

# BOOKNEWS from

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

#### THURSDAY JANUARY 7:00 PM

**Brad Taylor** signs [The Forgotten Soldier](#) (Dutton \$26.95) Pike Logan #9

#### SATURDAY JANUARY 9 10:30 AM

**Coffee and Crime** discusses Ngaio Marsh, [Enter a Murderer](#) (\$14.95) Ins. Roderick Alleyne

#### SATURDAY JANUARY 9 2:00 PM Cupcake Cozy!

**Elizabeth Heiter** signs [Seized](#) (Mira \$7.99)

**Jenn McKinlay** signs [Copy Cap Murder](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Hat Shop #4

**Paige Shelton** signs [To Helvetica and Back](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Dangerous Type #1

#### TUESDAY JANUARY 12 7:00 PM

**Jeff Abbott** signs [First Order](#) (Grand Central \$26) Sam Capra #4

**Mette Ivie Harrison** signs [His Right Hand](#) (Soho \$26.99) Bishop's Wife #2

#### WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13 7:00 PM

**Thomas Perry** signs [Forty Thieves](#) (Grove \$26) Super caper Surprise Me! Pick

#### THURSDAY JANUARY 14 7:00 PM

**Tami Hoag** signs [The Bitter Season](#) (Dutton \$28) Cops Liska & Kovac

#### SATURDAY JANUARY 16 10:30 AM

**Croak & Dagger** discusses Mark Pryor, [The Button Man](#) (\$15.99) Hugo Marston prequel

#### SATURDAY JANUARY 16 2:00 PM Fiction/Forensics

**Val McDermid** signs [Splinter the Silence](#) (Grove \$26) Hill & Jordan

#### TUESDAY JANUARY 19 7:00 PM

**Darynda Jones** signs [The Dirt on Ninth Grave](#) (St Martins \$26.99) Charley Davidson #9

**Chelsea Quinn Yarbro** signs [Haunting Investigation](#) (Smoke & Shadow Books \$27.99) Chesterton Holt #1

#### WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20 7:00 PM

**Nicholas Petrie** signs [The Drifter](#) (Putnam \$26.95) First Mystery Pick akin to Travis McGee

**Peter Rennebohm** signs [Shepherd Lake](#) (PR \$14.95)

#### THURSDAY JANUARY 21 7:00 PM

**Linda Hirshman** signs [Sisters in Law](#) (Harper \$28.99) Dual Bio of O'Connor & Ginsberg

#### TUESDAY JANUARY 26 7:00 PM Book Launch

**Kevin Hearne** signs [Staked](#) (Ballantine \$27) Iron Druid #8

#### WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27 2:00 PM

**Fiona Barton** previews [The Widow](#) (Penguin \$25.95) Debut British

#### WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27 7:00 PM

**Hardboiled Crime Club** discusses Henning Mankell, [The Faceless Killers](#) (\$15) Kurt Wallander

#### THURSDAY JANUARY 28 7:00 PM

**Reed Farrel Coleman** signs [Where it Hurts](#) (Putnam \$26.95)

**AJ Sidransky** signs [Forgiving Mariela Camacho](#) (Berwick \$16.95)

#### SATURDAY JANUARY 30 2:00 PM

Hosted by **Michael Koryta (and Barbara)**

**Ian Rankin** signs [Even Dogs in the Wild](#) (LittleBrown \$26) Rebus & Fo

#### SUNDAY JANUARY 31 2:00 PM

Hosted by **Michael Koryta**

**Alafair Burke** signs [The Ex](#) (Harper \$26.99) DA Olivia Randall debut

**Andrew Grant** signs [False Positive](#) (Ballantine \$27) Series start, Cooper Deveau

#### TUESDAY FEBRUARY 2 7:00 PM

**Stephanie Barron** signs [Jane and the Waterloo Map](#) (Soho \$25.95) Jane Austen

We may add Tea & Scones for 2:00 PM also

#### WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3 7:00 PM

Hosted by **Michael Koryta and Patrick**

**Joe R. Lansdale** signs [Honky Tonk Samurai](#) (LittleBrown \$26) Hap & Leonard

#### THURSDAY FEBRUARY 4 7:00 PM

Hosted by **Michael Koryta and Barbara**

**Gregg Hurwitz** signs [Orphan X](#) (St Martins \$25.99) Feb. Surprise Me! Pick

#### SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6

**Writer's Workshop with Michael Koryta** 10:30-12:30. Fee: \$50

2:00 PM

**Robert Knott** signs [Robert B. Parker's Blackjack](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Virgil & Hitch

**Michael Sears** signs [Saving Jason](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Jason Stafford

## EVENT BOOKS

Abbott, Jeff. [First Order](#) (Grand Central \$26). The fifth thriller for Sam Capra, our **January Thriller Club Pick**, maintains the shattering pace of Capra's earlier entanglements. As with thrillers of this ilk, there's an organization running the assassin, and here it's called The Round Table, a "secret alliance" operating as a force for good. Though Sam's retired, he's been awarded a chain of bars to generate income. So he can refuse clients. But he's always hoping to discover the fate of his young brother Danny, who was supposedly killed in a Hindu Kush op six years earlier. Meanwhile an anonymous client has offered master hit man Philip Judge \$20 million to pull off the murder of Russian president Dmitri Morozov on American soil. The job seems preposterous, surely an inevitable suicide mission whatever the outcome, until Judge gets an idea from Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* that would enable him to kill Morozov and live to enjoy the payday. It's inevitable that Sam's desperate search for Danny, based on new evidence, would collide with Judge's mission, no? Order Sam's first adventures [here](#).

✂Barron, Stephanie. [Jane and the Waterloo Map](#) (Soho \$25.95). "A well-crafted narrative with multiple subplots drives Barron's splendid 13th Jane Austen mystery. In November 1815, Jane comes to London to attend to her favorite brother, Henry, who has fallen ill and is on the verge of bankruptcy. While she awaits the proofs of Emma, she receives an invitation to Carlton House, the Prince Regent's London mansion, where she finds Col. Ewan McFarland, a hero of Waterloo, horribly sick on the floor of the library. Just before he expires, the colonel utters, "Waterloo map." From evidence at the scene, Jane determines that he was poisoned. Jane joins forces with Raphael West, a painter who's also a government spy, in pursuit of a ruthless killer and the meaning of the colonel's cryptic last words. Series fans will be happy to see more of Jane's extended family and friends, and Austenites will enjoy the imaginative power with which Barron spins another riveting mystery around a writer generally assumed to have led a quiet and uneventful life."—*PW* Starred Review. Dana Stabenow and I are pleased as punch this super book is dedicated to both of us. Order earlier Jane Austen mysteries [here](#).

✂Barton, Fiona. [The Widow](#) (Bantam \$39). This UK true first is a **First Mystery Club Pick**. I can hear the drums beating for another bestseller in the "Trust No One" or Domestic Suspense genre where reside *Gone Girl* and *The Girl on a Train* (a 2015 First Mystery Pick eerily similar in how it was launched). The US publisher is sending Barton to us on January 27 for a preview of the February 16 US publication when the plan is we'll get her to sign some of it and put them aside to on-sale date: [The Widow](#) (Penguin \$25.95). We recommend you buy both if you collect for appreciation in value. Set in Britain, the story revolves around a new widow of a man believed to have committed an atrocious crime (or crimes). How much, if anything, did she know... if he was guilty?

Burke, Alafair. [The Ex](#) (Harper \$26.99). A gripping standalone suspense from Burke in the Trust No One vein (see Barton). With Burke's move to NYC from Oregon some years ago, her landscape shifted to the city. So we get DA Olivia Randall who receives a desperate phone call from the school-age daughter of

her ex-fiancé, Jack Harris, whose wife, Molly, was killed in a mass shooting three years earlier at Manhattan's Penn Station. Jack has now been implicated in a triple murder—one of the victims was the father of the shooter who killed Molly. Jack went to the Hudson River Pier to meet a woman, but his story is so flimsy who would believe it? Olivia? While she's brash, she's conflicted about Jack who may no longer be the guy whose heart she busted years ago... Kirkus says, "Burke has progressed a long way since her debut, which is fortunate for fans of crime thrillers. Her latest features smooth, engaging writing; a sharp, funny edge; and characters worth investing in. Burke has created some memorable female protagonists over the years, but Olivia might be the cream of the crop. If readers are lucky enough, snarky Olivia will snag another convoluted case and make additional appearances up the road." Order Burke's backlist [here](#).

Coleman, Reed Farrel. [Where it Hurts](#) (Putnam \$26.95). Coleman won many awards and fans for his earlier noirs and is now writing the Jesse Stone continuations for the Parker estate. And happily, is launching a new noir series with Parker's publisher. *PW* gives this first in series and our **January Hardboiled Crime Club Pick** a Starred Review: "Edgar-finalist Coleman offers a searing look at the dark underside of Long Island in this stellar series kickoff. Ex-cop Gus Murphy, whose 20-year-old son, John Jr., dropped dead playing basketball, works as a night shift van driver and house detective for a hotel whose lobby was "a pretty grand sight if you didn't look too closely, and if your taste ran to despair." His reputation as an honest cop leads thug Tommy Delcamino to ask Gus to help him find the person responsible for the brutal torture and murder of Tommy's son, TJ, after the Suffolk County PD fail to give the case much attention. Gus refuses, out of anger that Tommy is trying to take advantage of Gus's loss of John Jr., but he changes his mind after another murder. Coleman's moving portrayal of a man in deep, deep pain, a tightly constructed plot, and a gift for making Long Island seem like James Ellroy's L.A., add up to a winner." David and Patrick too give this a rave. [Click here](#) to order Coleman's earlier novels, some of which are in print including his Jesse Stone's for the RB Parker estate.

Grant, Andrew. [False Positive](#) (Ballantine \$27). After a number of publishing misadventures, Grant, the charming brother of Lee Child (real name, Jim Grant), has moved to Child's editor and into a series start set in Birmingham, Alabama (OK, the brothers are from Birmingham, England, so maybe this is a natural choice for Andrew). Birmingham PD's Cooper Deveaux, a cop with record suspensions, has a new partner in Jan Loflin, formerly of Vice and undercover ops. Cooper, a teenage criminal before going straight, is a good match for the damaged Loflin. Bad luck their first case together is the kidnapping of a 7-year-old foster child from his home with parents and a younger brother. Young Ethan is not the first foster child to go missing in the city, so maybe there's someone behind the disappearances. And, there is, someone who carries part of the narrative.... Grant's most recent paperback: [Run](#) (\$9.99), for fans of Coben and FINDER featuring a tech consultant who unwittingly steps into the rabbit hole of corporate cover-ups....

Harrison, Mette Ivie. [His Right Hand](#) (Soho \$26.99). In Draper, Utah, a tight-knit Mormon community is thrown into upheaval

when their ward's second counselor—one of the bishop's right-hand men—is found dead in an elaborately staged murder on church property. Carl Ashby was known as a devout Mormon, a pillar of the community, and a loving husband and father. Who would want him dead? The Indie Next Pick: “In this riveting and compassionate mystery, beloved counselor Carl Ashby is found dead at church, leaving the Mormon community devastated. But when Linda and Kurt Wallheim learn that Carl was originally a female the news turns their world inside out, directing their focus away from the bigger issues at hand. In a community that is so set with its gender roles, can the Wallheims look past that to discover who killed Carl and why?” Inspired by the history of a family friend, Mormon Harrison, author of last year's First Mystery Club Pick [The Bishop's Wife](#) (\$15.95), a bestselling debut, publishes a novel that coincides (accidentally) with breaking news about Salt Lake City's newly elected gay mayor, a judge's ruling on a gay couple adoption, and a LDS Church position on LGBT.

Hearne, Kevin. [Staked](#) (Ballantine \$27). Hearne continues the “Iron Druid Chronicles,” starring tattooed Irishman Atticus O'Sullivan, who looks like a dreamy young rock star but is really a 2,000-year-old Druid with kick-ass magic powers. Here, he's fighting vampires that include a former best friend. Orner archdruid Owen Kennedy is having a wee bit of troll trouble: Turns out when you stiff a troll, it's not water under the bridge. Meanwhile, Granuaile is desperate to free herself of the Norse god Loki's mark and elude his powers of divination—a quest that will bring her face-to-face with several Slavic nightmares. As Atticus globetrotts to stop his nemesis Theophilus, the journey leads to Rome. 8<sup>th</sup> in a bestselling series that moved into hardcover at Book #7, *Shattered*. “Funny, razor-sharp . . . plenty of action, humor, and mythology.”—*Booklist* Starred Review on *Shattered*. To order earlier books in the series, [click here](#).

Heiter, Elizabeth. [Seized](#) (Mira \$7.99). What should have been a routine investigation for FBI profiler Evelyn Baine turns ominous when she's kidnapped by a dangerous cult of survivalists. As her worst nightmares become a reality, she begins to question what she's seeing. Because the longer she's inside their compound, the more she realizes this group is not what it seems to be. The next terrorist threat is right beside her as the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team closes in.... Order *Hunted* and *Vanished*, Profiler #1 and #2, [here](#).

Hirshman, Linda. [Sisters in Law](#) (Harper \$28.99). A *Washington Post* Nonfiction Book of the Year. A dual biography combined with warm personal anecdotes and legal detail reveals how Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsberg fought for recognition in a male-dominated profession—battles that would ultimately benefit every American woman. Hirshman also makes clear how these two justices have shaped the legal framework of modern feminism, setting precedent in cases dealing with employment discrimination, abortion, affirmative action, sexual harassment, and many other issues crucial to women's lives. Hirshman is a Phoenix attorney with a witty personal style. “Linda Hirshman's joint biography of the first and second woman to serve on the nation's highest court is a gossipy, funny, sometimes infuriating and moving tale of two women so similar and yet so different.”—NPR

Hoag, Tami. [The Bitter Season](#) (Dutton \$28). As the dreary, bitter weather of late fall descends on Minneapolis, Detective Nikki Liska is restless. After moving to the cold case squad in order to spend more time with her sons, she misses the rush. Most of all she misses her old partner, Sam Kovac. Sam is having an even harder time adjusting to Nikki's absence, saddled with a green new partner younger than pieces of Sam's wardrobe. Sam is distracted from his troubles by an especially brutal double homicide: a middle-aged husband and wife bludgeoned and hacked to death in their home with a ceremonial Japanese samurai sword. Nikki's case, the unsolved murder of a family man, community leader, and decorated sex crimes detective for the Minneapolis PD, is less of a distraction: Twenty years later, there is little hope for finding the killer who got away. On the other end of the spectrum, Minneapolis resident Evi Burke has a life she only dreamed of as a kid in and out of foster homes: a beautiful home, a family, people who love her, a fulfilling job. Little does she know that a danger from her past is stalking her perfect present. A danger powerful enough to pull in both Kovac and Liska.... Order Hoag's earlier thrillers [here](#).

Hurwitz, Gregg. [Orphan X](#) (St Martins \$25.99). It's not often that a stellar new concept appears married to the talents of an established star like Gregg Hurwitz. The Orphan Program and its recruit from East Baltimore playgrounds Evan Smoak, designated Orphan X, form the story's core. Evan learns many skills including an “ability to creep unnoticed through the virtual universe.” But adult Evan needs and builds a Fortress of Solitude, breached unexpectedly—but not by someone intent on eradicating him. Why? Orphan X is a hero for our age with a limitless future—if he survives. I love this book, a great concept and stylishly written. Our **February Surprise Me! Club Pick**.

Jones, Darynda. [The Dirt on Ninth Grave](#) (St Martins \$26.99). In a small village in New York Charley Davidson is living as Jane Doe, a girl with no memory of who she is or where she came from. So when she is working at a diner and slowly begins to realize she can see dead people, she's more than a little taken aback. Stranger still are the people entering her life. They seem to know things about her. Things they hide with lies and half-truths. Soon, she senses something far darker. A force that wants to cause her harm, she is sure of it. Her saving grace comes in the form of a new friend she feels she can confide in and the fry cook, a devastatingly handsome man. But no one can outrun his past, and the more lies that swirl around her—even from her new and trusted friends—the more disoriented she becomes, until she is confronted by a man who claims to have been sent to kill her. Sent by the darkest force in the universe. Thankfully, she has a Rottweiler.... Our **January SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick**. Charley Davidson #9. Order #1-8 [here](#).

Knott, Robert. [Robert B. Parker's Blackjack](#) (Putnam \$26.95). Cole and Hitch continue to prosper in Appaloosa where the Territorial Marshals do also, but face a new slew of troubles. The biggest is Boston Bill Black, the owner of the new casino. Boston Bill, so flashy, is a prankster and womanizer as well as a known quick-draw. When he becomes wanted for a string of murders, he vanishes, challenging our Marshals to corral him—more than once. And then.... This series has always been great fun. Order Cole and Hitch #1-3 [here](#).

Lansdale, Joe R. [Honky Tonk Samurai](#) (LittleBrown \$26). The *PW* Starred Review: “At the start of Edgar-winner Lansdale’s terrific 11th entry in his Hap and Leonard series, Hap Collins and Leonard Pine, who are doing some freelance detective work, are on a stakeout in their car watching a house in an East Texas town when they notice a man abusing a dog. Leonard jumps out of the car, knocks the man to the ground, and takes the dog. An octogenarian neighbor, Lilly Buckner, who captures the incident on camera, tells them that she’ll go to the cops unless they help her find her missing granddaughter. What begins as a simple missing persons case soon turns into a full-scale assault against a group of elite hired assassins. But Hap and Leonard assemble their own team, including series regular Jim Bob Luke, a mercenary known only as Booger, and the beautiful but deadly Vanilla Ride. This shambolic, action-packed novel will ensnare new readers and satisfy devoted fans alike. With the Sundance Channel’s highly anticipated Hap and Leonard cable series coming in early 2016, this really could be Lansdale’s year.” Check out Lansdale’s huge backlist [here](#).

✎McDermid, Val. [Splinter the Silence](#) (Grove \$26). Dr. Tony Hill and Carol Jordan, a former detective chief constable, still aren’t on speaking terms in their solid ninth outing, despite the closeness they once shared. Tony continues his clinical psychological work in Bradfield, England, while Carol is busy drinking herself into oblivion. Meanwhile, the top brass desire to create a new Major Incident Team that would serve an area beyond Bradford. Strings are pulled to get Carol back in charge, with Tony as her unofficial sobriety coach, much to her annoyance. “The new team’s first case involves several outspoken women who have run afoul of Internet trolls after taking strong feminist stances; though the women and their causes seem unrelated, they all go on to commit suicide. Tony sees a pattern and warns Carol that there could something more sinister at work. Diamond Dagger Award-winner McDermid handles the delicate dance that is the slow reunion of her two heroes with as much grace as she affords the novel’s victim.”—*PW*. Val will be here on January 16 to sign this December release which will keep readers up late into the night. The UK Signed edition sold out quickly but happily this year Val is touring the US and visits us.

We have a few copies of McDermid’s [Forensics](#) (Grove \$25). Dana reports that, “this book is a brisk, crisp narrative interspersed with harrowing, you-are-there crime scenes, fascinating details, heartrending stories and a bunch of on-point commentary from present-day forensic scientists at the top of their game. ‘The story of forensic science,’ Val writes in her preface, ‘of that road from crime scene to courtroom, is the stuff of thousands of crime novels. The application of science to the solving of crime is the reason I am gainfully employed.’ There is nothing like personal interest to juice up a narrative and this book is fully juiced. McDermid marches us through the history of crime solving, beginning with a handbook for coroners written in China in 1247, which ‘contained the first recorded example of forensic entomology—the use of insect biology in the solution of a crime.’ Yes, seven hundred fifty years ago, a Chinese coroner conducting an investigation into a murder deduced the murderer by watching to see which sickle the flies landed on. It had been washed, but the flies knew, and the murderer confessed on the spot. Forensics, it seems, have been around for a while....” And Val updates to the modern era.

✎McKinlay, Jenn. [Copy Cap Murder](#) (Berkley \$7.99). For Scarlett Parker, part of the fun of living in London is celebrating the British holidays, and she’s excited to share her first Bonfire Night with her cousin Vivian Tremont. Invited to a posh party by their friend Harrison Wentworth, Scarlett and Viv decide to promote their hat shop, Mim’s Whims, by donning a few of their more outrageous creations. The hats prove to be quite the conversation starters as the girls mix and mingle with the guests—never suspecting that one of them is a killer. It’s a cold, clear night, perfect for the British tradition of tossing a straw stuffed effigy of Guy Fawkes, traitor to the crown, onto the bonfire. But instead of a straw man, they realize in the heat of the moment that the would-be Guy Fawkes is actually Harrison’s office rival and he’s been murdered. Before the smoke has cleared, Harrison is the Metropolitan police’s prime suspect.... Hat Shop #4. Order #1-3 [here](#).

Perry, Thomas. [Forty Thieves](#) (Grove \$26). Our **January Surprise Me! Pick** is really fun! The title is literal and the complicated caper crafted by the ace of these, Perry, clicks by like clockwork. It’s in stock now but he signs Jan. 13. Husband and wife Sid and Ronnie—sharpshooting retired former LAPD detectives turned PIs—take the lead in “this propulsive, darkly humorous thriller from Edgar-winner Perry. Dodging bullets is certainly not what the couple anticipates when they agree to a research corporation’s request to look into to the execution-style shooting murder the previous year of one of their scientists, chemist James Ballantine, whose body was found in a North Hollywood storm drain. But no sooner does Ronnie post a \$25,000 reward for information than the fireworks—or more accurately firefights—start. What the Abels don’t know, but readers do, is that they’re dealing with Ed and Nicole Hoyt, sociopathic hired guns based in the San Fernando Valley who aren’t going to let anything get in the way of a lucrative payday. As the likable, series-worthy Abels struggle to survive at least long enough to solve Ballantine’s murder, Perry tosses in several hairpin plot twists that culminate in a satisfyingly surprising conclusion.” You may think you know too much when you meet the Hoyts about how this will go down, but... you don’t. I could quote you the terrific long review in the *NY Times Book Review*, but it has too many spoilers. Perry has a long list of hits to his credit including the Jane Whitefield series. [Click here](#) to order.

Petrie, Nicholas. [The Drifter](#) (Putnam \$26.95). A **January First Mystery Club Pick**. “Nicholas Petrie’s *The Drifter* has one of the most thrilling openings I’ve ever read, involving a dank crawlspace, the nastiest, smelliest dog in creation, and a former Marine lieutenant still suffering from the trauma of his war. It can’t get better than this, I figured, but it does. Petrie’s novel keeps accelerating even as it burrows ever deeper into the dark heart of the new American dream. It is a sterling debut. And yes, the dog is a star.”—William Lashner. David Baldacci adds, “Peter Ash is one of the most complex characters I’ve come across in a long time. The pace is like a sniper round, extraordinarily fast and precisely calibrated. The prose is fluid, original and frequently brilliant, the story heart-wrenching and uplifting at the same time. There is grit in this tale that will stay with you for a long time. Perhaps forever.” And Dana Stabenow, who stole my ARC after I raved about the dog, says: “A vet with PTSD comes to the aid of the family of a friend and fellow vet who has committed suicide, but of course that’s only where the story starts, evolving later into a potentially catastrophic domestic terrorism

event. (Trying not to give too much away but you'll know all this yourself by the first chapter.) The voice of Peter the vet is solid as a rock and there is a terrific dog, and most of the supporting cast is also good... I can see Peter evolving in future books into the second coming of Travis McGee, a mercenary not for hire with mad skills and serious heart, ready to do the necessary for all those other hurting vets and their families."

Rankin, Ian. [Even Dogs in the Wild](#) (LittleBrown \$26). What's up with John Rebus, now a civilian, and Siobhan and Malcolm Fox, formerly of The Complaints, i.e. the Edinburgh squad's Internal Affairs division, and thus viewed mostly as a rat by his colleagues? Not to mention Big Ger, terror of Edinburgh, now also "retired" but maybe a target of a new breed of mobsters. When David Menzies Minton, former Lord Advocate of Scotland, is bludgeoned to death in his Edinburgh home, DI Siobhan Clarke shares one crime-scene detail she shouldn't with her friend DI Malcolm Fox: a note saying, "I'M GOING TO KILL YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID." After someone shoots at crime lord Big Ger Cafferty, she also rousts John Rebus, a month into his retirement, from his usual station at the Oxford Bar. As a detective, Rebus had developed an odd working relationship with Cafferty. So now he agrees to be a consultant, especially after Cafferty gets the same death-threat note as Minton. There's no obvious link between Minton's murder and the attempted hit on Cafferty, however, and even less connection with a past break-in and the murder of a lottery winner. Meanwhile, Fox reluctantly becomes his boss' spy for a surveillance team that hopes to take down a Glaswegian gangster and his heir apparent, who've come to Edinburgh on the trail of a man who betrayed them. It's not easy for a man widely regarded as an internal snitch to win the team's confidence.... Order earlier Rankins [here](#).

Rennebohm, Peter. [Shepherd Lake](#) (PR \$14.95). *Shepherd Lake*, which could be considered a young-adult novel, continues the story of Charlie Nash. Angry and resentful over the death of his father, Charlie, who is now 16, and his dog and venture deep into the Northern Minnesota forest to seek answers at an old military site on the far side of Shepherd Lake. The story begins with a scene taken straight from Rennebohm's life, he says. In the 1970s, he said he was on a fall hunting trip when an overloaded duck boat sank and nearly drowned the group he was with. "We were very fortunate that nobody died," he said. "And that story is the genesis for this book." A fan of the unconventional hero, the author said he writes for ordinary characters that find themselves in trouble.

Sears, Michael. [Saving Jason](#) (Putnam \$26.95), Michael. Sears's exciting fourth novel featuring disgraced Wall Street trader Jason Stafford finds Stafford, now a financial fraud investigator, sneaking onto a Long Island farm that might be the nexus of some shady stock trades. In the book's best sequence, he narrowly outruns the farm's security staff and a herd of cranky bison. But after a colleague is killed, Stafford is swept up into a federal investigation and is forced to go into the witness protection program—along with his autistic seven-year old son, also named Jason but known as "the Kid," and a pair of bodyguards—in New Mexico, where they're hunted by mobsters. "Stafford is a flawed protagonist who is resourceful and touchingly vulnerable," and a decent man navigating a challenging parental role with love and patience. I am crazy for this series. Order Jason's first three thrillers [here](#).

Shelton, Paige. [To Helvetica and Back](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Dangerous Type #1 moves Shelton from farmer's markets and country cooking into typewriters and book restoration. Star City, Utah, is known for its slopes and its powder. But nestled in the valley of this ski resort town is a side street full of shops that specialize in the simple charms of earlier eras. One of those shops is the Rescued Word, where Chester Henry and his adult granddaughter Clare lovingly repair old typewriters and restore old books. Who ever thought their quaint store would hold the key to some modern-day trouble? When a stranger to town demands they turn over an antique Underwood typewriter they're repairing for a customer, Clare fears she may need to be rescued. A call to the police scares the man off, but later Clare finds his dead body in the back alley. What about a dusty old typewriter could possibly be worth killing for? We're happy to welcome Shelton to her new home in metro Phoenix as well.

Sidransky, AJ. [Forgiving Mariela Camacho](#) (Berwick Court \$16.95). Detective Pete Gonzalez knew from the start that the dead woman he and his partner, Tolya Kurchenko, discovered in a Manhattan apartment did not commit suicide. Pete knew her better than that. Mariela Camacho was the love of his life. The road to the truth winds through the slums of the Dominican Republic, the cold streets of Soviet Moscow, the hot sands of the Judean Hills, and into the dark clubs of New York City's underworld. They learn that Mariela was not merely murdered, but was the most recent victim of an international serial killer—a phantom from Tolya's past—and Karin Kurchenko, nine months pregnant, could be in his cold-blooded crosshairs. "*Forgiving Mariela Camacho* begins as a standard police procedural, but quickly becomes something far richer and more interesting. Sidransky has written a page-turning thriller wrapped inside a haunting examination of male friendship, filial usurpation, and the immigrant's search for identity and security. This surprising and rewarding novel, which illuminates both the Dominican and Jewish communities of Northern Manhattan, belongs on any reading list of books about New York City."—Jon Michaud

Taylor, Brad. [The Forgotten Soldier](#) (Dutton \$26.95). "Taylor has become one of the very best writers of thrillers with a military and special-ops background. His consistency and his ability to mirror headline news with relevant, engrossing narratives are uncanny, and this exploration of the human side of war should quickly be recognized as one of Taylor's best efforts. Comparisons to Vince Flynn and Brad Thor are expected and not inaccurate, but Taylor is now in a class by himself." —*Booklist* Starred Review. For years, the extralegal counterterrorist unit known as the Taskforce has worked in the shadows, anticipating and preventing attacks around the globe. Created to deal with a terrorist threat that shuns the civilized rule of law, it abandoned the same, operating outside of the US Constitution. Though wildly successful, it was rooted in a fear that the cure could be worse than the disease. And now that fear has come home. A Special Forces soldier is killed on an operation in Afghanistan, and complicit in the attack is a government official of an allied nation. While the US administration wants to forget the casualty, one Taskforce member will not. Order the earlier Pike Logans [here](#).

Yarbro, Chelsea Quinn. [Haunting Investigation](#) (Smoke & Shadow Books \$27.99). Set in 1924, this first in a paranormal mystery series from old pro Yarbro (best known for the Saint Germain historical vampire novels) is an agreeable and inventive

yarn. Poppy Thornton, a young socialite, is trying desperately to break into crime reporting for the Philadelphia Clarion when she's approached by the titular Holte, the helpful ghost of a spy executed with Poppy's father during WWI. The murder of an upper-crust acquaintance of Poppy gives Poppy her chance. The death appears connected to other crimes committed at a level of society that the working-class police and reporters have difficulty exploring. As Poppy cleverly exploits her social connections, Holte interviews the spirits of several murder victims, hindered by the fact that ghosts tend to be forgetful. It's all good fun until the action breaks off abruptly at the end."—*PW. Kirkus* adds, "Yarbro's greatest triumph is the old-school prose. Her novel reads as if it were genuinely authored in the 1920s... Engaging characters, one already dead, highlight this loving tribute to the classic detective story." Chesterton Holt #1

### SOME SIGNED BOOKS FOR JANUARY

✎Cannon, Joanna. [The Trouble with Goats and Sheep](#) (Collins \$34). This debut is set in the England of 1976. Mrs. Creasy is missing and The Avenue is alive with whispers. As the summer shimmers endlessly on, ten-year-olds Grace and Tilly decide to take matters into their own hands. And as the cul-de-sac starts giving up its secrets, the amateur detectives will find much more than they imagined. Instead of finding their missing neighbor, they must try to make sense of what they've seen and heard, and a complicated history of deception begins to emerge. Everyone on the Avenue has something to hide, a reason for not fitting in. It's only in the suffocating heat of the summer, that the ability to guard these differences becomes impossible to conceal. What the girls don't realize is that the lies told to conceal what happened one fateful day about a decade ago are the same ones Mrs. Creasy was beginning to peel back just before she disappeared. The US edition publishes on July 12, 2016.

✎Dolan, Eva. [After You Die](#) (Harvill \$32). Dawn Prentice was already known to the Peterborough Hate Crimes Unit. The previous summer she had logged a number of calls detailing the harassment she and her severely disabled teenage daughter were undergoing. Now she is dead – stabbed to death whilst Holly Prentice has been left to starve upstairs. DS Ferreira, only recently back serving on the force after being severely injured in the line of duty, had met with Dawn that summer. Was she negligent in not taking Dawn's accusations more seriously? Did the murderer even know that Holly was helpless upstairs while her mother bled to death? Ferreira battles her demons, determined to prove she's up to the frontline, DI Zigic is drawn into conflict with an official seemingly resolved to hide the truth about one of his main suspects. Can either officer unpick the truth about mother and daughter, and bring their killer to justice?

✎Gregory, Susann. [The Chelsea Strangler](#) (LittleBrown \$50). **Gregory retired from her post in Cambridge to Wales, so books have to ship to her: hence the high price. Rather than guess about how many to stock, we're asking you to preorder (no charge until the books arrive) so we can avoid disappointing anyone.** In the sapping summer heat of 1665 there is little celebration in London of the naval victory at the Battle of Lowestoft. The King, his retinue and anyone with sufficient means has fled the plague-ridden city, its half-deserted streets echoing to the sound of bells tolling the mounting number of deaths. Those who remain clutch doubtful potions to ward off

the relentless disease and dart nervously past shuttered buildings, watchful for the thieves who risk their lives to plunder what has been left behind. At Chelsea, a rural backwater by the river, with fine mansions leased to minor members of the Court avoiding the capital, there are more immediate concerns: the government has commandeered the theological college to house Dutch prisoners of war and there are daily rumors that those sailors are on the brink of escaping. Moreover, a vicious strangler is stalking the neighborhood. Thomas Chaloner is sent to investigate the murder of the first victim, an inmate of a private sanatorium known as Gorges. There have been thefts there as well, but the few facts he gleans from inmates and staff are contradictory and elusive. He realizes, though, that Gorges has stronger links to the prison than just proximity, and that the influx of strangers offers plenty of camouflage for a killer....

✎Griffiths, Elly. [The Woman in Blue](#) (Quercus \$40). When Ruth Galloway's friend Cathbad sees a vision of the Virgin Mary, in a white gown and blue cloak, in the graveyard next to the cottage he is house-sitting, he takes it in his stride. Walsingham has strong connections to Mary, and Cathbad is a druid after all; visions come with the job. But when the body of a woman in a blue dressing-gown is found dead the next day in a nearby ditch, it is clear Cathbad's vision was all too human, and that a horrible crime has been committed. DCI Nelson and his team are called in for the murder investigation, and soon establish that the dead woman was a recovering addict being treated at a nearby private hospital. Ruth, a devout atheist, has managed to avoid Walsingham during her seventeen years in Norfolk. But then an old university friend, Hilary Smithson, asks to meet her in the village, and Ruth is amazed to discover that her friend is now a priest... Then another priest is murdered. 8th in a fabulous series.

Jonasson, Ragnar. [Nightblind](#) (Orenda \$35). Delayed from December. The peace of a close-knit Icelandic community is shattered by the murder of a policeman – shot at point-blank range in the dead of night in a deserted house. With a killer on the loose and the dark Arctic waters closing in, it falls to Ari Thor to piece together a puzzle that involves tangled local politics, a compromised new mayor and a psychiatric ward in Reykjavik where someone is being held against their will... Dark Iceland #2. Only 3 copies left.

✎Kernick, Simon. [The Witness](#) (Century \$32). When Jane Kinnear sees her lover being murdered, she suddenly finds herself in danger. Taken to an anonymous police safe-house, it soon becomes clear that her lover was an MI5 informant with important information about an imminent terrorist attack. DI Ray Mason of Counter Terrorism Command is a man with a controversial past, but his effectiveness at getting results means that he's now been given the task of preventing the attack from taking place. But can he be trusted, and does he know more about the attack than he's letting on? In the safe-house, Jane is trying to piece together a description of her lover's killer. But what she doesn't know is that the killer has already found out who she is, and where she is hiding....

MacBride, Stuart. [In the Cold Dark Ground](#) (Collins \$40). Sergeant Logan McRae's missing-persons investigation has just turned up a body in the woods – naked, hands tied behind its back, and a bin bag duct-taped over its head. The Major Investigation Team charges up from Aberdeen, under the beady eye

of Logan's ex-boss Detective Chief Inspector Steel. And, as usual, she wants him to do her job for her. But it's not going to be easy: a new Superintendent is on her way up from the Serious Organized Crime Task Force, hell-bent on making Logan's life miserable; Professional Standards are gunning for Steel; and Wee Hamish Mowat, head of Aberdeen's criminal underbelly, is dying – leaving rival gangs from all over the UK eying his territory. There's a war brewing and Logan's trapped right in the middle... 10<sup>th</sup> in series

✦Mark, David. [Dead Pretty](#) (Hodder \$32). Hannah Kelly has been missing for nine months. Ava Delaney has been dead for five days. One girl to find. One girl to avenge. And DS Aector McAvoy won't let either of them go until justice can be done... 5<sup>th</sup> in this fine hardboiled British crime series.

Nadel, Barbara. [On the Bone](#) (Headline \$43). On a buzzing Istanbul street, in the fashionable district of Beyoglu, a young man drops dead. Ümit Kavas's death was natural but the contents of his stomach betray a shocking truth: his last meal was human flesh. Under desperate pressure from their superiors, Inspector Cetin Ikmen and his colleague Mehmet Süleyman begin the most obscure investigation of their careers. How did Ümit Kavas – apparently a good, liberal man – come to partake in the greatest taboo of all? Did he act alone? And who was the victim who met such a gruesome end? Soon they find themselves embroiled in a dark web of seemingly unconnected worlds: of Turkey's old secular elite; of a community of squatters; and a new gastronomy scene breaking every boundary. 18<sup>th</sup> in a brilliant series I find fascinating and also illuminating as Turkey becomes more of an international player.

Schulian, John. [A Better Goodbye](#) (Tyrus \$26). The **December Hardboiled Crime** Club Pick but arriving in January. Patrick reviews: "Very impressive. Nick Pafko is a former boxer whose career was cut short after a tragic accident in the ring. Broke and desperate, he takes a job as a security guard for a "massage parlor" in Westwood run by a has-been B-movie actor. Jenny Yee is a beautiful and intelligent young daughter of Korean immigrants working as a masseuse to fund her college studies. She is passionate about the poetry of Elizabeth Bishop and likes to curl up with Stendhal and Trollope, but Jenny Yee doesn't conform to the "hooker with a heart of gold" stereotype. Schulian is too good a writer for that, and he really creates vivid, believable characters trying their best to make it against steep odds. To make in LA, as these characters demonstrate, one has to be flexible. Things take an interesting turn when an ex-con named DuPree decides to rob the massage joint and one of its super-wealthy clients. This pitch-perfect debut really captures the flavor of modern day Los Angeles and deserves a wide readership."

Seddon, Holly. [Try Not to Breathe](#) (Corvus \$32). Alex Dale is lost. Destructive habits have cost her a marriage and a journalism career. All she has left is her routine: a morning run until her body aches, then a few hours of forgettable work before the past grabs hold and drags her down. Then Alex discovers Amy Stevenson. Amy Stevenson, who was just another girl from a nearby town until the day she was found after a merciless assault. Amy Stevenson, who has been in a coma for fifteen years, forgotten by the world. Who, unbeknownst to her doctors, remains locked inside her body, conscious but paralyzed, reliving the past. Soon Alex's routine includes visiting hours at the hospital, then inter-

views with the original suspects in the attack. But what starts as a reporter's story becomes a personal obsession. How do you solve a crime when the only witness lived, but cannot tell the tale? Unable to tear herself away from uncovering the unspeakable truth, Alex realizes she's not just chasing a story she's seeking salvation. Domestic suspense in the Flynn, Hawkins, Ware, Barton vein...

Todd, Marilyn. [Swords, Sandals, and Sirens](#) (Crippen & Landru \$45). Murder, con men, elephants. Who knew ancient times could be such fun? Many of the stories feature Claudia Seferius, the superbitch heroine of Marilyn Todd's critically acclaimed mystery series set in Ancient Rome. Others feature Iliona, High Priestess of the Temple of Eurotas, blackmailed to work with Sparta's feared secret police. From Sparta to Delphi, Egypt to Rome, this sparkling collection will have you laughing, guessing, biting your nails. The hardcover edition is limited to 175 signed and numbered copies and includes a bonus separate story. Ordered by request. There is an unsigned trade paperback edition (\$19).

✦Tyler, LC. [A Masterpiece of Corruption](#) (Constable \$43). It is December 1657. John Grey, at his cramped desk in Lincoln's Inn, is attempting to resume his legal career. A mysterious message from a 'Mr. SK' tempts him out into the snowy streets of London and to what he believes will be a harmless diversion from his studies. Mr. SK's letter proves to have been intended for somebody else entirely and Grey finds himself unwittingly in the middle of a plot to assassinate the Lord Protector – a plot about which he now knows more than it is safe to know. Can he both prevent the murder and (of greater immediate relevance) save his own skin? Both the Sealed Knot and Cromwell's Secretary of State John Thurloe believe he is on their side, but he is unsure that either is on his. As somebody is kind enough to point out to him: 'You are a brave man, Grey. The life of a double agent can be exciting but very short.' Grey just has to hope that prediction is wrong.

Yokoyama, Hideo. [Six Four](#) (Quercus \$40). For five days in January 1989, the parents of a seven-year-old Tokyo schoolgirl sat and listened to the demands of their daughter's kidnapper. They would never learn his identity. They would never see their daughter again. For the fourteen years that followed, the Japanese public listened to the police's apologies. They would never forget the botched investigation that became known as 'Six Four'. They would never forgive the authorities their failure. For one week in late 2002, the press officer attached to the police department in question confronted an anomaly in the case. He could never imagine what he would uncover. He would never have looked if he'd known what he would find.

### SOME NEW HARDCOVER BOOKS

Bohjalian, Chris. [The Guest Room](#) (Doubleday \$26.95), The Indie Next Pick: "From the explosive beginning all the way to the adrenaline rush of its conclusion, *The Guest Room* packs an emotional punch that will leave the reader gasping. When a bachelor party goes terribly wrong and two Russian mobsters wind up dead in his home, financier Richard Chapman finds himself struggling to save his job and marriage. Intertwined with Richard's story is the tale of Alexandra, a young sex slave with a narrative voice that will break your heart. Nobody does domestic drama quite like Bohjalian. Once again he proves himself a master of page-turning literary fiction." Bohjalian calls this, "a novel

of suspense about a marriage in crisis, two remarkable women, and that one moment you wish more than anything you could take back. It's about as close as I've come to writing a "Breaking Bad" sort of thriller. (No blue meth, but a cataclysmic bachelor party, Russian gangsters, and a couple of Makharov pistols. In all seriousness, however, I hope that the novel also raises awareness of human trafficking and sexual slavery. The International Labor Organization estimates 4.5 million people are trapped in forced sexual exploitation around the world—a tragically and unforgivably large figure.”

Bussi, Michel. [After the Crash](#) (Hachette \$26). Our **Fresh Fiction Pick** for January gets an Indie Next Pick: “This old-fashioned crime novel by a French geography professor considers the miraculous survival of a three-month-old infant girl in an airplane crash in the Jura Mountains in which all perished — including a second three-month-old baby. An 18-year struggle is unleashed between two rival sets of grandparents on opposite ends of the economic scale, one of which is accorded custody of the child. Does she really belong to that family? Is her brother really her brother? As the age of majority of the survivor approaches, the questions become more urgent and the private detective who has been on the case for 18 years tries to bring some closure.”

Ellis, Helen. [American Housewife: Stories](#) (Doubleday \$24). The Indie Next Pick: “American Housewife is a little arsenic cupcake of a book: adorable and lethal! Each of the stories features a housewife who does all the usual hausfrau things, but with a homicidal twist. Each of these ladies stand by their man — and sometimes they kill for him. I was spellbound and loved every vicious one of them, from their perfectly coiffed hair and gel-manicured fingers to their coal-black hearts! This is the guiltiest of guilty pleasures!”

✎Hadley, Tessa. [The Past](#) (Harper \$26.99). The setup of Hadley's thorny but well-pruned garden of a sixth novel is Chekhovian by way of a modern-day British pastoral: Three sisters (and a more distant, thrice-married brother) spend three weeks in the ancestral summer cottage and contemplate selling it as their lives diverge. Hadley moves deftly back and forth between eras and generations, making room for a blooming crush among the younger visitors and a meaty mid-novel flashback to 1968. As in Chekhov's dramas, *The Past* is a stage on which nothing much happens, brilliantly, even as everything slowly disintegrate.

Harris, Robert. [The Dictator](#) (Knopf \$26.95). The final book in Harris's trilogy on the life of Cicero may not be as accessible as his major historical blockbusters (*Fatherland*, *The Ghost*, *Enigma* — all adapted for the screen), but unlike the series' first two volumes, *Dictator* covers Rome's most famous and fateful years. Tightly focusing on the statesman's return from exile and his fatal effort to restore government legitimacy in the wake of Caesar's murder, Harris gives ancient history the feel of an ongoing thriller, a true-life game of thrones. But for all the pyrotechnics, his depth and fidelity put him in league with Marguerite Yourcenar.

Hawken. Sam. [The Night Charter](#) (Little Brown \$26). Dagger Award nominee for his Mexican-American border crime novels (*Tequila Sunset*, *Missing*), relocates his Latino savvy and violence-laden prose to the warehouses, seedy motels and working marinas of a Cuba-centric Miami. Resurrecting a character from earlier novellas, *The Night Charter* features Camaro

Espinoza—a rugged single woman who drives a Harley and runs her own 50-foot Custom Carolina charter boat on night trips to the Gulf Stream. Camaro (so named by her father who loved Detroit iron) has a history. When her life or her boat is at risk, she saddles up with a boot-stuffed karambit knife and her Glock 38 “chambered in .45 GAP with a single stack of eight rounds.” But mostly, she now just wants time to herself and “to keep it simple, that's all. Boat. Water. Fish.” Detached and simple, though, fly out the window when she goes soft for the down-on-his-luck ex-con Parker Story, who needs to repay a sadistic prison cellmate who “protected” him. The deal involves making a clandestine run to Cuba to bring to Miami an underground anti-Castro insurgent wanted by Cuba's Intelligence Directorate. Miami's 1960s paramilitary freedom fighter group Alpha 66 also wants him—for fund-raising. The trip goes wrong when the passenger gets kidnapped; the shooting starts and the Miami P.D. and FBI come knocking. Good-hearted Camaro has to sort it out with her wits, guts and arsenal.

Konnikova, Maria. [The Confidence Game](#) (Viking \$28). Melding pop social science and potted history, the science writer transcends the genre of Gladwell by drilling down into situations where our instincts lead us horribly astray — and right into the arms of swindlers. The surreal and often codependent relationship between grifter and griftee is disturbingly common, no matter how sophisticated its victims think they are, from Bernie Madoff's worldly dupes to everyone who ever cheered Lance Armstrong. Her examples are extreme by design, but the impulses to manipulate and believe are perfectly natural and all too human. “Konnikova plumbs the psychology and chemistry of why we all fall so readily for scams and cons—and why, thanks to the “Lake Woebegone Effect” and other forces, having fallen once, we're even more susceptible the next time. It's a startling and disconcerting read that should make you think twice every time a friend of a friend offers you the opportunity of a lifetime. But you won't think twice. You'll still succumb, because that's how we're all wired. And here's the irony—the smarter you think you are, the more readily you'll fall, which is why New Yorkers are some of the easiest marks. (Clients of Bernie Madoff, we're talking about you.) If you liked Malcolm Gladwell's *Blink*, you'll love this lucid and revelatory look into our oh-so-susceptible selves.”—Erik Larson

✎Mayer, Eric. [The Guardian Stones](#) (Poisoned Pen \$25.95). Our **January British Crime Club** pick gets this powerful review: “A remote Shropshire town is beset by wartime demons even more insidious than the Third Reich. It's 1941. American widower Edwin Carpenter is retired from his job as a university professor, and he's made the arduous trip to England to study a stone circle just outside the town of Noddweir. He's corresponded with Vicar Timothy Wilson and arranged to lodge with Grace Baxter, whose father, the village constable, has gone off to war. The village is of two minds over the disappearance of Issy Chapman, the teenage daughter of the village blacksmith. On one hand, Issy is considered a troublemaker and a slut; on the other, her father is rumored to mistreat her. Quite a few children have been removed from their city homes and sent to the country for their safety, billeted among many families in and around Noddweir, and inevitably their numbers include quite a few tough troublemakers. As more children vanish, suspicion runs rife among the villagers. An outsider like Edwin is naturally high on the list of



suspects. Then the ineffectual special constable sent to replace Grace's father is found murdered, and several other villagers die in suspicious circumstances as rumors of strange sightings occur. Grace's grandmother, a student of the old ways, folk cures, and magic, insists that the stone circle known as the Guardian Stones is responsible for all the horrifying events. Edwin, unpersuaded, tries to help Grace do her father's job and protect the town from whatever modern evil is plaguing it. A fascinating look at a small town mired in the past and confronting the future—with a bombshell ending."—*Kirkus*. Also in trade paperback: [The Guardian Stones](#) (\$15.95).

Nakamura, Fuminori. [The Gun](#) (Soho Crime \$25.95). Alienation and obsession are dissected in this unsettling, spare novel. Nishikawa, a listless college student, happens upon a dead man during a nighttime walk. He inexplicably picks up the pistol lying by the body and brings it to his apartment. From this precipitous moment, the weapon becomes an obsession. Nishikawa finds his tedious reality taking on new meaning through the possibilities of an object that was designed to kill, and yet he must conceal his fetish from his classmates, lovers, and — most importantly — the police, who suspect that he has the gun. This award-winning noir novel, translated from Japanese, is an unflinching, dark story of one man's expanding consciousness — and threat.

Neuhaus, Nele. [I Am Your Judge](#) (Minotaur, \$26.99). Karen reviews: "First an elderly woman is shot and killed. Later, another murder and then, two more. None of the victims appear to have any enemies, nor do they seem to have anything in common. Fear of where the killer, nicknamed the "Taurus Sniper" will strike next, puts pressure on law enforcement for a quick and complete resolution. Frankfurt police detective Pia Kirchhoff and her partner, Oliver von Bodenstein, are assigned to the task of investigating and solving the killings, and as they probe deeper into the histories of the victims, they find a common thread of a long ago wrongdoing. To say more would give away the heart of the story. As in her past titles, Neuhaus has woven a tight plot, with many twists and turns and provided an addictive read." I add this is a very German sensibility and plot...leaning towards the existential. Neuhaus is a Continental bestseller of considerable style. New in paperback in this series: [The Ice Queen](#) (\$15.99).

### SOME NEW TRADE PAPERBACKS

Arsenault, Emily [The Evening Spider](#) (Harper \$15.99). Frances Barnett and Abby Bernacki are two haunted young mothers living in the same house in two different centuries. 1885: Frances Barnett is in the Northampton Lunatic Hospital, telling her story to a visitor. She has come to distrust her own memories, and believes that her pregnancy, birth, and early days of motherhood may have impaired her sanity. During the earliest months of her baby's life, Frances eagerly followed the famous murder trial of Mary Stannard—that captivated New Englanders with its salacious details and expert forensic testimony. Following—and even attending—this trial, Frances found an escape from the monotony of new motherhood. But as her story unfolds, Frances must admit that her obsession with the details of the murder were not entirely innocent. Present day: Abby has been adjusting to motherhood smoothly—until recently, when odd sensations and dreams have begun to unsettle her while home alone with her baby. When she starts to question the house's history, she is given the diary of Frances Barnett, who lived in the house 125 years earlier. Abby

finds the diary disturbing, and researches the Barnett family's history. The more Abby learns, the more she wonders about a negative—possibly supernatural—influence in her house. She becomes convinced that when she sleeps, she leaves her daughter vulnerable—and then vows not to sleep until she can determine the cause of her eerie experiences. And like Frances, Abby discovers that by trying to uncover another's secrets, she risks awakening some of her own.... Our **January History Paperback Pick**.

✚Atkinson, Kate. [A God in Ruins](#) (\$18). Just announced the winner of the 2015 Costa Prize. In 1925, young Teddy goes for a walk with his Aunt Izzie. He tries to share his love and knowledge of things in nature with her, but she does not seem interested. Teddy is upset by the fact that Izzie claims to have eaten a skylark. Izzie asks him questions about his likes and dislikes. She later uses his answers to write a series of books loosely based on him even though the main character is nothing like Teddy. Teddy hates the books and the fact that they are dedicated to him. When World War II begins, Teddy signs up. He is relieved to be escaping work at the bank with his father. If only....

✚Bauer, Belinda. [The Shut Eye](#) (Grove \$14). "DCI John Marvel, the misanthropic policeman in this intricate, surprise-filled crime novel from British author and Gold Dagger winner Bauer, can 'see the bad in anyone.' Marvel is still obsessed by his failure to solve the case of Edie Evans, a preteen who vanished on her way to school a year earlier. The inspector is drawn into another mystery when he crosses paths with Anna Buck, whose four-year-old son, Daniel, disappeared right in front of their home after her husband negligently left the front door open. The last tangible evidence of her child is footprints Daniel left in a newly laid patch of cement, which she dutifully cleans every day. Anna's despair leads her to a psychic, who happens to have been the same person Marvel turned to at one point in the Evans case. The solution is fairly clued, but it's Bauer's talent at making the characters' emotional lives (especially Anna's) palpable that makes this a standout."—*PW* Starred Review

✚Bingham, Harry. [Talking to the Dead](#) (\$15). Here's a reminder of one of my favorite series starts, a terrific British crime novel, perfect for fans of Tana French and Stieg Larsson, that introduces a modern, unforgettable rookie cop whose past is as fascinating and as deadly as the crimes she investigates. *The Boston Globe* and *The Seattle Times*—and I—labeled this one of its year's best books. What is a heroin-addicted hooker doing with the credit card of a well-known and powerful man who died months ago? This is the question that the most junior member of the investigative team, Detective Constable Fiona Griffiths, is assigned to answer. But D.C. Griffiths is no ordinary cop. She's earned a reputation at police headquarters in Cardiff, Wales, for being odd, for not picking up on social cues, for being a little over intense. And there's that gap in her past, the two-year hiatus that everyone assumes was a breakdown. But Fiona is a crack investigator, quick and intuitive. She is immediately drawn to the crime scene, and to the tragic face of the six-year-old girl, who she is certain has something to tell her...something that will break the case wide open.

Bivald, Katarina. [Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99). The No. 1 January Indie Next Pick (and

November Modern Firsts Club Pick in the Signed UK edition) was first published in Swedish. A book lover's delight, it follows the saga of a young woman downsized from her bookstore job in Sweden who travels to Broken Wheel, Iowa, to meet a literary pen pal. Sadly, the woman has just died and the town folk don't know what to do with their visitor. Nor does she. The answer: open a bookstore....

Burke, Zoe. [No Gun Intended](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). "Annabelle Stark flies from New York City where she's busy starting a detective agency to Portland, OR, to visit her parents, who have moved there after the unsettling events that transpired in *Jump the Gun*. At the airport, Annabelle's backpack is mistakenly swapped for another, which contains a gun that is connected to a murder. She and her parents are stalked and harassed, and Annabelle answers the only way she can, with movie one-liners and wisecracks. Featuring a cast of appealing characters, Burke's second series outing is an amusing choice for readers who enjoy offbeat cozies with quirky protagonists such as those penned by Jenn McKinlay or Elaine Viets."—*Library Journal* on the sequel to [Jump the Gun](#) (\$14.95).

DeMille, Nelson. [Radiant Angel](#) (\$16). Former NYPD detective John Corey, the bane of Middle Eastern terrorists, is contracted to the Diplomatic Surveillance Group. Corey's sardonic voice drives this adventure, as he and his team surveil Russian U.N. delegate and SVR Col. Vasily Petrov. There's reason to pay attention: SVR equals Russian CIA. After Corey's bounced around alphabet-soup counterterror groups—and followed too few rules—Corey's bosses think the tamer DSG will keep him out of trouble, but the assignment's causing marital friction. His wife, FBI Agent Kate Mayfield, remains with the Anti-Terrorism Task Force, and her boss has the hots for her. Tailing a "dip" or not, Corey's got cop instincts. He knows something bad is afoot when Petrov and his SVR companions motor to a Russian oligarch's Long Island mansion and then sneak away on a pleasure boat. And then....

✚Gardner, Ashley. [The Thames River Murders](#) (Ivy \$12.99). Captain Lacey is asked by Peter Thompson of the Thames River Police to help him investigate a cold case—the murder of a woman found near the docks Thompson patrols. The investigation was sidelined, considered unsolvable, but Thompson has long wished to find her killer. Captain Lacey joins him in the hunt, entering a part of society that is closed to outsiders. Meanwhile, he must deal with his daughter's come-out and more developments in his new domestic life, including a blackmailer who's out to ruin Lacey any way he can. Book 10 of the Captain Lacey Regency Mystery series.

Gattis, Ryan. [All Involved](#) (Harper \$15.99). "...a high-octane speedball of a read: gritty, nerve-racking, sometimes excruciating in its violence and at the same time animated by a bone-deep understanding of its characters' daily lives in a gang-ravaged neighborhood... At its best, *All Involved*, has the verbal ardor of a Richard Price novel, the pungent verisimilitude of Sanyika Shakur's riveting 1993 memoir of gang life (*Monster*) and the choral energy of a Rashomon-style documentary... Mr. Gattis does a remarkable job not only as a ventriloquist but also as a Method actor, inhabiting an array of characters: Latino gangbangers, Korean shopkeepers, drug dealers, graffiti artists, a nurse, an anonymous law enforcement officer, a fireman...

These people rarely seem like representative types; rather, they emerge as individuals whose dreams and impulsive actions are deeply rooted in their pasts and in their tangled, often conflicted relationships with family members and friends."—*NY Times*

Hulse, SM. [Black River](#) (\$14.95). "This Montana-based story, about a prison guard who returns to his hometown after decades away, is an intricate work that layers faith with broken promises, broken bones, and broken hearts. This is a story of people shaped irrevocably by place and circumstance."—*Seattle Times*, Best Books of 2015.

Lehane, Dennis. [The World Gone By](#) (\$16.99). Late spring, 1943. The world is at war but the American mob is in its heyday. Former crime boss Joe Coughlin now works as a consigliere to the infamous Bartolo Crime Family, effortlessly handling their interests in Tampa, Boston, and Cuba. In the decade since he lost his wife in a cascade of bullets, Joe has made a home for himself and his son, and once again forged everything out of nothing: money, power, a relationship with a beautiful woman, and a privileged place in Tampa's shadowy underworld. But a rumor surfaces that someone wants Joe dead. And he has only days to figure out who, or he will die. And then there's the ghost—a young boy who appears on the fringes of Joe's vision and seems to be trying to tell him something....

Mattich, Alen. [Killing Pilgrim](#) (Anansi \$15.95). Mattich's excellent second Balkan thriller is less darkly humored than the first, [Zagreb Cowboy](#) (\$13.95), but richer in moral complexities. It's August 1991, the beginning of the end of days for Yugoslavia. Croatia and Slovenia have declared very shaky independence from the crumbling Yugoslav state, and Marko della Torre of the UDBA (Yugoslav secret police) is packing up his office for a transfer to the military. Not knowing who he's really working for in these confused times, Marko gets entangled in an assassination plot set up by a dangerous nationalist leader and led by Rebecca Vees, an icy CIA operative who is as beautiful and treacherous as the Balkan landscape. The target is a former top-level UDBA hit man known as "the Montenegrin," who's responsible for the murder of Sweden's Prime Minister Olof Palme; he's now retired and devoted to the caring of his disabled daughter. The sardonic tone carries over from the first book, entirely appropriate when loyalties are nonexistent and truly terrible people are carving up the remains of the country. Mattich has beautifully hit his stride."—*PW* Starred Review

McBain, Ed. [Cut Me In](#) (Titan \$9.95). "Wheeling-and-dealing in a Manhattan literary agency drives this reissue, an ultra smooth 1954 crime novel from Salvatore Lombino (1926–2005), better known today by two of his pen names, Evan Hunter (*The Blackboard Jungle*) and Ed McBain (*Cop Hater* and many other 87th Precinct novels). The firm of Gilbert and Blake wants to cut in on movie money being dangled in front of a client, but one of the firm's partners, Del Gilbert, lies shot dead on his office floor—"three holes had very carelessly been left in his face." It's up to the firm's other partner, fiction-peddler Josh Blake, to juggle the deal, sweat through the sweltering summer heat while finding corpses faster than the cops, and mix it up with a few even hotter babes. Originally published under the pseudonym Hunt Collins, this period classic features a great whodunit clue. Rounding out the package is "Now Die in It," a McBain story that's been lost for more than half a century."—*PW*

Murthy, Vasudev. [Sherlock Holmes, The Missing Years: Timbuktu](#) (\$15.95; also \$26.95 in hardcover). Still wondering what Sherlock Holmes was doing between his reported death in 1891 and his reappearance in 1894? All the world knew that Sherlock Holmes died at the Reichenbach Falls, tumbling over the jagged cliff in a deadly embrace with his nemesis Moriarty. But for history's greatest detective, death was only the beginning. Rumors abounded that Holmes had been sighted advising the Japanese emperor, studying with the Dalai Lama, and protecting the president of the United States, but only Dr. Watson knew the truth. From 1891 to 1894, Sherlock Holmes was dead to the world—and having the grandest adventures of his career. It begins when an Italian scholar travels from Venice to 221B Baker Street, to beg the help of the legendary detective. He carries an ancient parchment, written in the hand of Marco Polo himself. It is a rubbing made from a brass disc found in the libraries of Kublai Khan, and it was torn in half centuries ago to protect the world from a terrifying secret, one that, apparently, first Marco Polo, then another great traveler, the Moroccan Ibn Battuta, took dramatic steps to guard. Where, if anywhere, is its missing half? Holmes springs into action. He fakes his death at Reichenbach, and proceeds undercover to Venice. A murdered scholar, an archivist from the Vatican, British imperial politics and, of course, the dire hand of Moriarty propel Holmes and a surprised but resolute Dr. Watson, playing the roles they assumed in Morocco, on a perilous journey down the Sahara to the ancient city of Timbuktu...and beyond. In deepest Africa, Holmes will confront ruthless criminals, an ancient culture, and a staggering surprise. Start with [Sherlock Holmes, The Missing Years: Japan](#) (\$14.95).

Nesbø, Jo. [Blood on Snow](#) (\$15.95). Olav is a fixer for a high-profile crime kingpin in 1970s Oslo. He easily takes care of anyone who causes trouble for his boss. But he is more complicated than he seems. Olav's latest job puts him at the pinnacle of his trade, but it may become his greatest mistake: It turns out that the more you know about your boss's business, the more your boss might want you fixed yourself—especially if you're falling for his wife.

Swierczynski, D. [Canary](#) (\$15). Honors student Sarie Holland is busted by the local police while doing a favor for her boyfriend. Unwilling to betray him but desperate to avoid destroying her future, Sarie has no choice but to become a "CI"—a confidential informant. Philly narcotics cop Ben Wildey is hungry for a career-making bust. The detective thinks he's found the key in Sarie: her boyfriend scores from a mid-level dealer with alleged ties to the major drug gangs. Sarie turns out to be the perfect CI: a quick study with a shockingly keen understanding of the criminal mind. But Wildey, desperate for results, pushes too hard and inadvertently sends the nineteen-year-old into a death trap, leaving Sarie hunted by crooked cops and killers alike with nothing to save her—except what she's learned during her harrowing weeks as an informant.

Sylvester, Simon. [The Visitors](#) (Melville \$18.95). "Neil Gaiman meets Tana French in this debut thriller that takes place on a remote island off the coast of Scotland. Flora is as independent, vulnerable, and anxious for adulthood yet yearning for magic in all of its guises as any teen you're likely to meet in literature. It is no surprise that she is drawn into the mystery of a man and his daughter moving into the abandoned Dog Cottage next door. The braiding of Scottish myth into this tale of suspicious disap-

pearances adds a compelling twist to the wonderfully evocative setting and great cast of supporting characters."

Thilliez, Franc. [Bred to Kill](#) (\$16). A shocking sequel to runaway international bestseller [Syndrome E](#) (\$16) finds that Lucie Henebelle and Inspector Sharko reunite to investigate the brutal murder of Eva Louts, a promising graduate student who was killed while working at a primate research center outside Paris. But what first appears to be a vicious animal attack soon proves to be something more sinister. What was Eva secretly researching? Could she have been on the track of a crazed trio of scientists attempting to unleash a thirty-thousand-year-old virus into the world? Think *The Manchurian Candidate*....

White, Lionel. [Marilyn K/The House Next Door](#) (Stark House \$21). Two lean and mean noir capers in a single volume. Many people remember White as the writer of *Clean Break*, which became the basis for Stanley Kubrick's *The Killing*, a 1956 film noir starring Sterling Hayden and Colleen Gray. White wrote from the early 1950s to the mid-70s and was considered the master of the failed caper. His influence can still be seen in modern films like Quentin Tarantino's *Reservoir Dogs*. *Marilyn K.* is the story of an opportunist who picks up a pretty woman by the side of the road, and gets taken for a ride instead. *The House Next Door* is about a neighborhood wracked by guilt over a murder that occurs one night after a drunken party. The failed capers are still there in the background of each story, but these two books are more character-driven dramas, and an excellent introduction to this somewhat-forgotten master. CriminalElement critic, Brian Greene, provides an insightful introduction, and discusses some of the other films made from White's books. As Don Crinklaw points out in his recent *Booklist* review, "The two tales in this double-decker come at us from a time—1960 and 1956, respectively—when crime novels were shorter and more focused than now. No padding, no sagging middle, everything pointing to the grim finale."

#### TOP TEN JANUARY MASS MARKET PAPERBACKS

Berry, Steve. [The Patriot Threat](#) (\$9.99). Cotton Malone #10. Cotton Malone, once a member of an elite intelligence division within the Justice Department known as the Magellan Billet, is now retired and owns an old bookshop in Denmark. But when his former-boss asks him to track a rogue North Korean (really, are there any other kind?), who may have acquired some top secret Treasury Department files, Malone is vaulted into a harrowing chase that begins in the canals of Venice and ends up in the remote highlands of Croatia. Berry's latest thriller is grounded in the idea that the 16<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (the one that authorizes a federal income tax) was never properly ratified. *LJ's* reviewer had this to say "Berry's fans will not be disappointed as he delivers his usual fast-paced and complex story line, highlighted by his hero's superhuman ability to overcome any obstacle and chase the bad guys to the ends of the earth."

Fee, Vickie. [Death Crashes the Party](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Liv and Di in Dixie #1. While planning a Moonshine and Magnolias bash for high maintenance clients, Liv McKay inconveniently discovers a corpse in the freezer and turns her attention from coordinating fabulous fêtes to finding a murderer. If you enjoy your cozy mysteries with a bit of Southern charm, this fun new series is sure to be a treat.

Griffin, Neal. [Benefit of the Doubt](#) (\$9.99). After he nearly killed a helpless suspect in public, former big-city cop Ben Sawyer, now a detective in a tiny Wisconsin town where he and his wife grew up, stumbles upon a web of corruption that gets him kicked off the force and his wife accused of murder leaving Ben with no choice but to turn to a fellow outcast for help. *LJ* gave Griffin a big thumb's up saying "this debut novel by a 25-year police veteran is a well-written and action-packed crime thriller, featuring well-drawn characters who range from despicable to honest." Sounds like this would be the perfect choice for any of you Joseph Wambaugh fans out there.

Hunter, Stephen. [I, Ripper](#) (\$9.99). Hunter entwines Jack the Ripper's personal story with that of an Irish journalist who is investigating the murders of five prostitutes in 1888. *PW* gave Hunter kudos saying "for the most part, Hunter (*Dirty White Boys*) sticks closely to the historical record. The eventual revelation of the serial butcher's identity may stretch credulity, but details such as the ingenious speculations about the graffiti message that the murderer left on the night he slaughtered two prostitutes are sure to fascinate Ripperologists."

Kava, Alex. [Silent Creed](#) (\$9.99). Ryder Creed #2. Racing to North Carolina with his best search-and-rescue dog in the aftermath of a devastating mudslide, Ryder Creed is rescued from a second slide only to uncover evidence of a possible serial killer. *PW* ended their review with this "Creed is a multifaceted character whose hidden depths are only barely revealed in this intense thriller, which builds to an explosive conclusion."

Kellerman, Jonathan. [Motive](#) (\$9.99). Alex Delaware #30. L.A. psychologist Alex Delaware tries to help his police detective friend Milo Sturgis with two cases: a bookkeeper who is found stabbed to death in her apartment and the parking lot murder of another businesswoman. *PW* said "The twists are both shocking and logical, and the byplay between the leads entertaining."

King, Stephen. [Mr. Mercedes](#) (\$9.99). Months after a crazed hit-and-run driver kills several attendees at a Midwestern job fair, a depressed retired cop and two unlikely allies join forces to find and stop the killer, who has sent a letter threatening another attack. King won the 2015 Edgar award for best mystery for *Mr. Mercedes*, and even the usually cranky *Kirkus Reviews* was impressed stating, "There's craziness in spades and plenty of alcohol and even a carnival, King being perhaps the most accomplished coulrophobe at work today. The storyline is vintage King, too: In the battle of good and evil, good may prevail- but never before evil has caused a whole lot of mayhem. The scariest thing of all is to imagine King writing a happy children's book. This isn't it: It's nicely dark, never predictable, and altogether entertaining."

McKinlay, Jenn. [Copy Cap Murder](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Hat Shop #4. To promote their hat shop, Scarlett Parker and her cousin, Vivian, wear their most outrageous creations to a swanky soiree hosted by their friend Harrison Wentworth who, after his business rival is murdered during the festivities, needs their help to prove his innocence. The British tradition of Guy Fawkes celebrations plays an interesting role in McKinlay's latest expertly tailored cozy crime novel.

Phillips, Gary. [Only the Wicked](#) (Stark House \$9.99). Ivan Monk #4. It all starts when Old Man Spears drops dead in the Abyssinia Barber Shop & Shine Parlor. Nobody had paid much attention to

Marshall Spears -- least of all private eye Ivan Monk. So it came as a surprise to find out Spears played in the Negro Baseball Leagues with Monk's cousin, Kennesaw Riles, a man whose questionable testimony put civil rights leader, Damon Creel behind bars for murder back in the '60s, and has been on the outs with the family ever since. But when Riles himself mysteriously dies, Monk knows that something is going besides coincidence.

Taylor, Brad. [No Fortunate Son](#) (\$9.99). Pike Logan #8. Wrongfully fired from their counterterrorist unit, operator Pike Logan and his partner investigate the disappearance of an exchange student while Taskforce teams are threatened by terrorists to cease operations at the risk of high-profile hostages. *PW* praises, "The nonstop action, intricate storyline, and jaw-dropping plot twists."

#### NEW IN MASS MARKET PAPERBACK

Alexander, Elli. [On Thin Icing](#) (St Martins \$7.99). Bakeshop Mystery #3. While catering a retreat at the nearby Lake of the Woods Resort, Jules finds things going from bad to worse when her estranged husband shows up determined to reconcile and she stumbles upon a dead body while going to pick up extra supplies.

Cameron, Marc. [Brute Force](#) (Kensington \$9.99). After a devastating biological attack leaves America on the brink of disaster and its President under the control of terrorists, special agent Jericho Quinn must stop the Vice President from executing his evil plan to establish a brutal police state. I am guessing that simply impeaching the Vice President is off the table?

Clark, Mary Higgins. [Death Wears a Beauty Mask and Other Stories](#) (\$7.99). From Clark's first-ever published story (1956's "Stowaway"), to classic tales featuring Alvirah and Willy, My Gal Sunday and many more, *Death Wears a Beauty Mask and Other Stories* gives readers the chance to revisit the short story highlights from the "Queen of Suspense."

Conrad, Hy. [Toured to Death](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Amy's Travel #2. When the writer they hired to pen their Monte Carlo murder-mystery excursion is found dead in New York, Amy and Fanny Abel of Amy's Travel find that they have a real homicide to contend with.

Cook, JJ. [Sweet Pepper Hero](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Sweet Pepper Fire Brigade #4. Called in to investigate a local moonshine distillery that was set ablaze, fire chief Stella Griffin, while preparing to judge the annual recipe contest, turns to the town's elders for answers and discovers a revived whiskey war that could cause her town to go down in flames.

Coonts, Stephen. [Flight of the Intruder](#) (\$9.99). The Vietnam War is still running hot, and Jake "Cool Hand" Grafton and his new bombardier, ice-cold Tiger Cole, are going to pick their own target and hit the enemy where it hurts. But to get there and back in one piece is going to take a lot of nerve, even more skill, and an incredible amount of raw courage.

Hamilton, Donald. [Revengers](#) (\$7.99). At the funeral of an old friend, Matt Helm takes a trip down memory lane which sparks a romance the thought was safely locked in the past. But along with the old romantic feelings that resurface, other things Helm thought were buried in the past are also coming back to haunt him.

Hughes, Mary Ellen. [Scene of the Brine](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Pickled and Preserved #3. While trying to prove the innocence of the

son of her friend, who stands accused of poisoning a man, pickle shop owner Piper Lamb finds herself in a peck of trouble when someone else is poisoned by a jar of own brandied cherries.

Hyzy, Julie. [Foreign Éclairs](#) (Berkley \$7.99). White House Chef #9. When she becomes part of a bold strategy to make sure a terrorist gets his just desserts, White House executive chef Ollie Paras must stop a killer from serving up an ice-cold dish of revenge.

Jance, JA. [Cold Betrayal](#) (\$9.99). Ali Reynolds #10. While Sister Anselm considers parallels between a hit-and-run targeting a pregnant former cult member and a similar case from years earlier, Ali Reynolds investigates threats against an aging in-law.

Johansen, Iris. [Naked Eye](#) (\$8.99). Kendra Michaels #3. Resolving to track down serial killer Eric Colby four months after the events of *Sight Unseen*, Kendra Michaels takes in Eve Duncan's troubled sister, Beth, only to find herself framed for the murder of a police officer.

Laurie, Victoria. [Ghoul's Guide to Love and Murder](#) (NAL \$7.99). Ghost Hunters #9. When the very dagger that keeps the dangerous ghost Oruc and his pet demon locked down in the lower realms is stolen while they are promoting their new film, M.J., Heath and Gilley must enlist a skeptical Boston detective to help stop the paranormal party guests from crashing Gilley's wedding.

Martini, Steve. [Enemy Inside](#) (\$9.99). Madriani investigates a friend's wrongful manslaughter charge in the aftermath of a highly influential attorney's sudden death.

Mitzner, Adam. [Losing Faith](#) (\$9.99). Influential attorney Aaron Littmann is hired to represent a Russian businessman who is being tried for financing terrorist acts and who threatens to expose Aaron's torrid affair with the case's judge.

Mugavero, Liz. [Murder Most Finicky](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Pawisively Organic #3. Kristan "Stan" Connor's organic pet food has caught the attention of celebrity pastry chef Sheldon Allyn, who helps Stan open a fancy pet pastry shop in Frog Ledge. But when Sheldon invites Stan to an appreciation week he is hosting for all his independent chefs, the gourmet getaway turns sour when one of the guests is found dead.

Pike, Penny. [Death of a Bad Apple](#) (NAL \$7.99). Food Festival #3. While attending the apple festival in Apple Valley, California, food truck driver Darcy Burnett and her Aunt Abby soon discover that murder is in attendance when the body of a fellow festival-goer is found, and they must peel back the layers of clues to stop a killer who is rotten to the core.

Wait, Lea. [Thread and Gone](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Mainely Needlepoint #3. Murder interrupts when Angie Curtis and her fellow Mainely Needlepoint members try to determine whether or not an antique piece of needlepoint that Mary Clough discovered in her family attic may have been stitched by Mary Queen of Scots.

Woods, Stuart. [Hot Pursuit](#) (\$9.99). Stone Barrington #33. Pursuing a romantic relationship with an attractive pilot whose ex has criminal tendencies, Stone coordinates a large-