

BOOKNEWS from

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Happy Thanksgiving to all...

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3 7:00 PM

Hank Phillippi Ryan signs [What You See](#) (Forge \$26) Jane Ryland

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 4 2:00 PM A Sassy Tea

Nancy Martin signs [Miss Ruffles Inherits Everything](#) (St Martins \$26) Sassy series start

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5 7:00 PM

Faye Kellerman signs [The Theory of Death](#) (Morrow \$27) The Deckers

Jonathan and Jesse Kellerman sign [The Golem of Paris](#) (Putnam \$28) Jacob Lev

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6 7:00 PM

Hosted by Pat King

Larry Correia signs [Son of the Black Sword](#) (Baen \$22) SciFi Pick

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7 2:00 PM Tea & Treats

Beatriz Williams signs [Along the Infinite Sea](#) (Putnam \$27) Suspense

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8 2:00 PM Music, Biscotti, and Books

Tess Gerritsen signs [Playing with Fire](#) (Ballantine \$28) The program includes music

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10 7:00 PM Wine and Murder

Douglas Preston signs [Crimson Shore](#) (Grand Central \$27) Agent Pendergast

Signed by both. Lincoln Child appears via Skype

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13 2:00 PM A Christmas Tea

Rhys Bowen signs [Away in a Manger](#) (St Martins \$25) Molly Murphy

Stephanie Barron signs [Jane and the Twelve Days of Christmas](#) (\$17 or \$25)

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13 5:00 PM

The Nancy Drew Club meets

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14 10:30 AM

Coffee & Crime discusses Donis Casey's first Alafair Tucker mystery, [The Old Buzzard Had It Coming](#) (\$15)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14 12:00 PM

Hearts & Flowers Club discusses Amy Hill's [Miss Dreamsville and The Lost Heiress of Collier County](#) (\$15)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14 Christmas Cupcake Cozy (Treat this as a single event with a food break)

1:00 PM

Donis Casey signs [All Men Fear Me](#) (Poisoned Pen \$27) Alafair Tucker

Betty Webb signs [The Puffin of Death](#) (Poisoned Pen \$27) Teddy Bentley

2:00 PM

Kate Carlisle signs [Crown and Moldering](#) (Berkley \$8) Fixer Upper

Jenn McKinlay signs [A Likely Story](#) (Berkley \$25) Library Lovers (comes with special library card laid in)

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15 2:00 PM A Victorian Tea Party

Charles Finch signs [Home by Nightfall](#) (St Martins \$26) Charles Lenox

Anne Perry signs [A Christmas Escape](#) (Ballantine \$18) Victorians

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17 7:00 PM

Clive Cussler and Graham Brown sign [The Pharaoh's Secret](#) (Putnam \$29) NUMA Files

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18 Breaking Bad—Greek & Italian Style

Jeffrey Siger signs [Devil of Delphi](#) (Poisoned Pen \$27) Andreas Kaldis

David Wagner signs [Murder Most Unfortunate](#) (Poisoned Pen \$27) Rick Montoya

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime discusses Leonard Gardner's [Fat City](#) (\$15)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21 10:30 AM

Croak & Dagger Club discusses Lou Berney's [Whiplash River](#) (\$15) Edgar nominee for Best Paperback Original Mystery

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21 1:00 PM

Janet Evanovich signs [Tricky Twenty Two](#) (Bantam \$28) Stephanie Plum

Check the website and Enews for Updates on this event's location and format and possible ticketing

CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28 Small Business Saturday

11:00-2:00 Dana Stabenow and Barbara recommend books

2:00 PM Feed Your Inner Romance

Jennifer Ashley signs [The Stolen Mackenzie Bride](#) (Berkley \$8)

Kristen Ashley signs [Walk Through Fire](#) (Grand Central \$8)

D.D. Ayres signs [Primal Force](#) (St Martins \$8)

Shelley Coriell signs [The Blind](#) (Grand Central \$8)

Beth Kendrick signs [Put a Ring on It](#) (NAL \$15)

AWARDS UPDATES

2015 Anthony Award Winners

Best Novel: Laura Lippman, [After I'm Gone](#)
Best First Novel: Lori Rader-Day, [The Black Hour](#)
Best Paperback Original: Catriona McPherson, [The Day She Died](#)
Best Critical or Non-fiction Work: Hank Phillippi Ryan, ed., [Writes of Passage](#)
Best Anthology or Collection: Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger, eds., [In the Company of Sherlock Holmes](#) (\$24.95 SIGNED)

2015 Barry Award Winners

Best Novel: Greg Iles, [Natchez Burning](#)
Best First Novel: Julia Dahl, [Invisible City](#)
Best Paperback Original: Allen Eskens, [The Life We Bury](#)
Best Thriller: Michael Koryta, [Those Who Wish Me Dead](#)

2015 Macavity Award Winners (Mystery Readers International)

Best Mystery Novel: Alex Marwood, [The Killer Next Door](#)
Best First Mystery Novel: Julia Dahl, [Invisible City](#)
Best Critical or Non-fiction Work: Hank Phillippi Ryan, ed., [Writes of Passage](#)
Sue Feder Memorial Historical Mystery Award: Catriona McPherson, [A Deadly Measure of Brimstone](#)

2015 Ngaio Marsh Award

Paul Cleave, [Five Minutes Alone](#) (\$16)

2015 North American Hammett Prize

Stephen King, [Mr. Mercedes](#) (\$17)

2015 Shamus Award Winners

Best Hardcover PI Novel:
David Rosenfelt, [Hounded](#)
Best First PI Novel:
Julia Dahl, [Invisible City](#)
Best Original Paperback PI Novel
Vincent Zandri, [Moonlight Weeps](#)

2015 T.J. Parker Award

Don Winslow, [The Cartel](#) (\$27.95)

EVENT BOOKS

Barron, Stephanie. [Jane and the Twelve Days of Christmas](#) (\$16.95 or \$25 Nov. 13). The authors writes, "Her prose is peculiarly suited to the winter months: to sharp frost twitching the nose, reddened fingers, a sofa or chair pulled up to a good fire, a glass of sherry at hand.... When Austen wrote to an intimate – most frequently her sister, Cassandra – she was Jane Unbound: caustic, funny, judgmental, dismissive. She possessed and dominated everyone she knew by subjecting them to her wit – and she delighted in the past time. This was a Jane remarkably equipped to investigate murder, a Jane who understood the power of motivation and the essence of the human heart. She delighted in the absurd, punctured the ridiculous, and demurred for no man." So, I add, this is the Jane attending an 1814 Christmas country house party at The Vyne, with the wealthy Chute family, and some of her own relatives, where a reveler dies in a Yuletide accident. Or is it one? Astringent and unsparring of her relatives and herself, Jane strikes a note many of us share at this season. I love this series which continues on February 2 when

Barron returns to sign [Jane and the Waterloo Map](#) (Soho \$25.95). Indulge yourself, escape, by reading or rereading the whole Jane Austen series. [Click here](#) to order.

Bowen, Rhys. [Away in a Manger](#) (St Martins \$24.99 Nov. 13). Molly Murphy Sullivan is preparing to enjoy Christmas, 1905, with her policeman husband Daniel, 12-year-old ward Bridie, and the baby (plus Daniel's mother Mrs. Sullivan whose impending arrival has Molly on her mettle) when a rash of pickpockets leads to her volunteering to act as a spotter—undercover work, as it were, for the NYPD—with the baby as camouflage. This brings her and the children into contact with a pair of street beggars who turn out to be English—and have a history that Molly, naturally, explores, to everyone's peril. But this being a Christmas novella, it will all work out, the dastards being punished and the little angels made safe. Enjoy.

Carlisle, Kate. [Crown and Moldering](#) (Berkley \$7.99 Nov. 14). When Mac Sullivan—famous thriller writer and Shannon's new beau—first moved to Lighthouse Cove, California, he bought the historic lighthouse mansion that the town is named after. Mac needs help cleaning up the place, and Shannon is more than happy to get her handywoman hands on the run-down Victorian. But during demolition, a grisly discovery is made among the debris—the bones of a teenage girl who went missing fifteen years ago. Locals had always assumed Lily Brogan ran away from her difficult life, but it seems her troubles followed her to the grave. If Shannon has any chance of getting her renovation back on track, she'll need to tackle the cold case. But with new suspects coming out of the woodwork every day, she'll have to be careful to pry the right secrets and clues from the poor girl's problematic past... Fixer Upper Mystery #3. Order the first two [here](#).

Casey, Donis. [All Men Fear Me](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 Nov. 14). This wonderful series began in the first decade of the 20th Century and has moved to WWI and the draft. "Casey's skill at making you care about the injustices of a time and place not often covered in history books is second to none. The admirable mystery is the cherry on top."—*Kirkus*. *PW* writes, "America's entry into WWI provides the backdrop for Casey's absorbing eighth Alafair Tucker mystery. Passions run high in the small town of Boynton, Okla., the home of Alafair, her husband, and their 10 children. Patriotic zealot Emmanuel Clover, a Council of Defense member, is on the lookout for those not doing their bit for the war effort. In contrast, Dutch Leonard, a member of the Industrial Workers of the World labor union, opposes the far-off war. Innocent civilians such as German-born Kurt Lukenbach, Alafair's son-in-law, and grocer Aram Khouri are caught in the general distrust of foreigners and socialists by hotheads like Billy Claude Walker. The arrival of Alafair's IWW-activist brother, Rob Gunn, coincides with the unrest, acts of sabotage at the local brick works, and murder. In the middle of it all is "old Nick," a ubiquitous stranger feasting on the conflicts and fanning the flames. Casey vividly evokes a tumultuous moment in U.S. history." Order all the Alafairs [here](#).

Correia, Larry. [Son of the Black Sword](#) (Baen \$22 Nov. 6). Our **November SciFi/Fantasy Pick** starts a stirring new series by Correia. Ashok Vadal has been chosen by a powerful ancient

weapon to be its bearer. He is a Protector, the elite militant order of roving law enforcers. No one is more merciless in rooting out those who secretly practice the old ways. Everything is black or white, good or evil, until he discovers his entire life is a fraud. “This book has everything I like in fantasy: intense action scenes, evil in horrifying array, good struggling against the darkness, and most of all people—gorgeously flawed human beings faced with horrible moral choices that force them to question and change and grow.” —Jim Butcher. There is a very cool book trailer to [watch here](#).

Cussler, Clive/Graham Brown. [The Pharaoh’s Secret](#) (Putnam \$28.95 Nov. 17 by both authors). NUMA Files. A ruthless powerbroker schemes to build a new Egyptian empire as glorious as those of the Pharaohs. Part of his plan rests on the manipulation of a newly discovered aquifer beneath the Sahara, but an even more devastating weapon at his disposal may threaten the entire world: a plant extract known as the black mist, discovered in the City of the Dead, as we see in a chilling opening scene during the time of the “apostate” Pharaoh Akhenaten. Kurt Austin and his team must outsmart a ferociously determined opponent ready to send every and anyone to meet the ancient underworld god Anubis. And...there are crocodiles.

Evanovich, Jane. [Tricky Twenty Two](#) (Bantam \$27.99 Nov. 21). Look for an update in the Enews for event details. Stephanie Plum might not be the world’s greatest bounty hunter, but she knows when she’s being played. Ken Globovic (AKA Gobbles), hailed as the The Supreme Exalted Zoo Keeper of the animal house known as Zeta fraternity, has been arrested for beating up the dean of students at Kiltman College. Gobbles has missed his court date and gone into hiding. People have seen him on campus, but no one will talk. Things just aren’t adding up, and Stephanie can’t shake the feeling that something funny is going on at the college—and it’s not just Zeta fraternity pranks. As much as people love Gobbles, they hate Doug Linken. When Linken is gunned down in his backyard it’s good riddance, and the list of possible murder suspects is long. The only people who care about finding Linken’s killer are Trenton cop Joe Morelli, who has been assigned the case, security expert Ranger, who was hired to protect Linken, and Stephanie, who has her eye on a cash prize and hopefully has some tricks up her sleeve.

Finch, Charles. [Home by Nightfall](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Nov. 15). London in the autumn of 1876 is buzzing with news and rumors about the mysterious disappearance of a famous foreign pianist from the theater where he has just electrifyingly performed. Charles Lenox, having left Parliament where his former secretary has taken his seat, has weathered the transition into professional private enquiry agent as a partner in a now-thriving detective agency. He’s a natural choice to investigate what happened to the musician, he thinks, although there is competition from a former agency partner who has set up on his own funded by a rich press lord. But a more urgent concern is the health of Lenox’ newly widowed elder brother and Charles abandons London for the family home. And quickly learns that instead of a quiet week in the country, something strange is afoot in Markethouse, the adjacent village. In fact, it’s something so bizarre you have to wonder how Finch will pull it all together.... This story develops slowly in terms of investigation but it is really rich in the details of daily life, village, country house, and London. Finch appears with Anne Perry and it’s a perfect pairing! “Well-defined

characters enhance the intriguing plot lines.”—*PW*. I’m a big fan of Finch’s elegant historical fiction, a Victorian Lord Peter Wimsey of sorts, and urge you to order all of them [here](#).

Gerritsen, Tess. [Playing with Fire](#) (Ballantine \$28 Nov. 8). A standalone suspense by Tess who has a musical background (she’s bringing her recording of a piece to play at her event) and a medical background, both key to the plot turns and twists. When violinist Julia Ansdell first plays the moody minor-key, arpeggiolaced “Incendio Waltz,” she blacks out—and awakens to find her young daughter involved in an act of violence. That sends Julia scurrying to speak with the sheet music’s previous owner in Venice, where she uncovers a horrific secret that dates back to the Holocaust. That’s the bare bones of the story...but there’s much more. It’s key to remember that Tess not only started in romance, but she’s a doctor. And a performer: “I was halfway through writing the novel when the music itself came to me in a dream. I think that all those months of writing about “Incendio” had somehow worked its way into my subconscious, and I woke up with the melody in my head: a mournful waltz, just as I’d described in the story. Immediately I sat down at my piano and played the first 16 bars, recording it on my phone so I wouldn’t lose it.”

Kellerman, Faye. [The Theory of Death](#) (Morrow \$26.99 Nov. 5). There’s some interesting brain science and math involved (Faye did her homework and makes it easy to follow), and a brilliant young Mennonite student mysteriously found dead in the Dexters’ new upstate NY location with a sleepy police department. I really like the shift from LA to this small town with its proximity to colleges, urban centers, and such. It’s been a year since former LAPD Lt. Decker has faced a murder in Greenbury, but now a nude and nameless male is found in the woods. It looks like a suicide, a single shot to the head, yet the real problem is identifying the body. Fortuitously Tyler McAdams, a former local cop now studying law, asks the Deckers for space to study for his exams, and thus can help Pete penetrate the indecipherable upper echelons of mathematics and mathematical prodigies at Kneed Loft College. It turns out to be a dangerous sphere of scheming academics, secret ciphers, and hidden corruption where even harmless nerds can morph into cold, calculating geniuses. Order earlier Decker/Lazarus mysteries [here](#). The move to NY occurs in *Murder 101*.

Kellerman, Jonathan/Jesse. [The Golem of Paris](#) (Putnam \$27.95 Nov. 5 by both authors). It’s been more than a year since LAPD detective Jacob Lev learned the remarkable truth about his family, and he’s not coping well. He’s back to drinking, he’s not talking to his father, the LAPD Special Projects Department continues to shadow him, and the memory of a woman named Mai haunts him day and night. And while Jacob has tried to build a bridge to his mother, she remains a stranger to him, imprisoned inside her own tattered mind. Then he comes across the file for a gruesome unsolved murder that brings the two halves of his life into startling collision. Finding the killer will take him halfway around the world, to Paris.... The first collaborative Golem thriller is [The Golem of Hollywood](#) (\$9.99). Jonathan’s August release, [The Murderer’s Daughter](#) (Random \$28), introduces the risk-taking psychologist Grace Blades who, since the book debuted at #2, may turn into a series character. It’s an exciting read. Don’t overlook Jesse’s excellent thrillers: [click here](#) to order.

Martin, Nancy. [Miss Ruffles Inherits Everything](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Nov. 4). This is fun, a cozy Texas-style (most amusing) with a suddenly wealthy dog (Miss Ruffles), a somewhat baffled secretary to the suddenly deceased rich widow Honeybelle whose passion was (stealing) roses, a lawyer (third generation) of a family firm who breaks the news to Honeybelle's family about the will... And various real surprises. It's smart and slyly fun, a grand read for the holidays when you want to just enjoy something. I've liked Martin's writing all along and am glad to see this series start from her. She has various other books to her credit: please order them [here](#).

McKinlay, Jenn. [A Likely Story](#) (Berkley \$24.95 Nov. 14). Phoenix librarian McKinlay's first hardcover is the 6th entry in her Library Lover's Series and comes with a specially designed library card insert she and Ariel have created. Small-town librarian Lindsey Norris must solve a murder and a missing person's case involving two reclusive brothers. Library Read Picks for November finds this "just as addictive as the rest of the Library Lover's mysteries! McKinlay has written some of the most authentic library characters that I've come across in the cozy mystery genre. I can't wait to find out what the employees and patrons of Briar Creek Public Library (especially Sully) are up to next!" Click on the title to order via the library card promotion (the card is free with the book). And [click here](#) to order the first five LL mysteries.

Perry, Anne. [A Christmas Escape](#) (Ballantine \$18 Nov. 15). Perry's 13th nod to the season transports us to the Mediterranean island of Stromboli for an unconventional Yuletide adventure—and an unforgettable volcanic encounter. You Agent Pendergast fans will recall he once tangled with Stromboli. Also available, last year's Christmas tale: [A New York Christmas](#) (Random \$18). And [Anne Perry's Merry Mysteries](#) (\$16). A pair of her Victorian mysteries together in a single paperback. Still in stock: [Corridors of the Night](#) (\$27), Perry's latest for the River Police's William Monk—but this one really belongs to his wife, former Crimean war nurse Hester. Medical experimentation figures in. And of course there's the Thames, the superhighway of the time....

Preston, Douglas. [Crimson Shore](#) (Grand Central \$27 Nov. 10). Signed here on publication day November 10. All our copies come with a temporary tattoo laid in depicting the Pendergast coat of arms. So, the authors of the Pendergast series have really let their inner Gothic run wild. A sculptor who lives in the Exmouth, Massachusetts, lighthouse persuades the FBI agent to investigate the theft of his fabulous wine collection (aargh...). Which leads to a ghastly discovery (so Poe). Mix it up with a lost British ship from 1883, the murder of an historian, possible outliers from old Salem, and who knows what's going on out in the extensive marshlands. Pendergast's ward, Constance Greene, accompanies A. X. O. to the quaint seaside town and does her share of heavy lifting. And then... there's a real cliffhanger of an ending! A Library Read Pick for November adds, "the interaction between Pendergast and Constance in this book was very intriguing." Now there's understatement! We could run short of double-signed books with the tattoo so you really should get your order in now, since reorders are not an option.

Ryan, Hank Phillippi. [What You See](#) (Forge \$25.99 Nov. 3). Mary Higgins Clark Award-winner Ryan deftly handles four distinct story lines in her strong fourth Jane Ryland novel. "A man has

been stabbed to death in a public square across from Boston's historic Faneuil Hall in broad daylight; a troubled college student deals with a boring job and survivor guilt following her perfect older sister's death; and newly unemployed reporter Jane, having quit her job for ethical reasons, finds herself thrust into a freelance gig covering the Faneuil Hall murder that her secret love interest, Det. Jake Brogan, is investigating. Finally, Gracie, the child of Jane's sister's fiancé, appears to have been kidnapped by Gracie's stepfather. As the story races on—and it does move fast—the layers of connection among these plot threads gradually become clear. Fully drawn characters, palpable suspense, and not one, but two unexpected endings are a plus... and some humor in the way Jane can't catch a break job-wise."—*PW*. Order Jane's earlier investigations [here](#).

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

Wagner, David P. [Murder Most Unfortunate](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 Nov. 18). In his third outing, Italian American translator Rick Montoya once again finds himself putting his linguistic skills to use in solving a crime. Having recently returned to Italy, Montoya travels to Bassano del Grappa to serve as a translator for international scholars at a conference on the artist Jacopo da Bassano [a famous native son]. He's asked to help the local police interview suspects when one of the conference speakers is murdered. Professor Lorenzo Fortuna rubbed nearly everyone the wrong way, but what could he have said or done that would be worth taking a life? Could it have something to do with the two missing paintings that are still the grail to Jacopo collectors? Montoya finds a *bellissima* tour guide in Betta, the adventurous daughter of a local gallery owner. Though he spent his childhood in Rome, Montoya proudly kicks around Italy in the cowboy boots he brought with him from the years he spent in New Mexico. He is an easygoing, empathetic protagonist—with just enough American irreverence to keep his Italian colleagues entertained."—*Booklist*. Bassano has much to offer to Rick the tourist, starting with its famous covered bridge, an ancient castle, and several picturesque walled towns within striking distance. He also plans to savor a local cuisine that combines the best of Venice with dishes from the

Po Valley and the surrounding mountains. Food, wine, art, Italian scenery... Yum. *LJ* says, "Rick, as always, is a charming sleuth." *Kirkus* adds, "Wagner's latest is part puzzle, part travelogue, likely to appeal most to readers who want a proxy visit to Italy."

Webb, Betty. [The Puffin of Death](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 Nov. 14). The 4th Gunn Zoo Mystery takes Teddy Bentley out of California and her comfort zone to summer in Iceland on a mission to bring home a polar bear cub for the zoo's new northern exhibit. The Gunn Zoo is a family enterprise run by Teddy's terrifying grandmother Aster Edwina and is located on the central California coast. Teddy is scarcely into touring Iceland a bit when she stumbles upon the body of Simon Parr, newly minted Arizona lottery millionaire who has treated his bird-watching club to a trip to this haven for all manner of avians. Parr's widow is a celebrated romance author. Chief Inspector Thorvald Haraldsson doesn't welcome Teddy's help and in fact orders her off when another of the bird-watchers is found dead. Fat chance.... "Iceland's rugged and sometimes dangerous landscape provides atmosphere, while Magnus, the polar bear cub, appears just often enough to remind us why Teddy's in Iceland. Webb skillfully keeps the reader guessing right up to the dramatic conclusion."—*PW*. [Click here](#) to order the first 3 Gunn Zoo's.

Williams, Beatriz. [Along the Infinite Sea](#) (Putnam \$26.95 Nov. 7). Pepper Schuyler meets a French widow whose past hides an epic love. In 1966, being single and pregnant is bad enough, but Pepper's also on the run from the baby's famous father, who's anxious to hush up the potential scandal. After restoring and auctioning off a vintage Mercedes, Pepper plans to use the money to have her baby in safety and ensure their future. However, when glamorous Annabelle Dommerich buys the car, she confides to Pepper that she and her husband used it to escape Germany on the eve of World War II. Instantly sympathetic to Pepper's situation, Annabelle insists on taking in the younger woman, and slowly she unspools her secrets. I've become a fan. So have lots of librarians. A Library Read Pick for November: "When Pepper Schuyler—on the run from a powerful politician and desperate to protect her unborn child—sells her newly restored classic car to an enigmatic and very wealthy woman, she not only finds unexpected refuge but also tantalizing hints of a mystery. With vivid European settings, colorful characters and intricate plotting that skillfully weaves past and present together, *Along The Infinite Sea* is a treat." "Although touching on the politics and tragedy of the World War II era, Williams lets smaller personal dramas and romance take center stage over troop movements and concentration camp details, trusting the reader to fill in the background. She also has the knack for reminding readers that wars are fought by people, not heroes and villains."—Jaclyn Fulwood. Order Williams' earlier bestsellers [here](#) — *The Secret Life of Violet Grant* was a History/Mystery Club Pick.

CHRISTMAS CRIMES AND OTHER READS

Barron, Stephanie. [Jane and the Twelve Days of Christmas Signed](#) (\$16.95 or \$25). An astringent Jane Austen at a country house Christmas Party. It's murder.... See Event Books.

Bowen, Rhys. [Away in a Manger Signed](#) (St Martins \$24.99). A Molly Murphy Christmas mystery. See Event Books.

Chiaverini, Jennifer. [Christmas Bells](#) (Dutton \$25.95). "I heard the bells on Christmas Day/ Their old familiar carols play/ And wild and sweet/ The words repeat/Of peace on earth,

good-will to men!" In 1860, the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow family celebrated Christmas at Craigie House, their home in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The publication of Longfellow's classic Revolutionary War poem, "Paul Revere's Ride," was less than a month hence, and the country's grave political unrest weighed heavily on his mind. Yet with his beloved wife, Fanny, and their five adored children at his side, the delights of the season prevailed. In present-day Boston, a dedicated teacher in the Watertown public school system is stunned by somber holiday tidings. Sophia's music program has been sacrificed to budget cuts, and she worries not only about her impending unemployment but also about her underprivileged students. At the church where she volunteers as music director, Sophia tries to forget her cares as she leads the children's choir in rehearsal for a Christmas Eve concert, she chooses a carol set to Longfellow's poem, the one he wrote despite family tragedy. Yet his patriotism never failed, nor did the power of his language.

Cleland, Jane. [Ornaments of Death Signed](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Cleland visits to sign this at a December 10 Christmas Tea, but do order now. Prescott's Antiques has been transformed into a winter wonderland for Josie's annual holiday party in Rocky Point, NH. The plum for Josie is the arrival of Ian Bennington, a surprise distant relative; he and Josie are both descended from Arabella Churchill, once mistress to James II. Thus there are some miniatures in the picture, one of each lover. Small watercolor portraits, which Ian had given to his daughter. When Ian unexpectedly disappears along with the miniatures, Josie resolves to put her professional knowledge to work.... Another fascinating book by Cleland; not a cozy but a traditional mystery with a sustainable business, antiques, providing context as well as a constant turnover of population so that Rocky Point doesn't feel like Cabot's Cove.

Dallas, Sandra. [A Quilt for Christmas](#) (\$12.99). It is 1864 and Eliza Spooner's husband Will has joined the Kansas volunteers to fight the Confederates, leaving her with their two children and in charge of their home and land. Eliza is confident that he will return home, and she helps pass the months making a special quilt to keep Will warm during his winter in the army. When the unthinkable happens, she takes in a woman and child who have been left alone and made vulnerable by the war, and she finds solace and camaraderie amongst the women of her quilting group. And then she is asked to help hide an escaped slave...

Delany, Vicki. [Rest Ye Murdered Gentlemen](#) (Berkley \$7.99) starts a series set in Rudolph, NY, a little Upstate town where it's Christmas year-round. Merry Wilkinson has returned home to open up a shop called Mrs. Claus's Treasures, which sells quality, artisan-crafted gifts. December is Rudolph's busiest season, but someone seems to be trying to sabotage the holiday for everyone. When Nigel Pearce, a journalist writing about "America's Christmas town," is found dead, the community is thrown into turmoil and potential ruin as tourists cancel reservations and avoid shopping there. With her best friend under suspicion and her livelihood at risk, Merry is determined to find the grinch who is destroying their Christmas. *LJ* calls this "A fun Yuletide-themed cozy with an appealing amateur sleuth." As with any cozy series start, a lot of space goes to the set up and it's clear Delany enjoyed the necessary world-building as she creates a community equivalent of a Christmas shop. Delany publishes a new Constable Molly Smith (Canadian policing) mystery in February.

Edwards, Martin, ed. [Silent Nights](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). Like an assortment of presents under a Christmas tree, there's something for everyone in this Yule-themed reprint anthology in the British Library Crime Classics series... See British Library Crime Classics for more.

Evans, Richard. [The Mistletoe Inn](#) (SimonSchuster \$19.99). The second volume in Evans' Mistletoe Collection, holiday love stories. This one involves Kimberly who dreams of becoming a published romance author and signs up for the nine-day Mistletoe Writing Retreat in Burlington, Vermont. Not only will she not spend the holiday alone, she will hear HT Cowell, once America's bestselling romance author, speak. At the conference she meets one Zeke, a supportive, inquisitive colleague with a past he won't discuss.... Maybe relationship coaching will unlock the inner muse.

Fluke, Joanne/Laura Levine/Leslie Meier. [Candy Cane Murder](#) (\$9.95). A reissue of 3 Christmastime novellas from 2011.

Hay, Mavis Doris. [Santa Klaus Murder](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). Originally published in 1936, this merry puzzle in the British Library Crime Classics series from Hay (1894–1979) contains all the elements of a golden age English whodunit. At Christmas-time, the members of the Melbury family gather at their ancestral home, Flaxmere, in the county of Haulmshire. Almost everyone at Flaxmere has some motive for murdering the family patriarch, Sir Osmond, who's discovered shot in the study on Christmas Day. Colonel Halstock, a neighbor and the local chief constable, leads the investigation, and he soon comes to the unsatisfying initial conclusion that the only person who had the opportunity to kill Sir Osmond was the young man in the Santa suit who had no motive for the deed.

Johnson, Craig. [Wait for Signs](#) (\$14). 12 Longmire stories published last year in hardcover as a seasonal treat. See Our November Trade Paperback Picks.

King, Laurie R. [Mary's Christmas Signed](#) (\$10). An original short story by King begins one winter's evening in late 1921 or 1922 when Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes are seated by their fire, sharing stories about the unexplored portions of their past. Naturally, a person might expect the older Holmes to have a large collection of these—but tonight it is Russell who astonishes her husband with news of a previously unknown, even unsuspected, relation. Uncle Jake: scoundrel, charmer, eternal youth, black sheep of the wealthy Boston Russell family. Jake is the kind of man who literally drops out of a cloudless summer sky, who makes a good if shady living from his wits, whose holiday specialty is a series of wildly inappropriate and passionately adored Christmas presents. Whose older brother loves him, and doesn't trust him an inch. What young girl could resist his charms?

Lovett, Charlie. [The Further Adventures of Ebenezer Scrooge](#) (Viking \$20). A Christmas novella imagining the life of the miserly Scrooge twenty years after his conversion in *A Christmas Carol*. Relentless cheer, and prodigal spending, are as much a challenge to the Cratchits and others as his former miserly ways....

Oliver, LJ. [Humbug Murders](#) (Pocket \$7.99). One night shortly before Christmas, 30-year-old Ebenezer Scrooge receives a visit from the ghost of his former employer, Fezziwig, who

desperately imparts a cryptic warning about three more deaths, including Scrooge's, if he doesn't find Fezziwig's killer.

Perry, Anne. [Anne Perry's Merry Mysteries Signed](#) (Ballantine \$16). A pair of her Victorian mysteries together in a single paperback is set in London in "A Christmas Hope," and sends Jemima Pitt crossing the Atlantic for the first time in "A New York Christmas."

Thompson, Victoria. [Murder on St Nicholas Avenue](#) (Berkley \$25.95). *LJ* finds that, "Thompson rewards fans of her long-running 19th-century-set series with an "extra" Christmas story filled with some of the secondary characters." Since Frank and Sarah Malloy are away on their honeymoon in Europe, nursemaid Maeve offers to aid Mrs. O'Neill, a friend of Frank's mother, who shows up at the Malloy residence seeking help for her daughter Una, who has been arrested for killing her husband. Maeve's visit to the Pollack household to see if there might be any resources to aid Una, she finds a surprise. Maeve has a sweetheart in the NYPD's Gino Donatelli who steps up. Fans of Rhys Bowen's Molly Murphy mysteries will enjoy this tale.

Washburn, Livia. [The Candy Cane Cupcake Killer](#) (NAL \$15). 'Tis the season in Weatherford, Texas, and everyone in town is gearing up for the annual holiday parade and tree-lighting ceremony in the town square, where Phyllis Newsom will be serving her much-anticipated candy cane cupcakes. Local rancher Barney McCrory manages to charm one away from her before the ceremony begins. But unfortunately, when the minty confection is finished, so is he. This isn't the first time someone has dropped dead after eating one of Phyllis's treats. But when the paramedics determine the rancher was shot, suspicion swiftly falls on McCrory's daughter and her husband—who both stand to reap some sweet rewards from his death. Though Phyllis doesn't want to get mixed up in another murder investigation, something about this case doesn't sit right with her.

BRITISH BOOKS

Ackroyd, Peter. [Wilkie Collins: A Brief Life](#) (Knopf \$25). This compact but detailed biography illuminates the literary career of Wilkie Collins (1824–1889), whose "sensation stories" made him one of the Victorian era's most popular authors. Collins, the son of a respected painter (whose biography would be one of his first publishing successes), escaped from the drudgery of a civil service career—his father's idea—while still in his early 20s by unleashing a torrent of novels, short stories, essays, and journalistic pieces that ensured his literary fame. He befriended Charles Dickens, becoming his frequent collaborator on stories and amateur theatrical adaptations in which the two occasionally acted. Ackroyd identifies "contemporary melodrama" as Collins's métier. He was "a master of plot rather than of character" whose novels—notably *The Woman in White* and *The Moonstone*—are memorable for their suspense and narrative ingenuity. Collins also flouted Victorian mores and sometimes incensed critics with his realistic depictions of working-class life and the plight of women. The depiction of Collins as an artist afflicted with gout and neuralgia who worked himself to the brink of nervous prostration with each book he wrote makes him as interesting as one of his own fictional characters.

Benson, EF. [Lucia in London & Mapp and Lucia](#); [Queen Lucia & Miss Mapp](#); [The Worshipful Lucia & Trouble for Lucia](#) (Vintage \$15.95 each). Reissues of the Mapp & Lucia classic comedies of

manners set in English village society, 1920s-30s vintage. The double volumes are handy and packaged for the period where the two “hypocritical snobs” Mrs. Lucia Lucas and Miss Elizabeth Mapp keep seaside Tilling rocking. It’s too small to contain them. British farce isn’t for every reader but give these a go.

Bonner, Hilary. [Death Comes First](#) (\$13.95). Joyce Mildmay’s life is torn apart when her husband Charlie is killed in a tragic yachting accident. Though financially secure, Joyce is left to raise their three children by herself within Tarrant Park, a secluded gated development set in the rural countryside outside of Bristol. Six months later a mysterious letter arrives on her doorstep which turns her shattered world upside down. The letter is from Charlie, delivered belatedly in the event of his death, and contains a sinister warning that Joyce’s father, Henry Tanner, and the family business is not as it seems. For their children to be safe, her husband pleads, she must leave their home and never look back. Confused and alarmed by this message from beyond the grave, Joyce decides instead to stay and unearth the truth. But what she learns reveals a trail of intrigue and deception that stretches back through the years

Christie, Agatha. [N Or M? A Tommy and Tuppence Mystery](#) (\$12.99) and [The Secret Adversary](#) (\$12.99), also reissued for the sleuthing couple.

Cleverly, Barbara. [Enter Pale Death](#) (\$15.95). An excellent Joe Sandilands of Scotland Yard investigation—see our November Trade Paperback Picks.

Fowler, Christopher. [Bryant and May London’s Glory Signed](#) (Doubleday UK \$39). In every detective’s life there are cases that can’t be discussed, and throughout the Bryant & May novels there have been mentions of some of these such as the Deptford Demon or the Little Italy Whelk Smuggling Scandal. Now Arthur Bryant has decided to open the files on eleven of these previously unseen investigations that required the collective genius and unique modus operandi of Arthur Bryant and John May and the Peculiar Crimes Unit – investigations that range from different times (London during the Great Smog) and a variety of places: a circus freak show, on board a London Tour Bus and even a yacht off the coast of Turkey. And in addition to these eleven classic cases, readers are also given a privileged look inside the Peculiar Crimes Unit (literally, with a cut away drawing of their offices), a guide to the characters of the Peculiar Crimes Unit, and access to the contents of Arthur Bryant’s highly individual library.

Griffiths, Elly. [Smoke and Mirrors Signed](#) (Quercus \$39). Pantomime season is in full swing on the pier with Max Mephisto starring in Aladdin, but Max’s headlines have been stolen by the disappearance of two local children. When they are found dead in the snow, surrounded by sweets, it’s not long before the press nickname them ‘Hansel and Gretel’. DI Edgar Stephens has plenty of leads to investigate. The girl, Annie, used to write gruesome plays based on the Grimms’ fairy tales. Does the clue lie in Annie’s unfinished – and rather disturbing – last script? Or might it lie with the eccentric actors who have assembled for the pantomime? Once again Edgar enlists Max’s help in penetrating the shadowy theatrical world that seems to hold the key. But is this all just classic misdirection? Stephens & Mephisto #2 after [The Zig Zag Girl](#) (\$25).

MacNeal, Susan Elia. [Mrs. Roosevelt’s Confidante](#) (\$15). **Our November History /Mystery Paperback Pick** features British spy Maggie Hope. December 1941. Soon after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Winston Churchill arrives in Washington, D.C., along with Maggie. See November Paperback Picks for more.

Morton, Kate. [The Lake House](#) (SimonSchuster \$28). A reminder this latest lush novel of suspense is just waiting for you. . . . A neglected Cornish estate. A missing child. Secrets down generations. . . and a surprise. If you long for Daphne DuMaurier, Mary Stewart, like that, [click here](#) to order the earlier Mortons, all splendid.

Penzler, Otto, ed. The [Big Book of Sherlock Holmes Stories](#) (Vintage \$25—there is also a hardcover edition at \$40). The breadth of this anthology, which spans over a century and includes everything from straight pastiches and parodies to fully developed whodunits, is but one of its virtues. Among the 83 selections, Penzler offers works by authors better known for other fiction, such as O. Henry, A.A. Milne, and P.G. Wodehouse, as well as tales from Holmes scholars such as Christopher Morley and Leslie Klinger. Settings range from Baker Street to unfamiliar terrain, not necessarily on Earth. The variety of approaches is an eloquent testament to Conan Doyle’s genius in creating such an iconic character. One gem, which may be new even to Sherlockians, is “The Adventure of the Murdered Art Editor,” penned by none other than the classic American illustrator of the Holmes canon, Frederic Dorr Steele. Perhaps Penzler’s most significant contribution is rescuing from undeserved obscurity talented writers who have captured the Watsonian narrative voice and combined it with brilliant deductions and mesmerizing plots, such as Rick Boyer (“The Adventure of Zolnay, the Aerialist”), August Derleth (“The Adventure of the Remarkable Worm”), and James Iraldi (“The Problem of the Purple Maculas”). This volume is a must for all fans of the great detective.

Rendell, Ruth. [Dark Corners](#) (Scribner \$26). Here is the final novel from the late Ruth Rendell, Diamond Dagger winner supreme. When his father dies, Carl Martin inherits a house in an increasingly rich and trendy London neighborhood. Carl needs cash, however, so he rents the upstairs room and kitchen to the first person he interviews, Dermot McKinnon. That was colossal mistake number one. Mistake number two was keeping his father’s bizarre collection of homeopathic “cures” that he found in the medicine cabinet, including a stash of controversial diet pills. Mistake number three was selling fifty of those diet pills to a friend, who is then found dead. Dermot seizes a nefarious opportunity and begins to blackmail Carl, refusing to pay rent, and creepily invading Carl’s space. Ingeniously weaving together two storylines that finally merge in one shocking turn, Ruth Rendell describes one man’s spiral into darkness—and murder—as he falls victim to a diabolical foe he cannot escape. This is masterful storytelling that gets under your skin. . . .

Robinson, Peter. [The Hanging Valley; A Necessary End](#) (\$14.99). The second batch of Inspector Alan Banks Yorkshire mystery reissues.

Schumacher, Tony. [The British Lion](#) (Morrow \$25.99). In this second novel set in 1940s Nazi-occupied Great Britain, Schumacher traps English war hero John Rossett between duty,

loyalty, and morality. Isolationist Charles Lindbergh is president of the U.S. and sycophant Joe Kennedy is ambassador to the U.K., but spy Allen Dulles doesn't believe "America needs Hitler." Dulles is running a clandestine operation to kidnap SS Maj. Ernst Koehler's wife and daughter, and he wants Ruth Hartz, genius theoretical and applied physicist, in exchange. Hartz, a Jew, has special dispensation to work on a superweapon at a Cambridge laboratory. Koehler's gotten Rossett out of more than one scrape, and so the German major knows the police inspector will help him. Rossett and Koehler drive the tale, with the proverbial flawed hero Rossett, burned out and sickened by Nazi anti-Semitism, struggling to be a better man.... Believable alternate history laced with multiple gunfights, turncoat duplicity, and an ending sure to propel the British Lion back into action after [The Darkest Hour](#) (\$14.99).

BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSICS

Edwards, Martin, ed. [Silent Nights](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). Like an assortment of presents under a Christmas tree, there's something for everyone in this Yule-themed reprint anthology in the British Library Crime Classics series from Edwards. The 15 selections range from stories by such leading lights of the genre's golden age as Arthur Conan Doyle ("The Blue Carbuncle") and Dorothy L. Sayers ("The Necklace of Pearls") to works by such forgotten authors as H.C. Bailey ("The Unknown Murderer") and Ralph Plummer ("Parlour Tricks"). Connoisseurs of locked-room mysteries will welcome Edmund Crispin's "The Name on the Window." Ethel Lina White's "Waxworks" will send shivers down readers' spines, though it contains the now-cliché stopped watch to indicate time of death. In "Stuffing," Edgar Wallace repeats Doyle's prize-in-the-bird trick from "Carbuncle," but this is another quibble. These classic tales of murder and jewel thievery with a light dusting of snow reveal bygone sensibilities, which, by and large, are fun to read about."—*PW*. "Follow Edwards's advice to curl up with these good mysteries, as they're much better for the digestion than another helping of plum pudding. A delectable treat for fans of classic crime fiction."—*LJ*

Horler, Sydney. [The Traitor](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). "War is coming—and that means our secret agents must get busy." August 1918. On his way to the Western Front, Captain Alan Clinton spends a night in Paris with a young Frenchwoman, Marie Roget. Seduced by Marie's charms, Clinton discloses British military secrets – with disastrous consequences. Seventeen years later. The central European state of Ronstadt is ruled by the ruthless dictator Kuhnreich, and Europe is inching towards another war. Clinton's son Bobby travels to Europe as the political situation grows tenser, and seems dangerously close to repeating the sins of his father – leaving only his girlfriend to prove his innocence in a race against time. This new edition gives contemporary readers a long overdue chance to rediscover an early thriller by an author wildly popular in his day. Surprisingly its tropes are those of McGarry and Cumming as noted in *New Books*: the sins of the (spy) fathers echoing in the lives of the sons.

THE MISS FISHER MYSTERIES

The popularity of the Australian TV series, now in its third season here in the US, has led Poisoned Pen Press to reissue the books with covers to match. I always think of Diana Rigg if dropped back into the 1920s.... Also, to read a lively and thoughtful review of a later Miss Fisher, Murder and Mendelssohn, plus

comments on Cocaine Blues and the whole series, by Dana Stabenow, [click here](#)

Greenwood, Kerry. [Cocaine Blues](#) (\$15.95). This is where it all started! The first classic Phryne Fisher mystery, featuring our delectable heroine, cocaine, communism, and adventure. Phryne leaves the tedium of English high society for Melbourne, Australia, and never looks back. The London season is in full fling at the end of the 1920s, but the Honorable Phryne Fisher—she of the green-gray eyes, diamanté garters and outfits that should not be sprung suddenly on those of nervous dispositions—is rapidly tiring of the tedium of arranging flowers, making polite conversations with retired colonels, and dancing with weak-chinned men. Instead, Phryne decides it might be rather amusing to try her hand at being a lady detective in Melbourne, Australia. Almost immediately from the time she books into the Windsor Hotel, Phryne is embroiled in mystery...

[Flying Too High](#) (\$15.95). Phryne takes on a fresh case at the pleading of a hysterical woman who fears her hot-headed son is about to murder his equally hot-headed father. Phryne, bold as we love her to be, first upstages the son in his own airplane at his Sky-High Flying School, then promptly confronts him about his mother's alarm. To her dismay, however, the father is soon killed and the son taken off to jail. Then a young girl is kidnapped, and Phryne—who will never leave anyone in danger, let alone a child—goes off to the rescue. Engaging the help of Bert and Cec, the always cooperative Detective-Inspector Robinson, and her old flying chum Bunji Ross, Phryne comes up with a scheme while moving into her new home at 221B, The Esplanade, and firmly establishing Dot as her "Watson," and Mr. and Mrs. Butler as... the butler.

[Murder on the Ballarat Train](#) (\$15.95). The Honourable Miss Phryne Fisher, arranges to go to Ballarat for the week, she eschews the excitement of her red Hispano-Suiza racing car for the sedate safety of the train. The last thing she expects is to have to use her trusty Beretta .32 to save lives. As the passengers sleep, they are poisoned with chloroform. Phryne saves her fellow passengers except for an old woman whose body is found at the side of the tracks. Then there's the amnesiac waif and the rowing team and the choristers, all deliciously engaging young men....

Finally, there's a delightful companion volume: [A Question of Death, An Illustrated Miss Fisher](#) (\$19.95). Fans of the inimitable Phryne Fisher will rejoice in this cornucopia of short stories, recipes, lists of Phryne's favorite things, and other tidbits about the life of this female James Bond. For those readers who have yet to experience Greenwood's fearless bon vivant detective, this volume is a great introduction to many of the characters who inhabit the Phryne Fisher series. Uppermost in that character list is Melbourne, Australia, in the 1920s: both sophisticated and seedy, it provides the backdrop to Phryne's adventures. It also reflects the class struggles which are at the heart of many of the stories, from dock workers to the wealthy elite. Greenwood notes that she uses short stories as tryouts for cast members, to decide whether she wants to live with them for a whole novel. The volume is colorfully illustrated in great style by Beth Norling and is a treat to browse the drawings in the margins as well as the full-page depictions of the glamorous Phryne."—*Historical Novels Review*

IT'S BOND, JAMES BOND

With *Spectre* releasing November 6, interest in Ian Fleming's dashing spy leads to republication of John Gardner's 007s and a son's study:

Gardner, John. [James Bond: Cold Fall](#) (\$14.95). The evening when Flight 229 is torn apart at Washington Dulles Airport (killing all 435 passengers aboard), a mission begins that will become an obsession for 007. Who is responsible for destroying the aircraft? Was it a straightforward act of terrorism against a British-owned symbol? An assassination aimed at only one person? A ruthless attempt to put the airline out of business? For Bond, only one of the victims matters: his former lover and old friend, the Principessa Sukie Tempesta. The search for Sukie's killers will turn out to be the most complex and demanding assignment of Bond's career: exposing COLD, Children of the Last Days. Then try [James Bond: Never Send Flowers](#) and [James Bond: Seafire](#) (\$14.95 each)

Fleming, Fergus. [The Man with the Golden Typewriter Signed](#) (\$50). On 16 August 1952, Ian Fleming wrote to his wife, Ann, 'My love, This is only a tiny letter to try out my new typewriter and to see if it will write golden words since it is made of gold'. He had bought the gold-plated typewriter as a present to himself for finishing his first novel, *Casino Royale*. It marked in glamorous style the arrival of James Bond, agent 007, and the start of a career that saw Fleming become one of the world's most celebrated thriller-writers. And he did write golden words. Before his death in 1964 he produced fourteen bestselling Bond books, two works of non-fiction and the children's story "Chitty-Chitty-Bang-Bang." Fleming's output was matched by an equally energetic flow of letters. He wrote constantly, to his wife, publisher, editors, fans, friends and critics, charting 007's progress with correspondence that ranged from badgering Jonathan Cape about his quota of free copies—a coin was tossed; Fleming lost—to apologizing for having mistaken a certain brand of perfume and for equipping Bond with the wrong kind of gun. His letters also reflect his friendships with contemporaries such as Raymond Chandler, Noel Coward and Somerset Maugham. Signed by Fergus Fleming.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Alaux, Jean-Pierre. [Backstabbing in Beaujolais](#) (Le French Book \$12.95). From a series that has been called "difficult to forget and oddly addictive," this omnibus of three titles comes out just in time for the holidays: a perfect gift for both wine lovers and mystery lovers. An immersion in French countryside, winemaking and gourmet attitude with mystery and intrigue thrown in, this made-for-TV series by Jean-Pierre Alaux and Noël Balen has two amateur sleuths gumshoeing around French wine country. Each book is homage to wine and winemakers as well as a cozy mystery. This omnibus comprises *Treachery in Bordeaux*, *Grand Cru Heist*, and *Nightmare in Burgundy*. "It is easy to see why this series has a following. The depiction of French countryside enhances the story... the descriptive language is captivating...there is crackling, interesting dialogue.

Alexievich, Svetlana. [Voices from Chernobyl](#) (\$14). The new Nobel Prize winner's most available work.

Brodrick, William. [The Discourtesy of Death](#) (Overlook \$26.95). An anonymous letter sent to Larkwood's Prior accuses Peter Henderson, an academic celebrity renowned for daring ideas, of

a grotesque murder: the calculated killing of Jenny, his disabled partner, believed by everyone to have died peacefully two years previously from a sudden attack of cancer. But for this letter there is no evidence, no suspect and no crime. Time has moved on. Lives have been rebuilt. Grief and loss are tempered by a comforting thought: a paralyzed woman, once an acclaimed dancer, had died quickly and painlessly, spared a drawn out illness; a life marked by agonizing misfortune had come to a merciful end. But now veteran sleuth Father Anselm has been told the truth behind the soothing lie. He must move cautiously to expose the killer and the killing. He must think of young Timothy, Jenny and Peter's son. A boy who is still learning to live without his mother. And so Anselm begins his most delicate investigation yet, unaware that Jenny's adoring father is also thinking of Timothy's future; that this urbane former army officer is haunted by the memory of torture and shoot-to-kill operations in Northern Ireland; that he remains capable of anything, if he thinks it's for the best; that he has set out to execute Peter Henderson...if he can.

Ferrante, Elena. [My Brilliant Friend](#) (Ecco \$17). When I was an undergraduate at Stanford, Lawrence Durrell's *Alexandria Quartet* (1957-60) was a must-read modern masterpiece. The tetraology's context was Alexandria Egypt before and during WWII. I get the same vibe from Ferrante's *Neapolitan Novels* which begin with this one in the 1950s, in a poor but vibrant neighborhood on the outskirts of Naples. "There are rules and expectations, and everyone knows and lives by them. Except Lila: smarter and bolder than the others, she does what she wants, drawing Elena, who narrates the story, in her wake. But this is more than a conventional up-from-poverty tale. Elena completes her schooling; Lila does not. Elena leaves the neighborhood and eventually Naples and Southern Italy; Lila does not. Yet it is Lila and her dreams and caprices that drive everything. In fact, the narrative exists because the adult Elena, hearing that Lila has disappeared, decides to write Lila's story. And she does." [The Story of a New Name](#) (\$18), #2. [Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay](#) (\$18), #3. [The Story of the Lost Child](#) (\$18), #4. "[Ferrante's *Neapolitan Novels*] don't merely offer a teeming vision of working-class Naples, with its cobblers and professors, communists and mobbed-up businessmen, womanizing poets and downtrodden wives; they present one of modern fiction's richest portraits of a friendship." —John Powers, *Fresh Air*, NPR

Fossum, Karin. [The Murder of Harriet Krohn](#) (\$14.95). The *PW* Starred Review: "Fossum's superior seventh Insp. Konrad Sejer novel, the 10th book in the series to be released in the U.S., puts a modern spin on Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment*. Widower Charlo Olav Torp's robbery and murder of elderly Harriet Krohn allows him to pay off his debts and reconnect with his estranged 16-year-old daughter, Julie. He even buys Julie the horse she has always wanted. But this fresh start comes with a price. His every moment is clouded by guilt over his actions and the fear that he'll be caught, but he's also proud that he's committed the perfect murder. Months go by until Sejer, who has never had an unsolved case, targets Charlo by building on the one small piece of forgotten evidence at the crime scene. Series fans and newcomers alike will savor this insightful character study of a man on the edge with little regard to how his actions affect others."

Giordano, Paolo. [The Human Body](#) (\$16). Another *PW* Star: “Giordano follows *The Solitude of Prime Numbers* with a stunning exploration of war. The novel revolves around a platoon of Italian soldiers stationed in Forward Operating Base Ice in the dangerous Gulistan district of Afghanistan. Giordano makes the tedium of combat fascinating with his well-drawn characters. Included in the cast is Lieutenant Egitto, a medical officer escaping his perilous home life; girlfriend-obsessed First Corporal-Major Torsu; and the boisterous Cderna. Giordano covers everything from preparation for deployment to the ways soldiers stay in touch with those left at home. The first page indicates that the platoon’s experience was particularly horrible (“In the years following the mission, each of the guys set out to make his life unrecognizable, until the memories... were bathed in a false artificial light”), but the fact that the mission runs off the rails is almost secondary to the beauty, texture, and acuity with which Giordano captures the day-to-day routines of the soldiers, and their efforts to make sense of both their lives in Italy and their military assignment.”

Goff, Chris. [Dark Waters Signed](#) (Crooked Lane \$24.99). Raisa Jordan is an agent for the U.S. Diplomatic Security Service who’s assigned to Tel Aviv as the assistant regional security officer. She isn’t in Israel for more than a day before her predecessor is gunned down Tel Aviv square by a sniper. Plus American judge Ben Taylor and his 11-year-old daughter, Lucy, appear to have been additional targets in the very public double assassination of a Palestinian with links to the Palestinian Liberation Committee and Raisa’s predecessor as ARSO. The two victims were involved in a botched exchange of USB drives. Ben refuses to leave Tel Aviv, but the secretary of state is due to arrive shortly. Is the secretary to be a target of an attack—and is that all that is planned? Starts a series.

Guillaume, Laurent. [White Leopard](#) (Le French Book \$16.95). Multiple award-winning French writer Laurent Guillaume makes his English-language debut with this powerful story of loss and redemption. He transposes the classic hard-boiled detective to contemporary West Africa for an intensely true-to-life mystery. The *PW* Starred Review: “Fans of classic hard-boiled PI fiction will relish Guillaume’s first book to be translated into English. French attorney Farah Tebessi approaches ex-cop Solo Camara, who works as a PI in Bamako, Mali, for help after her younger sister, Bahia, gets into trouble. Bahia, who’s a law student in France, was about to catch a flight for Paris from the Bamako airport when she was arrested for transporting 13 kilos of cocaine in her luggage. Since Farah believes that “buying off people is the national pastime in Mali,” she asks Solo to bribe the examining magistrate in charge of the case in exchange for dropping it. Solo agrees and succeeds in getting Bahia freed. When Bahia turns up with her throat slit in the Niger River, Farah asks Solo to find the killers and eliminate them. A former cop who served as a police adviser in Mali, Guillaume delivers a tale of high-level corruption that will resonate with James Ellroy readers.” Based on true events that occurred while the author was a police adviser in Mali.”

Kerr, Philip. [False Nine Signed](#) (Head of Zeus \$34). Scott Manson needs to leave England. His career managing London City football team is over, and it cuts deep to watch them play on without him. But finding a job in the star-studded world of

international football is harder than it looks. A new position in Shanghai turns out to be part of an elaborate sting operation. And in Barcelona, he’s hired not as a football manager, but as a detective. Barca’s star player is missing, and they need to find him fast. Scott has a month to track him down. As he follows the trail from Paris to Antigua, he encounters corrupt men, wicked women, and worse at the heart of the soccer world.... #3 for Scott, only available in UK editions.

Lapidus, Jens. [Life Deluxe](#) (\$16.95). Natalie is the twenty-two-year-old daughter of Radovan Kranjic, the Serbian crime boss who rules Sweden’s underworld. When an assassin threatens Radovan’s life, Natalie is hurled into a chaotic struggle for control of her father’s empire—and the competition is fierce. Jorge was making a living as a drug dealer until he was caught and thrown into prison. Recently released and warned to keep out of trouble, he’s already bored with his new existence: selling lattes and cappuccinos at a café. Who wouldn’t be? But Jorge has a plan, and big money looms on the horizon if he can pull off one final audacious heist and flee the country. Meanwhile, Deputy Inspector Martin Hägerström—entrusted with a secret mission, code name Operation Tide—has gone deep undercover as a disgraced cop turned corrections officer.... In the final chapter in the Stockholm Noir Trilogy, we see a supreme struggle for the legacy of the Swedish underworld, as the power, honor, and respect commanded by Stockholm’s largest criminal organization are passed from father to daughter. Order the earlier books [here](#).

LeMaitre, Pierre. [Irene](#) (\$14.99). Commandant Camille Verhoeven, whose diminutive stature belies his fierce intensity, has reached an unusually content (for him) place in life, happy with his lovely wife, Irene; they are expecting their first child. But when a new murder case hits his desk—a double torture-homicide that’s so extreme that even the most seasoned officers are horrified—Verhoeven is overcome with a sense of foreboding. As links emerge between the bloody set-piece and at least one past unsolved murder, it becomes clear that a calculating serial killer is at work. Then Verhoeven makes a breakthrough discovery: the murders are modeled after the exploits of serial killers from classic works of crime fiction. The double murder was an exquisitely detailed replication of a scene from Bret Easton Ellis’s *American Psycho*, and one of the linked cold cases was a faithful homage to James Ellroy’s *The Black Dahlia*. The media circus reaches a fever pitch when the modus operandi of the killer, dubbed “The Novelist,” is revealed. And then.... This is the first book with the Paris policeman, head of homicide, although published after *Alex* and *Camille*. Many compare LeMaitre to Stieg Larsson and he echoes Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahloo...even Chelsea Cain.

MacBride, Stuart. [22 Dead Little Bodies and Other Stories](#) (Harper \$14.99). A short novel, two stories, and a novella with Logan McRae and DCI Roberta Steel of Aberdeen.

Maitland, Barry. [Crucifixion Creek](#) (St Martins \$25.99). I am mad for Maitland’s imaginative, pull no punches policing series for London coppers Brock and Kolla. The crimes, their motives, their execution, and the development of the characters never disappoint. But Maitland lives in Australia so it’s no surprise he’d want to write something close to home. And he scores. Among the Starred Reviews is this from *LJ*: “Sydney homicide detective Harry Belltree has not recovered from the death of his parents in

an accident that also blinded his beloved wife. He's convinced there's more involved. When called to a hostage siege that ends badly for a meth-head biker, Harry considers a new avenue of investigation. An elderly couple, emaciated and dressed in rags, is found dead at a café in Sydney. Their friends claim they were wealthy, so where did the money go? And, when Harry's brother-in-law, Greg, is stabbed to death in the streets, things become more personal. Kelly Pool, an investigative journalist, begins to put the puzzle together with help from Harry, who has to go off-grid to be of any assistance. Maitland starts a new trilogy set in Sydney, featuring an aboriginal detective. Well written with an elaborate plot, this fast-paced novel explores some aspects of the racial divide in Australia." This is our **Fresh Fiction Pick for November**.

Ohlsson, Kristi. [Hostage](#) (\$16). Shortly after a crowded New York-bound Boeing 747 takes off from Stockholm, a bomb threat is found in one of the aircraft's lavatories. The demands are directed at both the Swedish and US governments. Police superintendent Alex Recht teams up with the energetic and often abrasive Eden Lundell from the security service's counterterrorism unit, plus analyst Fredrika Bergman, who is currently working at the Justice Department, returns to the police force to act as a liaison between the government and the police. This team soon realizes that the plot behind the hijacking is far more complex than they initially thought, and they also must battle against the US government's fear of a new terrorist attack

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

Also by Rankin: [The Travelling Companion](#) (\$7.95). Here's a little treat, a perfect stocking stuffer. For recent college graduate Ronald Hastie, a job at the legendary Shakespeare and Company bookshop offers the perfect occupation during a summer abroad in Paris. Working part-time in exchange for room and board leaves plenty of freedom to explore the city once visited by his literary hero, Robert Louis Stevenson, and things only get better when he meets a collector who claims to have the original manuscripts of both the first draft of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and the never-published *The Travelling Companion* (both thought to have been destroyed). Then Ron meets the man's mysterious assistant, and a reckless obsession stirs inside him. As the life he knew back home in Scotland fades from memory, he desperately seeks the secret lying within Stevenson's long-lost pages.... Can be signed January 30—but why wait to read it?

Sierra, Javier. [The Master of the Prado](#) (Atria \$30). "Though it was his seventh book, *The Secret Supper* marked Sierra's English-language debut in 2006 and introduced his imaginative world of historical fiction to a broader audience. Here, Sierra writes a fictionalized autobiography to explore the mysteries hiding in some of the finest works in Madrid's Museo Nacional

del Prado. In 1990, during one of his visits to the museum, a young Sierra encounters an enigmatic and knowledgeable stranger named Luis Fovel. Over the next several weeks, Fovel trains Sierra to analyze the works of Raphael, El Greco, and Titian to reveal hidden meanings in their painting. As his curiosity shifts from European masterpieces to the true identity of his tutor, Sierra puts himself in real danger and estranges himself from both family and friends. Sierra has produced not only a thrilling work of historical fiction but also a wonderful literary companion to visitors of the Prado. Fans of Dan Brown and Douglas Carlton Abrams will feel right at home in these pages."—*LJ Starred Review*. "Part guide to my favorite museum, part fictionalized autobiography, part dialogue on the mysteries of the art world and part novel, the sum is a prism refracting the likes of Bosch, Velazquez, Titian and Raphael through the author's ingenious eye."—Dr. Noah Charney

Simenon, George. [Lock No 1](#); [Maigret](#); [Mr. Hire's Engagement](#) (\$11 each). More entries in Penguin's republishing program for all of the French Inspector Maigrets.

Staalesen, Gunnar. [We Shall Inherit the Wind](#) (Orenda \$14.95). Varg Veum sits by the hospital bedside of his long-term girlfriend Karin, whose life-threatening injuries provide a deeply painful reminder of the mistakes he's made. Investigating the seemingly innocent disappearance of a wind-farm inspector, Varg Veum is thrust into one of the most challenging cases of his career, riddled with conflicts, environmental terrorism, religious fanaticism, unsolved mysteries, and dubious business ethics. Then the first body appears—tied to a cross, facing the mouth of the fjord... When I first opened *The Pen* in 1989, Norwegian mysteries by Staalesen were part of our inventory, way before the Scandinavian crime wave hit.

Stanley, Michael. [A Death in the Family](#) (St Martins \$26.99). It's good to have Botswana police detective David "Kubu" Bengu on the job again. But sadly, the crime he's faced with is the stabbing death of his frail father, Wilmon, a sufferer from dementia and a man with a limited social life and no obvious enemies. So perhaps the crime is fallout from one of Kubu's cases? Barred from investigating (yeah, right), Kubu is ordered to look into the apparent suicide of Goodman Kunene, the assistant director of the Department of Mines. Kunene's death may be connected with a Chinese business venture that has caused a rift in the local community between elders who want to maintain the status quo and the younger generation, eager for the job opportunities the new project promises. However, Kubu, who really bears a resemblance to a hippo, is not to be deterred from throwing his weight into his father's case... too bullishly, I think. 5th in a series that reflects the realities of a globalizing Africa. I hope his previous publisher will keep the first for Kubu in print. Order them [here](#).

Tursten, Helene. [The Beige Man](#) (\$15.95). Yet another *PW* Star: "Two cases that arise on the same wintry night in Göteborg, Sweden, propel Tursten's excellent seventh mystery featuring Göteborg's Det. Insp. Irene Huss. Discovering the culprits behind the hit-and-run that killed Torleif Sandberg, a retired police officer, is straightforward, but the strangulation murder of an abused 12-year-old girl found in an abandoned root cellar requires Huss and her fellow officers to investigate a much larger issue: human trafficking and sex crimes. After questioning pimps

in Sweden, Huss and company travel to the island of Tenerife, where Det. Insp. Juan Rejón wants their help with some local murders. In a bizarre meeting with one of the traffickers, Huss witnesses a shockingly violent encounter between rival gangs, but most of the action involves diligently looking for clues in the usual procedural fashion. Cleverly, Tursten doesn't reveal the significance of the beige man of the title until the last page. I like the series a lot, and the TV series made from it shown on MHZ. Due in December: [The Treacherous Net](#) (\$26.95).

Wagner, David P. [Murder Most Unfortunate](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). Half-American Italian translator Rick Montoya, working a conference in Bassano, is ensnared in possible art forgery as well as murder and romance. See Event Books for more.

URBAN NOIRS

Anthologies fun to read that make wonderful gifts also

[Buffalo Noir](#) (Akashic \$15.95). "Park's introduction, in effect a true-crime case study, is as gripping as any of the 13 stories set in or around Buffalo, NY, in this strong Akashic noir volume, whose contributors include several mystery heavyweights... From the Irish enclave of South Buffalo and a Niagara Street bar to a costly house in Nottingham Terrace and a once-grand Gothic structure in Elmwood Village, Buffalo's past and present come to life in the offbeat, disturbing, and sometimes darkly comical tales by authors who really know their city. New stories by: Joyce Carol Oates, Lawrence Block, Ed Park, Gary Earl Ross, Kim Chinquee, Christina Milletti, Tom Fontana, Dimitri Anastopoulos, Lissa Marie Redmond, S.J. Rozan, John Wray, Brooke Costello, and Connie Porter.

[Memphis Noir](#) (Akashic \$15.95). A remarkable picture of contemporary Memphis emerges in this Akashic noir volume. Little of the alleged "new South" is apparent among the 15 tales included, but rather a Memphis still divided culturally, socially, and politically between black and white. One standout, Kaye George's "Heartbreak at Graceland," pays the obligatory homage to Memphis's Elvis Presley heritage, setting a powerful and definitely dark narrative in the late rocker's home. Also effective is Adam Shaw and Penny Register-Shaw's "The Never Never Is Forever," a miniature graphic novel set in the underworld of sex, drugs, and rock and roll. Black Memphis and white Memphis collide in Troy L. Wiggins's "Tell Him What You Want" with unexpected results. As in other Akashic anthologies, the selections often carry more of a mainstream sensitivity than most genre fiction. Not every story will work for every reader, but there will probably be something for everyone.

[Zagreb Noir](#) (Akashic \$15.99). "Zagreb, Croatia—its culture and its touchstones—will be terra incognita for many U.S. readers...Notable is Nora Verde's 'She-Warrior,' in which a young woman's carefully planned anarchist activities are smacked down by a triple helping of reality." —*PW*. Featuring brand-new stories translated from Croatian by: Ivan Vidic, Josip Novakovich, Andrea Zigic-Dolenec, Robert Perisic, Mima Simic, Pero Kavesic, Nada Gasic, Zoran Pilic, Ruzica Gasperov, Darko Milosic, Nora Verde, Ivan Srsen, Neven Usumovic, and Darko Macan.

FIRST NOVELS

Aichner, Bernhard. [Woman of the Dead Signed](#) (Scribner \$25). We've had to wait on this electrifying **First Mystery Club Pick** until the author visits from Austria this month. It starts a trilogy

with a near-ninja mortician in the lead, hell bent on discovering who killed her much loved husband....

Andrews, Sally. [Recipes for Love and Murder](#) (Harper \$26.99). Romance and recipes combine in a humorous debut. Tannie Maria is a middle-aged South African widow who loves to cook—and eat (She would bond with Kubu, the Botswana policeman noted in the new Michael Stanley mystery reviewed in *Where in the World?*). So "Auntie" (Tannie is Afrikaans for Auntie) shares her passion as a recipe columnist for the local paper. Then the *Gazette* decides its readers are hungrier for recipes for relationships than for meals. Sigh. But Tannie Marie discovers she has a knack for dispensing both. Forced by this to face her own troubles, she touches on those of others. One seeker of advice is murdered, thrusting Tannie Marie into an investigation and (inevitably in this sort of book, no?) into the notice of a handsome detective named Kannemeyer.... With the holidays upon us, reading plots laced with food will be good...or bad...for us.

Bivald, Katarina. [Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend Signed](#) (Century \$32). A delightful bibliostory by a Swedish author published first in the UK and to be published in the US in January in a trade paperback. In it a retiring young Swedish bookstore clerk, downsized, bravely travels to a small Iowa town to visit the woman who shares her love of books through letters, only to find that her hostess has suddenly died... presenting the citizens of Broken Wheel with first, a problem, and then, a project.... Our **December Modern Firsts Club Pick**.

Kinchelhoe, Jennifer. [The Secret Life of Anna Blanc](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). It's 1907 Los Angeles where socialite Anna Blanc chafes at the strict rule of her domineering father. When an elopement fails (and a smart young woman would have realized the obstacles that would sink it), she's assigned a chaperone. Buying this lady off, Anna, under an alias, becomes a police matron at the LAPD and, ignoring rules once again, sets out to unravel a string of brothel murders. While Anna is portrayed as a risk taker with wits who devours purloined crime novels, I find her a very uneven character, not very likeable or able to anticipate consequences, and so the plot verges on farce. I had hoped she might equal, say, Inez Stannert in Ann Parker's splendid *Silver Rush Mysteries*. But, no.

Law, JS. [Tenacity](#) (Holt \$27). "The confining, restricted, and very male atmosphere of a submerged submarine becomes vividly real as this stubborn lieutenant alienates nearly everyone around her...The unusual setting, skilled writing, and obvious veracity make this a bold first effort worth awaiting a second."—*Library Journal*. "Law ups the tension significantly as he brilliantly re-creates the claustrophobic feel of living on a submarine." —*Booklist*. I agree about the feeling of restriction but to me it arises more robustly from Law's harsh portrait of what it's like to serve in the British navy, the abuses of power and command, the cover-ups to save face, the hostility directed to a woman with some power (even though Lt. Danielle, call me Dan, Lewis is clearly a woman designed for this role by a man). The level of violence is high which bothers me less than that this fairly small female actually defeats brutal assault, even with damage. I think the dichotomies in this novel become clear when the serial killer Dan is battling more or less dares her not to let him die... Does she have it in her? He's the first chapter; the rest of the plot is well designed and chilling.

Raphael, Kate. [Murder Under the Bridge](#) (She Writes Press \$16.95). When Rania—the only female Palestinian police detective in the northern West Bank, as well as a young mother in a rural community where many believe women should not have such a dangerous career—discovers the body of a foreign woman on the edge of her village, no one seems to want her look too deeply into what’s happened. But she finds an ally in Chloe—a gay, Jewish-American peace worker with a camera and a big attitude—and together, with the help of an annoying Israeli policeman, they work to solve the murder. As they do, secrets about war crimes and Israel’s thriving sex trafficking trade begin to surface... In its Starred Review, *LJ* writes, “Raphael thoroughly captures the tension of life on the West Bank by setting a murder in a location marked by daily violence. Substantial yet humanly flawed female protagonists give depth to both the mystery of the murdered and the political and social turmoil of the region. This novel is a thoughtful recommendation for anyone hoping to explore stories set in the modern Middle East.”

✠Rothschild, Hannah. [The Improbability of Love](#) (Knopf \$27.95). The Indie Next Pick: “A girl, a painting, and a cast of delightfully quirky characters are at the heart of Rothschild’s debut. At the intersection of London’s art auction houses and the pursuit of a dream, Annie navigates her way through the city’s wealthy and aspiring elite as she juggles her mother’s eccentricities with her own quest to become a chef. Funny, smart, and satisfyingly clever, the novel will warm your heart and give you pause the next time you admire that old painting hanging, so innocently, on the wall.” The Library Read Pick: “The engaging, totally unexpected story of Annie, a lonely young woman who wanders into a junk shop and buys a painting. The painting turns out to have a long and storied past, with powerful people searching high and low for it. Unpredictable and fascinating; I loved the peek into the cutthroat art world and watching Annie blossom as she discovers her true calling.”

Watkins, Claire. [Gold Fame Citrus Signed](#) (Riverhead \$30). Patrick reviews: “Watkins stunned critics and readers alike with her stunning collection of short fiction, *Battleborn*, which won just above every prize out there, including the Dylan Thomas Prize. Now, Watkins returns with her first novel, set in a drought-decimated near-future American West. California has become a lawless wasteland and its surviving residents hide out amid the ruins, surviving on closely rationed supplies. Widespread pillage and looting are rampant, and the ‘Mojavs’ (as the Californians are called) are prevented from escaping into other more verdant states by armed border guards. Luz and her Iraq war veteran boyfriend Ray squat in a Hollywood starlet’s abandoned home in the Hollywood Hills, surviving as best they can. When they rescue a mysterious toddler from a pack of feral marauders, the stakes become much higher for the couple and they set off across the desert in search of a better future despite formidable obstacles at every turn. This is an astonishingly well-written and conceived novel and bodes well for a long future for this young author.”

NEW BOOKS

Allende, Isabel. [The Japanese Lover](#) (Atria \$28). The Library Read Pick for November: “Irina is a young Moldavian immigrant with a troubled past. She works at an assisted living home where she meets Alma, a Holocaust survivor. Alma falls in love with Ichi, a young Japanese gardener, who survived Topaz, the Japanese internment camp. Despite man’s inhumanity to man,

love, art and beauty can exist, as evidenced in their beautiful love story.” Also an Indie Next Pick.

Atwood, Margaret. [The Heart Goes Last](#) (Knopf \$26.95). I don’t often mention Atwood’s stellar books in these pages but am tantalized by this one. I am not alone: The *PW* Starred Review: “In the dystopian landscape of the unflappable Atwood’s latest novel, there are ‘not enough jobs, and too many people,’ which drives married couple Stan and Charmaine to become interested in the Positron Project, a community that purports to have achieved harmony. There is a catch, as Positron leader Ed explains: citizens are required to share their home with other couples, alternating each month between time in prison and time at home. It’s an odd arrangement, but one that temporarily satisfies Charmaine and Stan—until they each fall in love with the alternates they’re supposed to never see...” The *NY Times* adds, As the narrative builds and couples try to regain their freedom, the quest is sometimes thrilling, sometimes comic, often absurd and entirely engaging, spinning sins into the territory of Elvis-themed escorts, stuffed-animal carnality and customizable sexbots... What keeps *The Heart Goes Last* fresh, as with the rest of Atwood’s recent work, is that while it revisits earlier themes of her oeuvre, it never replicates. Rather, it reads like an exploration continued, with new surprises, both narratively and thematically, to be discovered...”

Baldacci, David. [The Guilty Signed](#) (Grand Central \$30). Government assassin Will Robie #4. Horrors. His skills have left him. Sent overseas on a critical assignment, he fails, unable to pull the trigger. Absent his talents, Robie is a man without a mission, and without a purpose. To recover what he has lost, Robie must confront what he has tried to forget for over twenty years: his own past. Which sends him back to his small Gulf coast hometown of Cantrell, Mississippi where his father, Dan, has been arrested and charged with murder.

Birkerts, Sven. [Changing The Subject: Art and Attention in the Internet Age](#) (Graywolf \$16). Twenty years ago, Birkerts released *The Gutenberg Elegies*, his rallying cry against the anti-intellectual movement in America and the changes coming with the advent of the digital era. Now, Birkerts continues with this insightful, erudite collection of essays, taking stock of the many changes that have taken place in the last two decades, not just in the way we read, but in the way we actually think. From the back cover: “After two decades of rampant change, Birkerts has allowed a degree of everyday digital technology into his life. He refuses to use a smartphone, but communicates via e-mail and spends some time reading online. In *Changing the Subject*, he examines the changes that he observes in himself and others—the distraction when reading on the screen; the loss of personal agency through reliance on GPS and one-stop information resources; an increasing acceptance of ‘hive’ behaviors. ‘An unprecedented shift is underway,’ he argues, and “‘his transformation is dramatically accelerated and more psychologically formative than any previous technological innovation.’ He finds solace in engagement with art, particularly literature, and he brilliantly describes the countering energy available to us through acts of sustained attention, even as he worries that our increasingly mediated existences are not conducive to creativity. It is impossible to read *Changing the Subject* without coming away with a renewed sense of what is lost by our wholesale acceptance of digital innovation and what is regained when we immerse ourselves in a good book.”

Borg, Todd. [Tahoe Blue Fire Signed](#) (Thriller \$16.95). Owen McKenna gets a call from a woman that is afraid someone is going to burn her house down—with her in it. When instead she is shot, Owen finds himself trying to find the almost illusive killer. Then he stumbles upon Adam Simms, a former pro-football player who is suffering Traumatic Brain Injury. Adam becomes the prime suspect in this and other murders in the Tahoe area. Owen can't tell if Adam is being framed or if he's a diabolical killer faking the injury.... Borg's Tahoe series has always appealed to me for its landscape, characters, and interesting plots. [Click here](#) to order them all.

Borosan, MH. [The Girl with Ghost Eyes](#) (Talos \$24.99). "In San Francisco during the late 1800s, a young Chinese widow tries to keep her father alive, and win a place in his heart she doesn't realize she already owns. This story is filled with wonderful detail from Chinese folklore and mythology, and plenty of action as two tongs battle to control Chinatown. The very best fantasy employs strong characters who are real people with real problems. I enjoyed every page."—Library Reads Pick for November

Burke, James Lee. [House of the Rising Sun Signed](#) (SimonSchuster \$27.99 Dec.—please order now). "Former Texas Ranger Hackberry Holland travels to Mexico in 1916 seeking repentance and reconnection with his estranged son, Ishmael, a cavalry unit officer and World War I veteran. In tracking his son, he stumbles into the path of a conniving Austrian arms dealer named Andre. After a violent brawl that leaves four Mexican soldiers dead, Hackberry flees the country, carrying with him a stolen artifact that Andre left unattended. He soon discovers that the artifact is believed to be the Holy Grail. The backstory of Hackberry's two ex-wives and Ishmael unfolds as the stakes rise quickly in his conflict with Andre. Seeking retribution for Hackberry's actions, Andre focuses on Ishmael, causing chaos in west Texas and Mexico. Readers of best-selling Burke's novels about the Holland family (Wayfaring Stranger) will gravitate to this prequel featuring the well-known and notoriously cantankerous Hackberry Holland. The large cast features complex and compelling characters, and the action deftly builds to a roaring boil."—*Library Journal*

Carl, Joanna. [The Chocolate Falcon Fraud](#) (NAL \$22.95). The Warner Pier tourism board is kicking off its Tough Guys and Private Eyes film festival with The Maltese Falcon, and Lee Woodyard and her Aunt Nettie are preparing a delicious chocolate noir tie-in at TenHuis Chocolate. What Lee isn't prepared for is a face from the past: Jeff Godfrey, her former stepson. The last time Jeff showed up in town, he wound up being accused of murder. Now he says he's only in Warner Pier to see Bogart on the big screen. Honest. Then come all those strange phone calls, a girlfriend who's secretly on Jeff's tail, and a pack of suspicious-sounding acquaintances right out of Dashiell Hammett. When Jeff goes missing, the Falcon theme is haunting everyone, and a body falls at Lee's feet when she opens the front door – just like in the movie. So, a Hammett with chocolate cozy... comes with chocolate trivia. Perfect reading while digesting that Thanksgiving feast. For Carl's latest paperback in this series, see our New in Mass Markets section.

Christopher, Adam. [Made to Kill Signed](#) (Forge \$24.99). Robot Noir. If Raymond Chandler had written a science fiction novel, it might be much like this story which Christopher developed

out of the novelette "Brisk Money." Our hero here is Raymond Electromatic, the world's only robot detective. The story opens on August 10, 1965, in Los Angeles. Ray is hoping Ada, his supercomputer Gal Friday and the constant voice in his inner ear directing him, will give him the night off to see the hot new film Red Lucky when the door opens and a girl steps into the office.... Classic Chandler, with a scifi spin. Ray, not interested in finding a missing actor, wants to tell her to take a hike, but he's programmed for profit and she has the cold, hard gold... This, our **December SciFi Club Pick** will arrive in November when the author, a New Zealander, visits NY from the UK. It's a December IndieNext Pick too.

Clark, Mary Higgins/Alafair Burke. [All Dressed in White](#) (SimonSchuster \$26.99). Five years ago Amanda Pierce was excitedly preparing to marry her college sweetheart in a lavish ceremony at The Grand Victoria Hotel in Palm Beach. Then, with their guests and families on site, Amanda disappeared. In present-day New York City, Laurie Moran realizes a missing bride is the perfect cold case for her investigative television series, Under Suspicion. She and her team set out to recreate the night of the disappearance at the Florida resort with Amanda's friends and family in attendance, hoping to shed new light on the mystery as the series has done in past episodes. With a jealous sister, playboy groomsmen, Amanda's former fiancé now married to a bridesmaid, and rumors about the "beloved" bride herself, Laurie and Under Suspicion host Alex Buckley quickly realize everyone has a theory about why Amanda vanished into thin air. One thing is certain: whoever was behind Amanda's disappearance plans to keep the truth hidden. This is the second collaboration between Clark and Burke after [The Cinderella Murder](#) (\$7.99).

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

Connolly, John. [Song of Shadows Signed](#) (Atria \$26.99). Still recovering from his life-threatening wounds, private detective Charlie Parker investigates a case that has its origins in a Nazi concentration camp during the Second World War. It begins when Parker retreats to the small Maine town of Boreas to regain his strength. There he befriends a widow named Ruth Winter and her young daughter, Amanda. But Ruth has her secrets. Will he risk his life to defend a woman he barely knows, one who fears him

almost as much as she fears those who are coming for her? His enemies believe him to be vulnerable. Fearful. Solitary. But they are wrong. Parker is far from afraid, and far from alone....

Costner, Kevin/Jon Baird. [The Explorer's Guild](#) (SimonSchuster \$29.99). Volume One: A Passage to Shambala is Commercial Fiction supreme... but at least they are putting the co-author's name on the book these days. Behind the staid public rooms of an old world gentlemen's club operates a more mysterious organization: The Explorers Guild, a clandestine group of adventurers who bravely journey to those places in which light gives way to shadow and reason is usurped by myth. The secrets they seek are hidden in mountain ranges and lost in deserts, buried in the ocean floor and lodged deep in polar ice. The aim of The Explorers Guild: to discover the mysteries that lie beyond the boundaries of the known world. Set against the backdrop of World War I, with Western Civilization on the edge of calamity, the first installment in The Explorers Guild series is driven by the Guild's quest to find the golden city of Buddhist myth. The search will take them from the Polar North to the Mongolian deserts, through the underground canals of Asia to deep inside the Himalayas, before the fabled city finally divulges its secrets. I love adventure fiction and so will give this a try.

Crais, Robert. [The Promise Signed](#) (Putnam \$29). #16 for Elvis Cole and Joe Pike—plus *Suspect* heroes Scott James and his K-9 partner, Maggie. When Elvis Cole is hired to locate a woman who may have disappeared with a stranger she met online, it seems like an ordinary case—until Elvis learns the missing woman worked for a defense contractor and was being blackmailed to supply explosives components for a person or persons unknown. Meanwhile, in another part of the city, LAPD officer Scott James and his patrol dog, Maggie, enter an abandoned building to locate an armed and dangerous thief, only to discover far more than they expected: The fugitive is dead, the building is filled with explosives, and Scott and Maggie are assaulted by a hidden man who escapes in the chaos, all as a bloodied Joe Pike watches from the shadows. Soon, Scott and Maggie find themselves targeted by that man, and, as their case intertwines with Elvis and Joe's....

De Castrique, Mark. [A Specter of Justice Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Asheville, NC, is renowned for many things: its literary heritage, its landscape so close to the Smoky Mountains, its arts community, wine...and ghosts. In fact, tours are run of the city's legendary haunted sites. Private eye Sam Blackman sees no harm in such a tour as a charity event raising money for twin boys left orphaned after their parents were killed in a courtroom shootout where Sam was the key witness against their father. Feeling guilt? Sure. And some love. But when a ghost supposed to walk towards tour goers over a bridge instead tumbles down, head in a noose, harmless fun turns deadly. Then, a tidal wave of evidence begins to point to one man as the killer: Sam's friend, defense attorney Hewitt Donaldson. Sam and his partner Nakayla firmly believe in Donaldson's innocence—"and the hunt is on for the killer. Sam and Nakayla work with the police to help solve the murders, while more of the town's history unfolds. Lots of interesting characters and some nice twists help make the pages fly by. A good choice for anyone who enjoys small-town mysteries and ghost stories."—*Booklist* "...the complex relationship between Sam, a man dedicated to bringing criminals to justice, and Hewitt, a lawyer often willing to bend the law to

save his clients from jail, will keep readers turning the pages."—*PW*. "Sam's fifth case is an entertaining whodunit with colorful characters, swift-footed plotting, and a confident narrative voice."—*Kirkus*. Also [Specter of Justice](#) (\$15.95).

Del Rio, Tania. [Warren the 13th and the All-Seeing Eye](#) (Quirk \$16.95). 12-year-old Warren, a cheerful, toad-faced Victorian bellhop, is the 13th Warren in a long line of Warrens, all historically devoted to the prosperity of the eight-story, 113-room Warren Hotel, "perched miserably on a hill in a bleak gray countryside," haunted house-style. Sadly, Warren the 12th, Warren's father, passed away five years ago, and when his supremely lazy Uncle Rupert took over, the Victorian hotel fell to ruin. So everyone is shocked when a guest arrives in an elegant automobile, tall and thin, all in black, face wrapped in gauze bandages. The mysterious stranger doesn't speak, but communicates in cryptic cards with pictures of four-poster beds and large red Xs. Young Warren is on his own accommodating this unusual guest because his evil aunt Anaconda has seized control of management. She's convinced a mysterious treasure is hidden in the grounds. So Warren must beat her to finding it if he wants to preserve his family's legacy.... Fabulous illustrations. The author reports, "I really like the concept of witches in general—both the classic Hollywood and pagan versions, but it's the classic Hollywood version in Warren, and more of Wicca in Sabrina. I like the mysterious aspect of the archetype. I love playing with what challenges witches—what horrible things they can do, but also what great things they can do. Roald Dahl influenced me as well, as did the wise women characters in Miyazaki films. Magic in general imbues all my work. "Ages 10+, first in the Warren the 13th series.

Downing, David. [One Man's Flag Signed](#) (Soho \$27.95). Spring 1915. As Europe erupts into war, Jack McColl, a spy for His Majesty's Secret Service, is stationed in India, charged with defending the Empire against Bengali terrorists and their German allies. Belgium, he finds, is not the only country seeking to expel an invader. In England, meanwhile, suffragette journalist Caitlin Hanley begins the business of rebuilding her life after the execution of her brother—an IRA sympathizer whose terrorist plot was foiled by Caitlin's own ex-lover, the very same Jack McColl, hero of one of my favorite 2014 Spy Novels, [Jack of Spies](#) (\$15.95). What a vintage year 2014 was for spy stories!

Estleman, Loren. [The Sundown Speech Signed](#) (Forge \$26). This is not Estleman's most believable Amos Walker private eye case, but it's hugely enjoyable as the veteran author gives satire, focused on a vision of the culture of Ann Arbor, Michigan (once home base for Borders) full rein. From The Big House (the U of M's stadium) to the local restaurant/bar scene, he spares no one. Especially the couple, she a bookstore manager, who hires him to find one Jerry Marcus, a film auteur who's apparently done a bunk with the money they invested in his new project. It takes Amos no time to break into Marcus' apartment and find the body stuffed into the ironing board compartment. It's not much of a crime scene—but pay attention. For this is the last sure thing in the whole book. I never did buy the motive behind it all, but who cares when reading it is so much fun?

Haas, Derek. [A Different Lie](#) (Pegasus \$24.95). What happens when an elite assassin becomes a father? "Haas' absorbing fourth thriller featuring the contract killer known as Columbus tests the proposition expressed in the book that "lies are popular and

truth is the uninvited guest who spoils the party.” Columbus is enjoying the domestic life he has built in Manhattan with his wife, Risina, who researches the lives of his intended marks, and their three-year-old son, Pooley, when he receives an assignment to kill another assassin, 18- or 19-year old Castillo. Known for the ability to slip into any location unseen, Castillo is already responsible for killing numerous people, including a federally protected witness, a state senator, an ambassador, and a businessman in Florence. After Risina compiles Castillo’s dossier, Columbus plans his strategy, traveling initially to Spain. Suspense builds around whether Columbus can complete the assignment, return unharmed, and resume an everyday life with Risina and Pooley, or whether that plan is a pipe dream. The well-constructed conclusion packs a powerful punch.”

Hall, Parnell. [A Fool for a Client](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). A sensational murder trial! A young woman found naked and stabbed to death in her apartment! The woman was the girlfriend of his boss, Richard Rosenberg, and the hotshot lawyer is charged with killing her. Now Richard’s in court fighting for his life, and Stanley Hastings is out on the firing line trying to dig up some evidence in his favor. This long-running comedic series (this is book #20) from funny-man Hall has a voice that either works for you, or it doesn’t.

Joubert, Irma. [The Girl from the Train](#) (NAL \$15.99). For readers of *The Book Thief*. “Right from the start, Joubert sets up a palpable, tension-filled atmosphere and visually striking landscape. Mixing factual events with fiction, Gretl and Jakob offer interesting viewpoints on the world around them... [a] gripping narrative and standout tale.” —*RT Book Reviews* 4 ½ starred review

Irving, John. [Avenue of Mysteries](#) (SimonSchuster \$28). “Irving introduces readers to brother and sister Diego and Lupe, denizens of the massive garbage dump in Oaxaca, Mexico. Each sibling is remarkable — Lupe can intuit people’s thoughts and Diego, though uneducated, reads everything he can lay his hands on. Their childhood is recalled by the adult Diego as he travels in the Philippines, trying to accomplish a dying request from an acquaintance of his youth. *Avenue of Mysteries* contains all of the things we love about Irving’s novels: masterful storytelling, unforgettable characters, and a renewed sense of magic in everyday events.” —November Library Reads

King, Stephen. [The Bazaar of Bad Dreams](#) (Scribner \$30). O. Henry Prize winner King delivers a generous collection of stories, several of them brand-new, featuring autobiographical comments on when, why and how he came to write (or rewrite) each story. And congratulations to King on receiving the National Medal of the Arts!

Kahn, Michael. [Bearing Witness](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). Rachel Gold blames it on her mother, Sarah, who convinced her to file what seemed like a simple age-discrimination case on behalf of Ruth Alpert, her mother’s best friend. Ruth had been fired just shy of her sixty-third birthday by Beckmann Engineering, a corporate powerhouse known in St. Louis, both for its charitable contributions and vicious lawyers. The first hint that the case might not be so simple comes when a key witness is gunned down in a parking lot before Rachel’s eyes. The second comes when Rachel learns that Ruth has knowledge of confidential information that could transform her simple age claim into a

massive, multi-million-dollar conspiracy case spanning decades. The savvy Rachel struggles to make sense of a dark scheme hatched more than 50 years ago, a conspiracy that implicates some of the wealthiest and most respected elder citizens in the country. I love Kahn’s Rachel Gold series because there is so much more to them than murder... [Click here](#) to order them all.

Lange, Richard. [Sweet Nothings: Stories](#) (\$16). A prison guard must protect an inmate being tried for heinous crimes. A father and son set out to rescue a young couple trapped during a wildfire. An ex-con trying to make good as a security guard stumbles onto a burglary plot. A young father must submit to blackmail to protect the fragile life he’s built. Patrick recommends this collection of stories by the talented Lange, also admired by TC Boyle.

McCarry, Charles. [The Mulberry Bush](#) (Grove \$26). The *PW* Starred Review: “The unnamed narrator of this exceptional spy novel from McCarry vows to avenge his father, a disgraced secret agent. The narrator engineers his own recruitment into “Headquarters” (McCarry’s name for the CIA) and, after training, begins his career as a covert agent, hunting and killing terrorists in the Middle East, though he never forgets his chief purpose in life: exacting retribution on those responsible for his father’s downfall. Amzi Strange, the deputy director for operations and his father’s former enemy at Headquarters, brings the narrator back home, where he decides to implement his plan by infiltrating the remains of a terror organization in Latin America that was led by the charismatic Alejandro Aguilar. The narrator begins an affair with Aguilar’s 29-year-old daughter, Luz, and eventually they marry. McCarry spins his riveting story in unexpected ways; the writing is always subdued but brilliant, leading unsuspecting readers to collide straight into the unforgiving wall of a stunning ending”. In a cover blurb, Lee Child says, “Charles McCarry is better than John le Carré.” I add, thematically it parallels several other new books...as indicated. I like the Argentinean background, and the story of the discredited father is ... extraordinary and not surprising to those who have studied the history of the CIA and its directors, especially those who came up under Wild Bill Donovan. Is it enough to propel the son’s life?

McCarry weaves his novel of missed chances, betrayals, and double dealings around a father’s legacy to a son. So too is Charles Cumming’s second novel from 2003, now rereleased: [The Hidden Man](#) (\$15.99). MI5 agent Stephen Taploe is investigating Russian mobster Viktor Kukushkin, who he suspects is laundering crime syndicate money through Libra, a popular London nightclub. Mark Keen, a manager at Libra, seems unaware of the money laundering. Mark is the oldest son of Christopher Keen, who worked for more than 20 years as an MI6 agent and is now employed by the security company Divisar Corporate Intelligence. Because Christopher abandoned his wife and family years before, another son, Ben, hates his father. But after Christopher is killed, Ben and Mark get pulled into the world of international espionage while searching for their father’s murderer. Both books have a Cold War sensibility.

Mull, Brandon. [The Caretaker’s Guide to Fablehaven](#) (Shadow Mountain \$24.99). Here is the first visual discovery of the creatures in the series and is written as if the reader is the new caretaker of the Fablehaven preserve. It has all sorts of insider’s knowledge the new caretaker of Fablehaven would have to

know, such as dragon tears are very powerful in making potions but they are extremely difficult to come by and cruel people have been known to torment young dragons just to collect tears! Entries detail important information about artifacts large and small, a complete bestiary of creatures (from fairies to trolls to satyrs), a guide to identifying demons, dragons, and wizards as well as valuable insights into the other magical preserves. Scattered throughout the book are colorful fairies that also mark some of the characters, artifacts, and creatures that will be featured in the upcoming sequel series, *Dragonwatch*. Ages 9+

Orgain, Diana. [Yappy Hour](#) (St Martins \$24.99). The concept of this first in a cozy series is cute, but it's so overblown I couldn't manage more than a few pages. You're in Pacific Cove, California. The Wine and Bark is a bar catering to dog lovers and their pets. It hosts a Yappy Hour. It gets sillier from there—even with the appearance of the body of the restaurant owner from next door.

Patterson, James. [Cross Justice](#) (LittleBrown \$29). Alex Cross is back in his North Carolina home town for the first time in 30 years. Why? To prove his that his cousin, accused of a heinous crime, is innocent in a town where everyone seems to be on the take. Chasing a ghost he believed was long dead, Cross gets pulled into a case that has local cops scratching their heads and needing his help: a grisly string of socialite murders. And Cross unearths a family secret that forces him to question everything he's ever known. And don't forget the paperback of [Merry Christmas, Alex Cross](#) (\$15.99), 19th in the series and opening Christmas Eve when Cross is called out to catch whoever is robbing the church's poor box. Then a hostage situation interrupts the family tree-trimming....

Also new: [Confessions: The Murder of an Angel](#) (LittleBrown \$18) Tandy Angel is losing her mind—or so she thinks. Even as she's forced to fight for the family company, she's imagining new dangers in every shadow. And as her detective prowess is called into question and her paranoia builds, she has to face the very real possibility that the stalker she's convinced will take her life could be all in her head—or the very real danger that finally brings her down. This is the conclusion to the Confessions series written with Maxine Paetro.

Reardon, Bryan. [Finding Jake](#) (Morrow \$14.99). Suspense told from the point of view of the father of a boy who is unaccounted for during a school shooting, in the vein of *Reconstructing Amelia* and *Defending Jacob*.

Rollins, James. [The Bone Labyrinth](#) (Morrow \$27.99 SIGNED HERE Dec. 15). Comes with a specially designed insert that will knock your socks off! Publication Day for a new Sigma Force thriller! War is coming, a battle that will stretch from the prehistoric forests of the ancient past to the cutting-edge research labs of today, all to reveal a true mystery buried deep within our DNA, a mystery that will leave readers changed forever.

Savile, Steven. [Sunfail](#) (Akashic \$15.95). “Frighteningly realistic...With fast-paced action, awesome fight scenes (one between two brilliant female assassins is particularly well done), relatable heroes, and just the right balance between intrigue and plot twists, *Sunfail* is a fun and exciting read with a wide appeal perfect for fans of complex series heroes like Jack Reacher and Joe Ledger, with a dash of Dan Brown sensibility.”—*Booklist*. Dogs howl in the streets, running wild. Birds fall dead from

the sky. Even the sun itself is failing. As darkness descends all hell breaks loose and terrorists strike hard and fast, taking out the army base at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn, leaving Manhattan vulnerable. Jake Carter is a New York City subway electrician and former Special Forces operative. When he finds two young men spraying graffiti across subway station walls, he realizes their marks aren't gang tags or band names: they are a message, a call to arms spelled out in a lost language. The Hidden are communicating with each other. The end of the world has arrived, and it's being orchestrated by those unseen—for profit.

Scottoline, Lisa. [Everywhere That Mary Went](#) (\$15.99). A reissue of Scottoline's first mystery, an Edgar winner. Also reissued: [Legal Tender](#) (\$15.99). Both are Rosato & Associates, thus tying into her new book, [Corrupted Signed](#) (St Martins \$27.99).

Stabenow, Dana. [The Land Beyond Signed](#) (Gere \$15.95 Signed December 5). Johanna and Jaufre traveled 2,000 leagues in search of Marco Polo, only to find her grandfather on his deathbed. Treachery follows them into France, where one of their own is kidnapped. The Silk and Song saga ends on a daring rescue, a tragic death and a journey to a kingdom in the land beyond. Start with [Everything under the Heavens](#) and [By the Shores of the Middle Sea](#) (\$15.95 each, both Signed).

Talton, Jon. [A Brief History of Phoenix Signed](#) (Arcade \$21.99). Phoenix is one of America's largest, yet many are unaware of its rich and compelling history. Built on land once occupied by the most advanced pre-Columbian irrigation society, Phoenix overcame its hostile desert surroundings to become a thriving agricultural center. After World War II, its population exploded with the mid-century mass migration to the Sun Belt. In times of rapid expansion or decline, Phoenicians proved themselves to be adaptable and optimistic. Phoenix's past is an engaging and surprising story of audacity, vision, greed and a never-ending fight to secure its future. Chronicling the challenges of growth and change, fourth-generation Arizonan, Rogue Columnist, and crime writer Talton is just the man to tell the story of the city that remains one of American civilization's great accomplishments.

Tóibín, Colm. [Brooklyn](#) (\$15). Tóibín's bestselling novel—now a film starring Saoirse Ronan and Jim Broadbent from the award-winning team that produced *An Education*—is “a moving, deeply satisfying read” (*Entertainment Weekly*) about a young Irish immigrant in Brooklyn in the early 1950s. The film opens in theaters on November 4th.

Webb, Betty. [The Puffin of Death](#) (\$15.95). The fourth book in this charming series doesn't fail to please. Teddy is delightful as she copes with the Icelandic penchant for partying hard.”—*LJ*. “The exotic locale, the animal lore, and a nice overlay of Icelandic culture and tradition provide an enticing frame story for this solid mystery.”—*Booklist*. “Plenty of animal lore and descriptions of Iceland's unearthly beauty and culture...”—*Kirkus*. See Event Books for more. [Click here](#) to order the first 3 Gunn Zoo's.

NOVEMBER TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

✳️Cleverly, Barbara. [Enter Pale Death](#) (\$15.95). This is a terrific series taking us from India under the 20th Century Raj to England with Joe Sandilands of the Yard. “These tales are becoming addictive. Intrigue, political manipulations, the ever-present undercurrent of class differences, and the rising spectre of Nazism run throughout the series. Joe always expected to one day wed Dorcas, a charming girl he watched grow up, and is

alarmed to find that she has attached herself to her academic patron, Sir James Truelove. The detective is sent to Truelove's family estate to investigate the death of Sir James's wife. Murder investigations, just like true love, never run smoothly. Is Sandilands going to find the way through this snake's nest?" asks the December, 2014, Indie Next Pick. I think this is an excellent chapter that can be read alone, or be enriched if you read your way towards it. Click here for the earlier titles. They begin with *The Last Kashmiri Rose*. It may be the same period of Jackie Winspear and Rennie Airth, but the perspective, style, and characters are Cleverly's own.

Cooper, Tom. [The Marauders](#) (\$15). When the BP oil spill devastates the Gulf coast, those who made a living by shrimping find themselves in dire straits. At the center of it all is Gus Lindquist, a pill-addicted, one armed treasure hunter obsessed with finding the lost treasure of pirate Jean Lafitte. "It's always the voice, the singular sound of a place like none other, that draws you into a regional mystery. In Tom Cooper's first novel, *The Marauders*, that beguiling music comes out of the Louisiana bayous, where a raucous chorus of shrimp fishermen, marijuana growers, treasure hunters, professional crooks and common thieves fight to be heard. Every last one of these gaudy characters has a story to tell about life on the Gulf Coast."—*NY Times*

Ekback, Cecilia. [Wolf Winter](#) (\$16). An unnerving debut scores many points with me. One for the setting: 1717 Lapland, a place of endless winter darkness. Another for the characters: a Finnish family of immigrants hoping to overcome past traumas and put down new roots in a harsh but beautiful land. And then there are the neighbors. Unsurprisingly, along with the murder, or maybe it was a bear, there are significant culture clashes and hostilities. Rob and I are visiting Lapland next June when, of course, we're talking endless summer light. But there may still be bears! Authors as diverse as Lee Child and Hilary Mantel recommend this, the Booker Prize (twice) winner saying, "The time and place seem so remote as to be unearthly, and the style has a stealthy quality, like a silent fall of snow; suddenly, the reader is enveloped. The story creeps up and possesses the imagination; there's something eerie in the way half-understood and only half-seen events leave their mark. It's a powerful feat of suggestion, visually acute, skillfully written; it won't easily erase its tracks in the reader's mind."

Johnson, Craig. [Wait for Signs](#) (\$14). 12 Longmire stories including Johnson's Hillerman Award-winning "Old Indian Trick"—plus an introduction by Lou Diamond Phillips. An excellent stocking stuffer for fans who don't read mystery as well as those who do. And, here's a terrific gift: [The Longmire Series Boxed, Volumes 1-9](#) (\$135). It's a most attractive package.

MacNeal, Susan Elia. [Mrs. Roosevelt's Confidante](#) (\$15). **Our November History /Mystery Paperback Pick** features British spy Maggie Hope. December 1941. Soon after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Winston Churchill arrives in Washington, D.C., along with Maggie. Posing as his typist, she shadows the prime minister as he meets with President Roosevelt to negotiate the United States' entry into World War II. When one of the First Lady's aides is mysteriously murdered, Maggie is quickly drawn into Mrs. Roosevelt's inner circle—as ER herself is implicated in the crime. Maggie knows she must keep the investigation quiet, so she employs her unparalleled skills at code breaking and

espionage to figure out who would target Mrs. Roosevelt, and why. What Maggie uncovers is a looming scandal poses a grave threat to the White House and the Allied cause. [Click here](#) to order her first four investigations. Then watch the two seasons of *The Bletchley Circle*

McAlpine, Gordon. [Woman with a Blue Pencil](#) (Seventh Street \$13.95). The Starred Review: "McAlpine (*Hammett Unwritten as Owen Fitzstephen*) once again ventures successfully into metafiction, jumping back and forth between two separate manuscripts while delivering a masterly critique of the mystery novel. Author Takumi Sato must revise the manuscript of his novel about a Japanese-American academic, Sam Sushida, who turns detective after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. One version of Sato's novel is a jingoistic tale of American heroism in which all Japanese characters are villains; the other focuses on Sam Sushida, a character who's no longer allowed to exist, either in the novel or in the United States. Between chapters, readers see the interjections of Maxime Wakefield, Sato's editor, who urges him to excise any critiques of America, and any mentions of homosexuality and racism, even as Sato himself, as a second-generation Japanese immigrant, is forced to move to an internment camp. McAlpine's greatest accomplishment is that the book works both as a conventional mystery story and as a deconstruction of the genre's ideology: whichever strand readers latch on to, the parallel stories pack a brutal punch."

Morrow, Bradford. [The Forgers](#) (\$14). A knockout literary thriller about the dark side of the rare book world. The bibliophile community is stunned when a reclusive rare book collector is found on the floor of his Montauk home: hands severed, surrounded by valuable inscribed books and manuscripts that have been vandalized beyond repair. In the weeks following the victim's death, his sister, Meghan, and her lover—a sometime literary forger whose specialty is the handwriting of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle—struggle to come to terms with the murder. The police fail to identify a likely suspect, and the case quickly turns cold. Soon, Meghan's lover begins to receive threatening handwritten letters, ostensibly penned by long-dead authors but really from someone who seems to have disturbing insights into Adam's death. Understanding that his own life is in jeopardy, he attempts to forge a new beginning for himself and Meghan. But he may not be able to escape his vengeful stalker. "Bradford Morrow's latest novel takes on a knowing, noirish tone, like a crime movie by the Coen brothers... The pleasure of reading *The Forgers* comes not only from trying to figure out what happened to Diehl but also in deciding, chapter by chapter, how much trust to grant the narrator, who is our only source."—*Miami Herald*, also admiring the high level literary forgery at the book's core.

Penzler, Otto, ed. [The Big Book of Sherlock Holmes Stories](#) (Vintage \$25—there is also a hardcover edition at \$40). The breadth of this anthology, which spans over a century and includes everything from straight pastiches and parodies to fully developed whodunits, is but one of its virtues. 33 stories. See British Books for more.

Siger, Jeffrey. [Devil of Delphi](#) (\$15.95). See Event Books for this fascinating and unorthodox procedural linking modern Greece to its ancient past, as is true of every series book. Siger can sign it for you November 18. Note also that Donis Casey, David Wagner, and Betty Webb can each sign the paperback edition of their new

books for you mid-November. With Casey you get recipes too; with Webb, gotta love the puffins and the polar bear cub; with Wagner, art forgery and Italy's *la dolce vita*.

Steinhauer, Olen. [All the Old Knives](#) (\$16). This unorthodox spy novel brings together two ex-coworkers – who are also ex-spies and ex-lovers – reuniting one last time since a tragedy six years back in Vienna over dinner in Carmel-by-the-Sea, California. It seems innocuous, yet betrayals are on the table. This relatively short zinger where every word counts kept me mesmerized until late one night—which of the narrators is the more unreliable?—now has a movie in progress. “This genre-bending spy novel takes Hitchcockian suspense to new heights. Over the course of a meal with flashbacks, the eternal questions of trust, loyalty, and authentic love are deftly dissected. Readers drawn to the story of a loving couple trapped in a terrible embrace will be thrilled to follow Henry and Celia’s tortured pas de deux.” –*Library Journal*.

OUR NOVEMBER MASS MARKET PAPERBACK PICKS

Cussler, Clive. [Havana Storm](#) (\$9.99) Pitt #23
While investigating a toxic outbreak in the Caribbean Sea that may ultimately threaten the United States, Pitt unwittingly becomes involved in something even more dangerous—a post-Castro power struggle for the control of Cuba. Meanwhile, Pitt’s children, marine engineer Dirk and oceanographer Summer, are on an investigation of their own, chasing an Aztec stone that may reveal the whereabouts of a vast historical treasure. *PW* has this to say “After 40 years of nautical derring-do, Dirk Pitt is still going strong. Some critics consider Isaac Bell the new go-to Cussler hero, but no one should count out the Pitts and their seagoing gang of adventurers.”

Carlisle, Kate. [Crowned and Moldering Signed](#) (NAL \$7.99) Fixer-Upper #3
While helping her new beau, Mac Sullivan, renovate his historic lighthouse mansion, contractor Shannon Hammer stumbles upon the remains of a missing young woman who disappeared 15 years earlier. Carlisle also writes the “Bibliophile” mysteries, and her charming books are the perfect cozy escape if you enjoy Katherine Hall Page’s or Carolyn Hart’s books.

Connelly, Michael. [The Burning Room](#) (\$9.99) Harry Bosch #19
When the victim of a crime succumbs to complications from a bullet wound from nine years ago, Detective Harry Bosch and his new partner, Lucia Soto, must find new leads from the past. The usually cranky *Kirkus* had this to say “Following Bosch’s trail is like watching Lew Archer in the glory days of Ross Macdonald, except Connelly’s focus is social, political and ultimately professional rather than psychological. Expect Bosch to uncover a nest of vipers as powerful as they are untouchable, but don’t expect him to emerge from his Herculean labors a happy man.”

Day, Maddie. [Flipped for Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Country Store #1
Robbie Jordan moves from California to South Lick, Indiana, the town where her mother grew up, to open Pans’ ”N” Pancakes, a restaurant and store featuring antique cookware. But when the mayor’s snoopy assistant is found murdered, Robbie takes on a new job: amateur detective. *Kirkus* gave this series debut a thumbs up saying “Day’s series debut provides some quirky characters and red herrings along with the obligatory romantic interest and recipes.”

Delany, Vicki. [Rest Ye Murdered Gentlemen](#) (Berkley \$7.99) A Year-Round Christmas Mystery #1
Returning home to Rudolph, NY to open up Mrs. Clause’s Treasures, Merry Wilkinson is excited about living in a town, where Christmas is celebrated year round. But when journalist Nigel Pearce is found dead and her best friend falls under suspicion, Merry decides to investigate. *LJ*’s review included this comment “A fun Yuletide-themed cozy with an appealing amateur sleuth.” Delany also writes the Constable Molly Smith series.

Gardner, Lisa. [Crash & Burn](#) (\$9.99)
When car-crash survivor Nicky Frank sobs that she must find a little girl named Vero, her husband tells police not to listen because she was already suffering from a brain injury before the accident. But can investigating Sgt. Wyatt Foster trust him? *PW*’s take included “Nothing is what it seems in this expertly crafted standalone from ITW Award-winner Gardner.”

Hillerman, Anne. [Rock with Wings](#) (\$9.99). Leaphorn & Chee Tony turned 90 last May 27, so how fitting that his daughter celebrates with her second continuation of his beloved series—but one given her own twist. Her narrator is Bernie Manuelito, married to Jim Chee of Tony’s creation. And both she and Chee are reminded that no good deed goes unpunished—especially if it’s for a relative. But it does offer the pair of Navajo police the opportunity to get away from the daily grind of police work. But two cases will call them back from their vacation and separate them—one near Shiprock, and the other at iconic Monument Valley. Which gives Hillerman a chance to tour us around the valley and its history, especially with the movies. We also see Bernie coping with her aging mother and erratic sister, and the legendary Lieutenant, Jim Leaphorn, taking a hand. Begin reading Anne with [The Spider Woman’s Daughter](#) (\$9.99).

King, Stephen. [11/22/63](#) (\$9.99)
Maine restaurant owner Al tells high school English teacher Jake Epping that there’s a time portal to the year 1958 in his diner. Al has terminal cancer and asks Jake to grant his dying wish: go back in time and prevent the 1963 assassination of JFK. *BookPage* made King’s latest one of its top picks saying “this genre-bending work is an unforgettable blend of history, mystery and fantasy.”

Lawson, MA. [Viking Bay](#) (\$9.99)
In this follow up to 2013’s *Rosario Beach*, Kay Hamilton, now working for the Callahan Group, a mysterious shadow government agency, goes undercover in Afghanistan to discover the political motives of an Afghani governor but instead finds herself at the epicenter of an international plot where there is no one she can trust. *PW*’s take included this “Some readers may see her as a pure male fantasy, a curvy blonde who’s gutsy, irresistible and sexually free, but Kay’s tendency to act before she thinks keeps the plot whizzing along.”

Page, Katherine. [Small Plates: Short Fiction](#) (\$7.99)
This collection of short stories by Page, several of which feature her series sleuth Faith Fairchild, take the reader from the skyscrapers of Manhattan to the sandy dunes of Cape Code and even “Across the Pond.” *LJ* ended their review of this by saying “Series fans and readers who enjoy light short stories will savor this delectable treat.”

Steinhauer, Ole. [The Cairo Affair](#) (\$9.99)

The assassination of an American diplomat in Hungary places a Cairo-based CIA agent, an Egyptian intelligence agent, and an American analyst at the mercy of a dangerous political game of shifting allegiances. If you have read everything by John Le Carré and haven't discovered Steinhauer yet, you are in for a treat. *LJ's* verdict on this meticulously crafted espionage tale ended with "Readers yearning for a fiendishly complex plot, penetrating characterizations, and a new warrior in the ancient struggle between anomie and truth will welcome Sophie and her brash courage."

NEW IN MASS MARKETS

Adams, Ellery. [Writing All Wrongs](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Books by the Bay #7

While attending the Coastal Carolina Crime Festival where Silas Black, a celebrity screenwriter and television producer is speaking, newlyweds Olivia and Chief Rawlings, along with the rest of the Bayside Book Writers, are faced with strange occurrences and a real-life murder.

Berenson, Laurien. [Hounded to Death](#) (\$7.99) Melanie Travis #14

In this series reprint, Melanie, while attending a five-day symposium for dog show judges in the Pocono Mountains with her Aunt Peg, stumbles across the dead body of an offensive guest speaker floating in the outdoor hot tub.

Brandon, Ali. [Plot Boiler](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Black Cat Bookshop #5

When the wife of the cantankerous owner of Perky's Coffee Shop is found dead, bookseller Darla Pettistone and her cat, Hamlet, must throw the book at a killer who has a secret worth killing for.

Brennan, Allison. [No Good Deed](#) (\$7.99) Lucy Kincaid #10

A kingpin in the Mexican drug trade wants revenge against FBI Agent Lucy Kincaid in the latest by Brennan, which *LJ* says "series fans and readers who enjoy Karin Slaughter and similar authors will add this to their to-read lists."

Brown, Sandra. [Alibi](#) (\$7.99)

Charleston city prosecutor Hammond Cross's investigation into the murder of real estate tycoon Lute Pettijohn turns up no shortage of people who wanted him dead. But when the prime suspect turns out to be a woman who holds a secret that can shatter Hammond's political ambitions, he faces a moral dilemma: was he set up to be the perfect alibi?

Carl, Joanna. [A Chocolate Clown Corpse](#) (\$7.99) Chocoholic #14

Discovering that the widow of a murdered novelty shop owner has been attacked, chocolatier Lee concludes that the wrong person has been arrested for the crime and confronts possible suspects during a macabre clown-themed festival.

Collins, Kate. [Florist Grump](#) (NAL \$7.99) Flower Shop #17

Life definitely isn't a bed of roses for flower shop owner Abby Knight. Abby and her husband Marco are staying with her parents while they build a new home and now Abby must prove the innocence of a beloved window washer who has been accused of murder.

Connelly, Michael. [City of Bones](#) (\$9.99) Harry Bosch #8

On New Year's Day, a dog finds a bone in the Hollywood Hills--and unearths a murder committed more than twenty years earlier. It's a cold case, but for Detective Harry Bosch, it stirs up memories of his childhood as an orphan.

Curtis, Waverly. [Silence of the Chihuahuas](#) (Kensington \$7.99)

Barking Detective #5

Pepe, aspiring P.I. Geri Sullivan's *my* clever Chihuahua, has stopped talking. But why now, with Geri's best friend Brad missing and her ditzzy sister in grave danger? Fortunately, Pepe turns out to be an *excelente* blogger, and his nose for clues soon has the detective duo chasing down leads.

DeMille, Nelson. [Plum Island](#) (\$9.99) Reissue

While investigating the murder of a young Long Island couple, an NYPD detective is stunned to find that they may have been involved in dealing genetically altered viruses.

Erickson, Alex. [Death by Tea](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Bookstore Café #2

Mystery lovers have descended on Pine Hills for this year's book club competition, to be held at Krissy Hancock's bookstore café, but the killer in their midst seems determined to outwit all the armchair sleuths—and send Krissy to the remainder bin forever.

Flowers, Jean. [Death Takes Priority](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Postmistress #1

After a bad break-up, Cassie Miller returns to her hometown of North Ashcot, Massachusetts, where she, now the postmaster, becomes enveloped in a strange mystery involving stolen phone books, a dead body and the handsome antiques dealer she just had lunch with.

Fluke, Joanne. [Vengeance is Mine](#) (Kensington \$7.99)

In the small town of St. Cloud, MN, a local activist has been found murdered, then a vicious hate crime puts a man in the ICU, and finally locked away in the Holy Rest mental ward a deranged man of the cloth prays for more sinners to be punished.

Gerritsen, Tess. [Ice Cold](#) (\$9.99) Rizzoli and Isles #8

Boston medical examiner Maura Isles is in Wyoming for a medical conference when she meets a former college classmate and decides to go off on a spur-of-the-moment ski trip with him and his friends. Their journey goes awry when they are stranded during a snowstorm in a remote area where something strange has happened.

Grady, James. [Last Days of the Condor](#) (9.99)

In the savage streets and Kafkaesque corridors of Washington, D.C., in a world on the edge of its most startling spy revolution since 9/11, the Condor must elude assassins and protect those he has mentored.

Greaney, Mark. [Tom Clancy Full Force and Effect](#) (\$9.99)

Jack Ryan Jr. and his fellow Campus agents race against time to investigate a North Korean ICBM bombing related to a CIA veteran's murder, a stolen cache of forged documents and a rich mineral deposit.

Grippando, James. [Cane and Abe](#) (\$9.99)

Wrongfully implicated in the disappearance of his second wife, Miami prosecutor Abe Beckham is forced to consider his missing wife's accusations about his enduring love for his dead first wife.

Hamilton, Victoria. [White Colander Crime](#) (Berkley \$7.99)

Vintage Kitchen #5

When she discovers the battered body of local woman Shelby Fretter, who predicted her own murder at the hands of Cody

- Wainwright, food columnist Jaymie Leighton is not convinced that the troubled son of her beleaguered newspaper editor is responsible and decides to investigate on her own
- Hardy, Susannah. [Olive and Let Die](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Greek to Me #2
When her estranged mother, a soap opera star, surprises her with a visit, and then another long-lost relative turns up dead, Greek-restaurant manager Georgie Nikolopatos wonders what her mother is capable of—and what she is hiding.
- Hechtman, Betty. [Knot Guilty](#) (\$7.99) Crochet #9
Hoping to recruit more crochet aficionados at a craft show, Molly and her friends are shocked when the show's organizer, an elite crafter and magazine publisher, is found murdered and one of them is wrongly accused of the crime.
- Henshaw, Mark. [Cold Shot](#) (\$9.99)
Investigating the torturing death of a Somalian pirate, Red Cell analysts Kyra Stryker and Jonathan Burke follow leads to a Venezuela-bound Iranian ship containing the components of a nuclear bomb.
- Lee, Amanda. [The Stitching Hour](#) (NAL \$7.99) Embroidery #9
A commercial haunted house next door threatens to scare away business at Marcy Singer's Tallulah Falls, Oregon embroidery shop, Seven-Year Stitch, and soon things get even worse when a local waitress is found dead with mysterious markings on her neck—and one of Marcy's festive trinkets in her possession.
- Lee, Elizabeth. [Nuts and Buried](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Nut House #3
When her wealthy friend, Eugene Wheatley, is murdered after introducing his new bride to Riverville, Texas, society, Lindy Blanchard launches her own investigation after the wrong woman and her unscrupulous kin are accused of the crime. If you miss Eve Sandstrom's wonderful Oklahoma set mysteries, give Lee's books a try.
- Lotempio, T C. [Claws for Alarm](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Nick and Nora #2
When her sister, Lacey, is accused of killing her bullying professor over a bad grade, sandwich-shop owner Nora Charles goes undercover at the college, with her feline partner Nick, to expose the professor's true nature and force the real killer out into the open when her sister Lacey is accused of killing him.
- Murphy, Shirley. [The Cat, The Devil, The Last Escape](#) (\$7.99) Cat and Devil #2
Devastated by her father's imprisonment, young Sammie turns for comfort to ghost cat Misto; while behind bars, her father and a veteran con man plan a wily escape to bring the Satanic puppet who set him up to justice.
- Olsen, Gregg. [Now That She's Gone](#) (Kensington \$9.99)
Notorious serial killer Brenda Nevins has cajoled, seduced, blackmailed, and left a trail of bodies all across Washington State. Now, after a daring prison escape, she is free to carry out her ultimate act of revenge. The targets: forensic pathologist Birdy Waterman and sheriff's detective Kendall Stark.
- Oust, Gail. [Kill 'em with Cayenne](#) (\$7.99) Spice Shop #2
While preparing for the busy season ahead of a local barbecue festival, spice shop owner Piper Prescott investigates the murder of a potential grand prize-winner. This debut has a winning Low Country setting and a very nice voice.
- Patterson, James. [Hope to Die](#) (\$9.99) Alex Cross #22
Detective Alex Cross embarks on the most wrenching case of his career to secure the lives of family members who have been abducted by a psychotic genius.
- Patterson, James. [Invisible](#) (\$9.99)
On leave from her FBI researcher career, Emmy Dockery tries to convince her boyfriend that hundreds of unsolved cases are linked to a single perpetrator.
- Perry, Carol J. [Look Both Ways](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Witch City #3
When Lee Barrett spots the same style oak bureau she once had as a child on the WICH-TV show Shopping Salem, she rushes to the antique shop and buys the piece. However, the day after the bureau is delivered, Lee returns to the shop and finds the owner dead.
- Pressey, Rose. [Haunt Couture and Ghosts Galore](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Haunted Vintage #
A hot-ticket charity fashion show is the perfect chance for Cookie Chanel, proud owner of It's Vintage Y'All, to show off her stylistic savvy for a good cause. But when a famous fashionista is fatally flattened, and the ghost of a former private investigator asks for Cookie's help, she has to scurry to sew up a solution.
- Washburn, Tim. [Powerless](#) (Kensington \$9.99)
When the human race is flung back to the Dark Ages after every power grid in the northern hemisphere is destroyed by a huge geomagnetic solar storm, army veteran Zeke Marshall, in a world where it's every man for himself, discovers that there are far worse things in life than war as he does the unthinkable to save his family.
- Wellington, David. [Positive](#) (\$9.99)
In a world set years after an epidemic wiped out the population and turned millions into zombies, 19-year-old Finn is suspected of carrying the virus. Exiled from his community, he is tattooed as a "Positive" and must make his way in a hostile landscape.

HISTORY/MYSTERY

- Briggs, JC. [Death at Hungerford Stairs](#) (History Press \$16.95). London, November 1849. When a boy is found drowned in the River Thames at Hungerford Stairs, novelist Charles Dickens and Superintendent Jones of Bow Street are mystified to discover the child is not the missing youngster for whom they have been searching. But when two more boys are brutally murdered, the trail leads them on a hunt for a serial killer in a complicated case that tests their wits—but can they solve the clues and rescue another child before the murderer strikes again?
- Donnelly, Jennifer. [These Shallow Graves](#) (Random \$19.99). Josephine Montfort, one of the wealthy elite in 1890 New York City, is supposed to finish school, marry a suitable gentleman, raise a family, "and that is all." But smart, self-assured Jo desires more from life—and wants to become a reporter like Nellie Bly. When Jo's father unexpectedly dies, and she discovers that his death wasn't an accident, she teams up with an intrepid reporter named Eddie to find out what really happened. They uncover secrets that upend everything she has known, and Jo risks her reputation as they visit checkered parts of the city and she starts to fall for Eddie. "While this isn't a short book, Donnelly's action-packed chapters propel this compelling mystery. Through

Jo's sheltered perspective, readers learn about class disparity right alongside her, and Donnelly is as adept at describing an opulent ball as she is a seedy neighborhood."—*PW* Starred Review. Ages 12+

✎Franklin, Ariana. [The Siege Winter](#) (\$15.99). Sadly Franklin, aka Diana Norman, died, so this Mistress of the Art of Death final mystery was finished by her daughter. It lacks the punch of the earlier novels but it's a good wrap.... England, 1141. The long civil war between King Stephen and Empress Matilda has devastated the country (this is Brother Cadfael's period, too). Emma is the eleven-year-old redheaded daughter of a peasant family. When mercenaries pass through their town, they bring with them a monk with a deadly interest in young redheaded girls. Emma is left for dead in a burned-out church until Gwil, an archer, finds her by chance. Gwil takes Emma with him, dressing her as a boy to avoid attention. Emma becomes Penda—and Penda turns out to have a killer instinct with a bow and arrow. Maud is the fifteen-year-old chatelaine of Kenniford, a small but strategically important castle she's determined to protect. But when Maud provides refuge for the empress, Stephen's armies lay siege to Kenniford Castle. Now, how to survive the winter... and a visit from that same evil monk....

✎Gregory, Susann. [The Cheapside Corpse](#) (\$14.95). London in the spring of 1665 is a city full of fear. There is plague in the streets of St. Giles, the Dutch fleet is preparing to invade, and a banking crisis threatens to leave Charles II's government with no means of paying for the nation's defense. Amid the tension, Thomas Chaloner is ordered to investigate the murder of Dick Wheler, one of the few goldsmith-bankers to have survived the losses that have driven others to bankruptcy—or worse. At the same time, a French spy staggers across the city, carrying the plague from one parish to another. Chaloner's foray into the world of the financiers who live in and around Cheapside quickly convinces him that they are just as great a threat as the Dutch, but their power and greed thwarts him at every turn. Meanwhile, the plague continues to spread across the city, and the body count from the disease and from the fever of avarice starts to rise alarmingly.

Guinn, Matthew. [The Scribe Signed](#) (Norton \$27). This brilliantly reviewed book is our **November History/Mystery Club Pick**. Patrick reviews: "Edgar Finalist Guinn (*The Resurrectionist*) returns with a compelling, provocative sequel set in the post-Civil War south where racial tensions are reaching a boiling point and a killer is on the loose, killing Atlanta's most prominent black citizens. Thomas Canby, formerly disgraced detective, is brought back to investigate, paired with Atlanta's first black policeman, Cyrus Underwood. The killings take on a macabre tone, as each victim is found with a letter carved in his forehead. Atmospheric and relevant (have we really changed much, Guinn's book asks?) to today's polarized socio-political climate, this is a fine novel by a gifted storyteller." James Lee Burke adds, "Matthew Guinn makes the reader realize that the present is an extension of the past, and our predecessors are not our predecessors but are us. *The Scribe* is a remarkable book and hard to put down."

Jaher, David. [The Witch of Lime Street: Séance, Seduction, and Houdini in the Spirit World](#) (Crown \$27.99). Jaher brings Harry Houdini's crusade against spiritualism back into popular knowledge in his gripping first book. At one point, Houdini

thought his legacy would be that crusade, not his death-defying magic tricks. Spiritualism, a 19th-century religious movement predicated on belief in communication with spirits, experienced a resurgence after WWI. Houdini had posed as a medium early in his career and knew all the tricks of fake mediums, so when *Scientific American* held a controversial contest awarding a cash prize to any medium who passed their scientific tests, Houdini sat on the five-person jury. Through that contest he met Mina "Margery" Crandon, one of the most famous and convincing mediums in the country. Despite the conviction of his fellow judges, Houdini declared Crandon a fake and reproduced—to much public consternation—the feats that brought her notoriety. Jaher paints a fascinating portrait of spiritualism.

Japp, Andrea. [Lady Agnes Mystery: The Season of the Beast](#) (Gallic Books \$18.95). Agnès de Souarcy, a widowed French noblewoman, has had to contend from her youth with her lustful half-brother, Eudes, the Baron of Larnay. Her husband afforded her some protection during his lifetime, but Agnès is once again subject to Eudes' lecherous advances, which have begun extending to her 11-year-old daughter, Mathilde. Agnès's travails play out against a complicated political background of 1304, as the Catholic Church and even the pope, Benoit XI, are enmeshed in murderous intrigue. Meanwhile, someone is killing monks on a secret mission and slashing their faces postmortem, possibly in an attempt to make their deaths seem the work of a wild animal. Japp does a fine job conveying the state of forensic science of the age. For example, the level of development of maggots on a corpse is used as a method of identifying the time of death.

✎Lloyd, Catherine. [Death Comes to Kurland Hall](#) (Kensington \$25). "A squabbling pair of Regency sleuths is presented with a complicated case. Shortly after they solved a murder while visiting London, Maj. Sir Robert Kurland asked Lucy Harrington for her hand in marriage. She refused him, and now the two are barely speaking. But they're forced to deal with each other once more because Sir Robert has offered his home for use as a venue and guesthouse for Lucy's friend Sophia's wedding to a friend of his. When a nasty gossip is found dead at the bottom of a staircase in his home, both Sir Robert and Lucy are suspicious of the circumstances. Sir Robert had been briefly engaged to the murdered woman's daughter, Penelope Chingford, whose main concern after her mother's death is how she and her sisters will survive. There is also some mystery about the late Mrs. Chingford's relationship to the widowed Emily Fairfax, who's asked Sir Robert's manager, Thomas Fairfax, her husband's illegitimate son, to return home and manage the estate for her own young son. The field of suspects is rich because Mrs. Chingford's snooping and sharp tongue earned her many enemies. Sir Robert and the decidedly independent Lucy investigate together until he alienates her with his overprotective ways. Even then, neither is ready to give up, and they continue to hunt for clues. A saucy tale of love and murder, Regency style."—*Kirkus*

✎Marston, Edward. [Dance of Death Signed](#) (Allison \$44). London, Autumn 1916. When he slips out of a house in the early hours of the morning, Simon Wilder is too preoccupied to realize that he is being stalked. As he walks along the street, lights begin to dim as a warning that there's another Zeppelin attack. Guns begin to pound away as British aeroplanes attack the Zeppelin. Suddenly, it bursts into flame and lights up the whole sky. The crowds cheer as the great fireball drops slowly down and crashes

in a field but the one person unable to watch is Simon Wilder. While he is staring up at the sky, he is stabbed to death and left in an alleyway. It will prove to be a very puzzling case for Inspector Marmion and Sergeant Keedy.... 5th in the Home Front Detective Series.

Muller, Marcia/Bill Pronzini. [The Body Snatchers Affair](#) (\$15.99). 1890s PIs Sabina Carpenter and John Quincannon are detecting in San Francisco's Chinatown, searching for a missing husband and a corpse while a tong war brews. There's also an ambiguous Englishman who calls himself Sherlock Holmes lurking in the shadows. And a problem developing in their relationship... 3rd in series.

Pegau, Cathy. [Murder on the Last Frontier](#) (Kensington \$15). This being 1919 Cordova, Alaska, where a journalist/suffragette called Charlotte Brody from Yonkers has come to write about the life. The backdrop is colorful but the plot is blah.

✠Shapiro, James. [The Year of Lear](#) (SimonSchuster \$30). Shakespeare's productivity declined when Elizabeth died. But in 1606, at age 42, Shapiro finds that he found his footing again, finishing a play he had begun the previous autumn—*King Lear*—then writing two other great tragedies. It was a memorable year in England as well—and a grim one, in the aftermath of a terrorist plot conceived by a small group of Catholic gentry that had been uncovered at the last hour. The foiled Gunpowder Plot would have blown up the king and royal family along with the nation's political and religious leadership. The aborted plot renewed anti-Catholic sentiment and laid bare divisions in the kingdom. It was against this background that Shakespeare finished *Lear*, a play about a divided kingdom, then wrote a tragedy that turned on the murder of a Scottish king, *Macbeth*. He ended this astonishing year with a third masterpiece no less steeped in current events and concerns: *Antony and Cleopatra*. Shapiro places the three in the context of their times, roiled additionally by an outbreak of plague.

✠Sykes, SD. [Butcher Bird Signed](#) (Hodder \$39). Oswald de Lacy is growing up fast in his new position as Lord of Somershill Manor. The Black Death changed many things, and just as it took away his father and elder brothers, leaving Oswald to be recalled from the monastery where he expected to spend his life, so it has taken many of his Kentish villagers and servants. However, there is still the same amount of work to be done in the farms and fields, and the few people left to do it think they should be paid more – something the King himself has forbidden. Just as anger begins to spread, the story of the Butcher Bird takes flight. People claim to have witnessed a huge creature in the skies. A new-born baby is found impaled on a thorn bush. And then more children disappear. Convinced the bird is just a superstitious rumor, Oswald must discover what is really happening. He can expect no help from his snobbish mother and his scheming sister Clemence.... Book Two from an author Jeffery Deaver calls “the medieval CJ Sansom.”

✠Tombs, Robert. [The English and Their History](#) (Knopf \$45). “Proceeding from prehistoric times to the present at a commanding pace, Tombs, an expert at the University of Cambridge on Franco-British relations, focuses on England and the English while paying due regard to their Irish, Scot, and Welsh compatriots. No one will confuse this work with the celebrated, sweeping multivolume histories of Macaulay,

Trevelyan, and Churchill, but this is nevertheless a brilliant distillation of a vast tale and arguably the finest one-volume history of any nation and people ever written. Rare is the historian who can maintain balance amid the interpretive snares posed by such a large subject poses, especially while making “memory and its creation an inherent part of the story.” Comprehensive, authoritative, and readable to a fault, this book should be on the shelves of everyone interested in its subject,” says *PW*. If you've been reading Ackroyd's multivolume work, this inclusive single volume offers another perspective.

✠Trent, Christine. [Death at the Abbey](#) (Kensington \$15). We're in Nottinghamshire and at Welbeck Abbey, home since 1607 to the Cavendish-Bentincks. And in this mystery, to the famously eccentric William, the fifth duke of Portland, aka the “mad duke.” This Victorian is a tireless builder (tunnels are a major project), a recluse, staggeringly rich, and while extraordinarily demanding, also surprisingly philanthropic. All this is true. But I don't buy into undertaker Violet Harper as an investigator summoned by the Duke to conduct a funeral—for the Duke's favorite raven, a sure harbinger of trouble. Which comes when a young estate worker is violently murdered. I cannot imagine a ducal household giving Violet such latitude, or that her husband Sam would, either. Which is odd since the author includes a detailed historical note. 5th in the Lady of Ashes series.

Interestingly, a fascinating book publishes with the fifth Duke at its center: Piu Marie Eatwell, [The Duke, His Secret Wife, and the Missing Corpse](#) (Liveright \$27.95). It was a sensational Edwardian scandal, filled with intrigue. In 1898, an elderly widow, Anna Maria Druce, came to the British court with an astonishing request. She stood among the overflowing pews of St. Pauls claiming that the merchant T. C. Druce, her late father-in-law, had in truth been a secret identity for none other than the deceased and enormously wealthy 5th Duke of Portland. Maintaining her composure amid growing agitation from the clutch of lawyers, journalists, and curious onlookers crowded into the church, Mrs. Druce claimed that Druce had been the duke's alter ego and that the duke had, in 1864, faked the death of his middle-class doppelgänger when he grew tired of the ruse. Mrs. Druce wanted the tomb unlocked and her father-in-law's coffin exhumed, adamant that it would lie empty, proving the falsehood and leaving her son to inherit the vast Portland estate. From that fateful afternoon, the lurid details of the Druce-Portland case spilled forth, seizing the attention of the British public for over a decade. I recommend this gem more than the mystery by Trent but together they illuminate a truly astonishing eccentric.

✠Westerson, Jeri. [The Silence of Stones](#) (Severn \$29.95). London, 1388. When the mythical Stone of Destiny disappears from the throne of England, the populace takes it as a sign that rebellion is near. Desperate, Richard II calls in his disgraced (and broke) knight Crispin Guest to find the missing stone and uses Crispin's page Jack Tucker as leverage. Unless Crispin can find the stone in three day's time, Jack will hang for treason. Ordered Upon Request.