

BOOKNEWS from

ISSN 1056-5655, © The Poisoned Pen, Ltd.
Volume 28, Number 4
March Booknews 2016
sales@poisonedpen.com tel (888)560-9919
<http://poisonedpen.com>

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



MARCH MADNESS AND MYSTERY

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

NEW: MONTHLY SCIFI DISCUSSION CLUB

3rd Fridays 7:00 PM led by geeks Michael Senft and Pat King

March 18: VE Schwab [A Darker Shade of Magic](#) (\$15.99)

TUESDAY MARCH 1 Launch Party 7:00 PM

Rhys Bowen signs [Time of Fog and Fire](#) (St Martins \$25.99)
Molly Murphy

WEDNESDAY MARCH 2 7:00 PM

Michelle Gable signs [I'll See You in Paris](#) (St Martins \$25.99)

THURSDAY MARCH 3 7:00 PM

Hosted by Sam Sykes with Rae Carson
VE Schwab signs [A Gathering of Shadows](#) (Tor \$25.99)

SUNDAY MARCH 6 2:00 PM

Jon Talton signs [A Brief History of Phoenix](#) (Arcadia \$21.99)

MONDAY MARCH 7 7:00 PM

JA Jance signs [Clawback](#) (Touchstone \$25.99) Ali Reynolds #11

WEDNESDAY MARCH 9 7:00 PM

Glen Erik Hamilton signs [Hard Cold Winter](#) (Harper \$25.99)
Van Shaw #2

THURSDAY MARCH 10 7:00 PM Double Thrills

CJ Box signs [Off the Grid](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Joe Pickett #16
Chris Pavone signs [The Travelers](#) (Crown \$26) Secret Agents

FRIDAY MARCH 11 7:00 PM Double Trouble

Jeffery Deaver signs [The Steel Kiss](#) (Grand Central \$28) Rhyme & Sachs
T. Jefferson Parker signs [Crazy Blood](#) (St Martins \$26.99)
Olympic skiing

SATURDAY MARCH 12 10:30 AM

Coffee and Crime discusses Donna Andrews, [Murder with Peacocks](#) (7.99)

SATURDAY MARCH 12 2:00 PM

Shane Gericke signs [The Fury](#) (Tantor \$17.99) Cop Superstition Davis

MONDAY MARCH 14 6:30 PM

Jonathan Kellerman signs [Breakdown](#) (Ballantine \$28.95) Alex Delaware #31
And is joined by Faye Kellerman

TUESDAY MARCH 15 7:00 PM

Owen Laukkanen signs [The Watcher in the Wall](#) (Putnam \$26.99) Stevens/Windermere #5
Lisa Lutz signs [The Passenger](#) (SimonSchuster \$25.99)

WEDNESDAY MARCH 16 7:00 PM

Stephen Coonts signs [Art of War](#) (St Martins \$27.99) Thriller Club Pick
Brian Freeman signs [Goodbye to the Dead](#) (Quercus \$26.99)
Jonathan Stride

THURSDAY MARCH 17 7:00 PM

Randy Wayne White signs [Deep Blue](#) (Putnam \$27) Doc Ford

SATURDAY MARCH 19 10:30 AM

Croak & Dagger discusses Olivier Truc's Arctic thriller [Forty Days without Shadow](#) (\$16)

SATURDAY MARCH 19 1:00 PM

Matthew Betley signs [Overwatch](#) (Atria \$25) First Mystery Pick

THURSDAY MARCH 23 7:00 PM

Aaron Sanders signs [Speakers of the Dead](#) (Plume \$16) Walt Whitman

FRIDAY MARCH 25 7:00 PM

James Sallis and the Three-Legged Dog Band

SATURDAY MARCH 29 2:00 PM An Eyre Affair

Lindsay Faye signs [Jane Steele](#) (Putnam \$26.99) History Club Pick

TUESDAY MARCH 19 7:00 PM

Jacqueline Winspear signs [Journey to Munich](#) (Harper \$26.99)
Maisie Dobbs, secret agent

WEDNESDAY MARCH 30 7:00 PM

John Connell signs [Spoils of Victory](#) (Berkley \$26.95) Mason Collins #2
Philip Kerr signs [The Other Side of Silence](#) (Putnam \$26.95)
Bernie Gunther #11

THURSDAY MARCH 31 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime discusses WR Burnett's [Little Men, Big World](#) (Stark \$20.95)

2016 AGATHA AWARDS NOMINEES

Best Novel

Annette Dashofy, [Burned Bridges](#)
 Margaret Maron, [Long Upon the Land](#)
 Catriona McPherson, [The Child Garden](#)
 Louise Penny, [Nature of the Beast](#)
 Hank Phillippi Ryan, [What You See](#)

Best Historical Novel

Rhys Bowen, [Malice at the Palace](#)
 Susanna Calkins, [The Masque of a Murderer](#)
 Laurie R. King, [Dreaming Spies](#)
 Susan Elia MacNeal, [Mrs. Roosevelt's Confidante](#)
 Victoria Thompson, [Murder on Amsterdam Avenue](#)

Best First Novel

Tessa Arlen, [Death of a Dishonorable Gentleman](#)
 Cindy Brown, [Macdeath](#)
 Ellen Byron, [Plantation Shudders](#)
 Julianne Holmes, [Just Killing Time](#)
 Art Taylor, *On the Road with Del and Louise*

Best Nonfiction

Zack Dundas, *The Great Detective: The Amazing Rise and Immortal Life of Sherlock Holmes*
 Martin Edwards, [The Golden Age of Murder](#)
 Kathryn Harkup, [A is for Arsenic: The Poisons of Agatha Christie](#)
 Jane Ann Turzillo, *Unsolved Murders and Disappearances in Northeast Ohio* MWA, [The Mystery Writers of America Cookbook: Wickedly Good Meals and Desserts to Die For](#)

Best Children's Young Adult

Blue Balliett, *Pieces and Players*
 Joelle Charbonneau, *Need*
 Amanda Flower, *Andi Unstoppable*
 Spencer Quinn, [Woof](#)
 B.K. Stevens, [Fighting Chance: A Martial Arts Mystery](#)
 (Poisoned Pen Press's Stevens is also up for Best Short story with "A Joy Forever" (AHMM))

2016 LA TIMES BOOK PRIZE NOMINEES

[Read the full list here](#)

Mystery / Thriller

Lou Berney, [The Long and Faraway Gone](#)
 Viet Thanh Nguyen, [The Sympathizer](#)
 Brian Panowich, [Bull Mountain](#)
 Richard Price, [The Whites](#)
 Don Winslow, [The Cartel](#)

EVENT BOOKS

Betley, Matthew. [Overwatch](#) (Atria \$25 March 19). Rousing action, a "brilliantly conceived thriller that surges from the first chapter through mounting deception to a powerful conclusion" (Clive Cussler), and testimonials from Kyle Mills, Christopher Reich, and Retired General Stan Chrystal all point to the arrival of a new force in fiction about heroes fighting for freedom, something heaven knows we need. Former Marine officer Betley draws upon his battlefield experience to create Logan West, a former Marine Force Recon commander, who's battling alcoholism as his coping mechanism. Awaking from a stupor one night in his Annapolis home, he finds an intruder in the basement and,

his training kicking in, kills him. Unfortunately the dead man's phone rings and Logan impulsively answers it, thereby triggering off a blackmail scheme from one Juan, the man who dispatched the now dead mercenary sent to kidnap West. Juan says he wants an Iraqi flag that Logan and his team captured during a mission in Fallujah in 2004, a flag central to a planned attack aimed at drawing the US into a major conflict with Iran. West has a buddy in the FBI's Mike Benson who contracts him as a "consultant" in a task force quickly assembled to stop the shadowy organization behind Juan. A **First Mystery Pick** bound to excite fans of the late Vince Flynn, Kyle Mills, and Brad Thor, with a bonus: a quest for an historical artifact that echoes Clive Cussler, James Rollins, and Steve Berry. The PTSD theme is resonant also.

Bowen, Rhys. [Time of Fog and Fire](#) (St Martins \$25.99 March 1). It's no surprise that Bowen finds an ingenious way to take Molly (Murphy) Sullivan west to San Francisco, Bowen's home turf, and of course, just in time for the earthquake and fire. NY's 1906 Police Department doesn't value a cop as honest as Captain Daniel Sullivan. The chance of a special job for John Wilkie, head of the U.S. Secret Service that could lead to a long-term appointment appeals to Sullivan and to his wife Molly Murphy. A letter from Daniel, away on assignment, that is seemingly coded draws Molly to San Francisco for sleuthing, scares, and surprises. When she arrives she is greeted by the news when she arrives that Daniel has fallen off a cliff and has just been buried! Players like Mr. Paxton with the Metropolitan Opera, a cast supporting the great tenor Enrico Caruso, and real historical events test even someone as resolute and resourceful as Molly. Order earlier Molly mysteries [here](#).

Box, CJ. [Off the Grid](#) (Putnam \$26.95 March 10). Here's "a terrorist thriller with a uniquely western flair...a breakneck story that Pickett fans will want to read in one sitting." -*Booklist*. Joe Pickett's 16th case begins not long after the terrifying events of [Endangered](#) (\$26.95, 5 signed firsts left) which left Pickett and his best friend, Nate Romanowski, separated and out of touch... not to mention very lucky to be alive. Nate, in fact, is living off the grid entirely, relying on survival skills he's garnered as a rugged outdoorsman, master falconer and ex-special operator, and leaving no visible trace behind after any of his movements. That is, until an ultra-secretive government agency discovers him and corrals him (blackmails actually), with the promise of erasing all charges against him) into locating a rogue journalist, the son of an ambassador, who has gone off the grid too. These men claim that Muhammed Ibraheem is a terrorist. What could he be plotting in Wyoming's remote Red Desert? Nate takes his falcons, including the surprise gyr falcon who's shown up out of the blue, and off he goes, inevitably to cross paths with Joe who discovers that his college student daughter Sheridan has joined her roommate in a nighttime gathering in that same wilderness with a group of strangers. All she knows about them is that they are "passionate" about their cause.

Connell, John A. [Spoils of Victory](#) (Berkley \$26.95 March 30). Fresh off the events of *Ruins of War*, Army investigator Mason Collins finds himself in the scenic Alpine town of Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Somehow managing to escape the destruction of World War II, the town is suspected as a haven for fleeing war criminals and a depository for the Nazis' stolen riches. With mil-

lions of dollars to be made on the black market, murder, extortion, and corruption have become commonplace. When a friend who fought alongside Mason tells him about a plot by a group of powerful men—and is killed soon afterward—it's clear that Mason must make his investigation as quick and quiet as possible for his own safety. For someone up high is pulling strings to prevent him from discovering the truth.... Comparisons to Philip Kerr and John Lawton come to mind as they did when I read his first, [Ruins of War](#) (\$26.95), a book I recommended to you but to little avail as we couldn't get to the author to sign. So how lucky it is that we are able to pair Connell up with Kerr himself on March 30! **BONUS: buy both titles for a single price of \$45.**

Coonts, Stephen. [Art of War](#) (St Martins \$27.99 March 16). The Chinese dragon is flexing its muscles. As its military begins to prey on neighbors in the South China Sea, attacking fishing vessels and scheming to seize natural resources, the US goes on high alert. But a far more ominous danger lurks closer to home: a Chinese sleeper cell has planted a nuclear weapon in the harbor at Norfolk, Virginia, the biggest naval base on the planet. The target: a secret rendezvous of the Atlantic Fleet aircraft carriers and their battle groups. When the CIA director is assassinated and Jake Grafton is appointed to take his place, he gets wind of the conspiracy, but has no idea when or where the attack will occur. In the meantime, a series of assassinations, including an attempt on the life of the President, shake the country and deliberately mask a far more sinister objective--challenges for Grafton and CIA burglar Tommy Carmellini, last seen together in 2013's [Pirate Alley](#) (\$9.99)

Deaver, Jeffery. [The Steel Kiss](#) (Grand Central \$28 March 11). Amelia Sachs is hot on the trail of a killer. She's chasing him through a department store in Brooklyn when an escalator malfunctions and begins to chew up the unlucky man who fell through a tread in its gears. Sachs ends up using her gun to shoot the machine while her quarry escapes. This is the horrific beginning of what becomes a chase headed by Sachs and Lincoln Rhyme after someone who turns common machines and products into weapons. Truly scary! Who is he, and what is his mission? And of course, there's a clock ticking in this race to unmask him. Vintage Deaver here, with more personal stuff about Sachs and Rhyme than usual.

Faye, Lyndsay. [Jane Steele](#) (Putnam \$26.95 March 26). Two riffs on *Jane Eyre* and the Brontë's in one month... it's an Eyre Affair. Lyndsay has a terrific time with the story of young orphan Jane whose French mother overdoses on laudanum (shades of David Morrell's Victorians here), leaving her to the mercies of her spiteful Aunt Patience and the libido of her doltish cousin Edward. One push on his chest and he's over the edge of a ravine, spine broken, and a frightened Jane agrees to go off to the Lowan Bridge school for young ladies where a sadistic headmaster in time prompts Jane's next murder. Eventually five down, she spots an advertisement: her aunt has died and her childhood home's new master Mr. Thornfield seeks a governess for a nine-year-old ward in his care. He turns out to be an army doctor recently returned from India and the Sikh Wars in company with a gracious Sikh butler with whom he clearly has a deep history. And then... The idea of a serial-killer governess rather than a doormat is appealing, no? You know what you're getting when on Page 5, describing Edward, Jane reports, "Reader, I murdered him." This is a worthy History/Mystery Club Pick.

Freeman, Brian. [Goodbye to the Dead](#) (Quercus \$26.99 March 16). At the time, Cindy and Stride were on opposite sides of a domestic murder investigation. Gorgeous, brilliant Janine Snow—a surgeon transplanted to Duluth from Texas—was the prime suspect in the shooting death of her husband. Cindy believed her friend Janine was innocent, but Stride thought all the evidence pointed to the surgeon—even though the gun was never found. Despite Cindy's attempts to help Janine, the case led to a high-profile murder trial in which Janine was convicted and sent to prison. During the current investigation, Serena finds a gun used in the murder of a woman connected to an organized crime syndicate—a gun that turns out to be the same weapon used to kill Janine Snow's husband. Two unrelated cases years apart suddenly have a mysterious connection. As Stride investigates the possibility that human traffickers are targeting women in the Duluth port, he begins to question whether he made a terrible mistake eight years ago by putting an innocent woman in prison. "Stride's heartfelt memories of [his deceased wife] and his reluctance to fully commit to [his girlfriend], coupled with an in-depth look at the book's supporting characters, make this police procedural a standout."—*PW* Starred Review. So in part this is a book about forgiving oneself.

Gable, Michelle. [I'll See You in Paris](#) (St Martins \$25.99 March 2). Her second novel after [The Paris Apartment](#) (\$15.99) will send you rushing to Google Gladys Deacon, Duchess of Marlborough, and her actual life story which is just as bizarre as it appears in this book. What a surprise—and English eccentricity personified although she was not English. Look for her portrait by Goldoni and try to imagine why she'd risk plastic surgery back then. Gable's plot, part romance, part history, part mystery, draws on real people and events along with those she makes up. Despite the title, much of it takes place in England and touches on the Churchills including Winston.

Gericke, Shane. [The Fury](#) (Subterranean \$17.9 March 12). The Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico washes a cache of doomsday weapons onto a Mexican beach: bombs filled with VX nerve gas mixed with anthrax, invented by the Nazis during World War II and perfected by the United States to use in the Cold War. The bombs soon fall into the wrong hands and create an unstoppable opponent. Only one Chicago Police detective has a chance of preventing those bombs from being used on American soil. Reeling from the recent murder of her husband as well as allegations of police misconduct, Detective Superstition "Sue" Davis is thrown into an undercover assignment. She must infiltrate the Mexican narcotics cartel responsible for the death of her husband in order to get close to the cartel's sociopathic enforcer, Jimmy Garcia. Then the entire Garcia family is killed in Mexico by a U.S. Special Forces raid gone wrong, and Jimmy goes ballistic....

Hamilton, Glen Eric. [Hard Cold Winter](#) (Harper \$25.99 March 9). Hamilton's [Past Crimes](#) (\$9.99) is up for the 2016 Edgar for Best First Novel. If you have a copy, feel free to send it in to be signed. Former Army Ranger, and it must be said, thief Van Shaw, recently discharged, is now doing a favor for an old crony of his crooked grandfather. Elana Coll is the niece of the massive Will Willard, and was close to Van when both were teenage thieves. She's gone missing. Will tasks Van with finding her. It sends Van into the snowy Olympic Mountains—too late. He finds the 27-year-old Elana brutally slain, and a second victim, her

boyfriend, one Kendrick Haymes, scion of one of Seattle's power families, inside the cabin. What to do? And then a fellow Ranger from Afghanistan turns up at Van's doorstep looking for support from his former sergeant. Suddenly Shaw is being squeezed by a billionaire businessman on one side and vicious gangsters on the other, all while he is trying to keep the moral compromises he's making from wrecking his relationship with his own girl, the formidable Luce. *PW* notes, "Hamilton renders the ample violent action effectively, but the best parts of the story are the vignettes he intersperses depicting Van and Elana's criminal exploits when they were 17."

Jance, J A. [Clawback](#) (Touchstone \$25.99 March 7). When Ali Reynolds' parents lose their life savings to a Ponzi scheme, her father goes to confront his long-time friend and financial advisor, only to stumble into the scene of a bloody double homicide. With her father suddenly a prime suspect, Ali and her husband work to clear her father's name, while at the same time seeking justice for her parents as well as the scheme's other suddenly impoverished victims, one of whom is into severe payback.

Kellerman, Jonathan. [Breakdown](#) (Ballantine \$28.95 March 14). Psychologist Dr. Alex Delaware meets beautiful and emotionally fragile TV actress Zelda Chase when called upon to evaluate her five-year-old son, Ovid, who seems to be a solid kid despite his erratic parenting. Sox years later, Alex is summoned by a woman running a new psych program (she's all jargon, bad manners, and manipulative) when Zelda lands there after a bizarre psychiatric episode; the colleague who first called Alex in on her case has died, never signing Alex off it. Alex cannot believe how quickly Zelda, who lost her gig when her TV show closed, has deteriorated emotionally and physically (few teeth!). The shelter he takes her to upon release is a voluntary one. Zelda skips. Sad turns tragic when she is discovered dead on the grounds of a palatial Bel Air estate. Having experienced more than enough of L.A.'s dark side to recognize the scent of evil, Alex turns to his friend LAPD Lieutenant Milo Sturgis for help in finding out who ended Zelda's broken life. But Alex's real quest is to discover what has happened to Ovid. As he and Milo pursue the twin mysteries, they unveil shattered dreams, the corruption of a family, and a grotesque betrayal. Kellerman weaves into his 31st Delaware an engrossing array of psychiatric ethics, therapies, helpful drugs which are compelling in their own right.

Kerr, Philip. [The Other Side of Silence](#) (Putnam \$26.95 March 30). Not one to rest upon his laurels with book ten in the Bernie Gunther series—up for a 2016 Edgar, Kerr amazes in book eleven. Bernie is living quietly under a false identity at Cap Ferrat, where he is a concierge in a grand hotel, living a quiet life in his formal morning coat. And mourning his departed wife. Then a beautiful blonde (so Chandler) approaches him asking, it finally surfaces, for an entrée through his bridge foursome to the notoriously reclusive W. Somerset Maugham, himself a bridge fiend, who lives nearby. At first, Bernie thinks he is dealing with nothing more than an ambitious writer. But, once admitted into the writer's magnificent villa, Bernie is asked by Maugham to negotiate with a blackmailer, one of Bernie's most hated nemeses from the war years. The man possesses a photo that confirms the rampant homosexuality of Maugham and his crowd. But the stakes are higher because the real purpose of the blackmail is not a cash payoff but to expose an unknown Soviet mole at the high-

est levels of MI6. In short, we've arrived at the Cambridge.... Five? But maybe the purpose of all this is not to expose and mole but to protect one. With his own life at stake, Bernie relentlessly pursues the truth through a series of increasingly dangerous encounters, while being forced to confront his most personally painful memories of the war. Based in part on historical fact about Maugham's role as a spy and the infamous ring of traitors within British intelligence as well as a man rumored to be one but never confirmed, Kerr's story is as plausible as it is ingenious, spellbinding, and moving. I swear he gets better book to book; this one is incredible! The UK edition: [The Other Side of Silence](#) (Quercus \$43).

Laukkanen, Owen. [The Watcher in the Wall](#) (Putnam \$26.95 March 15). When a young student is found a suicide, hanged and apparently with a webcam running, Kirk Stevens and Carla Windermere of the joint BCA-FBI violent crime task force come to realize that Adrian's death was prompted by an online suicide club of unhappy teenagers, presided over by an anonymous presence who seems to be spurring them on. Soon, it becomes apparent that Adrian wasn't the first victim—and won't be the last—of a sadistic voyeur. And so a cat-and-mouse game begins.... 5th in series. Be sure to read the Afterword.

Lutz, Lisa. [The Passenger](#) (SimonSchuster \$25.99 March 15). 48 hours after leaving her husband's body at the base of the stairs, Tanya Dubois cashes in her credit cards, dyes her hair brown, demands a new name from a shadowy voice over the phone, and flees town. It's not the first time. And it won't be as "Tanya" continues a journey of reinvention, hopscotching from city to city, gaining an enigmatic ally in a hard woman called Blue, and all the time on track to return to where the dark secret that set her on the run began.... The March Indie Next Pick: "Thrilling and impossible to put down, this is the sharp, witty, and often sassy story of a woman, variously known as Norah/Jo/Tanya/Amelia/Debra/et al., on the run from events in her past for which she claims innocence. Her only chance of freedom is to run, and while running she changes identities and adds new troubles almost faster than readers can keep track. A meeting with a mysterious woman named Blue puts her on a new path, one that hopefully will lead her home and give her a chance to finally clear her name. Fast-paced and full of unexpected obstacles, this is a roller-coaster ride of a read you don't want to miss."

Parker, T Jefferson. [Crazy Blood](#) (St Martins \$26.99 March 11). Once again Parker presents a protagonist who's returned from war, Afghanistan, to his home town and family, only to encounter fraternal rivalry, a family riddled with secrets, a crumbling business empire, and echoes of an old murder. It all goes down in the ski resort town of Mammoth Lakes in the Sierra Nevadas where the Carson dynasty has ruled since patriarch Adam founded the Mammoth Cup ski race, a qualifier for the Olympics. Wylie, illegitimate, immediately resumes bumping heads (and fists) with Sky, his half brother whose mother Cynthia shot their father dead when she found him in bed with Wylie's mother. This lethal drama is focused on fraternal enmity and superb athletic skills, but has three women at its core. As it accelerates on the perilous ski slopes, we see that a legacy of violence is not to be shaken.

Pavone, Chris. [The Travelers](#) (Crown \$26 March 10). With his Edgar-winning debut in [The Expats](#) (\$15), Pavone spun a "soft spy" novel, not a post-911 slam bang or a deeply digital action

tale but one of layered betrayals, dark secrets, “trust no one” moments on an international stage. Here we go again with Will Rhodes, a two-years married travel writer who’s barely solvent in a dying profession, worries he’s living a pointless—or maybe the wrong—life. On assignment in the wine region of Patagonia, a woman makes him an offer and his bad decision, told by going back some five weeks earlier and moving forward, propels him off across Europe, into Dublin and to a cabin perched on a rugged Icelandic cliff. Gradually we learn that nothing about Will was ever ordinary, a difficult trick for Pavone to pull off without actually lying to you. The Indie Next Pick: “Full of twists and turns, secrets and lies, and enough misdirection to keep you guessing, Pavone’s third novel delivers everything readers have come to expect from his thrillers. As in his previous work, the world of publishing takes a central role: This time it’s a fading travel magazine and its companion travel agencies in the midst of an acquisition. Will and Chloe are a young married couple dealing with a home in need of extensive repairs so Chloe decides to take a less active role at *Travelers* magazine after Will is brought on board as the European correspondent. When Will meets an alluring woman while on assignment, she will change his life in ways he never could have foreseen.”

Sanders, J Aaron. [Speakers of the Dead](#) (Picador \$16 March 23). It’s 1843, New York City and reporter Walt Whitman for the Aurora arrives at the city’s infamous Tombs prison too late to save his friend Lena Stowe from being hanged for the murder of her husband, Abraham. Walt had evidence to present on Lena’s behalf. When his friend Henry Saunders arrives, the two men uncover a link between Abraham’s murder and body snatching by resurrection men who sell them on to medical students—and a man named Samuel Clement. Abraham was involved with pending legislation called the Bone Bill that would put the resurrection men out of business. That’s the mystery but the real one incorporated here is the murder of Marie Roget (chronicled by Poe) or Mary Rogers. And the focal character is not so much the poet or the future novelist, but Elizabeth Blackwell, a woman determined to become a licensed surgeon. This fascinating book is our **March History Paperback Pick**.

Schwab, V E. [A Gathering of Shadows](#) (Tor \$25.99 March 3). “Schwab’s fantastic follow-up to 2015’s *A Darker Shade of Magic* returns to the linked alternate realities of London: Grey London, our own familiar magic-free city in its Regency era; Red London, where people and magic work in concert; White London, where people struggle for control of magic; and the memory of Black London, destroyed by terrible spells. Lila Bard, a cutpurse from Grey London, has found freedom on the high seas with a privateer who’s more than he seems. Kell, a powerful magician with more than a little wanderlust, has given up smuggling between the Londons now that he’s magically bound to his brother, the Red prince Rhy. Red London is about to host the Essen Tasch, or Element Games, pitting the most talented magicians against one another; this would be the perfect place for Lila to show off her burgeoning powers, if she can get in—and she’s eager to see Kell again, in spite of herself. Meanwhile, in White London, a new king rises, and he will do anything, and sacrifice anyone, to make his London great again. Lila, Kell, and Rhy are complex, fully realized creations who challenge conventional ideas of what a hero should be made of, and the supporting characters feel just as real. New touches such as a bustling magical market enliven

already-rich world-building. Tensions rise steadily, culminating with the exciting Element Games, and the finale will leave readers breathless. This is how fantasy should be done.”—*PW* Starred Review for our March SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick

White, Randy Wayne. [Deep Blue](#) (Putnam \$27 March 17). In a March full of surprises in series, this Doc Ford is a standout. We see the biologist full force in his double life as a (killer) agent. He’s after one David Abdel Cashmere. Love the carefully orchestrated plot to take him out. There’s an Australian scientist, loathsome, and a digital world psycho genius. We see a lot of tradecraft, and perhaps treachery close to Ford’s handler. He’s still hot on Hannah Smith, and so eschewing other women. And then there’s Tomlinson, help or hindrance? Whatever, he’s more in a backseat role. White mixes this gem of a tale up with gorgeous ocean landscapes, cenotes, a Brazilian hitman for hire with a fabulous yacht (and plane), and a great white shark. I’m convinced he calls her Dolly just to be able to write one line towards the dramatic finale of this terrific book! Sometimes White has crafted a gripping and unusual thriller playing into the special assets of his region. Yay!

Winspear, Jacqueline. [Journey to Munich](#) (Harper \$26.99 March 29). Karen reviews: *The Wall Street Journal*, describes Winspear’s books as a “series that seems to get better with each entry.” I would agree. Maisie Dobbs, now in England, is contacted by the British Secret Service with a request for her services. Maisie is reluctant or, rather, resistant to accepting. It involves impersonating the daughter of a British subject being held in Dachau. She will have to travel to Nazi Germany who has promised to release the man, but only to a relative. Because of issues in the family, sending a relative is not possible. After some pause, Maisie decides to take on the project and, once in Germany, finds the task more than challenging than previously thought, as she discovers that the British government is not the only interested party in this case. In spite of dangers that crop up, Maisie remains thoughtful and plots her strategies to minimize failure, keeping readers on the edge. A great read with a good cup of coffee, tea or wine

SCIFI CLUB PICKS MARCH-MAY (3rd Fridays 7:00 PM) March’s selection is V.E. Schwab’s [A Darker Shade of Magic](#) (\$15.99). A 2015 Goodreads Choice Finalist for Best Fantasy Novel, it is set in four parallel Londons – Red London, where magic is common; Grey London, where magic scarce; White London, a despotic city where the rulers horde all the magic for themselves; and Black London, which has been destroyed by its powerful magic. Kell is a traveler, able to journey between the Londons, serving as a messenger and sometime smuggler. When he accepts a job trying to smuggle an artifact from Black London he finds himself on the run, along with Lila, a mysterious cutpurse who saves his life.

April’s selection is Robert Jackson Bennett’s [City of Stairs](#) (\$15). Cold War espionage and magic meet in this acclaimed novel. Shara is a Saypuri spymaster, sent to the conquered city of Bulikov to investigate the seemingly inconsequential murder of a local historian. She and her hulking bodyguard Sigrud uncover a conspiracy to revive the long-dead gods who enslaved the Saypuri centuries ago.

May’s selection is Jaye Wells’ urban fantasy thriller [Dirty Magic](#) (\$15). Magic is a drug, and beat cop Kate Prospero swore it off

10 years ago. But when she gets the opportunity to work with prestigious Magic Enforcement Agency, it brings her past back to light.

SOME SIGNED BOOKS FOR MARCH

✚Archer, Jeffrey. [Cometh the Hour](#) (Macmillan \$45) #6 in the Clifton Chronicles opens with the reading of a suicide note which has devastating consequences for Harry and Emma Clifton, Giles Barrington and Lady Virginia. Giles must decide if he should withdraw from politics and try to rescue Karin, the woman he loves, from behind the Iron Curtain. But is Karin truly in love with him, or is she a spy? Lady Virginia is facing bankruptcy, and can see no way out of her financial problems, until she is introduced to the hapless Cyrus T. Grant III from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who's in England to see his horse run at Royal Ascot. Sebastian Clifton is now the Chief Executive of Farthings Bank and a workaholic, whose personal life is thrown into disarray when he falls for Priya, a beautiful Indian girl. But her parents have already chosen the man she is going to marry. Meanwhile....

Barclay, Linwood. [Far from True](#) (Penguin \$26.95 out in March, Signed for us in July in NY). No do-overs re quantity so please order now. We won't charge you until the signed books appear mid-July. This is the second in Barclay's Promise Falls series set in a small NY town not unlike Peyton Place except the secrets that roil it are rooted in crimes much more than sex. Multiple points of view let us see events hidden from several of the townsfolk so you the reader always know more than the narrators. Events from [Broken Promise](#) (\$25.95; also there is March mass market edition \$9.99) continue to play out including the hidden killer who's claimed two victims so far. PW gives this one a Star: "a town already fraught with troubles suffers a major tragedy when four people perish in the unexplained collapse of the Constellation Drive-In Theater's movie screen during its final night of business. PI Cal Weaver looks into a break-in at the home of one of the drive-in victims. Meanwhile, police detective Barry Duckworth attempts to solve two possibly linked murders while also investigating increasingly violent pranks, each of which involves the number 23. Barclay smoothly integrates myriad subplots, which involve a secret room for sex parties, an arrogant politician, an attempted kidnapping, a missing professor's wife, a vacationing spouse, and the violent head of security at a local college. Each odd turn uncovers another dark aspect of Promise Falls." Barclay concludes the trilogy in the fall when he promises to visit The Pen.

Coben, Harlan. [Fool Me Once](#) (Dutton \$28). An extreme example of Trust No One. You would think that former special ops pilot Maya would be happy to see husband Joe on the nanny cam playing with their two-year-old daughter, but she's shocked; Joe was murdered two weeks previously. More shocking events—and revelations—are to come in a drama that illustrates nothing is as dangerous as family. If I say any more I will spoil this one.

Cussler, Clive/Justin Scott. [The Gangster](#) (Putnam \$29). On sale March 1. **Our copies of Isaac Bell's 9th great adventure, set in New York's Little Italy, come with a nifty insert by Scott depicting a scene in the construction of the Catskill Aqueduct chronicled in the book.** (Note: wonderful illustrations by Roland Dahlquist appear in the bound book.) It is 1906, and in New York City, the Italian crime group known as the Black Hand is on a spree: kidnapping, extortion, arson. Detective Isaac Bell of the

Van Dorn Agency is hired to form a special "Black Hand Squad," but the gangsters appear to be everywhere—so much so that Bell begins to wonder: is the Black Hand a cover for a darker, more subtle form of crime? A series of murders—the victims are all highly placed in society—leads Bell to the shocking truth. As usual, this latest Bell thriller combines a vivid historical environment with a top-notch story and enjoyable, realistic characters. Bell, the detective whose nimble intellect often gets him out of tight situations, is one of Cussler's most engaging protagonists, and the series—unlike some of his other older series—remains fresh and exciting.

✚Fowler, Christopher. [Bryant and May: Strange Tide](#) (Doubleday UK \$40). So, is this lucky, or unlucky, 13 for the Peculiar Crimes Unit? The river Thames is London's most important yet neglected artery. When a young woman is found chained to a post in the tide, no-one can understand how she came to be drowned there. At the Peculiar Crimes Unit, Arthur Bryant and John May find themselves dealing with an impossible crime committed in a very public place. Soon they discover that the river is giving up other victims, but as the investigation extends from the coast of Libya to the nightclubs of North London, it proves as murkily sinister as the Thames itself. That's only part of the problem; Bryant's rapidly deteriorating condition prevents him from handling the case, and he is confined to home. To make matters worse, May makes a fatal error of judgment that knocks him out of action and places everyone at risk. With the PCU staff baffled as much by their own detectives as the case, the only people who can help now are the battery of eccentrics Bryant keeps listed in his diary....

✚Hannah, Sophie. [The Narrow Bed](#) (Hodder \$36). A killer that the police are calling 'Billy Dead Mates' is murdering pairs of best friends, one by one. Before they die, each victim is given a small white book. For months, detectives have failed to catch Billy, or work out what the white books mean. And then a woman, scared by what she's seen on the news, comes forward. Stand-up comedian Kim Tribbeck has one of Billy's peculiar little books. A stranger gave it to her at a gig she did a year ago. How—and why?—could she be Billy's next target? (The title is a term for a coffin).

✚Harris, CS. [When Falcons Fall](#) (NAL \$25.95 out in March; Signed May 7). A new chapter in one of my favorite series (OK, I dote upon the Regency for all sorts of reasons not unconnected with Austen and Heyer, but also because it's an age of elegance, wit, fashion, war, and social upheaval under the thin layer of the Upper Crust. Harris is really writing one long story, with chapters, about Viscount Sebastian St.-Cyr, his complicated family, his wife Hero and her formidable father (the power behind the throne, or, actually, the Regent since George III is still king), his parentage... and so much more. But in this 11th chapter, it's 1813, and we move out of London to Shropshire and the village of Aylewick-on-Teme where St.-Cyr will deliver a gift from his murdered half-brother Jamie Knox to Jamie's grandmother. It seems simple enough. But his reputation has preceded him and Sebastian is recruited by the callow local squire, Archie Rawlins, to investigate the death of a woman whose body is discovered in a meadow. The presence of an empty bottle of laudanum near the corpse leads the constable to consider the death self-inflicted, but Archie questions suicide and Sebastian dispels it. The victim is identified as Emma Chance, a widow who just arrived in the vil-

lage. The presence in the area of Napoleon Bonaparte's renegade brother Lucien enhances the intricate murder puzzle. Real history and excellent fiction, perfect!

Ifkovic, Ed. [Cold Morning](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). *Kirkus* reviews: "Now that he's seen her through six murder cases, Ifkovic turns sleuthing novelist/playwright Edna Ferber loose on the biggest game of all: the Lindbergh kidnapping. Everyone who's anyone seems to have come to Flemington, New Jersey, to watch Bruno Richard Hauptmann go on trial for having caused the death of Little Lindy, the infant he's accused of taking from his nursery. The real-life celebrities in attendance include Damon Runyon, Adela Rogers St. Johns, Sheila Graham, Ginger Rogers, Dorothy Kilgallen, and, most influentially, Walter Winchell. *The New York Times* has added to the mix of 'scribbling gladiators in a Jersey Circus Maximus' by sending Edna and her Algonquin Round Table frenemy Alexander Woollcott to nose out human-interest stories and file columns. Woollcott is only too happy to join the crowd baying for the German immigrant's blood. But while Woollcott fiddles, Edna burns. Though she deplores the spectators' rush to judgment on Hauptmann, she's less interested in the question of his innocence or guilt than in the press' shameful neglect of Annabel Biggs, the Cockney waitress in the local cafe apparently strangled to death by her boyfriend..." All this sucks you in, but the real reason to read this excellent book is Ifkovic's proposed solution to the baby's kidnapping and his unsparing look at Lucky Lindy and at the family of Ann Morrow Lindbergh, piercing myths surrounding them both. Bravo! *Kirkus* adds, echoed by other reviewers, that "the rounds between Edna and Woollcott draw real blood, and Edna's jaundiced view of American journalistic justice is both troubling and unsettlingly timely. Perhaps the finest hour yet for a fictionalized heroine who defends herself against undue prejudice in favor of a supremely unpopular defendant by saying, 'I have taken no position—except doubt.'" Give yourself extra points if you know who headed up the NJ State Police investigation.

Lawton, John. [The Unfortunate Englishman](#) (Grove \$28). On sale in March but signed for us mid-April. Having shot someone in what he believed was self-defense in the chaos of 1963 Berlin, Joe Wilderness finds himself locked up with little chance of escape. But an official pardon through his father-in-law Burne-Jones, a senior agent at MI6, means he is free to go—although forever in Burne-Jones's service. His newest operation will take him back to Berlin, which is now the dividing line between the West and the Soviets. A backstory of innocence and intrigue unravels, one in which Wilderness is in and out of Berlin and Vienna like a jack-in-the-box. When the Russians started building the Berlin wall in 1961, two unfortunate Englishmen were trapped on opposite sides. Geoffrey Masefield in the Lubyanka, and Bernard Alleyn (alias KGB Captain Leonid Liubimov) in Wormwood Scrubs. In 1965 there is a new plan. To exchange the prisoners, a swap upon Berlin's bridge of spies. But, as ever, Joe has something on the side, just to make it interesting, just to make it profitable. Here's a thrilling tale of Khrushchev, Kennedy, a spy exchange... and ten thousand bottles of fine Bordeaux. What can possibly go wrong? This is not a *Bridge of Spies* but something specifically Lawton and wonderful!

Leon, Donna. [The Waters of Eternal Youth](#) (Heinemann \$43 probably won't arrive until April but order now, please). The 25th Guido Brunetti is masterful, rooted in what appears to have

been an accident 15 years ago when a girl fell into a canal and nearly drowned. Brain damaged, she remains a (sweet) child. Her grandmother, Brunetti's mother-in-law's BFF, now begs him to investigate more closely and reluctantly, he agrees. And then can't let it go no matter how many dead ends he hits. Has a crime been committed? Love the horse! Highly recommended. We have a few Signed (tip ins) of the US edition: [The Waters of Eternal Youth](#) (Grove \$26).

Lowell, Catherine. [The Madwoman Upstairs](#) (Touchstone \$25.99). In Lowell's debut, the only remaining descendant of the Brontë family embarks on a modern-day literary scavenger hunt to find the family's long-rumored secret estate, using only the clues her eccentric father left behind, and the Brontës' own novels. Samantha Whipple is used to stirring up speculation wherever she goes. Since her father's untimely death, she is the presumed heir to a long-rumored trove of diaries, paintings, letters, and early novel drafts passed down from the Brontë family—a hidden fortune never revealed to anyone outside of the family, but endlessly speculated about by Brontë scholars and fanatics. Samantha, however, has never seen this alleged estate and for all she knows, it's just as fictional as *Jane Eyre* or *Wuthering Heights*. Yet everything changes when Samantha enrolls at Oxford University and long lost objects from the past begin rematerializing in her life. Her father's distinctive copy of *Jane Eyre*, which should have perished in the fire that claimed his life, mysteriously appears on Samantha's bed. Annotated in her father's handwriting, the book is the first of many clues in an elaborate scavenger hunt derived from the world's greatest literature. The Indie Next Pick: "This exciting literary debut is in part a study of literature, specifically the works of the Brontë sisters, and in part an exploration of the mystery of their legacy. ... For mystery and Brontë fans alike, this is a delightful romp by very clever author to watch." You *Jane Eyre* fans can relish the title along with the story.

Romano-Lax, And. [Behave](#) (Soho \$26.95). Our **March Modern Firsts Pick** is a provocative fictional biography of Rosalie Rayner Watson, a woman whose work influenced generations of Americans. Intelligent, beautiful, and unflappable, she won a coveted research position at Johns Hopkins assisting the charismatic celebrity psychologist John B. Watson. Together, Watson and Rayner conducted controversial experiments on hundreds of babies to prove behaviorist principles. They also embarked on a scandalous affair that cost them their jobs—and recast the sparkling young Rosalie Rayner, scientist and thinker, as Mrs. John Watson, wife and conflicted, maligned mother, just another "woman behind a great man." In turns moving and horrifying, *Behave* is a richly nuanced and disturbing novel about science, progress, love, marriage, motherhood, and what all those things cost her.

Rosenheim, Andrew. [The Accidental Agent](#) (Cornerstone \$43). The British and Americans are working feverishly to harness the terrifying power of the atom, convinced the Germans are also making a nuclear bomb. Science is mobilized for war. A deadly race is on... In Chicago, Special Agent James Nessheim has resigned from the FBI, and is now enrolled in Law School. But then his former Bureau boss, Assistant Director Harry Guttman, comes to call. A top-secret nuclear program at the University of Chicago has been infiltrated; Nessheim agrees to go undercover to help track down the spy, joining the team of legendary physicist Enrico Fermi. Out of the blue, an old flame re-enters

Nessheim's life. But Stacey Madison's Communist past worries Nessheim's superiors, and complicates his assignment. As his personal and professional lives collide, Nessheim discovers an unexpected conspiracy that threatens to sabotage America's efforts to win the war. A gripping novel of history in the making.

✦Sansom, Ian. [Westmorland Alone](#) (Collins \$32). Welcome to Westmorland. Perhaps the most scenic county in England! Home of the poets! Land of the great artists! District of the Great lakes! And the scene of a mysterious crime. Swanton Morley, the People's Professor, once again sets off in his Lagonda to continue his history of England, *The County Guides*. Stranded in the market town of Appleby after a tragic rail crash, Morley, his daughter Miriam and his assistant Stephen Sefton find themselves drawn into a world of country fairs, gypsy lore and Cumberland and Westmorland wrestling. When a woman's body is discovered at an archaeological dig, for Morley there's only one possible question: could it be murder? Join Morley, Miriam and Sefton as they journey along the Great North road and the Settle-Carlisle Line into the dark heart of 1930s England. 3rd in series after *The Norfolk Mystery* and [Death in Devon](#) (\$32).

Shaw, Johnny. [Floodgate](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95). Patrick reviews the **March Hardboiled Crime Club Pick**: Shaw's latest is an inventive and infectious blend of hardboiled detective story, historical thriller, caper, and city-as-metaphor kind of story. As much as I hate these kind of pat comparisons, think "The Phenix City Story" as interpreted by the Tom Waits and the Coen Brothers (with not a small bit of The Marx Brothers!). The story cuts back and forth between 1929, when the fictional town of Auction City when up in flames amidst widespread rioting and violence, and 1986, as one former cop becomes obsessed in a labyrinthine plot that involving decades of corruption. Andy Destra used to be cop, but now he's teetering on the edge of sanity, his whole world devoted to trying to make sense of his city and its dark heritage of crime. Behind this obsession is a need to discover the truth about his parents, career criminals who gave him up for adoption. Shaw is a shrewd, talented writer and he pulls it all off with style. What a blast..!

✦Simonson Helen. [The Summer before the War Signed](#) (Bloomsbury \$35). East Sussex, 1914. It is the end of England's brief Edwardian summer, and everyone agrees that the weather has never been so beautiful. Hugh Grange, down from his medical studies, is visiting his Aunt Agatha, who lives with her husband in the small, idyllic coastal town of Rye. Agatha's husband works in the Foreign Office, and she is certain he will ensure that the recent saber rattling over the Balkans won't come to anything. And Agatha has more immediate concerns; she has just risked her carefully built reputation by pushing for the appointment of a woman to replace the Latin master. When Beatrice Nash arrives with one trunk and several large crates of books, it is clear she is significantly more freethinking—and attractive—than anyone believes a Latin teacher should be. For her part, mourning the death of her beloved father, who has left her penniless, Beatrice simply wants to be left alone to pursue her teaching and writing. But just as Beatrice comes alive to the beauty of the Sussex landscape and the colorful characters who populate Rye, the perfect summer ends with the guns of August.... March Library Reads finds that, "Fans of Simonson's Major Pettigrew's Last Stand have reason to rejoice. She has created another engaging novel full of winsome characters, this time set during the summer before the outbreak

of World War I. Follow the story of headstrong, independent Beatrice Nash and kind but stuffy surgeon-in-training Hugh Grange along with his formidable Aunt Agatha. Make a cup of tea and prepare to savor every page!" US edition: [The Summer before the War](#) (Random \$28).

✦Thomas, Sam. [The Midwife and the Assassin](#) (St Martins \$27). It's 1649. Lady Bridget Hodgson and her deputy midwife Martha have been settled on her estates in Hereford for some three years since they fled York after the dangerous events of previous books. They are, it's true, growing bored with rusticity. Then a letter arrives from one Richard Thompson writing on behalf of her nephew Will who seeks her assistance—Will is in the Tower. So Bridget and make haste to London where they learn it's a trap for Bridget set by Jonathan Marlowe, Cromwell's chief spymaster, to force her to spy upon Cromwell's enemies. Their first target is the radical Katherine Chidley. Bridget grows close to Katherine. When Katherine's husband Daniel is murdered, Bridget can't stand idle but must probe his secrets as well as the identity of his killer. It grows more complex from there.... I'm hoping Thomas will write this series all the way up to the Restoration of Charles II in 1660. Among other things it reminds us that extremists, religious and political, are lethal for the fabric of society as well as the lives of individuals.

✦Thomson, E S. [Beloved Poison](#) (Constable \$35). It's the 1850s. Ramshackle and crumbling, trapped in the past and resisting the future, St Saviour's Infirmary awaits demolition. Within its stinking wards and cramped corridors the doctors bicker and fight. Ambition, jealousy and hatred seethe beneath the veneer of professional courtesy. Always an outsider, and with a secret of her own to hide, cross-dressing apothecary Jem Flockhart observes everything, but says nothing. And then six tiny coffins are uncovered, inside each a handful of dried flowers and a bundle of moldering rags. When Jem comes across these strange relics hidden inside the infirmary's old chapel, her quest to understand their meaning prises open a long-forgotten past—with fatal consequences. **A History/Mystery Club Pick.**

BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSICS

Bude, John. [Death on the Riviera](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). When a counterfeit currency racket comes to light on the French Riviera, Detective Inspector Meredith is sent speeding southwards – out of the London murk to the warmth and glitter of the Mediterranean. Along with Inspector Blampignon – an amiable policeman from Nice – Meredith must trace the whereabouts of Chalky Cobbett, crook and forger. Soon their interest centers on the Villa Paloma, the residence of Nesta Hedderwick, an eccentric Englishwoman, and her bohemian house guests – among them her niece, an artist, and a playboy. Before long, it becomes evident that more than one of the occupants of the Villa Paloma has something to hide, and the stage is set for murder. This classic crime novel from 1952 evokes all the sunlit glamour of life on the Riviera, and combines deft plotting with a dash of humor. This is the first edition to have been published in more than sixty years. Other BLCC titles by Bude can be ordered [here](#).

Edwards, Martin, ed. [Serpents in Eden](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). Thirteen short stories, mostly written between the two world wars, reveal the dark side of life in the English countryside. Collecting short stories from around a fifty year time span, the book demonstrates what a perfect place the country is for crime.

Set in the British countryside, the stories are by such familiar luminaries as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and G.K. Chesterton as well as formerly popular but now almost forgotten authors like H.C. Bailey, Anthony Berkeley, and R. Austin Freeman. What the collection does, collectively, is remind readers how elegantly constructed a mystery can be. There is not a one of these that is not a sleek, honed work of art. ~~~~~It also brings to light new old stories: Without a collection like this, it is unlikely most readers would ever see “The Naturalist at Law” by R. Austin Freeman, and that would be a crying shame. The story makes great use of misdirection, small clues, and its country setting. In fact, I’d challenge anyone to find a more country story than this. “The Genuine Tabard” by E.C. Bentley is not only little known but entirely British; even after the solution is explained to the American tourists, it is hard for an outsider to grasp. Even the better-known detectives are well-served by this collection. G.K. Chesterton is well known, but “The Fad of the Fisherman” is very little collected and it makes solid use of the company of many-motives and an intelligent, sharp-eyed sleuth very different from Father Brown. “A Proper Mystery” by Margery Allingham has never been collected before, and it looks with a mix of humor and affection at the effect a seemingly minor crime can have on a community. The other stories are similarly well-chosen examples of the theme. “*Serpents in Eden* gives readers a chance to revel in good, old-fashioned, puzzle mysteries and the myriad ways they are told. It’s a perfect book for mystery aficionados to take with them on a vacation or to curl up with on a weekend.”—Net Galley. And I add, test your knowledge of Britain. Pairs well with Edwards’ anthology [Murder at the Manor](#) (\$12.95).

TWO NEW URBAN NOIRS

Smith, Julie, ed. [New Orleans Noir: The Classics](#) (Akashic \$15.95). “A glittering constellation of writers has passed through New Orleans—including Mark Twain, Sherwood Anderson, O. Henry, and even Walt Whitman, to name some of the not-so-usual suspects. Then there are the ones whose sojourns here are better known, the ones on whom we pride ourselves, such as Tennessee Williams, William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Ellen Gilchrist, and James Lee Burke. If you’re from New Orleans, the neighborhood theme will resonate like Tibetan temple bells. And yet, surely every city has similar hoods, similar behavior patterns, similar travails—and has had them forever. ‘Indeed,’ wrote Voltaire, ‘history is nothing more than a tableau of crimes and misfortunes.’” Classic reprints from: James Lee Burke, Armand Lanusse, Grace King, Kate Chopin, O. Henry, Eudora Welty, Tennessee Williams, Shirley Ann Grau, John William Corrington, Tom Dent, Ellen Gilchrist, Valerie Martin, O’Neil De Noux, John Biguenet, Poppy Z. Brite, Nevada Barr, Ace Atkins, and Maurice Carlos Ruffin

Nathan Larson, ed. [Stockholm Noir](#) (Akashic \$15.95). “Stockholm may not be Marseille, but Larson and Edenborg’s contributors show that even a verdant place with socialized medicine can have its seamy side.”—*Kirkus Reviews*. The anthology showcases the darker, grittier, more intense world of Swedish noir fiction. Here the dangers lurking beneath the IKEA lifestyle are given free rein, and words are given to the ambivalence and despair of a model society. Brand-new stories by: Unni Drougge, Inger Edelfeldt, Carl-Michael Edenborg, Åke Edwardson, Torbjörn Elensky, Inger Frimansson, Carl Johan De Geer, Martin Holmén, Nathan Larson, Malte Persson, Anna-Karin Selberg, Johan Theorin, and Lina Wolff. Rob and I head to Stockholm in June so this

will come along for reading on the trains going up north around Lapland and back down the coast of Norway to Oslo.

MARCH TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

Black, Cara. [Murder on the Champ De Mars](#) (\$15.95). Black’s long-running series explores Paris’ unique cultural and racial mix as well as its ancient traditions. Here her focus is on the city’s gypsies. Let’s not forget the French had a poor record alongside the Nazis in its treatment of Jews and gypsies. Paris, April 1999: Aimée Leduc has her work cut out for her—running her detective agency and fighting off sleep deprivation as she tries to be a good single mother to her new bébé. The last thing she has time for now is to take on a personal investigation for a poor *manouche* (Gypsy) boy. But he insists his dying mother has an important secret she needs to tell Aimée, something to do with Aimée’s father’s unsolved murder a decade ago. How can she say no? The dying woman’s secret is even more dangerous than her son realized. When Aimée arrives at the hospital, the boy’s mother has disappeared. She was far too sick to leave on her own—she must have been abducted. [Click here](#) to order earlier titles Black returns with a new Aimee on June 18: [Murder on the Quai](#) (Soho \$27.95).

Dahl, Julia. [Run You Down](#) (\$15.99). This author writing about the Jewish Orthodox from the perspective of NY reporter Rebekah is a favorite with David Hunenberg of our staff. Rebekah’s mother, from a Brooklyn Hasidic community, one day disappeared from her husband and Rebekah’s lives. 23 years later, Rebekah is conflicted about letting Aviva back into her life. But when a man from the ultra-Orthodox enclave of Roseville, N.Y. contacts Rebekah about his young wife’s mysterious death, she is drawn back into Aviva’s world. Pessie Goldin’s body was found in her bathtub, and while her parents want to believe it was an accident, her husband is certain she was murdered. Once she starts poking around, Rebekah encounters a whole society of people who have wandered “off the path” of ultra-Orthodox Judaism—just like her mother once did. But some went with dark secrets, and rage at the insular community they left behind. This is the sequel to multi-award nominated [Invisible City](#) (\$15.99).

George, Nina. [The Little Paris Bookshop](#) (\$15). Monsieur Perdu calls himself a literary apothecary. From his floating bookstore in a barge on the Seine, he prescribes novels for the hardships of life. Using his intuitive feel for the exact book a reader needs, Perdu mends broken hearts and souls. The only person he can’t seem to heal through literature is himself. “There’s a special category of books that appeal most strongly to people who just plain love to read. Not thrillers, or mysteries, or traditional romances, they are instead love letters to books themselves and to the power and delight of the written word and of stories... Now joining the ranks of those books you just have to give to the bibliophiles in your life is *The Little Paris Bookshop* ... the kind of book that readers might not know they needed or wanted until they picked it up – meaning that George herself is doing exactly the same kind of work as Jean Perdu on his floating literary apothecary.”—Bookreporter.com on a huge 2015 bestseller.

Hellmann, Libby Fischer. [Jump Cut](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). *PW* gives this a Starred Review: “Hellman’s exceptional fifth Ellie Foreman mystery (after 2005’s *A Shot to Die For*) offers no easy solutions to the various security threats America faces today. Ellie, a video producer based in Chicago, is dismayed when the PR

video she was working on for Delcroft is canceled by the aircraft company's director of engineering. In an effort to understand what happened, Ellie slides into a deadly tangle of high-tech espionage and soon finds herself in possession of a murdered man's encrypted flash drive, which is feverishly sought by everyone from Warren Stokes, Delcroft's unscrupulous security chief, to a forlorn representative of the Uighurs, a persecuted Muslim minority in China. Though she hates the immorality all sides display, Ellie eventually just decides to give the drive to the least despicable player—until Stokes kidnaps her daughter and fits the girl with a suicide vest. As Hellman's convincing, conflicted characters face impossible choices, the tension is real and memorable." Order Ellie's first [cases here](#), featuring among other pluses history and views of Chicago.

Kanon, Joseph. [Leaving Berlin](#) (\$16). For my money, Kanon is the best on the war and post-war ethos, its moral ambiguities, conflicted loyalties—and spycraft. And especially in this book, betrayals! 1948. Almost four years after the war's end, the city is still in ruins, a physical wasteland and a political symbol about to rupture. Alex Meier, a young Jewish writer, fled the Nazis for America before the war. But the politics of his youth have now put him in the crosshairs of the McCarthy witch-hunts. Faced with deportation and the loss of his family, he makes a desperate bargain with the fledgling CIA: he will earn his way back to America by acting as their agent in his native Berlin. But almost from the start things go fatally wrong. A kidnapping misfires, an East German agent is killed, and Alex finds himself a wanted man. Worse, he discovers his real assignment—to spy on the woman he left behind, the only woman he has ever loved.

Lansdale, Joe R. [Hap and Leonard](#) (\$15.95). Seven laid-back adventures, one of them brand new, for 'freelance troubleshooter' and good old boy Hap Collins and his gay black Republican partner Leonard Pine.... No one currently working the field demonstrates more convincingly and joyously the deep affinity between pulp fiction and the American tall tale. A folklorist's eye for telling detail and a front-porch raconteur's sense of pace." — *NY Times*

Laukkanen, Owen. [The Stolen Ones](#) (\$16). In their fourth outing, Kirk Stevens of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Investigation and FBI agent Carla Windermere are working on a case involving sex trafficking of women "stolen" from Romania and other Eastern European countries. Hellishly transported in cargo containers to New Jersey, these women are distributed by truck like so much produce to places far and wide, including Walker, MN, where the escape of one of two sisters held in the "box" eventually results in the downfall of the entire operation. The escaping older sister, Irina Milosovici, meets up with Stevens in Walker after the police suspect her in the killing of a local deputy. She provides valuable information...Here it is not the criminals who are intriguing, but rather the victims who turn out to be far stronger and more remarkable than originally anticipated. Order Laukkanen's first three thriller by [clicking here](#) and see Event Books for his 5th book.

Leon, Donna. [Falling in Love](#) (\$16). In [Death at La Fenice](#) (\$7.99), Donna Leon's first novel in the Commissario Brunetti series, readers were introduced to the glamorous and cut-throat world of opera and to one of Italy's finest living sopranos, Flavia Petrelli – then a suspect in the poisoning of a renowned German

conductor. Now, many years after Brunetti cleared her name, Flavia has returned to the illustrious La Fenice to sing the lead in Tosca. As an opera superstar, Flavia is well acquainted with attention from adoring fans and aspiring singers. But when one anonymous admirer inundates her with bouquets of yellow roses – on stage, in her dressing room and even inside her locked apartment – it becomes clear that this fan has become a potentially dangerous stalker. Distraught, Flavia turns to an old friend for help. Familiar with Flavia's melodramatic temperament, Commissario Brunetti is at first unperturbed by her story, but when another young opera singer is attacked he begins to think Flavia's fears may be justified. See [Signed Books](#) for the sequel.

McKinty, Adrian. [Rain Dogs](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). It's hard to imagine how the Detective Sean Duffy of the 1980s Carrickfergus police novels could get any better, but somehow they do. Set against the background of Northern Ireland near Belfast during those horrible years when a copper (and most anyone) had to check under the car every time before turning the key in the ignition to keep from being blown up by a mercury tilt bomb, the dogged (and inspired) Duffy works his cases while maintaining his own brand of humor and a resigned kind of optimism. Here we find him with a locked room mystery going down in Carrickfergus Castle where, after a visit by visiting Finns looking at telecommunications, the body of a young woman is found in the courtyard behind the gate and portcullis. It's a long drop from the tower. The castle caretaker swears no one went in or out, or was hidden. So.... That's the instigating incident of a very complex story drawing in part upon crimes that have only recently been revealed to great scandal. This is a fabulous book!

✽Perry, Anne. [The Angel Court Affair](#) (\$16). Threats to a religious radical become Thomas Pitt's problem in bestseller Perry's 30th historical featuring the Pitt husband-and-wife sleuthing team, one of the series' better entries. Sofia Delacruz, an Englishwoman who has been living in Spain, has achieved notoriety for her views on the relationship between man and God. Right before she embarks on a speaking tour of England in April 1898, Sofia receives letters threatening her life, and Thomas, who's in charge of Special Branch, is ordered by his superior to insure that Sofia remains unharmed while on British soil. Since the U.S. has just declared war on Spain after the destruction of the *USS Maine*, international tensions, already exacerbated by a series of anarchist bombings, are at a high level. The Home Office fears that Sofia's death as a result of her beliefs could lead to war with Spain. Despite Thomas's best efforts, he's unable to shield her from violence."—*PW*. The intellectual and political debates of the day augur our own.

Scottoline, Lisa. [Every Fifteen Minutes](#) (\$15.99). "When Dr. Eric Parrish, longstanding chief of a successful psychiatric unit at a hospital outside of Philadelphia, responds to a routine emergency room consult and agrees to add a troubled teen to his private practice, he unwittingly makes a life-altering decision that could unravel everything that he values. As Eric struggles to balance his workload with his recent separation and custody issues regarding his small daughter, he becomes the target of a ruthless sociopath hell-bent on destroying his reputation and his life. When a murder is committed and Eric's troubled patient disappears, Eric takes matters into his own hands to protect a vulnerable client and himself. Soon he is hopelessly ensnared in a sociopath's cat-and-mouse game and may not escape unscathed. In a nail-

biting stand-alone with two heart-pounding climaxes and several pulse-racing twists, Scottoline grabs her readers by the jugular and won't let go."—*LJ's* Starred Review, one of several for this action-packed page-turner.

Taylor, David C. [Night Life](#) (\$15.99). A debut introducing Michael Cassidy and up for a 2016 Edgar. It takes us back to 1954. Cassidy has a run-in on a Manhattan street with Roy Cohn, Joseph McCarthy's lawyer in the Wisconsin senator's Communist-hunting subcommittee. "You're going to hear from me," Cohn says after getting Cassidy's name. Meanwhile, a Broadway dancer is found tortured to death in his Hell's Kitchen apartment. The killer was apparently searching for something that, as Cassidy soon discovers, the FBI, the CIA, and mob boss Frank Costello all want. The suspense mounts with the body count. Cassidy is one of those (fictional) cops whose wealthy background (as the son of a Broadway producer) puts him at odds with his fellows. For the sequel, see Event Books.

SOME NEW BOOKS FOR MARCH

Adler-Olsen, Jussi. [The Alphabet House](#) (\$16). No a Department Q book but a standalone premised on the experience of the author's father as a senior consultant in psychiatry at numerous mental hospitals in Denmark. There's some difficult reading here about life in a WWII asylum. In January 1944, British pilots James Teasdale and Bryan Young, on a reconnaissance mission near Dresden, Germany, are shot down and escape capture by leaping aboard a train reserved for wounded SS men. Their convincing disguise as German soldiers gets them transferred to Alphabet House, a mental hospital near Freiberg. Staying silent and simulating madness, James and Bryan receive electroshock therapy and experimental drugs. Bryan soon learns how to hide his pills, as well as retain his physical and psychological stamina, while James slowly fades into oblivion. After ten months of plotting, Bryan finally escapes. Thirty years later, what are the two men's stories? The picture of the SS and of Nazi experimentation is harrowing.

Baldacci, David. [The Guilty](#) (\$16). Although Will Robie is the best trained assassin, his skills desert him and he fails an assignment. He's a man now without a mission. Then his father, Dan, is charged with murder. Father and son haven't spoken or seen each other since the day Robie left Cantrell Mississippi. Dan, a local attorney and community pillar, served the town as judge. Still, most of Cantrell is aligned against him, assuming his guilty. And Dan refuses to defend himself. When Will tries to help, his father responds only with anger and defiance. Could Dan really be guilty? With only his partner, the equally formidable Jessica Reel at his side, Robie ignores his father's wishes, and begins his own desperate investigation into the case....

Bjork, Samuel. [I'm Traveling Alone](#) (Viking \$26.95). Karen reviews: A young girl, dressed in doll's clothes, is found dead and as the story moves on, other victims are discovered. Holger Munch, a man whose best thinking comes when he is smoking, and Mia Kruger, a brilliant, but troubled, investigator, are brought into the case as the general public demands resolution. The story is complex, introducing other characters as the story goes on. Among them are Tobias and Torben, two young brothers left on their own by negligent parents; Gabriel Mork, a computer hacker; Benjamin Bach, a vain actor; Father Simon, leader of a religious sect and his appointed assistant, Lukas; Jenny, a seamstress; a woman with one blue eye and one brown; a home for the aged

and a pig farmer. All of the characters are deftly woven into the story with non-stop tension as the puzzle pieces come together in a stunning end. Bjork has received accolades for this title. *Library Journal* and *Booklist* have given it starred reviews as well as suggesting "fans of Jo Nesbø are sure to enjoy the flawed yet likable characters." Although I usually avoid this type crime, the characters, the tension, intriguing and unpredictable solution to the puzzle made it one of those "I can't stop reading this book".

✶Bilyeau, Nancy. [The Tapestry](#) (\$16). After her priory in Dartford is closed—collateral damage in tyrannical King Henry VIII's quest to overthrow the Catholic Church—Sister Joanna Stafford resolves to live a quiet and honorable life weaving tapestries, shunning dangerous quests and conspiracies. Until she is summoned to Whitehall Palace, where her tapestry weaving has drawn the King's attention. Joanna is uncomfortable serving the King whom she has twice attempted to overthrow—unbeknownst to him. She fears for her life in a court bursting with hidden agendas and a casual disregard for the virtues she holds dear. And her suspicions are confirmed when an assassin attempts to kill her moments after arriving at Whitehall. Struggling to stay ahead of her most formidable enemy, an unknown one, she becomes entangled in dangerous court politics.

Brady, Conor. [The Eloquence of the Dead](#) (St Martins \$26.99). In Brady's stellar second whodunit set in Victorian Dublin, the police have reason to think something's amiss at the home of pawnbroker Ambrose Pollock after a constable sees his sister, Phoebe, returning drunk to the Pollock residence late one night. The next morning, the police break into Ambrose's ground-floor shop, where they find him sitting in his customary chair with his head beaten in. There's no sign of Phoebe, who becomes the chief suspect in her brother's murder. Det. Sgt. Joe Swallow, who has a track record of cracking tough cases (but without getting the promotions his successes merit), investigates. Meanwhile, Lady Margaret Gessel is forced to sell her estate under a new law designed to pacify the Irish by making the less-well-off property owners. Lady Margaret's plight is clearly somehow connected to the violence, but Brady delays the reveal for maximum impact. The astute Swallow is a particularly well-rounded lead, and he's matched with a complex, but logical, page-turner of a plot."—PW Starred Review. [A June of Ordinary Murders](#) (\$25.99).

Brundage, Elizabeth. [All Things Cease to Appear](#) (Knopf \$26.95). Karen reviews: This mesmerizing tale shows the deterioration of the small town of Chosen and the economic consequences for its citizens. As a new class of people comes in to buy up property for their getaway needs, the people feel the shift away from the culture and life they have known. The Hale family has a long history with the town and when it becomes obvious there will be no recovery from their financial crisis, the parents commit suicide, leaving three young sons behind. George Clare, his wife, Catherine and their young daughter, Franny are among the new comers, he will teach at a school few citizens can afford, she will be a stay at home mom. Curiously, they move into the home previously owned by the Hale family, its ghosts and misery. Another couple, Bram and Justine have also arrived and are a stark contrast to the Clares. While George and Catherine have accepted a life assigned to them by their parents and society, Bram and Justine are committed to being happy regardless of what people think. As the relationship between the two couples progress,

secrets, both personal and professional, reveal an underlying violence, culminating in the brutal murder of Catherine. Years go by with no resolution to the murder until Franny, now an adult, returns to the house and finds a box of letters her mother left long ago. This book was difficult to put down. The characters are well drawn, the tension always present. It is entertaining, thought provoking, and well worth the reader's time to read and savor.

Chevalier, Tracy. [At the Edge of the Orchard](#) (Viking \$26.95). Begin in 1838 Ohio where a farming family emigrated from Connecticut is broken by hardships and applejack. Move on to 1853 and Gold Rush California where the youngest son is trying to make a life among the giant redwood groves when his past makes a surprise appearance and he has to decide whether it's flee or fight....

Childs, Laura. [Devonshire Scream](#) (Berkley \$25.95). Catering a high-class trunk show at Heart's Desire Jewelry is a shining achievement for Theodosia and the Indigo Tea Shop. After all, a slew of jewelers, museums, and private collectors will be there to showcase their wares and sip some of Theo's best blends. But just as Theo settles in to enjoy the fruits of her labor, the party is crashed by a gang of masked muggers who steal the precious gems and jewels on display. The thieves disappear almost as quickly as they arrived, leaving shattered glass, scattered gemstones, and a dead body in their wake. Although the last thing Theo wants is to get involved, she can't help but intercede when her dear friend Brooke, aunt of the victim and owner of Heart's Desire, begs for help in figuring out who committed the brutal burglary. Though the FBI believes this daring "smash and grab" is the work of an international gang of jewel thieves, Theo is convinced that the felon is someone much closer to home... comes with recipes and tea-time tips.

De Beauvoir, Jeanette. [Deadly Jewels](#) (St Martins \$25.99). If ever there is an author mad for her city, its culture, history, and landmarks, it's De Beauvoir. I loved her first mystery with Montreal's director of publicity Martine Leduc: [Asylum](#) (\$25.99). Martine is back, still smoothing the path of and tangles created by the idiot, publicity mad mayor (also corrupt). So when Jean-Luc calls a hasty press conference and involves federal agencies (RCMP and Border agency), she pries the young archaeologist/researcher from Britain who is working at McGill University out of the room in a hurry to learn more of her story. Which is (true) that anticipating invasion, Churchill not only shipped tons and tons of gold plus bonds to Canada for safekeeping and to fund the purchase of US armaments, he convinced the king to send along the crown jewels. The monarch and the two princesses pried them out of settings and packed them in hatboxes. The ship carrying them made it across from Scotland to Halifax where they went by train to live in a vault under the Sun-Life Bank in Montreal. While in real life nothing of this leaked and all went well, in De Beauvoir's version, one person was killed on site after swallowing some of the jewels. When Martine and Patricia enter the vault which has been unsealed by new collector-sewer work, they find the bones. The skull shows a bullet wound, the jewels are mixed in. From there we get a complicated case involving Jewish diamond cutters, concentration camps, wartime agents, and inevitably, new crimes. This is intriguing history indeed. If you like Reichs and Penny, here's your chance to read more of Montreal and what it is to be Québécois. De Beauvoir documents the real history in an Afterword. And here I thought the jewels spent the war in a remote Welsh mine.

Flanagan, Joe. [Lesser Evils](#) (Europa \$18). "Flanagan's highly impressive debut transposes the corrupt world of James Ellroy's *L.A. Confidential* to the Cape Cod of 1957. Trouble appears for Lt. Bill Warren, a single father who oversees the police force in Barnstable, in the form of Capt. Dale Stasiak of the Massachusetts State Police, a crew-cut giant of a man who has been assigned to look into the disappearance of a young boy in Truro. Stasiak makes no bones about annexing the case from the local police, with the grudging support of district attorney Elliott Yost. When Warren learns of Stasiak's bigfooting, he takes it as a personal insult. Why is Stasiak resisting Warren's efforts to investigate a gambling and loan-shark ring that seems to have spread its tentacles Cape-wide? Why, when the corpses of other young boys are discovered near surrounding towns, isn't Stasiak alarmed that a serial killer may be running loose? And how does disgraced Father Boyle fit into the picture?"—*PW*

Flanders, Judith. [A Bed of Scorpions](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Our **March British Crime Club Pick** is fabulous on many levels. For one, the portrait of contemporary London. For another, the portrait of a middle-class British woman, so reined in, so restrained, so desperately conventional (until, of course, she explodes). It is behavior uniquely British. For a third, the tricky story involving forgery and murder and more. Fourth, the wry, witty, language that skewers nearly everything including our narrator, Samantha Clair, book editor extraordinaire and daughter of one of London's leading lawyers who is, by contrast, terrifyingly organized. And finally, for you bibliophiles, an inside look at publishing. Love the policeman. I do think towards the end that a scene putting Sam in jeopardy feels forced, but the pressure to place the sleuth in peril, to have a chase, is high. Historian Flanders, a foremost historian of the Victorian era, really takes wing with her second contemporary mystery. I liked the first, [A Murder of Magpies](#) (\$24.99), so well it was a British Crime Club Pick too.

Harrison, Jim. [The Ancient Minstrel](#) (Grove \$25). One of our Grand Old Writers, Harrison has a way with novellas—2014's *Brown Dog: Novellas*—and these pieces are classic. In the title story, a mocking self-portrait of an aging Montana writer facing down his estranged wife, the vagaries of literary success, and a surprise litter of piglets, while "The Case of the Howling Bud-dhas" features retired detective Sunderson.

✠Hodgson, Antonia. [The Last Confession of Thomas Hawkins](#) (Houghton \$27). "Set in England in the early 18th century, Hodgson's sequel to 2014's *The Devil in the Marshalsea* is as good as her stellar debut, which won the CWA's Historical Dagger Award. A prologue depicts Thomas Hawkins, a gentleman who has spent time in debtors' prison, on his way to the gallows for murder, hoping against hope for a last-minute pardon. The main narrative charts the twisted path that led to Hawkins's desperate straits. He has been living with his lover, Kitty Sparks, in London, but Hawkins, who has found that he has a taste for danger, allies himself with James Fleet, "captain of the most powerful gang of thieves in St. Giles." Hawkins soon finds himself out of his depth when Fleet gives him an assignment that enmeshes him in royal intrigue. And things only get worse when a neighbor Hawkins threatened is stabbed to death. Hodgson maintains pitch-perfect suspense, craftily constructs a fairly clued whodunit, and convincingly evokes the period."—*PW* Starred Review for the second novel after History/Mystery Club Pick [The Devil in the Marshalsea](#) (\$15.95).

Jones, Stan. [Tundra Kill](#) (Bowhead \$25.99). Nathan Active, the top cop in a swath of the Alaskan tundra that is larger than 15 U.S. states, has a new mystery to unravel after a dog musher is killed by a snowmobile. When the case is connected with Alaska's gorgeous female governor, Active is swept into the bizarre family affairs and outsized political ambitions of the most dangerous woman he has ever met. Now the counter-moves that have been put into place by the governor threaten the lives of both his beloved Grace Palmer and her daughter, Nita. With his career on the line, Active has to outwit the governor and save the people he cares for most before time runs out. I've always liked this series. The first, *White Sky, Black Ice*, was a 1999 First Mystery Club Pick.

✦Kasasian, MRC. [Death Descends on Saturn Villa](#) (Norton \$25.95). After her godfather, Sidney Grice, London's greatest detective, travels to Yorkshire for a case (even though he rarely leaves the city), a bored March Middleton is lured to Saturn Villa in Highgate to reunite with a long-lost relative. March is unfamiliar with her family's history and is convinced Ptolemy Hercules Arbuthnot Travers Symth is her great-uncle. When "Uncle Tolly" is murdered, March needs Sidney to uncover the truth and save her from the gallows. The third outing in this Victorian series (after *The Curse of the House of Foskett*) stars a clever, twisty plot and entertaining characters. Not just another Sherlock Holmes pastiche, this series has its own allure that will attract fans of Will Thomas, Alex Grecian, and David Morrell. I liked the first Kasasian, [The Mangle Street Murders](#) (\$14.95), very much. A bit less so [The Curse of the House of Foskett](#) (\$15.95). This third has a clever, twisty plot but, as often with humorous crime, the author begins to go overboard and so overworks the jokes. It's hard to find the right balance in this genre.

Kennedy, Douglas. [The Blue Hour](#) (Atria \$26.99). I'm mixed on the story here—a husband and wife, she wanting a child, he an unsung artist to mix metaphors—head on his whim (we think) to Morocco. She's an accountant with a past that makes her parse things; he's a wing it kind of guy. The arrangements he claims to have made don't pan out and money is tight, but they end up renting a kind of suite in a hotel in Essaouira, a walled city on the Atlantic coast southwest of Casablanca, where he does his wonderfully detailed lithograph work on the balcony overlooking the town and she works to improve her French with a young girl tutor. And then, hearing via email from home a shattering truth about Paul, Robin resolves to leave him only to discover their room empty, blood spattered about, and Paul...gone. And gone he stays as she becomes a suspect in his disappearance (or death) in a strange country. It's all life changing. I agree with Phil Kerr who says this is "The best book about Morocco since *The Sheltering Sky*. Completely absorbing and atmospheric." Read it for the landscape more than the actual story, as I did.

✦Kent, Christobel. [The Crooked House](#) (Farrar \$26). The *NY Times* reviews a January book a bit late: The Gothic thriller is a treacherous genre, but Christobel Kent does a nice job balancing the requisite features of dreamy romance and eerie atmosphere. When she was still in her teens, Esme survived a massacre that took the lives of her mother, twin sisters and older brother and left her father a brain-damaged wreck. You'd think that as a grown woman who now lives in London and calls herself Alison, she'd have the sense to stay far away from the scene of that atrocity. But her lover, an older academic who knows nothing of her

past, sweet-talks her into going to a wedding back in Saltleigh, a bleak estuary town where "all roads led to the water" and the "fossilized stumps" of Saxon villages lie buried in the marshes. Although the father of the bride insists that "this is a perfectly normal village," Saltleigh's brooding atmosphere and history of violent tragedy make both the town and its unfortunate inhabitants seem hopelessly cursed.

Kornegay, Jamie. [Soil](#) (\$15.99). If Dostoevsky were dropped into the present-day Mississippi Delta where an idealistic young family man/farmer conceives a revolutionary idea for agriculture that leads to his ruin, he'd run with this. When a corpse appears in the soil, the farmer, desperate to hang onto his wife and son, and his work, convinces himself he's being set up. He steps into "a maze of misperceptions and personal obsessions" where a predatory deputy, an itinerant criminal, even his estranged wife, play roles. Think Tom Franklin too, maybe Faulkner.

Lawton, John. [Sweet Sunday](#) (\$15) is set in the tumultuous '60s. Lawton has done historical crime before, in his excellent (if slightly creepy) series about Inspector Troy, a WWII-era London police detective. This time we're in the U.S., where private eye Turner Raines has a specialty: tracking down draft dodgers.... Lawton convincingly nails the essence of those chaotic years."—*Seattle Times*. Turner Raines isn't a typical New York private eye. He's a has-been—among the things he has been are a broken Civil Rights worker, a second-rate lawyer, and a tenth-rate journalist. But in 1969, as the USA is about to land a man on the moon, and the Vietnam War is set to continue to rip the country to pieces, Raines is working as a private detective helping draft-dodgers make it to Canada. As Norman Mailer finalizes his campaign for Mayor of New York, Raines leaves for Toronto, and by the time Raines gets back, his oldest friend is dead, the city has changed forever, and with it, his life. As Raines follows the trail of his friend's death, he finds himself blasted back to the Texas of his childhood, confronted anew with his divided family, and blown into the path of certain people who know about secret goings-on in Vietnam, stories they may now be willing to tell. For his latest, see Signed Books above.

✦Marsh, Ngaio. [Black as He's Painted](#); [A Clutch of Constables](#); [Tied Up in Tinsel](#); [When in Rome](#) (\$14.95 each). Felony & Mayhem reissues 4 by the wonder Marsh, who wrote at the later end of the Golden Age. *A Clutch of Constables*, a real double-entendre title (the painter plus the policemen), has always been one of my favorites, in part because of the canal boat culture depicted.

Mathews, Francis. [Too Bad to Die](#) (\$16). "If the title sounds reminiscent of a James Bond novel, it's no coincidence.... A brief prologue establishes some significant facts about Fleming's early life. At an elite English prep school, Ian befriends American Michael Hudson and establishes the "Too Bad Club," supposedly for those who are too bad to die. Skip ahead 26 years. Fleming has re-established his friendship with Hudson, and they're both stationed in Cairo. Hudson's job is vague but has something to do with Lend-Lease, while Fleming is involved in tracking down a spy known only as the Fencer, who's in league with another spy called the Kitten. Mathews weaves a substantial and intricate tale involving an abundance of historical characters, including Stalin (crude), Churchill (wary) and Roosevelt (nervous), who are attending the Cairo and Tehran conferences in late November and early December 1943. Even more prominent in the action are

Churchill's wild daughter-in-law Pamela Digby Churchill—already involved with both Averell Harriman and Edward R. Murrow—Chiang Kai-shek and his cynical but commanding wife, May-Ling, and Alan Turing, the eccentric but brilliant scientist working on the Enigma machine. Fleming lays the groundwork for his later success as a novelist by taking on the name—and to some extent, the persona—of James Bond, for he begins to introduce himself in this sly and suave way, and his adventures become increasingly dangerous the closer he gets to the Fencer. Mathews writes well, keeps the pace brisk and has great fun re-creating historical personage.”

Meade, Glenn. [The Cairo Code](#) (Howard \$16). November 1943: Adolf Hitler sanctioned his most audacious mission ever—to kill US President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill while they visit Cairo for a secret conference to plan the Allied invasion of Europe, an invasion which threatens imminent defeat for Germany. Only one man is capable of leading the defiant Nazi mission—Major Johann Halder, one of the Abwehr's most brilliant and daring agents. He is a man with a tortured soul and a talent for the impossible. Accompanied by an expert undercover team and Rachael Stern, the young and beautiful Egyptologist, Halder must race against time across a hostile desert to reach Cairo and successfully complete the assignment, or else forfeit his life and the life of his son. When US military intelligence hears about the plan, they assign Lieutenant-Colonel Harry Weaver, one of their best officers, to hunt down and eliminate Halder and his team. But for Weaver, as well as for Halder and Stern, there's more than the balance of war and the lives of the Allied leaders at stake.... This well-constructed thriller is based on a real attempt to kill FDR and thus makes an intriguing parallel with Mathews' *Too Bad to Die*, above, where a second attempt is planned.

Patterson, James/Mark Sullivan. [Private Paris](#) (Little Brown \$28). When Jack Morgan stops by Private's Paris office, he envisions a quick hello during an otherwise relaxing trip. But Jack is quickly pressed into duty after getting a call from his client Sherman Wilkerson, asking Jack to track down his young granddaughter, who is on the run from a brutal drug dealer. Before Jack can locate her, several members of France's cultural elite are found dead-murdered in stunning, symbolic fashion. The only link between the crimes is a mysterious graffiti tag. I like Mark's writing very much. 11th in series.

Pelecanos, George. [The Martini Shot](#) (\$15). Pelecanos' first collection of stories includes a novella. Patrick recommends this highly.

Seeley, Nick. [Cambodia Noir](#) (Scribner \$26). Patrick is now reading a debut that another bookseller describes thusly: Phnom Penh, Cambodia: The end of the line. Lawless, drug-soaked, forgotten—it's where bad journalists go to die. For once-great war photographer Will Keller, that's kind of a mission statement: he spends his days floating from one score to the next, taking any job that pays; his nights are a haze of sex, drugs, booze, and brawling. But Will's spiral toward oblivion is interrupted by Kara Saito, a beautiful young woman who shows up and begs Will to help find her sister, June, who disappeared during a stint as an intern at the local paper.

Shannon, Samantha. [The Mime Order](#) (\$17; \$36 Signed UK edition, the true first). The second volume in Samantha Shannon's much-touted Bone Season series will leave readers clamoring for book three. Paige Mahoney is racing back to London after narrowly escaping Sheol I, where she had been held prisoner for months because of her unusual clairvoyant powers. In London, she must decide whether to rejoin her old crime syndicate or go it alone.

Sharp, Zoe. [Killer Instinct](#) (Felony & Mayhem \$14.95). The talented Sharp has had an up-and-down career with US publishers. I hope she's landed now with one that will bring us more of her work. Here we have crime scenes specialist Kelly Jacks, once a promising officer so talented with reading them that she was called the Blood Whisperer. And then she was framed for an ugly murder. Kelly was confident the evidence would clear her—somehow it didn't. She did years in prison. Free, she takes a job cleaning up those ugly scenes she used to investigate with a private firm run by Ray McCarron. And when Kelly says the blood spatter in a bathroom says suicide, not murder, she kicks off a complicated case filled with various agendas, not least of which may be one that can lead her at last to the truth of what happened to her, and why. Very good!

Simon, Clea. [When Bunnies Go Bad](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Here's a review from a Virginia librarian: “Bunnies abound in this new entry in the Pru Marlowe Pet Noir series. There's the wild bunny being kept illegally by an elderly woman who calls on Pru because she's heard of Pru's skill as an animal behaviorist; there's the bunny in the painting stolen in a recent art heist; and then there's that fixture of the resort slopes, the ski bunny. The latter is Cheryl, the arm-candy girlfriend of an obnoxious businessman type named Teddy Rhinecrest. Pru encounters the couple while out with her sometime boyfriend and full time police detective Jim Creighton. What should have been a nice dinner is spoiled when Rhinecrest picks a fight with his girlfriend Cheryl, the aforementioned ski bunny. Creighton steps in to calm things down, but it won't come as any surprise to readers when Teddy turns up dead. For once, Pru doesn't have a personal stake in the investigation. She really doesn't want to be involved, but then Cheryl calls Pru for help with her King Charles Spaniel. Pru goes to help the dog and finds things are more complicated than she expected....not to mention the appearance of an old acquaintance who brings both old world charm and menace. I've enjoyed this series from the start. For the uninitiated, Pru is more than a behaviorist. She's an animal psychic, able to pick up bits of information from a variety of animals. The communication is disjointed, bits and pieces of things that Pru struggles to understand. It can also be very distracting because she can't turn it off.” Also in trade paperback: [When Bunnies Go Bad](#) (\$15.95). [Click here](#) to order earlier Pet Noirs by Simon.

Smith, Wilbur/Tom Cain. [Predator](#) (Harper \$28.99). Former SAS operative Major Hector Cross must face off against a pair of lethal enemies and prevent an international catastrophe.

Swanson, Cynthia. [The Bookseller](#) (\$15.99). The 2015 Indie Next Pick: “In 1962, 38-year-old Kitty Miller lives unconventionally. She's an unmarried working woman who is running a bookstore with her best friend. But at night, in her dreams, it's a different story. There, Kitty (now Kathryn) explores the path not taken.

She's the married mother of three. It's the life that might have been, and the novel explores both Kitty's waking and dream lives in alternating chapters. Swanson's enjoyable debut really gets interesting when the lines between waking and dreaming, fantasy and reality, begin to blur."

Taylor, Janet B. [Into the Dim](#) (Harcourt \$17.99). When fragile, sixteen-year-old Hope Walton loses her mom to an earthquake overseas, her secluded world crumbles. Agreeing to spend the summer in Scotland, Hope discovers that her mother was more than a brilliant academic, but also a member of a secret society of time travelers. Trapped in the twelfth century in the age of Eleanor of Aquitaine, Hope has seventy-two hours to rescue her mother and get back to their own time. Along the way, her path collides with that of a mysterious boy who could be vital to her mission...or the key to Hope's undoing. "Instantly engaging, constantly suspenseful, ultimately poignant and satisfying. Loved it!" Ages 14+ but often these Young Adult books work well for more mature readers!

✚Tidhar, Lavie. [A Man Lies Dreaming](#) (Melville \$25.95). The Indie Next Pick: "Tidhar's brilliant novel channels pulp fiction conventions to grapple with the horrors of the Holocaust. In its opening pages, readers are dropped into late 1930s England where Oswald Mosley is about to become prime minister and Hitler, whose Nazi party was defeated by the Communists, is a down-at-the-heels private investigator, a sad and tortured little man. As it turns out, this alternate history is a fever dream of a prisoner at Auschwitz. Who is to say that turning the powerful into the defeated — even as a fantasy — isn't an important tool in coping with brutality and dehumanization." Tidhar switched publishers for this book.

Start with [The Violent Century](#) (\$25.95). In 1932, a German scientist accidentally unleashes a worldwide quantum event, the Change, which randomly bestows superhuman abilities and agelessness on a few thousand humans. An alternate 20th century is defined by these changed people, or Übermenschen, as the Nazis come to call them. Lavie Tidhar blends the gritty superhero realism of Watchmen and the Cold War espionage of John le Carré....

Tompkins, Mark. [The Last Days of Magic](#) (Viking \$26.95). A debut that draws on both Celtic myths, the Bible, even the Dead Sea Scrolls to propel an historical fantasy adventure rooted in 14th Century Ireland. The Morrigna, a powerful female trinity with two human aspects, faces extermination by the Roman Catholic Church bent on suppressing magic and achieving conversions. It's a bit like Peter Tremayne's Sister Fidelma meets *The Lord of the Rings*. Lots of world-building draws on various elements and it is fair to say that the heft of it all weighs down the story, which drags...but is fun for those enjoying a deep trawl through actual history and the realm of faerie and, of course, Dan Brown fans.

For an ages 13+ variation: Melissa Marr, [The Seven Diamonds](#) (Harper \$17.99). Lilywhite Abernathy is a criminal—she's half human, half fae, and since the time before she was born her very blood has been illegal. A war has been raging between humans and faeries, and the Queen of Blood and Rage, ruler of the fae courts, wants to avenge the tragic death of her heir due to the actions of reckless humans. Lily's father has always shielded her from the truth, but when she's sent to the prestigious St. Columba's school, she's delivered straight into the arms of a fae Sleeper cell—the Black Diamonds. The Diamonds are planted in the human world as the sons and daughters of the most influential

families, and tasked with destroying it from within. Against her will, Lilywhite's been chosen to join them. Will the attractions of fae rock singer Creed be enough to keep Lily?

✚Truss, Lynne. [Cat Out of Hell](#) (\$15.95). The Indie Next Pick. "Cat lover or hater, you'll be caught up in this quirky mystery from the author of *Eats, Shoots and Leaves*." When retired librarian and recent widower Alec Charlesworth receives a bizarre manuscript from a distant acquaintance, he questions its veracity even as he is lured into a tale of murderous, decades-old, talking cats and their devilish master. Alec is quickly overwhelmed by events as his allies are picked off one by one by a nightmarish feline called The Captain. With time running out and the body count rising, Alec must find a way to end the reign of the Cat Master and avenge his wife's death before he and his little dog Watson join the victims of the cats from hell. Voiced by two different, yet equally enigmatic narrators, as well as a talking cat, the tale passes among the personalities through letters, transcripts, and emails. *Kirkus* calls it a "Chinese box of anti-narrative that reads like M.R. James on bad acid with a laugh track, complete with demonic cats, murderous librarians and badly overmatched amateur sleuths."

✚Wilson, Laura. [A Willing Victim](#) (\$14.95). [Wrong Man](#) (\$14.95). Two fine British mysteries from Wilson from Felony & Mayhem's reprint line. Visit London, 1956, where Inspector Ted Stratton investigates in the first, a crime tied to an odd community in Suffolk, and in the second, wondering what to do with beautiful spy Diana Calthrop. Original title for *The Wrong Man* was *A Capital Crime*, book 3 in the Stratton series.

Yun, Jung. [Shelter](#) (Picador \$26). This shocking debut that digs into the secrets and troubles of two generations in a Massachusetts Korean-American family has generated a lot of comment, in the publishing industry called buzz. I can't deny it's well written. The look inside the immigrant family and the legacy the parents — father risen to tenured professor making tons of money off stuff he's developed and living in a huge home with his wife, Mae, who may have grown from traditional wife into something else — have bequeathed to their son, Kyung Cho, is insightful and deeply disturbing in the way that violence both shapes and stunts character. The way the story of the beatings and rapes of Mae and their young housekeeper plays out, and of the home invasion, is unsettling and surprising. And the whole is like watching a train wreck, reading a book filled with raw, repressed anger I for one wished I had not opened. So fair warning; you may not want to miss this or look away, but don't be surprised if you share my reaction.

OUR MARCH MASS MARKET PAPERBACK PICKS

Barclay, Linwood. [Broken Promise](#) (\$9.99) Promise Falls #1. After his wife's death and the collapse of his business, David Harwood moves back home to Promise Falls, New York, with his young son, where he comes upon a family secret of epic proportions that results in murder as well as other strange occurrences, including the ritual slaughtering of animals. *PW* concluded their review with this "Linwood's adept characterizations and knack for unsettling twists make this a surefire bestseller."

Box, CJ. [Endangered](#) (\$9.99) Joe Pickett #15. When his teenage ward is found near death after running off with a disreputable rodeo champion he knows is responsible, Joe Pickett tackles terrible dangers to confront the attacker and his equally formidable family. *LJ* had this to say "Series fans will love this thriller. The

nonstop action, intermingling plotlines, and the return of familiar characters all mesh into a breathless, roller-coaster ride of sheer suspense and entertainment.”

Childs, Laura. [Ming Tea Murder](#) (\$7.99) Tea Shop #16. When her boyfriend asks her to accompany him to a gala museum opening that features an eighteenth-century Chinese Tea House, tea shop owner Theo Browning finds herself investigating the untimely death of a wealthy philanthropist. *PW* finished up their review by saying “Realistic and down-to-earth characters populate a cozy that tea lovers will relish and even coffee drinkers will enjoy. Childs rounds out the volume with a section of favorite recipes, tea-time tips, and a list of publications, websites, and blogs related to tea.”

Clarkson, John. [Among Thieves](#) (\$9.99) Olivia Sanchez—smart, driven, and beautiful—started at the bottom and worked her way up the ranks of a brokerage firm only to be unjustly, brutally fired, then blackballed. With no place else to go, she turns to her cousin, Manny Guzman, ex-con and ex-gang leader, for help. Manny’s first instinct is to hit back. Hard. But his partner, James Beck knows that out in the real world, things aren’t done that way. *PW* gave this debut a rave saying “Clarkson’s relentless storytelling drives Beck and his foes toward a satisfying apocalyptic climax. Fans of Lee Child’s Jack Reacher will find a lot to like.”

Gross, Andrew. [One Mile Under](#) (\$9.99) Ty Hauck #4. Protecting a friend’s daughter who has fallen into danger over her suspicions that two deaths are not accidental, Ty Hauck uncovers a Colorado town’s sinister scheme involving giant energy companies, beaten-down ranchers and scarce water resources. *Kirkus* concluded their review with this “the pace is fast, the characters are engaging, and the issues are timely. A good tale that will have thriller readers looking for the next Ty Hauck adventure.”

Hamilton, Glen. [Past Crimes](#) (\$9.99). From the time he was six years old, Van Shaw was raised by his Irish immigrant grandfather Donovan to be a thief—to boost cars, beat security alarms, crack safes, and burglarize businesses. But at eighteen, Dono’s namesake and protégé suddenly broke all ties to that life and the people in it. Van escaped into the military, serving as an elite Army Ranger in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now, after ten years of silence, Dono has asked his grandson to come home to Seattle. “*Tar abhaile, más féidir leat*”—Come home, if you can. *Kirkus* ended their review of this 2016 Edgar nominee for Best First Novel by saying “A well-written modern rendition of the old-fashioned gritty noir.” Definitely sounds like a Patrick kind of read.

Harris, CS. [Who Buries the Dead](#) (\$7.99) Sebastian St. Cyr #10. Investigating the brutal murder of a socially ambitious plantation owner in early 19th-century London, Sebastian St. Cyr discovers a link between the case and the 17th-century beheading of King Charles. *PW*’s review included “The solution, one of Harris’s trickiest, will appeal both to fair-play fans and those interested in a vivid evocation of the period.” For #11, see Signed Books.

Hess, Joan. [Pride V Prejudice](#) (\$7.99) Claire Malloy #20. Plotting revenge against a petty prosecutor who has publicly humiliated her, Claire Malloy offers to prove the innocence of a high-profile case’s defendant, an effort that is challenged by compelling evidence and a visit from Claire’s mother-in-law. *LJ* ended their review by saying “Hess’s latest novel proves once again that good cozy mysteries need not only take place in picturesque English villages—small

college towns in Arkansas will do just fine. Claire’s conversations with her teenage daughter, Caron, are especially amusing and so true to life. Series fans won’t be disappointed.”

Iles, Greg. [The Bone Tree](#) (\$9.99). In this follow-up to *Natchez Burning* finds Southern lawyer Penn Cage desperately struggling to protect his father from false charges and corrupt officers by confronting the puppet master behind the Double Eagles terrorist group. *Kirkus*’s take included “Iles allows Cage and Masters plenty of room to operate—and so they do, with all the missteps of ordinary people, unlike the supercops and superagents of so many other procedurals. Fans will find that the pace has picked up a touch from the first volume—and that’s a good thing. We’ll need to wait for the next one before toting up the body count, but it’s sure to be massive.”

Logan, Kylie. [And Then There Were Nuns](#) (Berkley \$7.99) League of Literary Ladies #4. When two nuns are murdered while on a retreat at South Bass Island on Lake Erie, B&B owner Bea Cartwright and the other members of the League of Literary Ladies discover an eerie parallel with an Agatha Christie mystery classic that could help them catch a killer. If you love Victoria Abbott’s “Book Collector” mysteries or Ellery Adams “Books by the Bay” series and you haven’t yet tried Logan’s series, you will definitely want to add them to your reading list.

Palmer, Daniel. [Trauma](#) (\$9.99) Quitting her residency after a tragic mistake, Dr. Carrie Bryant returns home to care for her combat veteran brother and pursues a experimental therapy for PTSD before teaming up with an investigative reporter to find a missing patient. If you enjoy Robin Cook’s medical thrillers and haven’t yet discovered Daniel Palmer, you are in for a treat.

Silva, Daniel. [The English Spy](#) (\$9.99). Gabriel Allon #15. Gabriel Allon investigates the murder of the former princess of England and enlists the help of Christopher Keller, a British commando turned professional assassin, to track down master bomb maker Eamon Quinn. *Kirkus* loved the latest Allon novel (which publishes at the end of March) saying “The realistic and relentless action is framed by bureaucratic back-stabbing and blame-shifting as MI6’s Graham Seymour and MI5’s Amanda Wallace are left to explain more than one double, or triple, agent dead or disappeared. This page-turner deepens Allon’s legend and illuminates more of his shadowy world, all while cementing Silva’s place among the top tier of spy thriller writers.”

NEW IN MASS MARKET PAPERBACK

Aarons, Kathy. [Behind Chocolate Bars](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Chocolate Covered #3. Best friends and business partners Michelle and Erica have a monstrous to-do list as they prepare for the annual West Riverdale Halloween Fair. Their shop, Chocolates and Chapters, will have a booth at the event where Michelle will serve spooky delights while Erica displays an assortment of spine-chilling books. Thank goodness the teenagers from Erica’s comic book club are chipping in to help. But one of their volunteers winds up in trouble after a woman’s body is found in an abandoned house—with the teen’s super hero key ring close by.

Abbott, Kristi. [Kernel of Truth](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Popcorn Shop #1. Returning home to Grand Lake, Ohio, after a disastrous marriage to a celebrity chef, Rebecca Anderson, while trying to open a gourmet popcorn shop with the help of Coco, a close family friend, must find a killer when Coco is found dead and suspects begin popping up all over.

Anekwe, Adolphus. [Mark of the Beast](#) (Tor \$9.99) When Dr. Regina Dickerson discovers a genetic marker that indicates the carrier is prone to psychotic violence, her research using blood from prison inmates attracts the attention of the media and sparks fears of Inquisition-style witch hunts.

Bradford, Laura. [A Churn for the Worse](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Amish #5. After an Amish farmer is found dead and another is victimized, Detective Jakob Fisher, who has two strikes against him in the eyes of the Amish, finds it difficult to investigate these crimes until he partners with a shop owner who has earned trust from the Amish community.

⌘Brightwell, Emily. [Mrs. Jeffries Wins the Prize](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Inspector Witherspoon #34. When an orchid hunter and supplier is found dead in Mrs. Helena Rayburn's conservatory, Mrs. Jeffries helps Inspector Witherspoon dig up some suspects to weed out a murderer who has turned friendly rivalry into deadly game.

Cussler, Clive. [Assassin](#) (\$9.99) Isaac Bell #8. Preparing to investigate Standard Oil's monopoly when a sniper shoots key opponents and blows up an independent refinery, Van Dorn private detective Isaac Bell engages in a daring cat-and-mouse chase through America and Russia to stop the killer.

Daheim, Mary. [Alpine Zen](#) (\$7.99) Alpine #26. As an early summer heat wave beats down on Alpine, Emma and her staff are treading very lightly. For unfathomable reasons, the paper's House & Home editor, Vida Runkel, is in a major snit, refusing to speak to her colleagues, or even her boss. So when a peculiar young woman walks in claiming her parents have been murdered, and that she's in mortal danger, too, it fits right in with the rest of the craziness.

Gabaldon, Diana. [Dragonfly in Amber \(Starz Tie-In\)](#) (\$9.99) In eighteenth-century Scotland, Claire Randall and her raven-haired daughter, Brianna, return to the majestic hills where Claire recalls the love of her life--gallant warrior James Fraser.

O'Neil, Carlene. [Ripe for Murder](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Cypress Cove #2. When her neighbor's daughter, Chantal, a troublemaker to the highest degree, is accused of murdering the wife of an investor, winery owner Penny Lively, despite her dislike of the woman, believes in her innocence and must let the clues breathe to catch a killer with a savory past.

Reilly, Linda. [Out of the Dying Pan](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Deep Fried #2. When a neighboring boutique owner who harbors a grudge against her is found strangled to death with her scarf, fish fryer Talia Marby, to clear her name, must turn up the heat on a killer who had a good reason to want the victim dead.

Swanson, Denise. [Between a Book and a Hard Place](#) (NAL \$7.99) Devereaux Dime Store #5. Shadow Bend's library closed years ago because of budgetary problems, so when a wealthy benefactor offers to reopen it, everyone, including Dev Sinclair, is thrilled. But Dev's excitement wanes when she realizes the mysterious donor is actually her runaway mother Yvette's latest husband, Jett Benedict. Dev suspects that Yvette and Jett's intentions aren't as noble as they appear, but before she can discover what they're really up to, Jett turns up dead—and all clues point to Yvette as the prime suspect.

Taylor, Patrick. [Fingal O'Reilly, Irish Doctor](#): (\$8.99) Newly married, Dr. Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly finds his domestic bliss interrupted by the complications of village life, in a novel that shifts back and forth between the present and the past, where Dr. O'Reilly had once tended to the impoverished denizens of Dublin's tenement slums.

Wallace, Auralee. [Skinny Dipping with Murder](#) (St Martins \$7.99) Otter Lake #1. Erica Bloom is in no rush to return to Otter Lake, the site of her mother's spiritual retreat for women. Erica met her inner goddess years ago and she's happy to have forged a new identity on her own, thank you very much. But her new-agey, well-meaning mother is losing her grip on the business, and needs Erica's help. So she heads back to her New Hampshire hometown, where nothing much has changed—except for maybe the body in the well...