some of them chez Ryker. The action encircles Ethiopia, South Africa, even Thailand, and draws on historical episodes as well as Moss' career as an Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. The title refers to a brief moment of breakdown in a crisis when everything is uncertain and there's just a minute to shape events. An excellent book, timely, and leading the emerging thriller focus on Africa. [The Golden Hour](#) (\$9.99) and Signed Firsts of the debut, [The Golden Hour](#) (\$26.95).

Neville, Stuart. [Those We Left Behind](#) (Soho \$27.95 Sept. 30). "In the world of modern crime fiction, Stuart Neville is a supernova. I buy his books the day they're released because I can't wait to see where he takes me next. And I'm never disappointed." —Dennis Lehane. And here's a Starred *PW* Review: "At the start of this searing, deeply affecting psychological thriller set in Belfast from Edgar-finalist Neville, 19-year-old Ciaran Devine (aka the schoolboy killer) is released from prison after serving seven years for the murder of his foster father, David Rolston. DCI Serena Flanagan always believed that Ciaran, then 12, confessed in order to protect his two-year-older brother, Thomas, who was convicted as an accessory." Thomas is also free and lasers onto a bewildered Ciaran. The story is at heart about the bond between the brothers as both Ciaran's parole officer and David Rolston's biological son play their roles. And it doesn't go where you expect it to. "Neville demonstrates once again that he's a literary force to be reckoned with." Order his earlier novels [here](#).

Perry, Anne. [Corridors of the Night](#) (Ballantine \$27 Sept. 16). Thames River policeman William Monk's wife, Hester, is a skilled nurse tested in battle during the Crimean War. While filling in for a friend on the night shift at an annex to Greenwich Hospital, Hester encounters a terrified six-year-old girl, Maggie, who pleads with Hester to help her gravely ill seven-year-old brother, Charlie. When Hester sees the slight lad, she's shocked by his condition and pessimistic about his chances of survival. Her efforts to rehydrate Charlie buy him some time, but her knowledge that a doctor has been routinely drawing blood from him, Maggie, and their four-year-old brother, Mike, places her liberty and her life in jeopardy. The medical stuff is as scary as the story. We have half a dozen of April's Thomas and Charlotte Pitt: [Blood on the Water](#) (Random \$26).

Pryor, Mark. [The Hollow Man](#) (Seventh Street Books \$15.95 Sept. 19). Here's the review I wrote for Indie Next: A Brit exiled to Texas by his parents and working as a prosecutor, Dominic tries to lead a normal life. Austen's club scene is perfect for him and his hopes of becoming a full-time musician. Alas, too much energy is diverted into careful control because Dominic has to hide who he really is – a sociopath. And as the narrative progresses, a plagiarist, a scammer and a robber, and in time, a killer. But then, what about his commitment to his work in juvenile court where he's been demoted from the prosecutor gig? *PW* gives a Star to, "Dominic, the unreliable narrator of this devilishly clever and suspenseful standalone from Pryor (*The Bookseller* and four other Hugo Marston novels)... A ladies' man and singer-

songwriter who performs in local clubs for the exposure, Dominic also has a gap in his soul ("It's like I'm hollow"). When best friend Gus Cronstedt, an immigration lawyer, presents the idea for a payroll heist, Dominic—now strapped for cash—quickly hijacks the operation. .... As the mishaps escalate for the conspirators, so does the suspense, culminating in a denouement worthy of the neo-noir film classic *The Usual Suspects*." Pryor will also sign his latest Marston, [The Reluctant Matador](#) (\$15.95), set in Barcelona, and order the earlier novels [here](#). A set of the Marstons would make a nice gift; think mostly Paris.

Qiu, Xiaolong. [The Shanghai Redemption](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Sept. 23). Here's a comment from the Starred Review now posted: "Chinese exile Qiu once again movingly and convincingly portrays the plight of an honest cop in a police state, in his ninth novel featuring Insp. Chen Cao. Chen's life and career (he's also a poet) have never been in more jeopardy." Another man might think a rise to the post of director of the Shanghai Legal Reform Committee would be a promotion from the Police Bureau. But Chen, super-attuned to the power politics of China's single party government, knows he's being sidelined. The question is, why? No recent results need punishment, no sins to atone. So it must be something he was about to probe as a cop. And the string being pulled is not only invisible but must have been yanked high up by someone claiming a need for "stability maintenance." In other words, someone wants to avoid embarrassment—or worse. His fear is magnified after an invitation to read at a party celebrating the publication of his translations of TS Eliot (Chen is a poet as well as a policeman) turns out to be a set-up, one where he dodges disaster by pure luck. His narrow escape only intensifies his search to identify what is or will be going on. It's all subtle, and clever. "The suspense is palpable, and Qiu gives readers a chilling vision of life under authoritarian rule." Order Qui's earlier work [here](#).

Raybourn, Deanna. [A Curious Beginning](#) (NAL \$25.95 Sept. 7). London, 1887. As the city prepares to celebrate Queen Victoria's golden jubilee, Veronica Speedwell is marking a milestone of her own. After burying her spinster aunt, the orphaned Veronica is free to resume her world travels in pursuit of scientific inquiry—and the occasional romantic dalliance. As familiar with hunting butterflies as she is fending off admirers, Veronica wields her butterfly net and a sharpened hatpin with equal aplomb, and with her last connection to England now gone, she intends to embark upon the journey of a lifetime. But fate has other plans, as Veronica discovers when she thwarts her own abduction with the help of an enigmatic German baron with ties to her mysterious past. **A History Club Pick.** Most of Raybourn's earlier work is no longer in print.

Sandford, John/Ctein. [Saturn Run](#) (Putnam \$28 Oct. 6). Signed by both. This is publication day so ask for your copy to be dated. "In this thoroughly absorbing first-contact yarn from author Sandford 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. When Sanders Heacock Darlington takes a position at the Caltech Astrophysics Working Group, it's only a way to keep himself occupied until his inheritance comes through. By accident, he's first to observe an alien object decelerating in the solar system. This draws the attention of Crow, security adviser to President Amanda Santeros....

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.

Walker, Martin. [The Patriarch](#) (Knopf \$24.95 Sept. 29). How fortunate we are that distinguished journalist, editor, columnist, and think tank fellow Walker was lured to the Périgord years ago and enthusiastically immersed himself and his family in the lifestyle of the Périgordins and the beauties of the Dordogne which he celebrates in his delicious series wrapped around Benoit Courrèges and the people of St. Denis, where he is chief of police. Bruno serves not just his small town under its astute and wily mayor plus the council; under France’s complicated political, paramilitary, and security structure he also serves the department prefect and an enigmatic brigadier out of Paris. All of which comes into play when the comrade of one of France’s great aviation and war heroes dies in what appears to be a drunken mishap at the Patriarch’s 90th birthday. Bruno’s unease with the scene in time calls up the WWII eastern front and the heroic role of the Normandie-Nieman squadron of French planes and fliers aiding the Soviets; then, skipping decades, the failed coup against Gorbachev and what followed. However the real lure of this 8th *rencontre* with the St. Denis crowd is celebrating its glorious food and wine, its countryside where horses and hunts flourish—and way too many deer for road safety, Bruno’s delightful basset hound Balzac, and his complicated *amours*. We recommend buying a whole set of Brunos, [click here](#), if you have somehow missed them!

Willig, Lauren. [The Other Daughter](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Sept. 7). Deceit. Passion. Revenge! What would you do if you discovered what you thought you knew about yourself and your history was a lie? Willig does a superb job of portraying the pointlessly absurd pranks and parties that the fashionable elite of the 1920s participated in. With their inside jokes and their silly nicknames (Rachel’s half-brother goes by the charming sobriquet of Jinksy), this generation seems unwavering in its frivolity. But Rachel soon finds that more lurks beneath the surface, and there are long-hidden reasons for her estrangement from her father. Is she ready to face the truth, or will she regret her elaborate deception? Readers of other between-the-wars fiction like that of Jacqueline Winspear or Kate Morton are sure to appreciate the charm of *The Other Daughter*.—Jessica Howard. Willig has penned two other time-jump, standalone novels of suspense we highly recommend: [The Ashford Affair](#) (\$15.95) and [That Summer](#) (\$15.99).

[The Lure of the Moonflower](#) (NAL \$16) is the story of Jane Wooliston, the Pink Carnation herself, and with this 12th novel wraps up, for now, this engaging time-jump series that moves from the present to the Napoleonic era and back. Taking original inspiration from Baroness Orczy’s classic spy novel *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, Willig has imagined a network of women

led by Jane who have spied for England. Their adventures in espionage and romance are the hearts of each of the 12 books, as discovered by modern graduate student Eloise Kelly who set off for England to research and finish her dissertation on *The Scarlet Pimpernel* and *The Purple Gentian* and chanced upon a cache of papers in the country house of the maddeningly attractive Colin. Less frothy in tone and in its wintry Portuguese setting where the Royal court is poised to flee the French to Brazil but the mad old queen may not make the boat....

Young, Hester. [The Gates of Evangeline](#) (Putnam \$26.95 Sept. 10). A Sept. Indie Next Pick is also a Librarians’ Top Ten Sept. Read: “Journalist Charlie Cates goes to gloomy, swampy Louisiana to write a book about the disappearance of a young child. Her research uncovers family secrets, lies, and clandestine affairs. This first book in a new series is incredibly suspenseful, with a vivid setting, a supernatural tinge, and an intricate plot that keeps you guessing until the end.” And from reviewer Jen Forbus: “Here is a wonderfully evocative, chilling mystery layered with themes of love, faith and devotion that is sure to haunt readers’ dreams long after they’ve turned the last page.” A **September First Mystery Club Pick**, the first in a trilogy with its heroine, Charlie.

*And our Out of This World Event September 22*

Linkskold, Jane. [Artemis Invaded](#) (Forge \$25.99). Stranded archaeologist Griffin is determined to make his way back to his home world with news of the Artemis discovery. He and his gene-modified native companion, the huntress Adara, and her psyche-linked puma Sand Shadow, set out to find another repository of the ancient technology in the hope that somehow Griffin will be able to contact his orbiting ship. In the midst of this, Adara wrestles with her complex feelings for Griffin—and with the consequences of her and Sand Shadow’s new bond with the planet Artemis. Focused on his own goals, Griffin is unaware that his arrival on Artemis has created unexpected consequences for those he is coming to hold dear. Unwittingly, he has left a trail—and Artemis is about to be invaded.

Milán, Victor. [The Dinosaur Lords](#) (Forge \$26.99). We are plunged into Victor Milán’s splendidly weird world of *The Dinosaur Lords*, a place that for all purposes mirrors 14th century Europe with its dynastic rivalries, religious wars, and byzantine politics... except the weapons of choice are dinosaurs. Where vast armies of dinosaur-mounted knights engage in battle. During the course of one of these epic battles, the enigmatic mercenary Dinosaur Lord Karyl Bogomirsky is defeated through betrayal and left for dead. He wakes, naked, wounded, partially amnesiac—and hunted. And embarks upon a journey that will shake his world.

Snodgrass, Melina. [The Edge of Dawn](#) (Forge \$27.99). Richard Oort is a paladin, a warrior sworn to defend the world from invasion by the horrific Old Ones. After a series of catastrophic defeats, Richard is feeling alone and overwhelmed, but he is still determined to save the world, no matter the cost. In order to get ahead of the mounting signs of cosmic doom, Richard must go undercover in a fundamentalist compound to try and discover more about his enemies plans.

## CRIME SCENE: CHINA (and Japan)

Barker, Susan. [Incarnations](#) (Touchstone \$26). A taxi driver in Beijing receives anonymous letters about his alleged past lives from someone claiming to be his soul mate, but suspects the writer has a dark purpose. The bustle of Beijing during preparations for the 2008 Olympics adds to the increasing sense of claustrophobia as Wang's watcher circles closer and Wang's mind begins to fray. Barker seamlessly integrates the letters and chapters about Wang's more immediate past, including his difficult childhood, a stay in a mental hospital and a love affair he had before meeting Yida, which still haunts him. She writes on an enormous scope, rolling ancient Chinese history and legends in with the Communist Revolution and then juxtaposing them with a narrative set in the modern-day country they created. Despite the multiple jumps through time, Barker never loses her grip on the pacing, ratcheting up the tension. As the letters grow more unsettling, the reader becomes as desperate as Wang to know the writer's identity. Although Wang is certain he has a crazed stalker, the reader must wonder until the end whether the fantasy is the reality, if Wang might not truly carry a reincarnated soul destined to reunite with its mate. Brutal yet seductive, this journey through the darkest parts of the human spirit will leave readers with chills running down their spines." —Jaclyn Fulwood. Watch the book trailer on You Tube [here](#).

Brackmann, Lisa. [Dragon Day](#) (Soho \$25.95). Ellie McEnroe is an Iraq war vet living in Beijing, where she represents the work of cutting-edge Chinese political artists. She has one bum leg, a taste for dumplings and beer, and an evangelical mother and a sweet-tempered rescue mutt for roommates. She also has Chinese Domestic Security on her tail and a dwindling supply of Percocets to get her through her bad days. And she's about to have some bad days. The immensely powerful—and occasionally homicidal—Shanghai billionaire Sidney Cao has asked Ellie to investigate Marsh Brody, his son's suspicious new American business partner. Ellie knows she can't refuse, and is swept into the elite social circles of Sidney's three children. When a waitress is killed at one of their parties, the last thing Ellie wants is to get sucked into a huge scandal involving China's rich and powerful. But Ellie quickly becomes the most convenient suspect and realizes she'll have to find out who really did it. At the core of her Ellie McEnroe trilogy—this is the third and final novel—Brackmann once again shines the spotlight on a major cultural issue: *Dragon Day* explores the class disparity and rampant materialism that have come to dominate the Chinese metropolis.

Brookes, Adam. [Spy Games Signed](#) (Little Brown \$28). We first met British journalist Philip Mangan undercover in China in Brooke's amazing debut spy thriller, [The Night Heron](#) (\$15), a First Mystery Club Pick and 2015 awards nominee, and one of my Top Ten 2014 First Novels. It's a spoiler to say that Mangan eventually escaped his traumatic introduction to the Great Game in China, but how else can I say that he's now keeping his head down, sent far distant from British Intelligence to Ethiopia where he's reporting on local unrest in Addis Ababa. The British Empire may largely have disappeared from red colored territories on a map, but it's still alive in influence and offshore finance. And banging into China which has serious expansionist plans in East Africa. All of Africa, bent on its own sphere of influence. So as one double agent is done to death in China, Mangan is suddenly caught up in events that snake back to Beijing, but have an ac-

tive player right in Addis Ababa. Mangan is over his head again, working to get out alive, while back in London, in LeCarre fashion, all is not straightforward in spy HQ. Thrillers are shifting focus fast to Africa, following real world events.

Curry, Alexandra. [The Courtesan](#) (Dutton \$26.95) A novel based on the woman Jinhua's complicated and surprising life. Unprotected at age seven in 1881 when her mandarin father is summarily executed on the Emperor's orders, she's sold by his first wife to a brothel-keeper, taken as a concubine by an elegant, troubled scholar, and when he is sent to Europe on a diplomatic mission, is not only transformed but finds a "Great Love" in an Austrian nobleman, Count Alfred von Waldsee, and meets the Empress Elizabeth (later assassinated). Joy and tragedy mix and follow her back to China where the Count, British Sir Edmund Backhouse, the Empress Dowager Cixi, Jinhua's husband, and many more endure the Boxer Rebellion and many more changes. One can't help but feel that Arthur Golden's bestseller, [Memoirs of a Geisha](#) (\$15.99), is a model for a tale of friendship, love, sacrifice, temptation, and for some, redemption in a changing world. I think of Lisa See's work also.

Ghosh, Amitav. [Flood of Fire](#) (Farrar \$27). Amitav Ghosh concludes his Ibis trilogy with a panoramic fictional re-creation of the lead-up to the Opium Wars of 1839 to 1842. This richly populated novel teems with characters on both sides of conflicts large and small; like the preceding novels, it's another mesmerizing story that captures rippling costs of human greed and ambition that alter lives and countries in profound and permanent ways. It is 1839 and China has embargoed the trade of opium, yet too much is at stake in the lucrative business and the British Foreign Secretary has ordered the colonial government in India to assemble an expeditionary force for an attack to reinstate the trade. Among those consigned is Kesri Singh, a soldier in the army of the East India Company. He makes his way eastward on the Hind, a transport ship that will carry him from Bengal to Hong Kong. This final novel in the Ibis trilogy follows 2008's *Sea of Poppies* and 2011's *River of Smoke*.

Hart, Elsa. [Jade Dragon Mountain Signed](#) (St Martins \$25.99) The Sept. Indie Next Pick for our First Mystery Club Pick: "Full of mythological, cultural, and historical details, *Jade Dragon Mountain* also offers a fascinating analysis of the period when foreign businessmen began coveting China's riches, in particular its tea. The plot is tight, the characters and suspects are fully developed, and the story keeps readers guessing with a few extra surprises at the end." See Event Books.

Qiu, Xiaolong. [The Shanghai Redemption Signed](#) (St Martins \$25.99). It's hard to believe that Qiu cannot just keep up but raise the level of the Inspector Chen Cao series since his first entry, [Death of a Red Heroine](#) (\$15.95), a 2000 First Mystery Club Pick, won the Anthony Award for Best First Novel. But so it is as he chronicles the ways that the poetry-loving Shanghai cop who puts free time into translating authors like TS Elliot, combats both crime and the cruelties, deliberate or casual, of Communist Party rule. See Event Books for more.

### *And not to leave out Japan*

Goodfellow, Richard. [Collector of Secrets](#) (Polis Books \$25.95). This is a dense, well-written novel that not only reviews some of WWII's history and creates a treasure hunt, but tours you around Japan. Fascinating. The *PW* Starred Review: "After living in

Tokyo for a year, American Max Travers, the hero of Goodfellow's stellar debut, wants to quit his job teaching English, but Yoko, the unethical and manipulative owner of the language school he works for, refuses to return his passport in a ploy to get him to stay in Japan. When Max breaks into Yoko's office late one night in an attempt to retrieve it, he finds burglars already there ransacking the place. In the chaos that follows, he grabs a satchel that turns out to contain a journal kept by a prince who was Emperor Hirohito's first cousin. It details decades of imperial Japan's plunder of Southeast Asia's most valuable treasures during WWII. Suddenly on the run from the Yakuza mob and the Japanese police, Travers must stay alive long enough to understand the mind-blowing scope of the conspiracies revealed within the diary. Relentlessly paced, meticulously plotted, and richly described, this is a page-turner of the highest order." Our author lives in Vancouver, BC.

And don't miss two looking at the Solomons and Japan's wartime role, both reviewed elsewhere in this *Booknews*: Benn, James R. [White Ghost Signed](#) (Soho \$28); and Cussler, Clive. [The Solomon Curse Signed](#) (Penguin \$28.99).

### CRIME SCENE: CHICAGO

Meno, Joe, ed. [Chicago Noir: The Classics](#) (Akashic \$15.95). In this superior entry in Akashic's noir series, Meno offers nearly a century of Chicago crime fiction, starting with Harry Stephen Keeler's sprightly "30 Seconds of Darkness," originally published in 1916. Hugh Holton's "The Thirteenth Amendment," one of the newer stories out of the 15 included, is a work of satirical science fiction set in the future America of President Newt Gingrich. Familiar bylines abound: Max Allan Collins, Richard Wright, Nelson Algren, Sherwood Anderson, Fredric Brown, Patricia Highsmith (with an excerpt from her novel *The Price of Salt*), Stewart M. Kaminsky, Sara Paretsky. Others may be less familiar to mystery specialists, but all turn in impressive performances. If one selection rises above the anthology's consistently high level, it would be Kaminsky's "Blue Note," a high-tension tale that merges a love for the blues with the psychology of high-stakes poker, a character study, and a surprising ending.

### COLORING SCENE: CITIES AND MORE

I loved coloring books as a kid. I'm so pleased with a new trend of creating them for adults. Here are 3 we have and one on sale October 27. Treat yourself or buy as gifts.

De Las Cases, Z. [Secret Paris: Color Your Way](#) (LittleBrown \$16). Get out your pens and discover Paris. Stroll the picturesque streets, cross the Seine, and live like the French do, in a world of bistros, flea markets, and opulent architecture. Feel the stress melt away as your inner artist comes alive.

Gabalton, Diana. [Diana Gabalton's Outlander Coloring Book](#) (Random \$15.95 Signed and on sale October 21). No inscriptions or greeting for this book, just her signature. The figures will not look like the TV actors; you can create your own looks.

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

McDonald, Steve. [Fantastic Cities: Amazing Placed Real or Imagined](#) (Chronicle \$14.95). Immersive aerial views of real cities with some "architectural mandalas." Steve's process includes observing, sketching on-site, and taking photos for reference in the studio, as well as working from many noted photographers' material. He lays down initial groundwork lines in pencil or on a tablet and then gets busy with the details. Although he works in many media, including acrylics, watercolors, and colored dyes, his favorite is simple pen and ink.

### BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSICS

Farjeon, J. Jefferson [Thirteen Guests](#) (\$12.95). On a fine autumn weekend, Lord Aveling hosts a hunting party at his country house, Bragley Court. Among the guests are an actress, a journalist, an artist, and a mystery novelist. The unlucky thirteenth is John Foss, injured at the local train station and brought to the house to recuperate – but John is nursing a secret of his own. Soon events take a sinister turn when a painting is mutilated, a dog stabbed, and a man strangled. Death strikes more than one of the house guests, and the police are called. Detective Inspector Kendall's skills are tested to the utmost as he tries to uncover the hidden past of everyone at Bragley Court. This country-house mystery is a forgotten classic of 1930s crime fiction by an author whose [Mystery in White. A Christmas Story](#) (\$15) became a surprise and huge 2014 bestseller when the British Library republished it. Londoner Farjeon (1883-1955) won praise from colleagues like Sayers in his day. It's great to have him back.

Farjeon, J. Jefferson. [The Z Murders](#) (\$12.95). It's not often you can read a serial killer book like Christie's ABC Murders. In fact, Farjeon wrote this one six years beforehand. Richard Temperley arrives at Euston station early on a fogbound London morning. He takes refuge in a nearby hotel, along with a disagreeable fellow passenger, who had snored his way through the train journey. But within minutes the other man has snored for the last time – he has been shot dead while sleeping in an armchair. Temperley has a brief encounter with a beautiful young woman, but she flees the scene. When the police arrive, Detective Inspector James discovers a token at the crime scene: "a small piece of enameled metal. Its color was crimson, and it was in the shape of the letter Z." Temperley sets off in pursuit of the mysterious woman from the hotel, and finds himself embroiled in a cross-country chase – by train and taxi – on the tail of a sinister serial killer.

Sprigg, Christopher St. John. [Death of an Airman](#) (\$12.99). I just came across this *Booklist* Starred Review for an August release. "Part of the ongoing effort by the British Library to reissue forgotten but deserving mysteries from the Golden Age of crime fiction, the publication of this novel brings back a crime story first published in 1935. According to the introduction, Dorothy L. Sayers, then the crime reviewer for the Times of London, said that this novel "bubbles over with zest and vitality in describing the exceedingly odd goings-on at a rather oddly managed Aero Club." Much of that vitality comes from Sprigg's descriptions of the daredevil flying tactics, complete with gasp-inducing climbs, spins, dives, and last-second pull-outs, of the dashing amateurs who practice and perform in the English countryside surrounding the Baston Aero Club. The unlikely detective here is a bishop from the region of Cootamundra in Australia, who signs up to take flying lessons so he can minister to far-flung believers. His view from the cockpit during lessons is both humorous and hair-

raising. The bishop also witnesses the crash of a plane helmed by a top-flight pilot. The bishop's conviction that the pilot's death came after the crash, the result of murder by someone who got to the downed pilot before help could arrive, triggers an investigation into the intricate workings of the Aero Club. First-rate mystery and an engrossing view into a vanished world."

### SOME NEW HARDCOVERS

Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem/Anna Waterhouse. [Mycroft Holmes](#) (Forge \$25.99) "Abdul-Jabbar, a Holmesian since his college days, joins forces with Waterhouse to offer a rousing mystery starring Sherlock's older (and smarter) brother, Mycroft, a rising star in the British government. The action begins in 1870 London but quickly moves to Trinidad, where Mycroft's closest friend, Cyrus Douglas, a native of the island, must travel to investigate what some believe is an infestation of *douen*—tiny supernatural characters who lead children into the clutches of werewolf-like *lougarou*. Mycroft joins his friend for the trip, and what the two find on arrival—after a near-fatal ocean crossing—isn't supernatural but far more harrowing... The authors hit all the right notes here, combining fascinating historical detail with rousing adventure, including some cleverly choreographed fight scenes and a pair of protagonists whose rich biracial friendship, while presented realistically, given the era (Douglas must sometimes pose as a butler), is the highlight of the book. Yes, Douglas is a sort-of Watson, but a much brighter, more physical, more bantering version, an equal not a foil. Mystery fans will be eager to hear more from this terrific duo, who may well develop into a gaslit version of Robert B. Parker's Spenser and Hawk."—*Booklist* Starred Review. And a review right on target. I'm hoping we will get Signed copies.

Adler-Olsen, Jussi. [The Hanging Girl: A Department Q Novel](#) (Dutton \$28). In the middle of his usual hard-won morning nap in the basement of police headquarters, Carl Mørck, head of Department Q, receives a call from a colleague working on the Danish island of Bornholm. Carl is dismissive when he realizes that a new case is being foisted on him, but a few hours later, he receives some shocking news that leaves his headstrong assistant Rose more furious than usual. Carl has no choice but to lead Department Q into the tragic cold case of a vivacious seventeen-year-old girl who vanished from school, only to be found dead hanging high up in a tree. The investigation will include the remote island of Bornholm....

Albert, Susan W. [The Darling Dahlias and the Eleven O'Clock Lady](#) (Berkley \$25.95). It's the summer of 193 and a sensational murder shakes up the small Southern town of Darling, Alabama. The eleven o'clock lady has always been one of garden club president Liz Lacy's favorite spring wildflowers. The plant is so named because the white blossoms don't open until the sun shines directly on them and wakes them up. But another Eleven O'Clock Lady is never going to wake up again. Rona Jean Hancock—a telephone switchboard operator who earned her nickname because her shift ended at eleven, when her nightlife was just beginning—has been found strangled with her own silk stocking in a very unladylike position. Gossip sprouts like weeds in a small town, and Rona Jean's somewhat wild reputation is the topic of much speculation regarding who might have killed her. As the Darling Dahlias begin to sort through Rona Jean's private affairs, it appears there may be a connection to some skullduggery at the local Civilian Conservation Corps camp.

Anderson, MT. [Symphony for the City of the Dead](#) (Candlewick \$25.99). In a remarkable feat of research, synthesis and storytelling, National Book Award winner M.T. Anderson introduces Dmitri Shostakovich, the composer whose work is intimately entwined with the history of Russia from the Bolshevik Revolution through much of the Cold War. In his first work of nonfiction for this age group, the author combines biography, history and musicology in a way that few teens will have encountered before. Shostakovich spent much of his life in Leningrad (called St. Petersburg at the time of his birth—and again today), surviving the collapse of Tsarist Russia, the arrival of Lenin, Stalin's Great Purge, World War II and the Cold War. Anderson guides readers through Russian history, the artistic movements of the early 20th century and Shostakovich's biography, pointing up important influences one upon another. The Siege of Leningrad occurs half way through the composer's memorable life. There are many works of adult fiction and nonfiction and one could add this book to your list. Ages 14+.

Bain, Donald. [Margaret Truman's Internship in Murder](#) (Forge \$25.99). Laura is a young intern in Washington, D.C., working for handsome and likable Congressman Hal Gannon. Laura falls for the charming Gannon, but when she catches a stewardess at Gannon's apartment, she vows to destroy him. Private investigator Robert Brixton is a former cop who has also worked for the FBI. When Laura goes missing, Brixton is hired by Laura's family to gain insight into the case that the police might have missed. Brixton tracks down rumors about Gannon—a staunchly moral "family advocate" according to his political position, but a womanizer according to gossip—but the congressman vehemently denies having anything untoward to do with Laura. Then Laura is found dead in the congressional cemetery

✶Beaton, MC. [Dishing the Dirt](#) (St Martins \$25.99). When therapist Jill Davent moved to the Cotswold village of Carsely, Agatha Raisin was not a fan. Not only was this therapist romancing Agatha's ex-husband, but she dug up details of Agatha's not-too-glamorous origins. Jill also counsels a woman, Gwen Simple, who Agatha firmly believes assisted her son in some grisly murders. Plus Jill has attracted the attention of Agatha's ex-husband, James Lacey. When someone strangles Jill, gossip suggests that Agatha was involved, given her quite public disdain for the therapist. Agatha, aided by her loyal team of investigators, sets out to prove her innocence, but as usual her penchant for allowing handsome suitors to distract her complicates her search for the killer.

Bell, Ted. [Patriot: An Alex Hawke Novel](#) (Morrow \$27.99). What goes around, comes around, including the Cold War... and a Cuban crisis. "A secret mission in Cuba goes awry in the prologue of bestseller Bell's fast-paced ninth Alexander Hawke thriller, but the MI6 agent (and sixth richest man in England) and his pal Stokely Jones, a former Navy SEAL, manage to fight their way to safety. Soon Hawke is back in his Bermuda home, Teakettle Cottage, enjoying his favorite libation, Gosling's rum. Meanwhile, Brett "Beau" Beaugard, a retired U.S. Army colonel who runs a private security company, orders his minions to target agents he believes have wronged him in the past. One of Beaugard's men goes after Hawke in Bermuda, and the ensuing battle nearly destroys Teakettle Cottage. Vladimir Putin, who saved Hawke's life in an earlier book, plays a role that ricochets back and forth between friend and foe. The villain who runs down the



CIA director's pet dog gets her just reward. Better than any writer in the thriller genre, Bell mashes up old-fashioned boys' adventure with modern military action," says *PW*.

Benn, James R. [White Ghost Signed](#) (Soho \$28). Benn's series concept—a family of Boston cops calls in favors to place young Billy Boyle on the staff of a distant relative at the outset of World War II, only to have “Uncle Ike” sent off to command US forces in the European theater and Billy become a kind of free-lance investigator—is upped in this 10th terrific story which scrubs much whitewash from the Kennedy family's legend. Under orders from Ike's boss General Marshall, Billy and Kaz, his Polish Army Lt. sidekick (he's a baron), are plucked from Casablanca in August, 1943, and flown to the Solomon Islands to investigate the murder of a Malaita native. Joe Kennedy, Jr., delivers the orders. The chief suspect is the slightly wounded PT boat Commander John F. Kennedy, recuperating on Tulagi. Clearly Joe Kennedy, Sr., is pulling the strings here (and revealing some family history new to Billy). So is the investigation to be a whitewash or a witch hunt? And Billy set up as a fall guy? The real heroes of this rich, fast-moving, thoroughly researched story however are the Australian Coastwatchers who risked everything in their lonely assignments. Benn drops back in time from his 9th novel to illuminate the Pacific theater with the same verve and detail he's presented the war in Europe. A truly fabulous book!

[Black, Saul. The Killing Lessons](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Black is a pseudonym for British author Glen Duncan who spares little in this dark, dark thriller (think Stuart MacBride) that begins with a slaughter in an isolated Colorado farmhouse. Only it didn't quite go to plan, those murders—there was a survivor, a terrified ten-year-old, the daughter who managed to escape through the freezing woods and holds the key to the killings...if she survives. So a duel is set up between a serious psychopath, two actually, with a hideous history that seems obligatory in this kind of book, and a resolute homicide detective called Valerie Hart. Dumb defining villains doesn't do it for me the way twisted evil does.

Block, Lawrence. [The Girl with the Deep Blue Eyes Signed](#) (Titan \$22.99). Cashed out from the NYPD after 24 years, Doak Miller operates as a private eye in steamy small-town Florida, doing jobs for the local police. Like posing as a hit man and wearing a wire to incriminate a local wife who's looking to get rid of her husband. But when he sees the wife, when he looks into her deep blue eyes... Patrick makes our **September Hardboiled Crime Club Pick**: “I don't know if this was another manuscript of Block's that was locked away for decades and recently rewritten and updated, but it has the feel of classic Gold Medal crime fiction with a liberal dose of kinky sex thrown in for good measure. This is certainly the best of Block's Hard Case crime novels that I've read, with a laconic former cop turned private eye that has a strong touch of Willeford and an unsettling measure of Jim Thompson's Lou Ford. Block keeps his sentences crisp and neat, like the pro that he is, and you won't be able to put this raunchy slice of classic noir (a term that has become co-opted and rendered useless these days, but it is entirely accurate here) down.”

Boyd, William. [Sweet Caress Signed](#) (Bloomsbury \$28). The September Indie Next Pick: “Boyd's new novel is the story of Amory Clay, whose father, a troubled World War I veteran, is

absent. Amory's Uncle Greer gives her a camera and teaches her about photography, and it is this gift that allows her to make her own way in the world. As a young woman, she goes to Berlin in the '20s, New York in the '30s, and then to France during World War II, where she makes her mark as one of the first female war correspondents. Later in life, Amory continues to pursue her passions and dreams as she experiences love, marriage, children, and yet another war. Boyd employs actual photos to accentuate this sweeping tale of a life lived to the fullest, and demonstrates yet again why he is one of our greatest chroniclers of the human heart.”

✎Buckley, Fiona. [A Perilous Alliance](#) (Severn \$29.95). January, 1576. Widow Ursula Blanchard is in no position to refuse when Sir Francis Walsingham decides she must wed Count Gilbert Renard in order to build a strategic alliance with the French. Soon after the count arrives at her country home to pay court, one of Ursula's household staff is found dead. An accident—or something more sinister? Ordered Upon Request.

Child, Lee. [Make Me Signed](#) (Bantam UK \$45). “Bestseller Child's superb 20th Jack Reacher novel begins with the disposal of the body of someone named Kever, with a backhoe in a hog pen near an almost-forgotten town in the Midwest called Mother's Rest, which Reacher decides to visit (as he points out, he has ‘no place to go, and all the time in the world to get there,’). The mystery deepens dramatically after he meets Michelle Chang, who's looking for her PI colleague: Kever. Reacher and Chang make a formidable team faced with a formidable challenge: finding out what happened to Kever, the only clue a cryptic note that reads ‘200 deaths.’ The investigation takes the two from Mother's Rest to Chicago, Arizona, Los Angeles, Silicon Valley—and to the Internet's netherworld, the ‘Deep Web.’ What they discover is beyond gruesome and almost beyond belief—it's decidedly not for the faint of heart—but Child's complete command of the story makes this thriller work brilliantly.”—*PW* Starred Review. We have a limited number of the Signed US edition, [Make Me](#) (Random \$30), not tip-ins as you will find elsewhere.

✎Cho, Zen. [Sorcerer to the Crown Signed](#) (Macmillan \$46). The debut by a Malaysian writer creates a kind of Game of Thrones that reminds me of Susanna Clarke's *Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell* in the opening tag line: “The fate of English Magic lies in their hands.” In Regency London, Zacharias Wythe is England's first African Sorcerer Royal. He leads the eminent Royal Society of Unnatural Philosophers, but a malicious faction seeks to remove him by fair means or foul. Meanwhile, the Society is failing its vital duty - to keep stable the levels of magic within His Majesty's lands. The Fairy Court is blocking its supply, straining England's dangerously declining magical stores. And now the government is demanding to use this scarce resource in its war with France. Ambitious orphan Prunella Gentleman is desperate to escape the school where she's drudged all her life, and a visit by the beleaguered Sorcerer Royal seems the perfect opportunity. For Prunella has just stumbled upon English magic's greatest discovery in centuries—and she intends to make the most of it. At his wits' end, the last thing Zachariah needs is a female magical prodigy! But together, they might just change the nature of sorcery, in Britain and beyond. **This is our September SciFi/Fantasy Pick and I only ordered a few so if you wish one please order ASAP! US Edition: [Sorcerer](#)** (Ace \$26.95).

☞Clare, Alys. [A Shadowed Evil](#) (Severn \$28.95). It's February, 1212. Sir Josse d'Acquin and Helewise are summoned to South-fire Hall from Hawkenlye where Josse's elderly uncle, Hugh, lies dying, surrounded by his children. But the pair soon discovers that Hugh's ill health is not the only cause of distress in the house, and the longer they remain there, the more they feel that something is very wrong.... Order this new entry in a long-running medieval mystery series Upon Request.

Clegg, Bill. [Did You Ever Have a Family?](#) (Gallery \$26). The No. 1 Sept. Indie Next Pick and a Librarians' Top Ten: "Clegg's devastatingly beautiful fiction debut is the portrait of a community in the aftermath of a tragedy. June Reid, the broken woman at the epicenter of the novel, is struggling with a loss so profound that she is unable to see beyond her grief, unaware that it has touched many people. Clegg tells their stories with heartbreaking sensitivity and insight."

Coulter, Catherine/JT Ellison. [The End Game](#) (Putnam \$26.95). This 3rd entry in the "A Brit in the FBI" series got a Starred Review, quoted below, with which I do not agree; many other authors do commercial fiction involving the highest levels of government better—and the relationship between the two agents is beyond predictable. Still, every book has its audience, and reviewer too, so I quote it for you: This "intense, exciting" entry "pits FBI agent Nicholas Drummond and his partner, Michaela "Mike" Caine, against Celebrants of Earth, a small terrorist group whose goal is "to eliminate oil imports from the Middle East." When a bomb explodes at an oil refinery in Bayonne, N.J., causing multiple casualties, CIA agent Vanessa Grace, who's been operating undercover in COE, fears that the group plans to escalate the violence. In particular, Vanessa worries COE will target a high-level U.S. government official in retaliation for American involvement in Middle East peace negotiations. Meanwhile, COE may be harboring one of the world's most dangerous assassins, Zahir Damari. Nicholas and Mike work in perfect sync, never missing a beat when interviewing witnesses, despite Nicholas's fastidious nature and the ever-present attraction between the two. Their relationship leaves much room for developments in future installments."

Cussler, Clive. [The Solomon Curse Signed](#) (Penguin \$28.99 on sale Sept. 2). WWII vets think of Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands as a battleground. But what if it were the site of the lost treasure of the Solomon king? And the treasure still lies beneath the waters? And what terrible things happen to those who venture here? Is the bay cursed? Treasure hunting pair Sam and Remi Fargo can't resist this challenge which propels them from the Solomons to Australia and on to Japan.... Signed Nov. 17 with Graham Brown: [The Pharaoh's Secret](#) (Penguin \$28.95). NUMA Files. And don't overlook a gift idea: Cussler's first novel in a 40th anniversary UK edition of the original hardcover: [Mayday](#) (Joseph \$25 Signed).

Dirda, Michael. [Browsings: A Year of Reading, Collecting, and Living with Books](#) (Norton \$24.95). Book critic Michael Dirda offers a diverse collection of essays on the myriad pleasures books bring to his life and ours. "We read for aesthetic, emotional and intellectual excitement," Dirda writes, and he insists, more than anything, that "reading should be a pleasure."

Dobyns, Stephen. [Is Fat Bob Dead Yet?](#) (Blue Rider/Putnam \$26.95). The *PW* Starred Review: "Gold Dagger Award—finalist Dobyns's genius for dark comedy makes this intricate crime novel a triumph that will appeal to Elmore Leonard and Carl Hiaasen fans. An arch, omniscient narrative voice draws you in, setting the stage for a grim death in New London, Connecticut. A dump truck backs onto the street just as a motorcycle rider passes by, cutting him in half. The identity of the victim and whether the incident was an accident are initially mysteries. The tragedy allows gradual introductions of an eccentric but plausible cast of characters, starting with Connor Raposo, a visitor from San Diego, who witnesses the accident. Others include police partners who have an antagonistic relationship and a group of con artists who bilk the gullible by soliciting charitable donations for organizations such as the Holy Sisters of the Blessed Little Feet and Free Beagles from Nicotine Addiction. Dobyns (The Burn Palace) skillfully interweaves the various plot threads, such as the picaresque exploits of a homeless man named Fidget and threats to a resident suspected of being a federally protected witness. Frequent instances of wry humor and direct addresses to the reader are a plus."

Dunn, Matthew. [The Spy House](#) (Morrow \$25.99). With the Israeli ambassador to France assassinated in Paris and Israel planning a massive strike against presumed perpetrator Hamas, France, the UK, and the United States assemble a team of intelligence agents to determine what really happened. Then all four agents are found dead in a locked bunker, and icily daring freelance intelligence operative Will Cochrane is called in to solve everything. 5th in an electrifying series—fun to compare it with Horowitz' James Bond, no?

Easley, Warren. [Never Look Down](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 or \$14.95). In his first case in private practice, Oregon lawyer Cal Claxton came to the aid of a tagger calling himself Picasso, a Banksy-like figure in Portland. Dividing his time between a wine-country town and the city, the ex-L.A. prosecutor now encounters another urban teen at risk, Kelly Spence, also a tagger. Using climbing skills learned from her much-loved deceased father, a mountaineer, Kelly places angry tags in visible, hard-to-reach places. Kelly is four stories up at 3:00 one morning when she looks down and witnesses the brutal murder of a woman in the parking lot below. Unluckily the killer spies her... "Lawyer Cal is an appealing knight in rusty armor, seeking justice for the most vulnerable. His latest case is complicated but holds the reader's interest. Easley exquisitely captures Portland's flavor, and his portrayal of street life is spot-on. Readers of John Hart and Kate Wilhelm will delight in trying a new author."—*Library Journal*

☞Edwards, Martin. [The Dungeon House](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95; \$15.95). **Our September British Crime Club Pick** positively reeks with atmosphere, set as it is in a remote corner of the Lakes District where murder interrupts a summer barbecue. In his seventh Lake District mystery, Edwards shows that a troubled local family can rename the Dungeon House as Ravenglass Knoll, but they can't erase its violent past or prevent a recurrence of the same fatal passions. Twenty years ago, Malcolm Whiteley, who ran a highly questionable waste management firm, had questions of his own about Lysette, the first love he'd married. So convinced was Malcolm that Lysette was betraying him with someone that it was practically certain he'd kill one of them sooner

or later. Instead, according to the evidence, he shot Lysette, then chased after their beloved daughter, Amber, and threw her off a cliff, and finally stuck the gun in his own mouth. Finis—until DCI Hannah Scarlett, of Cumbria’s Cold Case Review Team, is asked to look once more into the case...”—*Kirkus*. “Edwards’s twisted story of greed and obsession is peopled with a wide variety of damaged characters, furthering interest. Much of the plot is revealed through interviews and conversations, giving a slightly subdued tone to even the most harrowing events depicted. Fans of Reginald Hill’s mysteries will enjoy this riveting combination of history and contemporary mystery.”—*LJ*. *PW* adds, “Edwards has a way of tangling lives and spinning a cloud of suspicion over several characters, sending readers up and down wonderfully entertaining blind alleys that keep interest high until the unexpected, though slightly anticlimactic, end.”

Groff, Lauren. [Fates and Furies Signed](#) (Riverhead \$27.95). The #1 Indie Next Pick (October) and an NPR Morning Edition Book... we have a limited number of Signed copies. Librarians have made this one of their Top Ten Sept. Reads, calling it “a modern portrait of marriage. Lotto Satterwhite is the center, the hub around which all the characters revolve in the first half of the book. In the second half of the book, the lens turns to Lotto’s wife Mathilde, and her side of the lopsided partnership gives us a totally different view. Groff is a master of language. It’s not a gentle read. But it’s magnificent.” This is a kind of *Gone Girl* without actual crimes; instead it’s betrayals.

Guinn, Matthew. [The Scribe](#) (Norton \$25.95). “Set in Atlanta in 1881, this superior whodunit from Edgar-finalist Guinn (*The Resurrectionist*) stars Thomas Canby, a former detective on the Atlanta Police Force, who lost his job after a false accusation of taking bribes. When someone murders barber Alonzo Lewis, “the richest Negro in Atlanta,” severing his head and carving the letter M on his forehead, Canby’s old boss recalls the disgraced detective. The powers that be have suppressed the news, as the city is relying on the success of the International Cotton Exposition to revitalize municipal finances. Another wealthy African-American is killed soon afterward, but this time the letter A is left as the killer’s mark. Canby, who is white, partners with the city’s first African-American police officer, Cyrus Underwood. Since Underwood was the first to find both dead men, he himself is an obvious suspect, but the plot takes numerous turns before the final, painful resolution. The richness of the characters and period detail make the prospect of a sequel welcome.”—*PW* Starred Review. The Librarians’ Top Ten Sept. Read: “A shunned detective is pulled back to Atlanta to solve some brutal murders that seem to be the work of a serial killer. Political intrigue, a fascinating time in this country’s history, and a good old-fashioned murder mystery make this one fascinating read. This book asks the question: when a man has had everything taken away, will he still fight for what is right?”

Hanson, Jason. [Spy Secrets That Can Save Your Life](#) (Perigree \$24.95). A former CIA agent, founder and president of the Sky Escape and Evasion school (Google it), presents some simple tactics taught to agents that you can use in everyday life. Most are simple and do not involve weapons or martial arts. The message is mindfulness (do not walk around with eyes focused only on your phone), staying sensitive to situations that don’t feel normal, and above all, move! Those who move rather than freeze have better odds to live. Underneath this a message he gives is, don’t be afraid to risk being embarrassed if you over-react, it’s better red than dead.

✻Harkup, Kathryn. [A Is for Arsenic: The Poisons of Agatha Christie Signed](#) (Bloomsbury \$39). 14 of the novels. 14 poisons. Just because it’s fiction doesn’t mean it’s all made up.... Agatha Christie’s detailed plotting is what makes her books so compelling. Christie used poison to kill her characters more often than any other murder method, with the poison itself being a central part of the novel, and her choice of deadly substances was far from random; the chemical and physiological characteristics of each poison provide vital clues to discovery of the murderer. With gunshots or stabbings the cause of death is obvious, but not so with poisons. How is it that some compounds prove so deadly, and in such tiny amounts? Christie demonstrated her extensive chemical knowledge (much of it gleaned from her working in a chemists during both world wars) in many of her novels, but this is rarely appreciated by the reader. Written by a research chemist, *A is for Arsenic* celebrates the use of science in Christie’s work. Note: Ellis Peters gained her knowledge of poisons by working as a wartime chemist, Britspeak for in a pharmacy.

Harrison, Cora. [A Shameful Murder](#) (Severn \$28.95). Set in 1923, this stellar first in a new Irish series from Harrison, author of Burren Mysteries set in 16th Century Ireland, introduces Reverend Mother Aquinas, who finds the corpse of a young woman near the gateway to the chapel of her Cork convent. Mother Aquinas summons a former charge, Sgt. Patrick Cashman, to the crime scene, where they note that the dead girl is dressed in fancy clothes and find her handbag contains a large amount of money, as well as a dance card for the Merchants’ Annual Ball. When Mother Aquinas notes bruise marks on the cadaver’s throat, she suspects foul play (“Cork, in its first year of independence, simmered in the heat of a deadly civil war and the resolution of political differences was often murder”). The body is soon identified as that of Angelina Fitzsimon, a respected tea merchant’s daughter, who was about to turn 21 and gain access to a fortune. Harrison combines a savvy detective and a setting fraught with intrigue and tension for another winner. Ordered Upon Request.

Harrison, Kim. [The Drafter](#) (Gallery \$26.99). Peri Reed, the heroine of this entertaining but preposterous near-future SF thriller from bestseller Harrison, is a “drafter,” a spy-like operative with the ability to rewrite short moments in time. Peri must rely on an “anchor,” a person who helps her mentally integrate her newly created history without going crazy. Trouble arises when Peri finds she can’t trust her current anchor (and boyfriend). Her personality begins to fragment during a mission to recover a list of corrupt operatives within Opti, the time-altering governmental organization she works for, and she must find a way to reintegrate while on the run. Opti is opposed by the Alliance, former Opti agents who believe Opti has gone rogue. Both organizations—and Peri—cheerily employ any means to achieve what they consider a desirable end, such as using a virus to limit air pollution. Harrison delivers moments of lyrical intensity when the time lines Peri is “drafting” consolidate into a new reality, but the lack of logic and a goofy plot dissipate the tension.

✻Heley, Veronica. [Murder by Suspicion](#) (Severn \$29.95). Ellie Quicke is desperate to find someone to look after her elderly housekeeper, Rose. But employing a carer proves to be a mixed blessing, for Claire is heavily involved with a local church with a charismatic pastor, who, seemingly coincidentally, is looking to Ellie’s charitable trust for financial help. Can Ellie trust Claire and Pastor Ambrose? Order this new village mystery Upon Request.

Horowitz, Anthony. [Trigger Mortis Signed Limited Edition](#) (Orion \$45). Horowitz, who successfully channeled Conan Doyle in his Sherlock Holmes novel *The House of Silk*, draws on unpublished Ian Fleming material for this James Bond novel, which brings back Pussy Galore of Goldfinger—with a surprise. There's also some thrilling auto racing in Germany pitting Bond against an agent of SMERSH and ready to sacrifice an incredible car; a Korean villain; and a really scary rocket. The time frame is vintage Bond, a time frame Horowitz knows well from authoring later episodes of *Foyle's War*. This is a Signed and Numbered Edition and comes fully loaded with wonderful features plus previously unseen material written by Ian Fleming. We might have some Signed US edition, but they won't be as nifty. Trigger Mortis, by the way, actually means... read it and find out. US edition: [Trigger Mortis](#) (Harper \$28.99).

Iggulden, Conn. [Bloodline: Wars of the Roses Signed](#) (Penguin \$45). Richard Duke of York is dead, his ambitions in ruins, his head spiked on the walls of the city. King Henry VI is still held prisoner. His Lancastrian Queen rides south with an army of victorious northerners, accompanied by painted warriors from the Scottish Highlands. With the death of York, Margaret and her army seem unstoppable. Yet in killing the father, Margaret has unleashed the sons. Edward of March, now Duke of York, proclaims himself England's rightful king. Factions form and tear apart as snow falls. And more war looms.... Volume III. Volume II: [Wars of the Roses Margaret of Anjou](#) (Putnam \$27.95).

Kiernan, Stephen P. [The Hummingbird](#) (Morrow \$24.99). Karen reviews: "Deborah Birch is a Hospice worker, specializing in difficult patients. She meets her match in Barclay Reed, a disgraced academician, whose style is confrontational, challenging and insulting. Some years ago he was accused of plagiarizing a little known, and suspicious, story of Japan's plan to attack the United States in the early years of WWII. It includes the strategy and the name, Soga, the pilot involved. Although the attack did minimal, immediate damage, there were devastating consequences later. The story includes Soga's journey to connect to the town's citizens and heal the wounds he inflicted. When Deborah's workday is done, she returns husband, Michael. They were a vibrant and loving couple until he returned from his third deployment in Iraq, completing his duties as a sharp shooter. Although his body is whole, his head and heart continue the war he just left. Deborah and Barclay give each other subtle clues, to consider a wider range of options in resolving their individual challenges. A satisfying, engrossing read."

Lackberg, Camilla. [The Drowning](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). Christian Thydell's dream has come true. His debut novel, *The Mermaid*, has been published to rave reviews. So why is he as distant and unhappy as ever? When crime writer Erica Falk, who helped Christian discover and develop his talents, learns he has been receiving anonymous threats, she investigates not just to eh messages but also the young author mysterious past. Then, one of Christian's closet friends, Magnus, goes missing. Erica's husband, Detective Patrik Hedström, has his worst suspicions confirmed as the mind-games aimed at Christian become a disturbing reality. Christian's group of friends—a "gang of four" from childhood—is a tangled web of relationships, love triangles, and family secrets that Erica and Patrick must unravel in order to discover what really happened to Magnus and who is still threatening Christian. "Läckberg's subtle approach and unique

talent for portraying realistically complex relationships creates a sorrowful, harrowing psychological thriller with a cliff-hanger conclusion."—*Booklist* Starred Review for this 7th entry in the Fjällbacka Swedish series.

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

Lemaitre, Pierre. [The Great Swindle](#) (Quercus \$24.99). Winner of the Prix Goncourt, Lemaitre's assured, somber exploration of post-WWI French society opens shortly before the 1918 armistice. Lt. Henri d'Aulnay-Pradelle murders two of his soldiers to provoke a French attack on German territory, then unsuccessfully tries to eliminate the two witnesses, Albert Maillard and Édouard Péricourt. After the armistice, Albert works menial jobs to pay for morphine for Édouard, whose jaw was blown off when he saved Albert from Pradelle. Pradelle, meanwhile, makes his fortune reburying French soldiers in proper cemeteries. Édouard decides to exploit his country's desire to honor fallen soldiers by contracting to build memorials and then absconding with the down payments. Lemaitre (Alex) captures the venal capitalism of the postwar period, in which Pradelle's company buries German bodies as French soldiers and saws off corpses' feet to fit into cheap coffins; meanwhile, politicians speak of honoring the dead, but soldiers like Édouard and Albert live in poverty. Despite his unscrupulous scheme, Édouard proves impossible to dislike. His determination to play a great trick on the society that betrayed him is infectious, and readers cannot help rooting for his plans as they reach their dark, bizarrely joyous fruition.

Mayor, Archer. [The Company She Kept Signed](#) (St Martins \$28). When the half-frozen body of Susan Raffner, a Vermont state senator, is found hanging from a cliff off the interstate with the word Dyke carved on her chest, the state's governor, Gail Zigman, puts Gunther in charge of the case. Gunther, who knew and respected Raffner, a polarizing activist and Zigman's close friend and adviser, can count on the usual colorful crew to help him out. The irascible Willy Kunkle and the reckless Sammie Martens, the only female on the VBI squad, shine as they pursue the possibly misleading few clues. A thorough vetting of Raffner's activities

and associates yields some surprising results. Here's the 26th case for Vermont cop Joe Gunther—one book per year of *The Poisoned Pen* (actually the first, *Open Season*, published in 1988; there were two years between 1990's *Borderlines* and 1992's *Scent of Evil*...). I love them and have collected the entire set. You can too, in paper. Among the law enforcement jobs Mayor has held and plumbed for his books is that of a death investigator for Vermont's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and a sheriff's investigator...and I recall a role as an EMT and maybe a fireman too.

Mort, Terry. [The Monet Murders](#) (Norton \$24.95). A breezy debut noir set in Tinseltown circa 1934. Though there are, as the title promises, multiple stiffies in this deft blend of art theft, adultery, and Hollywood sleaze, *Mort* (*The Hemingway Patrols*) generally keeps the banter-filled proceedings as bubbly as the beverage his handsome protagonist, a PI calling himself Bruno Feldspar, frequent shares with a number of knockouts, notably Garbo-esque Myrtle George, whom he has helped nail a studio contract. The intrigue centers on Bruno's investigation into the possible switch of an ersatz Monet with the real deal—and, if so, what this might have to do with at least two violent deaths—but much of the novel's appeal lies in its rogues' gallery of characters, including raffish British art expert "Bunny" Finch-Hayden and Bruno's hard-boiled part-time secretary, Della, who also runs an escort service. This is fun, although it goes on a little too long.

Patterson, James. [The Murder House](#) (LittleBrown \$28). It has an ocean-front view in the Hamptons, a private beach—and a deadly secret that won't stay buried, even though this classy house has been burnt down and rebuilt. A standalone written with Edgar-winner David Ellis.

Pintoff, Stefanie. [Hostage Taker](#) (Bantam \$26). Edgar-winner Pintoff moves from historical mystery into a hair-raising thriller, making our **September Fresh Fiction Club Pick**. It begins when a woman emerges from 7:00 AM mass at NY's St. Patrick's Cathedral with a sign that says, "Help Me." Before anyone does, she's shot dead by a hidden sniper. Next to emerge, a young boy.... Here's an interesting concept, great setting, and a promising series lead in conflicted Agent Eve Rossi. "The perfect blend: an urban thriller as modern as tomorrow's *New York Times*, driven by a two-hundred-year-old idea, with a main character to die for. I hope we see plenty more of Eve Rossi and her team."—Lee Child. "A high-velocity roller coaster of a thriller! With her razor-sharp prose and keen ear for cop-and-street-speak, Pintoff ingeniously spins this twist-filled tale of a delicious assortment of good guys with less-than-good pasts, marshaled by one of the most compelling protagonists to come along in years. Heroes don't get any better—or come any more fully formed and richly drawn—than Eve Rossi."—Jeffery Deaver

Robb, J D. [Devoted in Death](#) (Putnam \$27.95). Bestseller Robb's exciting 41st near-future thriller starring hard-driving Lt. Eve Dallas boasts a pair of memorable villains: Ella-Loo Parsens and Darryl Roy James, sadistic lovers who leave an unmarked trail of 29 victims from Arkansas to New York City, where they torture and kill a Metropolitan Opera cellist, Dorian Kuper. Dallas, a Manhattan homicide detective, has very little to go on to solve this crime. Next, the duo kidnap Jayla Campbell, who has the misfortune to encounter them on a deserted Soho street late one night. The twisted "love" of Ella-Loo and Darryl contrasts nicely

with the love shared by Dallas and her husband, Roarke. Robb ratchets up the tension as Eve and her team race to save Campbell, as she agonizes while the clock ticks down. Rob, aka Nora Roberts, delivers a smooth blend of violence and retribution...

Roberts, Les. [The Ashtabula Hat Trick](#) (Gray & Co \$28). #18 in the series featuring Milan Jacovich. The first-ever murder in Queenstown, Ohio is too much for local police to handle, and Milan's main squeeze, Cleveland homicide detective Tobe Blaine, is tasked to investigate. Milan tags along, and the two head to rural Ashtabula County—where they get an unfriendly reception. When another affluent citizen turns up dead, they quickly discover that this small town has big secrets. Milan, Tobe, and Milan's brash young assistant, Kevin "K.O." O'Bannion, tangle with local toughs, indifferent law-enforcement officials, and even worse bad guys.... I really liked this idea and its ruthless portrait of insular hillbilly culture in northeast Ohio. But I disagree with how the story plays out; it's sappy to think the true villain in this sad story is going to change his spots.

Roosevelt, Kermit. [Allegiance Signed](#) (Random \$29). Constitutional law professor Roosevelt, a former Supreme Court Clerk, caught my admiration in his terrific debut [In the Shadow of the Law](#) (\$26 trade paperback). He brings his formidable storytelling powers and professional expertise to another outstanding novel that offers not only a riveting tale of conspiracy (and murder) but a fresh perspective on the difficult chapter in our history: the internment of Japanese Americans. When the news broke about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Caswell "Cash" Harrison was all set to drop out of law school and join the army... until he flunked the physical. Instead, he's given the opportunity to serve as a clerk to Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black. He and another clerk stumble onto a potentially huge conspiracy aimed at guiding the court's interests, and the cases dealing with the constitutionality of the prison camps created to detain Japanese-Americans seem to play a key part. Then Cash's colleague dies under mysterious circumstances, and the young, idealistic lawyer is determined to get at the truth. His investigation will take him from the office of J. Edgar Hoover to an internment camp in California, where he directly confronts the consequences of America's wartime policies.

Rushdie, Salman. [Two Years, Eight Months, and Twenty-Eight Nights Signed](#) (Cape \$42). In the near future, after a storm strikes New York City, the strangenesses begin. A down-to-earth gardener finds that his feet no longer touch the ground. A graphic novelist awakens in his bedroom to a mysterious entity that resembles his own sub-Stan Lee creation. Abandoned at the mayor's office, a baby identifies corruption with her mere presence, marking the guilty with blemishes and boils. A seductive gold digger is soon tapped to combat forces beyond imagining. Unbeknownst to them, they are all descended from the whimsical, capricious, wanton creatures known as the jinn, who live in a world separated from ours by a veil. Centuries ago, Dunia, a princess of the jinn, fell in love with a mortal man of reason. Together they produced an astonishing number of children, unaware of their fantastical powers, who spread across generations in the human world. Once the line between worlds is breached on a grand scale, Dunia's children and others will play a role in an epic war between light and dark spanning a thousand and one nights – or two years, eight months, and twenty-eight nights. It is a time of enormous upheaval, in which beliefs are challenged, words

act like poison, silence is a disease, and a noise may contain a hidden curse. Inspired by the traditional ‘wonder tales’ of the East, Salman Rushdie’s novel is a masterpiece about the age-old conflicts that remain in today’s world. US edition: [Two Years Eight Months and...](#) (Random \$28).

Selznick, Brian. [The Marvels](#) (Scholastic \$32.99). Selznick presents a new take on his multi-dimensioned storytelling technique in *The Marvels*, which balances two stories. Relayed exclusively through pictures, the first story opens in 1766 and follows five generations of a legendary family of actors, beginning with young Billy Marvel, the lone survivor of a shipwreck. The second story, told in words, centers on a boy in 1990 who runs away from school to his estranged uncle’s enigmatic London house, where he pieces together many mysteries. Selznick, who has long been intrigued by the history of London theater and was drawn to the idea of creating a multi-generational story about an acting family, says that *The Marvels* also sprang from the lessons he learned from his earlier book projects like *Hugo Cabret*. Ages 10+.

Shane, Scott. [Objective Troy](#) (Crown \$28). This nonfiction account of the story and death of Anwar al-Awlaki, the American imam, and of how presidential policy evolved in dealing with militants like him, is the work of a national security reporter for the *NY Times*. Shane’s work includes “the Rise of the Drones,” a technology with developing controversies over its pluses and minuses not only political and military. Please do not take this mention of the book as a political statement from me or our staff—I include it more as background for those of you interested in international thrillers or domestic ones focused on security issues and threats.

Snyder, Timothy. [Black Earth](#) (Random \$30). This nonfiction is as fascinating as it is horrifying. Snyder combines broad historical overviews with impeccably curated personal stories into a masterful portrait of humanity’s lowest point. “His convincing original arguments make *Black Earth* not only an engaging read, but an important piece of scholarly work. Snyder’s theory on the safety inherent in statehood also has practical applications. As he points out, it undermines the American foreign policy tenet of overthrowing tyrannical governments to save oppressed people, as evidenced by the invasion and occupation of Iraq, which left the type of lawlessness that breeds atrocities. With the conditions for genocide always one political calamity away, we cannot afford to misinterpret the lessons of the Holocaust. *Black Earth* is another means to ensure the promise of “never again.” –Tobias Mutter

Smith, Donald. [The Constable’s Tale](#) (Norton \$25.95). Fans of Eliot Pattison’s *Bone Rattler* series will relish Smith’s impressive debut, set in 1759. Royal constable Harry Woodyard looks into a multiple murder at a plantation in North Carolina’s Craven County. Someone shot nine-year-old Andrew Campbell in a field, then rested the boy’s head on a pillow and put a sprig of rosemary under his nose. Andrew’s parents were slain in the house, their bodies also posed; only the baby was left alive. Most people believe that Indians were responsible, though the sparing of the infant’s life is uncharacteristic of similar Indian massacres. When Comet Elijah, a Tuscarora Indian and mentor to Harry, turns up in the vicinity, he’s arrested. Convinced of Comet Elijah’s innocence, Harry undertakes a perilous quest for the truth, which

he believes is connected to a Masonic medal he found under the Campbell baby’s crib. Smith balances historical detail and a twisty whodunit plot like a veteran.

Stewart, Amy. [Girl Waits with Gun Signed](#) (Houghton \$27). Hardened criminals are no match for pistol-packing spinster Constance Kopp and her redoubtable sisters in this hilarious and exciting period drama by bestseller Stewart. It’s 1914 in Paterson, N.J. A crash between the Kopp sisters’ horse and buggy and an automobile driven by arrogant factory owner Henry Kaufman begins a disturbing cycle of menacing behavior: Kaufman refuses to pay for the buggy damage, angry and humiliated in an embarrassing confrontation with a tall, imposing, and formidable woman. Intimidation and threats of violence follow Constance’s every effort to make Kaufman pay, finally resulting in her appeal to the Bergen County Sheriff to help her collect. Sheriff Robert Heath has been itching to lock up Kaufman and his thuggish pals, and sees this as an excellent opportunity to rid Paterson of the pack of criminals. The Kopp sisters live alone on a remote farm and are taunted, burglarized, and shot at by crooks of the Black Hand gang as retaliation for involving the police and causing trouble for Kaufman. But when Constance starts to pack a revolver and doesn’t hesitate to shoot back, the game changes drastically. A surprising Kopp family secret, a kidnapped baby, and other twists consistently ratchet up the stakes throughout, resulting in an exhilarating yarn. The Sept Indie Next Pick for our **Surprise Me Club Pick!**: “Stewart, the author of 6 non-fiction works including *The Drunken Botanist*, tells the Kopp sisters’ story — a tale based on actual events — with humor and a keen eye for the complex relationships between sisters, as they learn to stand up for themselves at last.”

Sullivan, Faith. [Good Night, Mr. Wodehouse](#) (Milkweed \$26). “Whether you are familiar with the work of P.G. Wodehouse or not, you will want to read his books by the time you have finished this wonderful novel. Returning to Harvester, Minnesota, the location of her best-selling novel, *The Cape Ann*, Sullivan has provided a tale that will resonate with anyone who has been faced with the loss of a loved one, a challenge of faith, the gossip of a community, or the search for one’s independence. What better place to find grace than in the heart of a good book!”

Toyne, Simon. [Solomon Creed Signed](#) (Collins \$34). A plane crashes in the Arizona desert. One lone figure emerges alive from the wreckage. He has no memory of his past, and no idea of his future. He only knows he must save someone. The crash disrupts the cemetery burial of a local man from Redemption. Sheriff Garth Morgan turns and speeds towards the crash site, nearly hitting its survivor. The only clues as to who he is are the label in his handmade jacket and a book inscribed to a Solomon Creed. While “Creed” begins to believe he’s flown in to save, too late, the man being buried, some miles away three men turn from scanning the sky for a plane bearing a package and refocus....  
Toyne, the author of the *Sanctus Trilogy*, visited us a couple of years ago while researching this exciting start of a new series; he isn’t coming to the US where the book is called *The Searcher*, so the Signed UK edition is our **September Thriller Club Pick**.

Urschel, Joe. [The Year of Fear](#) (St Martins \$26.99). This is real stuff although narrated like a novel. The subtitle is “Machine Gun Kelly and the Manhunt That Changed the Nation” which reveals that much of the focus is on J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI

and how history is written by the winners: “The Wild West had been tamed, and he, J. Edgar Hoover, was the man who tamed it.” In the 18 months following the Kansas City Massacre, Urschel says, Hoover fought a war on western outlaws and won. He includes a Selected Biography. More broadly he covers the rise of the American gangster during Prohibition, a lawless era of bank robbers, bootleggers, and kidnappers who include George Kelly and his wife Kathryn and the FBI’s 20,000 mile chase across backroads crossing 16 state lines in the manhunt that followed a botched kidnapping. Questions about the role of Kathryn are raised.

Wortham, Reavis Z. [Dark Places: A Red River Mystery Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). “Set in 1967, Wortham’s engaging fifth Red River mystery focuses on the aptly named Pepper Parker, the feisty 14-year-old granddaughter of Constable Ned Parker of Center Springs, Texas, and Top Parker, Ned’s grandson, who’s often mistaken for her twin. Bored with small-town life, Pepper decides to run away to California and manages to talk Cale Westlake, a boy she likes, into going with her. Ned and Pepper’s father get on the trail of the clueless hitchhikers, who run into scam artists, hippies, and bikers on their journey west. Meanwhile, a robbery by three town wastrels goes bad and two visiting strangers are killed, a crime that Sheriff Cody Parker and his new deputy, Anna Sloan, try to solve. Wortham nails the time period, the hardscrabble town, and the people, for whom family loyalties are paramount.”—*PW*. This is a step-back from the hardcore action of the earlier books which fall into Laukkanen/Lansdale thrills, as Wortham explores the consequences of those events on a teen-aged girl from a small town who yearns for a taste of a wider life. Too often in a series characters do not react to what’s gone before so here’s an example of those who do.

#### SEPTEMBER TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

*Where the name of the publisher is included, this is a paperback original*

Baldacci, David. [Memory Man](#) (\$16). Amos Decker, the memory man, whose unique abilities are the result of a vicious hit he suffered as a 22-year-old NFL rookie that ended his football career. The injury induced hyperthymesia and synesthesia in Decker—he forgets nothing, and he “counts in colors and sees time as pictures in head.” Years later, the murders of his wife and daughter left him too grief-stricken to continue working as a cop in what may be Burlington, Vt. At age 42, the grossly overweight Decker is barely scratching out a living as a PI. The arrest of Sebastian Leopold for the slaughter of his family and a mass shooting at a local high school combine to put an unwilling Decker back into the game with temporary credentials as a policeman. . . . Baldacci starts a new series with this offbeat hero.

Camilleri, Andrea. [A Beam of Light](#) (Penguin \$16). “Hailing from the land of Umberto Eco and La Cosa Nostra, Inspector Montalbano can discuss a pointy-headed book like *Western Attitudes Toward Death* as unflinchingly as he can pore over crime-scene snuff photos. He throws together an extemporaneous lunch of shrimp with lemon and oil as gracefully as he dodges advances from attractive women.”—*Los Angeles Times*. As Camilleri turns 90 he produces his 19th Montalbano (one of my favorite TV detectives on MHz). When Montalbano falls under the charms of beautiful gallery owner Marian, his longtime relationship with Livia comes under threat. Meanwhile, he is also troubled by a

strange dream as three crimes demand his attention: the assault and robbery of a wealthy merchant’s young wife, shady art deals, and a search for arms traffickers that leads him deep into the countryside, where the investigation takes a tragic turn. [Click here](#) to order them all.

Celestin, Ray. [The Axeman](#) (Sourcebooks \$14.99). A brilliantly evoked roller-coaster ride through pre-prohibition New Orleans—a town packed tight with jazz men and voodoo women, corrupt politicians and even more corrupt cops. This is historical fiction as time travel writing and a very difficult book to put down once started.”—William Ryan on an atmospheric debut.

Christie, Alix. [Gutenberg’s Apprentice](#) (\$15.99). “This detailed historical novel takes readers into Gutenberg’s 15th-century Mainz workshop to experience the frustration and exhilaration of designing, typesetting, and rolling the first printed Bible off the press. Focusing on contributions made by Gutenberg’s associates, the story follows the apprenticeship of future publishing pioneer Peter Schoeffer from the day Peter’s adopted father, merchant-investor Johann Fust, tells him to give up life as a Parisian scribe in order to learn a new trade using Gutenberg’s secret technology and techniques. For unhappy Peter, printed texts seem less sacred, and certainly less artistic, than hand-copied manuscripts. Demanding and sometimes devious, Gutenberg proves a difficult boss; worst of all, the equipment still has bugs to work out. Only when Peter comes up with his own innovation does he appreciate print’s artistry and power. Despite obstacles posed by the Church, guilds, family, and friends, Fust, Gutenberg, and Schoeffer’s tenuous collaboration culminates in the Gutenberg Bible. Contemporary readers suspicious of digital texts will sympathize with Peter’s mixed feelings towards print. History buffs will savor the moment the inventor, the scribe, and the merchant make a decision that leads them out of the Middle Ages into the Renaissance.”—*PW* Starred Review for a 2014 Modern Firsts Club Pick now in paperback. Rob and I have visited Mainz and the Gutenberg Museum twice. . . . go if you get a chance.

Higashino, Keigo. [Malice](#) (\$15.99). Acclaimed bestselling novelist Kunihiko Hidaka is found brutally murdered in his home on the night before he’s planning to leave Japan and relocate to Vancouver. His body is found in his office, a locked room, within his locked house, by his wife and his best friend, both of whom have rock solid alibis. At the crime scene, Police Detective Kyochiro Kaga recognizes Hidaka’s best friend, Osamu Nonoguchi. Years ago when they were both teachers at the same public school. Kaga went on to join the police force while Nonoguchi eventually left to become a full-time writer, though with not nearly the success of his friend Hidaka. As Kaga investigates, he eventually uncovers evidence that indicates that the two writers’ relationship was very different that they claimed. . . . “Keigo Higashino again proves his mastery of the diabolical puzzle mystery with *Malice*. . . . Admirers of the well-made whodunit know the drill about questioning facts and suspecting everyone. Higashino plays this game as well as any of those legendary golden age authors poring over their railroad timetables. But what makes him a genius at this sport is the care with which he devises a motive. . . . to fit the crime.”

Khan, Vaseem. [The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra](#) (Grand Central \$16). On the day he retires, Inspector Ashwin Chopra inherits two unexpected mysteries. The first is the case of a drowned boy, whose suspicious death no one seems to want

solved. And the second is a baby elephant. As his search for clues takes him across the teeming city of Mumbai, from its grand high rises to its sprawling slums and deep into its murky underworld, Chopra begins to suspect that there may be a great deal more to both his last case and his new ward than he thought. And he soon learns that when the going gets tough, a determined elephant may be exactly what an honest man needs. . . . Khan writes charming and understated, plus you gotta love the baby elephant. Still, he can't touch the four fabulous Vish Puri Indian mysteries of Tarkin Hall set in modern Delhi—click here to order them starting with [The Case of the Missing Servant](#) (\$16).

Liss, David. [The Day of Atonement](#) (\$16). I've loved Liss' atmospheric and intricately plotted 18th Century mysteries since his first, Edgar winner and FMC Pick [A Conspiracy of Paper](#) (\$16). He tells me he's moving into a new direction so all the more reason to cherish this last investigation for London Jew Benjamin Weaver, a former pugilist, against a brilliantly drawn backdrop of Lisbon, 1755. The historian knows the terrible threat looming, the savage earthquake that devastated the city, as well as the on-going horrors of the Inquisition in conservative Portugal. Weaver, not the lead, trained Sebastian Foxx, born Sebastião Raposa, as a thief taker. And now Foxx has returned to Lisbon, the city he left at age 13 when his parents, conversos (Jews forced to convert) fell victim to it, to help an English trader, but also to kill Father Pedro Azinheiro, Sure, there's melodrama, but in this, "compelling story of obsession and revenge, the novel is also ultimately a tale of redemption. Liss fans and aficionados of intelligent, well-written historical fiction will be eager for this title."—*Library Journal* Starred Review.

Longworth, M L. [The Mystery of the Lost Cézanne](#) (Penguin \$15). Here's the 5th in an outstanding mystery series set in Provence. Our sleuths are Antoine Verlaque, the chief magistrate of Aix-en-Provence, and his lover, law professor Marine Bonnet (you can see complications right there, *non?*). And in fact their relationship has become strained (commitment issues?), echoing the complicated life of Aix's most famous artist which threads through the narrative in flashbacks and illustrates that today's recognized genius was an outlier in his or her own time. The investigation starts with the violent death of a retired postal worker who lived in a Cézanne residence and may have found a putative Cézanne painting, unknown to the art world, which leads to an American art history professor with secrets of her own. The parents of both Verlaque and Marine play major roles in a story about love and loss, and transitions. Fans of Martin Walker, Donna Leon, Peter Mayle, Mark Pryor, and Janet Hubbard's two wine mysteries, should read all 5 Longworths. Order them [here](#).

Mattich, Alen. [Zagreb Cowboy](#) (\$15.95). The first in a series of crime thrillers featuring Croatian secret police watchdog Marko della Torre. Set in Croatia just before the U.S.S.R. unraveled and Yugoslavia splintered, it unveils former dictator Tito's infamous federal secret police agency, U.D.B.A. (Yugoslavia's version of the K.G.B.), and the corrupt local cops and bureaucrats of Croatia's capital. Raised in Ohio by his now-deceased American mother and Croatian professor father, della Torre has lived in Zagreb with his father since his 20s and works for the newly established U.D.B.A. internal affairs division. To open doors in his investigations, della Torre finds himself selling classified documents to the powerful Zagreb police Captain Strumbic, who then resells them to add to his illicit wealth. Neither trusts

the other, but when one document threatens to expose a secret international sale of weapons-grade nuclear fuel centrifuges, both men find themselves targets of inept Bosnian assassins hired by old-school Belgrade politicians.

✠Perry, Anne. [Blood on the Water](#) (\$16). In the 20th William Monk mystery, the River Police Commander witnesses the horrifying explosion of the pleasure boat *Princess Mary*, which sends to their deaths nearly two hundred merrymakers on a sunny summer afternoon. The tragedy is no accident. Monk should handle the case, but the investigation is turned over to the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. An Egyptian man is swiftly caught, tried, and sentenced to die. But almost as quickly, Monk presents evidence that Habib Beshara, though a nasty piece of work, was elsewhere at the time of the blast. The investigation, now in complete disarray, is hastily turned over to Monk. Is the crime connected with the soon-to-be-opened Suez Canal? Or is the crime in fact a personal one? The superior plot comes with a nice range of landscapes from Mayfair to the Thames waterfront. For Monk #21, see Event Books.

Pötzsch, Oliver. [The Werewolf of Bamberg](#) (\$18). In 1668, hangman Jakob Kuisl, his daughter Magdalena, and her husband Simon are traveling to the town of Bamberg. But what was planned as a family vacation soon becomes a nightmare: there is a murderer in Bamberg who is leaving the severed limbs of victims in the trash outside the city. When rumors quickly spread that the murders are the work of a werewolf, Jakob Kuisl must prove the superstition wrong and embarks on a search for the "devil of Bamberg." This is a terrific 5th entry in Pötzsch's unusual Hangman's Daughter series which has one much critical acclaim—certainly mine.

Thynne, Jane. [The Scent of Secrets](#) (Random \$16). Set in Europe, in 1938, during the tense run-up to war, and perfect for fans of Jacqueline Winspear, Charles Todd, Robert Harris, and Susan Elia MacNeal, this gripping historical novel features the half-British, half-German actress (and wholly covert spy) Clara Vine, who finds herself enmeshed in a dangerous game of subterfuge. The colorful, lively streets of Paris come as a welcome relief to Clara Vine after the dour countenance of Berlin, where bunkers and bomb shelters are being dug, soldiers march the streets in their high boots, and Jewish residents rush to make it home before curfew. Though Clara is in Paris to make a film, her true work is never far from her mind. Approached by a British intelligence officer, Clara is initially confounded by his request: Get close to Eva Braun and glean as much as she can about the Führer's plans and intentions. Clara has already established friendships with several high-ranking Nazi wives, but Eva Braun is another matter altogether. Soon Clara is flirting with discovery at every turn. . . . Our **September History Paperback Pick**, a debut where the publisher cites several comparable authors except Philip Kerr, Thynne's husband.

Whellams, David. [The Verdict on Each Man Dead](#) (ECW \$14.95). Canadian Whellams (ECW is a Canadian press) draws a bead on Salt Lake City for his 3rd case for now retired Scotland Yard copper Peter Cammon. Think Sherlock in *A Study in Scarlet*. . . but updated to an ugly crime of today that may link back into the 1990s and the Unabomber. In order to trap the killer-terrorist, Peter and his acquaintance in local law enforcement, Henry Pastern, must strike unholy alliances with corrupt cops, Mexican drug



lords, and the Unabomber himself. Will Peter have to bend the law and embrace the rules of the Old West to stop this psychopath? This is actually low-key and entertaining. I'm always on the lookout for something different and pleased thus to discover Whellams.

#### NEW IN TRADE PAPERBACK

Alaux, Jean-Pierre. [Montmartre Mysteries](#) (Le French Book \$16.95)  
Belcamino, Kris. [Blessed Are the Dead](#) (Harper \$11.99)  
Blackwell, Elis. [The Lower Quarter](#) (Unbridled \$16.95)  
Block, Sandra. [Girl Without a Name](#) (Grand Central \$15)  
Boileau, Pierre. [She Who Was No More](#) (\$13.95)  
Boileau, Pierre. [Vertigo](#) (\$13.95)  
Bridges Ann. [Private Offerings](#) (\$15.99)  
Cain, James M. [Complete Crime Stories](#) (\$14.99)  
Chiara, Piero. [Disappearance of Signora Giuli](#) (\$13.95)  
Clements, Rory. [Holy Spy](#) (\$17)  
Cook, Thomas H. [Dancer in the Dust](#) (\$15)  
Cronenberg, David. [Consumed](#) (\$16)  
Daly, Elizabeth. [And Dangerous to Know](#) (Felony \$14.95)  
Daly, Paula. [Keep Your Friends Close](#) (\$14)  
Easley, Warren. [Never Look Down](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95)  
Edwards, Martin. [The Dungeon House](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95)  
Endo, Shusaku. [Silence](#) (Grand Central \$15)  
Everett, Percival. [Half an Inch of Water: Stories](#) (\$16)  
Follett, Ken. [Edge of Eternity](#) (\$25)  
Ford, Richard. [Let Me Be Frank with You](#) (\$13.99)  
Fusco, John. [Dog Beach](#) (\$15)  
Hannah, Sophie. [Carrier](#) (Penguin \$16)  
Hoffman, Patrick. [The White Van](#) (\$14)  
Iyengar, Kartik. [Predator](#) (Harper \$14.99)  
Joubert, Irma. [Girl from the Train](#) (\$15.99)  
Kelly, Mary Ann. [Twillyweed](#) (\$14.99)  
Lernet-Holenia. [I Was Jack Mortimer](#) (\$13.95)  
Lilliefors, James. [Tempest](#) (Harper \$11.99)  
Lippman, Laura. [Hush Hush](#) (\$14.99)  
Magee, Audrey. [Undertaking](#) (Grove \$15)  
McCabe, Patrick. [Hello Mr. Bones & Goodbye Mr. Rat](#) (\$14.99)  
Mills, Kyle. [Robert Ludlum's the Patriot Attack](#) (\$16)  
O'Bryan, Lauren. [The Istanbul Puzzle](#) (Harper \$12.99)  
Oliver, Lauren. [Rooms](#) (Ecco \$14.99)  
Patterson, James. [NYPD Red 3](#) (\$16)  
Ritchie, Solang. [Burning Man](#) (\$19.95)  
Shimada, Soji. [The Tokyo Zodiac Murders](#) (Pushkin \$13.95)  
Summers, Julie. [Home Fires](#) (Penguin \$17)  
Sundstol, Vidar. [Only the Dead](#) (\$14.95)  
Taylor, Andrew. [Scent of Death](#) (\$15.99)  
Waters, Sarah. [Paying Guests](#) (\$17)  
Wortham, Reavis. [Dark Places](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95)  
Young, William. [Eve](#) (\$16)

#### SEPTEMBER MASS MARKET PAPERBACK PICKS

Abbott, Victoria. [Marsh Madness](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Book Collector #3. Jordan Bingham puts in some overtime playing amateur sleuth when her employer, rare book collector Vera van Alst, is accused of murdering the man who was supposed to sell her some first edition Ngaio Marsh mysteries. If you love classic mysteries and haven't yet discovered Abbott's series, you're in for a real treat.

Carcattera, Lorenzo. [The Wolf](#) (\$7.99). The wonderful Carcattera explores the highest levels of organized crime and plumbs the depths of revenge. At 37, Vincent Marelli (aka the Wolf) heads a United Nations of crime, a modern corporate structure uniting all the top-tier national criminal groups—except “the Russian mob, the Mexican crews, and every terrorist outfit on the grid.” Marelli's wife, Lisa, wants to take a normal family vacation. But when Lisa and their two daughters perish in a terrorist attack aboard a commercial airline flight from L.A. to New York, Marelli persuades his fellow crime bosses to wage war against the suicidal terrorists and their enablers, who want to destroy everything his syndicate has built. This is a zinger of a thriller, written with authority as well as verve.

Coel, Margaret. [Night of the White Buffalo](#) (\$7.99). Arapaho attorney Vicky and Jesuit Father John become entangled in a mysterious murder overshadowed by a mythological miracle. Coel explains the sacred Arapaho legend and details life on a buffalo ranch with her customary style and keeps the wicked story moving to a surprise conclusion. See Event Books for Coel's new Wind River mystery drawing on another legend: Butch Cassidy.

Coleman, Reed F. [Robert B Parker's Blind Spot](#) (\$9.99). Jesse Stone #15. Talented, multi-award winning Coleman is a great choice to write the Jesse Stones. The Police Chief of Paradise, Mass., is more introspective and troubled than Spenser. Parker, a Red Sox fan, had the fun of giving Stone a baseball past. And here it comes knocking with a reunion of the Triple-A team Stone left behind when an injury ended his baseball career. But the reunion goes bad when a young woman is found murdered, her boyfriend is presumed kidnapped, and Jesse sees a former teammate as the main suspect. For the new Stone, see Event Books

Gates, Eva. [Booked for Trouble](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Lighthouse Library #2. Lucy Richardson has finally found her bliss as a librarian and resident of the Bodie Island Lighthouse. She loves walking on the Outer Banks beach, passing her evenings with the local book club, bonding with the library cat, Charles, and enjoying the attention of not one, but two eligible men. But then her socialite mother, Suzanne, unexpectedly drops in, determined to move Lucy back to Boston—and reunite her with her ex-fiancé. Worse, Suzanne picks a very public fight at the local hotel with her former classmate Karen Kivas. So, when Karen turns up dead outside the library the next morning, Suzanne is immediately at the top of the suspect list. Start with [By Book or By Crook](#) (\$7.99). Gates is author Vicki Delany who will visit us from Canada in Feb. with a new Constable Molly Smith mystery set in Trafalgar, BC.

Graves, Sarah. [Winter at the Door](#) (\$7.99). ) Lizzie Snow #1. Starts a new series for the author of the Home Repair & Homicide Series. Moving from Boston to remote Bearkill, Maine, isn't homicide cop Lizzie Snow's idea of a step up. But breaking away from tragedy and personal betrayal is at least a step in the right direction. Her dead sister's fate still torments her, as does her long-missing niece's disappearance. Lizzie hopes to find the mysteriously vanished child here, amid the coming ice and snow. But in the Great North Woods, something darker and more dangerous than punishing winter is also bound for Bearkill—a rash of freak accidents and suicides has left a string of dead men—all former local cops.

Kappes, Tonya. [Ghostly Demise](#) (Harper \$7.99). Ghostly Southern #3. In anticipation of the Halloween season, a ghostly Southern Gothic (sequels to come). When she runs into her friend's deadbeat dad at the local deli, undertaker Emma Lee Raines can't wait to tell Mary Anna Hardy that he's back in Sleepy Hollow, Kentucky, after five long years. Cephus Hardy may have been the town drunk, but he didn't disappear on an epic bender like everyone thought: He was murdered. And he's heard that Emma Lee's been helping lost souls move on to that great big party in the sky. Why do ghosts always bother Emma Lee at the worst times? Her granny's mayoral campaign is in high gear, a carnival is taking over the town square, and her hunky boyfriend, Sheriff Jack Henry Ross, is stuck wrestling runaway goats. Besides, Cephus has no clue whodunit...

Kelly, Diane. [Laying Down the Paw](#) (St Martins \$7.99). Megan Luz #3. When a raging tornado hits Fort Worth, Megan's squad car is flipped over-and her devoted police dog, Brigit, is not amused. But that's not all that's upside-down. The streets are littered with looters-and members of a violent street gang-and no local business is safe. It's time to get back on all fours and see that the job of protecting the public is done. But Megan, outmanned and outgunned, has no choice but to let the gang members get away. Later, she learns that one of them is a suspect in an unsolved murder case.... #5 in the Paw Enforcement Series.

Ryan, Hank Phillippi. [Truth Be Told](#) (\$7.99). Ryan's smart, well-paced third Jane Ryland takes aim at the housing crisis of recent years. Boston Register reporter Jane Ryland is at work on two stories: an apparent murder in a recently foreclosed house and a supposed puff piece about banking customer service. Both assignments lead straight to revelations of institutional financial malfeasance and possibly more death. Meanwhile, Det. Jake Brogan of the Boston PD receives the solution to a 20-year-old cold case—or has he been handed an inexplicable false confession? Ryan, a Mary Higgins Clark Award winner, cleverly ties the plot together, offers surprising but believable plot twists, and skillfully characterizes the supporting case, which includes a widower attorney, a bleeding heart banker, and an expectant mother who might be married to a murderer. Ryan joins us November 3 to sign the sequel in this Agatha-Award-winning series.

Swanson, Denise. [Murder of an Open Book](#) (NAL \$7.99) Scumble River #18. A nasty faculty feud leaves one teacher dead and newlywed Skye Boyd searching for a killer among her co-workers.

#### NEW IN MASS MARKET PAPERBACK

Albert, Susan W. [Darling Dahlias and the Silver Dollars](#) (\$7.99)

When the local bank in Darling suddenly closes in 1933, the town residents decide to issue their own "Darling Dollars" until the currency situation can be rectified, but when the first printing disappears, it is up to the Darling Dahlias to find out who made an unauthorized withdrawal.

Blakely, Mike. [Song to Die for](#) (Tor \$7.99)

As Luster Burnett's new guitarist and band manager, Creed Mason hopes he finally has found his big break, but Texas Ranger Hooley Johnson thinks someone in the band is connected to a series of mob hits

Brennan, Allison. [Best Laid Plans](#) (\$7.99) Lucy Kincaid #10

FBI agent Lucy Kincaid convinces a belligerent teen prostitute to help her with a murder case, but Lucy's decision could affect both her career and her life with Sean Rogan.

Chance, Maia. [Cinderella Six Feet Under](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Fairy Tale Fatal #2

When her friend Henrietta's mother is found dead in a pumpkin patch leaving behind an evasive husband and two sinister step-sisters, Ophelia Flax begins her own investigation into the family's twisted history.

Chase, Erika. [Law and Author](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Ashton Corners Book Club #5

When retired police chief Bob Miller's granddaughter is accused of the murder of a man found dead in Molly Mathews backyard, the rest of the Ashton Corners Mystery Readers and Cheese Straw Society members scurry into action to find the real killer.

Clark, Mary Higgins. [The Cinderella Murder](#) (\$7.99) Laurie Moran #1

For the first episode of her new cold case television reality drama show, producer Laurie Moran chooses to dig into the unsolved murder of UCLA student Susan Dempsey, whose body was discovered wearing just one shoe.

Coonts, Stephen. [Saucer: Savage Planet](#) (\$9.99) Saucer #3

In this conclusion to the Saucer trilogy (*Saucer* 2003, *Saucer: The Conquest* 2006), and engineering student, an Air Force test pilot, and an inventor investigate another flying saucer found embedded in the Great Barrier Reef.

Coulter, Catherine. [Lost Key](#) (\$9.99) Brit in the FBI #2

FBI agent Nicholas Drummond and his partner Mike Caine are in a desperate race to stop a madman from finding a lost cache of gold from World War I and a weapon unlike anything the world as ever seen.

Coyle, Cleo. [Once Upon a Grind](#) (\$7.99) Coffeehouse Mysteries #14

While celebrating "Fairy Tale" week in New York City, Clare Cosi stumbles across the body of a model – dubbed "Sleeping Beauty" – in Central Park.

Coyle, Harold. [Pandora's Legion](#) (\$8.99)

Strategic Solutions Inc., led by former Rear Admiral Michael Derringer is called into action when members of al-Qaida unleash a new biological weapon on the world.

Cussler, Clive. [Eye of Heaven](#) (\$9.99) Fargo #6

Sam and Remi Fargo are on a climate-control expedition in the Arctic, when to their astonishment they discover a Viking ship in the ice, perfectly preserved--and filled with pre-Columbian artifacts from Mexico.

Finch, Kay. [Black Cat Crossing](#) (Berkley \$7.99)

Aspiring mystery author Sabrina Tate finds herself faced with a real life mystery when her aunt's awful cousin is found dead with a black cat by his body.

Fletcher, Jessica. [Murder, She Wrote: Death of a Blue Blood](#) (\$7.99) Murder She Wrote #42

Jessica Fletcher is ringing in the New Year with members of the British aristocracy, but before the clock strikes midnight, a killer will bring down the curtain on the party.

Freydont, Shelly. [Trick or Deceit](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Celebration Bay #4

After the Museum of Yankee Horrors wins first place and \$10,000 in the town's official Haunted House contest, one of the contest judges is murdered, and it is up to Liz Montgomery to unmask a sore loser.

Haddock, Nancy. [Basket Case](#) (Berkley \$7.99)

When a crafty group of senior housemates (who call themselves the Silver Six) host a craft fair at their farmhouse, a murderer decides to attend as well.

Jance, J.A. [Stand Down](#) (Harper \$3.99)

When J.P. Beaumont arrives at home and finds his wife Mel's car there but Mel is nowhere to be found, he knows something is up.

Johansen, Iris. [Chasing the Night](#) (\$5.99) Catherine Ling #1

CIA agent Catherine Ling needs Eve Duncan's help to find her son, who has been missing for nine years.

Johansen, Iris. [Eight Days to Live](#) (\$5.99) Eve Duncan #9

After Eve Duncan's adopted daughter, Jane, paints a portrait called "Guilt," a mysterious cult targets the young artist, deciding that she only has eight days to live.

Johansen, Iris. [Quicksand](#) (\$5.99) Eve Duncan #7

Only one man – a brilliant, ruthless killer – knows what happened to Eve Duncan's daughter Bonnie, but taunting Eve with his knowledge may be the last mistake he makes.

Land, Jon. [Strong Darkness](#) (\$7.99) Caitlin Strong #6

Texas Ranger Caitlin Strong finds herself pursuing a serial killer, whose methods are eerily similar to those of a killer her great-grandfather tried to catch more than a century and a half ago.

Ludlum, Robert. [Cry of the Halidon](#) (Bantam \$9.99)

A scientist receives an offer he cannot refuse--two million dollars to do a geological survey of Jamaica's dark interior--but when British Intelligence discovers his mission, they reveal that the last survey team never returned.

Maberry, Jonathan. [Dragon Factory](#) (St Martins \$9.99)

Joe Ledger and the DMS (Department of Military Sciences) go up against two competing groups of geneticists, both of whom want to see DMS destroyed.

Macrae, Molly. [Knot the Usual Suspects](#) (NAL \$7.99) Haunted Yarn Shop #5

When bagpiper and former Blue Plum, Tennessee resident Hugh McPhee is found dead right before the annual arts and crafts fair, Kath Rutledge, along with her knitting group, must unravel the clues with the help of Geneva, the ghost who haunts her shop.

Patterson, James. [Unlucky 13](#) (\$8) Women's Murder Club #13

The Women's Murder club is stalked by a killer, who has nothing to lose.

Shufeldt, Ken. [Rage](#) (Tor \$9.99)

Acting President Victor Garcia must deal with everything from big money contributors, dirty politicians, a secretive billionaire, and duplicitous Iranian leaders, all of whom seem hell-bent on plunging the world into chaos, but his greatest enemy might be closer than he thinks.

Slaughter, Karin. [Faint Cold Fear](#) (\$9.99) Sara Linton #3

Investigating an apparent suicide at a local college, medical examiner Sara Linton and police chief Jeffrey Tolliver become increasingly suspicious after two subsequent suicides and an attack on a coed, a situation that becomes personal when a former officer is discovered with important information.

Slaughter, Karin. [Indelible](#) (\$9.99) Sara Linton #4

Medical examiner Sara Linton finds herself at the center of a terrifying hostage crisis when an assailant shoots down a police officer and wounds sheriff Jeffrey Tolliver in the Grant County police station.

Wood, Tom. [Darkest Day](#) (NAL \$9.99)

While carrying out a hit on terrorist financier world-class assassin Victor finds himself the target of a killer, who it turns out, is just as good as he is.

Woods, Stuart. [Insatiable Appetites](#) (\$9.99) Stone Barrington #32

When Stone finds himself responsible for distributing the estate of a respected friend and mentor, the process unearths secrets that range from merely surprising to outright alarming.